

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/32/1

Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun
Squadron

July-September 1916



AWM4-24/32/1

War Diary.

Machine Gun Squadron 3rd Light Horse Brigade.

23rd July 1916 30th ^{Sept} October 1916.

Introduction.

This Squadron was formed up on Authority of —
— Australian Force in Egypt Order — No. 4. By Major General
Chauvel. C.B., C.M.G., which reads, Authority has been granted
for the formation of a Brigade Machine Gun Squadron in
each Brigade of the Australian and New Zealand Mounted
Division. (Authority War Office. S.D. 2. dated 19th June 1916.
Regimental Machine Gun Sections will form the nuclei of
Brigade Machine Gun Squadrons

The Authorised Establishment is as stated in War Office
- Authority S.D. 2. 19th June 1916.

Upon before mentioned Authority Major. C. L. Nicholas was
appointed O/C and instructed by Brigade to carry on the
formation of the 3rd. L. H. Brigade Machine Gun Sqdn
with Lieut R. G. Rose Acting Second in Command to assist.

P.T.O.

July 23rd.

The Regimental Machine Gun Sections and other drafts were taken on strength as follows.

23-7-16.	8 th L. H. Regt. M. G. Section.	1 Officer	23	O/R.
23-7-16	9 th L. H. Regt M. G. Section.	1 Officer	31	O/R
23-7-16	10 th L. H. Regt. M. G. Section		22	O/R.
23-7-16	Major - Nicholas	C.L.		
	Lieut. Brown	A.N.M.		
	Lieut Lukis	F.W.F		
	Lieut. Phillips	A.J.		
23-7-16.			127	O/R.

108 Horses, Rides Packs & Draughts, also Saddlery complete were taken on strength from Regtl. Machine Gun Sections.

P.T.O

P.T.O

July 24th

July 25th

July 26th

079

10171

43

July 27th

July 28th

July 29th

P.T.O

84

10171

July 30

July 31st.

1017

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

3rd. M.G. Squadron.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug. 24th.		Extracts from B.R.O. 24/7/16.	
			<u>Promotions.</u>	
			No. 621 L/Cpl. Phillips A.J. to be 2nd.Lieut. 27/7/16.	
			No. 39 Sgt. Lukis F.W.F. " " " "	
			<u>Secondings.</u> Lieut. Palmer (deceased) seconded to M.G.S. 3rd. L.H. Brigade. dated 23/7/16.	
			2nd.Lieut. Lukis F.W.F. 23.7.16.	
			2nd.Lieut. Phillips A.J. 23.7.16.	
			2nd.Lieut. Brown. A.N.M. 23.7.16.	
			Major Nicholas. C.L. seconded to command Sqdn. 23.7.16.	
			<u>Establishment.</u>	
			First Line Transport. Camel drivers, camels and fantassies are apart of the unit and will accompany same unless an action is imminent upon which they will be Brigaded. B.R.O. 24/7/16.	
			(The original of above xxx is referred to in entry for Aug. 24th. 1916 and is filed with the volume for that month.)	

1018

3rd Aust MG Squadron

August 1st

Formation of sections (6) commenced at Ballybunion, which was at this time the station of the 3rd L. H. Brigade. The original Machine Gun Sections (3) were divided up and used to strengthen the other 3 sections formed. 2nd. Lieut. Buckland. and 17 O/R with 2 Machine Guns were detailed to protect working party of the 8th L. H. Regt at a post 6 miles East of Ballybunion until completion of the work of this party or on receipt of further orders.

August 2nd.

The sections comprising the Squadron were formed on this date, the original Regimental. M. G. Sections being split up to strengthen the whole of the 6 sections forming the Squadron.

P.T.O

August 3rd.

August 4th.

On this date operation orders were issued to the effect that the Brigade would move off. One hour's notice was received of this move and a temporary reorganisation of sections was entered into immediately to obtain the best possible and most efficient fighting strength. On account of the shortage of Officers 3 Guns were placed with each section and these sections were comprised of all the men with previous Machine Gun Training and for whom mounts were obtainable.

The remaining men of no number were left at Ballybunion in charge of 2nd. Lieut. Phillips.

This temporary re-organisation would possibly not have taken place had the Squadron not been in its absolute infancy or had there been time to procure horses

1918

3

and guns, as there existed at this time a shortage of 2 Guns and a very large number of horses, to complete establishment, the only horses and guns in our possession on this date were those taken over from the Regimental Machine Gun Sections.

Squadron minus details left Ballybunion at 1000 at an hour's notice for Hill 70. arriving at this place at 1200 resting there until 1700. 2nd Lieut. Buckland & 17 O/R joined the Squadron here and this Officer was placed in charge of section of 3 guns.

Lieut Brown also joined Squadron here and was placed in charge of section and 3 guns.

All fodder and ration transport was carried out by camel transport in charge of Camel Officer.

Camels moving in rear of column.

Brigade + M.G. Sqn left Hill 70 for Duidar at 1700 arriving there at 2200.

Camped at Duidar for night.

P.T.O.

August 5th.

Stand to Arms 0230 and moved off at 0430
 Halted at Bir-EL-Nuss. and watered. One Section of
 3 guns under Lieut. Palmer was detailed to accompany
 9th L. H. Regt. and one section under Lieut Bookland
 to accompany 8th L. H. Regt. and operated with these
 units east of Bir Nugid. At 1300 a message was
 sent back to Squadron H.Q.s that Lieut Palmer was
 mortally wounded. Another message received stated
 that another section of guns were required to assist
 on the flank with C Squadron of the 9th Regt, a section
 was sent out in charge of Lieut. Brown and accomp-
 anied by Lieut. Rose. 2nd. in Command, but on
 arrival the position had been taken together with
 428 prisoners and 6 Machine Guns — a return
 was then made to Bir El Nugid at which place
 a Bivouac was made for the night.
 One Section was detailed to accompany the 9th
 L. H. Regt. on outpost.

1918
101

35

August. 6th.

Rested till 1500, then moved to Hod. Abu Darem via Hod. Enna. and bivouaced. One section on outpost with 10th L. H. Regt.

August. 7th.

In touch with enemy east of Hod. Sagia, one section attached to each of the regiments 8th, 9th, & 10th. Desultory fighting. Observation not good. Opened fire at 800 yards. Were heavily shelled both in reserve and in the firing line. Withdrawn to Hod. Abu. Darem and bivouaced, one section on outpost.

August. 8th.

Left. Hod. Abu. Darem. at 0800 arrived Hod. Abu. Dhahab at 1400 watered. fed and bivouaced.

P.T.O

August 9th.

Left Dhabab at 0300. One Section attached to each regiment 8th. 9th. 10th. — in touch with enemy at 0600. All sections opened fire at varying ranges from 800 yards to 1600 yards. The enemy here resisted strongly and were supported by heavy artillery fire. Our Machine Guns were effectively used.

Lieut Buckland R.J. Died of Wounds
Sergeant Pond. R.R. Killed in Action.
Lieut Brown A.N.M. Wounded.

Returned to Dhabab, fed and watered. bivouaced.

One section on outpost with 9th Regt.

No 932 Trooper. H.A. Bell. Killed in Action.

No. 46. Trooper A.J. Cooke. Killed in Action.

1048
87
August 10th.

One Section with 10th L. H. Regt. Desultory fighting. Little firing by our guns. Horses watered at Hassaniya at 1100, they had had no water for previous 24 hours.

August 11th.

Moved towards Bir-El-Abd. Desultory fighting. One section in action. Enemy plane dropped bombs and drove one of our planes to earth. Enemy here strongly held redoubt.

August 12th

Enemy evacuated redoubt, the Brigade followed up pursuit and took up position 1½ miles S.W. of Salmana. Were shelled heavily here. No section in action.

Brig. Genl. Royston took charge of Brigade vice Brig. Genl. Antill.

Withdrawn from here to Hassaniya and bivouaced.

PTO

August. 13th.

Enemy 'plane came over and dropped bombs
but no casualties resulted.

August. 14th

Squadron resting at Hassaniya.

Two Machine Guns mounted as protection against aircraft
(enemy).

August. 15th

August. 16th.

Meeting of O/Cs at Brigade H-Qrs to discuss
the subject of casualties, captures of material, etc;

018
8101

08

August 17th.

Brigade Orders called for recommendations for N.C.O's and men to be appointed to commissioned ranks in Australian Infantry - France. to replace casualties. No application from M. G. Sqn. 3rd. L. H. Brigade.

August 18th.

August 19th.

Major Nicholas left for Ballybunion to commence re-organisation of Squadron.

August 20th.

P.T.O

August 21st.

August 22nd.

Lieut. Phillips reported to front line for duty. Lieut. Rose left Sqdn and reported to Brigade for duty.

August. 23rd.

Extract from B.R.O. 23/8/16 — Officers commanding units will take steps to have all Turkish water barrels or bottles destroyed. It is believed that the Cholera Germs have originated from this source.

1918

11

August 24th.

Extracts from B.R.O. 24/7/16.

Promotions

No. 621 L/cpl. Phillips, A.J. to be 2nd. Lieut. 27/7/16.

No. 39 Sgt. Lukis F.W.F. " " " " "

Secondings. Lieut Palmer (deceased) seconded to M.G.S.
3rd. L. H. Brigade. dated 23/7/16.

2nd. Lieut. Lukis. F.W.F. 23.7.16.

2nd. Lieut. Phillips A.J. 23.7.16

2nd. Lieut. Brown A.N.M. 23.7.16.

Major Nicholas. C.L. seconded to command Sqdn. 23.7.16.

Establishment.

First Line Transport. Camel drivers, camels
and fantassies are a part of the unit and will accompany
same unless an action is imminent upon which they
will be Brigaded. B.R.O. 24/7/16.

P.T.O.

August 25th.

August 26th.

32 O/R. taken on strength from details
Moascar. Details camp moved from Ballybunion to
Et Malar (Romani).

August 27th.

August 28th.

3rd Aust MG SquadronAugust 29th.

Move. Operation order 29/8/16. 3rd L. A. Brigade will relieve NZ.M.R. Brigade in front line, leaving B.H.Q. at Hod. Amara. Units will hold themselves in readiness to move at short notice.

August. 30th.

Indents for winter clothing sent in.

August. 31st.

Casualties for this month were as follows,
18 O/R sick to Hospital.

1 Officer (Lieut Brown) and 3 O/R wounded.

2 Officers (Lieut Palmer & Lieut. Buckland) and 3 O/R Killed or Died of Wounds.

Received 100 remounts (riding and pack) at details camp Romani. P.T.O.

Sepr. 1st.

The re-organisation of this Sqdn again commenced, details were equipped and mounted to complete sections, as they were fully equipped they were sent to front line to complete Sqdn.

Sepr. 2nd.

Hod. Amara.

Sepr. 3rd.

Hod. Amara.

Sepr. 4th.

Hod. Amara.

1019

1 missing

2

Sepr. 5th.

Major Nicholas and 48 O/R arrived Hod. Amara from Romani Details Camp.

Sepr. 6th.

Hereafter Mark. VI. Ammunition only is to be used. All mark VIII to be returned to O/C. Amm. Column. B.R.O. 619/16.

Sepr. 7th.

8 Remounts received at Romani ex draft from Moascar Remount Depot.

P.T.O

Sepr. 8th.

Sepr. 9th.

Sepr. 10th.

Move. This Sqdn left Hod. Hassaniya at 1000 and arrived at Hod. Amara 1200.

M.G. Sqdn was allotted. camping area South. of. Hod. One gun to be mounted against enemy aircraft in conjunction with N.Z. M. R. M. G. S. 1 Gun.

Sepr. 11th.

B.R.O. 11/9/16. 2nd Lieut. Slattery. F.

2nd. Lieut. Lawry. R.G.

Lieut. Hardy.

Lieut. Harper. H.W.

} Will report to
} Sqdn at 0900
} 12/9/16.

Sepr. 12th.

Lieut. Hardy, 2nd. Lieut. Slattery and 2nd. Lieut. Lawry reported for duty.

Sepr. 13th.

Maps of Katia and Sabkett Bardawill. were issued to the Officers of the Squadron by Brigade.

Sepr. 14th.

Sepr. 15th.

Move. On operation order issued from Brigade the Squadron moved to position East of B. H. Qrs at 2300, where the Brigade formed up in mass and thence moved to Hod Salmana. reached the Hod at 0330. 16/9/16, less one section of two guns left at Amara as a protection against enemy aircraft.

Sept. 16th.

Hod. Salmana. ——— Aircraft very busy. Enemy planes machine gun opened fire, no casualties in Squadron. Watered horses at 1530 and moved with Brigade at 1800 to a point east about 6 miles. One Section with 2 guns was attached to 9th L. H. Regt and one section with 2 guns to 10th L. H. Regt. and moved towards Mazar, arriving on the outskirts of the enemy's camp at 0430 on 17/9/16.

Sept. 17th.

The 8th, 9th, & 10th Regts and 2 gun sections came in contact with enemy at 0600, and desultory firing commenced. The enemy were exceedingly well concealed and no target was obtained for Machine Guns until 0700, when fire was opened with one gun doing duty with the 10th L. H., but observation and results being poor, no other firing by Machine Guns was indulged in. At 0900 the Brigade withdrew.

2nd Lieut. Slattery killed in Action. No other casualties although the enemy opened up with very heavy fire upon withdrawal of our troops.

41/Corpl. Scott. C.G. No. 3269. A.M.C. attached to M.G. Sqdn returned under very heavy fire to render aid to 2nd. Lieut. Slattery. F., but on reaching this officer he had succumbed.

Owing to the forced march, the horses were now beginning to feel the want of water and rest. At 1100 the Brigade moved back in the direction of Salmana.

The M.G. Sqdn reached Salmana at 1700 watered and bivouaced. Many horses had dropped to the rear from fatigue and lack of water during this march.

Sept 18th.

Left Salmana at 0500 arrived at Amara at 0900.

P.T.O.

87
e101
Sepr. 19th.

All sections now complete with the exception of slight discrepancies in equipment.

Sepr. 20th.

Sepr. 21st.

Location Return rendered of wheeled transport vehicles horses and driven.

Court of enquiry into losses of horses, for period 14th - 20th Sepr. held at 10th L. H. Regt. H. Qrs. as per. B. R. O. 25/9/16.

64919

8

Sepr. 22nd.

B. R. O. 22/9/16. Hyposcopes at the rate of one per Maxim, Lewis, Vickers Guns are to be allowed. Authy. G. R. O. 191. dated. 17/9/16.

Ref. G. R. O. 188. dated. 12/9/16. issue of blankets to be increased to two per man.

Sepr. 23rd.

Ref. to G. R. O. 1733. Approval received for issue of feed bags, 1 per horse in addition to nosebags already in possession.

Transfers.

The following Officers were transferred to Machine Gun Sqdn. as per A. I. F. Orders 23/9/16.

Major. Nicholas. C. L.

Lieut. Palmer. A. D.

2nd. Lieut. Buckland. R. J.

2nd. Lieut. Brown. A. N. M.

2nd. Lieut. Lukis. F. W. F.

2nd. Lieut. Phillips. A. J.

P. T. O.

Sepr. 24th.Sepr. 25th.

B. A. Orders 28/9/16. Felt Hats to be worn,
helmets to be returned.

Sepr. 26th.Sepr. 27th.

10 O/R transferred from his Squadron to
Regiments 8th, 9th & 10th.

Sepr. 28th.Do 29th.Do 30th.

Approved Copy
C. P. Nicholas
Major
Lt. Col. Ben Squid
136.11.39