

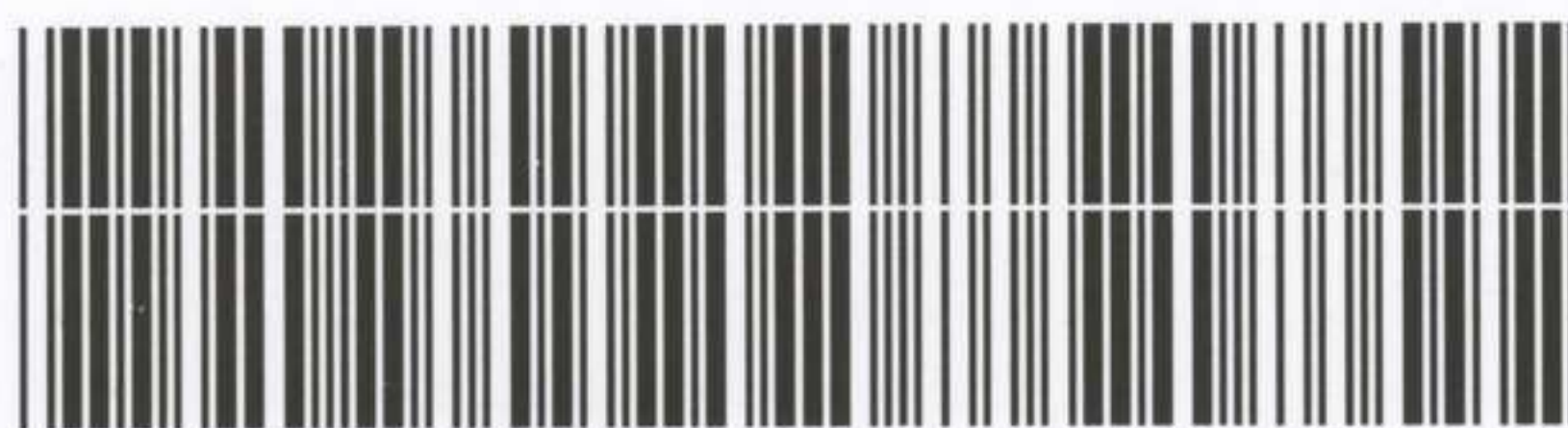
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/76/4

Title: 59th Infantry Battalion

May 1916



AWM4-23/76/4

WAR 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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUNTROON PLATEAU.	1.5.16.	0830.	G.O.C. Ind. A & NZ Army Corps inspects the Camp and 2 platoon in full marching order. Special attention paid to fitting of Wet Equipment.	Appendix 4
		1000	Syllabus of work continued.	
	2.5.16	0600.	2 Companies 59th 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.
(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for end of previous month & filed with volume for that month).				

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUNTROON PLATEAU	1/5/16	0830	Two platoons of 59" battery inspected by Major General McElroy. remainder of battery engaged on outpost duties.	
"	2/5/16		Two companies under Major Layh carry out tactical exercise in conjunction with 60" battery against 14 th BDE.	
"	3/5/16		Outpost duties and musketry. Localities of outposts GUNDABAI, KEMBLA and KATOOMBA.	
"	4/5/16		" " "	
"	5/5/16		59 th battery relieved by the 60 th battery. Outpost companies return to DUNTROON PLATEAU.	
"	6/5/16		Tactical exercise battery moves out of camp. 0530. 57 th and 59 th batteries operate against 8 th Bde.	
"	7/5/16		Officers inspected new allotment of frontage in view of night alarm.	

J. H. [Signature]

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUNTRON PLAT	8/5/16	0700	59 th Bn. moves out of DUNTRON PLATEAU CAMP. and marches via RAILHEAD to HOGS BACK to support 58 th Bn.	
HOGS BACK	9/5/16		Grenadiers continue with special work. Bn. supplies fatigues for waterpipes, tanks, and clearing trenches of sand. Remains continue with training	
	11/5/16		D'Company constructs new fire trenches in forward line. Rifles collected and returned for new issue of mark VII	
	12/5/16		3 officers and 4 n.c.o. having been transferred to 15 th Training Bn. proceed to TEL-EL-KEBIR	
	15/5/16		59 th Bn. and 60 th Bn. return to STAGING CAMP. FERRY POST and camp on site vacated by 14 th BDE.	
	16/5/16		Battalion engaged on divisional and brigade duties.	

R. H. H. Capt

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STAGING CAMP FERRY POST.	17/5/16	0530	Battalion takes part in brigade tactical exercise.	
"	18/5/16		Work suspended for day.	
"	20/5/16		Training continues. Serge clothing issued to men for purpose of inspection.	
"	21/5/16	1000	Battalion parade in serge clothing, inspection by Brigadier.	
	22/5/16		Divisional manoeuvre, Battalion exercised in attack training, patrol and scouting work.	
	23/5/16			
	25/5/16	1730	Divisional inspection by C. in C.	
	26/5/16		Training continues	append. 6
	29/5/16		" " French attack.	
	30/5/16		Final inspection and training	
	31/5/16		Brigade trench attack. Battalion attack order per appendix.	append. 7.

L. R. Lamb. Capt.

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

45 XIX
 Appendix 4
 59th BATTALION A. I. F.

SYLLABUS OF WORK FOR WEEK ENDING 6/5/16.

DATE	0630 to 1100	1530 to 1730.
Monday 1st May	Inspection by G.O.C. 2nd A.N.Z.A.C. Army Corps. Special Instructions.	Bayonet fighting, rapid loading fire discipline exercises.
Tuesday 2nd May.	Btn. tactical exercise	Detailed instruction in the assault on a prepared position.
Wednesday 3rd May	Field Firing	As for Tuesday.
Thursday 4th May.	Btn. Field Firing	Half Holiday.
Friday 5th May.		Bayonet fighting on course, fire control with pole targets.
Saturday 6th May.	Special tactical exercise. Details later.	As for morning.

GRENADIERS.

Except for field firing parades all grenadiers will be detailed for instruction under the grenadier officer. By 6th May all grenadiers should be expert throwers and should thoroughly understand team work, They should also have had practice with the trench catapult.

L.R. Hounby Capt.
 Adj.
 59th. Battalion A. I. F.

59th BATTALION A. I. F.

15th INFANTRY BRIGADE.

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR WEEK ENDING 27th MAY 1916.

DAY	FORENOON	AFTERNOON.
MONDAY 22nd	Divisional Exercises	57th Bn Grenade Course 58th " Bayonet Course Others - Fire discipline exercises.
TUESDAY 23rd	57th Bn Artillery Formations 58th " Advanced Guards 59th " Patrols Scouting Recruit Musketry 60th " Trench attack practice	Marching Order parade with short march Grenade Course 59th Bn
WEDNESDAY 24th	57th Bn Advanced Guard 58th " Artillery Formations 59th " Trench attack practice 60th Bn. Patrols, scouting and recruit musketry	Grenade Course 58th Bn. Others Half Holiday Night exercise
THURSDAY 25th	57th Bn Patrols Scouting and recruit musketry 58th " Trench attack practice 59th " Artillery Formations 60th " Advanced Guards	Half Holiday Grenade Course 57th Bn.
FRIDAY 26th	57th Bn. Trench attack practice 58th " Patrols Scouting and recruit musketry 59th " Advanced Guards 60th " Artillery Attack Practice	Grenade Course 58th Bn. Marching Order Parade with short march
SATURDAY 27th	Brigade Trench Attack Practice	At disposal of Battalion Commanders.

- Advanced Guard work. These exercises are for vanguard training. Companies should leave battalion areas at half hour intervals and march out about 2 miles. Spare time to be used for rapid loading and firing.
- Marching Order Parades. Men to specially practice removing and adjusting packs. Front and rear rank men to help each other.
- Artillery Formations. Columns in single file to be discontinued. Larger bodies to be used and alignments to be irregular.
- Musketry Course. Units will select as many recruits as can be conveniently instructed. Ammunition must be indented for at once.
- Trench Attack. This will be conducted as a battalion exercise and the grenade course will be made use of. A lecture for all Officers will be held in the M.G. Hut at 2000 on 21st inst.

Handwritten signature and date: 21st May 1916

59th BATTALION ORDER NO. 16.

STAGING CAMP,
31st May 1918.

Reference Sketch attached.

- 5-5
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- INFORMATION. 1. The 5th Australian Division has been ordered to assault and occupy the enemy's first line trenches opposite the Staging Camp to-day. The 8th Bgde. will attack on the right, the 15th Bgde. in the centre, and the 14th Bgde on the left. Each Bgde is allotted a frontage of about 600 yards. The attack will be preceded by a bombardment. The 59th Batln will attack over a frontage of 300 yards.
- INTENTION 2. The 59th Batln., supported by the 60th Batln. and assisted by the 1st Sect "F" Coy. Engineers and 1st Section 15th M.G.Coy. will attack on front "C" to "B" (see sketch). The frontage will be divided into
- DISTRIBUTION. 3. two sectors, each sector to be assaulted by one Coy. with one Coy. in support. Right sector from "B" to "W" is allotted to "C" Coy. with "B" Coy. supporting them. Left sector from "W" to "C" is allotted to "D" with "A" Coy. supporting them.
Lewis Machine Guns will be distributed one on each of the two successive assaulting lines.
Signallers will be where they can best carry out instructions given later in this order.
Pioneers will represent Engineers attached.
- INSTRUCTIONS. 4. Engineer dumps containing tools, sand bags, barb wire, wire netting, also grenades and S.A.A. will be established at points marked "X".
Infantry First Line. Each man in the assaulting column will carry a sand bag containing one sand bag and three hand grenades. When he reaches the fire trench in which he is intended to use his bayonet he will drop both sand bags and grenades, these being collected in the dumps by detailed parties. 50 shovels per Company will be carried. Every fourth man will carry a plank either for laying across barb wire or for bridging enemy's first fire trench, planks for these purposes being arranged alternately and men must know for which purpose they are carrying their plank. 12 pairs wire cutters will be carried by each Coy. A party of 1 N.C.O. and 5 men will be told off from "C" Coy. under Sgt.....Engineers & the same from "D" Coy under Cpl.....Engineers to dig communication trenches back to our lines, commencing immediately the fire trench is captured. Engineer Officer will be held responsible that his N.C.O.'s know where to start these trenches in order to tap our supports 14 and 14a. 1 N.C.O. and 2 men will be told off by the O.C. Engineers to go with each Coy. and immediately search enemy trenches for wires and cut them. Men carrying bridging planks will place same across enemy's first fire trench before jumping into it. These planks are intended to assist second assaulting line to cross.
After they have dealt with all enemy in dugouts etc., they must endeavour to assist in passing material to second line which now becomes our front line defence, and if required assist them in placing their trench in state of defence to resist counter attack. Every minute must be used to the best advantage to strengthen the line.

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Second assualting Line. The second assualting line comprised of "A" & "B" Companies will be massed in trenches in rear of our fire trench. They will time their assualt two minutes after the first line starts. They will carry 75 shovels per Company. Every fourth man will carry a plank which will be used for the purpose of crossing our own fire trench. Each man will carry sand bags and grenades as per instructions to front line and will act similarly. This assualting line will pass over enemy's first fire trench using planks placed in position by first assualting line and proceed to second fire trench which they will enter and deal with.

A party of 2 men per platoon will have been detailed off to collect grenades and sand bags and dump them at suitable places near where grenade teams are working, viz., communication trenches. Parties will have been detailed off to guard each communication trench leading back from first fire trench until grenadiers have worked right through. "A" & "B" Companies will each detail 1 N.C.O. and 6 men with picks and shovels to report to Engineers at saps 14 and 14a respectively (these for the purpose of establishing communication)

Grenadiers. 4 teams will accompany each Coy., 1 team will help to deal with dugouts in fire trench, the other three will work back communication trench, the two leading teams making good the traffic trench, the third team pushing right on. Communication trenches in rear of enemy's second line to be blocked.

Lewis Machine Guns. The guns will take up a position two on each flank of the Battalion in covered position in front of our fire trench and endeavour to assist our advance. As soon as enemy's first line is secured, 1 gun from each position will go forward and assist in protecting the clanks, the remaining 2 guns going forward with the second assualting line.

Signallers. Party will go forward with first line and establish telephonic communication with Battalion H.Q. as soon as possible.

AMMUNITION. 5

* 220 rounds of S.A.A. will be carried on the soldier. An initial supply of 3000 ~~xxxx~~ grenades will be carried by each assualting column. Brigade ammunition depots have been established at "O".

As soon as the objective has been gained supplies will be drawn from this depot and Battln depots established in captured position.

SIGNAL OF ASSUALT.	6	One whistle blast.
DRESS	7	Fighting order for all ranks.
REPORTS	8	To Battln H.Q. at Q.

RRH Adjutant
59th Battalion A.I.F.

Copy No.	1	Filed
"	2	"A" Co.
"	3	"B" "
"	4	"C" "
"	5	"D" "
"	6	O.C. Lewis Guns
"	7	O.C. Signallers
"	8	O.C. Pioneers
"	9	O.C. Grenadiers.