

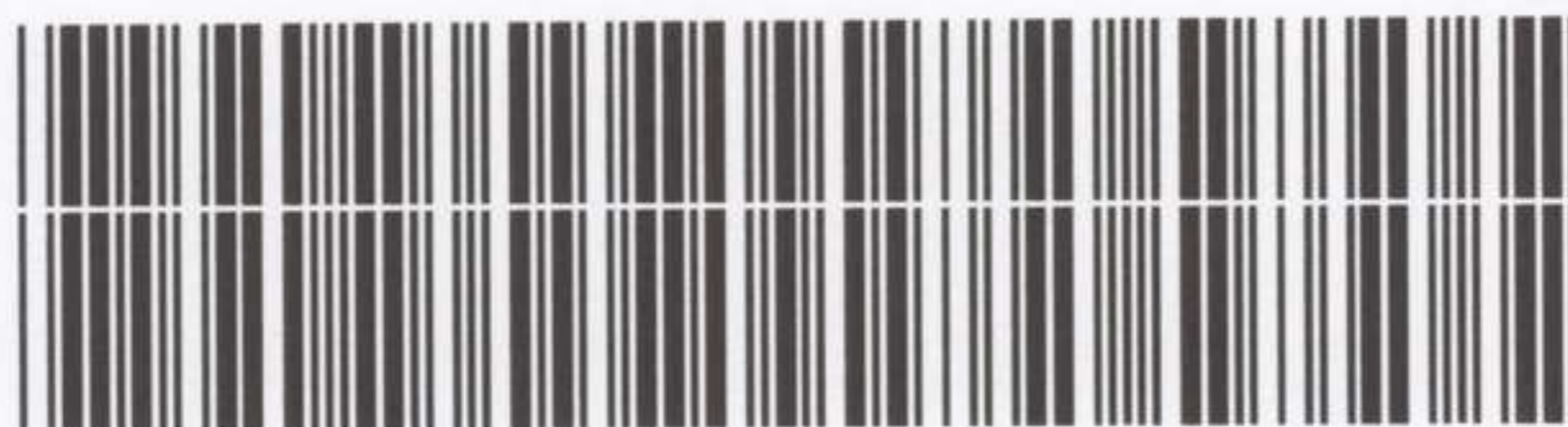
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/30/3

Title: 1st Australian Machine Gun
Squadron

December 1916



AWM4-24/30/3

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

DECEMBER 1916

Army Form C. 2118

999

1st Machine Gun Squadron

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Amussai	1 Dec 1916 TO 3 Dec		Brigade still in bivouac at Amussai. M.G. Sqdn doing outpost.	
	4 Dec 1916		Brigade left Amussai about 1030 for Gurat - very heavy sand. Arrived Gurat about noon. bivouacked. Redd round round outpost post & chase positions for four guns (night work)	
	5		Enemy plane over camp - dropped three bombs. harmless.	
	6 TO			
	14		Ordinary routine work	
	15		Inspection by Sir Philip Chetwode.	
	17		Lieut R. Woodworth reported back from Cavalry School.	
	18		Received five mammals. very poor to look at.	
	20		Brigade left Gurat for El Arish @ 1930. rough pretty rough in places.	
	21		Arrived El Arish 0530/0600 in position indicated in B.P.O. - no opposition. Settled down in position indicated for M.G. Sqdn.	

Robertson Major
M.G.S.

999

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
El Arish.	22 Dec/16.		Road round outpost + chose positions for three guns - for night work.	
Magdhaba	23.		<p>Brigade concentrating at 1730 for move to Magdhaba - at starting point 1800 waited until 0100 when division moved out. Reached first halting about 3 miles from Magdhaba 0530-0600 + waited a little when general advance made up closer to position. Light Brigade moved out to frontal attack across the open. met by shell-machine gun rifle fire. Deployed into main wave. when 3rd Regt. ordered to make attack on rebels' trenches. Took three^{four} guns into action with Regt. 1 on right flank (Seryt Gordon) 2 in centre with Lieut Kemp + one (early in operations) with Lieut Davis on left flank. These guns came into action + afforded good covering fire to the troops which pushed home the attack - especially on the right & left flanks + assisted materially (as evidenced by statements made by Turkish prisoners) in breaking the defence + capture of the position by the Light Brigade. Early in the afternoon a more vigorous offensive being ordered. the regiment acted accordingly. the balance of guns was thrown into the firing line. but there was not the same opportunity for working as the few guns had in the morning. but wherever possible they assisted the troops to advance until all the rebels had been silenced & the trenches captured when the operation was concluded. (between 1500 + 1600).</p>	

A. Martin
Magdhaba
23/12/16

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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Machine Gun Squadron

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Magdhaba	23 Dec 16		After conclusion of operations - men & horses fed up & the Brigade concentrated where the Division halted in the morning. When water was issued to the men (such horses as the was water for - being watered at the well near the Hospital buildings). The Division left on return journey at 2300 & arrived El Arish at 0530 - 0600 on	
El Arish	24 Dec.		Meeting (of C.O's & Officers directly concerned in operations) at B.H.Q. in afternoon.	
	25		Inspection by Brigadier	
	26		Inspection by Sir Phillip Chetwode.	
	28		Blankets etc for men & Genat arrived.	
Sheik Zowaid	30		Reconnaissance of Sheik Zowaid by Brigade. Left El Arish & arrived Zowaid 1330. blowmarked whilst reconnaissance made. Sent four guns out on outpost night of 30/31. Left Zowaid 0800 & arrived El Arish 1315. Outpost line held by D.C. Sent guns out as usual - no advice to contrary. - found line held until 0800 out 11/17 by D.C. Communicated with B.H.Q. re above & told the D.C. to be withdrawn which was done	
	31			

A. Martin [Signature]