

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/71/3

Title: 54th Infantry Battalion

April 1916



AWM4-23/71/3

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
FERRY POST	2.4.16.		<p>On 30/3/16. a programme was laid down as follows :-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Reveille 0530.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Swimming Pde.(Canal) 0615.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Breakfast 0730.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">forenoon parade 0845.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Swimming Pde. Canal. 1600.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Fighting Order including 120 rds. ammn. & filled water bottle.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for end of previous month & filed with volume for that month).</p>	<p>Sheet No.18.</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	Battalion	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FERRY POST	2/4/16			<p>The program has been adhered to, and troop train from 0805 - 1200 daily & a swimming parade twice daily, is much appreciated and is of great benefit.</p> <p>Water supply is uncertain, at present and very limited. The Camp containing about 10,000 is supplied with water by a 4" main from pumping station on canal with only one stand pipe. Water cart & transport are unavailable & water has therefore to be manhandled.</p> <p>No fixed time are laid down for water to be turned on and as it is only available for two or three separate ^{uncertain} hours daily a permit has to be kept there at step to warn unit when water is on.</p> <p>A fatigue party with all available receptacles (dipis, tins etc) is then despatched for water.</p> <p>A Batch of 179 O/Rs reinforcement were received & taken over 7/4/16. They had no rifle or ammunition & were equipped with leather equipment.</p> <p>15 detail were also received from 5th Div detail Camp TEL EL KERIR & effective strength is today 28 officers 833 O/Rs.</p>	<p>4-19</p> <p>Sheet No 19</p>
WATER					
REINFORCEMENTS.					

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
FERRY POST	11/4/16		<p>3rd April a draft of 69 O/RK original members & reinforcement for 18th Bn was posted to this Bn.</p> <p>Building effective strength up to 28 of 8902 8902 O/RKs</p> <p>To school of instruction ZEITOUN on 3rd the Bn sent 50 of 2 NCOs 14 O/RKs.</p> <p>Training of troops has been handicapped through Bn being on Bde duty & Bde being on Divisional duty.</p> <p>These duties took between 500 & 600 men daily for 1 week from parades & consequently training has suffered.</p> <p>The Bn ceased these duties at retreat on 9th April.</p> <p>Basket, grouping & snapping at 3030 range for reinf. & field firing for trained men & those Reinf who qualified in grouping. was carried out on 10th & 11th ^{the latter} on desert at Natural target.</p> <p>Effective strength 11/4/16 22 of 895 O/RKs</p> <p>Dysentery is prevalent, owing unboiled water it is surmised. But as flies are bad and sometimes the bread is sour. It is possible that any of these might be the cause.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11/4/16</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet No 20</p> <p style="text-align: right;">M</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
FERRY POST	17/4/16		<p style="text-align: center;">54th Bn AIF</p> <p>Ordinary parades have been carried out up till 14/4/16. when Orders were received to relieve the Bn on duty at FERRY POST GARRISON. The post supplies guard at various points on canal bank & over stone & ferries requiring 108 by day & 190 by night. Also a fatigue of 60 to work barges across the canal. By 0900 the Bn had taken over. It was found that after guard & fatigue & 1 Company (full strength) which garrisoned a detached post to north of main position about 2 miles. had been supplied upwards of 200 men were available for training. This is being done. One day this week is set apart for controlled firing from the trenches of BENCH MARK position. Targets will be placed at different points on the desert in front & platoons section under their leaders will be exercised from trenches firing through loopholes. A scheme of defence was mapped out should in case necessity should arise for its use. A Co supplies a continuous guard at "A" bastion a point some 1000 yds south of main garrison & is responsible for protection of right flank. By night the guard which is 120 + 12 men by day is increased to 1 off 2 sgt 2 cpls & 50 men.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">F. VII 21</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet 21 A.</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
FERRY POST	17/4/16		<p style="text-align: center;">54th Bn A.I.F.</p> <p>D Co is responsible for left flank & in a similar way supplies a guard at a point known as 'F' Bastion of same number as at A Bastion.</p> <p>B Co is held as a mobile reserve which can move at a moment's notice to support either flank or can be pushed forward in centre.</p> <p>C Co held - detached post BENCH MARK which again supplies 2 complete platoons to garrison RIDGE POST a point some 1/4 mile further north on Coral Bank.</p> <p>Being so close to water's edge. men enjoy swimming, parades which is a boon.</p> <p>Effective strength today is 29 of 884 O.Rs.</p> <p>To celebrate landing at ANZAC 25 April 1915 the privilege of wearing a Red ribbon besides a blue which is only to be worn by those who were at ANZAC. has been given these ribbons will be issued from donation by A.C.T. Beaumont of London.</p> <p>Three Officers 2/Lt AHEARN T.P. SHAW C.E. EVANS J.A. have been posted to us from 24th Bn. to be carried supernumerary to establishment.</p> <p>One Officer Major G.A. Robert has been returned to Australia</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17/4/16</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet No 22</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A</p>

left unit 16/4/16.

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
FERRY POST	17/4/16		<p style="text-align: center;">54th Bn A.I.F</p> <p>Transport animals have been supplied in part 5 light horses which may be used as express ^{express} charges or packs. 12 Pack & draught horse 4 Mule.</p> <p>They are generally a poor stamp of horse.</p> <p>Training progressed during last fortnight through the more advanced work of Field firing, Battalion scheme & co in attack. Training has been hampered by continuous Duffin & Guards & fatigue & companies alternate miss a day work. The duties sometimes breaking into all the companies.</p> <p>The Battalion has been reinforced to extent of 200 Reinforcement building strength up to 1115 O/R which through transfers to pitia - other cause has dwindled to</p> <p>Officers fit up to 4 have been sent to school of Instruction ZETTOUN for course.</p> <p>Promotion of CAPT H TAYLOR was antedated from 10/3/16 to 14/2/16 date of formation of New Battalion.</p> <p>2/LT E ASTRIDGE & 2/ND LT L L. WILSON have reported for duty</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">III 4.5.16</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet No 23 A</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
FERRY BOST	30/4/16	7/30	<p>54th Battalion</p> <p>All marks III Rifles have been exchanged for marks IV for H.V. Ammunition has not yet been made available to carry on with musketry practice.</p> <p>Last 30 days reinforcement are very ignorant of use of Rifle & other phases of drill. Special training in musketry etc is being carried on.</p> <p>at Brigade school of instruction for NCOs 16 are attending and the general course they go through should give good result.</p> <p>Strength today is OFF 32 inc. RMO 1087 OFFs</p> <p>Brigade & Divisional schemes are included in weeks work now & troops show marked improvement on march & in moving on the field.</p> <p>J Taylor Capt Adj For Lt Col Comd 54th Battalion 5/5/16.</p>	<p>Sheet No 24</p>