

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/23/7

**Title:** 1st Machine Gun Squadron, New  
Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade

January 1917



AWM4-35/23/7



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Vol V

5000

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASAID	1917 Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>		Moved to BARDAWIL and bivouaced <u>all</u>	EL ARISH
	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Camp routine - mounted 2 aa guns. <u>all</u>	1: 25000
	4 <sup>th</sup>		Returned to old Camp at MASAID <u>all</u>	
	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>		Camp Routine <u>all</u>	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Received 13 OR for Reinforcements & 10 remounts, thus bringing the Squadron up to strength. Received orders for	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	1200	2 Lieut. P. D. Russell transferred from O.M.R. Reg. marched in. attack on RAFA <u>all</u>	RAFA
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Brigade left for RAFA* took whole Squadron & small reserve of Aaa with sections. on spare pack horses. <u>all</u>	1: 125000
			<p>Before proceeding to the attack, 1 section (2 guns) was sent to join the A.M.R. Reg. &amp; 2 sections (4 guns) were sent to C.M.R. Reg. the remaining 3 sections (6 guns) being kept in reserve for use as opportunity offered by the Squadron Commander.</p> <p>As the Bde moved round to the right flank of the line of attack, a good target of trenches &amp; parties of enemy were noticed &amp; two of the reserve guns were sent onto a small ridge which afforded cover. Very good shooting was done by these guns at 800 yds. supported by half a troop, which greatly assisted the 3<sup>rd</sup> A.K. Bde in advancing &amp; eventually forced the enemy to abandon that portion of his position. A machine gun was afterwards found abandoned in these trenches. The Squadron Commander then took over the four remaining reserve guns, &amp; the two which had been previously sent with the A.M.R. Reg. &amp; these being distributed along the line of attack, as far as the sector held by the C.M.R. on the right, advanced with the troops, giving them mutual support &amp; were able to bring covering fire to bear on the redoubt right up to the time of its capture.</p> <p>The foremost of these guns reached to within 400 yds. of the enemy position, from where their fire was most effective. Thus having had superiority of fire throughout the advance the four guns with the C.M.R. Reg supported the right flank &amp; gave good covering fire at</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917 Jan 9th		<p>Effective Rangers These guns were placed in a trench &amp; afterwards moved forward into a sunken road from which places they were able to sustain overhead covering fire until the assaulting troops were within a few yards of the trenches. Their position was of such a nature that, had our troops been compelled to retreat these guns would have been most useful in covering their retirement.</p> <p>During the day many good targets were found at all ranges from 400 to 1800 yds &amp; one of the chief functions of machine guns, that of covering our troops advances by keeping the enemy down in their trenches was carried out most effectually. The co-operation between our guns &amp; our troops enabled the latter to advance across very exposed ground up to an extremely strong position with comparatively few casualties.</p> <p>In this way 40000 rounds S.A.A. were used, this being more than the amount laid down to be carried by a machine gun Squadron, but made up by extra bulk S.A.A. on spare pack horses. More could have been used to advantage had it been available but owing to Regimental Reserves not coming up, the amount of fire had to be restricted when troops were not actually moving across the open.</p> <p>Owing to the absence of cover for lead horses within 3000 yds of the enemy position, all ammunition had to be carried great distances but the supply was maintained, owing to the energy of the ammunition carriers.</p> <p>The system of keeping a larger number of guns as a reserve under the Squadron Commander was found very satisfactory and it would even be of greater advantage to have the whole Squadron so employed, except where regiments are sent off on a separate mission. The Regimental Lewis Guns enabled the machine guns to be used more to give covering fire from good points and to be sent when &amp; where most needed instead of being attached to Regiments where they may not be required as much as at some other point.</p> <p>In the long advance across open ground exposed to heavy fire, the Maxim guns were again found to be very awkward owing to their great weight &amp; consequently the Vickers</p>	<p>RAFA 1: 250000</p>

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Vol 4

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Jan 9th		had to be used oftener & had to lead the way. Carrying the maximum Guns told heavily on the men & exposed them to a great deal of fire. Casualties 1 O/R killed 7 O/R wounded. <u>all</u>	RAFA 1:250000
		1800	Marched to SHIEK ZOWAID and bivouaced for the night. <u>all</u>	
	10th	0700	Returned to EL ARISH & to old camp. <u>all</u>	EL ARISH 1:250000
	11th		Rested in Camp. Brew. OAA & filled belts. <u>all</u>	
	12th		Inspected by GOC Division <u>all</u>	
	13th to 15th		Camp Routine - Gun Instruction - exercise of horses - cleaning saddlery harness <u>all</u>	
	16th		5% of all Ranks granted 3 days leave to Cairo. Camp Routine <u>all</u>	
	17th		Routine gun instruction 8 Remounts marched in stables on strength. <u>all</u>	
	18th		Leave party increased to 10%. <u>all</u>	
	19th		Instructional classes in loading & unloading Machine Guns was commenced for men in the Regiments. Each Reg sent over one (1) NCO & 11 men <u>all</u>	
	20th		Routine <u>all</u>	
	21st		Mounted parades as per syllabus, action work, signalling	
	22nd to 26th		Instructional classes for Regiments. 1 Officer & 6 O/R left for Imperial School of Instruction. <u>all</u>	
	27th		Machine Gun firing practice & testing of guns. All new men put through Ranges practice. <u>all</u>	
	28th		Church Parade <u>all</u>	
	29th		Disinfecting Parades by Kals 155 100 of all ranks paraded <u>all</u>	
	30th		Disinfecting Parade for rest of Squadron 50 all ranks <u>all</u>	
	31st		Routine mounted Parade & Instructional classes for Regiments <u>all</u>	

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R. P. Harjui Capt. 12th M.A. G.S. Squadron



WAR DIARY

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Vol I

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASAID	1917 Jan 1 <sup>st</sup>		Moved to BARDAWIL and bivouaced <i>act</i>	EL ARISH
	2 <sup>nd</sup> + 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Camp routine. mounted 2 aa guns. <i>act</i>	1: 250000
	4 <sup>th</sup>		Returned to old camp at MASAID <i>act</i>	
	5 <sup>th</sup> + 6 <sup>th</sup>		Camp Routine <i>act</i>	
	7 <sup>th</sup>		Received 13 OPR for Reinforcements + 10 remounts, thus bringing the Squadron up to strength. Received orders for Lieut P.D. Russell transferred from O.M.R. Reg. marched in.	
	8 <sup>th</sup>	1200	Attack on RAFA <i>act</i> Brigade left for RAFA * took whole Squadron + small reserve of Paa with sections, on spare pack horses. <i>act</i>	RAFA
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Before proceeding to the attack, 1 section (2 guns) was sent to join the A.M.R. Reg. + 2 sections (4 guns) were sent to C.M.R. Reg. the remaining 3 sections (6 guns) being kept in reserve for use as opportunity offered by the Squadron Commander.	
			As the Bde moved round to the right flank of the line of attack, a good target of trenches + parties of enemy were noticed + two of the reserve guns were sent onto a small ridge which afforded cover. Very good shooting was done by these guns at 800 yds supported by half a troop, which greatly assisted the 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.L. Bde in advancing + eventually forced the enemy to abandon that portion of his position. A machine gun was afterwards found abandoned in these trenches. The Squadron Commander then took over the four remaining reserve guns + the two which had been previously sent with the A.M.R. Reg. + these being distributed along the line of attack, as far as the sector held by the C.M.R. on the right, advanced with the troops, giving them mutual support + were able to bring covering fire to bear on the redoubt right up to the time of its capture.	
			The foremost of these guns reached to within 400 yds. of the enemy position from where their fire was most effective. They having had superiority of fire throughout the advance. The four guns with the C.M.R. Reg supported the right flank + gave good covering fire at	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917 Jan 9 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Effective Ranges      These guns were placed in a trench &amp; afterwards moved forward into a sunken road from which places they were able to sustain overhead covering fire until the assaulting troops were within a few yards of the trenches. Their position was of such a nature that, had our troops been compelled to retreat these guns would have been most useful in covering their retirement.</p> <p>During the day many good targets were found at all ranges from 400 to 1800 yds &amp; one of the chief functions of machine guns, that of covering our troops advance by keeping the enemy down in their trenches was carried out most effectually. The co-operation between our guns &amp; our troops enabled the latter to advance across very exposed ground up to an extremely strong position with comparatively few casualties. In this way 40000 rounds S.A.A. were used, this being more than the amount laid down to be carried by a machine gun Squadron, but made up by extra bulk S.A.A. on spare pack horses. More could have been used to advantage had it been available but owing to Regimental Reserves not coming up, the amount of fire had to be restricted when troops were not actually moving across the open.</p> <p>Owing to the absence of cover for lead horses within 3000 yds of the enemy position, all ammunition had to be carried great distances but the supply was maintained, owing to the energy of the ammunition carriers.</p> <p>The system of keeping a larger number of guns as a reserve under the Squadron Commander was found very satisfactory and it would even be of greater advantage to have the whole Squadron so employed, except where regiments are sent off on a separate mission. The Regimental Lewis Guns enabled the machine guns to be used more to give covering fire from good points and to be sent when &amp; where most needed, instead of being attached to Regiments where they may not be required as much as at some other point.</p> <p>In the long advance across open ground exposed to heavy fire, the Maxim guns were again found to be very awkward owing to their great weight &amp; consequently the Vickers</p>	RAFA 1: 250000

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# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Vol 1

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Jan 9th		had to be used oftener & had to lead the way. Carrying the Maxim Guns told heavily on the men & exposed them to a great deal of fire. Casualties 1 O/R killed 4 O/R wounded. <u>all</u>	RAFA 1: 250000
		1800	Marched to SHIEK ZOWAID and bivouaced for the night. <u>all</u>	
	10th	0700	Returned to EL ARISH & to old camp. <u>all</u>	EL ARISH 1: 250000
	11th		Rested in Camp. Drew OAA & filled belts. <u>all</u>	
	12th		Inspected by G.O.C. Division <u>all</u>	
	13th to 15th		Camp Routine - Gun instruction - exercise of horses - cleaning saddlery harness <u>all</u>	
	16th		5% of all Ranks granted 3 days leave to Cairo. Camp Routine <u>all</u>	
	17th		Routine gun instruction 8 Remounts marched in staken on strength. <u>all</u>	
	18th		Leave party increased to 10%. <u>all</u>	
	19th		Instructional classes in loading & unloading Machine Guns was commenced for men in the Regiments. Each Reg sent over one (1) NCO & 11 men <u>all</u>	
	20th		Routine <u>all</u>	
	21st		Mounted parades as per syllabus, action work, signalling	
	22nd to 26th		Instructional classes for Regiments. 1 Officer & 6 O/R left for Imperial School of Instruction <u>all</u>	
	27th		Machine Gun firing practice & testing of guns. All new men put through Ranges practice <u>all</u>	
	28th		Church Parade <u>all</u>	
	29th		Disinfecting Parades by Kils 155 100 of all ranks paraded <u>all</u>	
	30th		Disinfecting parade for rest of Squadron 50 all ranks <u>all</u>	
	31st		Routine Mounted Parade & Instructional classes for Regiments <u>all</u>	

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R. P. Harpur Capt. Comd. 112 MRA G.S. Squadron