

AWM4
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war diaries, 1914-18 War

Light Horse

Item number: 10/2/42

Title: 2nd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

June 1918

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

2ND LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE, HEADQUARTERS.

FOR

J U N E. 1918.



Signature of Officer compiling

J. Richardson
Major
Lieut.,

~~Acting Intelligence Officer~~, 2nd L.H.Bde., Hdqrs., A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

John Monte-Carlo

Commanding (Temp) 2nd Light Horse Bde
~~Brigade Major~~, A.I.F.

Lieut. Colonel
~~Major~~

ORIGINAL.
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 2

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.

* 2ND LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE, A.I.F.
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~ FOR JUNE 1918.

(Erase heading not required.)

Sheet.1.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>June.</u>			
AIN ED DUK.	1st.		Hot. Quiet. <i>JSR</i>	
	2nd.		9th.Regt. moved to a bivouac site just SOUTH of B.H.Q. <i>JSR</i>	No.4 SUB- SECTOR SECTOR
	3rd.		Quiet. Slight shelling. <i>JSR</i>	Defence Sch- eme.
	4th.		9th.Regt. relieved 7th.Regt in outpost line. <i>JSR</i>	Appendix (1)
	5th.		Brigade relieved by 3rd.L.H.Brigade and moved to TALAAT ED DUMM by old Roman Road. <i>JSR</i>	Appendix (2)
TALAAT ED DUMM.	6th.		Brigade at TALAAT ED DUMM. Very hot, very dusty and very windy. A gale blows here every afternoon. <i>JSR</i>	
			Moved at 1930 for SOLOMON'S Pools. Passed 1st.L.H.Brigade at BETHANY at 2315. <i>JSR</i>	
SOLOMON'S Pools.	7th.		Arrived in a driving mountain mist at bivouac three miles SOUTH of SOLOMON'S Pools at 0500; camp cool and pleasant.	
	8th. to 20th.		Air cool and pleasant here but men have not much rest owing to distance to water (three miles) to which most of the horses have to be taken twice daily. Training of specialists and in bayonet fighting proceeded, also four of officers of the Brigade sent to a Divisional School at BEIT JALA and three for DESCORPS School at RICHON. <i>JSR</i>	Appendix (3)
TALAAT ED DUMM.	21st.		Brigade moved at 1700 for TALAAT ED DUMM. <i>JSR</i>	
JERICHO.	22nd.		Brigade moved to JORDAN Valley by old Roman Road and bivouaced on WADI NUEIAMEH (2 miles NORTH of JERICHO). <i>JSR</i>	
AUJA.	23rd.		Brigade relieved 5th Mounted Brigade on WADI AUJA, MELLAHAH line - two Regiments being in the line with eight machine guns and one Regiment and 4 machine guns in Reserve. Outpost line roughly follows the WADI MELLAHAH from its Junction with the AUJA until practically due WEST of the UM ES SHERT Crossing, with three strong Posts of resistance in rear of this and a second line following the course of the WADI AUJA. Fuller particulars and a sketch Map will be given in next months diary. <i>JSR</i>	Appendix (4)
	24th. to 26th.		Quiet on the Line with intermittent shelling. On night of 26/6/18 a small Turkish demonstration	

T2134. Wt. W708-776. 500000. 4/15. Sir J. C. & S.

WAR DIARY

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~~ **2ND LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE**

FOR JUNE 1918.

Sheet.2.

(Erase heading not required.)

CONFIDENTIAL.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AUJA.	24th. to 26th.		was made against left of our Sub-sector, about 60 Turks with three automatic rifles firing against TEA and THIN Posts. After sending up flares their Artillery opened and they retired. Their intentions were probably to either feel for our line, make us disclose our Barrage, cause us to open fire from our Posts, or make us man our trenches strongly and be caught by their shrapnel; but they did not succeed in any of them.	
	27th.		This was a day of almost continuous shelling particularly towards our positions in WADI AUJA. As B.H.Q. was in the line of fire and many shells dropped around and very close it was shifted at night to another position in the bed of the WADI AUJA. The B.G.G.S., Brigadier General Howard Vyse inspected the left of our line today.	
	28th.		Very hot day. Commander-in-Chief was to inspect our line today but was unable to do so at the last moment; Rumours of a Turkish Attack reported by enemy deserters. Quieter day on the Line.	
	29th.		Quiet day with intermittent shelling. Very hot.	
	30th.		Hot day. Quiet.	

J.D. Richardson Major,
Brigade Major, 2nd Light Horse Brigade, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

OF

2ND LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE, HEADQUARTERS.

FOR

J U N E. 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Defence Scheme No. 4 Sub-sector. |
| 2. | Operation Order No. 5. |
| 3. | Operation Order No. 6. |
| 4. | Operation Order No. 7. |
| 5. | <i>Panoramic sketch of portion of No 4 Sub. Sector held up to night 5/6th June by 2nd L. H. Brigade</i> |

NO.4 SUB-SECTOR DEFENCE SCHEME.Sub-Sector Boundaries.

(a). RIGHT BOUNDARY. WADI ABU EL HAIYAT from TEL EL MUSETTIRAH to track crossing at XXXX Y 14 d 4.6. to WADI AUJAH at Y 21 c.9.3. to H.4 b 2.2. to H 10 d .7.9.

LEFT BOUNDARY. KURN SURTUBEH 112 M.17. P.T. 830 R 11 d to EL KUSER 113 B 1 a to RAS ET TAWAIL 113 c 14 to 100 J. 20 a 9.9. to EL AZIRIYEH inclusive to Desert Mounted Corps thence to mouth of WADI EN NAR 114 Y 16

The 53rd Division have their RIGHT post on Point 2391 (113.S.24d) with which B.H.Q. is in touch by lamp and helio.

Touch with 4th.L.H.Brigade is obtained from WOOD to ZEISS Post on the right and by telephone to Hdqrs.

DISPOSITIONS AND LOCATIONS OF TROOPS IN AREA.

(c). Troops at disposal, B.G.C., 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

2nd.L.H.Brigade, less 6th.L.H.Reg't and 8 Machine Guns, which are in Divisional Reserve and are not to be used tactically by Brigade without reference to Divisional Headquarters.

Artillery of LEFT Artillery group on reference to LEFT Artillery Group Commander.

2nd.L.H.Brigade, Headquarters.	113.H.26b.
5th.L.H.Reg't , do and 4 Guns M.G.Sqdn	113.H.25d.
6th.L.H.Reg't , Hdqrs.	113.H.3.b.3.2.
7th.L.H.Reg't , Hdqrs.	113.H.26d.
2nd.A.M.G.Sqdn less 4 guns.	114.H.3d.2.6.

The outpost line of No.4 Sub-sector consists of 4 posts WOOD, WANE, WART and WAX, and a trench system known as WILD between WOOD and WANE which is used for Counter Attack purposes.

This outpost line is held by one Regiment with 4 Machine Guns. 5th.& 7th. L.H.Regiments relieve each other in this duty after three days in the line. By day the line is held by a nucleus garrison of one Squadron, the other two squadrons and Machine Guns returning to their Bivouac at AIN EL DUK after "all clear".

The locations and garrisons of these Posts are as under:-

	<u>Garrison.</u>	<u>Support.</u>
WOOD Y 27.a.9.1.	1 troop, 2 machine Guns.	1 troop.
WANE H.2.a.7.2.	1 troop.	1 troop.
WART H.1.d.8.1.	1 troop.	1 troop.
WAX H.7.a.8.6.	1 troop.	1 troop.

WILD H.2.b.5.5. The two troops supporting WOOD and WANE are located at night in WILD. Troops supporting WART and WAX are slightly in rear of these Posts.

The Regimental Reserve is located between and in rear of WAX and WART, in H.7.b and consists of one Squadron and two Machine Guns.

The Brigade Reserve consists of one Regiment based on AIN EL DUK after reference to D.H.Q.

1). State of Works and Plans for elaborating, as in appendices B.C.D.E.F.

WOOD is sited to cross-fire the front of ZEISS (in No.3 Sub-Sector) and WILD, and to deny the WADI SEBATA as a covered approach to turn the left flank of No.3 Sub-sector. 2 Machine Gun emplacements in rear of the actual trenches have a very Commanding position and a field of fire which sweeps the front of ZEISS, WILD and partly of WANE.

A listening post is thrown out on the right flank to link up with 11th Regiment and keep some broken and scrubby ground under observation.

WILD was formerly to be a post in the line but now holds the supporting troops of WOOD and WANE. It Commands scrubby ground and a small gully on the right which cannot be observed from WOOD.

WANE. This is a well concealed Post which can bring a sweeping fire to bear across the front of all the other Posts. It is sited on the northern bank of the WADI ABEID which can be used as a covered way for reinforcements or counter attack especially to the LEFT flank.

Should be the the Regimental Command Post of the Line. Some of the scrub in front still requires clearing, preferably by thinning branches close to the ground.

(2) Continued.

6

WART can cross fire the front of WAX and Commands the open country in front and to the LEFT Flank very effectively. Is situated on a double headed HILL which makes rather a long communication trench to connect RIGHT and LEFT Fire trenches, necessary.

WAX. This is sited on the LEFT Flank of another double headed HILL, the ~~is~~ dead ground of which is, however, well exposed to fire from WART.

WAX has a fine field of fire to the NORTH and NORTH-WEST towards TEL EL TRASY over very open country. A ridge about 400 yards to the WEST is rather a menace to the LEFT Flank of this Post, but the Post itself is strong and has good cover in rear and a fair covered way to reinforce or counter attack from. Positions in rear offer excellent sites for alternative M.G. emplacements.

COMMUNICATIONS. Roads have been made to connect up all the Posts and although coming in one or two places under distant enemy observation provide good avenues to hurry troops up either to reinforce or counter attack. These are marked in appendix A. Roads from the rear have been improved to take wheels and Cavalry at the trot in sections. All Posts have been linked up by telephone laterally and also to 4th Bde Hdqrs as well as our own. Also touch can be obtained by lamp or helio with any one of the Posts and B.H.Q.

2) Touch can be obtained with LEFT Artillery Group Commander through AUSDIV 4th B.H.Q. or through our own outpost line. A F.O.O. is daily on observation in WART Post and lives with the Outpost Squadron. He is in direct touch with his Hdqrs.

For an attack by day the following guns might be made available:-

8	13 Pdrs.
4	18 "
4	4.5 Hows.
4	Mtn. Hows.
4	6" Hows.
2	88 Pdrs.

by night No. 10 Mountain Battery has night lines set for fire across the front of all posts.

3) GENERAL PLAN OF DEFENCE.

The most probable lines of enemy advance and attack in this Sub-sector are considered to be:-

(1). EASTWARD along course of WADI EL ANJAH using the broken ground and thick scrub in this WADI and WADI SEBATA to form a covered way to seize high ground in the vicinity of Y 28 and 29 and turn the flank of No. 3 Sub-Sector whilst containing our own Posts with a small Force.

(2). SOUTHWARD through gap between H.7 and B 10 to turn the LEFT Flank of No. 4 Sub-sector and take our line of Posts in rear, cut communications by roads 27 and 28 and finally seize the high ground from EL MADEBH Southward towards AIN ED DUK. This Ridge Commands Roads 27 and 28 to the WEST and 29 and 31 to the EAST and supplies to No. 2, 3, & 4 Sub-sectors would be cut off except by a very round about route.

(3) SOUTHWARD in a direct attack against No. 4 Sub-sector.

After reference to D.H.Q. as to what Brigade Reserve would be available, the following plans could be employed:-

(1). According to the strength and direction of the attack to either reinforce SOOD and WANE Posts, or if these are holding well to drive a counter attack against the enemy's ~~xxxx~~ flank from WANE Post which lends itself excellently to the concentration and concealment of Reserves.

(2). To hold up the enemy as long as possible with a small Force and drive a counter attack WESTWARDS against his Flank between the WADIS SEBATA and ~~xxxx~~.

(3) To hold enemy up with the garrisons of the Posts and counter attack either from the ~~xxxx~~ EAST or from the SOUTHWEST of the Sub-sector as opportunity appears most favourable.

The communications for bringing up Reserves from the Brigade Bivouac at AIN ED DUK are good, as indicated in appendix A both to the EAST and WEST of the Sub-sector. If any of these main Roads (27 and 28) and subsidiary tracks come under heavy shell fire there is a fair pack track leading from B.H.Q. in H.26 b along course of small WADIS Northwards through H.6, a, where it forks and in two tracks following small WADIS in H.3. reaches the ~~xxxx~~.

This provides a fairly well concealed and covered way and with a little

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5

17

labour could be made fit for wheels.

Road 32 makes it possible for Reserves including wheels to be brought from road 29 to 27.

(i). Routes in Brigade area as in appendix A.

(j). ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

Rations are supplied under arrangements with O.C., Divisional Train to refilling at AIN ED DUK.

6th.L.H.Regiment and Machine Gun Squadron less 4 guns draw their rations from Refilling Point of 4th.L.H.Brigade.

Water is obtained for front line Posts at Water area of 6th.L.H.Regiment in Y 22 d.

Units based on AIN ED DUK draw their water from the water area at that place.

AMMUNITION.

Brigade ammunition Reserve Dump situated in H.20 d. contains following:-

S.A.A.	Grenades.		Very Lights.		
	Hand.	Rifle.	Red.	White.	Green.
200,000	1000.	1000.	100.	100.	100.

AREA STORES IN POSTS.

	RATIONS for 1 day, for	Water.	S.A.A.	Grenades					Very Lights.		
				Hand.	Rifle.	Red.	White.	Green.	Red.	White.	Green.
WOOD.	90 men.	32 tins.	4,000.	72.	20.	10.	20.	5.			
WANE.	90 "	25 "	8,000.	144.	40.	20.	40.	10.			
WART.	70 "	24 "	4,000.	72.	20.	10.	20.	5.			
WAX.	70 "	25 "	4,000.	72.	20.	10.	20.	5.			

J. A. Richard

Major,

Brigade Major, 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

- Copy No. 1. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.
 2. Australian Mounted Division.
 3. 3rd. Light Horse Brigade.
 4. File.
 5.
 6.

4

4

by
 Lieut. Colonel G. H. A. Onslow D.S.O., V.D.
 Commanding (Temp) 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

8

1. RELIEF.

The 3rd Light Horse Brigade will relieve 2nd Light Horse Brigade on June 4th.

(a). One Regiment and 4 Machine Guns 3rd Light Horse Brigade will relieve the 7th Light Horse Regiment and 4 Machine Guns as garrison of No. 4 Sub-sector by 1800 on that day.

(b). At 1930, B.C.C. 3rd Light Horse Brigade will assume Command of No. 4 Sub-sector.

2. AREA STORES.

The 7th Light Horse Regiment will carefully check and hand over all area stores of trenches, and obtain receipts for same, these to reach B.H.Q. by 1800.

3. MOVES.

The Brigade will commence to move from the AIN ED INK area at 1930 to bivouac area at TALAAT ED DUMI by road 27.

Mounted troops, will after reaching JERICHO march by Roman Road but all wheels will take the new motor road.

4. TIMES OF STARTING.

1930.	B.H.Q., 2nd Signal Troop, Field Troop, One section Machine Gun Squadron, 7th Mobile Vet. Section.
1950.	7th Light Horse Regiment.
2010.	5th Light Horse Regiment.
2030.	2nd L.H. Field Ambulance, Transport.

6th Light Horse Regiment and 2nd M.C. Squadron less 4 guns will leave their bivouac in H 3 b at 1930 and move independently to TALAAT ED DUMI.

5. MARCH DISCIPLINE.

Owing to dust and to prevent congestion of traffic, a distance of 50 yards between squadrons will be maintained and strictest March Discipline will be insisted on.

6.

Separate instructions as to Sanitation of bivouac areas, transport etc. will be issued later.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

J.P. Richardson Major,
 Brigade Major, 2nd Light Horse Brigade.

Copy No. 1. A.A. N.E. MTD. DIVN.
 2. Aust. Mtd. Divn.
 3. File.
 4. Diary (3 copies)
 5. 5th L.H. Regiment.
 6. 6th L.H. Regiment.
 7. 7th L.H. Regiment.
 8. 2nd A.M.C. Bqdn.
 9. 2nd L.H. Field Ambulance.
 10. 2nd Signal Troop.
 11. "B" Field Troop.
 12. B.C.C.
 13. 7th Mobile Vet. Section.



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19/6/19.

Reference Map, 1/63,360.

9.

1. MOVES.

(a). On night June 21st/22nd, the 2nd Light Horse Brigade will move to TALAAT ED DUMM in the following order of march:-

Brigade Headquarters.
 2nd Signal Troop.
 "B" Field Troop.
 6th. Light Horse Regiment.
 5th. Light Horse Regiment.
 7th. Light Horse Regiment.
 2nd A.M.G. Squadron.
 2nd. L.H. Field Ambulance.
 7th. Mobile Vet. Section.

STARTING POINT. For Brigade (less 7th. L.H. Regt., 2nd. M.G. Sqdn., and 7th. M.V. Section) Point on main road opposite 2nd. L.H. Field Ambulance

7th. L.H. Regt., 2nd. M.G. Sqdn., and 7th. M.V. Section will move into their places as the column passes.

HOOR. 1700.

(b). On night June 22nd/23rd, TALAAT ED DUMM to bivouac in LEFT SECTOR.

(c). On night June 23rd/24th, the 2nd. L.H. Brigade will relieve the 5th. Mounted Brigade in No. 2 sub-sector.

2. HALTS.:- Ten minutes halts will be made at ten minutes to every hour. Watches will be synchronised at the starting point.

3. FORMATION. The Brigade will march in column of half-sections with 50 yards distance between Squadrons.

4. The 5th. L.H. Regiment will detail an Officer to report as representative of 2nd. L.H. Brigade to A.A. & Q.M.G., Desert Mounted Corps at KILO 13 at 1430 on June 21st.

5. TRANSPORT. Transport will march in rear of the Brigade under separate instructions to be issued by Staff Captain.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

R.A. Newman Major,
 Acting Brigade Major, 2nd Light Horse Bde.

ISSUED at 1200.

General distribution, plus AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.



b

b

Reference Map 1/63,360.

10

1. RELIEF.

The 2nd Light Horse Brigade will relieve the 5th Mounted Brigade in No. 2 Sub-sector on evening of 23rd June as per accompanying Relief Table.

2. DISTRIBUTION.

The 5th. & 6th. Light Horse Regiments each with one section Machine Guns will be in the Line.

The 7th. Light Horse Regiment and Machine Gun Squadron (less 2 sections) will be in Brigade Reserve.

3. MOVES.

Units will move independently to their areas in accordance with Relief Table attached.

4. LED HORSES.

Units detailed to man the Defences will send back their horses on the proportion of one man to three horses to sites allotted which will be pointed out by guides. Led horses will move back by same route as taken by unit moving out.

5. A list of all Trench Stores, bombs etc. handed over will be forwarded in duplicate to B.H.Q. by noon on 24th. June.

6. Before 1930 no mounted troops are to proceed NORTH of Hdqrs., "C" and "D" Sections at approximately Square Z.11. Central.

7. The 7th. L.H. Regiment will find similar Night Standing Patrols as were found by GLOUCESTER Yeomanry commencing night 23rd/24th June.

8. Orders for relief of 5th. Field Troop and 5th. M.V. Section by 2nd Field Troop and 7th. M.V. Section will be issued by Staff Captain.

9. COMMAID.

On completion of relief Brigade Commander, 2nd Light Horse Brigade, will assume Command of No. 2 Sub-sector.

10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. H. Munnings

Major,

Acting Brigade Major, 2nd Light Horse Brigade

ISSUED AT 1000.

Norman Distribution.

- | | | |
|----------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1. | A. & N.Z. Mounted Division. |
| | 2. | File. |
| | 3. | Diary. <i>5th L.H. Bde</i> |
| | 4. | do |
| | 5. | do. |
| | 6. | 5th. L.H. Regiment. |
| | 7. | 6th. L.H. Regt. |
| | 8. | 7th. L.H. Regt. |
| | 9. | M.G. Squadron. |
| | 10. | 2nd. L.H. F. Amb. |
| | 11. | 2nd Signal Troop. |
| | 12? | 2nd Field Troop. |
| | 13. | B.H.Q. |
| | 14. | 7th. M.V. Section% |



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RELIEF TABLE.
to accompany 2nd.L.H.Brigrade Order No. 7.

Unit to be relieved.	Location.	Relieving Unit.	Guides to meet	
			Relieving units at TIME	PLACE.
1/1 Gloucester Yeomanry.	Z.26. Central	7th.L.H.Regt.	1600.	On Route 2.G. Y.30.Central.
Amballa Cavalry Field Ambulance.	J.1.b.6.9.	2nd.L.H.F.Amb.	1530.	H.6.c.Central.
9th.Hodsons Horse.	D.Section.	5th.L.H.Regt.	1700.	H.6.c.Central.
19th.M.G.Sqdn.	2 Sections in Line, 1 Sect. in reserve.	2nd.A.M.G.Sqdn.	1930.	H.6.c.Central.
18th.Lancers.	B.Section.	6th.L.H.Regt.	2015.	SH. IBRAHIM Y.24.D.
Signal Troop.	B.H.Q.at 113 Y.24.d.Central.	2nd.Signal Trp.	1600.	

One Officer & 1 O/rank. of 7th.L.H.Regt. to report at Hdqrs., Gloucester Yeomanry at 1930 (Z 26.Central).

PANORAMA SKETCH

2ND L.H. BD E SECTOR

TUWEIL EDH DHIAB - ENNEJM EH - WADI BAKR



Date. 31-5-1918.
Weather Clear.
Afternoon hazy

All bearings Magnetic
VI = 2 H.E.

Position
Ridge E. Wadi el Abeid
Sheet 15728-4-7

Name. R. L. Hopkins
Rank. Lieut.
Regt. 6th L.H.