

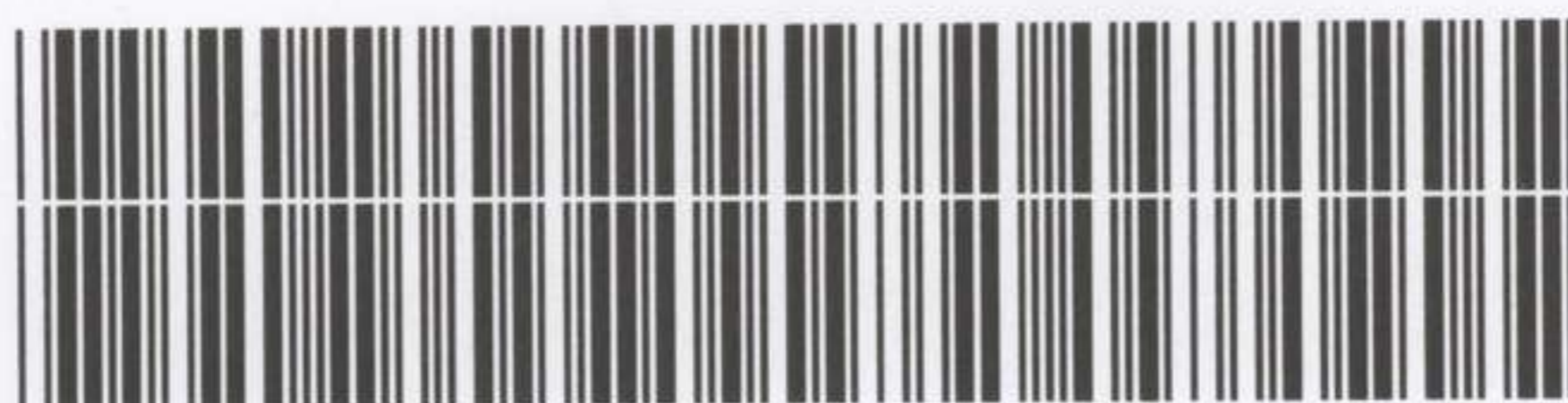
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/32/25

Title: 3rd Australian Machine Gun
Squadron

October 1918



AWM4-24/32/25

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

DUPLICATE

TRIPPLICATE.



Australian Imperial Forces.

WAR DIARY

— of —

3rd Australian Machine Gun Squadron

— for —

1st to 31st October 1918.

Signature of Officer Compiling.

A. J. Schauer Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding G. H. Bryant

Capt.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------|------|--|---|
| DUMAR | 1/10/18 | 0500 | <p>A + E subsections reported to O.C. Advance Guard (C.O. 10th Lt Regt) and Lieut Patterson with "A" subsection immediately reported to O.C. Van Guard. "E" subsection remained with main Guard. Remainder of Squadron marched with main body of Brigade. The Brigade advanced through DUMAR and thence to DAMASCUS, via the Beirut Road thence N.E. along the Aleppo Road. On passing through DUMAR the damage done to the enemy on previous night by our machine gun fire could plainly be seen. Many houses were full of wounded and dead whilst the road and side tracks by which the enemy attempted to escape were littered with dead and wounded men and animals, a great number of guns, waggons motor Lorries etc also blocked the road.</p> <p>0645 Squadron marched through DAMASCUS. The inhabitants appeared to be greatly pleased to see the entry of British troops into the town.</p> <p>0930 Advance Guard gained touch with enemy who were established in a house on the E side of the Road in the vicinity of HARISTA-EL-BASEL and Lieut Patterson immediately ordered "A" + "E" subsections to come into action at a range of about 600'. After about 20 minutes fighting the enemy gave way and retired in a N.E. direction through the vineyards and orchards in the vicinity of the Aleppo Road and also along a track running N by W from this point. A running fight ensued and this section came into action several times at close range doing great damage to the enemy causing him to abandon several machine guns as well as inflicting numerous casualties on his personnel and transport animals. The enemy had by this time arrived at KHAN-KHOSSIER and had established themselves in the houses and vineyards in the vicinity.</p> <p>1230 By this time Capt Bryant had come forward with "D" sub-section and these three subsections immediately came into action against the house at ranges under 100'. After a very brief action about 40 of the enemy were captured. The remainder continued to retire in a N. direction.</p> | <p>REF. MAP. SYRIA-BEIRUT 1/250,000</p> |

L. H. Bryant Capt.

WAR DIARY (2)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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| DUMAR | 11/10/18 | 1230 1300 | <p>Towards the foothills. During this action two horses were killed and two men wounded. The machine gun fire inflicted several casualties on the enemy's transport animals and forced him to abandon about 12 machine guns. One subsection immediately came into action on the top of the house and opened fire on the enemy at ranges up to 2000 yards. After the enemy gained the foothills he retired NE evidently with the intention of reaching the ALLEPPO road about KHAN-AYASH.</p> <p>Enemy force at this time numbered 3000.</p> <p>Lieut Patterson with A subsection and one detachment 'E' subsection (the other detachment of this subsection had become immobile owing to the distressed state of the pack horses) with one Squadron 10th L. H. advanced well round to the right of the enemy with the object of gaining the road at about KHAN AYASH and thus cutting off the enemy's retreat. It was found however that the enemy had already established infantry and machine guns at KHAN AYASH and behind the underground water channel in the vicinity. This Squadron (10th L. H.) and 3 machine guns made several attempts to advance against this position but were each time beaten back by enemy machine gun fire. In the meantime the remainder of the Squadron had advanced and came into action at a point about 3000 yards S.W. of KHAN AYASH against enemy's right flank at range of about 1800 yds. Harassing fire was brought to bear on the enemy for about 20 minutes and then an advance was made to further position NE where the Squadron again came into action against the enemy's flank + KHAN AYASH at ranges varying from 1400 to 1100. The enemy however fought a brilliant flank and rearguard action and gained the pass about 2000 yards N of KHAN-AYASH and the action was broken off at about 1545.</p> | <p>Ref MAP SYRIA-BERVIT 1/250,000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">L. A. Bryant Capt</p> |

(A7092). W.L. W12839/M1293. 759,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms C/2118/14.

WAR DIARY

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|-----------|---------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| KHANAYASH | 1/10/18 | 1400 1815 2000 2015 2100 | Squadron concentrated at a point about 4 miles SW of KHANAYASH. Squadron marched for Rivonac area about 2000 yds NE of DUMA. Squadron arrived at Rivonac area just S. of Road at a point 2000* NE. of DUMA. Lieut Crawley and party of 70 O/Rs proceeded to DUMA to draw grain for horses. Horses were watered in a channel in the vicinity. Horses had not been fed since yesterday morning but were watered at 1100 today. Party returned with grain and horses were fed. Local protection was posted and all ranks settled down for the night. | Rf Map SYRIA-BERUIT 1/250,000 |
| DUMA | 2/10/18 | 0030 0600 0700 0430 1100 1500 2000 | 6. L. S. Waggon (Transport with unit) rejoined Squadron. Owing to rough nature of the country these and the pace of the column these waggons had fallen out of the column in the vicinity of KAVKAB and had come on with the Artillery of the Division. These waggons carried 42,000 rds S.A.A. which was much needed at this time as the ammunition with the Squadron did not amount to more than 8000 rounds. Reveille. B.C.D + E. Subsections under Capt Bryant marched out to report to 9 th L. H. Regt who had marched out to engage a force of about 1500 of the enemy who were advancing N towards KHAN-AYASH. A + F. Subsections marched NE along ALEPPO Road. No machine gun action took place however as the enemy surrendered to 9 th L. H. Regt after a few shots had been fired. A.E + G. Subsections arrived back at Rivonac area. Remainder of Squadron remained in the vicinity of KHANAYASH throughout the day to assist in holding the road if necessary. Rations One mobile ration and grain from supply in addition to Tibbin drawn from local sources. A.E + F Subsections marched out to relieve B.C + D subsections. B.C + D subsections arrived at Squadron Headquarters. | |

G. H. Bryant
Capt

(A7092). Wt. W12539/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|---------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| DUMA | 3/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille. Squadron (less 3 subsections at KHAN-AYASH) remained in bivouac area. Rations Rations were drawn on same scale as on 2 nd inst. | Ref. map SYRIA-BERVIT 1/250000 |
| | 4/10/18 | 0600 0930 1400 1510 2010 | Reveille B & D. subsections marched out to relieve A, E & F. subsections Whole Squadron concentrated at Squadron Headquarters. Squadron marched with Brigade for Bivouac area S. W. of Damascus. Arrived at point about 4 miles W by S from Damascus and bivouaced for the night. Rations same as 2 nd inst. | |
| EL-MAUDHAMIYE | 5/10/18 | 0100 0830 0945 | Reveille Resumed marched Arrived at Bivouac area 1 mile S of EL MAUDHAMIYE and preparations were made to camp. Mobile rations in addition to 9 lbs grain and 6 lbs Tibben were drawn from local sources. | |
| | 6/10/18 | 0600 1000 | Reveille Church parade Rations - Local ration consisting of $\frac{3}{4}$ lb per man + 1 lb bread in addition to vegetables, 6 lbs Tibben and 9 lbs grain. | |
| | 7/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille 12 ofs to Damascus and 6 L & S to aggons reporting to O.C. Local supplies for duty. Mobile Ration, Ordinary grain and local Tibben. | |
| | 8/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations (No tea or sugar ration drawn between 5 th + 8 th inst). | |
| | 9/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Moved from EL MAUDHAMIYE to bivouac area $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S of KAUKAB. Local Rations issued. | H. H. Bryant Capt. |

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|---------|----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| KAUKA B | 10/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille. Local ration issue. | Ref map SYRIA-KAUKAB |
| | 11/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Motive Ration issued. Local grain + tibben. | |
| | 12/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local and iron rations issued Local grain + tibben. | |
| | 13/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local rations issued. | |
| | 14/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local rations and grain + tibben. 2 days emergency rations issued for man and horse. | |
| | 15/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations Grain + Tibben. | |
| | 16/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations Grain + Tibben issued. 60 P of War arrived from P/W Compound. | |
| | 17/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations. 1 Days special grain + tibben consumed. 60 P/W from compound 7 of 80 Ruffs marched in ex Moascar. also 6 sides 1 Pack + 2 brought horses. Information received that military medals had been awarded to following N.C. Os. LCpl Antonio J. HCpl Liddellow W. J. and LCpl Randall A J. | |
| | 18/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations. 1 Days emergency grain + tibben consumed. Lieut Moore rejoined ex Ludd. | |
| | 19/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations and Tibben. Ordinary grain issue 2 brought horses handed over to Notts R. H.A. | |

W. H. Bryant
capt

(A7094) Wt. W. 12859/31293-750,000-1/17-D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms C. 2118-14

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------|----------|------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| KAUKAB | 20/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille. Moved to KAUKAB from KAUKAB . EL MURDHAMIYE. £20 Canteen Goods bought from Canteen Funds for Troops. £8 100 pay drawn and paid out to Troops. Local Rations + tibben | ALP |
| | 21/10/18 | 0600 1430 | Reveille. Sgt B.R. YELLS. D.C.M. marched out to Cadet School. 6 Drivers and 3 L.H.I. reported back from Damascus for duty. Corp Commander visited Brigade and inspected Squadron lines. Local Rations tibben + grain drawn and 2 days special emergency grain drawn. | ALP |
| | 22/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations grain + tibben drawn. | ALP |
| | 23/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille. Local Rations + tibben + ordinary grain issued. | ALP |
| | 24/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Local Rations and Tibben + ordinary grain issued. Heavy showers fell at intervals throughout the day and night. Australian + English mail arrived. | ALP |
| | 25/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille Orders received to be prepared to move at 6 hours notice. 40 extra blankets drawn from BHA for use of men sick in lines. Following maps received, Lupoli 10 copies. Ladikiya 8 copies. Local Rations and grain + tibben drawn. | ALP H.W. Bryant Capt. |

(A7093). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms C. 2118-14

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|----------|--|--|---|
| KAUKAB. | 26/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille. Local Rations + Tibben + ordinary grain drawn - Two days sugar issue made up. Orders received with reference to march to HOMS. | |
| | 27/10/18 | 0600 | Reveille. left Bivouac site at 1000 and arrived JOBAH at 1545. Watered at 1630 and bivouaced for the night. Ordnance stores drawn - 150 Bivouac sheets, 50 for 10 th . Three days rations were carried on the man and one iron ration, 1 ration for man + horse on B. Schelan and on Divisional Train 1 ration for man and 2 for horses. | |
| JOBAH | 28/10/18 | 0545 | Reveille. marched for KHAN-KHOSSIER (about 12 miles) at 1015 and arrived at 1445. Watered at 1600 and bivouaced for the night. 150 Bivouac sheets drawn also 50 for 10 th L.H. | |
| KHAN-KHOSSIER | 29/10/18 | 0430 | Reveille marched for KUTEIFFE at 0615 and arrived at 1145 after watering in village. Two pounds of grain + Tibben were drawn from the village to make up the ration on Divisional Train to 10 lbs. Orders received to march to NEBK on 30/10/18. | |
| KUTEIFE | 30/10/18 | 0500 0400 1545 1830 | Reveille. marched out for NEBK. Halted for lunch at 1200 and resumed march at 1300 arrived at NEBK at 1545. Squadron proceeded to water horses and then bivouaced for the night. Orders received ref march to HOMS (final stage). One days rations and fodder issued. | Rf Map. SYRIA - TRIPOLI 1250.000 |
| NEBK. | 31/10/18 | 0400 0545 0900 1005 1545 1700 | Reveille Squadron marched out with Brigade. Arrived at FARA where horses were watered March resumed for HASIE where it was intended to get drinking water for troops if obtainable. Arrived at HASIE and found no drinking water obtainable. Brigade halted + horses were fed + troops had a meal. Orders received to march to a point 6 miles forward towards SHAMSIM. | |

G. H. Bryant
Capt.

WAR DIARY

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------|----------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| HASI E | 31/10/18 | 1900 | Arrived at stated point, where Brigade rested until 2330. Drinking water was obtained from point about 2 miles E of Rivonaa area. Our days rations and fodder were issued. | Ref map SYRIA - TRIPOLI |
| HOM5. | | 2330 | March was resumed SHAM5IN was passed through about one hour later and HOM5 at 0515 on 1 st November 1918 | 1/210,000 |

G. M. Bryant
Capt.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---|------|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Effective Strength for Weeks ending:</u> | | | | |
| | | | Off O/Rs | |
| | Oct | 5 th | 8 166 | (Signature) |
| | " | 12 th | 8 161 | (Signature) |
| | " | 19 th | 8 166 | (Signature) |
| | " | 26 th | 8 165 | (Signature) |
| G. H. B. ant capt- | | | | |