

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/12/23 Part 1

Title: 7th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

August 1917

WAR DIARY

or

Army Form C. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained F. S. Regs, Part. II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F. Month ending
31st August 1917.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p><i>Patrols</i> Patrols Patrols</p> <p>EL SHELLAL 1.8.17.</p> <p>do 2.8.17.</p> <p>do 3.8.17.</p>	<p>Usual Camp duties. Received 14 O/Rank Reinforcements and evacuated 1 O/Rank sick.</p> <p>Usual Camp duties.</p> <p>Regiment less 5 troops left camp at 1800 and took up line EL GIRHEIR-Kh.IMLEIH-730-720 to safeguard flank of Brigade and to destroy or capture enemy patrols or parties of Bedouins.</p> <p>Headquarters and two troops took up position at Kh.IMLEIH, one troop & 1 troop M.G.Squadron took up position at 705(650); two troops dismounted and moved out on flat S.E. of Kh. Imleih to a distance of about half a mile, leaving horses with Hqrs. Nothing of note occurred and Regiment returned to camp about 0600 4th.</p> <p>Two O/Ranks evacuated sick.</p>	
<p><i>Patrols</i></p> <p>do 4.8.17.</p>	<p>Supplied day Outposts at 510, KHASIF, GOZ EL BASAL, GOZ MABRUK & DAMMATH.</p> <p>Enemy Observation Posts observed 630, 820, 680, also enemy patrol of 4 men near Kh. ERK.</p> <p>Nothing of note occurred.</p>	
<p><i>Patrols</i> <i>Patrols</i></p> <p>do 5.8.17.</p> <p>do 6.8.17.</p>	<p>Usual camp duties. Received 12 Reinforcements, 4 O.R. evacuated to hospital sick.</p> <p>The Regiment, one section of Ayrshire Battery, two troops M.G.Squadron, 3 light car and two sand carts left UM URGAM at 1200 to carry out reconnaissance of ABU IRGEIG.</p> <p>The day patrols furnished by 6th L.H. had made good country as far as Kh. KHASIF. From here small parties of the enemy were seen on high land towards EL BUGGAR on the SOUTH of the BEERSHEBA-RAFA Road - about 20 in all were seen.</p> <p>One Squadron formed advance guard with the objective of 720. Two troops and 1 troop M.G.Squadron formed the right flank guard and made good the country about TAWWEILL EL HABARI. One troop & 1 troop M.G.Sqdm</p>	<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">1/27</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-style: italic;">A. G. 7th Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-style: italic;">Lieut. Colonel</p>

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31st August 1917.

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<p><i>James</i> EL SHELLAL 6.8.17.</p>	<p>formed the left flank guard and made good the high bank to the west of Kh.Imleih. 1 troop was detailed as rear guard to escort sand carts and 1 squadron escorted guns. The light cars were sent round the right flank. Guns got into position to the SOUTH of 720 at 1530, but owing to the enemy's patrols falling back so rapidly no good targets were seen and only a few rounds were fired at some trenches to the NORTH of 820. Squadron of enemy was noticed to withdraw towards BEERSHEBA after first few rounds were fired. "A" Squadron pushed on to 770 and from there a good observation of ABU IRGEIG was obtained. Patrols pushed on towards ABU IRGEIG and got as far as the WADI ELSUFI where the road running from Kh.IMLEIH crosses. From here they worked down the Wadi as far as the M U in SUFI, making notes and taking observations. Enemy works observed;- Small redoubt behind 650 and just East of BEERSHEBA Road with garrison of about 50, Large redoubt at 650 holding from 150 to 200 men and small redoubt north of ABU IRGEIG with Garrison of about 12. Mounted troops to the EAST of BU IRGEIG withdrew on our patrols opening fire. To the N.W. of ABU IRGEIG is a high bank in the Wadi on which appears to be a trench. A large camp was also noticed noticed just WEST of BEERSHEBA (probably Cavalry & Infantry. The camp consists of tents, huts, and dugouts, and in addition there appears to be an aeroplane hangar, the whole covering an area of about 1 mile by half to three quarters of a mile. Regiment withdrew at 1815 and returned to camp at 2200. Two O/Ranks evacuated to hospital sick.</p>	<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">X 2/27</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Lieut. Colonel O.C. 7th. Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.</p>

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7th LIGHTHORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F. Month ending 30.8.17.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL SHELLAL 8.8.17.	Usual camp duties. 1 o.r. evacuated sick	
do 9.8.17.	do	
do 10.8.17.	Furnished night outposts. Nothing to report. during day 1 o.r. evacuated sick.	
do 11.8.17.	Usual camp duties. 3 o.r. evacuated sick.	
do 12.8.17.	do 2 o.r. evacuated sick.	
do 13.8.17.	Regiment moved out with Brigade at 1800 for purpose of taking part in raid on redoubt on 650 and the small trenches EAST & NORTH of it, and destroy the viaduct and station buildings. 7th L.H. raiding party. Got as far as WADI EL SUFI dismounted and moved forward. Owing to the short time at our disposal it was impossible to carry out the enterprise and orders were received from Division to withdraw at 0245.	
do 14.8.17.	Regiment returned to Camp about 0800 14th.	
do 15.8.17.	Usual camp duties. Nothing to report.	
do 16.8.17.	do 1 Officer & 3 o.r. evacuated sick.	
	Moved out with Brigade at 0500 and proceeded to KARM. Brigade in reserve.	
	The Regiment and two troops M.G. Squadron and party of engineers and two carts left KARM at 1930 for purpose of making a raid on railway line near ABU IRGEIG. WADI HANAFISH was crossed at 2105 and HILL 770 made good without opposition at 2255. At this point the force was dismounted and 1 squadron and 1 troop M.G. Squadron remained there 2 squadrons and 1 troop M.G. Squadron moved off to the WADI EL SUFI at 2220 and occupied a position about the S. in WADI EL SUFI. 1 Squadron & 1 troop M.G. remained there and telephonic communication was established with R.H.Q.	
	1 squadron and engineers pushed on up the Wadi to a distance of a mile on a bearing of 125 degrees. The direction was then changed and the party marched on	

9/27
[Signature]
 O.C. 7th. Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.
 Lieut. Colonel

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<p><i>Johns</i> EL SHELLAL 16.8.17.</p>	<p>a bearing of 90 degrees to the Railway, arriving at a point about one mile SOUTH of ABU IRGEIG, this place was reached about 0035. The engineers set to work immediately to fix the explosives and after a period of twenty minutes the task was almost completed when a Turkish Patrol of seven men came from the direction of BEERSHEBA. Every effort was made to keep out of sight but the supporting party was challenged and fired upon, so the patrol was rushed with the bayonet. In the fight one O.R. was killed, enemy casualties were;- One killed, three wounded and three captured and brought back to camp. It would have been useless to have left the explosives on the line so they were removed and brought in. Turkish reinforcements were reported to squadron withdrew and reached 770 at 0200. The Regiment moved off at 0240 and reached camp at 0615. 1 o.r. was evacuated to hospital sick. Usual camp duties. 2 o.r. evacuated sick. Moved camp from EL SHELLAL to TEL EL MARAKEB. Erecting bivouacs, etc. 3 o.r. evacuated sick.</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 17.8.17.</p>	<p>Training in Musketry, hotchkiss rifle, and gas drill.</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 18.8.17.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> TEL ELdo 19.8.17. MARAKEB.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 20.8.17.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 21.8.17.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 22.8.17.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 23.8.17.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 24.8.17.</p>	<p>do do</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 25.8.17.</p>	<p>do do 2 o.r. evacuated sick. received 32 reinforcements.</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 26.8.17.</p>	<p>Training Musketry, Hotchkiss rifle and gas drill. 3 o.r. evacuated sick.</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 27.8.17.</p>	<p>Training as above. 1 o.r. evacuated sick</p>	
<p><i>Johns</i> do 28.8.17.</p>	<p>Regiment course of musketry, grouping, 100 yards 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick</p>	

1/27

Johns
Lieut. Colonel
O.C. 7th. Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.

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<p>TEL EL MARAKEB do 29.8.17. do 30.8.17. do 31.8.17.</p>	<p>Inspection by G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division. Received 4 reinforcements. Training Musketry, Hotchkiss rifle, gas drill. do do</p> <p><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Lieut. Colonel O.C. 7th. Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.</p>	<p>9/27</p>