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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/16/28

Title: 11th Australian Light Horse Regiment

January 1918

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

11th. Light Horse Regiment

J.W. PARSONS D.S.O.

(Erase heading not required.) Remarks and Date Hour Place Summary of Events and Information references to Appendices ONFIDENTAL ORIGINAL WAR DIARY BY J.W. PARSONS COMMANDING have speciated with the case were first one case was not tree to be not use and one case 1st. to the 31st. JANUARY 1918 100 9 (Nine) COMMANDING 11th. Light Horse Regiment

D. D. & L., London, E.C. Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

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J.W. PARSONS D.S.O. COL.

INTELLIGENCE

LLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Commanding // Australian L.H. Regiment

(Erase heading not required).

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
NALIN	and.	1745 0900 120d	The Regiment stood to arms and all clear. The Pack horses under N.C.O. were sent to KUDDIS to bring over the balance of the Regimental Dump and also ammunition. Twenty four horses were required to move the Dump and it took three hours to go and return over particularly rough country. Pack horses went to MIDIEH to draw current days rations. It began to rain very heavily at this time, rain was accompanied by wind and hail The Pack horses returned to bivouac. Ration drawn was a bread and fresh meat issue The bread had got wet and was spoilt. The pack horses again had to go to the Dump at KUDDIS to bring over Dump, The weather cleared slightly again today but later on in the afternoon it continued to rain heavily bringing the Wadis down about eighteen inches high. Drew rations today from B.H.Q. at Midieh. Noting of importance to report today.	Reference Maps
		1500	All ammunition and bombs reserve were taken down to the Bed to the Wadi when the horses went down for rations and there transloaded on to Camels which took them to the 4th. L.H. to be kept by them and handed over to the relieveing Regiment on the night of the 5th. The whole of the Regimental Dump was removed today on camels to new camping site at Midieh. This was in view of an order from Brigade that one Regiment of the 1st. L.H. Brigade would relieve the 4th. Brigade and that the Regiments would march out to Midieh after handing over. A Message was received from Brigade that the 1lth. was to move out tomorrow at 0900 to new bivouac site at Midieh.	Gaza Shellal
	5th.	0830 1200 1600 1800	Left old camp and marched to Kh Midieh which was reached at 1200. Rations were drawn here and bivouac for the Night. Lt. Clifford and three O/R from "C" Squadron were detailed as bivouac party to leave with the Staff Capt in the morning at 0700 The led horses arrived from Nahr Sukerier at this Time under Major Bailey. Major Loynes had command of the Regimental Horses. A Message was received to say that the Regiment would leave next morning at 0900 and march Sukerier via Ramleh bivouacing the night of the 6th. at Dieran. About 1900 it commenced to rain very heavily and contained to rain all night.	1.40000 1.125.000
	6th.	0900	Moved out of camp in pouring driving rain and marched Via JIMZU through the eastern side of Ramleh to camp site at Dieran. The road down after leaving Jimzu was very stick the A.P. & S.D., Alex. / 2009/50025A/II: 17/5M. W.M. & Co.	N. WAR

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J.W. PARSONS INTELLIGENCE

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
DIERA	N6th.	1400	horses having to move over heavy blacksoil plains where they sunk frequently up to the hocks in the mud. It rained incessantly all day. Dieran was reached and horses fed. Rations were drawn and distributed Received orders that the Brigade would move in the morning to Sukerier at 0900. It rained all night bring the Wadis Katra down a banker.	Referen
	7th.	0900 1200 1500 1600 1700	Received a message to say that as the wadis were impassable the Regiment would not move until final notice was Bde. The Regiment marched out at this time, the rain had ceased and the wadis slighly lower When crossing a section was sent ahead to pick the best track across, the worst going was across the wadi Katra near Yeabna to the stone viaduct just north of this village. The horses got across safely and the bivouac camp and Nahr Sukerier was reached at 1600 It began to rain very heavily again and continued raining until about 1630 Reached camp and reported all rank s in to the Bde Hqrs. Drew rations and received a message from Brigade that the Regiment would continue its	ce Maps Gaza
SUKER	8	0900	march to Belah on the 9th. The dismounted men under Lt. Moyle entrained at ESDUD. 1 Officer and 40 O/R were sent down by train to Belah as well as all surplus baggage that could not be carried in Wagons. The Balanse of the heavy baggage was loaded at Esdud today. One Other Rank marched out to school of Cockery Ismailia.	Shellal
Mejde	1	0900 1430 1700	The Regiment left at 0900 for Mejdel. 2/Lt Kreigg and bivouac party moving on ahead to allot camp. The ground was particularly sticky and boggy at Esdud and the horses were only with difficulty able to plough through it. Arrived at bivouac first watering at pool near the wine press in Mejdel. The camp site was pitched about one mile towards the beach in the heavy sand and consequently rations which had to be drawn that night could not be hauled to the Regiment The limers were able to haul to within about 4 mile of bivouac. Moved to old wine press and rationed and fed up.	Jaw 1918.
	10	0700 0800 0900	Lt Gordan and party moved over to Bde as advanced bivouac party. Watered horses at wine press and marched out at 0900 for Gaza A.P. & S.D., Alex./\frac{2009}{50025A}/II: I7/5M. W.M. & Co.	1 60 Co

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bar lt. Col J.W.. PARSONS D.S.O.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required). Light Horse Regt

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and	l Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Mejdel GAZA	10	0900 1300 0830	The Regiment moved out to Gaza which was reached Dier Sineid where the cross of the Wadi Hessy was Arrived Gaza and bivouaced there for the night Left here for Belah, the horses were watered the	Drew rations and distributed them	at.
		1100	Arrived in Belah at 1100 which was the site of the Lt. Farlow reported from hospital and taken on State. Moyle and dismounted party reported and removed 24 0/R reinforcements marched in and were taken of the contract of the site of the last state	ne Standing camp. trength ted dump to present site	1010
	12	1000	The balance of the day was spent in watering hors sand hills and pitching camp. Thirty seven bags of mail and parcel arrived toda Part of Belah Dump was shifted to permanent site,	es at holes made in a depression in the	The state of the s
			10 O/R reinforcements arrived and taken on streng The following recommendation were sent into Briga For Distinguished Conduct Medal	r nine bells and one marquee	
			No. 767 L/Cpl John Edgar Hamilton On 7:11:1	anding devotion to duty as a stretcher rescuing three wounded men under le fire at Mesmiye on 13:11:17 7 at Tel el SHERIA in the face of heavy mach ifle fire he carried out his duties as	Rafa ine
			FOR MILITARY CROSSES No. Lt Charles Joseph Clifford. For cools	gunner for over six hours on end. less and judgment in the attack at SHERIA At Kustine on 12/11/17 and at Mesmiye	1.125000
			Lt. Leslie Arthur Gordon For Cooln	17 where he seized a point of high ground ght of where the infantry were advancing sed them to operate more ffeely. less dash and judgment at KUSTINE on	918
			12/11/17 of the en	in a reconnaissance gaining valuable informations dispositions 17 in quickly seizing up a position and same through a barrage of artillery and //	tion

Army Form C. 2118.

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Lt. Col. J.W. PARSONS D.S.O.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

. Commanding / Austrlian L. H. Rent

Place	Date	Hour		Summary of Events and Information		
BELAH	13 JAN		FOR MILITARY CROSS Lieut Alwyn Robert BRIERTY	for 60 olness dash and bravery in leading an attack at attack at Sheria Mounted on 7/11/17 when he led his troop mounted galloping up and caturing one trench and then a series of another trenches and continued fighting until exhausted through loss of blood through wounds received in arm and leg	Reference Ma	
			FOR DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER Major Percival John Bailey SPECIAL MENTION	For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty under most critical and dangerous conditions at Sheria on 711/17 persistently holding to a position with one troop he held on for six hours although pressed on both flanks and again at Point 248 on 13/11/17 he had command of two squadrons in the firing line and the main cause of defeat of Turkish attack was due to his iniative and good judgment.	Gaza Shella: Rafe	
			Major Leslie Strath Alexander Major Charles Alexander Richmond MUNRO D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt W1777/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14	For conspicuous devotion to duty as squadron leader through the operations. He handled his squadron with great ability through the operations. For conspicuous devotion and gallantry to duty as a Squadron leader both at Sheria on 7:11:17 and at Mesmiye on 13/11/17 he showed remarkable initiative and courage in handling the situation. At Sheria under heavy Artillery and Rifle fire he stubbornly held on to a position flotwithstanding the repeated attempts of the enemy to drive him off and again at Mesmiye on 13/11/17 he seizing rapidly a position and heavily engaging the enemy and allowing the infantry on left to operate freely,	1.1.400000 1.1.25.000	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. | J.W. PARSONS D.S.O.

(Erase heading not required). Commanding Australian Light Horse Regiment

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
BELAH	13th	. 0900	Forty four tents and marquee were drawn to day. Two Other ranks marched in from school of instruction. The balance of the day was spent in moving the Regimental Dump which had been left at Shellal and Gamli when the Regiment moved out on operations from Fara in October last year, to the Regiment. Some of the Dump such as Farrier tools, and clipping machines had previously been sent to Dier Sineid, but on enquiry there it was discovered that all these articles had been removed to Kantara	Reference
		1200 0900 1400		зе Мар
	14	0900	A certain percentage of equipment and stores were drawn this morning. Officers Mess re-opened after about nine months. Cleaning of saddlery and all iron and steel work today for inspection by Corps Commander.	Gaze
	15	0600	Day stablemen mounted at R.H.Q. at 0600, this was done in vuew of numbers of horses break- ing away during the night, and also under orders from Brigade.	Rafa 112 Gaza Shell
	16	0700	Regiment. 1 Officer and 50 O.R. to build range near mouth of the Wadi Ghuzze, 1 officer and fifty o.R. to work at supply depot Delah loading supplies for Division 1 N.C.O. and 20 O.R. to report to Field Squadron 1 N.C.O. and 6 O.R. to report to Water Piquet Belah for pumping purposes. The following officers having submitted their names as observers for the 67th. Flying Squadron marched out to report for examination to Mejdel Lts Clifford, Hoffman, Kreig and McElligott. Pardes for cleaning of saddlery leather work and all steel and iron work. This	125 000 11a1 1.40.000
			cleaning parades was carried out throughtout the day as the squadron Leaders found times suitable for the Parades.	9 >
	17	0830	Cleaning up as per previous day. An Armourer from Des Corps inspected a percentage of rifiles of the Regiment and on his report he mentioned that as a whole the rifles were 9 of A.P. & S.D., Alex. / 2009/50025A / II: 17/5M. W.M. & Co.	of the state of th

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INTELLIGENCE

LLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.) Commanding Australian Light Horse Regiment

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Belah	17 Jan	1300	The Brigade Gas N.C.O. held an inspection of all gas box respirators today. there were one hundred and one gas helmets either short or else unserviceable in the Regiment A Gas demonstration at Hqrs 3rd. Light Horses Brigade was held at 1330. Lt Hunter and the Gas N.C.Os. one from each squadron attending this demonstration Meat safeswere drawn for the Regiment today. A notification was received from Brigade that musketry would start for the Regiment on the 10th. February on the range situated at the mouth of the Wadi Ghuzze.	Reference
			A parcel containing nine undershirts were received from the 11th. Light Horse Regiment comforts fund today	Map
	18		Two parcels containing 118 plumes 37 pairs of sox 14 flannel shirts and 1 pair of mits and 1 cholers belt were also received today. Notification was received from Brigade th approval would be given to the quota of one officer and three other ranks from each Regiment having leave in Cairo or Alexandria for three clear days or four nights in Cairo, This leave to take place every twelfth day. Consequently Capt Costello and 3 O.R. marched out on leave to Cairo today on 1755 train from Belah.	Rafa 1.1 Shellal 1.
	19	1000	2/Lt Barton and One other rank marched in from School of Zastruction Zeitoun, after attend ing axil ten days hotchkiss course. 2/Lt McDonald and one Other rank marched in from School of Instruction Zeitoun Cavalry ourse today. Lt. Movle left by the O815 train for Deir Sineid today to enquire into	25000
	20	2100	whereabout of Farriers tools etc sent there from Divisional Dump whilst on operations and also if it were possible to draw wagons in place of unserviceable ones. He returned and reported that all equipment had been sent to Kantara and that wagons were available to replace unserviceable ones. Notification was received that the Port Said Rest Camp was open again and that the	The same
		1000	next party would leave at 1755 from Belah today. The allotment to this Regiment was One Officer and 17 O.R. Lt. Gordon and 17 O.R. consequently left with this party Church Parade today. Two denominations protestant and C. of E. The parade was an "In memorium" service for those comrades who had fallen during the recent operations.	138/
	21	1100		W. C. S.

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Australian Light Horse Regiment

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Belah	JAN	1400	The Brigade was formed in a hollow square. After an inspection the G.O.C. Corps spoke shortly on the recent operations of all the Brigades and Divisions in the Desert Corps, touching shortly on the charge of this Brigade at Bersheba and the work done there and the subsequent result thereof. Mention was made also of the Brigades operation during the whole period, from October1917 to the present date. Horses were grazed this after instead of a parade.	Refe
	32	0830 1400	The Regiment was duty Regiment today. Gas Drill today until 0930, then instruction in signals both mounted and dismounted. Horses were grazed this afternoon on ground about one and a half miles east of Brigade Hqrs. 3/Lt KREIG and 3/Lt McElligott marched out today and seconded to the 67th. Australian Squadron A.F.C. as observers on probation and dated the 22/1/18 Lieut Col J.W. Parsons D.S.O. and one O/R Batman marched out to Senior Officers course at Heiolpolis today 3/Lt McDonald and two O/R marched in from School of Instruction Zeitoun. 3/Lt Leask reported from the 4th. Light Horse. Signal Troop as Signalling Officer and taken on strength.	rence Map Gaza Rafa
	23	0815	A Delousing Parade was held to day at Belah, when all Other ranks parade and clothes and blankets were disinfected. The whole day was taken up in going through this disinfecting parade.	7.0
	24	0830		30 12
	25	0830	from 0830 to 1130. In the afternoon grazing and slow troop drill. Slow Troop Drill and Grazing for this mornings work and in the afternoon from 1400 to 1530 Guards and sentries were the parades for the day. Received notification from Brigade that Major Alexander would be seconded to the Australian Mounted Division as Staff Trainee to date 23/1/18 and that Lt Manning would be seconded to the 4th. Light Horse Brigade as Staff Trainee to the Brigade Major to day 35/1/18 These Officers together with four other ranks and eight remounts rideswere struck off strengt Captain H.J. Gee marched out to Com and 12th. Light Horse Training Squadron vice Capt Koch and would be seconded from the Regiment. Received notification that three weeks leave of absence to Lt. Col Parsons in Australia had been approved, and to notify departure.	1.40000 1.135000

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by Lt. Col J.W. Parsons D.S.O.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Commanding | Australian L.H. Regiment

Place	Date	Hour			Summary of Events an	d Information			Remarks and references to Appendices.
Belah	35 36 37 28	0900 0900 1000 0615	Major P.J. Bailey Col J.W. Parsons to The Cadre N.C.O. Strength Cleaning Of saddles Church Parade today Parade Drill order F.G.C.M. against I in Regimental Rout: This N.C.O. was che charge he was found latter charge he was Received gift sto cigars tobacco and The following are in to the 12th. Januar	y Arms and according to the School of Instance of the Statisticks of t	truction Zeitour lieved reported ourtements today England and Prot nn W.H. of this by a copy of the ting a disturban forfeited senic uilty. cket per man fro	from Training Moas Testants other deno Regiment were prent he same being read has and secondly di ority as from the for the Y.M.C.A. the	car and were minations, two out to the actual contents, the sale packet content of the 29th.	taken on vo parades insertion cused. cirst the cained October 1917	
			Personnel Officers Other Ranks		Killed 1 12	Wounded 3 34	Missing	Total 3 46 49	afa 1
			Animals_ Horses Donkeys	Killed 31	Wounded 5	Evacuated 62	Missing 3 5	Total 111 5	W1918.
		0830	The following Class from 0830 to 1130 of One Officer and in preliminary Mush A.P. & S.D., Alex./ 2009/50025A/11:17/5M.	Intelli Three N.C.O.s; cetry. Notifi	gence Classes at per Regiment, al	t B.H.Q for Intellated by the last parades for the	ligence Person Regiment for	nneI Instruction	50000 TO

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Belah	Jan Jan	0830	been despatched from the Australian Comforts Fund Stores at Kantara Classesfor N.C.O.s Gas Personnel and Intelligence were held today.	
	29	2200	I recommended leave of Capt Koch for three weeks leaveto Australia England Notification was received from Erigade that Lieut Bartlett was to report to Moascar forth- with as Musketry Instructor to the 4th. L.H. Bde Training Regiment Lt Bartlett marched out to report to Training Moascar and was seconded Training In Musketry N.C.O.s Bombing Classes and Slow Troop Drill Mount with grazing between. Received and took delivery of fifty six cases of Gi ft Stores from A.I.F. Comforts Fund, twenty two of which had been sent over from Australia by the 11th. Light Horse Homforts Fund. These gifts were distributed to the Squadrons sto by the Chaplain Capt Weir. Instructional classes from 0830 -1130 in Bombing Musketry Intelligence and Slow Mounted Troop Drill. Grazing for Horses. Lt. Farlow lectured to Officers on the mechanism of the Bomb and the art of throwing sto. A Wire was received from Brigade that Captains Ges H.J. and Stumm C.P. of this Regiment had been granted the Military Cross. also that Lt. A.R. Brierty had been awarded the Military Cross. Lt Hoffman C.H. and two Other Ranks marched out on leave to Cairo for seven clear Days. Prior to leaving all other ranks were deloused at 8th. Sanitary Section, consequent upon a report from Cairo that men proceeding on leave to Cairo were verminous. Notification was received that the next Part for Port Said would leave on the 2nd. and that the Quota for this Regiment would be twelve other ranks. Fach Squadron was allotted three Hqrs two and Transport one otherrank.	REFERENCE MAPS Gaza Shellal Rafa
			The following is a report of the Daily Strength of the Regiment on this Day. Distribution Officers O/R Horses Donkeys Natives	
			Present with Unit and rationed 16 401 458 16 Attached and rationed with unit 1 3 3 3 Detatched Locally 3 40 45	1.135.000
			D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8co4) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 8ch. 52 Forms/C2118/14	the looks

4th. Light Horse Bde

Aust. Mtd. Division

Des Mtd Corps

Date of Recommendation

	gt'al Name and Rank umber	Action for which commended	Recommended	Honor or Award
llth. L.H.	LIEUT. GEORGE HENRY HOFFMAN	tant of the Regiment he carried out his duties in a most cheerful and courteous manner, thereby creatings good and cheerful feeling through the Regiment, often under most trying circumstances. In rendering returns whether by day or night he gave them his personal attention and was always prompt and punctual. he gave me great assistance in seeing that my orders were carried out promptly and correct ly and often by his forethough anticipated events thus saving the men of the Regiment a lot of discomfort. Coolness of Judgment in handling his troop at SHARIA on 7/11/17 The enemy were trying to get round our left flank and the it was only by the resourcefulness of this troop leader with his troop that they were prevented from doing so. Again on the early morning of the 13/11/17 he patrolled past El KUSTINE in spite of shell fire and gained useful information. Also for good work and devotion to duty through the operation.	C.O. 11th. Light Horse Regiment.	Special Mention Special Mention

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

RCDIG1012554

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ARMY	FORM	W.	3121//	141

Schedule No.	UNIT	Reg'tal Number	NAME AND RANK	Action for which commended	Recommended	HONOR OF AWARD
	lth. L.H.	. 2004	Tpr C.O. BROWN	for bold and vegorous work with his hotchkiss rifle team near Tel et TERMUS 12:11:17 outstanding initiative and courage in getting his gun well forward enfilading approaches for enemy during his counter attack at 248 Good work at Sharia on 7/11/17 and when the squadron was on reconnaissance he drove back the enemy's advance posts near El KUSTINE on 12/11/17 devotion to duty as a stretcher bearer he went under heavy fire to attend a wounded man being wounded himself he shill carried on with his duties.	Lt. Colonel C.6. llth. Light Horse Regiment	Special Mention Special Mention

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1012554

4th.	Light	Horse	Bde

Must Mtd Division

Des Mtd Corps

Date of Recommendation

Schedule No.	UNIT Regt'l No.	NAME AND RANK		Recomm- ended by	Honor or Award
	11th. L.H.	LIEUT JOHN SIDNEY BARTLETT	For bold and vigorous Troop leading. On the night of the capture of BEERSHEBA he did good work in pushing his way into the dark out to the outpost line in spite of snipers and captured a number of prisoners. Again at SHARIA on 7/11/17 when Lt. Brierty's Troop was cut up he bodly went to his assistance and it was mainly due to him that the Turks paid so dearly for this. He kept their fire down and prev- ented the turks from taking Lt. Brierty prisoner. Also for Good troop Leading through -out the operations.	C.O. lith. L.H. Regt A.	SPECIAL MENTION
	11th. L.H.	LT. JEAMES KENNETH JOHNSTONE	For bold and vigorous troop leading through the operations Particularly at BEERSHEBA he did good work on the night of the capture getting prisoners out of houses. As it was dark some of them gave a lot of often shooting at his men throug doors and windows. His troops alone accounted for over 150 prisoners in this manner. He disome good scouting on several occasions through the operations	h	SPECIAL MENTION