

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/33/26

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun
Squadron

April 1919



AWM4-24/33/26

CONFIDENTIAL.

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TRIPLICATE.



Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4TH. AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN SQDN.

FOR

APRIL.

1919



Signature of Officer compiling

Everidge

Signature of Officer Commanding

V. M. Harper

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.

Vol. XXVII, Page 1.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Effective Strength:- 11 off 203.0/Rs. 201 Horses, 8 Mules.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Damanhour.	1.4.19. to 15.4.1919.		3 Officers and 42 O/Ranks detached with the 11th. A.L.H. Regiment at Mansoura. 3 Officers and 62 O/Ranks detached with the 4th A.L.H. Regiment at Abu Matamir. Rations, Fodder, and water, sent to the latter every alternate day, by Motor Lorry. Damanhour Town Picquet of 1 Sgt. & 6 men supplied daily.		
	16.4.19.		Camp Routine.		
	17.4.19.		Camp Routine.		
	18.4.19.		Instructions received to march out all men awaiting embark- ation to U.K. 10% Leave Scheme.		
	19.4.19.		Captain R.B. Dixon reported for duty as second in Command.		
	20.4.19.		Supplied 1 Off: & 12 men for Guard duty at Damanhour.		
	21.4.19.		1 Officer proceeded to U.K. Moascar to await embarkation to U.K.		
	22.4.19.		3 O/Ranks proceeded to Moascar for early repatriation to Australia.		
	23.4.19.		4 O/Ranks to Railway Construction Zagazig, from Detached Column at Mansoura.		
	24.4.19.		Lecture given by Major Hyman on Demobilisation, attended by Squadron in the 4th A.L.H. Regt lines.		
	25.4.19.		Camp Routine. 2 Guns sent to Column at Abu Matamir.		
	26.4.19.		1 Officer proceeded to Moascar for early repatriation to Australia.		
	27.4.19.		Voluntary Church Parade.		
	28.4.19.		Camp Routine.		
	29.4.19.		Camp Routine.		
	30.4.19.		Camp Routine.		
			Appendices attached.		
				<i>[Signature]</i> Major. C.O. 4th. Aust. Machine Gun Squadron.	
				Summary for month of April.	
				Effective Strength. 11 Off. & 175 O/Ranks. 200 Horses. 8 Mul	
				1 Off and 16 O/Ranks to U.K. 4 O/Rs to Rail: Constr.	
				1 Off " 3 " to Aust. 1 Ride evac to Zagazig, from	
				1 Off taken on strength. Mobile Column.	
				Evac Sick 1. Casualties Nil.	

[Signature]
Confiling officer

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WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Machine Gun Squadron.

FOR

April.

1919.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

1. Report of Mobile Column at Mansoura, from 21.3.19 to 12.4.19.

" " " " " 13.4.19. to 18.4.19.

" " " " " 19.4.19 to 25.4.19.

2. Report of Mobile Column at Abu Matamir, from 21.3.19 to 12.4.19.

" " " " " 13.4.19 to 18.4.19.

" " " " " 19.4.19 to 25.4.19.

3. Report of remainder of Squadron., 20.3.19. to 12.4.19.

No!

Report on Mobile Column under Lieut. H. J. Paterson, operating with the 11th Light Horse Regiment. From 21.3.19. to 12.4.1919, both dates inclusive.

- 21.3.19. Left Moascar at 0845 and marched to Tel-el-Kebir, arriving there at 1800 same day.
- 22.3.19. Tel-el-Kebir. Was allotted bivouac area, horses and men under cover. Arranged cordon of Sentries round Camp, to safe-guard against raiders entering Camp area.
- 23.3.19. C.Os to Admincom's Office to go through defence scheme, with Lt. Col. Alexander Commanding Troops, Tel-el-Kebir.
- 24.3.19. Visited by Divisional Commander. Owing to "B" Squadron 11th L.H. Regiment having to supply extra picquets, M.G. Section sent 1 Officer and 12 O/Ranks to demonstrate through several villages four miles N.E. of Tel-el-Kebir.
- 25.3.19. Got permission to try Guns from Officer Commanding Tel-el-Kebir.
- 26.3.19. C.Os to Admincom's Office to meet LT. Col. Alexander Commanding Tel-el-Kebir, and LT. Col. Shaw 3rd. Ghurkas, and allotted different posts, which were to be manned in case of trouble.
- 27.3.19. Received word that 1500 natives were going to make an attack on P. of W. Compound. Posts were doubled, but nothing happened.
- 28.3.19. 1 Officer and 12 O/Ranks to village, four miles N.E. of Tel-el-Kebir.
- 29-3-19. 1 Officer despatched to Moascar on duty.
- 30-3-19. Remained in Camp.
- 31-3-19. C.Os met LT. Col. Bailey at Tel-el-Kebir railway station to receive instructions re moving.
- 1.4.19. Left Tel-el-Kebir at 0600 and marched to EQUA, arriving there at 1800 same day, and bivouaced for the night.
- 2.4.19. Left EQUA at 0900 and marched to SEMBELHWEIN arriving there at 1500, and bivouaced for the night.
- 3.4.19. Mansoura. Left SEMBELHWEIN at 0800 and marched to MANSURA, arriving there at 1300 same day, and bivouaced.
- 4.4.19. Section stood to, saddled all day, the people very excited.
- 5.4.19. All Camp arrangements completed.



Continued.

(2).

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- 6.4.19. Inspected by G.O.C 3rd L.H. Brigade .1 Sub-Section standing to.
7.4.19. Section held in readiness , to move at short notice .People very unsettled.
8.4.19. Lieut. Taylor and 12 O/Ranks and one Gun despatched to FARRASKUOR to cover working party, arriving back to Camp 1900.
8.4.19. Section stood to arms all day. 1800 all clear.
10-4-19. 0900 word received that Natives were very unsettled , and was ordered to stand to. 1700 all clear.
11.4.19. Everything quiet. 10% leave granted to visit Mansoura.
12.4.19. Remained in Camp.

Mansoura.
13.4.19.

(Sgd.) H.J. Paterson. Lieut.
CO. M.G. Section attd. 11th L.H. Regt.

Report on Mobile Column under Lieut. H.J. Paterson , operating with the 11th Light Horse Regiment, under Lieut. Col. Bailey. From 13.4.19 to 18.4.19, both dates inclusive.

Mansoura.

- 13.4.19. Supplied mounted patrol of 1 officer and 10 O/Ranks, for patrol duty in Mansoura.
14.4.19. Supplied 1 H.C.O and 10 men, dismounted picquet in Mansoura
15.4.19. Supplied 1 Officer and 10 O/Ranks, for mounted picquet.
16.4.19. Alarm Orders issued and stations detailed.
17.4.19. All Officers and N.C.Os made reconnaissance of Streets , with a view, to getting to different points by shortest routes.
Supplied 1 N.C.O and 6 men Regimental Working Party.
18.4.19. Drew S.A.A. to complete 5500 rounds per gun.
Supplied dismounted picquet of 1 N.C.O and 10 men.

Mansoura. 18.4.19.

(Sg) .H.J. Paterson. Lieut.
O.C. M.G. sects. Attd. 11th. L.H. Regt.

Report of movements of Mobile Column under Lieut. H. J. Paterson ,
operating with the 11th A.L.H. Regt. under Lieut-Col Bailey ,
from 19.4.19 to 25.4.1919 both dates inclusive.

Mansoura.

- 19.4.19. Supplied 1 Officer and 10 O/Ranks for mounted picquet.
Supplied 1 N.C.O and 6 men for Regimental working party.
- 20.4.19. Supplied dismounted picquet of 1 N.C.O and 10 men.
- 21.4.19. Supplied Regimental Q.M.S. working party of 1 N.C.O
and 6 men.
All ranks confined to Camp during feast of Shem-el-Nassin.
- 22.4.19. Supplied dismounted picquet of 1 N.C.O and 10 men .
All officers called to Military Headquarters Mansoura
to receive instructions in case of emergency.
- 23.4.19. Supplied 1 N.C.O and 6 men for R.Q.M.S. working party.
- 24.4.19. 1 Officer detailed to investigate re four Krupp Guns,
reported to be in the vicinity.
- 25.4.19. Supplied dismounted picquet of 1 N.C.O and 10 men.

Mansoura.

(Sgd) .H. J. Paterson. Lieut.
O.C. 4th. M.G. Sections, Attd. 11th L.H. Regt



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No. 2.
Report of Mobile Column under Lieut. E. Swan, operating with 4th L.H. Regt under Major Reid, from 30.3.19 to 12.4.19 both dates inclusive.

- (1) Moved out from Damanhour at 1000 on 30.3.1919, and travelled along south bank of MAHMUDWA CANAL to KAHR-EL-DAWAR arriving there at 1600 on same day. Camped at KAHR-EL-DAWAR night of 30/31st.
- (2) Moved from KAHR-EL-DAWAR at 0530 on 31.3.1919 in two parties. One Section under Lieut. C.J. McKay visited villages N.W. of KAHR-EL-DAWAR between canal MAHMUDWA and ALEXANDRIA railway line, as far KILO 190. Search was made for arms and ammunition. Three prisoners found in possession of shot guns, these were brought in. Villagers reported orderly.

Two Sections under Lieut. E. Swan and 2/Lieut. A. Abercrombie respectively, travelled SOUTH WEST from KAHR-EL-DAWAR along railway to EL-WASTARIYA, KOM-EL-BIRKA, KOM-EL-HOGG, KOM ISHU, EL-ES-SABIN to railway at KILO 185. One shot-gun was found at EL-WASTARIYA; powder and ammunition at KOM-EL-HOGG. No opposition or disturbance in any of villages searched.

1.4.19; 2.4.19; spent in Camp at KAHR-EL-DAWAR.

At 0700 on 3.4.19, the whole column 4th L.H. and M.G. Sections moved from KAHR-EL-DAWAR in SOUTHERLY direction, and visited KOM-EL-BIRKEL, BARDALD, SIDI GHAZI to KOM-EL-HANASH.

Route followed was along the DELTA railway line with a strong patrol under Lieut. C.J. McKay to EL-BASLAGUN, and thence to KOM-EL-MAGAYER and KOM-EL-HANASH. The bridge over the NUBARIYA MARSH was slightly burned, but passable to all except wheeled traffic.

Inhabitants quiet but not friendly.

Prisoners arrested were last night 3/4th inst detained in prison KOM-EL-HANASH, to be sent to KAHR-EL-DAWAR to-day.

SHEIKHS were not at all helpful with evidence, and several arrests were made amongst the SHEIKHS and GAFFIERS.

Two prisoners at KAHR-EL-DAWAR, and six more sent there on 4.4.19 from KOM-EL-HANASH. One man at KAHR-EL-DAWAR charged with "Shooting British Troops". Most of the others are charged with complicity.

Whole Column, 4th L.H. and M.G. Sections moved from KOM-EL-HANASH at 1000 on 4.4.19 through EL GHAYATA to ABU MATAMIR, and bivouaced there night 4/5th inst. Whole Column moved out from MATAMIR at 0500 5.4.19, and thoroughly searched the villages of EL MAHARIB KISKEH. All the male inhabitants of these villages were taken prisoners, and taken back to MATAMIR for interrogation.

No. 1, 2 and 3 Sections EZ SOC, AGR-ET-INDUST were also visited. The Column returning to MATAMIR at 1400 on same day.

At 1000 on 7.4.19, a patrol under Lieut. E. Swan travelled along North Bank of HAGIR CANAL about two miles; then proceeded NORTH to ZAWYET SALIM, KOM-ET-TIBN, EZ MATOSSIAN, and back through EZ NIFFAH and EZ-ET-HRAWA. Patrol reported all quiet in this area.

At 0500 on 8.4.19, a patrol under Lieut. C.J. McKay went south across HAGIR CANAL, crossed NUBARIYA CANAL. All Bedouin huts in the vicinity were searched for arms and ammunition. Reported all quiet, and no arms or ammunition found.

30/4/19



(2). Cont'd.

At 1000 on 9.4.19, a patrol of 20 O/Ranks under 2/Lieut.A.Abercrombie proceeded along HAGIR CANAL EAST to DELTA railway; thence to EL RICO STATION. At EL RICO, information was received ~~from xxxxxxxx inhabitants~~ of the whereabouts of the four SHEIKHS who had been ringleaders of the trouble in ABU MATAMIR district. Patrol returned to ABU MATAMIR by way of EZ-EL-MARKIB. Reported all quiet, and inhabitants friendly.

10.4.1919; 11.4.1919 and 12.4.1919 spent in Camp at ABU MATAMIR.

(Sgd). E. Swan. Lieut.

O.C.M.G. Sectns. Attd. 4th L.H. Regt.

ABU MATAMIR.

12/4/1919.

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Report on Mobile Column Column under Lieut E. Swan, operating with 4th L.H. Regt under Major Reid. From 13.4.1919 to 18.4.1919 both dates inclusive.

Abu-Matamir.

13.4.1919. Spent in Camp.

14.4.1919. 2 O/Ranks to Hospital Damanhour.

15.4.1919. Patrols under Lieut. C.J. McKay and 2/Lieut. A. Abercrombie moved from Abu-Matamir at 1000, and visited No. 2. Farm on Belgian Society's Estate. Returned to Camp at 1300 same day, and reported all quiet in neighbourhood.

16.4.1919. Party consisting of 1 Off and 15 O/Ranks under Lieut. C.J. McKay accompanied 4th L.H. Regt to Kom-Truga Station. Moved from Abu-Matamir at 1500 and returned to Camp at 1800 same day. Reported all quiet in locality.

17.4.1919. Spent in Camp.

18.4.1919. Lieut. A. Abercrombie accompanied Major Reid with small patrol to Hosh Isa, moving from Abu Matamir at 0900 and returning to camp at 1400. Hosh Isa, reported all quiet.

Abu Matamir.

18.4.1919.

(Sgd.) A. Abercrombie. 2/Lieut.
For O.C.M.G. Sections, attd. 4th L.H. Colmn.

FOR O.C.M.C. Sections, at 1401 G. H. Colman
 Building, A. A. (280) 280

184.1212

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1884-1885 about 1000

Report of movements of Mobile Column under Lieut. E. Swan, operating with the 4th L.H. Column under Major Reid. From 19.4.19 to 25.4.19, both dates inclusive.

Abu Matamir. Patrol under 2/Lieut. A. Abercrombie moved out to
19.4.19. Nubaria Canal at 0930, and returned at 1300.
Reported all quiet.

20.4.19. The whole Column moved from camp to Markab at 1030,
where a race meeting was held. Returned to Camp at 1700.

21.4.19. A patrol consisting of 5 Officers including 2 M.G.
Officers proceeded to Gianacalis Farm. Returned to
camp at 1800. Reported all quiet in neighbourhood.

22.4.19. Lieut. C. J. McKay proceeded to Abu Matamir, Baharia, and
searched villages for arms and ammunition. None found.
Patrol returned at 1400 (10 O/Ranks accompanied Lieut
McKay).

23.4.19. Spent in Camp.

24.4.19. Patrol under Lieut. C. J. McKay proceeded to El Ricd.
Hosh Isa and surrounded villages. Four arrests made.
Returned to Camp at 1600.

25.4.19. Patrol under Lieut. E. Swan proceeded to Hosh Isa to repo
-rt on situation there. Returned to Camp at 1400.

Abu-Matamir.

(Sgd) A. Abercrombie 2/Lieut.
For O.C. 4th Aust. M.G. Sects. Attd. 4th
Light Horse Column.



No 3

Report of the movements of the 4th Australian Machine Gun Squadron,
from 20.3.19 to 12.4.19 both dates inclusive.

- Moascar. Complete Saddlery and Guns drawn from A.O.D. Seventy four (74)
20.3.19. horses drawn from Remount Depot Moascar.
Instructions received from 4th L.H. Brigade, that two (2) Sub-
Sections would be fully equipped, and mounted, and ready to
move out on the 21st. inst.
- 21.3.19. Two (2) Sub-Sections under Lieut. H. J. Paterson marched out to
Tel-el- Kebir with the 11th Light Horse Regiment.
- 22.3.19. One hundred and forty five horses drawn from the Remount
Depot.
- 23.3.19. Instructions received from 4th L.H. Brigade, that Squadron,
less Section at Tel-el-Kebir would entrain at 0330 on 24th
inst. for Damanhour. All necessary arrangements for move made.
- 24.3.19. Horses trucked at 0330, entrained at 0530, arrived at Damanhour
1600, and moved to bivouac site about one mile north of the
Damanhour. Railway Station.
- 27.3.19. Instructions received that Unit would come under the Command
of G.O.C. 2nd. Light Horse Brigade.
- 30.3.19. 2 Officers and 62 O/ranks moved out under Lieut. E. Swan, as
Mobile Column to Kafr-el-Dawar, under the Command of Major
Reid 4th L.H. Regiment.

Squadron Headquarters remained at Damanhour, also 2 Sub-
Sections. Camp Routine. Damanhour Town Picquet of 1 Sgt &
6 men supplied daily.

Detailed report on operations from G.O.C. ~~in charge~~ mobile
Columns temporarily detached with the 11th Light Horse Regt,
and 4th Light Horse Regiment attached hereto.

13.4.19.

E. Swan 2/Lieut.
For. E.O. 4th. Aust. Machine Gun Squadron.

