

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/30/22

**Title: 1st Australian Machine Gun
Squadron**

July 1918



AWM4-24/30/22

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Australian M.G. Squadron

FOR

July 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

R. J. Arwe
Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. Mac Millan
1st A.M.G. Sqr



JUL 1918

July 1918

WAR DIARY

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original Copy

E18/1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JORDAN VALLEY	1 st	0300	Stand to at 0300. All clear at 0410. Inspected the led horse camp at 0900, visited No 3 subsection at 1800 Gas Drill for No 1, 2 + 4th Co at 0630	HH
113Y. 16D.	2 nd	0600	2 OR. left on leave to Cairo, 2 men admitted to HOSPITAL. Gas drill for men with led horses. Inspected to 4, 5 + 6 Sub. sections in the line.	HH
"	3 rd	0900	Inspected MG positions on the BLUFF. Gas drill for men with led horses. Inspection of all reserve Ammunition with Transport	HH
"	4 th	0700	Sgt Berry, Sgt Braith & Sgt. Thomlinson left for the school at ZEITOUN. Inspected No 3, 6 + 4 subsections in the line.	HH
"	5 th	0800	Not Subsections LIEUT AHEARN relieved No 5 subsection (LIEUT DUNN) at 1930 on MASKERAH	HH
"	6 th	0730	Inspected the led horse Camp during the morning. CAPT. McMILLAN reported to the SQDN at 1700 to take up the duty of OC the SQDN. also one other rank reported for duty	HH
"	7 th	0900	CAPT McMILLAN inspected all guns and positions in the front line. Gas drill for men with the led horses + Camp routine. Camp routine during the morning CAPT McMILLAN inspected the horses and camp of SQDN during the morning also visited MG positions in the 2 nd line in company with LIEUTS HACKNEY and GARVIE. One man admitted to hoop with Malaria fever.	HH
"	8 th	0630	T/Sgt. RUTHERFORD reported back from school.	HH
"	8 th	1600	No 2807 Tpr Connor G. No 4 section left for the Cookery school ISMAILIA. CAPT McMILLAN visited No 3 subsection on ZEISS POST during the morning. Gas drill during the afternoon for all ranks. LIEUT GREATORIX repined from the SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION ZEITOUN	HH
"	9 th	0800	CAPT McMILLAN + LIEUT HACKNEY inspected No 6 subsection on VIEW POST, also No 4 + No 1 subsections on VYSE POST and MASKERAH	HH
"	9 th	1900	LIEUT DUNN + No 5 subsection relieved No 3, Sgt KEMPE on ZEISS POST	HH
"	10 th	0400	No 2655 Tpr MURRAY A.J. Killed and No 2807 Tpr BRADLEY W.A. wounded by shell fire at MASKERAH. No 2655 Tpr MURRAY was buried during the evening at 113Y. 11D.	HH
"	11 th	0330	Stand to at 0330, stand down at 0400 CAPT McMILLAN paraded T/SGT KEMPE to Brigadier Cox for an interview as candidate for commission. LIEUT DUNN went back to the led horse camp from ZEISS POST. CAPT McMILLAN and LIEUT GREATORIX inspected 2 nd line MG positions.	HH
"	12 th	0600	OC. CAPT McMILLAN inspected guns in front line, LIEUT HACKNEY inspected led horse camp. LIEUT DAVIS MC. was prosecutor in FGCM on 2646 Tpr BURNEY of the 1 st AMGS. No 2089 Tpr PASCOE AP. of No 1 subsection at MASKERAH. Slightly wounded by shell fire from RED HILL. LIEUT DUNN, batman + grooms of No 5 subsection left for the Desert Corps School to commence on the 15 th inst at RICHON.	HH
"	13 th	1930	No 2 subsection relieved No 1 subsection on MASKERAH at 1930. enemy artillery very active all night	HH
"	14 th	0300	Report received that enemy were attacking in front of VALE + VIEW POSTS. At 0330 attacks had become general all along the front line. LIEUT AHEARN with No 1 subsection sent to occupy position in 2 nd line ABU TULLUL left	HH
"	14 th	0340	At 0340 received news that enemy had broken through the wire between VALE + VIEW POSTS. LIEUT HACKNEY received orders to get No 3 subsection into the prepared positions in ABU TULLUL night. on arrival there the GERMANS had got part of the works. A full report appended hereto.	HH
"	15 th	0600	General cleaning up of guns and equipment, re-establishing ammunition in the different parts in the line + reserve	HH
"	16 th	0330	No 2957 Tpr RIXON BG. wounded in action on the 14 th inst. has since been reported killed + 1769 Dco. Hall B wounded Stand to at 0330 all clear at 0400. routine works. The OC. CAPT CHANTER of the 3 rd AMGS looked over the line and MG slightly wounded No 162A ELLISGA. also 7 horses slightly wounded. The 3 rd AMGS relieved the 1 st AMGS in the line relief completed at 2400.	HH

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WAR DIARY

or

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Original Copy

E18/2

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALAT. ED DUMM.	17 th July 1918	0100	Left 113Y. left base camp at 0100 and marched to TALAT ED DUMM, arrived at Camp there at 0530. LIEUT GAVIE and 2 O/R left for leave to CAIRO, routine work.	HA
KILO 17	18 th	1900	The usual Camp routine, Arms + equipment inspections, and general cleaning up, evacuated 6 men to Hoop.	HA
	19 th	1000	The Sqdn and all the Bde were inspected and complimented for their fine work against the German troops on the 14 th inst.	HA
		1930	marched from TALAT ED DUMM at 1930 for the new camp site at ARRUB, on the JERUSALEM, HEBRON road	HA
ARRUB.	20 th	0600	Arrived at the Camp site at ARRUB at 0600, camp routine during the remainder of the day	HA
"	21 st	0900	Inspection by the C.O. of all guns, spare parts and technical stores in the SQDN during the morning LIEUT ROSS returned from leave, received 7 O/R reinforcements from MOASCAR during the day, sent in 3 G.S. waggons for repairs to workshop JERUSALEM. 10 O/R to Pt SAID Rest Camp. 1 O/R to SIG School BEIT JALA.	HA
"	22 nd	0900	Inspection of all horses in the SQDN by the CO during the morning. Camp routine during remainder of the day.	HA
	23 rd	0900	1 O/R rejoined unit at field compound MOASCAR.	HA
		1530	4 O/R to Hoop. SGT WRAITH returned from SOF J ZEITOUN. Camp routine. Left Camp area at 1530 and marched to JERUSALEM. where Brigade halted. 7 fed up, resumed march to ENAB at 2100 arriving at Camp area at 0100	HA
ENAB.	24 th	1900	LIEUT HACKNEY + 1 O/R LEAVE to CAIRO. 1 O/R to Hoop. received APA 846. notification of following awards: SGT WG GORDON BAR to MM., 1192 CPL WC PARSONS. MM., 2827 TPR J. PITCBATHLY MM. Brigade left camp at 1900 and marched to LATRON arrived at Camp area at 2200	HA
LATRON	25 th	0900	2 nd LIEUT KANEY 9 O/R taken on strength from MG Training Sqdn. 1 O/R rejoined unit from Boedump LUDD, ordinary camp routine	HA
WADI HANEIN	26 th	0900	left camp at 1830 and marched to WADI HANEIN, "DETRAN AREA," arriving at Camp site at 1830 and formations of Camp area, + general cleaning up.	HA
"	27 th	0900	2 O/R to Hoop, ordinary Camp routine.	HA
"	28 th	0900	1 O/R to Hoop. ordinary Camp routine. LIEUT GAVIE returned from leave	HA
"	29 th	0900	Camp routine, cleaning of saddlery. LIEUT GAVIE returned from leave	HA
"	30 th	1000	15 O/R to Rest Camp Port Said. 2 O/R to School of Cookery ALEXANDRIA. 1 O/R from leave, No 65 SQMS McDONALD paraded to Lt COL GRANVILLE D.S.O. for interview, being a candidate for CADET COURSE ZEITOUN.	HA
"	31 st	1000	General routine work, 1 O/R to Hoop. VICKERS GUN No C 296 sent to Ordnance Workshop LUDD for repairs	HA
			65 SQMS. McDONALD FT. left for Cadet school	HA
			Address & inspections of 12 th LHBde by C-in-C. GEN SIR EDMUNDO ALLENBY. GCMG. KCB. Inspections of transport by ADS+T.	HA
			2 limbers sent to LUDD workshops for repairs	HA

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Original

WAR DIARY

- JUL 1918 E 18/3

OF

1st Australian M.G. Squadron

FOR

July 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- 1 Report on action
- 2 Description of M.G. positions
- 3 Taken on strength
- 4 Evacuations



Report on Action Original

of 1st Aust. M.G. Squadron - JUL 1918 E 18/4
during the attack by German and Turkish troops
on the morning of the 14th July 1918 on No 3 Subsections
made by defences held by 1st L.A. Bde.

Reference Map - Plan of No 3 Subsector 1/15840

At 0220. The main attack developed on the front of Pysse, Pale, View + Peaux Posts supported by heavy enemy artillery fire.

No 4 Subsection under Lieut R. G. Garvie occupied the prepared emplacements on Pysse Post at the left detachment, heard the enemy cutting the wire between their position and Pale Post. In conjunction with the right gun they immediately opened fire on prearranged lines which protected this section of barbed wire.

The main body of the enemy attack quickly overran Pale and passed on into the wadi in rear, thus isolating Pysse Post, the right detachment of this subsection remaining in its emplacement kept up a continuous fire alternatively on the left of Basallatch and the front of Pale Post the latter with the object of preventing the enemy from reinforcing the first waves of this attack.

The left gun was taken from its emplacement to positions in rear from which it could best deal with the enemy who had worked round the rear of this post and from these positions excellent fire effect was obtained from directly in rear of the enemy attack which was then developing on Abu Tullul right and later the Bluff.

Many casualties were caused and very suitable targets were engaged in conjunction with guns on Abu Tullul right.

When our front line had been re-established these guns were employed in effective and long range fire on retreating bodies of the enemy, with good results. Great skill was shown by the No 1 of the left detachment in the frequent and rapid changes of this position to meet all emergencies. 9000 rounds were fired.

No 6 Subsection under Sgt Gordon, occupying the emplacements on the right of View Post, at 0220 the enemy were heard cutting the wire in the hollow 150 yards to the right of this post, both guns opened fire immediately on their right lines which were laid to protect this wire.

JUL 1918 E 18/5

The enemy breaking through simultaneously at several points quickly overran Pale Post & the wadi in rear.

At 0330 it was ascertained that the enemy had swung around to his right and was working his way up the wadi with the apparent object of isolating New Post and attacking it from the rear. A detachment of his subsection under Capt Parsons was immediately taken from its emplacement and brought into action in a position to the right rear. From this position it effectively prevented this enemy movement against Pale Post. Also his advance against Abu Tullul causing many casualties. Both guns then engaged the enemy attack which was developing against Abu Tullul right from the flank and rear. During the attack these guns forced the surrender on the low grounds on their immediate front of 3 officers 25 ORanks, with 6 automatic rifles and prevented enemy supports from moving forward. 7000 rounds were fired.

105 Subsection was occupying the prepared positions on the right and left flanks of Zeiss Post as no attack developed against this post the left gun was moved forward to a position from which, in conjunction with the right gun it engaged parties of the enemy at effective and long ranges who were deployed in the attack on Zeiss Post and gave covering fire to patrols which were pushed out from the Brigade to the left of this sector. The fire of these guns appear to have been effective. 3000 rounds were fired.

102 Subsection occupied the prepared positions in the defence system at El Masketah as no enemy attack developed from the front against this post. but it was found that the enemy had attacked and taken our positions on the Bluff.

These guns were then taken from their emplacements and placed on top of the cliff in hurriedly prepared positions from which they engaged exceptionally good but fleeting targets, and also prevented the enemy retiring in the direction of Meisallah. Only 1000 rounds were fired by these two guns as the enemy quickly surrendered to Regimental attack which developed against them from Abu Tullul right.

At 0320 orders were received from B.A.G. to despatch one subsection from the section in reserve to Abu Tullul left 104.

101 Subsection was immediately despatched to occupy the prepared positions on this post which was the extreme left of our second line defences.

- JUL 1918

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As soon as the light permitted his section opened fire at 1800 yards on the enemy attack which was developing against Pease Post forcing him to take cover behind ridges from which he made several unsuccessful attempts to advance.

Also engaged enemy machine gun at 1750 yards which was put out of action, it was later ascertained by patrols that six of his gun team had been killed, 4000 rounds of ammunition were fired.

At 0330 an order was received from B.H.Q. to despatch the remaining reserve subsection to prepared positions in our second line on Abu Tullul right as the enemy was reported to have broken through Tale Post and was advancing on these positions, the left gun of this subsection came into action on prepared positions near Abu Tullul right 104, on arrival of these guns it was seen the enemy were just occupying Abu Tullul right 1 and 2 and had commenced to advance on 3 & 4, there had not been time to place gun in prepared position on Abu Tullul right 103.

The gun was mounted in the open and fire brought to bear on the enemy at 100 yards range causing him to seek shelter in our trenches on Abu Tullul right 102, a rapid fire was kept on to these trenches to prevent him from leaving them and developing his fire, and also affording covering fire to our counter attacking troops which were enabled to reach these trenches without casualties, it was found on occupying these trenches that the enemy had two M.G.'s + two automatic rifles which he had not been able to bring into action owing to our fire, good targets were also obtained by this gun when enemy was ejected by counter attack at 150 yards.

As a large body of the enemy had retired into the broken ground in rear of Pease Post and on to the Bluff it was decided to further develop the counter attack on the Bluff.

To support this movement the gun was placed in a hastily prepared position on Abu Tullul right 102.

From this position a large body of the enemy were seen retiring at the double in close formation at from 200 to 300 yards.

In conjunction with the guns on Pease Post these were engaged from front and rear with great effect and a large body immediately surrendered.

This gun was then prepared to support the attack on the Bluff but was not required, the enemy surrendering.

Later one gun of this detachment went forward to the Bluff, the other, owing to shortage of men & casualties remained in its original position.

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At Abu Lallul night No 2 one enemy machine gun which had been captured was brought into action and handed over to Regimental men, 2000 rounds ammunition were fired by this subsection, it was necessary to borrow men for ammunition carrying from Regiment.

The subsection was under very heavy fire throughout the whole operation.

J. Mac Millan Cpt.
OC 1st AMG Sqn

Map Reference - Plan of No 3 Sub sector 1/15840

Description of Machine Gun Positions

Original
E18/8

113.W 36.D. EL MASKERAH.

(1 Subsections)

JUL 1918

This position is a steep rocky bluff protected by wire with a single curtain, the right detachment is placed at the foot of the Bluff in a well concealed emplacement commanding the wire and has a very good field of fire across very level ground which is covered by low brushwood.

The left detachment is placed 150 yards to the left of the right in an emplacement which is constructed in a continuation of breastworks and from this position commands the wire running to El Mousallabeh to its effective range, this gun also has an alternative position for frontal fire.

This position is approached over very open country which it would be very difficult to cross in daylight.

113.Y.4B.

113.Y.5A. VYSE POST.

(1 Subsections)

This post is protected by a double curtain of barb wire. The right detachment has a well sighted emplacement in the centre of the entrenchments, the ground in front is of a very broken nature intersected by numerous wadis.

For defensive purposes this gun has a good command of the wire protecting the left of El Mousallabeh with an alternative line protecting Pale Post.

The left detachment is in an emplacement sighted to protect the immediate front of Vyse Post both emplacements have short communication trenches which enable them to be reached from a well protected area in rear.

113.Y.10.A. VIEW POST.

(1 Subsections)

This post is well protected by a double curtain of wire on the front and flank, the entrenchments are sighted near the apex of the hill, the M.G. being placed 150 yards to the right in well sighted and concealed emplacements, the lines of fire are good, but owing to the height of the hill the fire is of a plunging nature. Both emplacements are connected by short communication trenches to a well concealed area on the reverse slope of the hill.

113.Y.15D.

113.Y.21B. ZEISS POST.

(1 Subsections)

The front is protected by a double curtain of wire, the right detachment is 100 yards in the right rear of the entrenchments and has a well sighted and concealed emplacement with trench for spare ammunition and belt filling purposes. This gun has a good field of fire commanding two wadis between Zoo + Zeiss Posts, this position has to be approached across 50 yards of open ground.

113.Y.21B. This detachment has a well sighted emplacement with ammunition dugout and commands a double curtain of barb wire to the banks of the Wadi Ayyat this gun is approached over 50 yards of open ground.

A number of positions have been sighted and prepared on the Bluff and Abu Jullul right and left which can be occupied by the reserve section from 113.Y.16D. which is centrally situated to any part of the 2nd line.

1134, 21B. Continued.

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All the 2nd line positions will be protected by a double apron of wire when the work is complete.

As the positions at El Maskerat, New Post & Yipe Post are situated on very rocky ground and the risk of splinters are very great from shell fire it would be advisable to have overhead cover provided for these positions.

This material has been asked for, but the engineers have not the necessary timber on hand.

J. D. Mac Millan Cpt
oc 1st AM G Sqn.

1st Aust No. 6 Squadron.

1918.

E18/10

Evacuations for months ending 31st July 1918.

JUL 1918

Original

No	RANK	NAME	DATE	REMARKS
1998	Sp	Bull DO	2 nd	
2837		Naton B	2	returned 15/7/18
A2567		Beaven NWA	3	to 31st Gen Hosp Cairo ex leave
1545		Berry RA	3	
2832		Nickalls LA	5	
2992		Cullen GDN	7	
2655		Murray AG	10	Killed in action
2807		Bradley WA	10	wounded
2089		Pascoe AP	11	"
104	L/lept	DeSlevion R	12	NYD
1346	Sp	Morcom AR	12	
488		Evost EWL	12	
A34		Neville Pb	12	
1531		Quincan LR	12	
3046		Irelant AO	12	
A51		Balding G	13	
1769	Dr	Hall B	14	wounded
2937	Sp	Rixon BL	14	Killed in action
1048		Sherrin SE	14	
3242		Jones R	15	wounded
2868	L/lept	Gargher JZ	17	
1050	lept	Horner LS	17	
2935	Sp	Dale GA	17	
1861		Harris PS	17	
A130		Whitfield GE	17	
2900		Bidstrup A	18	
1192	lept	Parsons N.C.	18	
A136	Sp	O'Neill N.D.	18	
3621		Hotts GZ	18	
585		Little G	18	
A52		Browne LG	18	
3477		Campbell G.M.C.	19	
3177		Buttens H.E.	19	
1094		Harland AW	19	from detachment to Hyderabad Lancers
1767		Webber J	19	
2151		Black G	19	
21	lept	Kimball LA	22	
475	L/lept	Cooper G.B.	20	injured
1702	Sp	Mahoney D	22	Dysentery
852		Abbott J	23	
3484		Chalmers D	23	
171		Nourse R.G.	23	
2837		Naton B	25	
A10		Rose RB	24	to 31st Gen Hosp Cairo ex leave
52458		Birkbeck G.J.	26	
A8		Peacey AB	26	
57		Jones RT	27	
2646		Burney G	30	
1339		Griffin H	27	from Descoys School Richmond
2807		Connon J	31	" school of cooking Semarang



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1st Aust No 1 Sqdn - Taken on strengths for months ending 31st July 1918

No	RANK	NAME	DATE	REMARKS				
14505	Lt Col	Morris L	2 nd	medical detail				Original
	Capt	McMillan M.A.	5	From MGT SQDN				
4836	Spr	Hillier M.G.	5	" "				
3710	"	Francis A.	21	" "				
3767	"	Armstrong E.	21	" "				
3805	"	Nelson R.G.	21	" "				
3711	"	Fitzgerald S.	21	" "				
3698	"	Craig A. & B.	21	" "				
3712	"	Ferry A.J.	21	" "				
732	"	McNamara J.	21	" "				
2829	"	Petros B.	22	From Field Compt. Section				
	2 nd Lieut	Kane L.A.	26	From MGT SQDN				
2873	Lt Col	Devine M.R.	26	" "				
3416	Spr	Gibbs W.A.	26	" "				
1066	"	White E.J.	26	" "				
1647	"	Moore E.J.	26	" "				
2827	"	McNeil L.	26	" "				
3049	"	Burnham J.	26	" "				
3606	"	Walden M.S.	26	" "				
A78	"	Drummond A.	26	" "				
3550	"	Richardson W.A.	26	From 13th Div Ludd				
A136	"	Chill W.D.						