

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/12/34

Title: 7th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

July 1918

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

July 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

C. Holland Lieutenant

Signature of Officer Commanding

G. A. Bird Major

JUL 1918

E.H.P.

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.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI AUJAH 1.7.1918.	Usual Guards and working parties. N.C.O & 3 o.r. as Camel Escort bringing R.E. Material from JERICHO to SAND FLY POST. Captain Davies M.C. & 50 o.r. wiring on TURTLE POST. Lieutenant Dalton and 1 troop as Standing Patrol. 1 Troop, Sgt. Ford in charge, as Gun protection. Enemy shelled the vicinity at 2200 and artillery fire from both sides was kept up until 2230.	ceh
2.7.1918.	Usual Guards and working parties. M.C.O. & 3 o.r. as RE. Camel Escort. Lieutenant Finlay, M.C., D.C.M., and Lieutenant Stanley in charge of working party of 50 o.r. on TURTLE POST. Lieutenant Waddell in charge of Standing Patrol, and Sgt. Grant in charge of Artillery protection. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital during the day.	ceh
3.7.1918.	Usual working parties. All guards were relieved by the 6th L.H. Regt. at 1600. The Regiment moved out to the WADI MELLAHAH at 1930, taking over from the 6th L.H. Regt. The Relief was completed by 2230. Representatives from each Squadron and the Regimental Quartermaster left at 1530, also the signallers, to take over the area stores and get position of patrols and listening posts and the telephone system. At 2300 enemy patrol commenced firing at about 1200 yards North East of TEA POST and threw several bombs. Lights were sent up by enemy and their artillery opened. The shelling was very erratic, nothing falling in the area held by the 7th L.H. The enemy kept up an erratic fire with rifles and artillery until midnight. All was then quiet xxx for the remainder of the night. Weather very hot; Stand to at 0300.	ceh
4.7.1918.	One off. and 25 o.r. working on TOOL COUNTER POST. Large percentage of men in the trenches working on improvements in trenches. R.H.Q. moved to a new site about 500 yards due North of old 6th L.H. Hqrs. Enemy very quiet, no shelling. Lieutenant Finlay, M.C., D.C.M., left in charge of led horses in WADI OBEIDIEH. one man to four horses being left.	ceh

- JUL 1918

5/1/18

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI MELLANAH 4.7.1918.	8 o.r. Reinforcements marched in from Moascar.	clth
5.7.1918.	Same parties working on various posts. No enemy shelling. Isolated movement of small parties noticed during the day. At 2255 1 Turkish deserter gave himself up and was immediately sent to B.H.Q. after being questioned. No information of importance was gathered as he had only been on this front for 5 days. Our artillery fired at intervals during the night on enemy wire. 5 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.	clth
6.7.1918.	Usual working parties and guard. An extra party of 1 N.C.O. and 9 o.r. were employed in conjunction of a party from the 6th L.H. in draining the swamp below TEA POST. Our guns were firing at intervals during the day and night on enemy works; mainly on barbed wire. Enemy artillery very quiet, only two shells falling in the area during the day. Lieutenant Waddell and Sergt. Hill & 7 o.r. proceeded on patrol, going half a mile NORTH of SHARKS TOOTH, being in position by 2100 and returning at 0300. At about 2100 the enemy opened fire on the party with rifles and bombs at long range. The patrol distributed pamphlets on tracks. At midnight the enemy fired about a dozen shells up and down the wadi, no damage being done.	clth
7.7.1918.	Usual working parties improving trenches and an officer and 20 o.r. wiring on TOOL COUNTER POST. No enemy activity except slight shelling in sector on our left except at 1700 when enemy 77.m/m guns fired 5 shells over Regtl. Hqrs., these falling about 200 yards to the rear. Our snipers were busy from SHARKS TOOTH all day, firing on isolated parties at long range. Weather very hot. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital and Rest Camp during the day.	clth

- JUL 1918

F 48
3

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI MELLAHAH 8.7.1918.	<p>The same working parties and guard. Good progress was made in the wiring of TOOL COUNTER POST. At 1800 the enemy threw over about 40 shells, some bursting on one of the "B" Squadron Posts and several over R.H.Q. No damage was done. Again about midnight the enemy started shelling but all the shots went well overhead and fell back near the WADI AUJAH. Lieutenant Waddell and party of 8 o.r. went out on patrol at 1930, going to the WEST of SHARKS TOOTH and about half a mile NORTH; returning at 0230. No opposition was met with, one section remaining at SHARKS TOOTH until relieved by daily sippers.</p>	clth
9.7.1918.	<p>Usual duties in the trenches and wiring on TOOL COUNTER POST. With the exception of a few shells at 0700 and again at 1700 the enemy was very quiet. There was no damage done from the shelling, which was done by enemy 77's from the WADI FUSAIL and UM ESH SHERT. Our snipers on SHARKS TOOTH were busy all day, mainly engaging enemy snipers in the vicinity of SNIPERS NEST. (X.22.a.) xxxx 2/Lieut. Worthington C., 2/Lieut. J. Croll, 2/Lieut. C.A. Eschner, 2/Lieut. G.H. Waugh and 21 o.r. Reinforcements arrived from Moascar, Captain H.O.C. Maddrell and 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	clth
10.7.1918.	<p>Usual parties improving trenches, wiring and digging dugouts. Except for two or three shells early in the morning the enemy artillery was quiet. Lieutenant J.H. Walker took a patrol of 8 o.r. to examine some xxxxxx trenches to the N.W. of TOOL POST. These trenches had been reported occupied by night. On close examination xxxx there was no sign of them having been used for a considerable time. They are evidently trenches that were dug by the Camel Corps during the ES SALT Operations on the 1st May 1918. The patrol met no opposition and returned to Camp at 2100. A quiet night, weather still very hot.</p>	clth

8161701 - JUL 1918

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI MELLAHAH 10.7.1918.	cont. Our artillery was registering along the front of our posts during the afternoon.	cctb
11.7.1918.	Same work was carried out as on the previous day. At 0600 the enemy shelled THIN POST with 77's, some of them bursting over R.H.Q., no damage was done. General Chaytor inspected the line in company with the Acting Brigadier (Col. Onslow) during the morning. Very hot and quiet day. 5 o.r. Reinforcements arrived during the day. 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day. Captain H.O.C. Maddrell returned from hospital.	cctb
12.7.1918.	Usual work carried out in improving trenches and wiring. Enemy registered on TOOL COUNTER POST, firing about 6 shells, no damage was done. Lieutenant Waddell took out a patrol to reconnoitre the ground about 500 yards W.N.W. of SHARKS TOOTH, then patrol 500 yards in a NORTHERLY direction. No sign of enemy patrol; the enemy was heard driving in wooden stakes on a redoubt to the NORTH of SHARKS TOOTH. Propoganda leaflets were distributed. Weather still very hot. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	cctb
13.7.1918.	Work was carried on as usual in the trenches. From 1700 to 1930 the enemy fired a large number of rounds mainly on TOOL COUNTER POST and TART POST. With the exception of cutting the wire in a few places around the Post and filling the communication trench in odd places, no damage was done. Up till 2400 the enemy kept up intermittent shell fire with heavy guns. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	cctb
14.7.1918.	At 0230 the enemy commenced very heavy shelling on previously registered targets. MUSSALABAH and MASKARA were heavily pounded for several hours. TOOL POST and TOOL COUNTER POST came in for considerable attention. Just at daylight the enemy launched an attack against the 1st Brigade	cctb

- JUL 1918

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5/1

FOR MONTH OF July, 1918

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>WADI MELLAHAH 14.7.1918.</p>	<p>West of MUSSALABA and gained a footing between two posts, till driven off by a counter attack. In front of our line only small bodies of the enemy appeared and about 40 occupied SHARKS TOOTH and kept sniping all day. On our right (the 5th L.H.) about 100 Germans came up in front of STAR POST and were driven off by Captain Boyd and a party who killed one officer and 10 o.r. and captured 25. With the exception of the snipers keeping up continuous firing the situation on our front was quiet. Weather very hot, quiet night. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital during the day. 1 o.r. wounded (not evacuated).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>clh</i></p>
<p>15.7.1918.</p>	<p>The enemy snipers were still on SHARKSTOOTH. At 0900 a party of 20 men under Lieutenant Walker were sent out to try and clear SHARKS TOOTH. They crossed out from TEAPOST and crossed the MELLAHAH. The intention being to make up the NORTH flank of the WADI. Shortly afterwards resistance was met with but when opened on by our men these snipers withdrew, and concentrated to the NORTH of SHARKS TOOTH. The party were unable to make much progress owing to the volume of fire that was sent down the side wadis, whenever an attempt was made to cross these. At 1430 orders were sent out for the patrol to withdraw. This was effected by 1730 under heavy fire from snipers. Our casualties were 2 o.r. killed and 2 o.r. wounded. At 1230 the Battery shelled SHARKS TOOTH and cleared out some 25 enemy. They later on shelled with good effect enemy position and dispersed parties of enemy. The known casualties inflicted on enemy are 6 killed and 4 wounded; all Germans. 3 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>clh</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">JUL 1918 <i>E 4/6</i></p>

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For month of July, 1918.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>WADI MELLAHAH 16.7.1918.</p>	<p>Enemy shelled the 1st Brigade area and the WADI AUJAH consistently throughout the day. Snipers were very busy on our front and almost continual rifle fire was kept up. Our men did some excellent shooting, conflicting some casualties on the enemy. The artillery attached to this Regiment did some good shooting on enemy positions along the NORTH bank of the MELLAHAH, dispersing numerous groups and inflicting casualties. Quiet night on our front. 3 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>
<p>17.7.1918.</p>	<p>The Usual work was carried out in improving trenches and wiring. Soon after daylight the Ayrshire Battery fired about 30 shells at enemy positions along our front, dispersing small groups of enemy. The enemy fired no artillery until 1000, when about 20 rounds were fired, falling about the posts and R.H.Q. Very little movement was observed and apparently they have moved their guns. Sniping was carried on throughout the day. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>
<p>18.7.1918</p>	<p>A very quiet night. The enemy have apparently withdrawn their line as his guns registered on the flat opposite MUSSALABAH Gap. At about 0930 a few 77 shells fell in the vicinity of TOOL POST and again at 1700 some 4.2.s fell in the back area occupied by "C" Squadron and Headquarters. No damage was done. Lieutenant Waddell went out with a patrol to SHARKS TOOTH, leaving camp at 1930 and returning shortly after midnight. No opposition was met with. A section was left at SHARKS TOOTH until relieved by the day snipers. 6 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>
<p>19.7.1918.</p>	<p>Usual work was carried out in improvement to trenches. At 1000 the enemy threw a few H.E. shells in the vicinity of TOOL POST. Again at 1830 about 10 shells</p>	<p>ced</p>

8161701 - JUL 1918

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>WADI MELLAHAH 19.7.1918.</p>	<p>fell on and around TEA POST; no damage was done. Enemy very quiet and practically no movement observed. 1 Turkish deserter was taken by TART POST. Very little information could be obtained from him. Our 60 pounders fired a large number of shells about UM ESH SHEET during the morning. 9 men evacuated to hospital during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>
<p>20.7.1918.</p>	<p>All the usual work was carried out on the trenches. Very little movement observed on the part of the enemy. At 1015 the enemy "77" guns fired 10 rounds on the line between TAIL and TEA POSTS; no damage was done. Again at 1800 they fired on TOOL POST with no effect. At 2130 a few shells were fired on TART and TOOL POSTS; 1 man being wounded. Lieutenant Waddell and 8 o.r. patrolled up the MELLAHAH, going about 1500 yards N.W. of SHARKS TOOTH. Nothing was seen of enemy outposts or works. 4 men evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>
<p>21.7.1918.</p>	<p>The enemy did not send a single shell over during the day and there was practically no sniping. Our snipers on SHARKS TOOTH had a little firing at long range. Usual work was carried out on the Posts. 6 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>
<p>22.7.1918.</p>	<p>Everything very quiet on the whole front. A few shells were fired at 1830. 5 5.9's were sent over, 3 of which were duds. At 0535 one of our 'planes after flying round for some time dropped 4 bombs in the vicinity of Hqrs. They all fell wide of the mark and no damage was done; in spite of the 'plane flying at a very low attitude. At 2200 4 77's were fired at TART POST; no damage was done. Lieutenant Waddell took out a patrol past SHARKS TOOTH, returning at 2230, having seen nothing of the enemy. 2 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p>ced</p>

- JUL 1918

E 4/8

FOR MONTH OF JULY, 1918.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>WADIMELLAHAH. 23.7.1918.</p>	<p>A few enemy shells fell into the area at intervals during the day, causing no damage. Owing to a report from the R.F.C. that considerable movement was going on at UMM ESH SHERT, patrols were sent out at intervals during the day. No enemy movement was observed. Lieutenant Waddell took a patrol out towards Sniper's Nest, leaving THIN POST at 1930 and returning at 2230. No sign of the enemy was seen. 1 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ceh</i></p>
<p>24.7.1918.</p>	<p>Usual working parties on trenches. No enemy movement of importance recorded. At 1800 an enemy 'Plane flew up and down the line, having a good look round. At 2200 enemy 77's and 5.9's opened rapid fire for a few minutes. The shells all falling wide in the vicinity of TEA POST. Again at 2300 they opened up for a few minutes, in all, about 50 shells were fired, none of them taking effect. 9 o.r. evacuated to hospital during the day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ceh</i></p>
<p>25.7.1918.</p>	<p>Some enemy movement was noticed, mostly going EAST towards the JORDAN. Enemy 77's and 5.9's shelled this area at 1700. About 30 shells were fired, causing no damage. Lieutenant Waddell took a patrol out past SHARKS TOOTH and travelled up the Wadis, returning after 3 hours patrolling, and seeing no sign of the enemy. 5 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ceh</i></p>

- JUL 1918

E 4/9

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Wadi Mellahal. 26.7.1918.	Usual working parties employed in the trenches. There was no enemy movement of any importance. At 1700 the enemy shelled the line, principally Headquarters, the shelling lasted about 1 hour, about 50 shells being fired. A quiet night. 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	cct
27.7.1918.	Every thing very quiet along the line. No enemy shelling and very little movement. Lieutenant Waddell took out a patrol going 900 yards N.E. of TART Post and then turned WEST towards SNIPERS NEST. No sign of enemy patrols. Propoganda was distributed at SNIPERS NEST. Captain Williams M.C. proceeded to take over new Camp area at TALAAT ED DUMM. 8 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick during the day.	cct
28.7.1918.	A very quiet night, no enemy shelling. Usual snipers were sent out to SHARKS TOOTH. The Regiment was relieved at 2200 by the 6th Cavalry Regiment (Indian) The relief was completed by 0100 and the Regiment returned independently by the WADI OBEDIEH. Everything went off smoothly and there was no interference by the enemy.	cct
29.7.1918.	Camped with the led horses all day and each regiment moved off independently for TALAAT ED DUMM. The transport left at 1730 and proceed by new Motor Road arriving at camp site at 0300. The Regiment proceeded by the old Roman Road, and arrived at 2400 after a very dusty trip. 5 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick 64 o.r. reinforcements arrived from MOASCAR.	cct
30.7.1918. TALAAT ED DUMM	Remained in the Corps Area at TALAAT ED DUMM. A good camp site and close to water troughs. The water ispumped from the WADI KELT in pipes. Nothing of importance to record. 3 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	cct

JUL 1918

F 48
10

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TALAAT ED DUMM 31.7.1918.	Usual Camp duties were carried out. 1 Officer (Lieutenant Spencer) & 27 o.r. proceeded to PORT SAID Rest Camp for 1 months leave. Men were picked who required a rest badly. Still a large number of evacuations to hospital; mainly from Malaria. xxxxx 1 Officer and 4 o.r. evacuated to hospital sick.	<i>ced</i>

Y.P. Baird 9/1/18

JUL 1918

W.A.P.