

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/25/15

**Title:** 8th Infantry Battalion

April 1916



AWM4-23/25/15

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

563

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.

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1/4/16	} En route through France to Western	
2/4/16		
3/4/16		
4/4/16	Detained GODEWARELDE at 1400 and marched 8 miles to billeting area between BAILLEUL and STEENWERCK. Arrived 1800. 10 officers 318 other ranks.	
5/4/16	Settling down in billets.	
6/4/16	B. C & D Coys arrived at 1200. Strength of Battln now 23 officers 967 other ranks all billeted by 1600.	
7/4/16	Training recommenced. Route march in forenoon & preliminary musketry training in afternoon. Scout platoon of 1 officer 1 Sgt 1 Lt / Cpl & 137 men formed 2/Lt. Mummy appointed the officer in command. This platoon is for special work in the trenches.	
8/4/16	Transport details. 1 officer 25 other ranks & 55 horses arrived. All new wagons.	
9/4/16	Demonstration against gas attack. Whole Bn with gas helmets on went through trench filled with gas. G.O.C. inspected Bombers in afternoon.	
10/4/16	Church Parade.	
11/4/16	Boy Route Marches. Lewis No. 4. Section fired 300 rounds on 30 yds range Indifferent shots 'A' Coy also fired. £729 distributed as Pay in French currency.	
12/4/16	Very Wet Day. Lt. Wallis & 5 men returned from MARSEILLES.	
13/4/16	Another wet cold day. outdoor training impossible.	
14/4/16	Battln attended hot baths by platoons. Old underclothing replaced by new clean ones. Splendid idea.	
15/4/16	Wet day but practice at 30 yds range carried out. Under orders to move to new billets.	
16/4/16	Marched to Jesus Farm near ERQUINGHAM. Battln billeted at 12 p.m. in farms of which Jesus Farm Battln H.Q. is the centre. Wet day. Fine Sunny day. Church Parade. Average daily sick 20. Battln very well fed.	



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17.4.16	Very Wet day. C.O., Bomb Officer + 4 N.C.O.s attended Bomb demonstration.	
18.4.16	Wet Forenoon. A Coy on 30 yds range. Bn shoemakers hard at work	
19.4.16	Bomb Platoon 1 officer 1 Sgt 4 Cpls 10/10/10/10 + 28 men formed + billeted together. Very wet forenoon. B. Coy on 30 yds Range.	
20.4.16	2/Lt. Muir + 11 men transferred to 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde Trench Mortar Battery.	
21.4.16	Fine day. A Coy went to work on Reserve Trenches. C Coy 30 yds Range.	
22.4.16	Good Friday. Work as Usual. £521 pay distributed.	
23.4.16	Wet day. Training being interfered with. G.O.C. inspected Transport. Satisfactory.	
24.4.16	Sunday. Fine day. Roads drying up.	
25.4.16	Another fine day. C.O. visited trenches to be eventually occupied by the Bn. Bomb Platoon throwing live Mills Bombs	
26.4.16	Anzac Day Sports held. G.O.C. 1 <sup>st</sup> Divn. inspected Bn. Good turn out 18 off. 880 otho on Parade.	
27.4.16	Good weather. Training progressing. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Reserve M. Gunners fired Lewis Gun on 30 yds range. R.Q.M.S. under arrest <del>without</del> for absence without leave. 8 days leave granted to England 7 per Bde.	
28.4.16	Lt. Traill granted leave today C. in C. General Sir Douglas Haig inspected 2 <sup>nd</sup> Bde. 5 <sup>th</sup> + 6 <sup>th</sup> Bns on one ground + 7 <sup>th</sup> + 8 <sup>th</sup> on another. As 8 <sup>th</sup> Bn was marching past. Sir Douglas said to C.O. "You have a fine Battalion. I congratulate you. Their handling of arms, steadiness, + marching is equal to anything I've seen." 1901 on parade. Coy commanders visited new billets behind our future firing line near FLEUR BAIX. The A.Q.M.G. of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Army inspected billets. Burning of Excreta and the use of naked lights main points requiring future attention. Weather Fine.	

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29.4.16	<i>Under Orders to move to new billets. Fine day. Boys engaged in Physical training &amp; Bayonet fighting. Half Holiday. concert at night in "A" boys barn.</i>	
30.4.16	<i>Sunday. Church Parade. Preparing to move. Left at 1900 for New Billets at Fleur Baix. all settled down at 2000. Present strength of Bn 29 Officers 953 O Ranko.</i>	

*AB Lodge*  
Captain & Adjutant for c/o  
3rd Battalion A. I. F.