

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/20/1

Title: 15th Australian Machine Gun
Company

March 1916



AWM4-24/20/1



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XIV

Date	Place	Events
7-3-16	Sel el-kehi	Had first parade as a B.M.G. Coy held at foot of 59 th Battalion lines. Parade of summer only. Only 1 officer, 3 Sergeants, 1 NCO + 20/25 Cpls. and nine men with knowledge of the gun to join company. Received 4 303 Masenms from the 8 th Bde. Art 7.
8-3-16	do	Parade as above. Formed camp between 56 th & 57 th Battalion lines. Summer only. Manoeuvred from Battalions.
9-3-16	do	Fixing up camp. Holiday in afternoon
10-3-16	do	Forwarded request to D.A.D.M.S for water wire. The following promotions to acting rank were made: no 416 A.S.M. Selchrist G.A. 56 A.C.Q.M.S. Walker J. 3258 ASgt Smith H.B.L. 964 do Stagg H. 1788 do Cameron C.G.A. 369 Cpl Hill G.A. 2840 do Plummer R.L. 2629 do Murphy D. 8025 do Blake R.A.
11-3-16	do	Usual Parade.
12-3-16	do	Sunday.
13-3-16	do	Mobilization table completed & forwarded to D.A.D.O.S. Patigue party constructing latrines for company.
14-3-16	do	4 men transferred back to 57 th Batta. at their own request arranged with C.R.E for construction of Mess Mess Hut and kitchen for latrines etc. 6 men taken on strength from 60 th Batta returned from School of Instruction Vietnam.
15-3-16	do	Innoculations commenced. attached to 57 th Batta for medical attention.

S.W. Neale Lt



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Date	Place	Events
16-3-16	Del el Keln.	Remainder of company inoculated for typhoid + para-typhoid. Holiday in afternoon.
17-3-16	do	Paid company Range takers, Scouts and Drivers taken on strength Holiday for company on account of inoculation, with description of men done on 15-3-16.
18-3-16	do	Training commenced again. Six natives attached to company for sanitary. They were used for making bricks for use of company.
19-3-16	do	Sunday. Tent struck & blankets aired.
20-3-16	do	Mess Mess huts completed. also Alder stool oven installed. Inspection of sanitary arrangements by General Campbell D.C.M.G. Parade as in syllabus.
21-3-16	do	Parade as usual. The following promotions came out in A.I.F. orders 2 nd Lt Neale CW to be Lieut. A/Sgt Hanger HV to be 2 nd Lt. 2 nd Lt Holmes C.H. taken on strength.
22-3-16	do	Held elementary tests. Inspection by H. R. H. The Prince of Wales Half holiday in honour of inspection. 2 nd inoculation for men done 15 th inst.
23-3-16	do	1 st inoculation for remainder of company typhoid + para typhoid for no parade for remainder of day Several men transferred back to battalion on account of lack of keenness for machine gun work
24-3-16	do	Holiday for company on account of inoculation Lecture by Brigade Major on Musketry at 1930.
25-3-16	do	Divisional Order No 3 issued containing instructions re march to Ferry Post. on 29 th inst. Kit inspection. S W Neale Lt



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Date	Place	Events																				
26-3-16	Del-el-Ketiv.	Route march in afternoon, with full marching order. Nine (9) men taken on strength. Returned from School.																				
27-3-16	do	Draining in morning, route march with full marching order in afternoon. 14 th Bde marched out. Six men (6) taken on strength 1 man (1) transferred back to Bdkh.																				
28-3-16	do	Draining as in syllabus till 1100; route march till 1200. Issuing iron rations, ammunition & rations in equipment. Twelve (12) men taken on strength.																				
29-3-16	do	Moved out of Del-el-Ketiv camp. Company at head of column. Strength 3 officers 93 O.R. 1 officer 36 O.R. remained behind to attend School of Instruction Zeitoun. Two Maxim's complete left with above men. <u>March</u> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>First Halt</td> <td>at 0730</td> <td rowspan="5" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td rowspan="5" style="vertical-align: middle;">10 minute spells</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second "</td> <td>" 0810</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third "</td> <td>" 0900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fourth "</td> <td>" 1000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fifth "</td> <td>" 1030</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">From 1030 to 1600 midday halt. Column rested along bank of canal. At Roll call no men absent</p> <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>First Halt</td> <td>1630</td> <td rowspan="3" style="font-size: 2em; vertical-align: middle;">}</td> <td rowspan="3" style="vertical-align: middle;">10 minute halts.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Second "</td> <td>1700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Third "</td> <td>1730</td> </tr> </table> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Arrived at Mahsana ^{at 1805} bivouacked. Water was plentiful. Rations issued & Canteen unpacked Sick parade at 1830. Roll call no absentees.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 50px;">S. W. ...</p>	First Halt	at 0730	}	10 minute spells	Second "	" 0810	Third "	" 0900	Fourth "	" 1000	Fifth "	" 1030	First Halt	1630	}	10 minute halts.	Second "	1700	Third "	1730
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XIV

Date Place Events.

30-3-16. Mahsana Reveille at 05 AM. Breakfast & camels loaded. Transport preceded column. Left Mahsana at 0700, column kept waiting on account of camel man stall did not pass starting point till 0720.

March. First halt 0755 }
 Second " 0825 } Good going between
 Third " 0855 } railway & canal.
 Fourth " 0925 } Column opened out in four
 Fifth " 0950 } lines.
 Sixth " 1020 } 10 minute halt
 Seventh " 1050 } Very heavy going
 Eighth " 1130 } along canal road,
 Ninth " } thick loose sand.
 } ~~Very easy~~ going.

From 1130 to 1500 midday rest when men were allowed to boil canal water.

Roll call no absentees.

First halt 1510. Halt to allow column to divide up into two lines.
 Second halt 1530 } 10 minute halt.
 Third " 1600 } Heavy going. Column
 Fourth " 1625 } divided into four
 Fifth " 1645 } lines one line marching
 Sixth " 1705 } near water's edge. In this
 Seventh " 1735 } formation the march was less
 Eighth " 1800 } trying to the men.
 Ninth " 1815 } Passed Mj Gen McCay on road
 } Left road, crossed railway
 } line marched into Moascar.

Arrived Moascar 1815; made bivouac, issued rations, ~~unloaded~~ and roll called and no absentees. Blankets were issued & company settled down for night.

31-3-16 Moascar Reveille at 0630. March continued at 0830
 First halt 0905 } 10 minute halt
 Second halt 0950 } Passed Mj Gen McCay on road.
 Third " 1035 }
 Fourth " 1115 }

Arrived Ferry Post at 1135.
 Roll call no absentees.
 Company moved on one line of tents (10) on height of 58 ft bath.
 Swimming parade in afternoon.

W. Neale Lt



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Date	Place	Events
31-3-16	Ferry Post	2 Lt Holmes & 30 R. attached to School of Instruction in Somalia. 2 Maxims Maxims sent to school, leaving one for training. Inspection of feet, packs & ammunition.
1-4-16	do.	Changed camp & re-pitched in rear of B.H.Q. Putting new camp in order
2-4-16	do	Lt McCracken & Lt Fitzgerald taken a strength. Lt McCracken & Lt Fitzgerald sent to School of Instruction Somalia. Sunday.
3-4-16	do	Resumed training as per syllabus for week. Ordinary routine observed. Early morning parade cancelled & swimming parade substituted. Sgt Sigth CC promoted 2 nd Lt.
4-4-16	do	Training as usual. Called parade of N.C. Co at 2000. Received Angae Boot Plates.
5-4-16	do	Training as usual Parade of Brigade officers and lecture by Brigadier on Organisation etc. Received Agenda from G.H.Q. also Divisional order re training

SW Neale Lt.

