

PERSONAL RECORDS.

58/19

WAR OF 1914-18

MAJOR E.A.K. HUDSON. D.S.O.
Anzac Mounted Division. H.Q.

A. W. M. LIBRARY	
Class No	181.11
Date	
Name	
Place	
Notes	

The Official War Historian of the Commonwealth Government (Dr. C. E. W. Bean), after his study of the collection of private war records preserved in the Australian War Memorial Library, wrote :—

"The private diaries in this collection furnish some of its most valuable historical records, but, like all private memoirs which were not compiled with any historical purpose, they should not be regarded as first-hand evidence except where it is certain that they are so. The diarist is almost always sincere in his desire to record accurately, but he is subject to no obligation or inducement to indicate whether he is recording his own observations or incidents told him by friends or heard at third or fourth hand at the mess-table. Thus, in some of the diaries in this collection, scenes described with vivid detail, and without any warning that they are told at second or third hand, have been found to be completely inaccurate in important details. A certain number also have been written up or revised long after the events, though doubtless usually from notes made at the time. In most cases the student must rely on his experience and on internal evidence to guide him in judging what is and what is not likely to be historically accurate."

Major E.A.K. HUDSON, D.S.O., Anzac Mounted Division H.Q., who died of double pneumonia on 27 October 1918, in Palestine. Other biographical details concerning him are: storekeeper of Katocmba, N.S.Wales, born Erskineville, N.S.Wales, 27 October 1872, educated at Sydney High School; served for 21 years with the N.S.Wales Lancers and Australian Light Horse; appointed a captain in the 1st Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F. on 6/9/1915; was in command of the composite light horse regiment sent towards the end of 1915 from Egypt with the Western Frontier Force, and was wounded in action at Mersa Matruh against the Senussi; appointed staff captain, 1st Light Horse Brigade, 11/5/1916; promoted major 1/12/16; appointed D.A.A.G., Anzac Mounted Division H.Q. 12/8/18.

who asks why they have not heard from
me is the man I have had

Emm Em is not home yet having moved
this show & I have had to work with
Col Meredith who is a most prejudiced against
me ~~being a Republican~~ ~~and a government~~
Staff Officer But I am pleased to say my
work has been such that he has concluded
it in his private despatch & I don't think
anybody could be much more than he
now is I may say from to him he was
very hard to please bringing me almost
to desperation wanting to do everything
himself & countermanding orders we would
issue or want them altered now he
has retired having seen that things
are better without his presence

Good bye from tons of love for the kiddies
& yourself. The war looks going good
we have done our bit here & the Anglo
mounted Division can take the credit of
stopping the Turks attack on the Canal

Yours fatherly
Daddy



I am pleased to say we have been able to
account for all our dead having them all
buried & reunited they had to be buried where
they fell & it was not for about 2 days after
in each case we could get to them so they
could not be moved

As this is part of my duty to see its done I
express satisfaction at the work of one of our
• Ministers

I feel a full confidence that I will
return to you I do not expect any
further fighting in Egypt we may be
sent elsewhere perhaps to Mesopotamia but its all
knowledge I only wish the boys were
old enough to do their bit but its one
thing they are a consolation to you

I just heard we are not going to move
from here Romania perhaps we may get
a trip away for a day or 3 months in
the land without seeing anybody but there
in direct contact makes some of them a
bit stale I am in hopes of getting about
3 or 4 days in Alexandria & perhaps may
then be able to send you something
There is little else to tell you at present
my remembrance to all & tell anybody



Many great acts & many lucky men
were witnessed I had my usual luck as
formerly stated they got on to our guns
and their Explosive shells falling 24 times
a day up & down the Battery was not
amused & their Ammunition not counted by us
the again down the Battery off the Hill left
Egypt now I suppose for 12 months as he
did last year to bring her guns across the
desert they had with wooden planks & made
a rail line with them when the sand was
hard they used Bread or Sugar & from there
from the date Palm's out of the Oasis

I met Dr Jenner ^{late} of Toronto here he had
had a very narrow squeak he has been
with the 2nd Bty 2nd Lt Ambulance for some time
very well & doing well

It is surprising the number of people you
meet Old friends all trying to do their duty
as one remarked Single men who are not
doing their job should be flogged & posted
or shirkers It is strange I suppose when
the war is over that the names of all those
who have fought will be forgotten & those
who have shirked their duty will be
rewarded the Generals



They then pushed on beyond our Railway
& we held them in their tracks
Our New Zealand Brigade moved up from
about this 70 & caught them in the rear
& cut them off we captured that afternoon
the next morning 3000 Prisoners 2 Hospitals
6 Guns 4 ¹⁷ B. Stng guns Ammunition & a great
of Stores we then drove them back to Kalia
& forced them from there but our horses
on the afternoon of the 5th being done we
had to fall back on Ransom or many horses
had been without water for 48 hours some
for 36 & 24 we had been doing the outposts
work for a fortnight work that should have
been done by Infantry & when the time came
for us to be of the most use we were ~~1000~~ ¹⁰⁰⁰
out the chance too much
We kept them ~~at~~ the 3rd going out after
2 days with the 3rd & 5th Brigade during the
forenoon of the 7th Tuesday we out &
attacked them at Bar de Ais with the 2nd Brigade
& then fire of their Howitzer guns was hell
We came out losing only 9 killed & 60 wounded
a most marvellous performance on the fire
was enough to knock us all out the advantage
being the soft sand the shells aimed being right
on them & the explosion decided

This we did for a fortnight fighting every day the Turks intended to attack us on 22 July but we held them back till the night of the 3rd - 4th August.

We had several casualties before & got many prisoners. For a fortnight this held only them. Loss was done by the 1st - 2nd Bys on the night of the 3rd - 4th August.

We were put on outpost to hold our Right flank & to here where the Turks made their attempt to come to Romani at 12 o'clock they used the Doryout & from there till 4 pm till the 2nd Bys came to reinforce it was very hard work we had little ^{about} ~~less than~~ 1000 in the line & 3 to 4 thousand Turks were held up by us as day broke they opened with their Artillery & Shrapnel everywhere. They threw many bombs with high Explosives whilst the Aeroplanes dropping Bombs & everywhere our Artillery was very slow in coming now help I was having before they fired & all this time the Turks were trying to cut us off I was during then some my horse or stable in prison letter was killed.



Turkish Attacks on Romani

For 3 months since the Germans were
attacked & cut up at Oghroshia & Haka the
Angels have been doing Grotto reconnaissance
work on the Sarai Peninsula & adjacent
Romani was the foremost post where
the 1st Brigade ALH was stationed & just over
EIMALEB the 2nd Brigade whilst at Muzgo
& Daidar the New Zealand Brigade had their Camp
Hill 40 being the dominant Mt Dister
whilst the 3rd Brigade was away but at Sarapiu
from May till 21st July the Grotto & small
skirmishes were carried out by 1st Brigade then
the New Zealand & then later the 2nd Brigade changed
with New Zealanders & the work was carried
out by 1st & 2nd Brigades
on the 21st July information was received that
the Turks were coming in force to attack
us & get possession of the Canal
We had then to go out & hold them in check
then was carried out by automatic drops by 1st
& 2nd Brigades we used to go out at 2.30 AM
& return about 10 PM carrying Grotto to watch
them but the other Brigade went out again
it wasn't shot by the time we got to bed it was
midnight 12 or 1 & then we went out at that
time next day

P E R M I T.

NAME Hudson RANK Major REGT 1st Bnd Staff

has permission to visit the HOLY SHRINES at JERUSALEM and
BETHLEHEM.

This pass covers any Party not more than 12 other
ranks under the charge of the Officer named above, who will be
held responsible for such party.

AVAILABLE ONLY FOR

Date

13/3/18

To 16th/3/18

J. Cullen
Military Governor,
JERUSALEM.

I have been in every fight in Egypt for a couple weeks I left
morning & have had plenty of sleep
The other day we got shells like
hell they were breaking all
around us & I had to conduct
the fight & keep the artillery
going on the tanks who were
advancing on the men the
Boring was close to us & they
for us all we wanted

The Boring had to shift & then
another one of the enemies started
a Cms fire on us we got our Boring
again going & silenced the Boring
& then got the range & kept our guns
going after dark to let the men know
that we were in the line & 3000
tanks were opposed to us we were
stopping them from joining up the others
they were about 2000 against us
but we only had 1000 killed, wounded
19 men so got out well

The next day we shifted further
across they bombed us
killing 52 others wounds 40
killed 1100 3 men wounded 200 27 men
& a good many slightly

1
you remember Brennan at Greenport
when I was going away
he was killed the other day in the
fight. We had a very warm time
we lost 6000 killed wounded
5000 just before trying to take
Gona. We have not yet succeeded
although the papers make out
we did but its not true
Bad gunships by Tap were
we got it in the neck. Lost 3 Tanks
+ got probably a looking but
Jato is not going to attack us we
are back saying best position.
The Captain Special plenty of
beautiful water + grass for horses.
So we at present although nothing
it are not too badly off
its over a fortnight since we left our
Camp the ground for food + for
roof the sky. The weather at present
is beautiful now we had 3 days of
heat by heavens it was hot it
mashed my little belly off
I am just getting new Special
at present
I suppose back of the Command there
we do no fighting

This time I think got I was saved
after the first aeroplane bombed us I got
on my knee & was down where the injured
were - then a second aeroplane which
I did not see & which dropped a bomb
in front of me I heard it coming &
pulled my knee up & dived to the
right why I know not but I guess
not I would have been right in it
as it was I got nothing. It was one
of those narrow things the bombs
then dropped all around me & men
themselves killed & wounded everywhere.
Next day the bombed us again &
wounded & we are subject to the
bomb daily but no further loss.

We cannot speak too well of our boys
they are magnificent really one feels
proud he is an Australian.
Many English officers say they wish
they were Australians - when there
is no war & it is splendid if they get
wounded they smile that you do
nothing & if it then lost they
take things quite the thing.
I fancy all are prepared that the
Rasch way. I think we are in
God's hands & he is his time.

takes us from here
We are now digging trenches to
wait for further troops before we
go in we are up against it
Australia is not playing her part
Suffern has not coming forward
Returned Soldiers say Australia
has no home for returned soldiers
only the Staff at home. It makes
one feel very weak when we think
of the miserable (and) that story
behind - very sick

Will I think you are what I will
be like when I go back about the
same way a little more grey perhaps
a little harder faced

With a lot more worldly experience
a greater love for home & a higher
appreciation for those I have left
behind a warmer feeling of love for
all & a greater desire to do my
duty today. Sincerely

I do hope the Boys will play
the game the good old way.

Remember me to all from Larry &
Ray our better

Yours
Dad

HEAD QUARTERS

1ST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

June 6th

My dearest Dora

Since writing you last

I have had some exciting
incidents on the 31st

We went out to tackle the
Turks as they cleared
we returned to camp the
Despatch Commander

Major General Chevall was
staying with us I left out
at 6.30 the next morning

The Doctor was standing in my
tent I am just getting a Spruce
Bark the Lord there is a Tank
airplane coming over I got
my glasses I had a look &
heard this Bong then Bong

1st in my tent to see the Doctor's tent which was in some
one on the Sunday night. No body knowing we were in the way of 1st in my tent

It took out the Bones of them
there inmates were perishing
legs broken & I never saw
such an awful scene

I did not think I had even
formed plans just had to
stand awaiting perhaps
another or four death
straight out I felt certain
afterward that my life was
chained for the war as I
felt as if I could be
anything without danger

I took up my duties of

Still Capt. Since 2 weeks ago to
morrow I never had to work
so hard as a job

General Cox is still in Hospital
but mendish to leave his place

I have worked till a every night
up at 3.45 to see all are standing
to their homes then stage we
get another hour & wait
again We are stationed on
the Limerick Peninsular we are
working a ^{Railway} line to attend
the Turks they are supposed to
be doing the same

I was sent a sketch map
sent some showing where we
are Its certainly interesting
work on the Staff you are Gen
of many things as a sort of IT
But one does not get time
to work too often & I have
really not had one chance
to write as all our time goes
to luncheon by way of writing
notes. I will write another letter in a day
or so

& about less than 30 Yds from
me a Bomb dropped
the other was about 100 yds away
the one at 30 yds killed
30 horses & 10 men & wounded
20 One poor fellow had his
head blown off all was left
was his neck another his jaw
another his leg & so on
one officer in his tent & some
one had his sleep blown off
his brains all over the top of
his tent The office which was
almost opposite my tent
had bullets through it one
through the typewriter up the
steel frame where it went. Some
men were killed the way
it hit the horses was terrible

Motrab

On xmas Eve the word was given that we would go out in xmas day ~~to~~ make an attack on our enemy

Motrab is situated in the Mediterranean Sea in Western Egypt. It is about 185 miles west of Alexandria & up to the beginning of the war was almost connected right up by Rail. There were 2 lines a heavy gauge as far as El Doka + then a light line through the desert on to Baqurah which is 33 miles from El Doka. But this line & the line from Suez to Doka was ~~ruined~~ ^{overrun} by the Khedive just before his leaving Egypt. He sold both lines to the ^{British} ~~foreign~~ they pulled up the light line from Doka ^{Boqurah} 50 miles long leaving only the heavy gauge from Alex to Doka. ~~Stretching~~ ^{Stretching} about 100 miles in length.

The heavy now has cut the communication holding some of the wells between Doka & Motrab & gives us only the Sea to depend upon for our Supplies which being a shallow harbor are brought in boats & muleback all our drinking water from

Alexandria + a couple of (three) German War Ships
Cruise around ^{our} harbor for as further
protection as Submarine have become very
active + Germany has a Submarine Base further
up at Sousse which is undoubtedly our goal
at 5 A.M. this day we sailed forth the
Australian Light Horse to form the advance guard
then three Bataillons 1 Troop of the Duke of Lancaster were
joining then our 2 guns the Bal of the Regt of
Duke of Lancaster + 1 Squad of the Herts company
we went for about 10 miles S.E. + then Swung
around our intention being of getting them
on the rear ~~or in the flank~~ + driving them
into the Infantry which advanced towards the
Center. The Center force was composed of
the 15th Sikh Indian Regt + 2 Bata of
New Zealand Infantry whilst the Right flank
was taken by the Bucks company.
The Workshop in port steamed out + shelled
their entrenchments + drove them back
whilst we caught them in their projected
retirement + drove them inward we dispersed
them + cleared the Country for about 14 miles
from our Camp killing close on 500 +
taking 82 Prisoners

Amongst which were Serot Egyptian Cook
Gust Bergheim the Chef had not time to
collect his private belongings so Serot
our ally hurried his departure that
his personal effects & papers were
seized by us. We are now having Campstove
rest for awhile awaiting their re-
assembly at some other post where
we will again go forth if we
are they want
When our Casualties are considered
have 4 officers wounded 10 men killed
49 wounded made the victory all the
more complete as the enemy numbered
about 3000 & their fire was very
strong they held their position till
the Australian Casualties was 1 officer
myself wounded 1 man of my Squad killed
whilst we accounted for 153 killed & 8
prisoners a good toll for our own
Casualties

(To be continued later)

My Dearest Broom

Just a few lines to let
you know that I am OK we
made a run to El Arish that is about
100 miles from Kantara
We set out on a night march ~~made~~ 26 miles
that night & surrounded the town on the 22nd
I then entered the town with a few men
& demanded the Shérif to be brought to me
the people ran out & as I rode through
the town they came out & turned my hand
as I rode through it was a triumphal
march just an Escort & an interpreter &
a guide I demanded all the Turk's
Spies or followers to be delivered or I would
treat the town as hostile
They were delivered to me & I called all
the Shérifs & priests together
It was really amusing to find the people
run out & I held my Royal Hand out
& they kissed it & ~~it was~~ the women first
to keep their faces hidden & readily dropped
their cloths veils well nigh 2 days
later or I should say the next night
we set out again for another 26 miles

+ attacked the town of MACDABBA
here we had a great fight we got
1200 Turkish Prisoners & 4000 Horses Mules
Camels etc. we surrounded the Town &
nothing escaped & returned that night so we
had 1 night march rest the next night & then
off the next night 26 miles fight all day
& march all night BOMB

We were 48 hours without rest but we got
a great victory

We are now camped on the Sea Shore &
although a bit cold is delightful we
go down at 06/45 & have a swim then
back to breakfast Its raining the first
time we have seen rain for 10 months

Since I left MATRUH

Its glorious here perfectly delightful
weather now just like Goswombu
they all think it cold but not we
I know you will not have had a
letter for a week or so because we have
been in the move & cannot send mail
away Thus I am sending by an
officer who is going to Cairo & get him
to put it there for me

I am sending a few Stumps that was
got off some Turkish business
So the Boys will find 1 each & for Dad
got a couple more Curious for next batch
to be sent back

Hope you got all I have sent before
Well now I forgot to say we got birds
on Christmas Eve & I got a couple of
Turkeys when I entered the town
& we had Turkeys Champagne &
Plum Pudding not a bad dinner
But oh I would sooner have had a
ton of barley with you all than
a feast here

Don't think there is anything to be
had here the Turks have been here
for close on 2 years & occupied the
place so there is little or nothing left
It's a very small town of about
2000 inhabitants we are camped 2 ~~or~~
miles on the outskirts near the beach
Well dear Mum I think we are
getting the best of it now we have
the Turks all cleared out of Sinan
& I suppose you were hear of us
going to Ben Soba

I think we will be going about 30
miles to RAFA

I am sure you can follow these places
from the maps I sent Ken & you
Keep them you can always see the
most important look along the Mediterranean
Sea & you will see El Amth then from RAFA
so you can follow us

I pray every night to soon get back to you
all its getting very lonely without you
& I am sure you must feel the same
you are very far from all the kiddies

I am sending a Snaps of myself on my
2nd Home Star I must send you some
more Snaps shortly this is a fairly
good one taken at NAZAR
Goodbye Sweethearts you can send hi
best wishes

Dear Mr Hudson
Don't you
believe a word your
old man is saying
He is getting fat & lazy
for the want
of work
I have had
him out for
a couple of
night-marches
lately which is
doing him some
good, Happy New
Year to you & kiddies
Yours sincerely Jeff

We left Heliopolis on the 21st Nov
for Alexandria & arrived there
on Sunday evening and marched
5 miles to Mena where we stayed a
fortnight to get out for this trip
Alexandria is a much finer city
than Cairo more Continental &
the inhabitants are chiefly composed
of French & Greeks French is the
Language spoken but of course
Arabic is used by the Niggers although
a number of them can speak French
one gets used to the various words
required to make you understood
The Buildings here as in Cairo are
all Flat Roofed this is owing to
the very small rainfall they get
But men where we were camped is a
Salt Lake & the Salt is shoveled up &
made into rough blocks to stand for
some time & then refined
on the 6th Dec we embarked at
Gothari for El Dakhla this is just
100 miles by Rail

Now I had to take charge of a Convoy to
MATRUH this is 85 miles away across
Desert Country with 3 watering places in
between or wells which were guarded by
Sikhi. Having arrived at 6.30 we were
informed the Column would be ready at
12 Noon to move off & the march started
to BIR ABU JERAB which is 25 miles
away along a fairly good Road
Sandy - bounded in few parts from the
Sines alongside

We arrived at about 7 PM but the Arab
Guard who was with us insisted on us
to the position of the Wells & took myself
with a Section of men fully 4 miles over
very rough Country before I could get
much satisfaction from him
But my revolver at his head & threatening
to shoot in 5 minutes if he did not take
us back to the Column made him take
a complete turn eventually finding the
outposts to the Wells which were situated
about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the Road
We left here at 7 in the Morning for

EL BAGUSH but had to leave 2 horses behind
to come along with the other Squadron

in a day or two also 1 Horse died belonging
to the Ammunition Column

to BAGUSH was 33 miles & I went a
stop 90 Seeing that at the last watering
the pumps had broken down & The Horses
could not be properly watered after
most of the men staying up all night to do so

Midday I decided to draw 1 Gal of water per
Horse from our Water Reserve we were
carrying in the Transport which also had the
effect of lightening our load men got $\frac{1}{4}$ gal
& the mule all the difference we getting to

BAGUSH in four time ^{6.30 PM} & we Bed at 10 PM
watering here was much better we decided
to leave at 7.30 but got clear at 8 for

BIR JEROWALA which is 17 miles away
we arrived here at 12 AM & found good water
in wells there as there was some difficulty
of water at MATRUH I decided to stay here for
the day rest the Horses get plenty of

Water & start early next morning
We lost another Horse here died suddenly
8 AM on the Road to MATRUH which is about
14 miles away & arrived at 12 AM the end
of our destination for the present our Convoy
getting in in good time & order.

Saturday morning the Yummy moved out to a place called DAR ISWALA about 8 miles off whilst the SIKHS moved to PAS OM RAKUNG at 1 o'clock message received the Yummy had been engaged at DAR ISWALA & had less I was to immediately go to the assistance of the SIKHS along the Telegraph Line

I came into touch with them about 5 o'clock but as they had no further news of Yummy I remained there all night having gone out without any transport whatever

The Yummy came in later stating they had 26 Cartridges some killed

Sunday I was asked to reconnoitre the ground towards DAR ISWALA & to try & clear up the go of the day before I suddenly came across about 60 Crooks under Samuels

28 miles & about 300 Shabazs Crooks etc

One of the Crooks had 280 English Golden Sivs We took them all to Camp & on

Sunday Monday I was ordered to take the advance guard of a fighting force

I got my men out & after going about 5 miles we halted having firing in our Left I ordered 1 Troop under Lieut Johnston to take a ridge for observation

The immediately got under fire they
battered him very strongly I then took
the Right Flank of the Line to hold &
prevent the Enemy coming around us
Baker my Trumpeter for this day & follower
was with me I sent him back with my
Horse & my Bowman he came up later
to me & I had to go for further orders
my Trumpeter was shot in the ankle
& although under very heavy fire &
followed by their Snipers Bullets providence
saved me Returning I took up a further
position on advance to hold our Right
but they so pressed the line that the
Colonel commanding the Left ordered
the line to be shortened this was owing
to the Royal Scots working out coming
into the firing line
we had 3 Cosvolves to the line &
having got them out of the firing line
& clear away I ordered a retirement this
my troops done well at this stage I
found one of our Troops on the Right
which was holding a position with

The German Sgt had not returned &
Seeing the enemy pressing on I was afraid
of him as they were then putting
us with Bullets

Sending my S.M. to order him to come
at once & ordered his horses up to him
I then put another troop up into
the firing line to cover his retirement
& got him out without a scratch
Bullets had been flying truly very thick
Zampieri Morris got a Bullet in his
Saddle

Conferring with the OC German we
got under heavy fire my S.M.
who was acting as my bodyguard whilst
returning back of me to get the Squadron
again into its new position got shot
through the stomach this was the worse
wound my 1st Sgt my own Brother had
difficulty in getting him off but this
was accomplished with immediate attention
The war is now progressing well (Torney)
We took up a shortwood line on the
Right Flank & holding the Court line
kept the enemy in check until we

returned to Camp

after which the other 2 Squadrons
Came out from Motrab to our assistance
It was decided to return to Motrab
as the enemy was trying to cut us off
our Convoy having to return the previous
day So we returned & they made an
attack on our Right Flank but getting
our guns at them & the Warship which
steamed close in gave them a few good
shots they stopped anything further
The next day we went out again but our
aeroplane shot down 2 or 3 but nothing
lower 2500-3000 We had an excellent
position some that I have will see us through
Last evening they advanced on us & sniped
a bit but we stood to them & got
ready for a scrap but nothing came off
This is the first time Australian Light
Horse have come into action or mounted
Troops also as Australian Cavalry &
I have the honor of leading the first
Troops