Light Horse

Item number: 10/11/40

Title: 6th Australian Light Horse Regiment

March 1918
Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

6th Light Horse Regiment

FOR

March 1918

Signature of Officer compiling: Lt. Vacanti

Signature of Officer Commanding: Lt. Col. S. C. Smellie
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F.S. Regs., Part II.
The Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WADI KANEIN

1 2

Believing Parade. Town Patrol 1 No. 6 Platoon.
Cleanly Camp and Troops. I Battalion, 2nd Corps, with 2 Pl. reported back from detached duty.

TRAINING as per syllabus. Brigadier General of 1,050 1/2 men in Dining Wards.

4th week.

Training of Regimented duties.

TRANSPORT. Lt. Newton reported back from Railway Construction. Work.

BELIEVING PARADE 9 Platoon. 1 Platoon in acreage.

CLEANING Camp. 6th Div. and 6th Div. No 6. Platoon in Special duty at JERICHO. Town Patrol.

7 8 9

All Plaine Troops and Belmont Callahan returned, made orderly.

ARMED SERVICE in Y.M.C.A. at 1230. Strong. 23. 490. 2,100.

10 11

Training in morning. Afternoon. Squadrons as parade in full marching order. All troops.

CLEANING Camp, ready to move.

12 13

Marched out with Brigade at 19:30, marching out Stafi 20 of 452 Officers. KILLED.
1330 & 1400 for lunch, proceeded to LATRON arriving 1830. Bivouacked for night.

ARMED SERVICE in Y.M.C.A. at 1230. Strong. 23. 490. 2,100.

ARMED SERVICE in Y.M.C.A. at 1230. Strong. 23. 490. 2,100.

14 15 16

Reducing 1st Platoon. 1st Platoon in acreage.

17 18

Marched out with Brigade at 19:30. Escorting out Stafi 20 of 452 Officers. KILLED.

Verone Wadi 1st Platoon. 12 Troops left. 3 Troops in Old Town. 3 Troops 1st Platoon 2 Platoon in Old Town.

JERUSALEM 1st Platoon.

1875. W.W. 3/25 1,000,000. 4/15 J.B.C. A. A.D.S.S./Form C. 2118.
WAR DIARY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
1918
(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Place | Date | Hour | Event Description
--- | --- | --- | ---
JERUSALEM | 19 | 0700 | Cleaning saddles. Fg. opened.
 | 20 | 0700 | Turned out and Roll at 0700. Proceeding towards Jerusalem. Pass through TELTRAP.
 | 21 | 0700 | ED. DUMM, Corporal, at a point 3 miles further on, at 0800. Major O'Brien.
 | 22 | 0700 | Lieut. H. B. J. H. reporting back and special duty.
 | 23 | 0700 | Kicking, orders 'to make' almost at 1100, turned off.
 | 24 | 0700 | Arriving orders. H. C. tailored referred from Lahore to Alexandria.
 | 25 | 0700 | Sradio Bompie. From report to Chief School I am now close to Camp I am on hospital.

1918

JERUSALEM | 19 | 0700 | Kicking, orders 'to make' almost at 1400, turned off.
 | 20 | 0700 | Arriving orders. H. C. tailored referred from Lahore to Alexandria.
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Remarks and references to Appendices

1875 W. 8593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forma C. 2118.
Summary of Events and Information

17 March 1918

25 March 1918
B Squadron, after a day's observation posts, advanced past all day with machine guns.

1930
Moved up Northward along the ES Salt Road, passing through

NAZABA, arrived 0125 1400, then continued branching off the ES Salt Road, and

on 2 AMMAN Track, arrived at EL FUL x 0700. Brought in here.

1800
B Squadron passed by the front of Jewish Camp and passed through the village of SUMILEH.

1900
Mahajin burnt later on the spot.

1918
1 Collaboration and V MC took up night despatches.

27 March 1918
Worked out with Brigade towards AMMAN. A force under Major Currie found and

left flank guard. Came into contact with the enemy NW of AMMAN

at 1630. B. Sqn. ordered to take up position on the left flank and 7th Regt.

with towards AMMAN.

1320
Remainder of Regt. CSG 2 hms 7th and 5th Regt. under 5th CSG 2 Sqn. under Major 0/3.

1800
Night despatches taken up by CSG under Major 0/3.

1230
Received orders to withdraw to the right of the enemy and take up position on the extreme left flank.

1400
At 1420 a heavy despatch was made to AMMAN from the north with 7th Regt.

on the right at 1530. All units joined, formed main body of the front line, and

wound up on this flank. Capt. Currie 50 officers, killed wounded.

(2nd Armoured Division)
WAR DIARY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Hour</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Officers observed troops forward, about 2000 yards in front of our position.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Average shelling all the morning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enemy commenced to advance in front of our position. Moving up in a steady line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>We were able to check their advance gradually without much damage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>0700</td>
<td></td>
<td>Enemy attacked, prepared to advance. Moved up in a steady line.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>We were able to hold them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>This article was written by the 1/1st Battalion, 1/1st Battalion, 1/1st Battalion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Remarks and references to Appendices

19th March 1918

C.O. 6th L.H. Regt.
WAR DIARY
OF
6th Light Horse Regiment
FOR
March 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.  Subject.
2.  Training Syllabus for week ending 16/3/18.
4.  17/3/18.
5.  11/3/18.
6.  18/3/18.

Messages for 19th & 20th March.
6th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

Training Syllabus.

For week ending Saturday 9th March, 1918.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>0700 to 0930</th>
<th>1000 to 1130</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Physical Training &amp; Bayonet Fighting</td>
<td>Squadron Drill, (with arms)</td>
<td>In addition to the subjects as set out in the special schedule, special classes in the following subjects will be held daily:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/3/18</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>(1) Hotchkiss Rifle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Tactical Exercises</td>
<td>(2) Gas Drill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/3/18</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>(3) Range Practise for Hotchkiss.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Squadron Drill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/3/18</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Tactical Exercises</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/3/18</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Delousing Parade</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/3/18</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Cleaning Camp and Saddlery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/3/18</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WADI HANIEL, March 1st 1918

Lt-Colonel, Commanding,
6th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.
### TRAINING SYLLABUS

**FOR WEEK ENDING SATURDAY 18TH MARCH 1918**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>0700 to 0830</th>
<th>0800 to 1100</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, 11th</td>
<td>Physical Training and Bayonet</td>
<td>Squadron Drill with arms</td>
<td>In addition to the subjects as set out in the special schedule, special classes in the &amp; Advance Guard following subjects will be held daily:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12th</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Tactical Exercises</td>
<td>(1). Hotchkiss Rifle  (2). Gas Drill - one hour per week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 13th</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Squadron Drill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 15th</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Delousing Parades</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 16th</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>Cleaning Camp &amp; Saddlery.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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WADI HANNIN,  March 8th 1918

Lt-Colonel, Commanding,

6TH LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.
OPERATION ORDER

by

Lieut-Colonel H.A.D. WHITE, Commanding, 6th Light Horse Regiment.

March 13th 1918.

Reference Map:-
PALESTINE Sheets 13 & 17. 1/63360.

INFORMATION
1. A. & E.Z. Mounted Division (less 1st E.M. Brigade and Auckland Mounted Rifles) will leave RICHON area on March 13th 1918.

STARTING POINT
2. Head of Brigade will pass the starting point which will be the Northern end of the village of WADI HANEIN and near the Brigade Supply Dump, by 0845. Squadrons to be off their lines by 0800. Regiment will be formed up on flat near football ground facing SOUTH EAST ready to move off at 0830.

ORDER OF MARCH
3. Regimental Headquarters.
   "A" Squadron.
   "B" Squadron.
   "C" Squadron.

MARCH DISCIPLINE
4. Troops will keep off the road as much as possible; when obliged to keep to the road, will march in groups of half Squadrons at 150 yards intervals. Transport will march in groups of six wagons at 150 yards intervals.

RATIONS
5. One days ration and one Iron ration will be carried for man and horse.

TRANSPORT
6. 1 C.S. Wagon per Squadron.
   4 Camels do
   Camel and Wagons to be loaded by 0700 tomorrow morning. Wagons to carry officers valises, blankets, bivvie sheets. Camel to carry picketing gear.

M.C. Mackenzie
Lieut.
Adjutant, 6th Light Horse Regiment.

Copies issued to:-

No. 1 File
No. 2 C.O.
No. 3 "A" Squadron.
No. 4 "B" do
No. 5 "C" do
No. 6 Quartermaster
No. 7 R.H.Q.
No. 8 War Diary.
Operation Order No. 2

Lt Col H A D White

Command 6th L H Rgt.
March 19th 1918

1. Information. The Brigade will move during the night 19-20/18
   to a base site near Telaat ed Dummm (13 & 13 B).

2. Starting Point. The head of the Brigade will pass the starting point, which will
   be a point on the Jerusalem Jericho road at the north east
   corner of the walls of Jerusalem at 1800. The Regiment
   will be ready to move off their lines at 1800.

3. Order of March.
   A. Sqn.
   R. H. Q.
   B. Sqn.
   C. "

4. Formation of
   March

5. Rations.
   Unconsumed portion of days ration plus four days ration will be carried by Telaat ed Dummm and
   on moving from that place three days supplies will be carried as follows:
   Unconsumed portion of days ration plus four ration on man and horse
   Two days mobile rations on camel echelon.
5. Water. No loops are to be used at Bethany. All tents will be filled before moving out. Disturbing water will be drawn at Telcon ed. Dum. Horses will be watered at Mill of G4A under cover. Cupolas to be covered later.

7. Cenacle. No fires are to be lit on hooches or tents erected by day. By units on arrival on the Tericho plain, as it is of the utmost importance to conceal the concentration of troops there, and to prevent the leakage of information.

8. Hostile. In the event of a hostile aeroplane approaching troops concentrated on the Tericho plane, everyone will remain still and not look up. There is to be no rifle fire. Regiments will mount two Hotchkiss guns per section to fire on aeroplanes which may fly low over our troops.

9. Grazing. No grazing will take place in the Jordan Valley owing to the danger of poisonous plants and graminics.

10. Transport. Separate instruction will be issued as regards wheeled vehicles and camels.

M.C. MacKenzie, Sjt.
Adj. 6th A. Regt.
OPERATION ORDER NO. 2

1. INFORMATION. A nzac Mounted Division (less 1st L.H. Brigade group and Auckland Mounted Rifles) will leave RICHON area on March 13th 1918.

2. MOVES. The Brigade will march in rear of Divisional Troops, to LATRON.

3. STARTING POINT. Head of the Brigade will pass the starting point which will be the Northern end of the Village of WADI HAMRIN and near the Brigade supply dump by 0845.

4. ORDER OF MARCH. The order of march will be: Brigade Hqrs. 2nd. Signal Troop A.S. B Field Troop 2nd.A.M.G. Squadron 5th L.H. Regt. 6th L.H. Regt. 7th L.H. Regt. Ayrshire Battery R.M.A. 2nd.L.H.F.Amb. 7th M.V. Section Transport.

5. MARCH DISCIPLINE. For this march troops will keep off the road as far as possible. When obliged to keep to the road Brigades and transport will march in formation already ordered.

6. RATIONS. One and one third days ration will be drawn to-morrow and a further one day at LATRON.

7. TRANSPORT. Instructions as to transport will be issued later.

8. Acknowledge.

Issued at 1500.

Copy No. 1 Anzacs
2 File
3 War diary
4 War diary
5 War diary
6 5th L.H. Regt.
7 6th L.H. Regt.
8 7th L.H. Regt.
9 2nd.A.M.G.Sqdn.
10 2nd.L.H.F.Ambulance
11 B Field Troop A.S.
12 2nd.Signal Troop A.S.
13 7th M.V. Section
14 Ayrshire Battery R.M.A.
15 Supply Officer
16 Orderly officer
Operation Order No. 3
by
Brig. General G. de L. Ryrie G.B. G.S.G. V.D.
Commanding 2nd. Light Horse Brigade A.I.F.
16.3.1918

1. MOVES
The Brigade will move during the night 16.3.1918 to a
bivouac site near TALAA'T ED DUMM (113 G 13 B).

2. STARTING POINT
The Head of the Brigade will pass the starting point
which will be a point on the JERUSALEM-JERICHO Road
at the North-East corner of the walls of JERUSALEM,
at 1800. Units will be ready to move from their own
lines at that hour.

3. ORDER OF MARCH
B.H.Q. Sig.Troop Field Troop 2nd.A.M.G.S. 5th L.H.
6th L.H. 7th L.H. Ayrshire Battarmy 2nd.L.H.F.A.
Transport.

4. FORMATION OF
MARCH
Will be column of sections closed right up.

5. TRANSPORT
Separate instructions will be issued as regards wheeled
vehicles and camels.

6. SUPPLIES
Unconsumed portion of day’s rations and forage plus iron
rations will be carried to TALAA'T ED DUMM and on moving
from that place three days supplies will be carried as
follows:
Unconsumed portion of day’s ration plus iron rations on
man and horse.
Two days mobile rations on camel echelon.

7. WATER
No troops are to water at BETHANY. All fantasses will
be filled before moving out. Drinking water will be
drawn at TALAA'T ED DUMM and supplied from tanks on
JERICHO Road at Square C 10 B.
Horses will water at MILL at G 4 A under instructions
to be issued later.

8. CONCEALMENT
No fires will be lit or bivouacs or tents erected by
day by units on arrival in the JERICHO plain, as it is
of the utmost importance to conceal the concentration
of troops there, and to prevent the leakage of information

9. HOSTILE AEROPLANES
In the event of a hostile aeroplane approaching
troops concentrated on the JERICHO plain, everyone will
remain still and not look up. There is to be no rifle
fire.
Regiments will mount two Hotchkiss guns per Squadron
and the Machine Gun Squadron four guns to fire on
planes which will fly low over troops.

10. GRAZING
No grazing of animals will take place in the JORDAN VALLEY
owing to danger of poisonous plants and grasses.

11. MARCHING OUT
STATUS
Parade states to be rendered by 1600 to-day.


C.O.
6 L.H. Regt.
1. MOVES

1.1 The coming operations will take place as follows:

- 2-5 day Anzac Mounted Division (less 1st L.H. Bde and Auckland Mounted Rifles) march to LATRUN. Here they come under C.O.C. 20th Corps.
- 2-4 day N.Z.M.R. Bde marches from LATRUN to ZAKARIYA.
- 2nd L.H. Brigade marches from LATRUN to ENAB.
- 2-3 day Anzac Mounted Division (less 1st L.H. Bde and Auckland Mounted Rifles) march to JERUSALEM.
- 2-2/4-1 Anzac Mounted Division marches to area of concentration.

2. CONCEALMENT OF TROOPS.

From the time the Brigade leave JERUSALEM until they leave the area of concentration concealment of all troops, horses etc. is of the utmost importance.

This particularly applies to the period from morning of 2-1 day up to evening of 3-1 day when the Brigade is bivouacked in area of concentration. Bivouac sites are being selected in advance, and troops after getting into them must take all steps to conceal themselves. Watering must be carried out with great care. The position in which fires are lighted must be chosen so as not to be seen by the enemy.

3. MOBILITY

When the Brigade goes forward from JERUSALEM it will only take stores which are absolutely essential to fighting efficiency. Nothing not absolutely essential will be taken forward of JERUSALEM. Grenades will be taken.

For the carriage of these stores and for ammunition and grenades one ½ limber per Squadron will be taken and one for each Regimental M.G. and 4 per Machine gun Squadron. Remainder of ammunition will be taken on Camels.

4. RATIONS

3 days mobile rations for men and 2 days mobile forage ration for horse will be taken. Of these one day for the men and one for the horse will be taken on Camels.

5. TOOLS

A party with tools must be kept up with the advanced guard. They will have to detach parties from time to time for repairing the road before the main column comes on.

6. LEADING

Troops will lead horses when going up or down the steep stony hills in the area.

7. INFORMATION

Timely information is of the utmost importance. It will be especially important for the Division to have information of water and stores.

8. LANDING GROUNDS

A look out must be kept for possible Aeroplane landing grounds. These must be at least 300 yards square, and there should be no high trees or buildings immediately on the edge. There must be no xxx small wadi or deep ruts on the ground.

A put down in the white string with the cross bar into the wind, viz; will be put down on the approach of one of our aeroplanes to indicate that it can land there if it wishes.

[Diagram: Wind direction arrow pointed to the left]
The following schedule shows the distribution and allotment of Camel Transport.

For a guide as to loads see "Provisional Establishment of a Mounted Division with Camel Transport".

Certain baggage camels are shown which may not be supplied, as it may be decided to carry the blankets and bivvy sheets upon 1st Line Wagons only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Technical</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Baggage</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bde. Hqrs.</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signal Troop</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regiment</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.G. Squadron</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.V.S.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Ambulance</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Divisional Dump will be established at LUDD and Brigades will, immediately it is allotted to them, begin to cart over heavy baggage and stores, other than baggage or technical stores carried on 1st Line Transport.

Surplus Ordnance Stores will be returned to Ordnance and not stored in the dump.

(Sgd.) C.C. Powles Lieut. Colonel
A.A. & Q.M.G.
AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MTD. DIVISION

For your information and necessary action:

Captain
Staff Captain 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.
HOISTILE AEROPLANES

Each unit will always have a man detailed to keep careful lookout for hostile aeroplanes. One Troop per squadron will be detailed to dismount and open fire on hostile aeroplanes which come low over troops.

10. HOSTILE POPULATION

Part of the population in the country in which we will be operating are known to be hostile to us. This particularly applies to Circassians of whom several colonies have been planted by Turks in the area. Small bodies of troops must therefore take all precautions possess in approaching villages or ground giving concealment to snipe snipers. Single men must not move about any distance from their unit or enter villages.

11. NAMES OF PLACES REPEATED

In several cases it will be found that the same name occurs on the map. Officers and others making reports must give the co-ordinate to avoid mistakes.

12. TYPHUS

Typhus is reported bad in villages. Troops must keep out of them as far as possible.

13. PINK LAUREL

Attention is called again to the pink laurel which grows near water and is fatal to horses.

14. ORDER OF MARCH

During these operations whenever troops are using roads march discipline is of the greatest importance. Troops using the main roads will march in groups of half Squadrons at 150 yards distance. Transport will march in groups of 6 wagons at 150 yards distance. Units will ensure that this formation is kept to throughout the march, and, that no straggling takes place.

(Sgd.) J. Gilbert Browne Lieut. Colonel General Staff

8th March 1918. AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

For your information.

9th March 1918. Brigade Major 2nd. L.M. Brigade A.I.F.
TO: B JAY

Number: BM13

Day of Month: 17

In reply to Number: AAA

"Running order a a a units will be prepared to march tomorrow morning 20 or if necessary"

From: L A Base

Place: 

Date: 19.3.18

Signature of "Forwarding Officer": 

This line may be forwarded at own risk.

This line should be shown if not required.

997 W WO2/M 107. 50,000 Pads. 557. A.C.Ltd. (R 147)