

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/2/26

Title: 2nd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

February 1917

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

A. J. Form 2118.

2nd Light Horse Brigade

A.I.F.

For month of February 1917.

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
HASSANIYA	2.2.17		2nd L.H. Brigade left HASSANIYA at 0800 and marched to MOSEIFIG arriving at 1530.	see appendix A
MOSEIFIG	3.2.17		Brigade marched from MOSEIFIG to MAZAR arriving 1500.	do.
MAZAR	8.2.17		Brigade marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL arriving 1500.	see appendix B
BARDAWIL	9.2.17		Brigade marched from BARDAWIL to MASAID arriving 1300.	do.
MASAID	10/21st.		Brigade remained at MASAID, furnishing small daily and bi-weekly patrols towards EL BURJ	
SHEIKH ZOWAID	22.2.17		Brigade marched from MASAID to SHEIKH ZOWAID arriving 1530.	see appendix C.
	23.2.17		Brigade carried out a reconnaissance towards KHAN YUNUS, in conjunction with N.Z.M.R. Bde.	see report.
ABU HAMTHALA	25.2.17		Brigade returned to Camp at 1600 and Camp site was moved to ABU HAMTHALA near the coast.	see appendix D.
			Brigade carried out a reconnaissance to RAFA also protected a naval party taking soundings on the coast about RAFA. Small parties of enemy mounted patrols seen but not encountered.	see appendix E
ABU HAMTHALA	27.2.17		Brigade carried out a reconnaissance to EL BADARI and surrounding country. Few shots exchanged with enemy mounted patrols. No casualties.	see report.
			Nine Turkish deserters, also Bedouin caught sending smoke signals to enemy were brought in.	see report.



J. A. Whyte
Major,
Brigade Major, 2nd L. H. Brigade, A.I.F.

by
Brig. General G. de L. Ryrle C.M.G.
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F. 31/1/17

1. MOVES

The following moves will take place on February 2nd. and 3rd. 1917.

February 2nd. 2nd. L.H. Brigade (less 5th L.H. Regt. and I Section M.G. Squadron) HASSANIYA to MOSEIFIG.
5th L.H. Regt. and I Section M.G. Squadron GE'EILA to MOSEIFIG.

February 3rd. 2nd. L.H. Brigade MOSEIFIG to MAZAR.

2nd. L.H. Brigade (less 5th L.H. Regt. and I Section M.G. Squadron) will leave HASSANIYA at 0800 on February 2nd. Starting point 1/4 mile East of 7th L.H. Regt. camp. Head of Main body will pass starting point at 0800.

Order of march:

- Advance guard 1 Squadron 6th L.H. Regt.
- Right flank guard 1 Troop 6th L.H. Regt.
- Left flank guard 1 Troop 7th L.H. Regt.
- Main body
 - Brigade Headquarters
 - Signal Troop
 - 6th L.H. Regt. (less 1 Sqdn. & 2 troops)
 - 7th L.H. Regt. (less 3 troops) Section
 - 2nd. L.H.M.G. Squadron (less 1 Squadron)
 - 2nd. Field Troop
 - 2nd. L.H. Field Ambulance
 - 7th Mobile Veterinary Section
- Rear guard 1 Troop 7th L.H. Regt.

5th L.H. Regt. and I Section M.G. Squadron will move from GE'EILA to MOSEIFIG under Regimental arrangements.

2. TRANSPORT

All 1st Line Transport will be loaded and ready to move off from starting point at 0700 on February 2nd. O.C. 6th L.H. Regt. will detail 1 troop as escort. O.C. 7th L.H. Regt. will detail 1 troop to report to Supply Officer at ABD on ~~2nd~~ February 1917 at 0645 as escort to 2nd. Line Transport.

3. AMMUNITION

200 rounds per man and 3500 rounds per machine gun and 3000 rounds per Lewis gun will be taken; usual Regimental reserves with 1st Line transport.

4. RATIONS

Unexpended portion of day's ration and 1 extra ration will be carried by each man. 2 feeds per horse will be taken.

5. SUPPLIES AND WATER

O.C. Supplies will make arrangements to have one day's supplies and water at MOSEIFIG by 1500 on 2/2/17.

6. WATERING HORSES

O.C. 2nd. Field Troop will make arrangements for water supply at MOSEIFIG.

7. MARCHING OUT STATES

Marching out states will be rendered to B.H.Q. by 1500 on 1st February 1917.

J. R. Ryrle Major
Brigade Major 2nd. L.H. Brigade

Issued at 2100
Copy No.

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Diary | 8 | 2nd. Signal Troop |
| 2 | File | 9 | 2nd. Field Troop |
| 3 | Anzac Mounted Divn. | 10 | M.G. Squadron |
| 4 | Northern Canal Section | 11 | Field Ambulance |
| 5 | 5th L.H. Regt. | 12 | 7th M.V. Section |
| 6 | 6th L.H. Regt. | 13 | Supply Section |
| 7 | 7th L.H. Regt. | 14 | Abd Subsection |
| | | 15 | C.C. C.T.C. |

2nd. Light Horse Brigade Order No. 8 Copy No. 1

by
Brig. General G. de L. Ryrie C.M.G.
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.

7/8/17

1. MOVES February 8th. The Brigade (less 1 Squadron) will move from NAZAR to BARDAWIL.
1 Squadron 7th L.H. Regiment from GERERAT will rejoin the Brigade at BARDAWIL.
February 9th. The Brigade will move from BARDAWIL to HASAID.
2. ORDER OF MARCH February 8th. Head of Main body will pass the starting point Brigade wells, at 0800.
Order of march:
Advance guard 1 Squadron 7th L.H. Regt.
Right flank 1 troop 7th L.H. Regt.
Left flank 1 troop 6th L.H. Regt.
Main body Brigade Headquarters
2nd. Signal Troop
7th L.H. Regt. (less 3 Squadrons and 1 troop)
5th L.H. Regt. (less 1 troop)
6th L.H. Regt. (less 3 troops).
2nd. Aust. M.G. Squadron
2nd. L.H.F. Ambulance
2nd. Field Troop
7th Mobile Veterinary Section
Rear Guard 1 troop 6th L.H. Regt.
3. AMMUNITION 200 rounds per man and 3,500 rounds per Machine gun and 3,000 rounds per Lewis gun will be carried.
Usual Regimental reserves with 1st Line Transport.
B.A.G. will march with 1st Line Transport.
4. TRANSPORT All transport will be loaded and ready to move off from starting point at 0800 on February 8th.
O.C. 5th L.H. Regt. will detail one troop as escort.
5. RATIONS Unexpended portion of day's ration and one extra ration will be carried by each man. Two feeds per horse will be taken.
6. WATERING HORSES O.C. 2nd. Field Troop will make the necessary arrangements for watering of horses at BARDAWIL.
7. MARCHING OUT STATES Marching out states will be rendered to B.H.Q. by 1700 on 7th February.
8. REPORTS Reports to Head of Main body.

Major

Brigade Major 2nd. L.H. Brigade.

Issued at 1100

		Field
Copy No. 1	Diary	9. 2nd. Signal Troop
2	File	10. M.G. Squadron
3	A & N.Z. Htd. Divn.	11. Field Ambulance
4	Northern Canal Section	12. 7th M.V. Section
5	5th L.H. Regt.	13. Supply Section
6	6th L.H. Regt.	14. NAZAR Subsection
7	7th L.H. Regt.	15. O.C. C.T.C.
8	2nd. Signal Troop	16. O.C. B.A.G.
		17. O.C. 2nd. Line Transport C.T.C.

857

SECRET

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 3

APPENDIX C

Copy No. 15

4

by
Brig. General G. de L. Ryrie C.M.G.
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.

19/2/17

Reference Maps: 1/125,000 EL ARISH 1/125,000 RAFA

1. MOVES

2nd. L.H. Brigade will move from MASAIID to SHEIKH ZOWAIID on Thursday 22nd. February 1917. The Brigade will be formed up in column of troops on North side of BARDAWIL - EL ARISH railway line, opposite Brigade Headquarters, at 0600.

Order of march: Brigade Headquarters
2nd. Signal Troop
5th L.H. Regt.
6th L.H. Regt.
7th L.H. Regt.
2nd. Aust.M.G. Squadron
2nd. Field Troop
2nd. L.H.F. Ambulance
7th Mobile Veterinary Section

On arrival at EL RISA O.C. 7th L.H. Regt. will detail one Squadron as Rearguard to the A & N.Z. Mounted Divn.

2. AMMUNITION

200 rounds per man, 3,500 rounds per machine gun and 3,000 rounds per Lewis gun will be taken; usual Regimental reserves with 1st Line Transport.

3. TRANSPORT

All 1st Line Transport will be loaded and ready to move off from starting point at 0645. From EL RISA to SHEIKH ZOWAIID all camels of 2nd. L.H. Brigade will march in rear of 22nd. Mounted Brigade camels.

4. RATIONS

Unexpended portion of day's ration and one extra ration will be carried by each man. Two feeds will be carried on each horse.

5. TENTS

No tents will be taken except those absolutely essential for Brigade and Regimental Headquarters offices.

6. INVISIBILITY OF CAMPS

Bivouacs at SHEIK ZOWAIID will be made as inconspicuous as possible.

7. NATIVES

Instructions as to treatment of Arabs is attached.

8. MARCHING OUT STATES

Marching out states will be rendered to B.H.Q. at 1500 on 21st February 1917.

J.A. Whyte Major
Brigade Major 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.

Issued at 1900.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | A & N.Z. Mtd. Divn. | 9. | 2nd. Signal Troop |
| 2 | 5th L.H. Regt. | 10 | O.C. B.A.C. |
| 3 | 6th L.H. Regt. | 11 | O.C. 1st Line C.T.C. |
| 4 | 7th L.H. Regt. | 12 | O.C. 2nd. Line C.T.C. |
| 5 | 2nd. Aust. M.G. Squad. | 13. | 7th M. Vet. Section |
| 6 | 2nd. L.H.F. Amb. | 14 | File |
| 7 | Supply Section | 15 | War diary |
| 8 | 2nd. Field Troop | | |

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TREATMENT OF THE ARAB POPULATION.

The following instructions are issued with regard to the treatment of inhabitants and Arabs while the Division is at SHEIKH ZOWAIID.

All ranks will make themselves acquainted with these instructions.

1. AT SHEIKHZOWAIID All inhabitants will be cleared from SHEIKHZ ZOWAIID under orders of the Military Governor within 24 hours after the arrival of the troops.

2. AT RAFA and in the neighbourhood As the inhabitants of this area largely live on the crops they cultivate, the Column Commander is anxious not to disturb them more than he can help, but in order to prevent the leakage of any military information the Military Governor will warn the Arabs that they will be permitted to remain in the area on the distinct understanding that they endeavour to proceed no further West than the track running South East over the sandhills from BIR EL AHEIMIR.

3. Any man attempting to approach the outpost line at SHEIKH ZOWAIID, unless holding up his hands or with the white flag, will be shot at sight.

4. Arabs will also be warned that any man found in possession of any fire arms, whether Turkish or British, is liable to be shot, and that all tribesmen, on the approach of a patrol, should make their friendly attitude at once apparent by holding up their hands or waving a white cloth.

5. Anyone who runs away will be taken to be hostile and will be shot at.

Should patrols come across Bedouin encampments they are authorized to search them and if arms are found, to bring in the owner for punishment.

(Sgd.) J. Gilbert Browne Lt.Col.
General Staff
A & N.Z. Mounted Division

SECRET

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 4

Copy No. 14 *C1*

by
Brig. General G. de L. Ryrie C.M.G.M
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.

21/2/17

Reference Maps: 1/125,000 EL ARISH 1/125,000 RAFA

1. MOVES

Reference Brigade order No. 3 of 19/2/17 para 1.
2nd. L.H. Brigade will move from MASAID to
SHEIKH ZOWAID on Thursday 22nd. February 1917.
The Brigade will be formed up in column of troops
on North side of BARDAWIL - EL ARISH railway line,
opposite Brigade Headquarters, at 0730.

2. TRANSPORT

Reference para 3. All 1st Line Transport will be
loaded and ready to move off from starting point
at 0715.

3. WATERING OF
HORSES

Units will water to-morrow ^{morning} at WADI EL ARISH.

H. Whyte Major
Brigade Major 2nd. Light Horse Bde.

Issued at 1030.

Copy No.	1	A & N.Z. Mtd. Divn.	8	2nd. Field Troop
	2	5th L.H. Regt.	9	2nd. Signal Troop
	3	6th L.H. Regt.	10	O.C. B.A.C.
	4	7th L.H. Regt.	11	O.C. 1st Line C.T.C.
	5	2nd. Aust. M.G. Squad.	12	7th M. Vet. Section
	6	2nd. L.H. F. Amb.	13	File
	7	Supply Section	14	War diary

APPENDIX. *C11*

by

Brig. General G. de L. Ryrin C.M.G.
Commanding 2nd. L. H. Brigade A.I.F.

22/2/17.

Reference Map 1/125000 "RAFA".

1. INFORMATION. A small post of the enemy is reported to be in KHAM YUNUS and a hostile Arab Sheikh with a small following at TEL EL MARAKEB
2. INTENTION. To round up and capture the above.
3. MOVE. The Brigade will be formed up in column of troops at 0100 on the 23/2/17 on the road NORTH of Bivouac.
Order of March. Brigade Headquarters.
2nd. Signal Troop
5th.L.H.Regt.(less 2 troops)
6th.L.H.Regt.
7th.L.H.Regt.(less 3 troops)
M.G.Squadron.
7th.M.V.S.
2nd. F. Ambulance (less Tent Division)
Right Flank Guard. 2 Troops 5th.L.H.Regt.
Rearguard. 1 Troop 7th.L.H.Regt.
4. FIELD TROOP. The Field Troops will take ~~over~~ on hand the development of the water on arrival at RAFA. t
5. TENT DIVISION OF FIELD AMBULANCE. Tent Division of Field Ambulance and Field Troop will march in rear of the column.
O.C. 7th.L.H.Regt. will detail 2 troops as escort to above.
6. MARCH DISCIPLINE. The greatest attention must be paid to keeping the column closed up during the night march and to avoid straggling. No smoking or lights of any description are to be allowed.
7. Limbers. Limbers with S.A.A. will follow units.
8. HALTS. The column will halt at 0150 for ten minutes and for the last ten minutes of every hour.
9. FEEDS. Two feeds only will be taken in the nosebags, as the column may expect to be back at SHE IKHZOWAID early in the afternoon of the 23/2/17.
10. Order. Regiments will march as light as possible, extra blankets etc. can be left in camp under small guard.
11. REPORTS. Reports to B.H.Q.

Signed J.H.Whyte, Major,
Brigade Major, 2nd. L. H. Brigade.

SECRET

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 6

Copy No. 8

by

Brig. General G. de L. Ryrle C.M.G.
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.

24/2/17

Reference Map 1/125,000 RAFA.

1. INFORMATION. The Brigade (less Machine gun Squadron and portion of Field Ambulance) will cover a beach reconnaissance near RAFA also a water reconnaissance at RAFA to-morrow. Troops to be in position by 1000, covering RAFA on line from the sea through GOZ ASU BE-EL-DARRIR, HILLS 270, 310 (3 miles East of RAFA) 255.

2. MARCH

The Brigade will leave camp at 0500 on Sunday February 25th.

Head of Main body will pass starting point on beach, North of Brigade Headquarters at 0500.

Order of march: Advance guard 6th L.H. Regt. (less 1 Squadron).

Right flank guard: 3 troops 7th L.H. Regt.

Left flank guard: 1 troop 6th L.H. Regt.

Main body:

Brigade Headquarters

2nd. Signal Troop

7th L.H. Regt. (less 3 troops)

6th L.H. Regt. (less 3 troops).

2nd. Field Troop

2nd. L.H. Field Ambulance.

Rearguard:

1 troop 6th L.H. Regt.

O.C. 6th L.H. Regt. will detail 1 Squadron to proceed by the beach road to 3 miles North East of BIR EL MELALHA. They must keep in touch with the Advance guard.

3. AMMUNITION

300 rounds per man and 3,000 rounds per Lewis gun will be carried.

4. RATIONS

Unexpended portion of day's ration and extra ration will be carried by each man.

3 feeds per horse will be carried.

5. REPORTS

Reports to Head of Main body.

J. R. Whyte Major

Brigade Major 2nd. L.H. Brigade

Issued at 2000.

Copy No. 1 A & N.Z. Mounted Division
2 6th L.H. Regt.
3 6th L.H. Regt.
4 7th L.H. Regt.
5 2nd. L.H. Field Ambulance
6 2nd. Signal Troop
7 2nd. Field Troop
8 File
9 War diary.

REPORT OF O.C. COVERING TROOPS DURING RECONNAISSANCE OF RAFA

The Covering Force left BIR ABU HAMTHALA at 0500 on 25/2/17 and arrived at RAFA at 0845.

One Squadron went along the beach road to 2 miles N.E. of Egyptian boundary. Positions were taken up on HILLS 270 3 miles N. NE. of RAFA, HILL 310 2 miles E of RAFA, HILL 255 2 miles S of RAFA and HILL 250 5 miles S of RAFA.

At 1000 the enemy's mounted troops, estimated number 80, were reported to be moving SW from EL FUKHARI but they did not come in touch with our outposts.

At 1130 smoke signals were seen in the direction of BIR NUGA SHABANA; these signals were repeated towards the East. At 1200 Lieut. Col. Browne reported the beach reconnaissance was completed. At 1245 outposts were withdrawn and the force marched back to Camp arriving at Camp 1700.

(Sgd.) Granville Ryrle Brig. General
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.

857

SECRET

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 7

Copy No. 3

by
Brig. General G. de L. Byrie C.M.S.
Commanding Gen. L.S. Brigade A.I.F.

26/2/17

Reference Map 1/125,000 RAFA.

1. INFORMATION

(a) The Brigade will carry out a country and roads reconnaissance in the area:

NORTHERN BOUNDARY, from point 250 2 miles West of KARM IBN MUSLEH, the road passing just South of KARM IBN MUSLEH through point 250 and point 410.

EASTERN BOUNDARY, a line through 3 points numbered 410 West of EL GHABI, and thence running just East of the E of KHIBI, and between the G & H of MOSTLY in the sentence "LIGHT SOIL, MOSTLY CULTIVATED".

SOUTHERN BOUNDARY, an East-West line running between points 340 and 350 to the E of ASHAABANI and thence drawn straight through point 270.

WESTERN BOUNDARY, the small track which begins just North of the E of MASRI and joins the DARB EL HAGAR close to the E of DARS, thence up the DARB el HAGAR to point 250, 2 miles West of KARM IBN MUSLEH.

(b) In addition the following officers will be carrying out work in this area:
6 officers of the 52nd. Division, some officers of the 53rd. Division, some Artillery officers, 1 officer, Mors. ANZAC Mounted Division, and the Topographical section will be carrying out work in this area.

(c) The enemy is holding a strong position at WELI SHEIKH MIRAN.

2. MOVE

The Brigade will leave Camp at 0800 on 27th February. Head of Main body will pass starting point, 1/4 mile S.E. of Brigade Headquarters at 0900.

ORDER OF MARCH:

Advance guard: 7th L.S. Regt.
 Right flank guard: 1 Squadron 5th L.S. Regt.
 Left flank guard: 1 Squadron 5th L.S. Regt.
 Main body:
 Brigade Headquarters
 2nd. Signal Troop
 5th L.S. Regt. (less 2 Squadrons)
 5th L.S. Regt. (less 1 troop)
 M.G. Squadron
 Field Troop
 7th Mobile Vet. Section
 2nd. L.S. Field Ambulance
 Rearguard: 1 troop 5th L.S. Regt.

The Brigade will proceed in column of sections until clear of the village of SHEIKH ZOWALID.

3. AMMUNITION

330 rounds per man will be carried and 3,000 rounds per Lewis gun.

4. RATIONS

Unexpended portion of day's ration and one extra ration will be carried. One feed per horse will be taken.

5. REPORTS

Reports to Head of Main body.

J. H. ... Major
Brigade Major 2nd. L.S. Brigade

Issued at 1900.

- | | | | |
|------------|------------------|----|-------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | ANZAC Mtd. Divn. | 5 | M.G. Squadron |
| 2 | File | 7 | F. Ambulance |
| 3 | War diary | 8 | 7th M.V. Section |
| 4 | 5th L.S. Regt. | 9 | 2nd. Field Troop |
| 5 | 5th L.S. Regt. | 10 | 2nd. Signal Troop |
| 11 | 7th L.S. Regt. | | |

857

REPORT OF RECONNAISSANCE CARRIED OUT BY 2ND. LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE
ON 27TH FEBRUARY 1917.

The Brigade left Camp at 0600 and marched via SHEIKH ZOWAIID to EL BADARI.

Arriving EL BADARI at 1100 the Brigade halted until 1400 while reconna ssance of roads and country was carried out by selected officers of the Brigade.

The enemy's mounted troops were encountered at HILL 350, one mile S.E. of EL BADARI, but they retired as the Brigade moved forward. About 100 of the enemy mounted troops were seen riding about in the direction of AMR and ABU AMR. On the march out, smoke signals were seen in all directions; these were made by the Arabs evidently as a warning of our approach.

Eight Turkish deserters surrendered to the outpost during the day; they were handed over to the A.P.M.

One Arab caught in the act of making smoke signals was also handed over to the A.P.M.

At 1400 the Brigade left EL BADARI and arrived in Camp at 1900.

(Sgd.) Granville Ryrle Brig. General
Commanding 2nd. L.H. Brigade A.I.F.