

AWM4

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/30/7

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

April 1917



AWM4-24/30/7

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Aust. Machine Gun Squadron
1st A.M.B.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kilo 152.	1917 April.	-	Ordinary routine carried out. Inspection of Guns & Rifles.	
		2	do do	
		3	Bartering spare gear to Dump at El Arish Station.	
		4	Sent 2 V.L. Guns to Kantara for repairs & testing.	
			Received G.I. Waggon & water cart from Kantara.	
		5	bartered Reserve Ammunition to El Arish Dump.	
Zouaid		6	Early Reveille. Brigade moved off at 0830 - going fairly heavy as far as Zouaid where Brigade bivouaced for night.	
Rafa		7	Left Zouaid 0830, made good progress as travelling good after leaving Zouaid.	
Khan Yunus		8	Rafa midday & struck Khan Yunus at 1615. Received 2 guns from Kantara. bartering Reserve Amm & baggage from Station to camp. Received 10 remounts. Eight reinforcements arrived. Gen. Chauvel visited lines. Eleven G.I. Limbers, 44 Draughts & 22 Drivers detached for duty with D.A.C.	
		9	Returned 2 Remounts to 2nd A.L.H. Regt.	
		10	Shifted camp site to better position.	
		11	Received 2 Barr & Stroud Range Finders, 6 Remounts, & 6 Mark VI strips for Tangent sights.	
		12	Squadron went on Outpost.	
		13	Ret. to camp from Outpost. 9 reinforcements arrived. Major Martin (C.O.) admitted to 14th A.M.B.	

C. W. Harris
Genl. C.O.

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1st Aust. Machine Gun Squad
1st A.L. H.B. Co.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Khan Yunus	1917	1000	Officers & N.C.Os. lectured on use of Gas Helmets. Issued Gas Helmets, lectured men on use of same.	
	15th		Preparing for move. Received one Barr & Stroud Range Finder & 3 barrels. Repaired graves of men killed at Rafa. 3 reinforcements arrived.	
	16th		One limber (ammunition) attached from 2nd & 3rd L.H. Regts. each. One G.I. Waggon, 4 Draught Horses & 2 Drivers detached for duty with D.A.C.	
Shellal	17th	2000	Brigade moved out & marched all night. Arrived Shellal at daybreak bivouaced for day. 8 Guns (4 Section or 2 on) Outpost.	
	18th		Grazed horses, cleaned guns, inspected guns & rifles.	
2 miles NW HAREIRA.	19th	2030	Brigade moved out & marched all night.	
		0700	came in touch with enemy 12 guns in action in entrenched position. 8 guns in Reserve.	
		1600	Enemy attacked on right flank & left front, put 4 guns in Wadi on right & two guns near Hut on left. Good targets at 1400' & 1100', scattered enemy.	
		1800	Enemy advancing dismounted at 1100', good targets, good results, enemy scattered & took cover.	
		1900	Enemy advancing in centre of line, bad light to see results of fire; but barrage of fire kept up in front of advancing enemy troops, casualties 10 Officers & 70 Rank wounded.	
		1915	Brigade retired from line, held & formed up on Main Wadi, then marched all night arrived near Jemmi at 0400 next morning, where we watered & bivouaced for four hours. Ammunition expended 18 cords.	

C. B. Harris Lieut. Col.

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1st Aust. Machine Gun Squad.
1st A.H. B Co.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tel-el-Jummi & Hiseia	1917 20th April	0800	Brigade moved off & marched to point N.W. of Weli, Thik Duran. Here it was bombed by enemy aircraft.	
		1300	Moved off, and arrived Hiseia at 1500, watered here, then took over outpost line from 2nd L.H. B Co. Seven guns on Outpost & 5 in Reserve during night. Six guns on Outpost during day.	
	21st	1600	Watered horses & brigade ^{C.M.H.} Brigade relieved by ^{C.M.H.} 1st Infantry Regiment.	
Abasan el Kebir Abu Pitta	22nd	2200	Brigade arrived Abasan el Kebir 2200.	
		1000	Guns & rifles inspected after being cleaned. Saw 18,000 rounds from D.A.C.	
		1200	Brigade moved out & arrived at Abu Pitta at 1400.	
	23rd		Brigade in Reserve. Requisitioned for 69500 piastres for ^{one month's} pay. Decided on Gun positions having same built in Battle Line trenches on Hills 330 & 360. Brigade in Reserve.	
	24th		Received pay & pay personnel of Squadron. Pay Books handed to Pay Sergeant preparatory to having same exchanged for new ones. Inspected & having Gun position built in trenches on Hill 310 in Battle Line. One reinforcement arrived. Horses only watered once owing to wells running dry. Brigade in Reserve.	
	25th		Brigade in Reserve. Tent report on condition of guns to D.A.D.O.S., & report on Pack Saddles, Horse shoes & nails to Brigade.	

C. Harris Lieut.
B.D.

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1st Aust. Machine Gun Squad

1st A.L.H. B^{co}

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abu Titta	1917 26 th	0200	Reveille.	
		0300	On parade.	
		0415	In Reserve just West of Weli Sheik, Muran.	
		0700	Watered horses at Shellal, then returned to Abu Titta.	
		1600	Brigade moved out, arrived Shellal 1800, 4 guns on outpost.	
Shellal	27 th	0400	Stand to arms. 4 guns on outpost. Building positions in trenches, 8 guns Reserve	
	28 th	do.	do	do
	29 th	0330	do	do
	30 th	do	8 guns on outpost.	4 guns Reserve
		1700	Major A. Martin returns to duty from 14 th A.L.H.	

C. W. Harris Lieut.
b.l.