

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/9/29**

**Title: 4th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

May 1917

4<sup>th</sup> L. H. Regt.

# War Diary

Volume V

1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May 1917

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1/5

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

4th Light Horse Regt.

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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
ABASAN EL KEBIR	3 <sup>rd</sup>	0600	The Regiment moved to EL SHA'UTH. arriving 1000.	
EL SHA'UTH	5 <sup>th</sup>		One Squadron working on defences on HILL 510 south of SHA'UTH	RAFA. 1-125,000
"	6 <sup>th</sup>		One Squadron working as above.	
	6 <sup>th</sup>		The Division made an attack on the EL-BUGGAR - KHASIF posts. A & B Squadrons with Regimental Headquarters left at 1700 on 6 <sup>th</sup> May and took over the outpost line from the 10 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt at GAMLI at 1800, and held same till 1800 on 7 <sup>th</sup> May. C Squadron moved out at 1800. and joined 11 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt and 4 <sup>th</sup> A.M.G Sgdn. in vicinity of bivouac area. This body then crossed the WADI at GAMLI at 1915 and advanced on a bearing of 92°, "C" Squadron throwing out a screen. A halt was made 4 miles from the WADI. C Squadron then sent out picquets and Cossack posts. No hostile forces were seen	
	7 <sup>th</sup>	0700	C Squadron withdrew and returned to bivouac	
	8 <sup>th</sup>		B Squadron continued the work on defences at Hill 510 A & C Squadrons deepening trenches and wiring SHA'UTH defences	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL SHA'UTH	9 <sup>th</sup>		C Squadron carried on work on defences on KNOLL 465 - 1000 yds N of Hill 510. A & B Squadrons continued work on SHA'UTH defences	
	11 <sup>th</sup>		As above	
	12 <sup>th</sup>		The Brigade was relieved by 6 <sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade, and the Regiment moved at 0830 to ABASAN EL KEBIR, which was reached at 1100.	
ABASAN EL KEBIR	15 <sup>th</sup>	0930	The Regiment moved to TEL EL MARAKEB, on the sea front, arriving at 1130.	
TEL EL MARAKEB	22 <sup>nd</sup>	1700.	Orders having been <del>given</del> received that the Turkish railway between ASLUS and AUJA was to be destroyed, and that the Brigade was to divert the enemy's attention from this attack by making good the line BEIT ABUTAHA (exclusive) - EL BUGGAR - HILL 680 near <u>v</u> of cultivation (exclusive). The Regiment acting as advance guard to the Brigade proceeded from MARAKEB to GAMLI where the WADI was crossed, and thence an easterly direction was followed, with C Squadron as advance guard, "A" Squadron supporting "C" and "B" Squadron in reserve. The above mentioned line (BEIT ABUTAHA - to Hill 680 near <u>v</u> of cultivation) was made good without opposition.	BEERSHEBA 1/25000 +

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		<p>at 0400. <del>At 0415</del> connecting up with 3rd L.H. Brigade on the right and with the 6th L.H. Brigade on the left.</p> <p>At 0415 the advance was continued in the direction of the line Hill 810 (inclusive) - SABA - TEL EL FARA road with the 4th A.M.G. Squadron acting as a further support. Beyond slight patrol encounters no opposition was met with until in the vicinity of Hill 720, where enemy held a ridge on our immediate front and offered resistance. One troop of "C" Squadron made a dismounted frontal attack under cover of the fire of another troop of same Squadron occupying crest of Hill 720. At the same time the remaining two troops of "C" Squadron galloped to positions on the enemy's flanks and he withdrew in the direction of Hills 810 &amp; 820. The enemy comprised portion of a cavalry unit. Our advance was then continued at an accelerated pace, "A" Squadron moving up to the right of "C".</p> <p>The enemy was plainly seen on the crests of Hills 810 &amp; 820 and appeared to be in large numbers. "C" Squadron (supported by the 4th A.M.G. Squadron) by a fast movement carried the crest of Hill 810 and almost simultaneously a troop of "A" Squadron under machine gun support carried the crest of Hill 820. The lines were then extended "C" Squadron's left flank resting on the left of Hill 820, their right flank linking up with "A" Squadron's left and "A" Squadron's right flank</p>	<p>BEERSHEBA 1-125000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">+ 5/4</p> <p style="text-align: right;">McNamara afath</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	22 <sup>nd</sup> / 23		resting on the TEL EL FARA road. up to this point the enemy had used rifle fire only but he now brought his artillery to bear using shrapnel. This line was held until 1600 when the order was given to withdraw. B Squadron, as rear guard, then moved up to cover the withdrawal which was carried out without mishap. The Regiment recrossed the WADI at GAMLI at 2000 and bivouaced on the West bank, moving back to MARAKEB at 0500 on 24 <sup>th</sup> and arriving there 1030.	BEERSHEBA 1-125000
TEL EL MARAKEB	25 <sup>th</sup>	1320	The Regiment moved out to ABASAN EL KEBIR	
ABASAN EL KEBIR	28 <sup>th</sup>	0700	The Regiment moved out to <del>WADI</del> TEL EL FARA via WELI SHEIKH NURAN arriving 1000.	BEERSHEBA 1-125000
TEL EL FARA	29 <sup>th</sup>	0230	'B' Sqn and 2 Troops 'C' Sqn sent out patrols as follows: No 1 - 1 Troop GOZ MABRUK with forward patrols in the direction of ESANI & 680 near <u>I</u> of LAKHLEILAT No 2 - 1 Troop to GOZ EL BASAL with patrols in the direction of KH. KHASIF and point 550 E of BASAL No 3 - 1 Troop to GOZ EL GELEIB No 4 - 1 Troop in direction of 510 on ABU SHAWISH road No 5 - 1 Troop in direction of 410 on WADI IMLEIH No 6 - 1 Troop in direction of 300 & 340 KHIABIT ERK The remainder of Regiment remained in support of patrols.	15/5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA	29	2000	<p>Patrols reported as follows:-</p> <p><u>Patrol no 1</u> Patrolled to GOZ MABRUK with forward patrols in direction of ESAMI and 680 near 'I' of LAKHLEILAT. No enemy seen</p> <p><u>Patrol no 2</u> Patrolled to GOZ BASAL with patrols in direction of KH. KHASIF and point 550 E of BASAL. Enemy patrol of 8 mounted men seen on sky line, but did not come in contact</p> <p><u>Patrol no 3</u> Patrolled to GOZ EL GELEIB. About 300 Bedouins and Turks seen moving from about 'A' of ABU SHAWISH road to point 410. These people had about 300 camels and donkeys and had apparently been harvesting.</p> <p><u>Patrol no 4</u> This patrol reached a point 510 ABU SHAWISH road and an advanced patrol to a point between 520 and 'I' in IFTEIS. This patrol reports a redoubt (small) in WADI IMLEIH north of 'O' in 520. Barbed wire and fences running along N bank same wadi from BIR IFLEIS to 410 (N of 'E' in IMLEIH). A viaduct visible across small branch of WADI IMLEIH north of 'S' in BIR IFLEIS. A train was seen moving at ABU HAREIRA. About a regiment of Cavalry and 500 infantry moved from 520 on telegraph line to WADI at point 520 N of IFTEIS. Troops and transport moving NE along WADI EL SHARIA - estimated strength 1500 to 2000. Enemy artillery opened up from about pt 520 on telegraph line.</p>	<p>BEERSHEBA 1/125.000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">+ 5/6</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Al-Hamud afaf</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARAF	29 <sup>th</sup>	2000	<p>Patrol no 5. Reached a point about 'O' in cultivation between WADI IMLEIH and ABU SHAWISH road with advanced patrol to within 400 yards of WADI but could get no further, for rifle and machine gun fire from about 'H' in WADI IMLEIH</p> <p>Patrol no 6 Reached a point about 'V' in cultivation between WADI IMLEIH and ABU SHAWISH road. Met 8 mounted Turks here who left a note on post. Advanced patrols towards 310 reached within 200 yards of WADI and met heavy rifle fire and could go no further. About 200 Turks on horses and camels came from out the WADI in several places and after about half an hours rifle fire retired back to WADI. No water, or roads crossing WADI seen.</p>	BEERSHEBA 1-125000

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>The following officers were promoted during the month</p> <p>To be <u>Lieut Colonel and command</u></p> <p>Major M.W.F. Bouchies dated 15/3/17</p> <p>To be <u>Temporary Major</u> whilst commanding a Squadron</p> <p>Capt J. Lawson to complete establishment 2/5/17</p> <p>Capt J.C. Chanters " " 3/5/17</p> <p>To be <u>Captain</u></p> <p>Lieut (Temp Capt) Price C.L. and to remain seconded 20/3/17</p> <p>Lieut Reid A.D. dated 2/3/17</p> <p>Lieut Wellings J.F. " 2/5/17</p> <p>Lieut Rae H.G. " 3/5/17</p> <p>To be <u>Lieutenant</u></p> <p>2/Lieut Wiltie L.A. dated 1/4/17</p> <p>(Effective strength of Rept. 22 off 445 of ranks.)</p>	
	31 <sup>st</sup>		<p>31/5/17</p>	
			<p>Al Hainwa Lt Act/adjt.</p> <p>W.M.F. Bouchies Lt Colonel C.O. 4th L.H. Regt.</p>	

8/5/17