

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

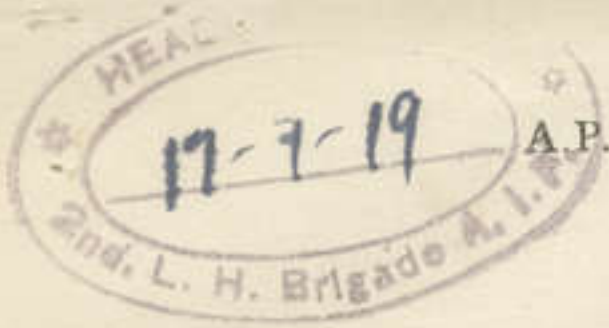
Light Horse

**Item number: 10/12/39**

**Title: 7th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

December 1918





A.P. & S.D., Alex. <sup>3087</sup>/<sub>1225</sub> /3: 18/IM. W. M. & Co.

# ORIGINAL WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

DECEMBER 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

*C. Hollands* .....Lieutenant

Signature of Officer Compiling.

*J. Richardson* .....Lieut Colonel  
Commanding, 7th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.





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

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.

or  
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Mudros	1.12.1918		Weather cold and squally. H.M.T. "Huntscastle" arrived off MUDROS Harbour (LEMNOS) at 1700 and received orders to proceed to CHANAK for orders. Start was made at 2230. Usual parades for rifle inspection and life-belts.	
Chanak	2.12.1918		Very heavy wind blowing and sea rough with heavy rain squalls After circuitous route the entrance to the Straits was reached at 0900 - a trawler led the ship up the swept channel to CHANAK. From reveille life-belts had to be worn - no parades owing to rain. CHANAK was reached at 1100 and several Motor launches came out but no-one seemed to know when we had to go or what we are here for.	
"	3.12.1918		Remained on Board all day - some Staff Officers came aboard but they had no definite orders but they said we would not disembark until the weather fined up - very heavy cold North wind with rain-squalls. One Officer each from New Zealand and 7th Regiment's had to be in readiness to proceed to MAIDOS to arrange about billets. No boat came for them so nothing was done in the matter. 1 O.R. evacuated to 28th Casualty Clearing Station sick.	
"	4.12.1918		Weather finer but heavy cold North wind blowing. Usual parades for rifle inspection were held. Two Officers each went ashore at 1500 to inspect billets at MAIDOS but owing to nearly all the houses having no roofs on nothing suitable was found. Commenced raining during the afternoon and bitterly cold.	
"	5.12.1918		Orders were received during the night the Regiments were to be prepared to disembark at 0700 also horses, owing to some hitch in the Naval transport arrangements the first boat-load of troops did not leave until about 1000 - Captain L.W. Davies M.C. and two troops of "A" Squadron embarked also	



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Chanak	5.12.1918		<p>Lieut's Riley and Glasson and a similar number of C.M.R.. Major Bird and the remaining two troops of "A" Squadron under Lieut. Spencer were the next to embark. Canterbury Mounted Rifles disembarked one barge load of mules - all animals have to be slung over. Regiments are quar tered in Turkish Hospital between MAIDOS and KILLID Bahr - Quarters very dirty and full of vermin.</p>	
Maidos-Killid Bahr	6.12.1918		<p>Two troops of "C" Squadron with Major Johnson in charge disembarked by 1st boat <del>and</del> - Lieut. Waddell and one troop went off on ration boat and Lieut Finlay and all available men of Headquarters left later - New Zealanders continued unloading horses and mules - a certain amount of canteen stores were unloaded and some limbers. A dismounted party proceeded to ANZAC to view the old battl e-ground and see the graves of the fallen men. The distance is too great for marching as the COVE is quite eight miles away and all ranks were very fatigued on return.</p>	
"	7.12.1918		<p>Unloading continuing and very slow owing to most of the gear having to be man-handled to the decks for shipping - only No.4 Hold can be <del>work</del> worked by winch and in that are canteen and gift stores. First load of 7th Regt. horses were slung over at 1400 and all men looking after them accompanied them ashore.</p>	
"	8.12.1918		<p>Weather has been beautiful the last two days but very cold and sea calm. Unloading is proceeding and three loads of horses were taken <del>sh</del> ashore and four loads of canteen stores and baggage - fatigues and guards are heavy and every available of "B" Squadron is being used including batmen. A large number of War vessels and other boats proceeded up the Straits during the day - These ships included Portugese, Greek and French and an</p>	



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Maidos - Killid Bahr	8.12.1918 (Cont)		occasional American.	
	9.12.1918		Unloading is proceeding and the N.T.O. is anxious to have the ship clear by 1500 as she is to proceed to SALONIKA - there is no possibility of the ship being clear by that time but all hands are working very well. The last load of stores got away by 1630 and all the men but 2 Officers (Lieut Holland & Lieut Stanley M.C.) and 30 Other Ranks who were left to clean ship in conjunction with an equal party from the New Zealanders. The vessel was cleaned by 2000.	ced
"	10.12.1918		The balance of Regiment who was on the ship disembarked by trawler "Girl Kathleen" at 0700 and rejoined the Regiment at the Hospital which is being used by the two Regiments as Barracks - these buildings are full of vermin and take a great deal of cleaning out. Large parties are working cleaning up the area and stacking and unloading stores - weather fine and cold. 1 O.R. evacuated to hospital sick.	ced
"	11.12.1918		Large of parties are working on the cleaning of Camp and buildings each party having an Officer in Charge - to reduce the bugs in the buildings the brick walls are being swept and the window frames removed and the whole place swamped in "Cresole" then straw is laid round the walls and fired to warm up any that are making back to their old haunts - weather fine and cold. Large amount of influenza some cases of brochitis.	ced
"	12.12.1918		The same working parties as the previous days wer working and good progress is being made with the cleaning up and all drains are cleaned out in anticipation of the rain. Parties proceeded to ANZAC on horse-back - the stores are all cleared from the wharf - and the camp has now settled down to its normal.	ced



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Maidos - Killid Bahr	12.12.1918		Captain L.L. Williams M.C., Lieut J. Dalton, Captain Chaplain F.A.M. Spencer and 8 O.R. evacuated to Hospital sick.	
"	13.12.1918		Duties were on cleaning up camp and stables which were in a filthy condition as the Turks never seemed to consider it necessary to clean any place out - a mounted party proceeded to ANZAC and MR. E.R. Peacock who is the Correspondent for the Universal Press Australia accompanied this party - He has been staying with the Regiment since landing and is writing up articles on ANZAC. The defences have been enormously strengthened since the evacuation there are two rows of wire along the <del>beach</del> beach and two very complete trench systems extending from SUVLA to HELLES - the positions that were held by Australians are in quite good repair but very little is left of Depots etc. and hardly a single shell case is to be found everything having been collected. Beautiful fine and cold.	
"	14.12.1918		Very heavy thunder storms occurred during the night with heavy rain and the morning was dull and very cold - training was commenced to-day and two parades are held. Parties were on cleaning camp and repairing any damage done by the rain.	
"	15.12.1918		Bitterly cold day with slight rain-squalls all parades were cancelled - sea too rough to admit of boat landing rations and one day's emergency ration was consumed - men are still suffering from severe colds.	
"	16.12.1918		Still very cold and blowing very hard from the North. Parades were carried out as usual and the same camp cleaning parties were engaged - rations were landed at Supply Pier.	



Confidential  
Sheet No. 5

7th A.L.H. Regiment, A.I.F.  
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Maidos	17.12.1918		Usual parades were held and working parties found for Camp Cleaning etc. Weather showery and cold.	
"	18.12.1918		Beautifully fine day - a picnic party proceeded to ANZAC to commemorate the Evacuation 10 Officers of 28th Division accompanied the Australian and New Zealand party. Usual parades and Camp routine.	
"	19.12.1918		News was received from the 28th C.C.S. that Lieut I. DALTON had died in that Hospital from Influenza and Pneumonia - Usual duties and parades - weather dull and cold.	
"	20.12.1918		Parades and working parties as usual - nothing to report. weather very cold and raining.	
"	21.12.1918		A burial party attended the funeral of Lieut DALTON at CHANAK. The N.T.O. supplied a launch for the trip over and back. Usual duties - raining and very cold.	
"	22.12.1918		Nothing to report. Usual camp cleaning parties - no parades - raining and bitterly cold.	
"	23.12.1918		Fine but cold - snow is lying thickly on the hills on <del>the Asiatic</del> Asiatic side but so far none has fallen here - heavy frost which lay on the ground in sheltered places all day. Usual parades and Camp duties. 5 O.R. evacuated to Hospital sick.	
"	24.12.1918		Weather fine but cold - preparations are being made for Xmas and a large mail arrived containing letters, parcels and papers - usual duties and parades.	
"	25.12.1918		Fine day and much warmer - no parades. R.C. Service was held at Supply Pier MAIDOS by R.C. Chaplain 28th Division.	



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Maidos	26.12.1918		No parades were held and only camp cleaning and usual duties were carried out. Weather fine. <i>CHW</i>	
"	27.12.1918		Usual parades etc. Word was received that a percentage of Officers could go to Constantinople. Arrangements were made for Major BIRD D.S.O. and Lieut GLASSON to proceed - weather still beautifully fine and much warmer. <i>CHW</i>	
"	28.12.1918		Parades and duties as usual - weather fine - sickness has decreased very considerably the last week. <i>CHW</i>	
"	29.12.1918		Weather still beautifully fine. Small parties proceed to ANZAC almost daily - usual parades and working parties. <i>CHW</i>	
"	30.12.1918		Sickness has almost disappeared but a great many men have bad coughs but the fine warm weather has done wonders to get them fit again - usual parades. <i>CHW</i>	
"	31.12.1918		Parades were carried out as usual - a party of an Officer and 50 O.R. have been engaged levelling a piece of ground for a football field. Weather still fine and warm. <i>CHW</i>	

*J. D. Richardson* Lieut-Colonel  
C. O. 7th Light Horse Regt. A. I. F.