

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/2/35

Title: 2nd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

November 1917

Confidential

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2nd Light Horse Brigade 1/11/17 to 21/11/17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
BEERSHEBA	1/11/17		Brigade bivouaced on WADI HORA to HEBRON road. High ground dominating this road was made good by 7 th Regt shortly after daybreak. 5 th Regt made a reconnaissance up HEBRON road to BIR MAKRUNEH and DEIR SAIDEH, but was held up by an enemy force with mountain guns and machine guns.
HEBRON ROAD	2/11/17		The Brigade started to make a reconnaissance of DHAHARIYEH on HEBRON road but was held up near DEIR SAIDEH by same force as operated against 5 th Regt yesterday. Our battery silenced enemy guns whose emplacements were plainly visible, but the difficult country and machine guns prevented any further advance along road. 6 th Regt was retained near DEIR SAIDEH to hold this enemy force, whilst 5 th and 7 th Regts and Battery R. H. A. commenced to move along difficult country parallel to HEBRON road and east of it to attempt to threaten enemy's flank and rear near DHAHARIYEH. Night prevented the completion of this movement. Captain Thompson 6 th L. H. was killed near DEIR SAIDEH.
	3/11/17		Turning movement continued, but enemy reinforced by three motor lorries of troops from HEBRON and holding very strong position in most difficult country. He also has at least four 77s, very good guns which sweep these steep valleys in a wonderful manner. Water complicates the situation, difficult to get the horses at least one drink a day from rain water pools in wadis, also supplies and ammunition have to be brought up during night over exceedingly bad track which enemy shells during day. The Brigade now bivouacs on the line of the days fighting, connecting units by a string of outposts.
	4/11/17		Continued the demonstration against DHAHARIYEH. Enemy guns soundly shelled all our positions, which are possibly indicated by apparently friendly Arabs. Our guns unable to locate enemy guns.

Remarks and references to Appendices

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J. Richardson Major Brigade Major 2nd L.H. Bde

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2nd Light Horse Brigade 1/11/17 to 21/11/17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1000 yds S.E. DHAHARIYEH.	5/11/17		Unable to make any move against enemy, whose positions are strongly held in most difficult country. We have an artillery duel every day, and the enemy guns search all our positions, generally paying too much attention to B.H.Q. 5 th Regt had number of casualties in men and horses in a place hitherto unshelled. Friendly Arabs strongly suspected of indicating our positions. 6 th Regt holding HEBRON road is in a bad position as it is up against a nest of machine guns and snipers and it loses men every day. Water difficulties increasing as pools are drying fast, and supplies difficult to get up steep tracks.	JRP
BEERSHEBA	6/11/17		Returned to BEERSHEBA, watered and moved out again in great haste to Divisional Assembly point 4 miles S.E. of SHERIA. Moved during the night to front line held by Yeodir about 3 miles E of SHERIA. One sqdn 7 th LH and 4 troops M.S. Sqdn detached to I.C. Brigade.	JRP
BU BAKR, AMEIDA	7/11/17		Moved to BAKR under shell fire, but a deep wadi gave good protection. From BAKR in support to 1 st LH Brigade to AMEIDA railway station. Brigade heavily shelled. Took 19 prisoners, 13 O.R. prisoners. 5 th Regt occupied TELABO, DILAKH under heavy shell fire during afternoon. Lint Webster 5 th LH, mortally wounded. Horses without water since leaving BEERSHEBA.	JRP
WADI HESY NEJILA.	8/11/17		5 th and 7 th Regts advanced to WADI HESY and TELEL NEJILA, 5 th taking two guns, and a number of prisoners and stores. 6 th Regt on left flank late in the day captured three more guns on left flank. 5 th Regt caused heavy casualties to Turks by enfilade fire from Horeh-Kiss guns. Lint. Morley 5 th LH, killed fatally wounded. Able at last to water horses in WADI HESY, and at TELEL NEJILA.	JRP
BUREIR, HULEIKAT SUAFIRES, GHARRA	9/11/17		A great day for the Brigade. 5 th and 7 th Regts moving parallel on left and right respectively and 6 th in support were heavily shelled from right flank, but made BUREIR and HULEIKAT without opposition from those places, but had number of casualties from shell fire. Great quantities of stores waggons and material of all sorts taken. 7 th Regt took a convoy of about 150 waggons, 350 prisoners and many animals, most of latter in a wretched condition at KAUKABAH. Very many abandoned waggons on the road and stores being looted by Arabs. In afternoon moved on again and 5 th Regt supported by one sqdn of 7 th most dashingly rushed another convoy of over 100 waggons and took over 350 prisoners. This convoy subjected to heavy shell fire from enemy on front and fire alike. Squadron of 7 th attached to 5 th cleverly took 231 more prisoners in	JRP

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J.P. Richardson Major 2nd LH Bde

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2nd Light Horse Brigade 1/11/17 to 21/11/17

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SUAFIR ES GHARBIYE	9/11/17		in the dark. The Turks advanced on this squadron which was guarding the flanks of 5 th engaged in gathering up other prisoners. Their bayonets were fixed and they threw a bomb, but Major Willsallen in charge of the squadron told his men to shout out the Turkish words "to surrender". This had the necessary effect and these men were added to those already taken. The prisoners were largely suffering from dysentery and suffering from want of water. Up to date the Brigade has taken about 1500 prisoners, 12 guns and about 500 weapons either in convoys or along the road of march, and much other material. The sqdra and machine guns attached to J. C. Bde reported back. They have had severe fighting and many casualties.	JOP
SUAFIR ES GHARBIYE	10/11/17		unable to move forward as enemy held strong position covering NEW BEIT DURAS and KUSTINE. Great difficulty in obtaining water, engaged in watering all day. Enemy shelled our positions causing some casualties, enemy telephone and evidently operators discovered in village. Moved at night to HAMAMIE to water our horses properly. SUAFIR ES GHARBIYE is a filthy village and the number of prisoners suffering with dysentery made it very dangerous.	JOP
HAMAMIE	11/11/17		Got good water for our horses on beach and rested.	JOP
	12/11/17		Watering and resting.	JOP
	13/11/17		Moved as Desert Corps Reserve to point 248. 2 miles S of SUAFIR ES GHARBIYE Bivouaced about 1 mile from this spot for night.	JOP
JUNCTION STATION	14/11/17		Detached to Aus Div. and moved through ST TINE to S.E. of Junction STATION in support to 7 th Intd Bde. Shelled again 7 th Bde having number of casualties. Bivouaced in strong position South of KHULDEH, and watched Turkish retirement. Enemy rearguard well supplied with artillery and machine guns.	JOP
	15/11/17		Supported 7 th Intd Bde in demonstration against enemy's retiring columns, but enemy's rearguard and positions too strong. Lieut Zouch 7 th L.H. mortally wounded.	JOP
RAS DEIRAN	16/11/17		Moved back as Desert Corps Reserve again to Jewish village of RAS DEIRAN. Signs of Turkish defeat and demoralisation everywhere, also Arabs plundering abandoned stores.	JOP
	17/11/17		Resting. Oranges, bread, wine and hot baths obtainable, also plenty of water for horses	JOP

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

*Richardson Major
Brigade Major 2nd LH Bde*

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2nd L.H. Brigade for 1/11/17 to 21/11/17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LUDD	18/11/17		Moved to LUDD, and rejoined the Division. Outpost line from EL YEHUDIYEH to pt 222 found by 6 th Bty.	JDR
	19/11/17		Outpost line now extended from EL YEHUDIYEH exclusive to BUDRUS exclusive. The right flank of this line is in most difficult country, almost impossible for mounted troops. Near German village of WILHELMA is in this sector and inhabitants probably in touch with enemy, as our signal stations though changed were consistently shelled by a long range gun, which inflicted some casualties.	JDR
	20/11/17		Outpost line now from railway to BUDRUS exclusive. Our patrols found enemy in occupation of WADI ABOLEJJA one and half miles N. of NEBI TARI. Relieved late in the day of this outpost line by 162 nd Brigade.	JDR
YAZUR	21/11/17		6 th Bty left at LUDD for reconnaissance work for 54 th Div. Remainder Brigade moved to YAZUR, one Regiment (5 th L.H.) being on outpost, with Battalion I.C.C. on right and N. Z. M. R. Bde near pt 275 on left.	JDR

JDR Richardson Major
Brigade Major 2nd L.H. Bde.

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2nd Light Horse Brigade 22/11/17 to 30/11/17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
YAZUR	22/11/17		Quiet day. Brigade resting. Population hastening back to JAFFA.	JSR
	23/11/17		Brigade Resting. 6 th Regt still doing reconnaissance duty for 54 th Div. at LUDD.	JSR
	24/11/17		Brigade less 6 th Regt made a demonstration against enemy from MULEBBIS, mostly with artillery to cover N.Z.M.R. Bde movement against KHURBET HADRAH. Returned to bivouac at YAZUR.	JSR
POINT. 275	25/11/17		Turkish counter attack at dawn on SHEIKH MUANNIS and KH. HADRAH. Brigade moved to vicinity of point 275 as reserves, 6 th Regt rejoining. B.H.Q heavily shelled just before dark.	JSR
	26/11/17		Turkish counter attack did not develop further though heavy shelling took place. B.H.Q again heavily shelled just before dark widely with 4.1 guns. Inj. Coy. R.H.A. killed on observation post close to B.H.Q, also other casualties.	JSR
	27/11/17		B.H.Q moved 1/2 mile further back to avoid heavy shelling. Fierce enemy attack accompanied by heavy shelling by both heavy and field guns on WILHELMINA, the Camel Bde line, and right flank of ours. Camel Bde vacated 265 rather leaving our right flank post in air, and this can now only be used as an observation post. Enemy moved in some force through MULEBBIS and were for a while engaged by a Hotchkiss gun daringly used by Lieut Bittington 5 th L.H. who had a very advanced post with six men.	JSR
	28/11/17		Our line again heavily shelled but our trenches are deep and roomy and few casualties are reported.	JSR
	29/11/17		Line again very heavily shelled. At night Camel Bde made an abortive attack on 265. Turks counter attacked first against our advanced observation post on right flank, which they drove in, and later against posts 2, 3 and 4, which was beaten off. Enemy dug in in bad position and was surrounded by 7 th Regt in morning, 2 Officers 146 men, 4 m. guns and much rifles and bombs being taken.	JSR
	30/11/17		1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118. Quiet day, though line heavily shelled at intervals. Wiped our orchard outposts during night.	JSR

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Richardson Major
2nd L.H. Brigade