

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/23/9

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

March 1917



AWM4-35/23/9

# 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.

26.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol. VII

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEIKH ZOWAID	1st		Camp Routine - 6 Draught Horses taken on strength <u>act</u>	RAPA 1125000
	2nd		" " Mounted Signalling Parade <u>act</u>	
	3rd		Reconnaissance by Brigade in vicinity of EL BADARI. Squadron kept in Reserve <u>act</u>	
	4th		Church Parade <u>act</u>	
	5th		Rifle & Gun Inspection - Cleaned & Lubbed Saddlery. S.S.M. Picot S.A. appointed 2nd Lieut vice Lieut G. F. Jones transferred to Auckland Regt. <u>act</u>	
	6th		Signalling Parade - Adjusted Range Finders. <u>act</u>	
	7th		Reconnaissance by Brigade East of KHAN YUNUS. Squadron kept in Reserve <u>act</u>	
	8th		Camp Routine - Received & Reburied trophies from Ordnance & old stores <u>act</u>	
	9th		" " - G.O.R. marched in from Iboascar to Regt. Received Special Orders for MOVE to BIR EL MELALHA. <u>act</u>	
MELALHA	10th	1000	Squadron with first line transport & Reserve Ammunition marched out with Brigade & halted to new bivouac at BIR EL MELALHA - Put down horse lines & fixed up camp. Received Special Orders for Reconnaissance to WADI EL GHUZZE <u>act</u>	

R.P. Harper: Capt

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MELALHA	March 11th	0730	Squadron minus transport marched out with Brigade passing south of KHAN YUNUS & Recrossed ground from TEL EL JEMMI to DEIR EL BELAH. Returned to Bivouac 1830. <u>acc</u>	R.A.F.F. 1:125000
	12th		Camp Routine - Gun & Rifle Inspection - <u>acc</u>	
	13th		" " - Cleaned Saddlery <u>acc</u>	
	14th		" " - Muzzling Parade - Signalling - Btd 6 Maxims runs from distance <u>acc</u>	
	15th		" " - Overhauled & tested new guns & fitted to Poles	
	16th		" " - Btd 6 Maxims to Ordnance - <u>acc</u>	
	17th		" " - Gun Construction <u>acc</u>	
	18th	0315 0600	Squadron minus transport marched out with Brigade passing south of KHAN YUNUS. Two sections (4 guns) were sent with the Wellington Regt on the Right Flank & the remainder of Squadron kept with B. H. Co. who moved to point 370 east of BENI SELA. The ground being made good between TEL EL JEMMI & DEIR EL BELAH the Brigade returned to Bivouac arriving 1400. <u>acc</u>	
	19th		Camp Routine <u>acc</u>	
	20th to 24th		7 OR marched in from BOASCAR. <u>acc</u> Preparations for MOVE. Sent 9 OR - 3 limbers & 12 horses to D.H. Co. to form divisional train.	

R.P. Harper C.M.D. acc

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MELALHA	25th	0215	Squadron marched out with Brigade with first line transport [camels] 4 3 ladders each containing 16000 Rounds Reserve S.F.A. 4 say Protols. Oil & Water. <u>all</u>	R.F.A. 1:125000
DEIR EL BELAH		0600	Arrived DEIR EL BELAH. Watered & Fed.	
		0730	Moved out on reconnaissance. Two guns went with Well Regt to SHEIKH NEHAN remainder of Squadron staying at EL BREIJ with B.H.G. Returned to DEIR EL BELAH in Bivouac at 1700 <u>all</u> .	
	26th	0330	Squadron with 48000 Rounds Reserve S.F.A. in 3 ladders marched out with Brigade & arrived at BEIT DURDIS at 0930. Watered & fed & remained in Reserve with Brigade.	SYRIA 1:250000
		1430	Brigade moved round towards the coast and after a fast ride came into action North of GAZA. Two sections (4 guns) were sent with the Wellington Regt on the right & bank & two sections with the Canterbury Regt on the left & bank the remaining 4 guns were kept in Reserve with Reserve Regiment. 4 log communication was kept up from Headquarters to all sections until their withdrawal at dark. On the right the advance was through very heavy cultivation and cactus hedges and only one good target presented itself and this was dealt with effectively at 100 yards range. <u>all</u> P.P. Hoyle Capt	

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR EL BELAH	26th		<p>In the left flank circumstances were similar but traversing along the hedges where snipers were observed kept the latter quiet and left our troops to advance</p> <p>1830 Squadron withdrew from front line &amp; made for the Brigade Rendezvous East of Ali Muntar Redoubt. During the action the Wellington Regt captured 2 Field Guns &amp; the M.G. Limber Horses were commandeered to pull them to D. H. Co. who then gave orders for the limbers to be abandoned &amp; the guns to be taken to DEIR EL BELAH.</p> <p>Casualties 3 - O.R. wounded - Ammunition expended 2500 Rounds.</p>	<p>SYRIA 1:250000</p> <p>RAFA 1:125000</p>
		2330	Left ALI MUNTAR with Brigade	
	27th	0600	Moved DEIR EL BELAH. Watered & fed - Filled Belts - Overhauled Guns - Received 6 limbers from Div Train to carry Reserve S.A.A.	
		1700	Outpost with Brigade	
	28th	1300	Retd to Bivouac on Beach	
	29th	1600	Outpost with Brigade	
	30th	1300	Retd to Bivouac	
	31st		Camp Routine 2 - O.R. marched in from MIDASCAR.	2 Kamouks taken on strength

R.P. Hospital Camp Belah

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEIKH ZOWAID	1917	March 1st	Camp Routine - <u>6 Draught Horses taken on strength</u> <u>act</u>	RAPA 1:125000
		2nd	Mounted Signalling Parade <u>act</u>	
		3rd	<u>Reconnaissance by Brigade in vicinity of EL BADARI</u> <u>Squadron kept in Reserve</u> <u>act</u>	
		4th	Church Parade <u>act</u>	
		5th	Rifle & Gun Inspection - Cleaned & Lubbed Saddlery. S.S.M. Pilot & A. appointed 2nd Lieut vice Lieut G. F. Yerey transferred to Auckland Regt. <u>act</u>	
		6th	Signalling Parade - Adjusted Range Finders. <u>act</u>	
		7th	<u>Reconnaissance by Brigade East of KHAN YUNUS. Squadron kept in Reserve</u> <u>act</u>	
		8th	Camp Routine - Received & Reburied trophies from Ordnance & Mtd. stores <u>act</u>	
		9th	- 9-O.R. marched in from Ibouascar R. Regt. Received <u>act</u>	
		10th	Special Orders for MOVE to BIR EL MELALHA. <u>act</u>	
MELALHA		10th	<u>Squadron with front line transport &amp; Reserve Ammunition marched out with Brigade &amp; moved to new bivouac at BIR EL MELALHA - Put down horse lines &amp; fixed up camp. Received Special Orders for Reconnaissance to WADI EL GHUZZE</u> <u>act</u>	R. P. Harper Land.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>MELALHA</u>	1917	0730	<u>Squadron minus transport marched out with Brigade passing south of KHAN YUNUS &amp; reconnoitred ground from TEL EL JEMMI to DEIR EL BELAH. Returned to Bivouac 1930. acc</u>	RAFA 1:125000
		12th	Camp Routine - Gun & Rifle Inspection - <u>acc</u>	
		13th	" " - cleaned saddlery <u>acc</u>	
		14th	" " - Grazing Parade - signalling - Recd 6 Vickers Guns from Ordnance <u>acc</u>	
		15th	" " - Overhauled & tested new guns & filled to ports	
		16th	" " - Recd 6 Maxims to Ordnance - <u>acc</u>	
		17th	" " - Gun construction <u>acc</u>	
		18th	0315 Squadron minus transport marched out with Brigade passing south of KHAN YUNUS at 0600	
			two sections (4 guns) were sent with the Wellington Regt on the Right Flank & the remainder of Squadron kept with B. H. Co. who moved to point 350 east of BENV SELA. The ground being made good between TEL EL JEMMI & DEIR EL BELAH. The Brigade returned to Bivouac arriving 1400. <u>acc</u>	
		19th	Camp Routine <u>acc</u>	
		20th to 21st	7 OR marched in from BOASCAR. <u>acc</u> Preparations for MOVE. Sent 9 OR - 3 limbers & 12 horses to D. H. Co. to form divisional train	

R. P. Harper Capt acc

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MEHLHA	25th	0215	Squadron marched out with Brigade with first line transport [camels] & 3 ladders each containing 16000 Rounds Reserve S.A.F. Very Pistols, Oil & Water. <i>all</i>	R.A.F.A. 1:125000
<u>DEIR EL BELAH</u>		0600	<u>Arrived DEIR EL BELAH.</u> Watered & Fed.	
		0730	Moved out on reconnaissance. Two guns went with Well Regt to SHEIKH NEBHAY. Remainder of Squadron staying at EL BREIJ with B.A.G. Returned to DEIR EL BELAH by Bivouac at 1700 <i>all</i> .	
	26th	0330	<u>Squadron with 48000 Rounds Reserve S.A.F. in 3 ladders marched out with Brigade &amp; arrived at BEIT DURDIS at 0930.</u> Watered & fed & remained in Reserve with Brigade.	SYRIA 250000
		1430	Brigade moved round towards the coast and after a fast ride came into action North of GAZA. Two sections (4 guns) were sent with the Wellington Regt on the right & flank & two sections with the Canterbury Regt on the left & flank the remaining 4 guns were kept in Reserve with Reserve Regiment. 4 log communication was kept up from Headquarters to all sections until their withdrawal at dark. On the right the advance was through very heavy cultivation and cactus hedges and only one good target presented itself and this was dealt with effectively at 100 yards range. <i>all</i> P.P. Harty Capt	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR EL BELAH	1917	26th	<p>In the left flank circumstances were similar but traversing along the hedges where snipers were observed kept the latter quiet and helped our troops to advance. Squadron withdrew from front line &amp; made for the Brigade Rendezvous East of Ali Muntar Redoubt. During the action the Wellington Regt captured 2 Field guns &amp; the M.G. limber horses were commandeered to pull them to D. H. Q. who then gave orders for the limbers to be abandoned &amp; the guns to be taken to DEIR EL BELAH. Casualties 3 - O.R. wounded - Ammunition expended 2500 Rounds.</p>	SYRIA 1:250000
		1830		
		2330	Left ALI MUNTAR with Brigade. <i>all</i>	
	27th	0600	Arrived DEIR EL BELAH. Watered & fed - Filled Belts - Overhauled Guns - Received 6 limbers from New Train to carry Reserve S.H.A.	
		1700	Outpost with Brigade	
	28th	1300	Retd to Bivouac on Beach <i>all</i>	
	29th	1600	Outpost with Brigade <i>all</i>	
	30th	1300	Retd to Bivouac. 2 - O.R. marched in from MIDASGAR.	2 Remounts taken on strength <i>all</i>
	31st		Camp Routine	H.P. Hospital Camp <i>all</i>