

AWM4

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

Camel Corps

Item number: 11/2/5

Title: Headquarters, Imperial Camel
Brigade

April 1917



AWM4-11/2/5

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abassan el Kerbir	13/4/17		No 3 Company at TEL el JEMMI- Lieut Campbell arrived to take over No 2 Coy- Bde General inspected the Camel at Headquarters at 0700. Air fight over Outpost lines-two of our paaains brought down. 1 extra Section sent to TEL el JEMMI. Sgt McKenzie pay camrkreported	
"	14/4/17		No 4 Company to JEMMI, and 2 Sections of No 2 Company. Heavy Turkish shelling direction DEIR el BELAH- Day patrol from Jemmi fired at on moving out across WADI SHERIA. No Casualties. One Camel killed. Lieut Phillips injured in fall- visited SHARIA- altered the disposition of night posts, Vide order No 41. Additional day patrol to MBENDUR. Capt Morgan left for Cairo.	
"	15/4/17		No 1 Company and 2 Sections of No 2 Coy to JEMMI- Hostile plain Machined the post at 1100.no casualties. Battalion Commanders called to Desert Column at 1500- Surplus gear to dump.	
"	16/4/17		Preporations to move - Watfering - 1 Section escort to H.H.S.B. Section to JEMMI at 1445 - No 3 Company and 2 Sections of No 2 Coy to JEMMI - Body of Turkish Cavalry seen approaching JEMMI near dusk.	
"	17/4/17		Saddle up - Stand to - moved South of Camp and awaited orders.	
"	18/4/17		Standing by "all day" - Two bombs dropped by hostile plain but no damage resulted. Left bivouac at 1800 - Halted at "Charing Cross" at 1045 - Under Command of Major Mills A.J Camels returned to behind SHARIA at 0330 following morning.	
Charing Cross	19/4/17		Moved dismounted from "Charing Cross" to Dumbell Hill at 0445 - moved to the attack at 0730 (vide separate orders) withdrew at 1945 and returned to Charing Cross for the night. reaching there at 2130. Led at Camels at Charing Cross bombed, 8 killed but no casualties amongst men.	
"	20/4/17		Main body moved out dismounted from Charing Cross at 0345 to act as reserves behind SHEIK ARBAS. In position by 0515 - 2nd and 3rd Battalions entrenching all day. occasionally shelled but no casualties.	

Imp/Comm Bde
1917

Account of Operations

14th April — 22nd April 1917

Ref Maps RAFA 1:125000
GAZA X (C)

- APR 1917

EG

- April 13th. Orders received from Desert Column for the Brigade to hold itself in readiness at ABASAN EL KEBIR to move at one hour's notice on the first day (14th).
- April 16th. Two guns. 2nd L.H. Bde sent to TEL EL JEMMI for use as anti-aircraft guns.
- 17th. Brigade remained at ABASAN EL KEBIR.
- 18th. Orders received from Desert Column for Bde to reach CHARING CROSS at 2200. Bde pleased under orders of 54th Div. Orders received from 64th Div for Bde to be in position to start the attack at 0430.
- 19th. Bde was increased by one Bde from 161st Bde. Artillery bombardment from 0530 to 0430. Attack commenced 0430. 1st and 3rd Bdes in front line 2nd Bde in support. 4th Bde based Regt in reserve. The objective given was the enemy's position from KHIRBET SIHAN (inclusive) to Redoubt sq. W.23 Central (exclusive). (Copy of orders for attack attached). One tank preceded the line of stormtroopers. 163rd Bde on our left. 4th L.H. Bde on our left right. Enemy artillery opened fire at 0745 on our advancing lines. Fire was heavy and extremely accurate. At 0830 the tank reached enemy redoubt in W.23 but was put out of action by four direct hits by H.E. The tank burst into flames and stopped. At 0845 our line reached a ridge 400 yds from an enemy redoubt Sq. W.23. Our casualties became heavy owing to enemy artillery fire from guns enfilading our line. At 0900 1st Bde and HANTS. Light captured redoubt in W.23. It was held until 1300 when a strong enemy counter-attack drove us out again taking a few prisoners. In the meantime the 3rd Bde had held SIHAN since 0945. but owing to the retirement of the 4th L.H. Bde on their right were unable to move forward and consequently refused his right flank withdrawing Nos 14 and 15 Coy. for the purpose. Both 1st and 3rd Bde commanders asked for artillery support - but none was obtained and the line was withdrawn at 1845. One of our planes was brought down by an enemy plane at 1700 and fell in front of SIHAN. The pilot was killed. At 1945 the Bde was withdrawn and relieved by 161st Bde. Withdrew to CHARING CROSS and bivouaced.

Ell 3 - APR 1917 Imp Camp Bde Force 1917

Orders were received to take up a line stretching from DUMBELL HILL - W. 24. Central (SHEIKH ABBAS RIDGE). at dawn on 20th. 2nd Btm on left, 3rd on right, 1st in reserve.

April 20th Position was consolidated and wired in.

April 21st Orders were received for 16th Bde to relieve us at 2400 on night of 21/22, and for Bde to move to a bivouac near MAAIN. 2nd Btm was heavily shelled all day and casualties inflicted.

April 22nd Bde arrived MAAIN at 0810.

Total Casualties 19th - 22nd

	0	O. R.
<u>KILLED.</u>	3	41
<u>WOUNDED.</u>	19	271
<u>MISSING.</u>	1	39
<u>TOTAL CASUALTIES</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>351</u>

CAMEL CASUALTIES 176

W. H. L. C. C.
B. D. M.
V. B. M.

25/4/17

