

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/22/11

Title: 5th Infantry Battalion

January 1916



AWM4-23/22/11

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5th Bn A.I.F.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916.			
Jan 3 rd	SARPI CAMP	Left Sarpi Camp 0900 and embarked for ALEXANDRIA on H.M.T. EMPRESS OF BRITAIN.	
6 th	ALEXANDRIA	Arrived Alexandria about 0815. Disembarked at 1930 and entrained, leaving at 2130 for TEL-EL-KEBIR, arriving about 0400 7th inst.	
7 th	TEL-EL-KEBIR CAMP	28 ranks & file returned sick and wounded rejoined Bn. 1 Officer Lt Adams and 45 O.Ranks Regt Transport rejoined Bn. 1 Ref Officer 2Lt Ferris H. 26. and 335 O.R. 89/107111 Reinforcements joined Bn.	

C.11056.

111

1-2
13

5th Bn A.I.F.

Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Jan 7th	TEL-EL-KEBIR CAMP	Marking out and rearranging camp Great difficulty in housing troops owing to shortage of tents.	
8	✓	21 sent + 1 man to School of Inst ZEITOUN	
9	✓	1 man ret'd from sick and wounded	
10	✓	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓	
		3 men to Signalling 7 N.C.O 7 3 men to M.S. School ZEITOUN.	
11	✓	3 men ret'd from sick & wounded	
12	✓	1 ✓ ✓ ✓	
		Bn carrying out setting up drill, Cos, Bn and Guld training Morning Classes for N.C.O's	

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20

5th Bn A.I.F.

Date. 1916	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Jan 13	TEL-EL-KEBIR	4 men returned from sick & wounded	
14	CAMP	25 ✓ ✓ ✓	
15	✓	Review. Inspection of 1st Aust. Division by Sir ARCHIBALD MURRAY, KCB, KCMG, C.V.O. DSO.	
		5 men returned from sick & wounded	
16	✓	1 ✓ ✓ ✓	
18	✓	3 ✓ ✓ ✓	
19	✓	28 ✓ ✓ ✓ 72. 9th Ref.	
20	✓	10 ✓ ✓ ✓ 91. 12th Ref.	
21	✓	7 ✓ ✓ ✓	
22	✓	1 ✓ ✓ ✓	
		Capt A. J. Dwyer 4th Ref joined Bn.	

C.11058.

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43

5th Bn A.I.F.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 Jan 24	TEL-EL-KEBIR CAMP	Bn entrained at TEL-EL-KEBIR at 0200, destination unknown, taking 1st line transport. Arrived SERAPEUM siding at 0500. Marking out and pitching camps.	
25	SERAPEUM.	A, B & C boys on Outpost duty. Hostile troops reported to be NORTH of TOUSSOUM D Coy. Inlying Picquet.	Appa. 1, 2, 3, 4.
26th	✓	No further information received re hostile troops.	
29th	✓	Left SERAPEUM CAMP at 1100 for forward firing line CANAL ZONE arriving about 1800.	
30th	CANAL ZONE	Erecting camp	
31st	FORWARD TRENCHES.	Trench works Nos. 58 and 59.	

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5th Bn. A.I.F.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916 Jan 31	CANAL ZONE FORWARD TRENCHES.	marked out and Work No 58 commenced.	
		Effective Strength as at.	
	Jan. 1st.	19 Officers 556 ORanks	
	8th.	20 ✓ 949 ✓	
	15th.	20 ✓ 955 ✓	
	22nd.	20 ✓ 977 ✓	
	29th.	19 ✓ 916 ✓	
		<i>W. G. ...</i> <i>...</i>	

C.11066.

OPERATION ORDER NO.1,BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL F.W.LE MAISTRE, COMMANDING.

- 156
L3
- INFORMATION. (1) (a). It is reliably reported that hostile troops are north of TUSSOOM.
(b). Our own troops have one Outpost Company at HABEITA (about 8 miles due East of Serapium Camp).
- INTENTION. (2) Outposts to cover 2nd and 3rd Infantry Brigades will be established on semicircle with a radius of 1000 yards from perimeter of camp, with rear points resting on the Canal and with Habeita road as centre.
- DISTRIBUTION. (3) (a) The Battalion will provide a section of an Outpost line covering the camp, south of and exclusive of Habeita road.
(b) A, B, and C Companies will provide Outposts, parading at 1530. Each man to carry 150 rounds S.A.A., one iron ration, and a full water bottle. Pack animals with tools will parade with each Company.
(c) C. Company as No.1 Outpost Company will be responsible for about 1000 yards from Canal exclusive in a semicircular direction towards Habeita road.
A. Company as No.2 Outpost Company, frontage approximately 1000 yards in a similar direction.
B. Company as No.3 Outpost Company, approximately 1000 yards from A. Company to Habeita road exclusive.
- C. Company will gain and maintain connection with any defence troops on East or West Bank of Canal.
- LINE OF RESISTANCE. (4) The picket line is line of resistance.
- INLYING PICKET. (5) D. Company will act as Inlying Picket, furnishing two sentries over arms and necessary reliefs. No.1 to be posted at C.O.'s tent, No.2 at the tent of Officer commanding D. Company.
- LIGHTS. (6) No fires to be lit. No lights or smoking after ~~1000~~ 1900.
- REPORTS. (7) To C.O.'s tent, Serapium camp. First report to be in by 1645.

(Signed) H.H.O'LOUGHLIN
2nd Lieutenant,
Assistant Adjutant.

Dictated to Company Commanders
at 1415 and 1450. Copies
issued as under at 1630.

Copy No.1, File
" " 2, O.C. "A" Company.
" " 3, O.C. "B" "
" " 4, O.C. "C" "
" " 5, O.C. "D" "
" " 6, Signalling N.C.O.

APPENDIX 2 Serapeum, 26/1/16.
OPERATION ORDER NO.2,

BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL F.W.LE MAISTRE, COMMANDING.

- 13
- INFORMATION. (1) (a) No further information is to hand re hostile troops reported north of TUSOOM.
(b) Our own troops have one Outpost Company at HABEITA (about 8 miles due east of Serapeum camp).
- INTENTION. (2) Outposts to cover 2nd and 3rd Infantry Brigades will be established on semicircle with a radius of 1000 yards from perimeter of camp, with rear points resting on the Canal and with Habeita road as centre.
- DISTRIBUTION. (3) (a) The Battalion will provide a section of an Outpost line covering the camp, south of and exclusive of Habeita road.
(b) D. and B. Companies will provide Outposts, parading at 1600, each man to carry 150 rounds S.A.A., unexpended portion of day's ration, and full water bottle. Pack animals will parade with each Company.
- FRONTAGES. (4) (a) D.Company as No.1 Outpost Company will be responsible for about 1500 yards from Canal exclusive in a semicircular direction towards Habeita road.
(b) B.Company as No.2 Outpost Company, frontage approximately 1500 yards, continuing the semicircle to Habeita road exclusive.
D.Company will gain and maintain connection with any defence troops on East or West Bank of Canal.
- LINE OF RESISTANCE. (5) The picquet line is the line of resistance.
- INLYING PICQUET. (6) A.Company will act as Inlying Picquet, furnishing two sentries and necessary reliefs. No.1 sentry to be posted at C.O's. tent, No.2 sentry at tent of officer commanding A.Company.
- LIGHTS. (7) No fires to be lit. No lights or smoking after 1830.
- REPORTS. (8) To C.O's. tent, Serapeum camp. First report, with sketch, to be in by 1630.

(Signed) H.H.O'LOUGHLIN,
2nd Lieutenant,
Assistant Adjutant.

Copies issued as under :-

- No.1, File
- 2, O.C. "A" Coy.
- 3, O.C. "B" "
- 4, O.C. "D" "
- 5, Signalling N.C.O.

Serapeum, 27/1/16.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 3,
BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL F.W. LE MAISTRE, COMMANDING.

- INFORMATION. (1) (a) No further information is to hand re hostile troops north of TUSOOM.
(b) Our own troops are out as follows:-
One Battalion in position about 8 miles due east of Serapeum Camp, one Outpost Company at HABEITA, working party of one company at rail-head. (THIS LATTER PARTY MAY BE EXPECTED TO RETURN TO CAMP VIA HABEITA ROAD SHORTLY AFTER DARK).
- INTENTION. (2) Outposts to cover 2nd and 3rd Infantry Brigades will be established on semicircle with a radius of 1000 yards from perimeter of camp, with rear points resting on the Canal and with Habeita road as centre.
- DISTRIBUTION. (3) (a) The Battalion will provide a section of an Outpost line covering the camp from point on Canal about 1000 yards south of camp in a semicircle to and exclusive of Habeita road.
(b) C. Company will provide Outposts to parade at 1600. Each man will carry 150 rounds S.A.A., unexpended portion of day's ration, and full water bottle. Pack animals of C. and D. Companies, with tools, will parade with Outpost Company.
(c) Touch will be maintained with defence troops on Canal and Outposts of 3rd Brigade north of Habeita road.
- LINE OF RESISTANCE. (4) The picquet line is the line of resistance.
- INLYING PICQUET. (5) D. Company will act as Inlying Picquet, furnishing two sentries and necessary reliefs. No. 1 sentry is to be posted at C.O.'s tent, and No. 2 sentry at tent of Officer commanding D. Company.
- LIGHTS. (6) No fires to be lit. No lights or smoking after 1830.
- REPORTS. (7). To C.O.'s tent, Serapeum Camp. First report, with sketch, to be in by 1630.

(Signed) H.H.O'LOUGHLIN,
2nd Lieutenant,
Assistant Adjutant.

Copies issued as under :-

- No. 1, File
" 2, O.C. "C" Company
" 3, O.C. "D" "
" 4, Signalling N.C.O.

Serapeum, 28/1/16.

COPY NO.

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OPERATION ORDER NO. 4.
BY LIEUTENANT COLONEL F.W. LE MAISTRE, COMMANDING.

- ROUTE (1) The 5th Battalion and one section of No. 3 Field Company Engineers, with Camel Convoy, will move from Serapeum tomorrow 29th inst. and bivouac at site selected in centre sub-section of 2nd Brigade defence section.
- TIME. (2) The units will move at 0900.
- DISTRIBUTION. (3). Advance Guard, O.C., Capt. D.A. Luxton. B. Company less two platoons.
Right Flank Guard (Sergt. W. Ross), One Section B. Coy.
Left Flank Guard. (Sergt. A.S. Stringer), One Section B. Company.
Main Body. The Battalion will move in column of route in three columns as follows:-
Centre Column: -leading, A. Company, all pack horses.
Right Column, moving at 10 paces interval on right of rear unit of Centre Column, D. Company 5th Battalion, one section Field Engineers, and all wheeled transport.
Left Column, moving 10 paces interval on left of rear unit of Centre Column, C. Company, Camel Convoy, Baggage party (2 sections B. Company). A second Camel Convoy will join this Column after passing rail-head.
Rear Guard. O.C. Lieut F.L. Moore, one platoon B. Company, one empty limber (for sick).
- COMMUNICATIONS. (4) Headquarter's Signalling Section will be responsible for maintaining communication between protective units and main body, and also with Brigade Headquarters at Serapeum during march and while in bivouac.
Rear Guard will be responsible for collecting of all stragglers and for detaching necessary escorts in event of any breakdowns.
- Strict march discipline will be observed. No increasing of pace permitted.
- REPORTS. (5) To head of Centre Column.

(Signed) H.H. O'LOUGHLIN,
2nd Lieutenant,
Assistant Adjutant.

Copies issued as under;

- No. 1, File.
" 2, No. 3 Field Coy. Engineers.
" 3, O.C. "A" Coy.
" 4, O.C. "B" "
" 5, O.C. "C" "
" 6, O.C. "D" "
" 7, Signalling N.C.O.