

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/29/5

**Title:** 19th Machine Gun Squadron,  
Australian Mounted Division

March 1918



AWM4-24/29/5

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WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
|       |      |      | <p><u>War Diary</u></p> <p><u>19<sup>A</sup> Machine Gun Squadron</u></p> <p><u>Volume <u>XIII</u></u></p> <p><u>March 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> 1918.</u></p> <p><u>Reference Maps :</u> 1/40,000 GAZA-SHELLAL<br/>1/125,000 RAFA</p> | <p><u>237</u></p>                    |





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| Deir-el-Belah | 1/3/18 |      | Squadron parade for exercise.<br>Squadron Football match in afternoon.   |                                      |
|               | 2/3/18 |      | Squadron parade for exercise.<br>Competition Subsection practiced.   |                                      |
|               | 3/3/18 |      | 2 O.R.s, Pte Goodson, A. Pte Wallace, J. from Field Ambulance<br>Horses taken out independently by all ranks to graze.<br>Squadron concert for the purpose of encouraging local talent in evening. Great success.  |                                      |
|               | 4/3/18 |      | Major Horlick and Lt. Byard return from leave after course.<br>Lt. Col. Carbridge inspected Squadron.<br>The Squadron paraded and went through the Gas Chamber under the Divisional Gas Officer.   |                                      |
|               | 5/3/18 |      | Meeting in the afternoon of C.O's of Machine Gun Squadrons in Australian Mounted Division to discuss sports etc.<br>Competition Subsection paraded at 0900 under Capt. Anson. The remainder grazed.<br>Gun and Rifle Inspection by C.O. in afternoon.<br>100599 Pte Robt, to Fld Amblee. |                                      |

Edson  
Capt. & 2nd Lt

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| Deir-el-Balah<br><del>11/3/18</del> | 10/3/18 |      | The C.O. visited the locality where the second Gaza battle was fought, and N.C.O.'s and men, who wished it, accompanied him. Divisional Baths were open for use of the squadron in the afternoon.  |                                      |
|                                     | 11/3/18 |      | Party of 65 N.C.O.'s & men under 2nd Lieut. Bolton proceeded to Gaza for salvage duties at 07.30. The Gloucester and Glasgow subsections paraded for mounted drill.  |                                      |
|                                     | 12/3/18 |      | Divisional practice ceremonial parade at 0900. The Glasgow Subsection proceeded to Gaza on salvage duties under an N.C.O. 1 horse (rider) died & struck off the strength.  |                                      |
|                                     | 13/3/18 |      | Each subsection paraded under their own arrangements for drill etc. All arms inspection 1400. Cleaning saddlery for inspection on 14 <sup>th</sup> .   |                                      |
|                                     | 14/3/18 |      | H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught inspected the Division. The Squadron paraded at 0745 Medals were presented. The Corps Commander and the Divisional General rode round to the Squadron in the evening and congratulated the C.O. on the efficiency of the Squadron, and the turn out and march past of the Squadron. |                                      |

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Edulon  
Capt. & 2nd Lieut.  
1914. C.S.

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| Deir-el-Balah | 14/3/18<br>(Contd) |      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut S. R. Lowder reported to the Squadron.  |                                      |
|               | 15/3/18            |      | Salvage party at Gaza. Left camp 0645 under 2Lt Bolton. The Worcester and Warwick Subsection paraded at 0830 under Lt Kendrick for drill. The C.O. went for a Staff ride with the C.O's of the Division under Gen. Hodgson. |                                      |
|               | 16/3/18            |      | Salvage party paraded at 0715 for GAZA. N.C.O's & men were allowed to go to the 4 <sup>th</sup> M.A. Bde Races which were held in the vicinity of GAZA.   |                                      |
|               | 17/3/18            |      | Early exercise before breakfast. Veterinary officers inspected horses for lice etc. five animals for vaccination.   |                                      |
|               | 18/3/18            |      | Squadron spent the whole day on rifle range undergoing grouping practise and application practise at 400 yds. The C.O.C. was at the range the greater part of the day.  |                                      |

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Eduson  
Capt & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt  
19<sup>th</sup> M/G.S.

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| DIER EL BELNAH | 19/3/18 |      | <p>The C.O. with Lieut Murray, 2nd Lieuts. R Bolton and S.R. Lowder proceeded with the Warwickshire Geomanry with a scheme. 3 Tripods were taken to workshops Belah for subushing. The sights of the guns were tested by Lieut. Byard, on the beach. In the afternoon nos 1, &amp; 2's of each subsection fired from the sea shore.</p>  |                                      |
|                | 20/3/18 |      | <p>Salvaging resumed; party in charge of Capt Anson. Warnick, Westminster and Glasgow subsections paraded under their own officers for mounted drill. Nos. 1 &amp; 2's of the Glos. Worcester subsections tested the guns on beach. Football match against R.E. Squadron result 2-1 in our favour. Transport inspection by A.D.S. &amp; T. in morning. Pte. Mole J. returned from Field Ambulance.</p> |                                      |
|                | 21/3/18 |      | <p>No salvaging. Range practice for each subsection on rifl. range single shot laying, grouping, application &amp; traversing.</p>   |                                      |
|                | 22/3/18 |      | <p>The C.O. and 2nd Lt. went on Divisional Staff ride. Salvaging resumed: Lt J.W. Murray in charge of party. 2nd Lt. <del>Murray</del> Lowder member of board of enquiry respecting lost drums &amp; tins. Subsection firing on beach in morning. Mounted drill in afternoon for Glasgow, Worcester &amp; Westminster subsection; Gas drill for Glasgow &amp; Westminster subsection.</p>              |                                      |

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Edmond  
Capt. & 2nd Lt.  
19th M.G.S

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| DEIR EL BELAH | 23/3/18  |      | Exercise under the S. S. M. in the morning. Lecture by C.O. on "barrage" and "indirect" fire.  |                                      |
|               | 24/3/18  |      | The Glasgow sub section guns tested on beach after lecture. The Squadron football league was continued in the afternoon. Lecture by C.O. to Officers, in the evening, on the scheme for Sunday.  |                                      |
|               | 25/3/18. |      | Squadron tactical scheme which included the Squadron coming into action on a hill, the guns being divided, communication to be kept; indirect fire by map, 2000 yards range. Target hit at first burst. Barrage fire also worked out by map but unable to fire this test owing to telephone wire being dead between forward observation post & guns, so concluded by having 'barrage' drill. Satisfactory report received from the A.D.M.S. re sanitation of the camp. Lt/Cpl. Stone R.S. & Plt. Taylor reported back from Zeitoun. Salvage work finished at GAZA. Squadron parade cancelled owing to boisterous weather. Half lumber despatched to Skaluf making 6 half limbers; 24 L.D animals; and 12 drawers attached 3rd Bde. for salvage purposes. |                                      |

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E. Aulon

Capt & 2nd Lt  
19th M.G. Sqn



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| DEIR EL BELAH | 25/3/18 |      | (Continued) In the afternoon the weather cleared and inter section football matches were played.  |                                      |
|               |         |      | Lieut Seymour reported back from Leiton (Topographical Course) Lt Cpl London reported at D.H.Q. on Gas Course of 3 days duration.                   |                                      |
|               | 26/3/18 |      | Lieut. Kendrick H.F. with a skeleton section with flags reported to O/C Worcester Yeomanry for a scheme on GOZ EL TAIRE ridge.                      |                                      |
|               |         |      | The remaining subsections paraded for drill, and coming into action practise, communicating with new signalling discs which proved to be a success. |                                      |
|               |         |      | Afternoon: tables 13.30 and communication drill with new discs. Range finders paraded under Lt Cpl London for practice.                             |                                      |
|               | 27-3-18 |      | The Westminster and Glasgow subsections paraded at 0815 with the Warwick Yeomanry to carry out scheme on GOZ EL TAIRE ridge.                        |                                      |
|               |         |      | The remainder of Squadron had subsection drill.   |                                      |
|               |         |      | Afternoon half holiday. Subsection football.  |                                      |

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E. E. F.  
Capt. 2nd  
19/1/18

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| DEIR EL BELAH. | 28/3/18. |      | The Corps. Machine Gun Officer inspected the Squadron in indirect fire & barrage fire. The firing was a success and the Squadron arrived back in camp about 1600.   |                                      |
|                | 29/3/18. |      | <p>The Warwick, Gloster &amp; Worcester sub-sections paraded with the Gloucester Yeomanry under the C.O. to practice 'scheme' 'Breaking through Gap'.</p> <p>The remaining three sub-sections paraded with Warwick Yeomanry under Capt. Anson, and went through same scheme.</p> <p>Sub-section arrived back in camp about 1630.</p> <p>Capt. E. H. Anson and Lieut. R. H. Seymour proceeded to Cairo on leave.</p> <p>Lieut. S. R. Lowder, Lt/Cpl. Jeffries B.W. &amp; Pte. Blackham W proceeded to Teitorn on the following courses of instruction respectively.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Range finding A<br/>Machine Gun (Vickers) Refresher<br/>Range finding B</p> |                                      |

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J. N. H. H. H. H.  
Major 1914 M G S

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| DEIR EL BELAH. | 30/3/18. |      | <p>Fine warm day. Horses exercised: lecture on "Barrage fire" to section corporals; guns &amp; rifle inspection; all surplus saddlery drawn in from the line.</p> <p>Lieut. Speedy R. G. reported for duty from the 74<sup>th</sup> C.C.S. Belah.</p> <p>In the afternoon 3 section league matches were played off.</p> <p>at 1630 news received that Division was moving on 1<sup>st</sup> April</p> <p>conference of Adjutant B HQ at 1730</p> <p>Warwick Germany detailed to leave 5<sup>th</sup> Mta Bde and join 7<sup>th</sup> Mta Bde in place of Sherwood Rangers joining the 5<sup>th</sup> Mta Bde.</p> <p>Preparations made for moving 1<sup>st</sup> April. Load tables for transport made out.</p> <p>Rain started 0900</p> <p>In the afternoon Officer surplus baggage and equipment</p> |   |
|                | 21/3/18. |      |  | <p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p style="text-align: right;">237</p> <p style="text-align: right;">J. H. H. H. H.<br/>Major 7<sup>th</sup> 1918</p> |



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| DEIR EL BELAH | 21/3/18 |      | <p>(Continued)<br/>           and Squadron's Equipment taken to station, in charge of dismounted party, to proceed by rail to LUDD.<br/>           All Ordnance material returned at the same time to R.O.O. Belah</p> | <p style="text-align: right;">J. H. Horlock<br/>           Major &amp; G.<br/>           19. M. G.S.</p> <p style="text-align: right; border-top: 1px solid black;">237</p> |