

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/33/10

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun
Squadron

December 1917



AWM4-24/33/10

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.)

Vol. VV Page T E21/1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1/12/17	0130	The enemy delivered an attack from the direction of Shilfa on the line held by the Bde on our left protecting EI-BURS.	
		0530	This attack continued to be pressed throughout the hours of darkness, no movement was visible on our front. The guns of 'A' Sub-Bde and reserve guns were held in readiness to support if necessary when the light permitted the troops who were holding this attack, the remainder of enemy force surrendering. This support was not required.	
	2/12/17		Consolidation of Bde line. Guns in front line registering & ranging.	
	3/12/17		Further consolidation of front line. all Reserve Belt Ammun. cleared and adjusted.	
			Reserve Guns (C/O Sub-Bde. under Lieut Paterson) employed indirect overhead fire throughout the day from a suitable position in J34.C 54 on Roman Road in J28 47B HARRIYEH and the track which crosses the Roman Road at that place, these guns were distributed over the same area and layed for night firing with a limited traverse. Fire was maintained at irregular intervals throughout the night. During the day observation for these guns was only obtained with difficulty through the forward patrols of an Inf. Batten on our right. 7,000 rounds were expended.	

- DEC 1917

CAPT
CO. 4th A.M.G. SQDN.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Vol. VV.

Page II.

E 21/2

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	4/12/17		<p>Instructions received through Bde that all guns were to be employed for "indirect fire". The guns of C & D Sub. Secs maintained fire on similar targets to previous day. The guns in front line being allotted portion of the Roman Road tracks, and occupied areas which could be searched from their positions. Construction of second-line of defence. Reserve Gun were allotted positions in this line.</p> <p>Information received from Bde that the enemy had placed a Machine Gun near the base of a large tree in 28B. The reserve guns having been layed on night lines on this position it was possible to bring fire to bear. 700 rounds were fired. The enemy did not fire again from this position.</p> <p>Word received that the enemy had withdrawn from the line he had previously occupied, & orders received to be prepared to move at 1/4 hours notice.</p> <p>Moved forward with Bde with object of taking a new line, as follows: J15B to J16B. "C & D" Sub. Sec (under Lt. Paterson) were placed in line held by 11th Regt. "E & F" Sub. Sec (Lt. Francis & Gregory) were placed in line held by 12th Regt. Remnants of Regt. were in reserve. J15D.</p>	
	5/12/17	0700		<p>DEC 1917</p> <p>CO 4th AM C. SQDN</p>

WAR DIARY

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Vol. VI Page. III.

E 21/3

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	6/12/17	0810.	Consolidation of Bde line. "b" Sub. Sec from a position J.15B 85 when covering a forward patrol, which had moved in the direction of DEIR-EL-KUDOIS silenced an enemy Machine Gun which fired on this patrol from Z 28Bc	
		1030.	This sub. Sec fired on 40 enemy Inf in column of route in Z 28D, these troops rapidly dispersed & took cover	
		1500	20 horses were also fired on, having galloped away from our shell fire in Z 28D.C. no observation could be obtained range 2200 yds. Heavy rain fell throughout the day & night.	
	7/12/17	0700	The above Sub. Sec again silenced the enemies guns who were firing on our patrol, which had crept up within 300 yds of his position.	
	8/12/17	0800	Forward reconnaissances by Ld & Section officers, of enemy position with a view to future operations, "b" Sub. Sec guns were again employed to cover this reconnaissance.	
	9/12/17	1400	Orders received for 11 th Regt to withdraw from line, and that the Bde line was to be extended to the right taking over to GUFFA incl. A. & B. Sub. Sec were placed in this new portion of line with 11 th Regt.	

DEC 1917
 W. J. ... CAPT.
 CO. 47th A. M. G. SQDN.

Place Date Hour.

25-12-17 Orders received that Enemy were concentrating to attack "F" Sub. Sec: was held in readiness throughout the night to reinforce the line. Heavy rain fell throughout day & night.

26-12-17 1000 "F" Sub. Sec (under Lt Macdonald) reinforced the line.
1600 E Sub. Sec: (Lt Francis) moved out of Bde reserve with 11th L.H. Regt, who were doing outpost on the line J8 C, 9 C, & 10 C.

27-12-17 0500 Unit, less E Sub. Sec: moved to forward position which had been previously taken up by 11th L.H. Regt, orders being received that 11th & 4th Regts would demonstrate against KUOOIS. This unit supported this demonstration by bringing overhead covering fire on to enemy positions. A forward observing officer (Lt Paterson) proceeded to J4 A and directed fire. 20000 rounds SAA was expended during this operation. Casualties Nil.

28/12/17 Consolidation of new line. Refilling of belts, overhauling of Guns.

29/12/17 0600 Bde moved forward & took up line Tweeth, point 1179. J27 C. "A" & "B" Sub. Secs: (under Lt Macdonald) accompanied 4th Regt. "C" & "D" Sub. Sec: (Lt Francis) accompanied 11th Regt. "F" Sub. Sec: (Lt Gregory) went into reserve with 12th Regt, 200 yds N. of KUOOIS. "E" Sub. Sec, remained with Sqdn HQ on Streikh Aboulla.

30/12/17 Great transport difficulty was experienced, pack horses having to be used to bring forward ammunition & supplies. Consolidation of new line. Due to the transport difficulty sections had to construct pack roads to their respective positions. SAA Dump established at KUOOIS.

31-12-17 1000 Relieved from present position by Infantry & ordered to proceed to new line. 1179 (excl.) to 7A (incl.) "A" & "B" Sub. Sec: remained with 4th Regt. "E" & "F" Sub. Sec: (Lt Gregory) with 12th Regt. "C" & "D" (Lt Francis) with Sqdn HQ, in Bde reserve at RAFTY.

Ref. Palestine 1/6x760, sheet XXIV.

Reinforcements taken on 21s during Dec. = 23. OR.
 Admitted to Hosp. " " = 17. "
 Casualties for Dec. = 1. OR wounded.

DEC 1917

[Signature] CAPT.
 CO. 4th A. M. G. 5207.