

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/76/3

Title: 59th Infantry Battalion

April 1916



AWM4-23/76/3

WAR DIARY

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	3.4.16.	0930	Brigade syllabus of training commenced.	Extracts for Bn attached Appendix II.
" "	4.4.16.		Camp extended. Mess huts and other Bn works commenced.	
<p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for end of previous month & filed with volume for that month).</p>				
<p><small>D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 517 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14</small></p>				

Date	Place	a. no.	59 th Bn Diary (copy)	Remarks or reference to appendices attached.
7/4/16	STAGING CAMP FERRY POST	0131 0930	Removes to bank of Suez Canal near PONTOON BRIDGE to take over garrison duties and picquets of the inner defences of FERRY POST. 55 th Bn. relieved of duties.	
7/4/16 - 14/4/16	CAVAL FERRY POST		Garrison duties and picquets Inner defences FERRY POST.	
14/4/16	"	0930	Relieved of garrison duties by the 54 th Bn 14 th Bgde. 59 th Bn returns to STAGING CAMP and pitches camp. Weather, heavy rain.	
15/4/16	STAGING CAMP. FERRY POST. DONTROOM PLATEAU.	1200	15 th Bgde less 2 companies of 60 th Bn and 2 companies of 58 th Bn. marches out to take over Outpost duties in the Outer defences of FERRY POST. At 10 Kilometres from the 59 th Bn with 2 companies of 60 th Bn leave main column and proceed to DONTROOM PLATEAU.	Appendix I
16/4/16	DONTROOM PLATEAU		Camp repitched and cleaned	
17/4/16	"	0630-1130 1530-1730	Training, Company work and as per syllabus	Appendix II
18/4/16	"		Musketry commenced.	
20/4/16	"	1500	142 Reinforcement arrived for 59 th Bn. many of a very poor specimen of manhood.	
21/4/16	"		Musketry practice still continuing	

copy
of
copy
59th Bn.

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59th Bn. Diary (Capt)

Date	Place	Time	Remarks, reference to appendices attached
22/4/16.	DUNTRON PLATEAU		59 th Bn. takes over Outpost duties from 60 th Bn. B and C Companies built up to War strength proceed to KATOOMBA and KEMBLA respectively. Bayonet fighting course under construction
23/4/16	"	0900	The Brigadier 15 th Inf. Bgob. holds Staff Ride all mounted officers of 59 th Bn attend.
25/4/16	"	1530 1900	Anzac Day. Holiday. Divine Service held at 0730. Bn. sports Concert held in mess hall.
25/4/16 - 30/4/16.			2 Companies Outpost duties in front line. Remainder of Bn. engaged on Engineer parties for wire entanglements etc. and training per Syllabus. appendix III
1/5/16		0830 1000.	G. O. C. Ind A + NZ Army Corps. inspects the Camps. and 2 platoons in full marching order. Special attention paid to fitting of web equipment. Syllabus of work continued. appendix IV
2/5/16.		0600	2 Companies 59 th Bn. moved out of camp. to ALBURY HILL. to take part in div. tactical exercise. Part played was that of a rear guard to a force retiring. appendix

[Signature]
Capt
15/5/16

Appendix II
3-6 XVIII

Appendix No. 2
3/4/16

59TH BATTALION.

Syllabus of Training for the week ending 8th April 1916.

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Morning	Phys. Trng.	Phys. Trng.	Phys. Trng.
Forenoon &	57th Coy. Drill	Bay. Fighting on Course	Batt. Drill
	58th Batt. Drill Rapid Loading	Sharpshooting & Rapid Fire	Musketry Standard Tests
	59th & 60th Control & Communication by Verbal Messages Sec 96	Method of Advancing under Fire Sec 108.	Use of Ground and cover Sec 108.
AFTERNOON	Battalions change over	Change over	Change over
Night Lectures for all Officers of Brigade 1930 to 2030.	Formations Use of Ground and Cover (In Mess of 58th Battln.)		Training of Patrols. Instruction of Scouts. (In Mess of 59th Battln.)

TIME	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY.
MORNING	Phys. Trng.	Phys Trng.	Phys Trng.
FORENOON &	57th Bay. Fighting on Course	Fire Formations	Coy. Drill
	58th Musketry Standard Tests	Fire Control & Discipline	J.D. Test Snapshooting
	59th & 60th Training of Scouts Sec. 110.	Instruction of Patrols Sec. 111.	As above
AFTERNOON	Half Holiday	Change over	Night operations from 1900 to 2030 Sec. 113 (1) (11).
Night Lectures for all Officers of Bgde 1930 to 2030	Fire Effect Fire Control & Fire Discipline (In Mess of 60th Battln.)		

Note: Lecture will be given to toops on parade at C.O's. discretion.



*L. J. Brown
Adjutant
59th Bn*

OPERATION ORDER NO. 6

By Colonel H.E. Elliott

Commanding 15th Infantry Brigade,
Ferry Post
14/4/16.

- Information 1 There is no further information.
- Intention 2 To march with the Brigade (less two half Battns) to the support line of B Section (about 7 miles East of Ferry Post).
- Distribution 3 (1) The main body will pass the starting point the eastern end of Brigade Camp at 0700.
H.Q. 15 Inf (ii) At the 10 Kilometre post the 59th and 60th Btn will be detached from the column and under Lt. nCol. Harris 59th Btn. will follow the left branch of the installed road to subsection H.Q.
Bde. (iii) At Rail Head the 57th Btn. (less 1 Platoon) & the 58th Btn will be detached from the column and under Lt. Col. Stewart 57th Btn will continue the march to Subsection H.Q.
1 Sec. Sig. Co. (iv) The remainder of the column will go into camp at Rail Head.
H.Q. 15th M.G. Co.
1 Platoon 57th Btn.
57th Btn (less 1 Platoon)
58th Btn (less 2 Coys
59th Btn.
60th Btn (less 2 Coys)
- Instructions 4 (i) Transport will be loaded and ready to march at 0645.
(ii) Each Btn will have a rear party of 1 N.C.O. and 20 men to finally clear the lines and hand over to incoming units. Tent doors to be left open and walls rolled.
An officer of the 57th Btn. will command the rear party which will leave Camp to rejoin units at 1500.
(iii) Any extra baggage will be arranged for at a later date.
- Reports 5 On the march to head of main body.
Afterwards to Bde. H.Q. at Rail Head.

(Signed) Geo. F. Wieck Major
Brigade Major.

appendix 2
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SYLLABUS OF WORK FOR WEEK ENDING 22/4/16.

DATE	0630 to 1100	1530 to 1730	1900 to 2100.
Monday 17/4/16	Route March (7 Miles) The Company on Out-post.	Control of Fire (Using targets pole) J.D. Tests. Snapshooting (not closer than 200 yards).	
Tuesday 18/4/16	Musketry Course.	Musketry Course	Elementary Night Work (Short afternoon)
Wednesday 19/4/16.	Route March (8 miles) J.D. Test. Lecture on Infantry in defence.	Infantry in Defence showing distribution and action of firing line and supports.	Lecture for Officers & N.C.O's on organisation of 5th Aust. Division & relation between parts.
Thursday 20/4/16.	Musketry Course.	Half Holiday.	
Friday 21/4/16.	Route March (9 miles) J.D. Test Lecture on the Assault.	Demonstration of Assault on a prepared position.	Elementary Night Work (Afternoon Short)
Saturday 22/4/16.	Musketry Course.	Musketry Course.	

L. H. H. H. Capt.
Adj.
59th. Battalion A. I. F.

appendix 3

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING 29/4/16.

Monday 24/4/16	Route March (9 miles)	Bayonet Fighting (Course to be cleared of sand) Guards and Sentries.	Movement of Scouts and small patrols.
Tuesday 25/4/16.	ANZAC DAY - HOLIDAY	Nil.	
Wednesday 26/4/16) Thursday 27/4/16) Friday 28/4/16) Saturday 29/4/16.)	Nil.	Nil.	

Notes:- All men not detailed for picquets etc, are to be used as working parties on the trenches. Grenadiers will complete instruction in handling of explosives and timing fuses so that combined work can commence on 1/5/16. The last draft of Reinforcements will be tested in elementary musketry by 1800 on 26th and if found satisfactory, exercised in Range Practices, if unsatisfactory C.O's will arrange to give them the necessary extra instruction.

L. H. H. H. Capt.
Adj.
59th. Battalion A. I. F.