

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/12/32

Title: 7th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

May 1918

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

month of May 1918. 191

Signature of Officer comiling

C. J. Donkin

Lieut.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. R. Bird

T/Commanding 7th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT, A.I.F.

Major

MAY 1918

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Original Sheet No. 1.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
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WAR DIARY

for Month of May 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|---------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ES SALT | 1.5.18. | | <p>Orders having been received the Regiment moved out at 0100 to rejoin Brigade at ES SALT, moving by the UMM ESH SHERT-ES SALT Road, and halting for an hour at 0530 in the foot-hills where the men had their breakfast and the horses were fed up. From here on to ES SALT, about 9 miles, the track was extremely rough and the men had to lead their horses for the greater part of this distance. Great trouble was experienced with the pack horses as the track was only wide enough for one horse at a time. At the junction of No. 6. Road the 2nd Regiment was passed and from them we heard that ES SALT had been occupied by the 3rd Brigade at 11 1830 the night before. During the latter part of this march it rained heavily, making travelling most difficult. The Regiment arrived at ES SALT about 1130 and found that the 2nd Brigade had already moved out along the AMMAM Road, the Regiment joining up with the about 4 miles out at 1400, remaining in this position until 1700. At this time we received orders to move out to the village at AIN HAMAR, the junction of the ES SUR Track, and to put out a line of outposts here. At this village the horses were watered and mens water bottles filled. At 1930 the Regiment received orders to withdraw to Brigade, the concentration of which took till 2400.</p> | |
| do | 2.5.18. | | <p>The Regiment then moved with the Brigade to a position about 1½ miles SOUTH of ES SALT on the SHUNET NIMRIN Road, bivouacing for three hours. About 0900 orders were received to proceed down this road dismounted with a view to assisting the 5th Mounted Brigade in their attack down this road. After proceeding a short distance Turks were reported advancing from AMMAM and the Regiment was then ordered to take up the following positions, from EL AWAB (Square J.28, ES SA:T Composite map), "A" Squadron being placed on the x Right and "B" Squadron on the left, "C" Squadron in Reserve. About 1030 orders were received from Aust. Mounted Divn. to</p> | |

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E.H.P.
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for month of ⁰⁴ May 1918
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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|---------|---------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ES SALT | 2.5.18. | | <p>push out line further NORTH to about Square J.17. "C" Squadron was then ordered to occupy the high ground in the vicinity, which was completed about 1200. at which time the outposts of the 3rd Brigade were driven back to this line. Up to this time there had been no decisive attack on the line, but about 300 enemy cavalry had pushed forward and appeared to be making a demonstration. On coming within long rifle range they dispersed and retired. About 1400 "C" Squadron was relieved by the 5th L.H.. they then withdrew and took up a position in the centre of our original line. During the remainder of the day small parties of enemy mounted men advanced along the gully and sniped at very long range. The Regiment held this position during the night, all being quiet. From midday rations and horsefeed had been consumed and a requisition was made on the inhabitants for cattle, the horses being grazed on barley in positions behind our lines.</p> | |
| do | 3.5.18. | | <p>After daylight the enemy advanced along the AMMAM Road, attacking the 3rd Brigade, and about 350 were captured by the 8th and 5th L.H.Regiments. About 200 of the enemy turned to the left and proceeded down the Wadi in front of our position, these were later joined by about 100 Cavalry, sniping at long range. The country being so precipitous it was impossible to make a flank move to drive them out of the position they held. Our line was slightly shelled during the day. No rations having come through further requisitions were made for fresh meat and horses were unsaddled for the first time after leaving the JORDAN and were again grazed on the crops. No trouble was experienced in regard to water as we were bivouaced on a running wadi. About 1630 orders were received that the whole force would withdraw on account of large enemy reinforcements NORTH of ES SALT in the neighbourhood of KAHR HUDA. The Regiment was ordered to withdraw from its</p> | |

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Confidential.

7th Light Horse Regiment.

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

for Month of May 1918

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Original: Sheet No. 3.
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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------------|---------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ES SALT | 3.5.18. | | position at 2000 and hold the roadhead in the vicinity of EL FUHEIS and then forming the rearguard until the whole force had withdrawn through. 1 troop under Lieut. Riley being left to watch the SHUNET NIMRIM Road. with orders to withdraw about daylight, joining the 6th Regiment who were holding the AMMAM Road. The Regiment on withdrawing from the front line experienced great difficulty in getting out of the ES SALT Road owing to the difficult nature of the track, taking three hours for the Regiment to pass one bad part. | |
| do | 4.5.18. | | At 0100 the Regiment arrived at the roadhead position and the Squadrons then took up their defensive positions. On finding that the column had all practically moved off word was sent to those holding the roads in the valley to retire, these parties moving through us at about 0300. The Regiment withdrew at 0415 and about 5 miles down the road passed through a regiment of the 5th Mounted Brigade, to whom we reported that the retirement was complete, they in turn taking over the rearguard from us. During the descent of the hills we were slightly shelled. The Regiment crossed the JORDAN by the GHORANIYEH Bridge and moved to bivouac site in the WADI KELT, 1½ miles S.E. of JERICHO and arriving there at 1100. During the ES SALT Operations the Regiment had no casualties. The remainder of the day the men were erecting bivvys and resting. | |
| do JERICHO | 5.5.18. | | Straightening up the lines and the men resting. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital; sick. | |
| do | 6.5.18. | | 1 N.C.O. & 4 men were detailed for water guard on drinking water at AIN ES SULTAN. Lieut. Dalton and three troops were ordered out at 1530 to guard and patrol the following crossings over the JORDAN, EL YEHUD, HAJLA and EL HENU. | |

1577 Wt. W10791/1773 500,000 1/15 D.D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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for month of May 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

Original Sheet 4.

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|---------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| JERICHO | 6.5.18. | | Also to patrol to RUJM EL BAHR to head of the Dead Sea 13 o.r. Reinforcements were received during the day. | |
| do | 7.5.18. | | About 0500 the camp was bombed by about 8 hostile planes and "B" Squadron had the following casualties:- 3 men killed and ten wounded 3 horses killed and 15 wounded. Probably the new type of aerial torpedos were used. During the day "A" Squadron and Headquarters were moved further SOUTH to avoid congestion and bomb shelters were dug in the lines. A water guard of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men were detailed also a pumping party of 1 N.C.O. and 16 o.r. Lieut. Dalton and party reported back at 1700. | |
| do | 8.5.18. | | Lt. Col. Onslow took over command of the 2nd Brigade during the afternoon, the Brigadier having been evacuated sick. During the morning the General thanked the men for good work performed during the recent operations. | |
| do | 9.5.18. | | Lieut. Dowsett and 34 o.r. were detailed for wiring party at GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | |
| do | 10.5.18. | | Using pumping party and water guard were detailed. The ANZAC Divisional Headquarters moved to TELAT ET DUNN and this Brigade came under the orders of the Australian Mounted Division. Very hot during the day. 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | |
| do | 11.5.18. | | The Regiment moved out at 1430 to camp site occupied by 12th Regiment half a mile north of the WADI NIEU AMAH Dust blowing in clouds made things unpleasant. 1 N.C.O. and 4 o.r. were detailed for water guard. Capt. Williams and 6 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | |

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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|---------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| JERICHO | 12.5.18. | | Pumping party of 1 N.C.O. & 18 o.r. Captains Maddrell and Davies reported to B.H.Q. at 0800 for the purpose of reconnoitring all tracks leading to the front line. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. | |
| do | 13.5.18. | | Party of 50 o.r. under Captain Johnson and Lieutenant Riley reported to 4th Brigade Headquarters as digging party at 1900. 1 N.C.O. sent to B.H.Q. to observe enemy movements. 14 o.r. reinforcements arrived during the day. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. | |
| do | 14.5.18. | | 1 N.C.O. and three o.r. reported to B.H.Q. at 0500 to observe enemy movements. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | |
| do | 15.5.18. | | 50 men under Lieutenant Stanley reported to 4th Brigade at 1400 to dig trenches in the AUGUA area. Usual water guard and pumping party detailed. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | |
| do | 16.5.18. | | to 1 N.C.O. and 6 o.r. detailed to lead horses from the 6th Mounted Brigade Headquarters from the Australian Divisional Clearing Station, JERICHO. Guard of 1 Sgt. and 6 o.r. detailed to escort canteen wagons from JERICHO, also Corporal and two men as loading party. Leave granted to Cairo. 5 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | |

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7th Light Horse Regiment.

WAR DIARY

for month of May. 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Original No.6.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| XXXX Wadi Nueiamah. | 17.5.1918 | | Working party under Captain Davies and Lieut Waddell of 50 men and horse holders detailed for trench digging in the 4th Brigade sector. 3 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick. 1 o.r. returned to Regt from hospital. | |
| | 18.5.1918 | | Party of 25 o.r.s under Lieut Dowsett reported to Aus Div Hqrs at 0445 and 1615 for road construction from the Wadi Nueiamah to Tel el Truni. The usual large working party under Lieut Stanley. Two guards were found for water troughs and drinking water. 1 o.r. from Moascar and 1 o.r. from 2nd L.H. Bde Hqrs. | |
| | 19.5.1918. | | Road making party of 25 o.r.s under Lieut Spencer were detailed. Also a pumping party of 1 N.C.O. and 16 o.r.s. The usual large trench digging party under Capt Maddrell and Lieut Dalton. Most unpleasant during the day, high wind with clouds of dust. 2 o.r. to hospital. 1 o.r. from hospital. | |
| | 20.5.1918 | | A large working party of 2 officers and 150 o.r.s 3 N.C.O.s and horse holders reported to Field Engineer for road xxxxxxxx construction on the Wadi Nueiamah at 0530 and 1700. 4 o.r.s evacuated to hospital. | |
| | 21.5.1918 | | The usual large working party detailed for road construction under Capt Davies and Lieut Spencer. Guard of 1 N.C.O. and 3 o.r. detailed for drinking water. 1 N.C.O. and 4 o.r. detailed for Brigade water troughs. Lieut Stanley and 2 o.r.s detailed to find out new camp site. 1 o.r. from hospital. | |
| | 22.5.1918 | | The Regiment moved out at 0730 to new camp site in square 113 Y. 26 D. east of Ain Neuiameh, arriving there at 0900. A working party of 2 N.C.O.s and 30 o.r.s reported to Field Troop to put down water troughs. 1 N.C.O. and 3 o.r.s detailed as a water guard for Aus. Div. Also 1 N.C.O. and 4 o.r.s as Bde water trough guard. W. W. 0170. 509 2000 1/15 D.D. & L. AD.S.S./Forms/C. 2118. | |
| | | | horse troughs. | |

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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7th Light Horse Regiment.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

for month of May 1918.
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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------------|--------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Wadi Nueiamah. | 22.5.1918 (continued) | | A working party of 3 N.C.O.s and 50 o.r.s plus horse holders under Lieuts Waddell and Stanley reported to Engineers for road making. A party of 1 N.C.O. and 10 o.r.s camel escort also a relieving party to Jericho. Captain Johnson and 4 o.r.s left on leave for Cairo and Alxeandria. | |
| | 23.5.1918. | | The usual guards and working party of 100 o.r.s under Lieuts Finlay and Spencer. reported to Engineers for road making. 1 N.C.O. and 4 o.r.s detailed to load and escort gift stores from Jericho to Brigade refilling point. 1 o.r. evacuated sick. 1 Off .7 o.r.s from Moascar. | |
| | 24.5.1918 | | The usual guards and road making party under Lieuts Dalton and Dowsett. 1 N.C.O. and 5 o.r.s detailed as a loading party to and to erect tents for A.I.F. canteen. 3 o.r.s evacuated sick. | |

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for month of May, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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| WADI NUEIAMEH 25.5.18. | <p>A Pumping party of 1 N.C.O. and 16 o.r. were detailed. All Guards and other duties were relieved by the 5th L.H. Regiment at 1500. The Regiment received orders to take over the following Outpost Line from the 5th L.H. Regiment;-</p> <p>On the left of the 4th L.H. Brigade and running SOUTH to the WADI SABATA, one Squadron only holding the line during the day. The remaining Squadrons of the Regiment and Machine Guns attached moving out in support at dark and returning to camp again at daylight.</p> <p>At 1630 "A" Squadron moved out to relieve the Squadron of 5th L.H. Regiment. At 1745 the remainder of the Regiment plus two troops of machine gun Squadron attached also moved out. The enemy shelled the roads which necessitated "B" and "C" Squadrons taking cover until dark. The following redoubts were occupied from right to left;- WOOD, WILD, WART & WAX. WOOD & WILD by "C" Squadron, 1 troop in each with 1 sub-section of Machine Guns in WOOD. WART & WAX by "B" Squadron, with 1 troop in each and two in reserve, "A" Squadron being in reserve during the night behind WART with 1 section of Machine Guns and R.H.Q. Three Listening Posts of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men each were put out towards the AUJUA. Work was carried out for three hours in the different redoubts, improving the trenches. All quiet during the night.</p> <p>1 o.r. was evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p> | lgo |
| 26.5.18. | <p>The Regiment stood to arms at 0330 and returned to camp when "All clear" was given, less "A" Squadron. This Squadron sent 1 N.C.O. and 3 men to each post to guard stores and for observation purposes. A patrol consisting of Lieutenant Spencer and 12 o.r. left at daylight for TEL EL TRUNI returning at 1700. This patrol was fired on by about 10 rifles and a machine gun and was forced to retire, 1 man being slightly wounded.</p> | |

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| WADI NUEIAMEH 26. 5.18. | The Regiment moved out of camp at 1845 totake over the same positions as the night before and in addition a new redoubt - WAIN - was occupied NORTH of the OBEID. A party of 20 men at each post were detailed for digging trenches at WILD, WART and WAX, also three parties of 1 n.c.o. and 12 men each for wiring at the same posts. 1 o.r. was evacuated to hospital sick during the day. 6 Reinforcements arrived from 2nd L.H. Training Regiment, MOASCAR. | |
| 27.5.18. | Quiet throughout the night. The Regiment left less "A" Squadron returned to camp when "All clear" was given. "A" Squadron occupied the usual posts and sent out a patrol under Captain Maddrell to the high ground to the WEST and overlooking TEL EL TRUNI, this patrol returning at 1700 3 working parties of 1 n.c.o. and 12 men each were sent to improve tracks from WAIN to WAX Posts, also three digging parties of 1 n.c.o. and 20 meneach to improve trenches in WAX, WART and WAIN. The Regiment moved out at the usual time. 5 ax Reinforcements were received from 2nd L.H. Training Regiment during the day. | |
| 28.5.18. | The Regiment returned to camp after "All clear" was given. All guards and pumping parties of the 5th L.H. were relieved by us at 1500. 1 Officer and 25 o.r. were detailed to erect wire at WAX Post. 1 Officer and 25 o.r. were sent to WART post for similar purposes. 2 Officers and 50 o.r. reported to Engineers for road making in rear of Posts. At 1530 the enemy fired 27 rounds 77mm high explosive shells, starting at WAX Post and gradually working along to the right. Our artillery Observing Officer having to retire from his Post at 1600. The valleys in rear of the Posts were also well searched. At 1930 "A" Squadron was relieved by 5th L.H. Regiment and returned to camp. 3 o.r. to hospital sick during the day. | |

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| WADI NUEIAMEH 29.5.18. | Usual pumping parties and guards. 1 N.C.O. & 16 o.r. detailed to dig pits for reserve ammunition about half a mile from Brigade Headquarters. 1 N.C.O. & 6 o.r. to escort and unload the ammunition and 1 N.C.O. and 3 o.r. as a standing guard over it. A working party of 3 Off. and 100 Other Ranks under Kiankaman were detailed for roadmaking on the WADI OBEID. This party left at 1800 and returned at 2130. | lgo |
| 30.5.18. | Major T.L.Willsallen, D.S.O. left for Egypt on leave. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. Usual Guards and pumping parties. Captain Maddrell, Lts. Ducker and Walker and 100 other ranks continued road making leaving camp at 1700 and returning at 2130. 1 N.C.O. & 6 O.R. detailed as escort to Canteen Goods. 2 O.R. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. 25 Reinforcements marched in from 2nd L.H.Training Regiment, Moascar. | lgo |
| 31.5.18. | Usual Guards and Pumping parties detailed, these were relieved by the 5th L.H.Regiment at 1500. The Regiment moved out at 1845 to take over the Outpost Line as before, "C" Squadron being in reserve, "A" Squadron occupying previously held by "C" Squadron. Party of 1 N.C.O. and 20 Other Ranks detailed for improving trenches at each Post. The remainder of available men improving lateral communication. A very hot day. Quiet throughout the night. 1 Other Rank evacuated to hospital sick during the day. | lgo |

W. Bird M. R.
C. G. H. R.

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