

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/72/2

Title: 55th Infantry Battalion

March 1916



AWM4-23/72/2

MARCH 1916.

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT.	1916.			
<u>TEL-EL-KEBIR.</u>				
	March 2nd.		Sports during afternoon.	
	March 7th.		Evacuations to Hospital for week ending today - 11 O.Ranks.	
	March 8th.		C.O. delivered a lecture on "Trench Warfare".	
	March 9th.		Battalion scheme during the morning. Night operations from 1930 to 2100.	

21.
WAR
DIARY
or

For..

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.)

Summary of Events and Information			Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour	
EGYPT	1916.		
Tel-El-Kebir	11th. March		Training continues. Musketry, (Rapid loading, trigger pressing, aiming, adjustment of sights. Lecture on the rifle and its care.
	14th. March		Evacuations to hospital for week ending the 14th. 13 O.R.
	18th. March		Bn. paraded for bayonet fighting from 0700 to 0730. During the afternoon tents were strapped and a blanket parade held. 1500 to 1700 was devoted to smartening up drill.
	21st. March		Evacuations to hospital for week ending today 7 O.R.
	24th. March		All men on light duty after inoculation.
	25th. March		During the day orders were received for an early move, and preparations were made accordingly.
	27th. March		Orders were received on night of 26th. that the 1st. echelon of which this Bn. formed part would proceed by route march from TEL-EL-KEBIR to FERRY POST in three stages. Camp was aroused at 0400 and after a hasty breakfast prepared for the march. 20 officers and 526 O.R. formed up on the parade ground. The balance of the Bn. was engaged on several guards and camp cleaning. At 0700 the Battalion formed up with the rest of 1st. Echelon in mass formation on the small plateau near Arabis Trench; 55th. Bn. together with 8th. Signal Coy. and the 56th. Battalion formed the second line and moved on the first stage of the march for MAHSAMA. The first halt was made at 0900 at the second at 1100, when the Battalion settled down for lunch. At 1300 a fresh start was made and MAHSAMA reached at 1630, where the Battalion bivouacked for the night. During the march the heat was very trying and the travelling heavy but despite this fact only 24 men fell out, 17 of whom marched in during the night.
MAHSAMA	28th. March		After breakfast a start was made for MOASCAR at about 0700. Throughout the day the conditions were much the same as on the previous day and MOASCAR was reached at 1830. During the day 4 men fell out, making a total of 11 men missing. The Battalion bivouacked here. The Battalion occupied the first line during the night.

55th BATTALION A.I.F.

Feb. March April 1916.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C 2118.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT 1916.				
MOASCAR.	March	29th.	The Battalion formed up for final march to FERRY POST at 0845 and moved off at 0915 in column of route. H.R.H. Prince of Wales reviewed troops as they moved out, but no ceremony took place. FERRY POST was reached in one stage at 1130. During the final stage 8 men fell out. The Battalion moved into Camp during the afternoon. A swimming parade was held, also a Medical Inspection, the result of which was that 60 men were put on Light Duty. The total number of men missing since leaving TEL-EL-KEBIR was 19. Men from Guard and other duties joined up and the total number in Camp was 20 Officers 600 B.Ranks.	
FERRY POST.	March	30th.	The Battalion received instructions to take over Garrison duty of FERRY POST at 0900; they moved out and took over the new Camp from the 32nd Battalion. All guards and other duties were immediately relieved by us.	
	March	31st.	Garrison duties. Evacuations to Hospital since the 21st - 15 O.Ranks.	