

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

Infantry

**Item number:** 23/76/2

**Title:** 59th Infantry Battalion

March 1916



AWM4-23/76/2



Date	Place	Time	References to appendices attached.
1/3/16	TEL-EL-KEBIR	0900 1000 2300	Battalion parades. Company commanders proceed with syllabus of work. Major Durrant, Bgde Major, (having succeeded Major Baker) inspects regimental office. Lieut Wrigley reports for duty, having been in isolation at SERAPEUM.
2/3/16	" "		110 Cpl Harting J. E. 804 & the Wadson, J. H. mentioned in Sir Ian Hamilton's despatches, dated 11/12/15.
3/3/16	" "		Lieut Barton and 63 O.P.s marched out to join newly formed 5 <sup>th</sup> Divisional Pioneer Battalion. Lt. Col. H. E. Elliott assumes temporary command of 15 Inf. Bgde.
4/3/16	" "		150 men on sanitary fatigue parties as area of showers and hose lines require considerable attention.
5/3/16	" "		Brigade School of Instruction for Officers and N.C.O.s commences. Major Durrant Chief Instructor. 4 Officers and 30 N.C.O.s from the 59 <sup>th</sup> Bn. attend.
6/3/16	" "	1000	Battalion inspected by Gen Cox. Commanding A.P.F.s. He remarks on fine physique and smartness of men.

59 Bn



W. 3.  
3.3 XVIII

Official Diary 59 Bn.  
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Date	Place	Time		Reference to appendices attached.
1/3/16	TEL-EL-KEBIR	1200	Bn. inspected by Gen. Birdwood.	
1/3/16	" "		Volunteers called for for Divisional Artillery. 100 men selected.	
2/3/16	" "	0700-0730 0900-1200 1500-1700	Training as per Bgde. Syllabus.	appendix III
2/3/16	" "	0930	Men selected for Divisional Signallers. 10 Report to Signal Company 1 <sup>st</sup> Div.	
3/3/16	" "	0900	Inoculation against typhoid fever commences.	
4/3/16	" "		" "	
5/3/16		1730	Brigade reorganized on account of territorial scheme being adopted.	
6/3/16			Battalion at disposal of Commanding Officer for purpose of reorganization.	
20/3/16			Syllabus of training continued.	
1/5/16			Second injection of inoculation.	
			" "	

W. 3.  
59 Bn.

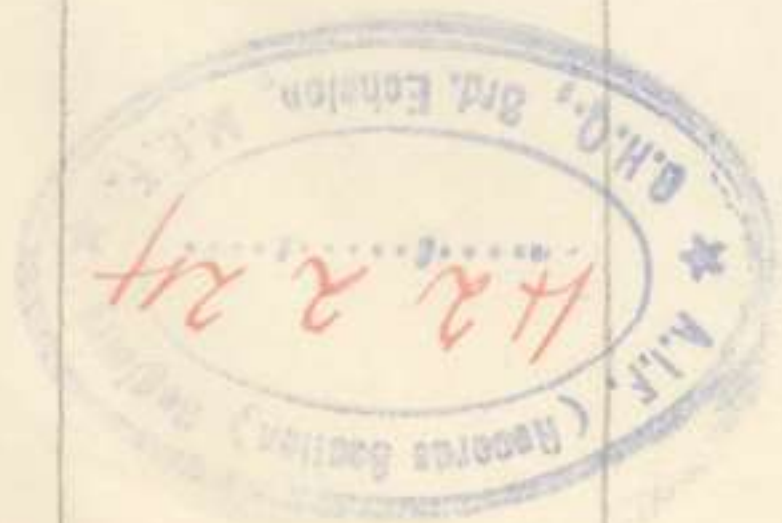


no. 4  
3.4 XVIII

Official Diary 54 Bn  
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Date	Place	Time	Reference to appendices attached.
2/3/16	TEL-EL-KEBIR.	1030	Inspection of companies, while at work, by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales.
6/3/16	" "	1400	Officer finally allotted to Companies. Route march along Fresh Water Canal road.
27/3/16	" "	0930	Route march. Bn moves out at 0900, men carry lunch. Bn returns 1500
8/3/16	" "	Morning 1500	Turning Battalion rests This inspection by Company Commanders.
9/3/16	TEL-EL-KEBIR	0700 1030 1100 1500 1750	15 <sup>th</sup> Bn. Bgde. starts enroute by canal road to FERRY POST. via ISMAILIA. Transport 44 camels 2 timber Wagons. Bgde rests. Bivouac at MAHSAMA
10/3/16	MAHSAMA.	0700 1115 1500 1750	March continues Bgde rests. MOASKA reached. Bivouac for night
11/3/16	MOASKA FERRY POST	0700 1215	March continued Camp site reached
13/4/16	FERRY POST.	0930	Brigade syllabus of training commenced.
14/4/16	" "		Camp extended. Trees huts and other Bn works commenced.



Extracts for Bn. attached Appendix II.

54 Bn



59th BATTALION A. I. F.

OPERATION ORDER NO 1.

By Lieut Col. E.A. Harris

Commanding 59th Battalion.

Tel-el-Kebir 28.3.16.

REF EGYPT 2t0000 Dheet F.

Information. The Division has been ordered to concentrate on the Suez Canal. No hostile movement has been reported.

Intention. 2. To march to MAHSAMA<sup>Station</sup> on 20/3/16 following the railway line and keeping approximately one quarter of a mile to the North of it.

DISTRIBUTION. 3. (a) The 59th Battallion will march in rear of the 58th., being prepared to move off at 0700.

O.C. Baillon. Transport (b) Transport will be Brigaded and will march in rear of Column. Transport to be loaded in time to report to Brigade T.O. at 0645.

Lieut. Hewitt. (c) The Battalion will furnish an escort of one man per G.S. Waggon and one man per two Camels and one Officer and one N.C.O. These will be responsible for loading, reloading, and securing loads as required

INSTRUCTIONS. 4. Strict March discipline to be maintained throughout the march.

When marching at ease men should be encouraged to whistle of sing. Jackets may be unbuttoned and sleeves rolled up.

Officers and N.C.O'S will pay strict attention to covering from front to rear, the dressing of fours and that proper intervals and distances are kept throughout.

No men will be allowed to fall out except by express permission of an officer and this will not be given except when necessary. No man will be allowed to leave the Column unless he is in possession of written authority signed by the officer in rear of Column or the M.O.

Ammunition 120 rounds S.A. will be carried by each man.

5. Every man must start on the march with one day's Iron Rations, the unconsumed portion of current day's rations and a full water bottle.

Iron Rations not to be consumed unless by order of an Officer. Water bottles will not be opened on the march except by order of an Officer and this should be sparingly given. Every man should reach the midday halting place with a full waterbottle and must preserve at least half of this ~~water~~ for the afternoon march. He should reach Bivouac with some water in his bottle. Water found en route is unfit for drinking.

HALTS. 6. The first halt of ten minutes duration may be expected half an hour after starting. Afterwards the regular halts of five minutes in each hour.

Reports. 7. To head of Battalion. No smoking or drinking from waterbottles to be allowed while troops are on the march.

*L. E. Harris* Lieut a/Adjt.  
59th Battalion





Appendix III			
mon	Morning	0700-0730	Physical Exercises
Tuesday	"	0900-1200	{ Section Drill Platoon Musketry Company Drill Bayonet fighting
Wed.	Afternoon	1500-1700	
Thurs.	Morning	0700-0730	Physical Exercises
Frid.	"	0900-1200	Extended order work Musketry Company attack and defence Bayonet fighting
Sat.	Afternoon	1500-1700	

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