

AWM4

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

Bases & Depots

Item number: 33/15/4

Title: Australian Base Depot, Weymouth

April 1916



AWM4-33/15/4

Australian Base Depot,

2nd May, 1916.

REPORT FOR APRIL 1916.

	Officers	Other Ranks	Total.
Strength on 31-3-16	59	2003	2062
Total Arrivals at Depot.	23	498	521
Total "handled" at Depot	82	2501	2683

DEPARTURES.

Drafts.	14	60	74
Transfers to British Army	1	-	1
Transfers to other Depots & discharged in England and additions to previous drafts	-	98	98
Invalided to Australia	-	5	5
Present Strength on 30-4-16.	67	2338	2405

INSPECTIONS.

2-4-16 I visited patients in Hospitals in Weymouth and at Portland and distributed cigarettes to them.

7-4-16 The General Officer Commanding Portland Garrison paid a flying visit to the Camp on the 7th April, and inspected the lower cook-house and shower bath, making certain recommendations for coping with enthetic disease, which precautions have been in use in Camp for some time.

The Musketry Staff Officer, Southern Command, inspected the Miniature Rifle Range and said he would recommend that from 4 to 6 miniature rifles be issued to Depot for instructional purposes and also suggested that an application be put forward to Garrison

Headquarters.

Inspections.

- 7-4-16. Headquarters that vacancies be kept at School of Musketry for two Officers and two N.C.Os to go through a course. Application for rifles is being attended to also the question of attendance at School of Musketry of Officers.
- 14-4-16
15-4-16 The General Officer Commanding, A.I.F. (U.K.) inspected this Camp on the 14th April and inspected the 29th Draft prior to leaving for France on the 15th April.
- 27-4-16 Lieutenant-General Sir William R. Birdwood, K.C.S.I., K.C.M.G., C.B., C.I.E., D.S.O., General Officer Commanding Australian Imperial Force, visited this Depot on the 27th April and inspected the Camp and also the troops in Monte Video and Westham Camps.

DISCIPLINE.Military.

The following men were dealt with by Court-Martial:-

- 6-4-16. No.5224, Gunner Alfred William Ascott, Divisional Ammunition Park, 8th Army Service Corps, was tried by D.C.M. at Weymouth on the 6th April.

Charges. (1) Absenting himself without leave.

- (2) Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Finding. Guilty of all charges.

Sentence. The Court sentence the accused to be imprisoned with hard labour for six months and to forfeit all ordinary pay for a period of 229 days.

Confirmations The G.O.C., Portland Garrison does not confirm the finding on the first charge,
and

DISCIPLINE.

6-4-16. Confirmation. and varies the sentence so that it shall be as follows:- to be imprisoned with hard labour for one hundred and twenty (120) days and confirms the finding on the 2nd charge & sentence so varied.

14-4-16. No.2153, Private Sydney M.V.Mason, 3rd Battalion was tried by D.C.M. on the 14th April.

Charge. Committing a civil offence, that is to say fraudulent misappropriation of property.

Finding. Guilty of the charge.

Sentence. Imprisonment with hard labour for forty-two (42) days.

14-4-16. No.226, Private J. Ritchie, 5th Battalion was tried by D.C.M. on the 14th April.

Charges. (1) Striking his superior officer being in the execution of his office.
 (2) Striking his superior officer being in the execution of his office.
 (3) Striking his superior officer being in the execution of his office.
 (4) An act to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Finding. Not guilty of Charges (1) and (3)
 Guilty of Charges (2) and (4)

Sentence. Imprisonment with hard labour for two (2) years.

Confirmation. The G.O.C. Portland Garrison commuted the sentence to one of detention and remitted eighteen (18) months detention.

Discipline.

18-4-16. No.1191, Private (Lance Corporal) E.A.Jones, 18th Battalion was tried by R.C.M. on the 18th April.

Charges. (1) Absenting himself without leave.
(2) Neglect to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Finding. Guilty of both charges.

Sentence. Deprived on Lance Stripe, awarded 168 hours detention and forfeited all ordinary pay for twenty-three (23) days. (R.W.)

25-4-16. No.587, Tropper William Endacott Gratton, 2nd Light Horse Regiment, was tried by D.C.M. on the 25th April.

Charge. Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline.

Finding. Guilty of the Charge.

Sentence. Six (6) months detention.

Confirmation. The G.O.C. Portland Garrison varied the sentence to one of detention for ninety (90) days.

Orderly Room.

Four (4) men were dealt with for Drunkenness accompanied by one or more of the following offences:-
Obscene language, striking an N.C.O., Absence, Being in possession of liquor.

Sixteen (16) men were punished for minor offences against discipline.

Thirty-eight (38) men were punished for absence.

The General discipline of the Depot is good. The Saluting of Officers by men of the Depot has greatly improved.

Only four (4) cases of drunkenness this month as compared with 17 cases last month.

Training.

Owing to drier conditions of the weather, regular parades have been held during the past month.

Machine Gun and Bombing classes have been held. 10 officers and 20 other ranks were instructed in Machine Gun Course and 10 officers and 20 other ranks were instructed in a Bombing Course.

Report from the Instructor is attached.

A Report by the Signalling Officer is attached.

A Report on Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting is attached.

The Depot Company Officers have been instructed in Court-Martial procedure at the Red Barracks, Weymouth.

Machine Gun Results.

Lieut. F.J.Anderson, 10th A.L.H. - Good knowledge of Maxim, Vickers and Lewis Guns and is capable of acting as an Instructor.

Lieut. H.E.Malpas, 27th Btn. - Good knowledge of the Lewis Gun.

Lieut. J.C.Barrie, 8th Btn. - A working knowledge of the Lewis Gun.

Sergt. G.Denne, 10th A.L.H. - Satisfactory knowledge of the Maxim, Vickers and Lewis Guns, and is capable of acting as an instructor.

Sergt. F. Eather, 1st Btn. - Satisfactory knowledge of the Maxim, Vickers and Lewis Guns, and is capable of acting as an instructor.

Sergt. G.M. Brain, 4th Btn. - First class certificate

Cerpl. A.R. Wearne, 6th ALH.- First class certificate

Gunnery Course.

Lieut. F.S. Carse, 3rd A.F.A., attended a Course of Instruction in Gunnery.

Training.Gunnery Course.

Lieut. S.J.Walker, 1st A.F.A., is attending a Course of Instruction in Gunnery.

Administration.Company.

A card system has been introduced into Companies with the result that a large number of absentees have been accounted for and Companies work on a better basis than formerly with the Depot Orderly Room so far as the records of men are concerned.

Owing to more rigid measures being adopted by Companies regarding the Tattoo Roll Call in every Hut in Camp, the number of men breaking Camp and overstaying night passes has been greatly reduced.

Organization.Draft.

Under instructions from the G.O.C., Portland Garrison a party of 300 "fit" men is held in readiness at this Camp for defence purposes. These men are armed with service weapons and ammunition up to 200 rounds ball per rifle is held ready for immediate issue when so ordered. The ammunition is received "on loan" from Portland Garrison.

Draft.

15-4-16.

The 29th Draft, composed of 14 officers and 60 other ranks left this Depot for France on the 15th April. The behaviour of the troops and the entraining was all that could be desired.

Health & Sanitation.

Report of Senior Medical Officer attached.

Report of Sanitary Officer attached.

Auxiliary Hospital.

The Scheme mentioned in last month's report has worked admirably. Comforts, etc. have been issued to the men and every attention is given by a medical staff to further these men's requirements and recovery.

Hutments.

Since the system introduced last month, under which the Officer responsible has to pay for losses or breakages on failing to report same, a marked decrease of deficiencies has been noted.

An Inspection of huts and Stocktaking will be made on the 1st of every month by the Quartermaster and all deficiencies immediately reported and dealt with.

Band.

9-4-16. The Band of the Depot played at the Princess Christian Hospital on Sunday afternoon the 9th April.

18-4-16. On the freedom of the City of London being bestowed on Mr. Hughes, Prime Minister of Australia, on Tuesday the 18th April, the members of the Band represented this Depot.

27-4-16. During Easter Week, the Australian Band gave two concerts, one on Thursday 27th April and one on Saturday the 29th April. Both were great successes. The proceeds go towards the Prisoners of War Fund.

Entertainments.

Anzac Day. A Memorial Service in commemoration of the landing of

25-4-16. Troops at the Dardenelles was held on Tuesday the 25th April, in Westminster. Abbey. Their Majesties, the King and Queen, were present at the Service. 500

officers

Entertainments.

25-4-16. officers and other ranks were sent from this Depot. They proceeded to Abbey Wood on Saturday and Sunday the 22nd and 23rd inst. and returned to Camp on Wednesday the 26th. The troops were marched through London and after the Service were marched to the Hotel Cecil for Dinner. They were entertained at His Majesty's Theatre in the afternoon and returned to Abbey Wood the same evening. The conduct of the troops left nothing to be desired.

For the men remaining in Monte Video and Westham Camps, a special programme was arranged. A sports gathering was held in the morning, at which the Dorset Band played selections. High Dinner was given to the men in the Huts. In the afternoon the men were marched into Weymouth and entertained at the Pavilion Theatre, and during the interval a message from the Prime Minister was read to the troops by Captain C.R.Lowe, V.D., the Acting Commandant and General Johnston Portland Garrison Commander, addressed the troops. The expense was borne out of the Institute Funds and the entertainments were greatly appreciated by the men.

The conduct of the men on "Anzac Day" was exemplary, no crimes being recorded.

General.

The use of the rifle range has been secured for the Depot on the first three (3) days of each week, which allows of the Draft being given a good opportunity for Musketry practices.

Reports.

The following reports are attached:-

Westham Camp.

Senior Medical Officer.

Sanitation Officer, on both Camps.

Machine Gun Officer.

Signalling Officer.

Physical Training and Bayonet Fighting Instructor.

Officer i/c. Post Office.

Lieut.-Colonel.

Commandant, Australian Base Depot.

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Australian Camp, Westham.

Weymouth 29th April 1916.

1. Arrivals.	Officers.	6.
	Others.	164.
2. Departures.	Officers.	9.
	Others.	140.
3. Deaths.		Nil.
4. Courts-Martial.	D.C.M.	1.
5. Invalided to Australia.		
(Included in Departures).	N.C.Os & Men	1.

Sgd B.Sampson, Capt. O.C.

Australian Camp, Westham.

29th April 1916.

INSPECTIONS.

By Officers i/c Huts.

Twice daily.

By Quarter Master.

Daily except Barrack Rooms.

By Orderly Officer.

Daily including Barrack Rooms, also at breakfast and dinner.

By District Sanitary Inspector.

Occasionally.

By O.C., Westham Camp.

Weekly on Saturdays, Men, Barrack Rooms, Institutions and
Outbuildings.

By Commandant, Aust. Base Depot.

Occasionally.

The Medical Officer and Lieut Scarr also render reports.

Sgd B. Sampson, O.C.,

Australian Camp, Westham.

29th April 1916.

DISCIPLINE.

I am able to report that the discipline of the Camp is "Good."

The number of men absenting themselves without leave was further reduced, the number reaching ~~on~~ six at one period. Since then, However, the number has increased, owing to some men who proceeded to London for the celebrations on Anzac Day having absented themselves from Abbey Wood.

There have been no cases of Civil convictions during the past month. One man has been tried by District Court-Martial.

S gd B.Sampson, Capt., O.C.

Australian Camp, Westham.

29th April 1916.

TRAINING.

Owing to the fine weather, and the consequent improvement in the state of the parade ground, regular parades have been held, and training without arms carried out. Physical training and drill without arms up to Company drill is arranged for fit men daily, and frequent short route marches also. As a variation to the programme, organised games are indulged in twice or thrice weekly.

All Os C.Coys. attend Orderly Room daily at Office Hour, and receive instruction in Office work. They also attend weekly for comparing crimes.

An improvement is noticed in saluting and paying compliments.

Sgd B.Sampson, ~~Lieut.~~ Capt., O.C.

13
Australian Camp, Westham.

29th April 1916.

POST OFFICE.

The working of the Post Office for the past month has been satisfactory. We have had no complaints re the distributions of mail.

About 2000 letters weekly pass through our hands, about 100 registered letters and packages, exclusive of ordinary parcels.

All mail for men who have left the depot, has been sent, as per instructions, to Monte Video Camp.

The present staff consists of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men.

Sgd W.P. Watkins. L/C i/c P.O.

12
Australian Camp, Westham.

Weymouth 29th April 1916.

GENERAL.

With the advent of the drier weather, the camp presents a much cleaner appearance than formerly. The necessity for extra cleanliness during the warm weather has been impressed on all ranks.

The small amount of deficiencies and breakages in huts, and the state of the huts generally, is very satisfactory.

Sgd B.Sampson, Capt., O.C.

14
Australian Base Depot,
Monte Video Camp,
W e y m o u t h.

30th April, 1916.

FROM: Senior Medical Officer,
Australian Base Depot.

TO: The Commandant,
Australian Base Depot.

SUBJECT:- Sanitation and Medical Reports.

I have the honour to submit the attached reports on the Sanitary condition of Monte Video and Westham Camps, Weymouth, by the Sanitary officer and the Medical officer, Westham.

The Sanitary condition of both Camps is very good. The general health of the Troops is good and there has been very little infectious disease.

The following infectious cases have occurred:-

- 1 Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.
- 2 German Measles.

Daily Sick. The average daily attendane of men reporting sick at Monte Video Camp has been 16.

The average percentage of men reporting sick has been 1-24%

Venereal Disease. 48 cases of venereal disease have occurred. This is a much smaller number than usual. The decrease is due partly to the smaller number of men at the Depot and probably partly to the adoption of methods of personal disinfection after exposure to the risk of venereal disease.

In addition to the methods employed to lessen Venereal disease, detailed in the sanitary report for last month, there have been placed in the latrines boxes containing antiseptic ointment and lotions with directions as to their uses. It is found that these boxes are used by a large number of men, whereas the pfeventative treatment in the dispensary was not availed of by many.

Scabies. 14 cases have occureed during the month at both Camps.

Bateriological Laboratory. The Australian Department of the Weymouth Bateriological laboratory is now in working order. In the last month 21 officers and 92 men convalescent from Enteric have completed the tests required by the War Office and have now been passed fit for general service.

From May 1st, tests will be put through at the rate of 100 per day with the exceptions of Saturdays and Sundays when 60 tests per day will be done.

(Sgd) D.M. McWhae, Major,

S.M.O. AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOT.

13
SANITARY AND PIONEER REPORT OF MONTE VIDEOCAMP, WEYMOUTH.

FOR MONTH ENDING 30th APRIL, 1916.

Roads & Paths.

New paths have been formed at rear of Orderly Rooms and Offices - via P.O. and Medical Hut - being properly formed with necessary rubble and top dressing to proper chamfer.

All defective paths, roads, etc. were repaired and re-metalled as considered necessary. Rubble, shingle and top dressing is now on hand at suitable and convenient points for further continuation of maintenance.

Surface Water Drainage.

This system has caused no trouble during the last month and all channels are clean.

Sewerage.

A new 4" sewer has been laid with proper 4" earthenware best glazed socket pipes corked and cement joints from Meat House to existing sewer running from No.5 Latrine to man-hole on N.E. corner of lower institute. A proper concrete man-hole 3 ft x 2 ft interior and 5" wall thickness being built at junction, and inspection chamber and eye being built at Meat House end.

Sewers continue to be disinfected twice weekly, all gullies cleaned daily and no trouble has been experienced with ordinary sewers.

Ablution Houses and Latrines.

The Contractor for removal of night soil did not fulfil his contract in a proper fashion., Officers latrines, not being emptied for three days.

No complaints have been made regarding cleanliness of abulution benches, etc., which are in thorough working order. New taps or washers being immediately supplied and fixed when necessary.

All latrines have been lime-washed outside.

Water Supply.

The work regarding new reservoir or supply tank is progressing quickly and should be completed with all necessary connections, supplies, valves, etc. in the course of a fortnight.

Huts.

Apart from various cases of leaky roofs as already reported, the Huts are in good habitable condition.

Glazier.

The damage to glass and windows has been considerably less than previous month.

Bath Houses.

The Bath Houses are as satisfactory as last report. The top bath Houses has had exterior of all panels twice lime-washed and all battens etc., picked out in bright green. The same treatment is in good progress at lower bath house.

Carpenter and Joiner.

New match board partition and vapour bath partition have been erected in massage hut.

Overhaul maintenance repairs to doors, windows, locks, etc. have been carried out daily as required.

Bayonet practice appartus have been made. Joinery jobs have been executed as ordered.

Cook Houses.

Cook Houses are both satisfactory in all respects.

Ironmongery.

The repairs of stoves, chimneys, etc. as requisitioned is well in hand.

Locks, bolts and small furniture are in hand as requisitioned from D.O.R.E.

Incinerator.

The incinerators have been re-lined where necessary with fire bricks and clay and are now satisfactory.

Gardener.

The ~~incinerators~~ walk in front of Mess and Offices has been re-gravelled - edges boarded and grass filling.

The planting of garden is still in progress and shows promise of being a success.

Water Supply.

New water service has been laid to Massage Hut No.27 with sink and waste fitted complete.

Sewerage.

A 4" earthenware socket pipe sewer has been laid from Massage Hut No.27 to connect up to existing manhole at rear of Q.M. Store Hut.

Painter.

The Dispensary has been distempered throughout, the Massage Room in Hut 27 has been distempered. The work of lime-whiting all supporting piers to buildings throughout the Camp is well in hand.

(Sgd) F.S.Scarr,

Lieut. A.E.

14
SANITARY AND PIONEER REPORT OF WESTHAM CAMP, WEYMOUTH.

FOR MONTH ENDING 30th APRIL, 1916.

Roads and Paths. The paths now have been treated with layer of shingle where necessary and are now greatly improved.

Surface Water
(Drainage) ✓ The system still proves satisfactory and there is nothing further to report beyond last month.

Sewers. All sewers are disinfected twice weekly and gullies cleaned daily, no adverse reports have been received.

Abution Houses
and Latrines. The latrines are clean and satisfactory, apart from the doors in some instances which are off the hinges. (Meaning the doors at back from where the solid is removed)

Taps which are leaky receive due attention from time to time as considered necessary.

Night soil Contractor is faithfully fulfilling his obligations.

Huts. Huts are in order except leaky roofs: vide last report.

Bath Houses v Good.

Cook Houses Good.

Incinerators. Good.

(Sgd) F.S.Scarr, Lieut. A.E.

SANITARY OFFICER.

To The S. M.O.
Monte Video.

FROM The .M.O.
Westham.

HEALTH REPORT FOR APRIL, 1916.

The health of the troops during April has been very satisfactory. The average daily sick parade has been 12. Included in these are cases reporting for dressings and dental examination. The average number of troops in Camp has been about 700. This gives a percentage of daily sick of less than two.

There has been no cases of infectious disease. The number of venereal cases for the month has been seven. Of these, four were detected in the inspection at the beginning of the month. The Troops have taken the advantage of the preventative treatment placed at their disposal in the Medical Hut and Urinals. An average of three men per day reported for the preventative treatment at the Medical Hut. The treatment in the Urinals is not very satisfactory, the lotion and the ointment being constantly removed.

With regard to Scabies, there have been ten cases sent to Isolation.

Sanitation of Camp is now very good. The huts are kept clean and the surface drains kept clear. Attention was called in the Sanitary Daily report to the trench on the Western border of the Camp. This was full of stagnant water and rubbish. It is now filled in and in a very satisfactory condition. Other matters to which attention was directed several times were the filthy conditions of the slop buckets at the Huts doors, also the throwing of sloppy water into the surface drains at the doors, and the hanging of clothes in the Cook-house.

Attention was also called to the fact that the Standing Order of the Camp re the removal of refuse from the Hut doors at the stated times was being neglected, and the day refuse left at the doors in the bins all day.

The condition of the surroundings of the Officers' Mess kitchen received attention, also the interior of the kitchen.

The public buildings, canteen, etc. are very well kept.

There is no over-crowding in the huts--never more than thirty and the ventilation is good.

(Sgd) J. Macdonald, Captain.

A.A.M.C.

Medical Officer, Westham.

N
To The C.O.
Westham

From the M.O.
Westham.

REPORT OF HEALTH OF TROOPS IN WESTHAM DURING
APRIL, 1916.

The health of the Troops during April has been very satisfactory. There has been no case of infectious disease during the month. The average daily sick has been twelve and the average number of Troops being about 700 gives a percentage of less than two. The daily sick include such cases as dressings only and men reporting for dental examination. With regard to Venereal disease and scabies, seven cases of Venereal disease were sent to Isolation, four of these were detected in the inspection at the beginning of the month, the other three reported early in the month. Men are making use of the preventative treatment placed at their disposal in the Medical Hut and Latrines. There were ten cases of Scabies sent to Isolation during the month. Among the daily sick there has been no epidemic of any kind, the complaints being of a minor character.

(Sgd) J. Macdonald,

Captain. A.A.M.C.

30/4/16.

REPORT ON MACHINE GUN SCHOOL FOR MONTH ENDING 30th APRIL, 1916.

STAFF.

Chief Instructor.
Lieut. J.C.Barrie, 8th Battalion, A.I.F.

Assistant Instructors.-

No.15, Sgt G.M.Brain, 4th Battalion
611, Cpl A.R.Wearne, 6th Light Horse
21, Cpl F.W.Matthews, 24th Battalion

The Assistant Instructors gave the utmost satisfaction. During the month the results of courses of instruction undergone by Sgt. Brain and Cpl. Wearne came to hand, both obtaining first-class certificates. I myself attended a course of instruction on the Lewis Gun, but have not yet heard the result of examination.

PERSONNEL.

During the month there have not been sufficient men in Camp to warrant a class being held, but several N.C.O's and men have attended in their own time for instruction, some of them having been through previous classes. Thus the Assistant Instructors have been kept employed. I personally conducted an Officer's class, twelve of whom completed the course, and on which I have already reported.

EQUIPMENT.

Two 303" Maxim guns with equipment complete.

One Infantry Range finder (Barr & Strond)

Five Landscape Targets.


All in good condition.

I would like again to suggest that two Lewis Guns be supplied for instructional purposes, as we now have three Instructors trained in the use of this gun.

(Sgd) Lieut. J.C.Barrie,

8th Battalion, A.I.F.

Chief Instructor.


Australian Base Depot

Report on Officers Machine gun class

Period - 1st to 14th April 1916

Chief Instructor.

Staff

Leit. J. C. Barric 8th Bn A.I.F.

Assistant Instructors

Sgt. G. Prain 4th Bn A.I.F.

Cpl. A. J. Weare 6th L.A. ..

F. W. Matthews 24th Bn ..

The Assistant Instructors gave the utmost satisfaction, but during the period I lost the services of Cpl. Matthews, who was transferred to the Draft Coy. and of Sgt. G. Prain, who had to go to Hospital to undergo an operation. Although there were not sufficient men in camp during this period to justify the formation of a school, the Assistant Instructors have been kept employed in giving instruction to several N. C. O's & men, some of whom had attended previous courses, and had asked permission to attend for further instruction at such times as their duties permitted.

There is also a certain amount of work to be done daily in connection with the care and cleaning of the guns and spare parts, and I also required them at various times to assist with the officers class.

JJ

Keep for monthly
Report?

Personnel

In all, twelve officers, whose names appear below, attended this class, which I conducted each evening in the miniature rifle range, and at such other times during the day as their duties permitted them to attend. Thus I was able to put them through a fairly complete course, including "tactical handling", a subject which I had been unable to touch on with other officers classes. They also fired Part 1 Table 6. Machine gun course.

Results

The following is a list of officers who completed the course, and whom I consider have each a good working knowledge of the gun, and of the principles of "tactical handling"

Capt.	Buckley	22 nd	Inf.
Lieut	W.A. Perry	10 th	
"	H.A. Fleming	5 th	
"	R. F. H. Green	6 th	
"	A.R. Sturston	16 th	
"	D.R. McDermid	14 th	
"	J.L. O'Donnell	18 th	
"	H. H. Young	7 th	
"	G. S. Rater	1 st	L. A.
"	N. S. MacMillan	1 st	
"	J. G. Burges	10 th	
"	M. Clarke	3 rd	

McParrick Lieut
 8th Bn A.I.F.
 G.I. Machine gun school

Report on work of Machine gun
School for period from 25th March 1915 to
10th April 1915

Sir,

On completion of the last class there were so few men in the Depot that it was not practicable to form another class. I reported myself to O. C. No 2 Coy. & informed him that I was available for duty if required till a new class was formed, but there were practically no men available for training.

A certain amount of work has to be done daily in connection with the care and cleaning of the guns and spare parts, and this I have personally supervised and assisted in.

During the whole of the time I have had an officers' class for two hours each evening. (Owing to the Paymaster having taken over the room in which this class was usually held, we have had to move to the miniature range.) On completion of their duties, these officers have daily attended at the miniature range for further instruction and thus I have been able to put them through a far more complex course than is usual with this class. At the end of last week I put them through an elementary musketry course on the rifle range, & I am at present giving them further instruction on concealment and tactical handling of the guns, which work of course can only

be done in the daytime. I will submit a fuller report on this class on completion of the course. In addition to these officers, several N. C. O's and men attend at their own request and in their own time for instruction. On occasions when not otherwise engaged, I have taken the Assistant Instructors out for training in "tactical handling" with the object of perfecting my own and their knowledge ⁱⁿ of the handling of the guns.

W. H. Parrie Lieut.

8th Apr. A. I. S.

C. I. Machine Gun School.



RH

Pens for Monthly Report - RH

Australian Base Depot.

Monte Video Camp.

W e y m o u t h.

S I G N A L L I N G.

Twelve (12) N.C.Os and men (permanent Signallers) have been under instruction in Morse (flag), sounder, and semaphore. All show improvement and are capable of taking up any duties in the field allotted to Signallers.

No.s 1 and 3 Companies have been instructed in Semaphore and show a fair knowledge of same.

One hundred (100) men of Draft Company have been practiced in Semaphore and transmission of message. These men are fairly proficient.

(Sgd) G.W.Rickwood, Lieut.

Signalling Officer.

Office Copy
Monthly

AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOT .

WEYMOUTH.

Month ending... *April 30th* 1916.

Weekly Physical & Bayonet Fighting Training State.

DAY	Recruits Physical Training.		Trained Soldiers Physical Training.		Recruits Bayonet Fighting.		Trained Soldiers Bayonet Fighting.		Remarks.
	No. under Instruction.	Parade Hours.	No under Instruction.	Parade Hours.	No under Instruction.	Parade Hours.	No under Instruction.	Parade Hours.	
MONDAY									<i>Special class no formed for Open & No 15</i>
TUESDAY									
WEDNESDAY									<i>Undergo Regt'l Course when possible.</i>
THURSDAY									
FRIDAY									
SATURDAY									

Name of Staff Instructor... *Com. Ind. William E. Lee Army Gymnastic Staff*

Names of Assistant Instructors... *Sgt. Jarrett Staff Coy 19th Depo*

Approx. Strength of Unit.....

Numbers trained to make classes in P.T. & B.F. Officers... *4* (100 to 150)
N.C.O's... *12* (In course of instruction)

Contemplated move from Station to Date.....

Lieut. Colonel.
Commandant.
Australian Base Depot.

*William E. Lee Com Instructor
Army Gymnastic Staff*

114
Australian Base Depot.
Monte Video Camp,
W e y m o u t h.

1st May, 1916.

FROM: Officer i/c. Post Office,
Monte Video Camp,

TO: The Commandant,
Australian Base Depot.

Herewith I beg to submit a report on the working of the Post Office for the month ending April, 30th, 1916.-

LETTERS.- We have received 133 bags and out of this 27 have been sorted and despatched to addresses who have left per drafts. The remainder being delivered either in this Camp or Westham. With the introduction of a card system, delivery of letters has been greatly assisted.

PARCELS.- 1st April, 278 on hand, received per month 669, delivered 852, carried forward to May 95. This is a considerable decrease on the preceding month.

REGISTERED MATTER.- 1st April 211 on hand, received 466, delivered 423, re-directed 220, carried forward to May 34.

I have frequently visited Westham Post Office and Corporal Watkins reports everything satisfactory and working in complete harmony with this Office.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient Servant.



SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE.

Portland

STATION.

19th. April

191 6.

Reference No.....

Subject Regimental necessaries

Dear Sir,

Adverting to previous correspondence ~~re~~ above, I beg to acquaint you that the lad Wellman and his father duly appeared at the Court here this day and were dealt with as follows:-

The boy was placed on probation for 12 months, his father was bound over in sum of £5 as surety for the son's good behaviour for 12 months, and the father was ordered to pay the costs(4/-) imposed on the son.

I beg to thank you for allowing the Officer and Lt. Corporal to attend to give evidence.

Yours faithfully,

G. Sprackling
Supdt.

The Adjutant,
Australian Base Depot,
Monte Video Camp,
Chickerell.

AUSTRALIAN
20 APR 1916
No. 2410
BASE DEPOT, WEYMOUTH.

*Pend months Report
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RM*