

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

Machine Guns

**Item number:** 24/17/3

**Title:** 12th Australian Machine Gun  
Company

May 1916



AWM4-24/17/3

Date	Information
17.4.16	Inspected by G.O.B. 2 <sup>nd</sup> ANZAC.
18.4.16	} Drill and Organisation.
18	
24.4.16	
25.4.16	Anzac Day
26.4.16	Drill and Organisation
27.4.16	Do do
28.4.16	Field Day. Acted in conjunction with 12 <sup>th</sup> Bde. - against 12 <sup>th</sup> Bde.
29.4.16	Drill & Organisation. 2 Officers 23 Other ranks to Zetoun School.
30.4.16	Church parade.
1.5.16	Strength of company stands at 1 Capt, 1 Lieut, 7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieuts, and 136 Other ranks. 4 horses, 24 mules, 4 bicycles, 1 Maltie cart, 4 Maxim guns D.P. 99 Rifles. 25780 lbs. Mark III S.A.A.
2.5.16	Drill & Organisation. Exchanged 4 D.P. Maxims for 8 Vickers guns. Received 3 limbered wagons.
3.5.16	Drill & lectures. Equipment is slowly arriving. Most urgent need for limbers & harness.
4.5.16	Drill & lectures.
5.5.16	Route marches to baral & swimming parade. Received 4 Vickers guns. Received orders to proceed to Habesta on 6/5/16
6.5.16	Company marched to Habesta, leaving in railhead camp all transport section, O.M.S., & heavy kit. Guns, Ammunition, Blankets etc carried by 35 camels. Pitched camp by 1700 next to Bde Hq. All arrangements for move worked smoothly. 1900 posted 2 guns at head of dip occupied by Camp. (early night positions)
7.5.16	Stand to arms 0330 - 0430 for whole camp. Church parade. Front line inspected by G.O. Received orders to post 11 guns in certain positions.
8.5.16	P. Martin & 26 men dispatched with 4 guns to right flank. - Took up positions K1B - K1G - K3C - K5A & reported guns in position at 1900 (with Pioneer Batts). P. Holroyd & 23 men sent with 3 guns to centre of defences & took up positions L1a, K5b, K5d. Reported in position 1700. P. Greenison & 23 men sent to left of Serapeum defences with 4 guns and

3:30 R

- | Date     | Information:   |
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|          | occupied positions. Reported in position by 1800. All guns & impedimenta were carried by camels to their respective positions. Arrangements completed for distribution of 8800 pas Mk. VII S.A.A. to guns. - 16000 Mk VII already distributed.       |
| 9.5.16.  | Men settling into their positions, digging gun positions, dugouts, etc.  |
| 10.5.16. | 8800 pas Mk. VII drawn & distributed. Alternative gun positions being built. Nations & water very satisfactory. Lt Croucher sent out to take 2 guns over from Lt Martin.   |
| 11.5.16. | Still improving positions & alternative gun pits.  |
| 12.5.16. | Range taking with Barr & Shroud. Erecting range marks & firing to correct ranges.  |
| 13.5.16. | Completion of Range charts etc. Gun positions practically all complete, each gun having alternative position. Guns are so arranged that cross fire & enfilading wire entanglements is assured. Frontal fire being last consideration.                |
| 14.5.16. | 6 A.M. & 2 <sup>nd</sup> in command round the perimeter, either one flank or other each day. Received definite instructions that 13 <sup>th</sup> Bde M.G. Coy will relieve us 17 <sup>th</sup> inst. Making arrangements.                           |
| 15.5.16. | Arrangements made with C.O. 13 <sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy for exchange of certain baggage, ammunition etc. Everything working smoothly.  |
| 16.5.16. | All preparations completed for move to Railhead.   |
| 17.5.16. | Marched to Railhead, being relieved by 13 <sup>th</sup> M.G. Coy. All arrangements satisfactory. Section marched in by moonlight, heat being excessive. 13 <sup>th</sup> Gun Section arrived exhausted & without water. Occupied old camping ground. |
| 18.5.16. | tidying up camp, cleaning guns etc.  |
| 19.5.16. | Drew 6 riding horses & 33 mules. Riding horses now complete.   |
| 21.5.16. | Commenced range practice - 1 Section (A).  |
| 22.5.16. | B & D Section range firing. Equipment being drawn from D.A. Coy.   |
| 23.5.16. | 'C' Section firing on range. Mules being returned. Company brought up to strength.   |
| 24.5.16. | Left Railhead Camp & proceeded to take part in Night Operations. All baggage left in camp & to come on by Rail.  |
| 25.5.16. | Night operations finished at 0400 & recommenced at 1900. Occupied  |

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.

12th Aust. Machine Gun Coy.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	26/5/16.		new camp vacated by 13th M.G. Coy. Night Operations concluded 0830. Little educational value.	
	27/5/16. ) to )		Preparing for review and for leaving Egypt. Capt. Sawyer mentioned in	
	30/5/16. )		Divl. Orders for capable instruction, etc.	
	31/5/16.		Division reviewed by G.O.C. Egypt.	
<p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for <del>beginning of</del> subsequent month and filed with volume for that month).</p>				