

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/71/1

Title: 54th Infantry Battalion

February 1916



AWM4-23/71/1

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

RECEIVED
Army Form C. 2118.
CENTRAL REGISTRY
9 * MAY 1916
D.A.G., 3rd. ECHELON.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																	
54th Battalion 14th Inf Bde.	<p>With effect from 14/2/16 each Battalion from 1st to 16th in A.I.F. was divided into two wings:-</p> <p>The one known as 1st. Qtr. wing - comprised 1st. Qtr. plus two Cos.</p> <p>The other known as 2nd wing comprised remaining two Companies with 3 pioneer - and 12 H. Qtr. sig.</p> <p>The 2nd wing of second Battalion of 1st Infantry Bde, formed the nucleus of 54th Bn. of 14th Infantry Bde, and consisted of -</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>Officer -</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st Col</td> <td>W. E. F. Cass C.M.G.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Major</td> <td>R. Jamison</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st Lt</td> <td>O. J. O. Tedder</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st Lt</td> <td>H. Taylor</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st Lt</td> <td>C. D. Lecky</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st Lt</td> <td>C. H. Spier</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>1st Lt</td> <td>T. A. McNab</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd Lt</td> <td>M. J. Lowe</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd Lt</td> <td>H. J. Young</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>2nd Lt</td> <td>A. J. Priest</td> </tr> </table>	14	Officer -			1st Col	W. E. F. Cass C.M.G.		Major	R. Jamison		1st Lt	O. J. O. Tedder		1st Lt	H. Taylor		1st Lt	C. D. Lecky		1st Lt	C. H. Spier		1st Lt	T. A. McNab		2nd Lt	M. J. Lowe		2nd Lt	H. J. Young		2nd Lt	A. J. Priest	
14	Officer -																																		
	1st Col	W. E. F. Cass C.M.G.																																	
	Major	R. Jamison																																	
	1st Lt	O. J. O. Tedder																																	
	1st Lt	H. Taylor																																	
	1st Lt	C. D. Lecky																																	
	1st Lt	C. H. Spier																																	
	1st Lt	T. A. McNab																																	
	2nd Lt	M. J. Lowe																																	
	2nd Lt	H. J. Young																																	
	2nd Lt	A. J. Priest																																	

Sheet No 1

OVER

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

2

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
54th Battalion	14th Inf Bde.	
TEL EL KERBIK 19/3/16 Organisation	<p>Officers: Contd.</p> <p>2/1st Lt R. G. Downing " H. J. Coldham</p> <p>Q.M. + Hon Capt C. A. Whyte</p> <p>2/1st Lt A. G. Morris (Reinf. Officer, unabsorbed)</p> <p>and 442 Other ranks.</p> <p>The Personnel was divided into 4 Companies each of which was subdivided into 4 platoons which were again divided into 4 Sections.</p> <p>The skeleton formation with 5 ponies + 12 signaller formed the nucleus of the 54 Bn. so that as reinforcement brought the unit up to strength, these skeleton integral unit would be built up proportionately.</p> <p>Major R. Harrison took command temporarily during the absence of Lt Col W. G. Cass (C.M.G. (pro-pital) with Lt J. Taylor in a field and Q.M. + Hon Capt C. A. Whyte as Quartermaster as head quarters staff.</p>	F. III 2
		Sheet No 2 <i>[Signature]</i>
		OVER

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>54th Bn TEL EL-KEBIR 16/2/11 Regimental Colours</p>	<p>14th Inf Bde. Orders were subsequently issued to the effect that these new formation - constituting 14th Inf Bde. would adopt the same colours for camp flags as those of the parent unit with the alteration that instead of Colours being laterally they would stand vertically Brigade Colours (which was green) outward - Battalion Colours (which was purple in case of 2nd Bn) to be nearest the flag staff. The adoption of these Colours has gone along way to reconcile the members of the new Battalion to the break with the parent unit. The Regimental funds were divided equally between ^{parent} Battalion + those of new formation At 1100 today the 54th Bn was reinforced to extent of 424 other ranks from Reinf unit - as under</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">f. 3/11</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet No. 3</p>
<p>Regimental funds</p> <p>Reinforcement</p>	<p>13th Reinf. of 2nd Bn 13th " " 1st " " " 18th " " " 19th " " " 20th "</p>	

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>54th Bn TEL EL-KEBIR Equipment 16/2/16</p> <p>Regimental No-</p> <p>Equipment</p> <p>Strength</p>	<p>14th Reinf Bde</p> <p>These troops arrived some equipped with web equipment & other with bathers and Only two hundred ^{Sixteen} Rifles were brought. No cooking utensils came with them but 39 tents had accompanied them. others</p> <p>Difficult to arise regarding Regimental No. Many of the men from different units bear the same number.</p> <p>A Ruling as to what system ^{of numbering} must be adopted has been asked of Bde.</p> <p>By 0900 train today 39 Opwanks arrived. These had been members of 8th Reinf. to 19th Bn. All had rifles & were well equipped. Chiefly in leather equip.</p> <p>The Effective strength of 54th Bn up to 17/2/16 16/2/16 = 10 off. 900 900 O/Rs.</p>	<p>F. III +</p> <p>Sheet No 4</p> <p><u> </u></p>

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>54th Bn TEI-EL-KEBIR Training 16/2/16 Strength 20/2/16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">14th Inf. Bde.</p> <p>A training programme is being carried out taking the troop through close order drill and elementary musketry.</p> <p>Reinforcement arrived last knew nothing at all about rifle exercise some had never had their rifles on parade until now others had had rifles issued to them two or three days prior to joining up the Battalion.</p> <p>All are keen to learn & already a marked improvement is shown in steadiness on parade & in all their work.</p> <p>One more officer joined up from Training Bn & LT C.C. HART.</p> <p>Effective strength today is 11 O/ 895</p> <p>Head Quarter & detail have been built up by picked men and the Battalion which is now formed and in working order as far as routine is concerned commence to complete equipment</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">F.S.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">Sheet No 5</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">J.H.</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>23/2/16</p>	<p>1st. EL. KEBIR</p>	<p>1/2</p>
<p>Fatigue 29/2/16</p>	<p>and to train.</p> <p>The training of the Battalion has been at a standstill till now on account of Breber being on duty for Brigade which was on Camp Duty.</p> <p>All men being employed daily on fatigue & Camp Guard.</p>	
<p>Strength</p>	<p>On 24 24 Feb. Lt. Col W. E. H. CASS rejoined from hospital and took over command. Effective strength being 15 of 879 OR.</p> <p>It having been decided to form a Pioneer Bn from units of New formation. This Bn was called upon to supply 53 names including 1 Officer.</p> <p>Capt C. A. Whyte and 1 W.O. to be recommended for commissioned ranks.</p>	
<p>School of Inst.</p>	<p>The following Officers having returned from school of instruction at Zeitoun were posted to duty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Lt CM SPIER " DA McNAB 2nd Lt RG DOWNING. <p>It had been asked for that all Medical students</p>	<p>Sheet 102</p>
<p>Medical Students</p>		

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			54th Bn. TEL-EL-KEBIR.	
	29.2.16.		<p>in 2nd 3rd 4th Years he returned to Australia to complete training. This Bn returned 2 members Corp & Pte. with Regimental funds.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month & filed with volume for that month).</p>	
1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.				