

AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/25/13

Title: 8th Infantry Battalion

February 1916



AWM4-23/25/13

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

8th Battalion A.I.F. ^{P. 3}

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tel-El Kebir	Feb 1 st		Received orders to move to Serapeum, 7 th Bn move today, All leave cancelled.	
"	" 2.		Lt. Wrathall to Hospital, Capt. Ham to Hospital, 19 men absent without leave	
Serapeum	" 3.		Bn entrain at 11.20 excepting C. Coy. who remains until 1700 train, arrive at Serapeum at 1400 & proceed over Canal to a position about 1/2 mile east of Canal, & pitch Camp, C. Coy arrive and remain on West Side of Canal. Mail received, Bn strength 22 Officers + 975 Other ranks. C. Coy join up to Bn at 0900, Transport with exception to 13 horses are attached to Division train. Major Coulter accompanies Brig. Gen. Smyth to position to be occupied by Bn about 8 miles East of Serapeum and Canal.	
"	" 4.		Div. Duties all ranks engaged. Major Tucker rank confirmed, Major Ebling Capt. Ham, Lieut. Yates, Blackman, Mr. Smyth. are placed on Superannuation list. Mail received, Bn strength 21 Officers 931 Other Ranks. Transport Officers and 2 Other ranks are attached to Division Train.	
	" 5.		Raining heavily. Quiet day. No training. Bn resting.	
	" 6.		Div. Duties. All ranks on duty. 2 Officers 20 Other ranks to Special School of instruction at Zestour for Machine Gun & Infantry Course. £529. 3. 9. received as pay and distributed to Corps, 4 bags mail received, Church Parade.	



WAR DIARY

or

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2-2
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Scrapum	Feb. 7		Quiet Day, usual fatigues. Strength Bn 19 Officers + 909 other ranks.	
	8		Lt Col Brand returned from Hospital and assumed command of Bn usual fatigues.	
	9		Practically the whole of the Bn continuously on Disin Duties, all ranks engaged.	
	10		Very little sickness daily average to Hospital 1 man. 13 men still absent without leave.	
	11+12		9 bags mail received and distributed.	
	13		Re-Organisation Scheme received. 8 th Bn to form nucleus for 60 th Bn. Men of original 8 th Bn are given option of remaining with the 8 th Bn. Disagreeable Anshy day.	
	14		Class of instruction for junior NCO. in progress.	
	15+16		All Bn practically on fatigues, No programme training possible.	
	17		Genl Sir A Murray rode through Camp on the way to front line. NCO's class of instruction continued. Draft of 6 th Bn for 58 Bn attached to 8 th Bn while waiting train accommodation to Tel El Kebir.	
	18		Turkish + Arab patrols reported some miles beyond front line. Bn all on fatigues.	
	19		B+C Coy ordered to be in readiness to proceed to front line of trench at 1/2 hours notice. D Coy released a Coy of 29 th Bn on Bridge head at Scrapum.	



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PS

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Srapeneh	Feb 20		Church Parade. Hot winds Blowing. Grant Stousser in afternoon. Health of men good. Average daily sick parade 25.	
	21		The necessity of always endeavouring to establish a Regimental Dry Centre is obvious, for more content and better work done.	
	22		Lieut Lodge & Murray returned to duty. Day received a bay of 31 st on the Srapeneh post. Other Coy in training.	
	23		B Coy moved to Neversair post on Canal. Day to Sousser post. A Coy to Gabel Miriam.	
	24		8 officers & 401 other ranks transferred to 6 th Bn and left for El-Li. Meki's draft of 7 officers & 478 other ranks arrived from Cairo to complete the 8 th Bn.	
	25		New draft allocated to Coy and sent to respective posts. All NCO's retained at 148. Gas for Special NCO. Class. Machine gun section sent to front line & attached to 6 th Bn.	
	26		Chaplain Rev Subman attached to the Bn.	
	27		Church Parade General Birdwood attended and afterwards inspected Sousser. Hot dusty windy day.	
	28		Strength of Bn 27 officers & 45 other ranks. Under orders to hand over Canal posts to 10 th Bn.	

