

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/2/31

Title: 2nd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

July 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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Light Horse Brigade July 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARAKEB.	1/7/17		On the beach.	ISR
	2/7/17		Training. Major-General Sir H. Glanville visited the camp.	ISR
	3/7/17		Training.	ISR
	4/7/17		Training.	ISR
	5/7/17		Preparing to leave camp following day.	ISR
UM URGAN	6/7/17		Brigade moved into camp at UM URGAN and became Reserve Brigade for the Division	App. (1) ISR
	7/7/17		C.-in-C. met B. G. C. Brigades at WELI SHEIKH NORAN.	ISR
	8/7/17		Reconnaissance of the C.-in-C. in vicinity of Point 720 (square B6 Beersheba sheet) area cleared by A & N.Z. Intd Divn. Brigade line 510-550-630-730-770-810 (exclusive) made good by 0900, the vicinity of 630-730 being very heavily shelled during the day, though only two men were wounded. Three hundred mounted enemy were reported near point 570 (square C5) and guns about 580 (square C5). Brigade commenced to retire at 1745 reaching camp at 1120.	App (2) ISR
	9/7/17		In camp.	ISR
	10/7/17		In camp.	+ ISR
	11/7/17		Night operation 5 th L.H. to endeavour to destroy enemy posts near hut and trench South of point 410 (square B4). Party reached objective and Wadi, TALIAH, but no enemy seen.	ISR

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2nd Light Horse Brigade July 1917

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UMURGAN.	12/7/17		In camp.	ISR
	13/7/17		Night operation by 6 th L.H. towards ΣRK, to destroy enemy posts and locate positions. Objective missed. Enemy sent up flares and party had to return, without achieving anything.	ISR.
	14/7/17		Became Reconnaissance Brigade and took over day and night standing patrols.	ISR
	15/7/17		5 th Regt party attempted to ambush enemy observation post on point 630 (EL GIRHEIR)	ISR
	16/7/17		5 th Regt party ambushed party of Turkish cavalry at KHASIF, taking two prisoners and wounding others. A reconnaissance was then made to 720 and 810 (Squares B + C6)	ISR.
	17/7/17		7 th Regt made a night reconnaissance of Wadi IMLIEH from about 520 to just South of 410 (Square B5 + 4) discovering good roads and tracks. No enemy was met, although war was ongoing.	ISR.
	18/7/17		6 th Regt made night reconnaissance of Wadi IMLIEH near W of W. IMLIEH, but encountered opposition and could not move forward. Evidently enemy massing for demonstration next day.	ISR
	19/7/17		Enemy came in in fog and shelled out night outposts. Brigade was ordered out with BOZ EL BASAL as objective, and was heavily shelled in making that point. Posts were pushed forward to 530 KH, KHASIF and 510 ABU SHAWISH, and two guns of Yorkshire battery were posted at KARM, and though subjected to a very heavy fire of Shrapnel and H.E. fired all day against enemy guns on 630 (EL GIRHEIR) and 720, evidently, from what was afterwards seen, with good effect. Enemy who were in some strength on ridges from 630 - 720 to EL BOOGAR withdrew gradually from about 1730 onwards. Brigade remained on night outpost until 0255 following morning, and being relieved by N.Z. M.R.	ISR +
			Brigade returned to camp, for rations, water and forage.	N/A

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2nd L.H. Brigade July 1917.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
UMURGAN.	20/7/17		After watering, and obtaining rations and forage the Brigade moved out and crossed the WAD, and remained in Reserve. Enemy having been reported as retired to his former line, the Brigade was ordered back to Camp which was reached about 1515 by all units.	JSR.
	21/7/17		Became outpost Brigade, and 6 th Regt moved to GHABI works, taking over X, Y and Z redoubts.	JSR.
	22/7/17		In camp.	JSR.
	23/7/17		As enemy were reported to be evacuating Beersheba, the Division made a reconnaissance towards that place, the Brigade crossing the WADI GHUZZE by 0600, and moving on KH. KHASIF, where it was held in Reserve until 1130 when, BEERSHEBA being reported strongly held still, orders were received to withdraw, camp being reached by all units by 0530.	JSR.
	24/7/17		7 th Regt made night reconnaissance of W. IMLEGH and W. HANAFISH from BIR EL GIRHEIR to BIR IFTIEIS. Several good roads and tracks discovered, but no enemy seen.	JSR.
	25/7/17		In Camp.	+ JSP
	26/7/17		In Camp.	Q/F JSP
	27/7/17		7 th Regt made reconnaissance to KHALASA and salvaged two aeroplane engines. Two Bedouins and one Camel captured, but very few enemy seen.	JSP
	28/7/17		Night operation of 5 th Regt to enclose enemy parties in vicinity of EL BUGGAR. Squadron at 720 with 2 M. Gms, Squadron at 2500, with 2 M. Gms, and Squadron at 1300 with 2 m. Gms. Cooperation of aeroplane obtained, but enemy parties did not venture beyond 820 north of TWEIL EL HABARI. Party of Bedouins were charged with bayonet, after firing on our men, four being killed and others wounded. Four camels were captured.	JSP
			2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.	CD

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2nd Light Horse Brigade July 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
URGAN	29/7/17		In accordance with Divisional orders for covering the reconnaissance of the L.I.C., the line 720- cross roads West of TWEIL EL HABARI - ESANI was made good by 0700 and touch established with N.Z. M.R. Bde on 630 EL GIRHEIR. 7 th Rgt had one L.C.D. severely wounded at long range, but for the most part everything was very quiet. Orders to withdraw were received at 1200 and Brigade was all in camp by 1530.	App.(3) JDR.
	30/7/17		6 th Rgt made a reconnaissance towards AB UIRGEIG. Reached the WADI EL SUF, and found a considerable Turkish force moving towards Bersheba, many parties of which passed between the P.H.Q and advanced squadron. It was found therefore necessary to withdraw, which was done without event.	JDR
	31/7/17		7 th Rgt made a reconnaissance of Bersheba road near point 570 (square C 5) to discover what traffic had been or was on this road. At 600 yds. West of this point was reached, no evidence of movement lately were seen, and no enemy posts or trenches. A number of Turkish patrols were met and one cabbyman was chased down and captured. Four Bedouins and three camels were also taken, and many more seen, but no action could be taken against these owing to an alarm endangering the safety of the forward party.	JDR 4/7/17 X

OPERATION ORDER NO. 22.

by

Copy No. -----

3

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

X 4/3
5

Reference Map. 1/125000.

1. INFORMATION.

The ANZAU Mounted Division will relieve the AUSTRALIAN Mounted Division on Friday July 6th.

2. MOVES.

The Brigade will leave the beach at MARAKEB at 0700 on July 6th. and will take over the bivouac site of 3rd.L.H.Brigade near FARAH. by 1300.

3. PRECAUTIONS ON MARCH.

The Brigade will cross the sand area in column of troops, and will then march in column of line of troops with about double the normal intervals and distances. No troops from this Brigade will pass WEST of present Divisional Hdqrs., or SOUTH of the WELI SHEIKH NURAN-FARA Road (exclusive) in going to their new bivouac.

4. ROUTE.

The road to be followed will be via WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

5. STARTING POINT.

Head of column will pass the starting point which will be about 1/2 mile WEST of Hdqrs., 6th.L.H. at 0700.

6. ORDER OF MARCH.

Brigade Headquarters,
2nd. Signal Troop.
5th.L.H.Regt.
6th.L.H.Regt.
7th.L.H.Regt.
2nd. Aust. M. G. Sqdn.
2nd.L.H.F.Ambulance.

7. TRANSPORT.

Transport arrangements will be notified later.

8. PATROLS.

The following information as to patrols found by the A. & N.Z.Mtd Divn is supplied. Patrols to be found by this Brigade will be specified later.

The Brigade carrying out the patrolling of the area will find daily patrols to the following places - strength, one troop each.

(a) By Day. 1. GOZ MABRUK.

2. KH KHASIF
3. GOZ EL BASAL.
4. Area HILL 510 ABU SHAWISH.

5. 300 contour 1 and 1/2 miles N.E. of EL NAGILI.

(b) By night. the following standing patrols:-

1. 2000 yards EAST OF THE WADI GHUZZE opposite GAMLI
2. 2000 yards EAST of the WADI GHUZZE opposite URGAN.
3. 2 miles EAST of EL SHELLAI.
4. 2 miles N.E. of EL SHELLAI.
5. 2 miles EAST of HISEIA Crossing.
6. 2 miles N.E. of HISEIA Crossing.

The Brigade at EL GHABI will find standing patrols by night as follows:-

1. On the WADI GHUZZE 2 miles SOUTH of GAMLI.
2. About 2 miles SOUTH of EL GHABI.

These patrols will not remain in the same place each night. They will not return to bivouac until morning patrols have reported "all clear". The patrol N.E. of HISEIA Crossing will report to the 53rd. Division post (KENT FORT) at Point 310 as it goes out and on return.

9. D.A.C. The D.A.C., ANZAC Mounted Division will be camped at the site at present occupied by the D.A.C., AUSTRALIAN Mtd. Divn. SOUTH of the WELI SHEIKH NURAN - FARA Road and 1000 yards S.E. of WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

6
(2) continued.

Headquarters ANZAC Mounted Division in the new site will be
3500 yards due WEST of TEL EL FARAA.

+
43
6

P. Richardson Major,
Brigade Major, 2nd.L.H.Brigade.

ISSUED 1300 3/7/17.

- Copy No. 1. A. & N. Z. Mounted Division.
2. File.
3. Diary.
4. 5th.L.H.Regt.
5. 6th.L.H.Regt.
6. 7th.L.H.Regt.
7. 2nd. Aust. M. G. Sqdn.
8. 2nd.L.H.F.Ambulance.
9. 2nd. Signal Troop.
10. 2nd. Supply Section.
11. 7th.M.V.Section.
12. B.G.C.

SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER. 23.

by

Copy No. -----

7

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

Reference Map. BEERSHEBA, 1/125000.

X 43
7

1. INFORMATION.

A reconnaissane of the country in the vicinity of Point 730 will be carried out on July 8th. The A. & N.Z.Mtd.Divn. will be the covering force.

2. MOVES.

The Brigade will cross the WADI GHUZZE by 0600 on July the 8th., 7th.Reg., 2nd.M.G.Sqdn., and SndL.H.F.Amb., crossing at SHELLAL, and B.H.Q., Snd.Signal Trp., 5th.& 6th. Regts. and Battery of R.H.A. crossing at UM URGAN. Place of assembly will be about 1/2 mile outside the redoubt line EAST of UM URGAN, but units will not close.

The 7th.L.H.Reg. will then make good the line 510-550, 630 (EL GEHEIR) 730 (exclusive) by 1000, leaving also a strong post at DAMMATH and getting touch with 6th.L.H.Reg. at Point 730.

The 6th.L.H.Reg. will make good the line 730 (inclusive) 770-810 exclusive by 1000 and will get in touch with N.Z.M.R.Bde on Point 810.

The O.C., 2nd.M.G.Sqdn., will detail one troop each to these Regts. B.H.Q., Snd. Signal Trp., 5th.L.H.Reg., 2nd. M.G.Sqdn. (less 2 Troops) and Battery R.H.A. in above order will move in rear of 6th. & 7th. Regts to about the Point where the ABU SHAWISH Road cuts the 600 contour just WEST of KH IMLEIH.

3. HEADQUARTERS.

Brigade Headquarters will remain at this Point to where all reports will be sent.

4. MEDICAL.

O.C., 2nd.L.H.F.Amb. will establish a dressing station about one mile WEST of B.H.Q.

5. PRECAUTIONS.

Artillery formations will be adopted as soon as the WADI is crossed and units are warned against exposing themselves on the skyline of any of the hills, collecting behind prominent objectives, or of raising dust when approaching or withdrawing from Points. The enemy shells on the slightest provocation.

6. COMMUNICATIONS.

Responsibility for lateral communication will be from left to right. C.O., 5th.L.H.Reg. will detail four gallopers to report to D.H.Q. at KH KHASIF at 1015.

7. AMMUNITION.

Ammunition as laid down per man, per Hotchkiss and per Machine Gun will be carried.

8. RATIONS & FORAGE.

Balance of days rations & one extra ration and two feeds per horse will be carried.

9. WATERING.

the

Units will water in crossing WADI when moving out, and every effort must be made to water later on from Wells and Cisterns in the respective areas.

10. Marching out states to be rendered by 0000 on July 7th.

J.D. Richardson Major,
Brigade Major, 2nd.L.H.Brigade.

ISSUED AT 0900

Copy No. 1.	A. & N.Z.Mtd. Divn.	3. Diary.	11. Battery R.H.A.
2.	File.	4. 5th.L.H.Reg.	
5.	6th.L.H.Reg.	6. 7th.L.H.Reg.	
7.	M.G.Sqdn.	8. SndL.H.F.Amb.	
9.	Snd. Signal Trp.	10. Supply SectioN.	

SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER. NO

by

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

Copy No.....

In the Field

28th. July 1917.

Reference Map. BEERSHEBA, 1/185,000

X 43

1. INFORMATION.

An important reconnaissance is being made from area between WADI IMLIEH and WADI GHUZZE. The A and N.Z.Mtd.Div. will clear this area as far East as cross-roads just West of TAWIEL EL HABARI.

2. MOVES.

The Brigade will be clear of the WADI GHUZZE and the redoubt line at UM UPGAN by 0400 on 29/7/17. The 6th.L.H.Regt., will then move forward and make the line BIR EL ESANI (inclusive) to cross-roads one mile West of T in TAWIEL EL HABARI (exclusive) by 0730. The 7th.L.H.Regt., will make good line from above mentioned cross-roads (inclusive) to point 730 (inclusive) and will gain touch with N.Z.H.R.Bds. on 630 (EL GIRHEIR) by the same hour. The Brigade in order as under will follow behind these Regiments :-

3. ORDER OF MARCH.

B.H.Q., Signal Troop, 5th.L.H.Regt., 2nd.A.M.G.Sqdn., Battery R.H.A., 2nd.L.H.Field Ambulance.

4. HEADQUARTERS.

Will be established at point 550 just North East of KH. KHASIF, TO WHERE REPORTS WILL BE SENT.

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Responsibility will be from left to right, and all clear or otherwise reports will be sent in every hour.

6. Ammunition.

As laid down per man, Machine Gun and Hotchkiss Rifle will be carried.

7. Rations and Forage.

Balance of days rations and one extra ration, and two feeds per horse will be carried.

8. WATERING. Every effort must be made to water in respective areas, and the co-operation of the Field Troop will be obtained to facilitate this.

9. Marching out states to be rendered to B.H.Q. by 2000 on 28/7/17.

Major,
Brigade Major, 2nd. L.H. Brigade.

Issued at 0900.

Copy No. 1. A & N.Z.Mtd.Div.
2. File.
3. Diary.
4. 5th.L.H.Regt.
5. 6th.L.H.Regt.
6. 7th.L.H.Regt.

7. M.G. Sqdn.
8. 2nd.L.H.F.Amb.
9. 2nd.Sig.Troop.
10. Supply Sec.
11. Battery R.H.A.
12. 2nd.Field Troop.