

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

Machine Guns

Item number: 24/33/8

Title: 4th Australian Machine Gun
Squadron

October 1917



AWM4-24/33/8

Original

OCT 1917

WAR DIARY

4th Aust. Mach Gun Squadron

(4th A.L.H. Bde)

PERIOD. 1-10-17 To 31-10-17

Vol. VII

PAGES. I II III IV V VI VII VIII



J.D. Mac Millan Capt.
+ Col 4th A.L.H. Bde

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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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
TEL-EL-FARA	1/10/17		<p>Syllabus of Training continued, special Inst. for N.C.O's on "Map Reading". Preparations made for moving out on 24 hours reconnaissance with the Bde.</p> <p>0530 "A" Sub. Sec moved out with 4th L.H. Regt to take over Day Outposts.</p> <p>2-10-17 1800 Moved off with the Bde in the direction of on reconnaissance. (covering 74th Div & officers of 20th Corps, who were to reconnoitre the country made good.)</p> <p>1230 Day outposts with "A" Sub. Sec made good the line 720-630.</p> <p>1400 The advance guard, 12th Regt with "F" Sub. Sec. 4th A.M.G.S. had made good the line, 840 (excl) 820, 810, 770, 730 (incl.) The 4th Regt with "A" Sub. Sec had moved forward to the line 730 (excl) 630, 550, 510, Two Tree Hill point 300. The Squadns, less 2 Sub. Secs, remained in reserve 1 mile N.E. of EL-BUGGA.</p> <p>2200 Withdrawal commenced, "A" & "F" Sub. Secs withdrawing with the Regts to which they were attached.</p> <p>3/10/17 21430 "C" Sub. Sec bivouaced with 2 Squadns 11th Regt at garden 1/2 mile E of gap in mine opposite main FARA crossing, preparatory to taking up Day outposts.</p> <p>0130 Arrived at camping area FARA. Casualties Nil. Enemy not engaged.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">- OCT 1917</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> 9779ac/Nullam Capt. Number no 400 10/10/17 </p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
		0430	Blood to Arms - all clear 0520.	
	3-10-17		<p>Report less 'C' Sub. Sec, cleaning, dubbing of Saddlery, general adjustments etc after operation, ablution parade in afternoon.</p> <p>'C' Sub. Sec accompanied 11th Regt on Day Outpost. The enemy were twice engaged, on Hill 630 where his outposts had taken up a position. There is reason to believe that each gun fire on the second occasion, ^{at least,} was effective. 1100 Rounds S.A.A. were expended. There were no casualties, 1 horse was killed by Rifle fire when galloping into action. This sub. sec ret'd to</p> <p>1900 Returned to camp. (Report of Day's operation by OC. This sub. sec attached hereto)</p>	
	4-10-17	0430	<p>Blood to Arms - all clear 0530.</p> <p>No 3 Section on Day Outpost 'F' Sub. Sec accompanied outpost. Again to Goz-el-BASAI & from there operated in conjunction with this Sqdn in the direction of 630. Enemy patrols sighted but none within effective range. 'E' Sub. Sec accompanied outpost reserve Sqdn, to a position square of GAZA Shell 1/40,000.</p> <p>0915 This Section returned to camp. This sub. sec proceeded to Goz-el-BASAI where she remained in support of F Sub. Sec</p>	

J. J. Mac Millan Capt.
 4. 10. 17
 OCT 1917

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	4/10/17	1900	The Outpost Sqdn who were operating in the direction of 720, returning to WADI 11000. These Out. Sec. commenced withdrawal to camping area. Casualties Nil. The enemy were not engaged.	
FARA	5/10/17	0430	Blood to Arms. all clear 0530. No 1 Section on Outpost with 4 th Reg. L.H. 'B' Sub Sec accompanied Outpost Squadn 1200. This Sub Sec came into action on Hill 720 with both guns, the Enemy retired before they were able to open fire, range 900 yds. A Sub. Sec accompanied outpost reserve Squadn. Rem of Sqdn Camp. Routine Morning parade.	
	6/10/17	0430	Blood to Arms - all clear 0530. No 2 Section on Outpost duty with 11 th Reg. 'D' Sub Sec accompanied Outpost Squadn. This Sub Sec moved from BASAI with Outpost Squadn to Hill 630 which was occupied by small Enemy patrol, which retired on their approach. 0720 Returned to 550 W. C. Sub Sec accompanied Outpost Reserve Squadn. No 3 section firing on GARB. Musketry range (firing Pt II table C.) The Lt in Lt inspected troops during range practice.	

OCT 1917

W. H. B. Pullan Lt. Col. No 4. W. H. B. Pullan Lt. Col.

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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
FARR.	10-10-17		Commenced syllabus of Training. 1/4 hour Special Anti-Gas Helmet Drill daily, marching parade in afternoon.	
"	11-10-17		Syllabus continued, special instruction for N.C.O. in Mark Reading etc.	
"	12-10-17		Sections No. 1 and 2 firing on Gamli Range. (PART II TABLE C.) Remainder of day, Camp Routine.	
"	13-10-17		Weekly instructions by section officers, special cleaning and dubbing of Saddlery.	
"	14-10-17	1645	Bde Church Parade, after Church hde, L.O.C. Div. presented members of Bde with M.M.s.	
"	15-10-17		Syllabus continued, Camp Routine.	
"	16-10-17		" " " " Preparations made for move out on operations.	
"	17-10-17		On 18 th inst.	

OCT 1917
 P. J. G. Mulla Coy.
 for Col. G. H. G. G. G.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FAAA.	18.10.17	0800.	Moved off with Bde to cover a reconnaissance by XX th Corps officers. 3 rd Sub. Secs attached 4 th & 11 th L.H. Regts made good the line 840 (incl) to 770 (incl.) Remainder of Bgdn remained in reserve at W. of <u>V</u> in cultivation. Withdrawal commenced 1730. Arrived in banking area 2130. Enemy not engaged. Casualties nil.	Ref Mat 1/25000
"	19.10.17		Syllabus continued cleaning of Saddlery. Equipment, ablution parade in afternoon.	
"	20/10/17		Syllabus continued. Instructions by Section officers	
"	21/10/17		Camp Routine, incl Church parades.	
"	22/10.17	0300.	N ^o 3 Section moved from camp 9 reported to be 12 th Regt. outside wire at FAAA main crossing, moved to a line EL-BUGGA, 720. 630. 510. Two Tree Hill Point 300. ⁹ remained in support of 630 + 720.	- OCT 1917
"		0430	Bgdn less 1 Section moved to a point outside front line wire opposite E. of OM-URCUN. ⁹ remained in reserve, until withdrawal commenced at 1930. Bgdn less N ^o 3 Section arrived bivouac area 1900. N ^o 3 Section arrived 2015. Enemy not engaged. Casualties nil.	
"	23/10/17	0430	Load to ATMs all clear 0515. Orders received, from Bde to be prepared to move out at 1/2 hours notice, at 0915.	P. D. Bue-Miller Cap. Per Sec 1/100 2/10/17

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FARA.	24/10/17 25/10/17	1300.	<p>Camp. Routine unit inoculated against cholera.</p> <p>Preparations made for move out on short operation.</p> <p>A sub sec moved out with 4th Regt. B taking over a line (630 excl) 550-510, two tree Hill. Hill 290, this sub sec occupied a position for the night at 700 yds in rear of, & supporting the cruciform posts which were dug by the outpost on Hill 550, with a field of fire also between 550-510, about 50 rounds were fired registering before dark.</p> <p>1300 C. & D sub secs moved out with 11th Regt. taking over the line El. BUGGA-720, 630 incl, D sub sec occupied a position for the night 900 yds 230° SW of 720, with the object of supporting the cruciform posts which were dug by the outpost troops immediately below the crest of 720. These guns registered at sun down & a grazing fire could be brought to bear on the E & NE slope of 720. C sub sec occupied a position 700 yds W of 630 covering the cruciform posts with a gun laid on right & left of posts. with alternate positions 1300 yds W. Remained the B & D remained in Bde reserve at 1/2 mile N of KHARM</p> <p>26/10/17 Outpost sub secs remained in position until after all clear then withdrew to water, remaining with Bde reserve.</p> <p>Bde Rem in reserve at BASA until 1500 when the withdrawal commenced. At Basa area 1900. Casualties Nil. Enemy not engaged.</p> <p>27/10/17 0930. Orders received to stand by ready to move out.</p>	<p>CR 920, 4000 W The 600 yds</p> <p>OCT 1917</p>

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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
FARA	28-10-17	0500	Dlood to Atmos. all clear 1000. Preparations for moving out on prolonged operations, all surplus gear having been previously dumped.	
		1630	Moved off with Bde, with all personnel & Transport accompanied unit. The latter marching under Bde Insp's office via G190 Roads to Casani, the Bde moved by SW bank of Madi. 2200	
			Attained Casani & bivouaced in area 1 mile E of Tel-el-Itweill. Rations	
	29-10-17	0600	Rations & fodder drawn. 1725 Moved off & attained at KHALASA 2230 bivouaced.	
	30/10/17	0600	Rations & fodder drawn. 1810 Moved off, travelling via G1 Road to A805	
			thence via M. N road to jun of N9 & N1 roads this point was reached	
	31/10/17	0500	There had been a heavy thunder-storm on the top of hills in this locality which had laid the dust thus effectively hiding our movement from enemy by day.	
			also leaving some surface water, further advancing along N1 road via Gelshogib to the vicinity of ISHAININ where a halt was made. Then moved on to a position S of KHASTIN ZANNA arriving there at 0945, horses off. Saddled. fed	
		1600	Orders received to saddle up	
		1630	Ordered to advance with Bde & capture Beesheba, the objective being the N. limits of the town. (copy of CO report attached hereto)	
			Town entered 1812. Casualties: 1 OR wounded.	
Reinf. taken on			D's during Oct. = _____	
Evac. to rear			" " " = _____	
Casualties in action			_____	

J. J. Miller Capt.
CO 4th Div. 29th Bn.

- OCT 1917

'E' Sub. Sec. Lt. Francis received orders from Lt. 12th Regt to assume my Reserve Squadron.

The Squadron less 2 Sub. Secs remained in reserve to the Bde & advanced in rear of Reserve Squadron 12th Regt. By being in this position the Bde were able to protect the left flank of the Bde & also to consolidate many positions taken.

Capt. MacKillop & 20 Pigs accompanied by 12th Regt so that information as to the situation could be sent back to the Squadron.

Due to the dust at which the Regts advanced the dust they made & the falling light made it impossible for Machine Guns to support the advancing troops.

Whilst advancing 2 guns were mounted & two Army planes which were being used were down.



Casualties 100 wounded. Losses Nil.

Capt.
Lt. 12th Regt

REPORT ON OPERATION AGAINST Beeshaba
ON OCT. 31st 1917.

E
21/9

H Aust. Field Regt

1630 Orders received that Lt. H. Cole less Lt. L.H. Regt would attack immediately with a final objective of the western end of the Tabor Beeshaba.

^{the order distributed as follows} B Sub. Sec. under Lt. C. Evans to accompany Lt. Regt.

E Sub. Sec. under Lt. J. Francis to accompany 12th L.H. Regt.

The Squadron less 2 Sub. Secs to remain in reserve.

B Sub. Sec. Lt. C. Evans received orders from Lt. Regt to send 1 gun with firing line & 1 gun with support squadron to protect the right flank of the attacking squadrons. The line with the firing line advanced on the right of the center of the line within 1500 yds of the Tabor which was dismantled & opened line.

The gun with the support Regt moved with them into the Tabor.

- OCT 1917