

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/16/20

Title: 11th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

May 1917

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

by Lieut-Col W. GRANT D.S.O.
C/O 11th L.H. Regt. A.I.F.

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.

277

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIR Goz MABRUK	1.5 17	0330 0430 0445	<p>The Regiment stood to arms at 0330 and saddled up ready to move. The Brigade formed at 0430 and moved off at 0445 to Goz MABRUK, acting in support of the 6th Mounted Brigade which reconnoitred the line LAKHEILAT - 680 - KH. KHASIF - IM SEIR. One troop under Lieut-C.P. STUMM was sent to reconnoitre SHANAG (Sq. A7) and one troop under Lieut. L.A. GORDON to reconnoitre EL GA'A (Sq. A7). Both troops gained touch with the enemy and were fired on, though they suffered no casualties with the exception one horse being hit. These troops withdrew and watered at EL FARA (Sq. L 5-6) returning to bivouac at ABASAN EL KEBIR.</p>	<p>BEEARSHEBA <u>125,000</u> (Sq. A.8)</p>
ABASAN EL KEBIR	2.5 17		<p>General Routine. Watered at KHAN YUNUS. Preparing for move out to front line.</p>	<p>RAFA <u>125,000</u></p>
ABASAN EL KEBIR	3.5 17	0630 1030	<p>The Regiment moved out to EL SHA'UTH at 0630 and took over the right section of the front line from Worcester's Yeomanry, comprising Works A, 3, and 4. An observation post consisting of Lieut. J.S. BARTLETT 2 Signaller and 2 other ranks, was sent out to Post 510, relieving the Worcester Yeomanry there at 1030 and returning to camp at dusk, bringing in 2 Bedouin Camels.</p>	<p>(Sq. K7)</p>

MAY 1917

Page 218

WAR DIARY by Lieut-Col. W GRANT D.S.O.

Army Form C. 2118.

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C/O 11th LH Regt AIF.

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218

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL SHA'UTH	4.5 17		<p>B and C Squadrons started work deepening trenches in works 4 and 3 respectively and wiring entanglements in front of the five trenches.</p> <p>A Squadron moved out to Point 515 (Sq. J7), and commenced work on a redoubt at that point.</p> <p>B Squadron occupied the outpost line, Wadi GHUZZE (exclusive) through EL RUEIBIA (Sq. L7) and UM AJUA (inclusive) (K7) with a standing patrol at Point 510 (Sq. K7), occupying the line at dusk and returning to camp after daylight on 5/5/17. 33 reinforcements arrived from 4th LH, Landing Regt.</p> <p>At 0430 a patrol of one troop under Lieut G.H. HOFFMAN moved out to reconnoitre in the area 530 (Sq. K8) - BEIT GHAZALI (Sq. A8) returning to camp after dusk. This patrol captured 13 Bedouins & camels, 9 donkeys, and 2 cows, all of which were handed over to 4th LH Side H.Q.</p> <p>A day post of 1 Officer, 2 Signallers and 2 Sergeants, was sent out to Post 510 (Sq. K7, RAFA Sheet) returning at dusk.</p> <p>Work was continued by the Regiment, deepening and cleaning up trenches and putting up wire entanglements in our Sector.</p>	<p>RAFA</p> <hr/> <p>125,000</p> <hr/> <p>Sheet NORTH H 36</p> <hr/> <p>E-III</p> <p>BEERSHEGA</p> <hr/> <p>125,000</p> <hr/> <p>NORTH H 36</p> <hr/> <p>E-IV</p> <p>- MAY 1917</p> <p>Angus [unclear] Lt</p>

WAR DIARY

by Lieut-Col N. GRANT DSO
C/O 11th LH Regt A.I.F.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

219

Page 219
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL SHA'UTH.	6/5	0700	The Regiment continued work in the morning, deepening trenches and putting up wire entanglements.	RAFA Sheet
EL GAMLI	7/5	1855	The Regiment (19 officers 352 OR's 409 animals) moved out with the Brigade at 1855 to EL GAMLI (Sq. L.6), arriving there at 2000 and moving on at 2100 to KH. EL FAR (Sq. A.6) arriving there at 2150, where we bivouacked till 0215 on 7th inst. when the Brigade moved on to operate against KH. KHASIF (Sq. B.6) arriving about 1 mile S.E. of KHASIF at 0400.	NORTH H36 E III 125,000.
KH. EL FAR	7/5	0215	A dense fog prevailed from KH. EL FAR till about 0430 at KHASIF. However, when the fog lifted we found that we had located the right position and were in place between the New Zealand Brigade (Anglo Mt. Div) on our left, and the 3rd A.L.H. Bde (Imperial Mt. Div) on our right.	BEERSHEBA 125,000.
KH. KHASIF	7/5	0400	A few shots were fired at our forward patrols, but no casualties were sustained. Enemy were seen in small numbers on ridge East of Pt. 720 (Sq. B.6) and IM SIRI (Sq. B.6). An enemy monoplane flew over KHASIF about 0600.	NORTH H36 E IV
			The Brigade withdrew at 0820, moved into EL GAMLI (L.6) to water, and then returned to SHA'UTH (Sq. L.6). A cistern of good water, about 8' in diameter and 20' to the water opening about 2' square. Depth of water apparently good, as a large quantity of earth has been excavated beneath. Situation about 3/4 mile South of A in KHASIF.	RAFA Sheet 125,000 BEERSHEBA 125,000

MAY 1917
RAFA Sheet
125,000
BEERSHEBA
125,000

WAR DIARY

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by Lieut-Col. W. GRANT, D.S.O.
C/O 11th LH. Regt AIF.

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220

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KHASIAF	7/5 11/7		Another well, as marked <u>H</u> , west of EL BOGGAR (Sq. B7). This is a cistern with 3' opening, the water running into a flue 9' lower down the hill. Apparently there is about 20' of water in the well, and 2' in the flue.	BEERSHEBA Sheet 125,000
SHA'UTH	8/5 19	0615	B Squadron left at 0615 for Pt 510 (Sq. K7) to work on a redoubt at that point, returning in the afternoon. Lt. MOYLE W.F. and 45 O/Rs of A Sqn. went to KHAN YUNUS to draw houses for the 4 th LH Brigade. Lieut STUMM CP and 35 O/Rs went into ABASAN EL KEBIR for a GAS demonstration. C Squadron carried on working the french line on Wadys 3 and 4 at SHA'UTH. At 1930, the Regiment occupied the outpost line EL GAMLI to GHABI (Sq. L7) with B and C Squadrons under Capt. MUNRO and ROCH, and Regt. Hd. Staff, A Squadron being in reserve on the bivouac area.	AFA Sheet 125,000.
	9/5 17	0330	The whole Regiment stood to arms at 0330 and then moved to water at GAMLI, returning afterwards to the bivouac at SHA'UTH. One troop of A Sqn. under Lieut. HUNTER W.S. patrolled the GERALIN - BEIT GHAZALI area (Sq. A7). Enemy aeroplanes flew over about 1800, and dropped bombs on the Brigade and on troops between SHA'UTH and WADI GUZZE. No damage was done to the Brigade.	BEERSHEBA Sheet. 125,000.

- MAY 1917

W. Grant
11/5/17

Page 222

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WAR DIARY by Lieut-Col W. GRANT D.S.O. Army Form C. 2118.
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY C/O 11th LH Regt. AIF.

222

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN EL KEBIA MARAKEB	12/15 13/15 14/15 15/15	1000	<p>Chaplain Captain W. J. DUNBAR (Methodist) arrived about 1200, and is now attached to this Regiment.</p> <p>Church Parade at 1945. Settling bivouac.</p> <p>Washing and bathing parade at the water troughs.</p> <p>At 1000 the Regiment moved via KHARYUNUS to TEL EL MARAKEB (Sq. H.5) a good camp site on the beach, though dirty and flies prevalent. Fresh water is obtainable about 15 inches from the surface about 100 yards from the sea shore. Rations were drawn by camels.</p> <p>The G.O.C. 4th LH Bde left for CAIRO, and I am now temporarily in charge of the Brigade.</p>	RAFA Sheet <u>175,000</u>
MARAKEB	16/15 17/15		<p>The bathing here is very good, and will, I think eliminate a good few of the Septic Sores amongst the men.</p> <p>Bathing, both men and horses, and feeding as much as possible.</p> <p>Squadron Gas NCOs paraded at Brigade Hdq. for instruction.</p> <p>4 OPRs returned from School of Instruction, ZEITOUN, 3 from Hotchkiss Course, and 1 from Bombing Course.</p> <p>I went over to Imperial Mounted Divisional Headquarters, in company with the Brigade Major, to a conference of G.O.C.'s Brigades.</p> <p>Gas NCOs went to Divisional Headquarters for instruction by the Divisional Gas Officer. 5 OPRs were sent to RAFA for Dental Treatment, but could not be completed.</p> <p>1 LD horse arrived from Remount Depot, ABBASSIA, for this Regiment.</p> <p>59 Cases of gifts from Australian Comforts Fund, and 11 Cases from 11th LH Comforts Fund, arrived in the morning and were distributed by the Chaplain Capt. DUNBAR and Lieut L. A. GORDON. This was a most suitable arrangement at an opportune time.</p>	
	18/15 19/15			- MAY 1917

Page 223.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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C/O 11th LH. Regt A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118.

223

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL MARAKEB	20/5 17		Rough sea and strong wind, making the camp very uncomfortable with dust and sand.	
RAFA	21/5 17	1400	The G.O.C. returned from CAIRO and I ceased to be in charge of the Brigade preparing for pending operations. C. Squadron under Capt Koch (6 officers, including Major VERNON M.C., Medical Officer and 114 O.P.s) left at 1400 for RAFA, to act as escort to I.C.C. Brigade (126 horses).	
DAMMATH GOZ MABRUK	22/5 17	1100	'A' Squadron under Capt Costello (5 officers, 119 O.P.s, 138 horses) left at 1100 to report to G.O.C. 74 th Infantry Division, to patrol from vicinity of EL DAMMATH (Sq. A5) (Beersheba Sheet $\frac{1}{125,000}$) to intersection 400 contour with GOZ MABRUK - GAMLI track (Sq. A7) by night, and by day to Pt 410, on W. IMLIEH (Sq. B4) and Pt. 510, ABD SHAWISH (Sq. B5).	BEERSHEBA Sheet $\frac{1}{125,000}$
GAMLI - GHABI		1100	'B' Squadron under Capt. C.A.R. MUNRO (5 officers 116 O.P.s, 133 horses) left at 1100 to take over from A.N.Z. Division, the outpost line GAMLI (16) to GHABI (Sq. J.7).	RAFA Sheet $\frac{1}{125,000}$
KH KHASIF EL BOGGAR	23/5 17	1650 0130	Regimental Headquarters Staff moved out with Brigade Headquarters at 1650, arriving at GAMLI at 2330, where the horses were fed, and a halt was made till 0130 on 23 rd inst. The Brigade then moved on to KH. KHASIF (Sq. B6) and EL BOGGAR (B7), where the 4 th LH. Regt. moved on against the tanks on Pts. 610, 820. Touch was gained by the 4 th LH. with the enemy here and the position held till 1650 at which time the Brigade commenced withdrawing to GAMLI.	BEERSHEBA map. $\frac{1}{125,000}$
GAMLI		1650		MAY 1917 Handwritten notes

Page 224

WAR DIARY

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or
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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224

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GAMLI	23.5 17	2100	The Brigade arrived at GAMLI at 2100, and bivouacked on the west bank of the Wadi. Rations and fodder were drawn here. During the day the horses had been watered at cisterns (5) in Sq. B7, 700 yards North of I in CULTIVATION, at intersection of wadi with 700' contour. These are all good stone cisterns containing from 1 ft 6 ins to 8 feet of water, 15 feet from the surface of the ground.	BEERSHEBA 175,000
MARAKEB	24.5 17	0430 0750 0900 1550	The Brigade left GAMLI at 0430, passed ABASAN EL KEBIR at 0750, and arrived at TEL EL MARAKEB (Sq. H4) at 0900 and bivouacked on our former site. B Squadron returned at 1550 and A. Sqdn. at 1550.	RAFA 175,000
FUKKARI	25.5 17	1340	The Regiment, less C. Sqdn, moved out at 1340 to FUKKARI (Sq. I5), and camped in the garden. C. Sqdn returned from RAFA at 1700. Report of these operations is attached hereto. Lieut. J.K. JOHNSTONE drew pay LE. 12.00 at Field Cashier's Office (Amoyah Mt. Dist.) KHAN YUNUS.	
RAFA	26.5 17		Setting Camp. Paying members of Regiment, and cleaning camp in preparation for move.	
UM URGAN	27.5 17	0730	The Regiment moved out with the Brigade at 0730, to UM URGAN (Sq. L5) arriving at 1000. Enemy aeroplane dropped 5 bombs at FUKKARI but did no damage. Stand to arms 0345. Enemy plane dropped 9 bombs near Regiment, no damage.	
	28.5 17	1000	2 Officers (Lieuts G.H. HOFFMAN and L.A. GORDON) 12 N.Cos and 30 O/A's moved out at 1730 to make up 6 night patrols, covering SHELLAL, FARA and GAMLI. Lieut GORDON with one man, took prisoner 9 Turkish infantrymen, on following morning about 0400.	
	29.5 17	0345		
	30.5 17	0400		

- MAY 1917

High Command
17/17

Page 225

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

by Lieut-Col W. GRANT D.S.O
C/O 11th LH. Regt. A.I.F.
(275)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Um URGAN	30.5 17	0645	<p>The night patrols returned about 0645, having encountered no casualties.</p> <p>6 Troops (A Squadron and 2 Troops of B Sqn), under Capt. E. COSTELLO moved at 0400 day patrols at 0400, crossing the WADI GHUZZE, and passed the night patrols about two miles from the Wadi. (1) One Troop to GOZ MABAWK, (2) One to GOZ ELBASAL (Sq. A6), (3) One to GOZ EL GELEIB (Sq. A5), (4) One in direction of Pt. 510 ABU SHAWISH Road (Sq. B5), (5) One in direction of Pt. 410 on Wadi IMLEIH (Sq. B4) and (6) One in direction of 300 and 340 KHIABET ERK (Sq. A4).</p> <p>Only small parties of enemy mounted men were met with before the patrols reached their objectives. No. 3 patrol reported all clear. No. 6. that the enemy could be seen in large numbers along the Wadi IMLEIH (Sq. A4), chiefly harvesting parties with covering troops. In the vicinity of KHIABET ERK (Sq. A4) and N.E. from it, several tents were seen. No. 5. patrol encountered enemy S. of Wadi IMLEIH.</p> <p>North of the Wadi in vicinity of Pt. 410, there appeared to be a redoubt strongly held. No. 4 Patrol was fired on by a small party just before reaching Pt. 510 (Sq. B5). An enemy observation post was observed on Pt. 630 (B.5). What appeared to be a railway viaduct of six spans was observed about 4 miles distant on a bearing of 65° from Pt. 510 (Sq. B5), and later, at 1430, a train of 7 trucks was observed passing over this viaduct in direction of BEERSHEBA.</p>	<p>RAFA 125,000.</p> <p>BEERSHEBA 125,000.</p> <p>MAY 1917</p> <p>Avail. at Warhead H.N.</p>

Page 226

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(226)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																																																															
UM URGAN	30.5/17	1430	<p>About 1430, enemy cavalry and camelry attempted to cut off our posts on 550 (Sq B8) and in vicinity of KHASIF (Sq B8), forcing these posts to withdraw. One horse was wounded in the withdrawal.</p> <p>The enemy, about 120 strong, also threatened the line GOZ EL BASAL to 510 (Sq A6), but withdrew on our bringing up our No 3 Patrol. Radio communication was established between all the patrols, and also with TEL EL FAAR. The patrols withdrew at 1730, returning to Camp about 1900.</p> <p>C Squadron received 2nd Dose of inoculation for Typhoid.</p> <p>A Squadron were inoculated with 1st Dose for Typhoid.</p> <p>The Strength today is as under:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Officers</th> <th>Of Ranks</th> <th>Asses</th> <th>Donkeys</th> <th>Mules</th> <th>Packs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>With Regt.</td> <td>21</td> <td>438</td> <td>465</td> <td>36</td> <td>21</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hospital (not off strength)</td> <td>-</td> <td>15</td> <td>15</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Detached KHAN YUNUS</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>13</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RAFA</td> <td>-</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4th Bde HQ.</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>8</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>With D.A.C.</td> <td>-</td> <td>14</td> <td>1</td> <td>26</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EL ARISH</td> <td>-</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>22</td> <td>479</td> <td>487</td> <td>62</td> <td>21</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Officers	Of Ranks	Asses	Donkeys	Mules	Packs	With Regt.	21	438	465	36	21	11	Hospital (not off strength)	-	15	15	-	-	-	Detached KHAN YUNUS	-	3	13	-	-	-	RAFA	-	3	-	-	-	-	4 th Bde HQ.	1	3	8	-	-	-	With D.A.C.	-	14	1	26	-	-	EL ARISH	-	1	-	-	-	-	Total	22	479	487	62	21		
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MAY 1917

W Grant Lt Col
C/O 11th LH Regt
AIF
Lt Col
Lt Col

HALHR $\frac{E 32}{19}$

MAY 1917

(7)
of South of points of assembly on
22nd inst is good going, fairly hard
& undulating. Thence southerly on
to WADI HUSANYIA & S.E. on to WADI AZARIG
is described as undulating sand & scrub on
map; the going is very heavy for mounted
troops and only passable spot wheeled
traffic along main tracks. Even along
the roads the going is bad in places.
The going East & West is good, hard
valleys run between steep sand dunes.
Thousands of Bedouins live in
these sand hills & cultivate the
valleys.

ENEMY
TROOPS

LT CLIFFORD saw some enemy
mounted troops South East of 1020
They got away; The Camelty
caught one of their Scouts
during the operations

(Signed) W. J. Koch Capt
OPC C. Sqdn

E 512
11/17
11/17

Map Reference Report of Operations
Rapa 125000 by C Squadron
Jerusalem 150000 11th Lt 21st 14/21st met
Move to place The Squadron under
of Assembly Captain Koch moved
from MARAKEB 2 miles NW of
See print Khanyunis at 1400 on the 21st map
of and proceeded to RAPA arrived
Wan Dray that place 1730 reported to GOC
ICE and approached for the
night
under orders from GOC ICE
the Squadron moved from
RAPA at 1700 on 21st map to
Connect with ICE Bde. at
Cross roads NE from GOZ ABU
SHIGAFFA in Square 111000
Arriving there at 1615. Water
forage and rations were
issued to horse & men
at this place 5 gallons
for man & horse was
carried in Jandis by the
Camels.

Appendix

Disposition
of Troops & Sqdn one (1) Troop with Squadron HQ
was attached to Bde. HQ as
Reserve.
one (2) Troop under LT CLIFFORD

was attached to Second Battalion
ICE This Troop covered the
advance of this battn after
dawn acting in support to
ICE advanced section during
the night.
one (1) Troop under LT HOFFMANN was
attached to 4th Battalion for
reconnaissance duty
one (1) Troop under LT GORDON
was attached to 3rd Battalion to
reconnoitre the approaches
to the village of AJLA the
village itself & the Railway
for 1/2 miles southerly toward
BIRIEN

Moved with
Brigade Brigade moved from point
of assembly at 1930 arriving
at junction of WADI EL ABIAH
and WADI EL HUSANYIA at 0430
on 22nd map (See Jerusalem 150000 Square
13.5) from this point of leadness
the Battalions moved at 0930
out AJLA Hill 902 & Hill 1020
in Square 1400 (Jerusalem 150000)
Covered by the attached
Troops of C Sqdn.
These Battalions arrived in

MAY 1917

E62
12
1/17/17
"LALIM"

(3)
position South of Railway
at 1330
The position of Bde H.Q. was
at HILL 902 near W. in WADI
EL RUTHA

ALL REFERENCE

Jerusalem LT CHIFFORD watered his horses
with buckets from a cistern
at the final 17 in HAMADA
Square D13 and at the 17 in
MADSHUSH - Square 1HD. The
other three troops watered with
buckets from a well at a
point 500 yards down the
WADI ABU RUTHA from the
Railway viaduct on that
Wadi (now demolished).
One native denied the
existence of this water &
we had to scout for it.

The
Squadron less one troop
watered at this well between
the hours of 1300 and 1730 each
troop took 1 1/2 hours to water.
The Squadron less LT CHIFFORD's
troop withdrew at 1800 and
marched to the point

(4)
of readiness - Junction of
Wadis EL ABIAD & EL HUSANYIA -
Arrived there at 2030 and
bivouacked for the night.
Sgt CHIFFORD reported to Sqn HQRS
at bivouac at 2245.

At 0600 on the 24th inst 1/2 troop
under Sgt WILSON was ordered by
C.O.C. I.C.C. to report to
Capt HAMPTONS Coy of Camelry
at HILL 902 for inter-communication
& outposts duty for that Coy pending
the repair of an aeroplane which
had fallen there the previous
evening.

This 1/2 troop acted as rear guard
& advanced guard at different
stages on the homeward march
for Camel Coy & reported to S.H.Q.
at RAFA at 1430 on 25th inst. The
Camel carried water & forage for them.

RETURNING at 0700 on the 24th inst the Squadron
was sent to water at KHABRA - a Point
10 miles west along the WADI AZARIG
from the point of readiness bivouac
area. This water was found to be
non-existent, hence we proceeded to
RAFA

11921411
E62
10/17

(5)
We left KHABRA at 1330 on 24th inst
arriving at our point of assembly of
22nd inst at 1730. Here we waited for
the camels which we could see in our
rear. From them our men obtained
water & a few buckets for very tired
horses were also supplied.

At 1930 the squadron moved to RAFA
where we arrived & watered at 0300 on
the 25th inst. This was the first drink
the horses had for 34 hours during
which period they travelled 35
miles. At 1500 on the 26th inst the SQDN
moved from RAFA through FUKHARI at 1700
where we reported to R.H.Q.

WATER.

(1) AB AJJA: - Stone well 100 feet deep
water scarce & fetid
The R.M.O of 11th L.H declared the
water unfit for drinking

(2) WADI ABU RUTHA. A stone lined well
60' to water. Depth of water
30' above spring water.
Location 500' down WADI
from demolished railway
viaduct, behind a sand.

(6)
-dune on L. bank of WADI

(3) AB HAMADA. A final A in HAMADA in
Square D13 JERUSA 250,000

(4) AB MADSHUSH A in MADSHUSH.
Square D14 JERUSA 250,000

(5) WADI EL AMR. A plentiful supply of
fresh water in swamp
(Native word "KABRA") near W in WADI
EL AMR. Square AB/13, 14 JERUSA 250,000
We saw at least 300 camels accompanied
by Bedouins, which had just watered
there. We also saw at least 40 camels &
donkeys at various stages of our route,
which were making on to this water.
Some told us they came about 20 miles to it.

(6) In square D14 at a point where two WADIS
junction north of 2, in 1020 there is a
circular stone well. 20' diameter / 5'
water, depth of well 30' approx.

(7) There are other small supplies where
WADI HANEN crosses the railway.

- ROUTE -

The route from RAFA to about 8 miles

MAY 1917