

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/24/12

**Title:** 7th Infantry Battalion

February 1916



AWM4-23/24/12



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

7TH BATTALION A.I.F. 2-1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL-KEBIR	1916 Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	0400	Recalled, Orders to entrain for SERAPEUM at 0600	<p>W.L. [unclear] 7/11/16 H.L. [unclear] 1/10/16</p>
		0600	Entrained in good order as complete unit with A.V. caps attached.	
		0815	Left TEL-EL-KEBIR.	
SERAPEUM		1025	Arrived at SERAPEUM and entrained in good order.	
		1150	Crossed the SEUZ CANAL and marched 1 1/2 due East and pitched camp on the ground vacated by the 5 <sup>th</sup> BN who had moved out 8-10 miles in the desert in a Easterly direction.	
		1700	Camp in good order, tents pitched, kitchens, hose lines, and latrines constructed. B Coy took up out-post positions for BDE. 1000X in a S.E. due West and S.W. direction from camp. Strength 26 OFF 1009 ORS. 1 OR to hospital. LT B. LIDDLELOW & LT H. E. BASTIN granted temp rank of captain dated 28.1.16	
SERAPEUM	FEB 2 <sup>nd</sup>	0730	Outpost returned nothing special reported. Strength including attached 26 OFF 1008 ORS. 1 OR to hospital	
		1130	C.O.C. 2 <sup>nd</sup> BDE. O.C. 7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> BNs rode out and inspected first line of trenches that are being dug by the 5 <sup>th</sup> BN.	
		1700	6 <sup>th</sup> BN approx. 10 miles from the canal. * B Coy outpost company. Half holiday for 7 <sup>th</sup> BN.	
	FEB 3 <sup>rd</sup>	0730	Out-post returned nothing special reported. Strength OFF 26 ORS 1006. (2) ORS to hospital.	
		1700	A Coy took up outpost position with orders to leave a DAY observation post out, before returning to camp.	
	Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	0730	B Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special reported. 1 OR 60 and (6) ORS were left out as a day observation post. Strength OFF 26 ORS 1006 * D Coy took up outpost position.	
		1700		





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7<sup>th</sup> BN A.I.F.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
SERAPEUM. February 5 <sup>th</sup> 16	0730 A Coy returned from outpost. It rained heavily throughout all night.	
	1700 D Coy outpost company. still raining. Strength 26 OFF 1003 ORS. (3) ORS to hospital. Observation reports nil.	
SERAPEUM. " 6 <sup>th</sup>	0730 D Coy returned from outpost nothing special to report, except that the men got a good soaking in the rain. STRENGTH 26 OFF 1002 ORS (1) OR. to hospital	
	1000 Church parade; Very small parade, only 50 ORS. 8 <sup>th</sup> 500 7 <sup>th</sup> BNS present on parade.	
	1700 B Coy mounted at 1700 for outpost duty. Observation reports nil.	
SERAPEUM. February 7 <sup>th</sup>	0730 B Coy returned from outpost nothing special reported.	
	1700 B Coy outpost company. Observation reports nil. Strength OFF 26 ORS 999 (4) ORS to hospital	
SERAPEUM. February 8 <sup>th</sup>	0730 Outpost returned nothing special to report. 509 lpl HEBB. H. awarded D.C.M.	
	1700 D Coy outpost company. Strength 26 OFF 997 ORS. (3) ORS to hospital. Observation reports nil.	A.I.F. ORDERS LIST NO 22 ARMY ROUTINE ORDERS ROUTINE
SERAPEUM. February 9 <sup>th</sup>	0730 D Coy returned from outpost nothing special to report.	
	1700 A Coy outpost company (1) OR to hospital. Strength OFF 26 ORS 996. Observation reports nil. Lt HEWITT F.K. mentioned in despatches for work done in evacuation of ANZAC.	ARMY ROUTINE ORDERS 2
SERAPEUM. February 10 <sup>th</sup>	0730 Outpost returned nothing special reported. Strength OFF 26 ORS 992. (4) ORS to Hospital. Mentioned in despatches. CAPT. DE RAVEN S.M. & CAPT BRILLS S.	
	1700 B Coy outpost company. Observation reports nil. Awarded D.C.M. lpl BALL G.	A.I.F. ORDERS LIST NO 22

Hq Bn A.I.F.  
 Capt. [Signature]  
 7<sup>th</sup> BN A.I.F.





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7<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F.

*Handwritten:* 2-11-18

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
<p>5 SERAPEUM February 11<sup>TH</sup> 0730 1700</p>	<p>B Coy returned from outpost. Nothing special to report. Observation reports NIL. C Coy outpost company. Bugles soundings discontinued in camp and on the march. Strength 26 OFF. 990 ORS. (1) OR transferred 18<sup>TH</sup> BN (1) OR. 21<sup>ST</sup> BN.</p>	
<p>SERAPEUM February 12<sup>TH</sup> 0730 1700</p>	<p>B Coy returned from outpost nothing special reported. Observation reports NIL. D Coy outpost company Strength 26 OFF. 989 ORS. (1) OR to hospital.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Handwritten:</i> 7<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F.</p>
<p>SERAPEUM February 13<sup>TH</sup> 0730 0930 1700</p>	<p><del>D Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special to report.</del> Church Parade. Strength (26) OFF (987) ORS. (2) ORS to hospital. A Coy outpost company. Observation post very quiet reports.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Handwritten:</i> Adjutant</p>
<p>SERAPEUM February 14<sup>TH</sup> 0730 1700</p>	<p>A Coy returned from outpost nothing special to report. B Coy outpost and entrenching parties. Outpost cut down to half company. The formation of the outpost being (8) double groups. The entrenching parties to act as supports. Strength OFF (26) (985) ORS. (1) OR to hospital (1) OR transferred 1<sup>ST</sup> L.H.R. Observation report NIL.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Handwritten:</i> Capt</p>
<p>SERAPEUM Feb 15<sup>TH</sup> 0730 1700</p>	<p>B Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special reported. Orders received that the 7<sup>TH</sup> BN be split up into two halves one half to go as veterans to form a New Battalion which will be called the 59<sup>TH</sup> BN. Lt Col Elliott H.E. received orders to proceed to TEL EL KEBIR to take over command of 1<sup>ST</sup> INF BDE. He gave a fare-well speech to his officers of the 7<sup>TH</sup> BN and a written one to the other ranks of his battalion, thanking the Officers N.C.O. men for the good work that they had done for him during the (17) months that he was in command. C Coy outpost company. Strength OFF 26. (980) ORS. (5) ORS. to Hospital sick. Observation reports NIL.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Handwritten:</i> Adjutant</p>



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7<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
SERAPEUM. February 16 <sup>TH</sup>	0730 C Coy returned from outpost duty, nothing special reported. 1700 D Coy outpost company. Strength OFF. 26 (1977) ORS. (3) ORS to Hospital	Observation reports NIL.
SERAPEUM. Feb 17 <sup>TH</sup>	0730 D Coy returned from outpost, nothing special to report. 1730 A Coy outpost company. Strength OFF. 26) 977 ORS.	Observation reports NIL.
SERAPEUM. Feb 18 <sup>TH</sup>	0730 A Coy returned from outpost duty. Nothing special to report. 1700 B Coy outpost company. Strength OFF. 26 ORS 976. (1) OR to Hospital	Observation reports NIL.
SERAPEUM. Feb 19 <sup>TH</sup>	0730 B Coy returned from outpost duty, nothing special reported. 1700 C Coy outpost company. Strength 26 OFF OR (975) (1) OR transferred R.A.S.C. (2) reinforcement ORS joined up.	Observation reports NIL.
SERAPEUM. Feb 20 <sup>TH</sup>	0730 C Coy returned from outpost duty. Nothing special to report. 0930 Church Parade. Lt HOPKINS and (1) OR. rep to LEWIS MACHINE GUN SCHOOL of instruction ZEITOUN Strength OFF 26) ORS 975	
SERAPEUM. Feb 21 <sup>ST</sup>	0730 D Coy returned from outpost duty. Nothing special to report. 1700 D Coy outpost company Strength OFF. 26) 976. (1) OR from Hospital	Observation report NIL.
SERAPEUM. Feb 22 <sup>ND</sup>	0730 D Company returned from outpost duty. Nothing special reported. 1700 B Coy outpost company. Strength 26 OFF (962) (1) ORS to Hospital (Isolation)	Observation report NIL.
SERAPEUM. Feb 23 <sup>RD</sup>	0730 B Coy returned from outpost duty. Nothing special reported. 1700 C Coy outpost company. Strength 29 OFF (967) ORS. (5) ORS returned from Hospital	Observation reports NIL.
<p>CAPT. DENEHY CA. To be Temp Major TEMP CAPTAINS LIDDLELOW. A. EASTIN H.E. LIOT. DATES. A To be CAPTAINS. The following of CO's has been promoted to 2nd LIEUTENANTS W.O. WRIGLEY. H. S. SGT. GUINN FFS. SGT SCURRY. WC. SGT MUIRSON. K.B. SGT MORROW B.D. SGT BURSEY T.M. MC. LT COX. D. (APPLETON W.T.) and (GUINN H. FFS) reported for duty.</p>		<p>All these promotions date from 20. 2. 16 with the exception of MAJOR DENEHY. 16. 2. 16 ARMY CORPS ORDER. LIST NO 27</p>

H. B. DENEHY  
 7<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F.





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7<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F.

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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
<p>SERAPEUM. February 24<sup>TH</sup> 1916</p> <p>0730 1120</p>	<p>B Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special to report.</p> <p>MAJOR DENENY 12 OFF + 466 ORS of the VETERENS moved out to form the 59<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F. from the 7<sup>TH</sup> BN. Three hearty cheers were given to those who were going by the remnants of the 7<sup>TH</sup>. The G.O.C. gave a little fare-well speech to the departing troops, urging them to invited into the friends of the new <del>men</del> who were going to help to form the new Battalion of which they the veterans would be the back-bone of, to keep the name of AUSTRALIA second to none.</p>	
	<p>1500 4 accompanying officers 2<sup>ND</sup> LIEUTS. D CONNOR, SUTHERLAND, PHILLIPS ANTHONY and 479 ORS arrived from ZEITOUN. To make up the strength of the Battalion.</p>	
	<p>1700 D Coy. outpost company. Strength 23. 989. (1) OR to hospital. Observation reports NIL</p>	
<p>SERAPEUM. Feb 25<sup>TH</sup></p> <p>0730 1700</p>	<p>D Coy returned from outpost duty, nothing special reported.</p> <p>A Coy outpost company Strength 23 OFF. 988 ORS. MAJOR LAYH transferred to 59<sup>TH</sup> BN. Observation reports NIL.</p>	
<p>SERAPEUM. February 26<sup>TH</sup></p>	<p>A Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special to report.</p> <p>B Coy outpost company. Strength 22 OFF. 987 OR (1) OR to hospital. Observation reports NIL</p>	
<p>SERAPEUM February 27<sup>TH</sup></p> <p>0730 0930 1700</p>	<p>B Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special reported.</p> <p>CHURCH PARROE. GEN. BIRDWOOD. Present.</p> <p>B Coy outpost company. Strength 22 OFF (986) ORS (1) OR to hospital sick.</p>	<p>Observation reports NIL</p>
<p>SERAPEUM. February 28<sup>TH</sup></p> <p>0730 1700</p>	<p>B Coy returned from outpost duty nothing special reported.</p> <p>MAJOR JESS CH from 2<sup>ND</sup> BOENRQ assumes command of 7<sup>TH</sup> BN vice LT. COL. ELLIOTT M.E. transferred to 1<sup>ST</sup> INF BDE. 15.2.16. 2<sup>ND</sup> LT S.W. BURROWS reported for duty + posted to C Coy.</p> <p>D Coy outpost company. Strength 22 OFF 986 ORS. Observation reports NIL</p>	

Major Layh Adjutant  
7<sup>TH</sup> BN A.I.F.





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Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
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0730  
SERAPEUM 29<sup>TH</sup> Feb 1916

D Company returned from outpost duty. Nothing special to report.  
 The findings by F. G. C.M. of the following men of the 7<sup>TH</sup> BN. A.I.F. are  
 636 Mr JENKINS W H Guilty of Absent without leave 90 days Detention.  
 1070 SMITH Guilty of Absent without leave 112 days Detention.  
 538 SPIVEY W. Guilty of Absent without leave 74 days Detention.  
 1628 WILSON. J. Guilty of Disobedience of ships order and absent without leave Awarded 90 days Detention.

1730

A Company outpost company.

Strength 23 OFF. 984. (1) OR transferred to 12<sup>TH</sup> BN.  
 (1) OR. to hospital.

This month of February has been rather a strenuous month especially on the part of the Officers. We have been Divisional duty battalions almost every second day since the first day of this month, and every day since the 25<sup>TH</sup> day of February the guards & fatigue parties supplied took up the whole strength of the Battalion, leaving only the specialist to parade.

11830000  
 7<sup>TH</sup> BN. A.I.F.

