

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/26/1

**Title:** 16th Machine Gun Squadron,  
Imperial Mounted Division

March 1917



AWM4-24/26/1

Place, Date.

Summary of Events and Information

EL BURJ 10/3/17 via Coast road, reached SHEIKH ZOWAIID 12-30, distance 9 miles. Capt. G.N. Horlick, R. Gloucester  
cont. Hussars Yeo. assumed command of the Squadron.  
2nd. County of London Yeo. (Westminster Dragoons) gun Section 2nd. Lieut. F.W. Mace and 23 O.Rs.  
30 Horses reported for duty and were taken on the strength of the Squadron. The Squadron was thus  
completed to a strength of six gun Sections. Gloster, Warwick, and Worcester Sections equipped with  
Maxim guns (303) - the remaining Sections without guns.

SHEIKH ZOWAIID 11/3/17 Squadron less Westminster Gun Section paraded for exercise at 0630. Inspection of horses  
by C.O. at 11-30. Divine Service 18-30.

" " 12/3/17. Squadron parade for exercise 0900. Rifle exercise 1530.

" " 13/3/17. Squadron less Gloster Gun Section paraded for exercise at 0815. Gloster Gun Section paraded  
in drill order at full strength of Gun Numbers, all Section officers and N.C.Os. attended this  
parade for instruction of drill of this Section. Machine Guns were inspected by Armourer Sgt.  
Gloster. Yeo.

" " 14/3/17. No. 2948 Pte. Hubbard J. and 2958 S.S. Pearman H. reported for duty from Warwick Yeo. and  
were taken on the strength of the Section.

" " 15/3/17 Firing test at 0900 by Gloster, Warwick, and Worcester Sections. Approx. numbers rounds  
fired 3000. 18 remount pack horses arrived and were taken on the strength of the Squadron.

" " 16/3/17. Instruction in fire control and fire discipline of Nos. 1 & 2 of Herts., Westminster,  
and Glasgow Sections.

" " 17/3/17. Sections paraded for instruction under Section arrangements. 56808 Pte. Young J. and  
2076 Pte. Carter H.A. of R.A.M.C. were attached to the Squadron for duty.

" " 18/3/17. Divine Service 0930 and 1830. Inspection of lines by C.O. 1100.

" " 19/3/17. Two Vickers Light Guns received from Ordnance, issued to Westminster Gun Section.

" " 20/3/17. Squadron paraded at 0830 for drill and  
Returned to camp 1315. Orders to move to RAFA the following day received.

" " 21/3/17. Squadron paraded full marching order at 0915. Marching out strength 7 Officers 157 O.Rs.  
191 Horses, 33 Mules. Squadron joined Bde. in SHEIKH ZOWAIID village at 1015. Left SHEIKH  
ZOWAIID 1030 arrived RAFA at 1245 distance 112 miles. Camped on Turkish Egyptian Frontier about  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from Police Barracks. Orders were received that Glosters, Warwicks, and Worcesters Sections  
were to be ready to move at short notice. 3 days mobile rations were issued to this portion of  
Squadron. 3 days march rations for horses.

## Place and Date

## Summary of Events and Information

- RAFA 22/3/17. Inspection of horses by C.O. Section of men and horses to proceed on reconnaissance if required.
- " 23/3/17. Gloster, Worcester and Warwick Gun Sections under command of Capt. Horlick with 2nd Lieut A.C. Byard, Lieut. Kendrick, Lieut. Halliday and Lieut. Mace proceeded on reconnaissance at 0500 with the Brigade. Marched to the ground West of and immediately overlooking the Wadi EL GHUZZE. Warwick Gun Section under Lieut. Halliday was attached for duty throughout the day to the Warwick Yeo. Regt. On its return to RAFA, when in the vicinity of BENI SELA, was fired upon by M.G. of enemy aircraft - no casualties. Gloster and Warwick Sections operated on the Left of the Brigade on high ground overlooking SHEIKH NURHAN. About 1300 Gloster Gun Section was ordered to report to O.C. Gloster Yeo. opposite WADI EL GHUZZE crossing at ABU EL TEIBEG where it remained under control of ? B.H.Q. 1530 Brigade moved off on the return journey to RAFA - reached Squadron Camp 1900.
- " 24/3/17. 2 Vickers Guns and tripods received from Ordnance and issued to Herts Gun Section. Squadrons equipment in guns on this date as follows:-
- |                 |             |                          |                       |                     |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Gloster Section | 2           | .303 Maxims and tripods, | spare parts,          | 21 belts and boxes. |
| Worcester "     | do          | do                       | do                    | do                  |
| Warwick "       | do          | do                       | do                    | do                  |
| Westminister "  | 2           | Vickers Light Guns,      | tripods, spare parts, | 20 belts and boxes. |
| Herts "         | do          | do                       | do                    | do                  |
| Glasgow "       | not equiped |                          |                       |                     |
- Received orders to move the following day to DEIR EL BELAH. 5th. Mtd. Bde. Operation Order No. 36.
- " 25/3/17. Squadron paraded on light scale of transport at 0815, less Glasgow Gun Section. 7 Officers Capt. G. N. Horlick, Capt. E.J. Herbert, Capt. H.C. Coulston, 2nd. Lieuts. F.W. Mace, C. Byard, E. Halliday, 121 O. Rs. 147 rides, and pack horses and mules, 28 pack Mules. Brigade concentrated 0845, moved off 0845 via beach road, eight miles to TEL EL MARAKEB arrived 1100. Watered and feed. Left 1600, arrived DEIR EL BELAH, five miles at 1715. Capt. G. Horlick, Capt. E.J. Herbert reported at B.H.Q. at 1930 and received 5th. Mtd. Bde. Operation Order No. 37.
- 26/3/17. Gloster Gun Section was ordered to report to Gloster Yeo. at 0200. Section Reported at that time and remained under the command of the O.C. Gloster Yeo. throughout the day and until 28/3/17. Westminister Section reported to Worcester Yeo. and remained under the command of the O.C. Worcester Yeo. throughout the day. Remainder of Squadron paraded at 0145. Moved off with the Brigade at 0215 Squadron marched in rear of the Brigade. Marched to Point 457, eight miles S.E. of GAZA without enemy opposition via DEMEITA, ABU IM TEIBEG, EL MENDUR, SIHAN arrived 457 at 1110. Warwick Section at once mounted for aircraft. Shelled by heavy howitzer from TEL ESH SHARIA, no casualties. Herts Gun Section into action at 1200 on Left of Warwick Yeo. did not open fire as enemy did not advance within range. Section remained in readiness throughout the day and was relieved by Worcester Gun Section at 1600. At 1700 enemy attacked developed on right flank from direction of SHARIA. Herts Gun Section into action on right of Worcester Yeo. At 1730 O.C. Squadron received verbal instructions

- 26/3/17. cont. to move his guns to a position indicated. Retirement carried out without loss and fire opened on enemy at ranges from 1400 to 1500 and enemy advance held at second retirement when ordered to another position where guns remained in another position until dark and Brigade was concentrated in their rear. Brigade moved off to BEIT DUROIS. Here Westminister Section rejoined the Squadron. Orders were received to proceed to SIHAN and take up line of outposts. SIHAN reached at 2130. Two guns mounted in readiness. Squadron left SIHAN with the Brigade at 0230 on 21/3/17.
- 27/3/17. Reached DEIR EL BELAH 0800. Watered and fed, moved 0845 to concentrate with I.M.D. at EL DEMEITA. Squadron moved out with Brigade to outpost line at 16 00 and remained in support near point 320.
- 28/3/17. Stood to arms. Saddled up 0500. 0600 moved to point 1 mile south 320 at 1400, Saddled up. 1500 moved to DEIR EL BELAH. 1600 Gloster Section rejoined the Squadron.
- 29/3/17. Inspection of guns and rifles by Section officers. 1133 S.S.M. Gilbert H. having been in hospital 14 days struck off strength of the Squadron.
- 30/3/17. Squadron less Gloster Section paraded at 1145 and proceeded to outpost line. Section allotted to Brigade from ABASAN EL KEBIR to IN SEIRAT inclusive. Worcester Section in position at a point 330 EAST. Warwick Section in position at a point  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile West of above position.
- 31/3/17. Stood to arms. Saddled up 0430, returned to DEIR EL BELAH on being relieved by the 18th. M.G. Squadron at 1330.

WAR DIARY

123/3  
Army Form C. 2118.  
MAR 1917

or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
U R J (cont).	<p style="text-align: center;">3.</p> <p>(marched)          19/3/17 <sup>cont.</sup> Via Coast road, reached SHEIKH ZOWAID, 12.30, distance 9 miles. Capt G. S. Howell, R. F. I. S. assumed command of the Squadron. 2<sup>nd</sup> Coy of London Yeos (Westminster Dragoons) gun section 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt F. H. Mace and 230 R. 30 Horses reported for duty were taken on the strength of the Squadron. The Squadron was thus completed to a strength of six gun sections. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt J. G. Hamill, Worcester Yeos, equipped with 303 Maxim guns, the remaining sections without guns.</p>	
U R ZOWAID	<p>19/3/17 Squadron for Westminster gun section paraded for review at 26.30. Inspection of horses by C.O. at 11.30. Review at 18.30.</p>	
	<p>19/3/17 Squadron paraded for review at 09.00. Inspection at 16.30.</p>	
	<p>19/3/17 Squadron for Westminster gun section paraded for review at 26.30. Inspection of horses, paraded in divisions.</p>	

Form C. 2118. 100,000. G. S. R. T. Form C. 2118.

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MAR 1917

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or  
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	(over)	
RH. ZOWAHO	at full strength of four numbers, all sections were ordered to parade for instruction of drill of this section. Machine guns were inspected by domain by glen or yes.	
14/17	102946 Pa Hubbard J & 2958 St. Peaman H reported for duty from Harwich yes & were taken on the strength of Squadron	
14/17	Firing test at 09.00 by glen or, Harwich. Honorable pieces, approximately rounds fired. 3000. Harwich pack horses arrived and were taken on the strength of Squadron.	
14/17	Instruction in fire control & fire discipline of 1st 2 of Harwich. Honorable & glen or sections.	
14/17	Sections paraded for instruction under section arrangements 56308 Pa Young J & 2076 Pa Harwich Ht. of R.A.M.C. were attached to the Squadron for duty.	
14/17	Drum service 09.30 & 18.30. Inspection of lines by G.O. 11.00	
14/17	Two 18 inch light guns received from Ordnance, issued to Westminster gun section.	

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
SHEIKH ZOHAYD 27/5	<p>(Station) 2001                      Squadron formed at 0830 for drill and tactical exercises.                      Received orders from HQ. Squadron moved to RAFA the following day received</p>	<p>RAFA</p>
28/5	<p>Squadron formed for marching exercises 0815, 11 and 12                      (Squadron) 12) at 19.00 hours, 25 miles. Squadron with                      Brigade left SHEIKH ZOHAYD 28/5 at 10.15 left</p>	
RAFA	<p>SHEIKH ZOHAYD 1030 arrived RAFA at 12.45. Squadron                      in camp. Camp on bank of Egyptian River about                      2 miles from police barracks. Squadron received orders                      to move to RAFA. 3 days march from RAFA to                      this position of Squadron. 3 days march from RAFA to                      Inspector of Forces by the selection of men, forms reported                      on recommendations if required.</p>	
29/5	<p>forces. Women's Battalion for sections under the command                      of Capt. Hobbs with 2 Lt. Lt. B. and Lt. L. and</p>	

WAR DIARY

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MAR 1917

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
RAFA	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>Remained in camp      24/1/17 Lt. Halliday, 9th. Mace, proceeded on reconnaissance      at 0600 with the Brigade. Marched to the ground      WEST of, and immediately overlooking the WADI-EL      GHUZZE. (Wadi) gun position, near 2nd Lt.      Halliday, was attacked for duty throughout the      day by the Ottoman Ye. Coy. Units returned RAFA      when in the vicinity of BENI-SH. was fired      upon by M.G. of enemy aircraft. No casualties.      (Wadi) gun position a position on the LEFT      of the Brigade on high ground overlooking      WADI-EL-GHUZZE. At 1300, flight of 4 aircraft      was observed to report to the flight of 4 aircraft      WADI-EL-GHUZZE, and at ABU-EL-TAIRA      where it remained until sunset. No casualties.      B.H. 1510 Brigade moved off on reconnaissance      to RAFA, and then returned to camp at 1900.</p>	



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
24/17	<p>19.00 (cont)</p> <p>2 Vickers guns &amp; tripods received from Dublin and issued to Hena gun section. Squads equipped as guns on this date as follows:</p> <p>Glasgow section 2 Vickers tripods, spanners, 2 belts, boxes          Newcastle section do do do do          Mansie do do do do          Newcastle section 2 Vickers tripods, spanners, 2 belts, boxes          Hena section do do do do          Glasgow section not equipped.</p>	
25/17	<p>Received orders to move the following day to DEIR-EL-BELAH. 3 5000 lbs. stores sent out at 0.30</p> <p>Squadron paraded on light scale of transport at 08.15, led by Glasgow gun section. 7 officers Capt G. T. Clouston, Capt H. J. Herbert, Capt H. B. Houston, 2 Lt's H. W. Mac, H. K. Mac, and N. B. Byard. Lt. Halliday, 121 CR, 147 mules, pack horses and mules, 24 pack mules.</p>	

WAR DIARY

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

MAR 1917

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
23/17	<p>miles (cont)</p> <p>Brigade concentrated at 0845, moved off. CC HQ via beach road, eight miles to TEL-EL-MARAKHO. arrived 1100. Watered &amp; fed. Left 1200, arrived DEIR-EL-BELAH, 5 miles at 1715. Capt G. B. ... Capt E. B. ... reported at B.H.Q. at 1930 and received ... of ... to #37.</p>	
24/17	<p>Flourishy ... was ordered to report to CC. ... at 0200. ... at the ... and remained under the command of the ... throughout the day and until 1717. ... reported to CC. ... and remained under the command of CC. ... throughout the day. Remains of squadron ... at 0140. moved off with the brigade at 0210. Squadron ... of the Brigade. Marched a point #57, eight miles SE. of GAZA without any opposition via</p>	

WAR DIARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
T. 4	<p>via cont</p> <p>24/3/17 EL-DEL DEMEITA, - ABU-IM-TEIBEG - EL-MENDUR-SIHAN arrived H 57 at 1110. Transit section at once moved for arrangements. Shelled by heavy howitzers from TEL-ESH-SHARIA, in connection. Here's gun position into action at 1200 on LEFT of Mansieh jct. dia no closer fire as enemy did not advance within range. Section was under machine throughout the day, was relieved by 1800 hrs gun position at 1600. At 1700 enemy attack developed on right flank from direction of SHARIA. Here's gun position into action on right of Mansieh jct. At 1730 OC Squadron received orders to move to the support of the position indicated. Relieved and sent out without loss and fire opened on enemy at range from 1500 to 1500 and many advances. At 1800 second element of the section was sent to the position.</p>	

War Diary

C 2110  
MAR 1917

one piece

Summary of Events

Remarks, etc.

7.

position one  
24/3/17 one  
where guns remained in position until dark and  
Brigade was concentrated in their rear. Brigade  
moved off to ~~BEIT-DUR~~ BEIT-DURDIS. The machine  
section rejoined the Squadron. Orders were received  
to proceed to SIHAN and take up line of outposts  
SIHAN reached, at 21.30. Two guns mounted in  
readiness. Squadron left SIHAN with the Brigade at  
02.30 on 25/3/17.

25/3/17

Reached DEIR-EL-BELAH 08.00. Watered and fed, moved  
of 45 to concentrate with I.M.D. at EL-DEMEITA.  
Squadron moved out with Brigade to outpost line at 1600  
and remained in support near point 320.

26/3/17

Loaded to arms; saddled up, 05.00 moved to point 1 mile  
south 320 at 14.30 saddled up, 15.00 moved to  
DEIR-EL-BELAH, crossed DEIR-EL-BELAH 16.00, flooded by

War Diary.

A.F. C 2118

MAR 1917

Date, Day, Place	Summary of Events	Remarks and References
	10.	
	section (inc)	
	rejoined the squadron	
	Inspection of guns & rifles by section officers	
	1133 SSN killed H having been in hospital 14 days, struck off strength of the Squadron.	
	Squadron less flayer's section, paraded at 11.45 & proceeded with Brigade to outpost line. Section attached to Brigade from A BASAN-EL KEBIR to IN-SEIRAT in charge. <del>Remains</del> <sup>in position</sup> <del>at a point 250 EAST</del> WEST of above position.	
	planned to take advantage of 4.30 darkness DEIR-EL-BELAH on bank of river by the 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> for <del>operation</del> at 19.30	