

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/74/1

Title: 57th Infantry Battalion

February 1916



AWM4-23/74/1

War Diary

57 Battalion A.I.F.

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Date Time & Place

17.2.16

The 57th Battalion was formed by transferring about 50% of the 5th Battalion and building up to strength with details and reinforcements from the Training Camps at Zeitoun. In some Companies of the 5th Battalion men were detailed by Platoons and in others volunteers were called for and taken. Part of the officers volunteered and the remainder were detailed.

21.2.16

1715 TEL-EL-KEBIR

The new Battalion marched away under the command of Major J.C. Stewart and bivouaced with the 7th Battalion at SERAPEUM EAST for 4 days before proceeding to TEL-EL-KEBIR which was reached on the evening of 21st Feb 1916.

Schedule I attached

23.2.16

1100

All tents were erected but nothing else had been done in preparation for the arrival of the Battalion. Great difficulty was experienced in drawing stores rations etc as no transport was available and everything had to be manhandled. A batch of reinforcements from the 6th Training Battalion Zeitoun numbering 7 Officers and 479 other ranks arrived and were taken on the Battalion strength. Several of these men had no rifles. Those who had rifles had mostly those firing mark VII ammunition which all had to be recalled and returned to Ordnance. Training was greatly interfered with on this account.

21.2.16

Major J.C. Stewart appointed to Command (temporarily)
Training was hampered owing to several cases of mumps (over 100) all contacts of which had to be isolated. There were over 100 of these.

Our numbers were depleted, our training interrupted, and our organisation stopped by large numbers of men being called for and transferred to other Units.
5th Pioneer Battalion (1 officer 45 OR)
5th Divisional Artillery (124) 5th Field Bakery (11) 15th Bde Machine Gun Company 24

5.3.16

1800

The Battalion mounted as Divisional Duty Battalion for a week during which time every available man was either on Guard or Fatigue. On several occasions men had to be borrowed from other battalions.



J.P. D...



Special Battalion Order No 1a

By

Major J.C. Stewart (Tempy.) Commanding

Serapium

18/2/16.

1. FORMATION.

The Unit will be formed from half of each of the Companies of the present 5th Battalion with 12 signallers and 5 pioneers from the Headquarters, in all 9 Officers and 396 Other Ranks, and reinforcements. The Battalion will form part of the 15th Brigade 5th Division.

2. PROVISIONAL STAFF.

To carry on the administration the following provisional appointments are made.

Commanding Officer	Major J.C. Stewart
Adjutant	2nd Lieut H.S. Dickinson
QuarterMaster	2nd Lieut. C.B. Taylor

Pro. Company Commanders.

"A" Company	Captain Dwyer
"B" Company	Lieut. Cameron
"C" Company	2nd Lt. Harris
"D" Company	Temp. Capt. Jack.

R.S.M.	C.S.M. Old
R.Q.M.S.	Sergt Fisher E.
Pioneer Sergt	Corpl Mc Bain
O.R. Sergeant.	" Uglow.

3. ALLOTMENT OF OFFICERS

"A" Company	Captain Dwyer 2nd Lieut. Ferres
"B" Company	Lieut. Cameron
"C" Company	2nd Lieut Harris " " Thomlinson
"D" Company	Tempy. Capt. Jack.

4. ORGANIZATION

Each of the Company portions transferred to the new Unit will be kept intact and formed into a skeleton Company with as far as possible. platoon and section commanders acting, so that when the Battalion is brought up to strength from reinforcements, the ~~allotment~~ allotting of same will be simplified and changes in the organization may be made without causing any hitch in the administration of the Unit.

5. DISCIPLINE.

Provisionally appointed Officers will take steps to see that in splitting up no relaxation in the high standard of discipline that has been attained in their old Unit is allowed to creep in.

(Sgd) J.C. Stewart, Major.

Prov. C.O. 57th Battalion.