

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/12/29

Title: 7th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

February 1918

18,000-12/1 -8723



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ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.

FOR

FEBRUARY
JANUARY

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

A. J. Hallan
Lieut.
Adjutant 7th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Richard B. Greig
Lt. Col.
Commanding 7th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

FEB 1918

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Original No. 1

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
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will be prepared in manuscript.



7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

WAR DIARY
For February 1918.

~~EXCLUDED FROM THE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI HANEIN	1.2.18.		Lecture to Officers; Communication drill. N.C.O's classes, physical training, etc. <i>CEH</i>	
"	2.2.18.		Lecture to Officers; Machine Gun Tactics. N.C.O's classes, cleaning up camp & saddlery, disinfecting clothes. 8 o.r. reinforcements marched in from 2nd L.H. Training Regiment. G.H.Q. Relay party of 43 o.r. relieved. <i>CEH</i>	
"	3.2.18.		Camp Routine & Church Parades. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. <i>CEH</i>	
"	4.2.18.		The Regiment moved out from camp at WADI HANEIN at 0800. Two troops of M.G. Sqn, 1 Off. 9 o.r. Field Engineers and detachment from Field Ambulance attached. To take over portion of front line in the hills, situation immediately to NORTH of NALIN. Reference Map Palestine Exploration 085, Sq.Z. Sheet 14. The extent of the line being from WADI NATUF, the left flank, linking up with the Devons, 239th Brigade, line running in an EASTERLY direction from this point along high ground to point 1179 exclusive, held by the Leicester Regiment, 29th Inf. Brigade, the 7th L.H. Regt being under the orders of this Brigade. The Canterbury Mounted Rifles were relieved by us at 1330. All horses were returned to out camp at WADI HANEIN with the exception of 7 per Squadron, 13 officers and 228 o.r. remaining in the front line. "B" Squadron (Major Willsallen) took over Posts 1 & 2. "A" Sqn. (Major Easterbrook) Post 3 and "C" Squadron (Major Barton) post 4 & 5. Rations being drawn by limbers and camels on alternate days. A plentiful supply of water being obtained from local cisterns. The line consisted of Observation Posts during the day, being reinforced at night. Bivouacs were erected during the afternoon. 1 N.C.O. & 3 o.r. detached for Camel <i>CEH</i>	

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7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

WAR DIARY

For February 1918.

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(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALIN	4.2.18.		cont. Guard, & nightly patrol of N.C.O. & 2 o.r. detailed to meet at patrol from the Leincesters. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	
NALIN	5.2.18.		A daily working of 1 N.C.O. & 12 o.r. detailed for road construction near KHIRBIT MIDIEH & 1 N.C.O. & 12 o.r. for work on DUBLIN ROAD, weather permitting. 1 N.C.O. & 3 o.r. detailed for Guard at the Village of NALIN. During the day Squadrons occupied in improving and building sangars. Despatches sent daily every morning to camp at WADI HANEIN and Brigade Headquarters. The Act. Brigadier with 29th Inf. Bde. with C.O. 7th L.H. & Squadron Leaders inspected the position. Transport Camels were withdrawn from KHIRBIT MIDIEH to R.H.Q. 3 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	
"	6.2.18.		Squadrons continued improving the sangars. Material at Posts 1 & 2 being hard to obtain it was necessary for the Engineers to blast the rock. Good progress was made with the road construction. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	
"	7.2.18.		On account of the heavy rain no working parties were sent out. 23 o.r. Reinforcements arrived at WADI HANEIN Camp.	
"	8.2.18.		Rain continued throughout the day.	
"	9.2.18.		Still raining heavily, men unable to work on roads or trenches.	

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7th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

~~WAR DIARY~~
WAR DIARY.

For February 1918.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALIN	9.2.18.		cont. Native wandered through the lines from the direction of the enemy & was sent to 29th Infantry Brigade Headquarters as he was likely to give valuable information about the enemy. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	
"	10.2.18.		Rain cleared off during the morning. Working continued road near MIDIEH and DUBLIN ROAD. Squadrons working in trenches.	
"	11.2.18.		Road making continued, also Squadrons making communication trenches and rebuilding breadtworks, which collapsed owing to rain. 1 o.r. to hospital sick.	
"	12.2.18.		Road making continued. Work on communication trenches and rebuilding breastworks continued. At No. 1 & 2 Posts it is still necessary to blast rocks for material.	
"	13.2.18.		One E.L.C. Native was found wandering about the hills near MIDIEH. He was brought to R.H.Q. and on being questioned by the Interpreter said his company had been bombed and he had lost them. He was sent to A.P.M., RAMLEH. G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps visited the position with his A.D.C. He had lunch here and went round the lines afterwards. Usual parties were working on roads and sangars. Rifle Inspection and Gas Drill. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. 13 o.r. sent to Port Said Rest Camp.	
"	14.2.18.		Usual working parties on sangars and roads. Blasting was necessary to obtain suitable material. No enemy movement was observed. Night patrol as usual. Lieut K.B. Sutor Returned from School of Instruction, ZEITOUN. 1. o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	

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7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.
WAR DIARY
for February 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALIN	15.2.18.		Lieutenant E.G.Donkin & 2/Lieut. J.H.Walker left for Zeitoun and Kelab respectively to attend Schools. Work was continued on Sangars and Roads. 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. 13 o.r. returned from Port Said Rest Camp.	
"	16.2.18.		Continuing work on Roads and Sangars. Several Bedouins came through the line from the direction of MESHAL and were sent to Ludd after being questioned by the Interpreter. No information of value was obtained. 3 o.r. returned from hospital.	
"	17.2.18.		Camp Routine. Engineers constructed four targets from timber which was obtained from Depot, RAMLEH. 1 o.r. to hospital sick. 1 Officer (Lieut. L.W.Davies M.C.) and 5 o.r. marched in from 2nd L.H.Training Regiment.	
"	18.2.18.		Visited by B.G.C. & B.M. 2nd A.L.H.Brigade who arrived by motor. They inspected the position and work which had been done here and were well satisfied with the work carried out. 3 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. The Official Artist (Lieut. Lambert) and three men arrived from D.H.Q. Lieut. Lambert made several sketches of the trenches and position. Usual working parties and night patrol. Seven enemy aeroplanes flew over the camp about 1600 towards Junction Station, when our guns opened fire on them they changed their direction and returned. The Omdah of NALIN and one man were seen out in front of the line and were fired on by the Outpost of "C" Squadron. Targets were erected in W. NATUF by "C" Squadron.	
"	19.2.18.		Usual working parties on Sangars and roads. "C" Squadron were firing at targets at 200 and 300 yards. The firing was good.	

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7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

for February 1918.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Army Form C. 2118.

Original No. 5.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALIN	20.2.18.		Continuing work on sangars and roads. "B" Squadron were on the range. Colonel J.M. Arnott visited the Regiment. The Official Artist was busy sketching. Weather very like rain but only a few drops fell. A party of natives came through from MESHAL. They said the Turks had ordered them to go to NABLUS, but they decided to come back through the lines. Two men were taken to RAMLEH to be handed to the A.P.M. for their particulars. The remainder of the party went back to RAMLEH with their donkeys, etc. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. <i>ced</i>	
"	21.2.18.		Range firing could not be carried out owing to rain. All working parties were also cancelled. Office 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. <i>ced</i>	
"	22.2.18.		Official Artist returned to report to D.H.Q. Lieuts Chapman and Waddell left for WADI HANEIN, the former going on leave and Lieut. Waddell to Cavalry School of Instruction. Seven natives were caught trying to make out through the lines, they were brought up to Headquarters and the Omdah of NALIN brought down. They were all questioned and were sent to the Intelligence Officer, 29th Infantry Brigade. The Omdah was allowed to return to the village after being told he was to keep all natives away from our lines. Usual working parties, but were much interfered with by heavy showers. Lieutenant Ducker and 4 men went out on a patrol towards MESHAL at 1300 and returned at 1600; nothing to report. Lieut. Steven, of the Field Engineers, handed in a plan of all cisterns in our area with their depths and contents (copy attached). <i>ced</i>	
"	23.2.18.		Working parties as usual on roads and sangars - weather was showery but very little rain fell. Major T.H. Bird, D.S.O.	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
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7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

for February 1918.

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Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALIN	23.2.18.		<p>cont. and Lieutenant R.R. Chapman left for Cairo on leave from WADI HANEIN. Captain H.I. Johnson on his return from JERUSALEM, where he had been in charge of a leave party of the 2nd A.L.H. Brigade, took charge of the Regtl. Details and horses. 17 o.r. Reinforcements marched in from 2nd L.H. Training Rgt. Moascar. 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.</p>	
"	24.2.18.		Camp Routine. No working parties owing to rain.	
"	25.2.18.		<p>Continuing work on sangars, Dublin Road and Midieh Grade, party of N.C.O. & 12 o.r. started on road up WADI NATUF towards MESCHAL. General Howard Vige and Captain Garbett came from DESCORPS and had a look round the position. "A" Squadron were on the rifle range & shooting on the whole good.</p>	
"	26.2.18.		<p>Work on sangars and roads continued. The party on road up WADI NATUF was increased to 1 Off. 2 N.C.O's and 40 o.r. Lieut. Riley was in charge and very good progress was made about 1 mile being made fit for limber traffic. Col. Onslow, Major Barton and Major Easterbrook, with a small party went out to SHEBTIN and reconnoitred the country towards MESCHAL. Only enemy seen were two or three at a long distance away. Water was found to be good and plentiful in the vicinity of SHEBTIN, numerous springs being found. Lieut. Steven, 2nd Field Engineers, ANZACS, has marked the road to MESCHAL for a considerable distance. 27 natives came through the line from SHEBTIN & AMMAR and were questioned by the Interpreter, but all their answers were favourable and they were allowed to proceed to RAMLEH to buy grain, etc.</p>	

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7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY
for February 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NALIN	27.2.18.		Work was carried out on the MESHAL Road up to the WADI NATUF, the working party of 2 N.C.O's and 40 o.r. being under Lieut. G.G. Finlay, M.C., D.C.M. The progress was slow owing to heavy showers. The usual night patrols and listening posts were out.	
"	28.2.18.		The weather cleared up during the night and full advantage was taken of it to push the road work on towards MESHAL. The party was to-day under Lieut. H. Spencer - good progress was made and it is now favourable for limber traffic for 3 miles. Col. Onslow, Major Easterbrook & Lieut. Riley with small covering party went out to a point about 1000 yards EAST of SHUKBAH and met a special reconnaissance of the 232nd Bde. under Brig. General HUDDLESTON re proposed advance of the line in the course of the next few days. Lieut. McDougall, of the 68th Brigade Artillery came over and stayed a few hours.	

P. H. M. O.C.
Lieut. Colonel
O.C. 7th. Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.

- FEB 1918

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7th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

- FEB 1918

848/9

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH ENDING JANUARY 1918.

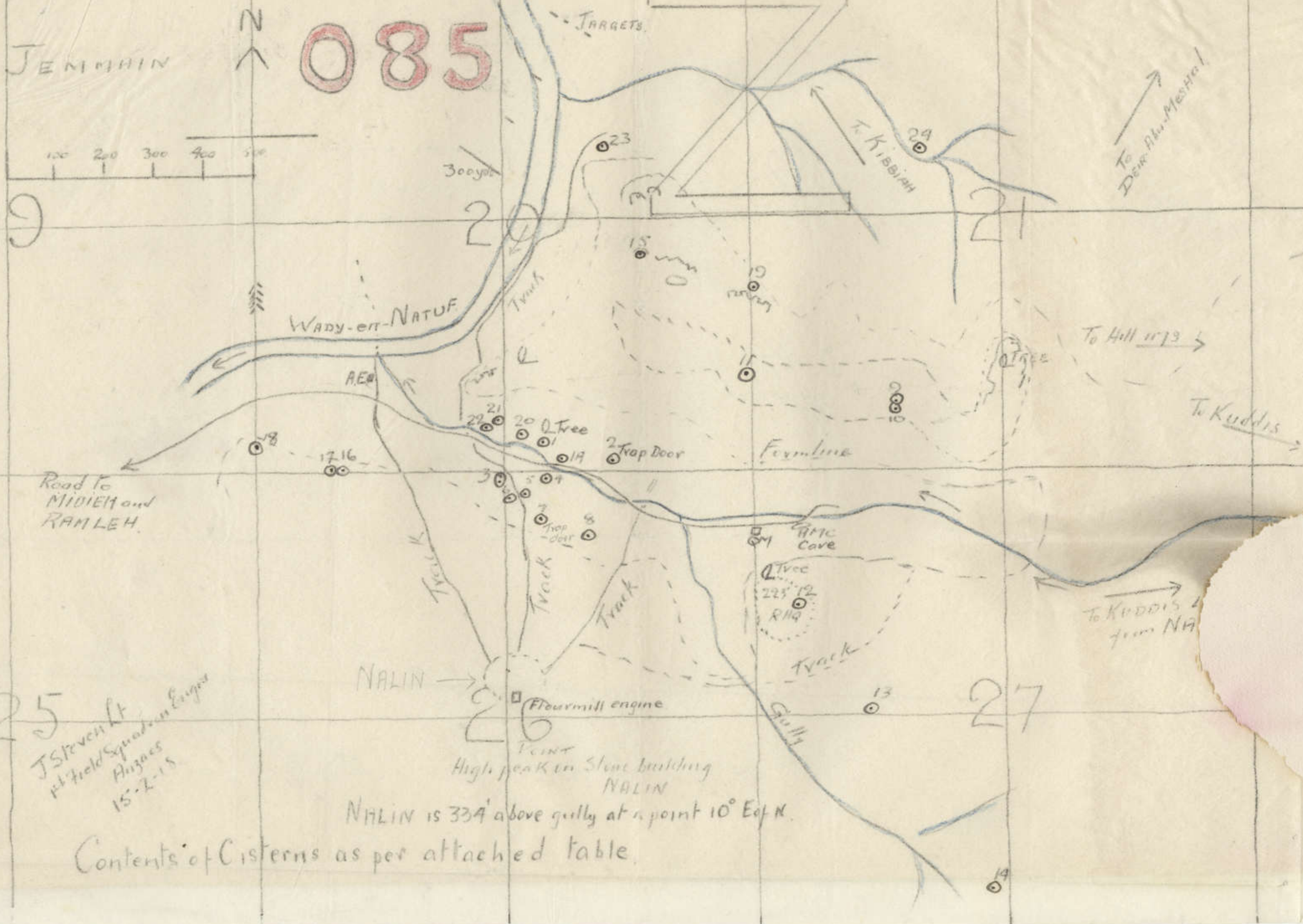
List of Appendices.

1. Map showing positions of cisterns.



John Macarthur G. G. G.
Lieut; -Colonel
Commanding 7th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

Appendix



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