

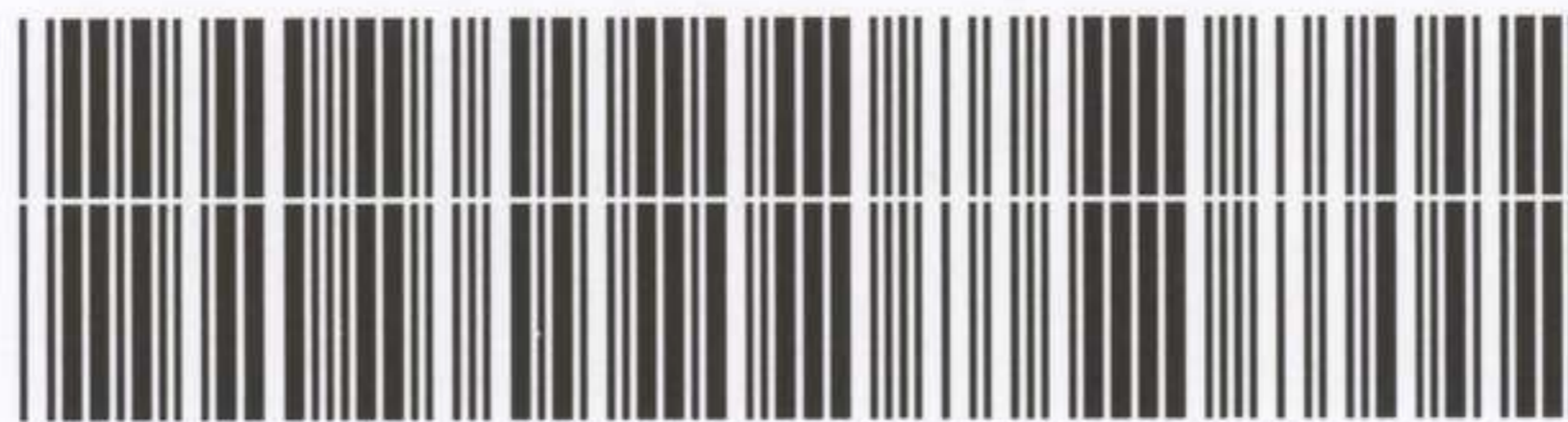
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Infantry

Item number: 23/73/2

Title: 56th Infantry Battalion

March 1916



AWM4-23/73/2

ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. A5²

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

VOLUME — 56^{low}

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Telelkebir	1916 Mch	16.		Vol I A-B
1st			Battalion elementary training. Parades held - early morning, forenoon and afternoon. Sick Parade 51. Exempt 5. Hospital 3.	
2nd			Route March carried out by Battalion, during forenoon. Orderly Room held. Brig-Gen., Smyth transferred from command of 14th Bde., to 1st Bde., and Brig-Gen., Irving to command 14th Bde. Sick Parade 64. Exempt 2. Hospital 8.	
3rd			Battalion training. Orderly Room held. Lieut. W. R. Sheen reported for duty.	
4th			Battalion training during the morning. Afternoon free. Sick Parade 61. Exempt 1. To Hospital 5. Men are becoming much steadier on parade.	
5th			Church Parades held during the morning. Brigadier inspected Battalion lines at 11 a.m., and commented on the cleanliness of lines. Sick Parade 11. Exempt 3. Hospital 1. Weather becoming very hot. Still a shortage of felt hats, a great number of men only have caps.	
6th			Battalion Training.	
7th			Battalion training. General improvement in N.C.O's and men's work. All ranks are very keen. Sick Parade 41. Exempt 2. Hospital 3.	
8th			Bn., Parades. Night Parade also held. Sick Parade 73. Exempt Nil. Hospital 5. Most of the men attending sick parade are men with bad beds.	
9th			Battalion Parade. 2/Lt. E. L. Dalkeith rejoined the Battalion. Sick Parade 31. Exempt Nil. Hospital 2. Sports Club formed.	
10th			Battalion Training. General improvement in the training. Men much steadier. Sick Parade 33. Exempt Nil. Hospital 1.	
11th			Battalion Training. Sick Parade 30. Exempt 1. Hospital Nil.	
12th			Church Parades held during the morning. Sick Parade 13. Exempt 1. Hospital 1.	
13th			Bn., on Divisional Duties. Inoculation commenced this morning by M.O. Sick Parade 22. Exempt 1. Hospital 1. 2/Lt., W. H. Gilbey and Eddison were taken on the strength, and reported for duty.	

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Telelkebir	Mch.			
	14th		Divisional Duties. Lt., and Temp., Captains Lucas and Roberts reported for duty and were taken on the strength. 2nd Lieuts., Day and Bartlett were also taken on the strength. More men were inoculated to-day. Sick Parade 27. Exempt 12. To Hospital 2.	
	15th to 21st		Battalion training carried out during this period, but owing to inoculation very little result could be obtained, as the number of men on parades, some days, was very small. General health of troops, good.	
	22nd		Battalion Parade. H.R.H., The Prince of Wales, inspected the Bn., during his tour of inspection of the camp. Holiday in honour of His Royal Highness' visit.	
	23rd		Remainder of Bn., inoculated to-day, a second time. Very few men did any training, owing to the inoculation. Men were issued to-day with khaki drill uniforms. General health of men good.	
	24th		Very few men on Battalion Parade to-day, owing to the second inoculation. General health of men good.	
	25th		Battalion marched out, both in the morning and afternoon, in full marching order, and practised "March Discipline", in view of march to Ismailia. The marching was very good, considering it was the first piece of really strenuous work since the inoculation, the men did very well.	
	26th		Church Parades held during the morning, also the Battalion went out for a short march afterwards, in light marching order. The remainder of the day was spent in cleaning up and packing, preparatory to marching to Ferry Post, on the following day. Health of men still good.	
	27th		Battalion, less a few details, left camp at 6.20 a.m., and marched to a position of assembly at Eastern end of Camp, preparatory to marching to Mashama. Bn., left position of assembly about 7.30 a.m., and proceeded to Mashama about 4 p.m. across the desert. During the march a good many men fell out - this was chiefly due to a heavy fog, also when the fog lifted to the heat of the day. Column reached Mashama about 4 p.m., and bivouaced for the night.	
Mashama	28th		Left for Meascar about 6.30 a.m. Owing to the intense heat of the day the march was a failure - men lasted well up to mid-day, but from then on to Meascar, they began to fall out owing to the very heavy going over the soft sand, and also to the intense heat. First party of the Bn., reached Meascar about 5 p.m. The remainder arriving at irregular hours up to 10 or 11 p.m. The men who fell out were mostly genuine cases of fatigue - this was due to the weak condition of the men after the fortnight's inoculation, and also to the time of day in which the march took place. During the march the Officers and N.C.O's of the Bn., shewed	

WAR DIARY


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Mashama	Mch. 28th		remarkable endurance in the way they moved about in rear of the column, encouraging the men forward.	
Meascar	29th		Left here for Camp situated about 1 1/2 miles out from Ferry Post, in N.E. direction. Again the men showed signs of fatigue. This was due, partly to the time of day, and partly to the two previous days' strenuous marching. Battalion rested during the afternoon.	
M Ferry Post	30th		Water arrangements were not good. Battalion commenced Divisional duties. At night 2 Companies took up Outpost position about 500 yards N.E., of Camp. General condition of men, fair.	
	31st		Battalion doing Divisional duties. Water arrangements not satisfactory. Lack of horses and transport, hinders work.	
			31/3/16.	<p style="text-align: right;">  Lieut-Colonel Commanding 56th Battalion, A.I.F. </p>

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able to
deal with