

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/3/16

Title: 3rd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

May 1916

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

H. Q.,
3rd A. L. H. Brigade.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1-5-16.		G.O.C. inspected front line - 9th L.H. concentrated at ROADHEAD all horses being sent out from RAILHEAD.	
	2-5-16.		G.O.C. to TEL EL KEBIR to inspect Training Regt. and 11th L.H. - Test concentration of	
<p>(The original of above appears on the same sheet as entires for previous month and will be found with the diary for that month).</p>				

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
3-5-16	9 th L.H. at Hill 580 - a good turn out. Permanent signalling stations (3) established ahead of front line. Front line inspected.	
4-5-16	G.O.C. inspected left of line, arrangements made for moving 2 nd Batt ^s up into front line.	
5-5-16	Corps Commander inspected left of line intelligence indicates many troops and guns massing east.	
6-5-16	Weekly inspections.	
7-5-16	Church Parade	

C.11068.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
8-5-16	Training restricted on account of Troops to be in a semi state of readiness to move out - A number being used for escort to convoys, mostly water.	
9-5-16		
10-5-16		
11-5-16	C in C inspected left of line, quite satisfied with all he saw.	
12-5-16	Every effort being made to fill reserve supply tanks (canvas) on the front line, tanks leaking -	
13-5-16	Pump at RAILHEAD broke down - all tanks on 1 gallon - Tank at 9 th L.H. pumped full from Canal.	
14-5-16	Pump in use, water normal - Church parade	

G.11066.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
15-5-16.	Stopping Water & Ration Convoys off in the evening on account of the heat.	
16-5-16.	Redistribution of front line started, 13 th Aust Inf B ^d taking over from 12 th Inf B ^d & 4 th Pioneer Batt ⁿ , the latter being relieved by 45 th B ^d .	
17-5-16	Water supply to RAILHEAD short and causing much distress - abnormally hot. 52 nd Batt ⁿ relieved 46 th Batt ⁿ .	
18-5-16	Convoys at night working well - Water short second watering for horses completed at midnight. 50 th Batt ⁿ relieved the 45 th B ^d .	

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
19-5-16.	Two 60 pounder guns came into position on N. road 200 yds from turning. Waria Conference at Div H ^d 2 nd . 11 th L.H. arrived from Tel-el-Mebir yesterday less 1 Sgt ⁿ left with horses.	
20-5-16	Brig Gen Glasgow assumed command of front line and RAILHEAD during absence of G.O.C. 3 rd L.H. B ^{de}	
21-5-16.	Gen Col inspected 60 pounder gun positions and HERBITA Camp. Church Parade	
22-5-16	Inspection of line by Staff of 53 rd Div who are relieving 4 th Div ⁿ .	
23-5-16.	Indian Camp C moved from RAILHEAD.	

C.11066.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
24-5-16.	Two Battalions of 12 th Inf Bde moved from RAILHEAD to STAGING CAMP.	
25-5-16	Ordinary Regimental work.	
26-5-16	49 th Bn moved to RAILHEAD and the 50 th Bn took over the whole of right of line.	
27-5-16	52 nd Bn moved to RAILHEAD together with H.2 13 th Inf Bde - 51 st Bn took over the whole of left of line. - G.O.C. accompanied staff of 53 rd Div round front line, it is part of their Div that is taking over from 4 th Div on its proceeding overseas.	
28-5-16	Brigade Church Parade. - during this previous week all ranks issued with helmets.	

C.11056.

913

Confidential.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 9

F APPENDIX. Copy 1

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By
Brigadier-General J.M. Antill, C.B.,
G. O. C. 3rd A. L. H. Brigade & Railhead.

RAILHEAD.

5th May 1916.

INFORMATION.

1. Owing to increased activity and concentration of enemy bodies within a striking distance Eastwards of Canal (vide Intelligence Reports) the front line will be strengthened as under, and Defences completed as soon as possible.

OBSTACLES.

2. It is most essential that Trenches, Entanglements, and Obstacles, be proceeded with as a first measure, and all Trenches ~~will~~ protected in front and where required on flanks.

Empty tins will be hung on Trip wires, in order to assist in detection of approach of enemy during hours of darkness. These should be holed in bottom to allow escape of sand.

RANGE REGISTERS

3. Range Registers will be taken to all exposed positions front and flanks, and all personnel made acquainted with such

ALARM.

4. Instructions issued in regard to precautions to be taken in event of Alarm on attack, have been issued for observance. They will be promulgated amongst all Units and personnel.

AMMUNITION.

5. 400 Rounds per Rifle, and 12,000 per Machine Gun to be stocked, inclusive of what is carried on man.

PATROLS STANDING.

6. There are three of these (Signal Stations) which are permanently in front day and night. Their position will be made known to all Troops.

ALLOTMENT OF TRENCHES.

7. The moves herein provided for, cancel previous allotments, which will be as under; that is, so far as the exemption of certain positions is concerned, owing to the larger augmentation of Troops front line. Trenches to be occupied will be at the discretion of G.O.C. 12th Infantry Brigade, and C.O., Pioneer Battalion, and G.O.C.'s approval.

MOVES.

8.	46th Battalion - Trenches	{ 9 to 6 inclusive	} L5G - L3G
	48th "	{ 5 to 1 "	} L3E - L1A
	45th "	{ 52 to 56 "	} K5i - K5B
	4th Pioneer	{ 57 to 62 "	} K5A - K1 AA
	12th Brigade Headquarters	}	HIBEITA CAMP.
	and		
	47th Battalion		
	and	}	Front line where selected
	4 Machine Guns		
	3 Machine Guns	}	G.O.C., 12th Inf. Brigade
	12th Inf. Brigade.		
			in consultation with
			Brigade M.G. Officer, 3rd
			Light Horse Brigade.

Note:- There are in addition 9 Machine Guns of 3rd Light Horse Brigade distributed on Front Line.

Above moves to be complete by 6th inst., and diagrams with allotment of Troops to Trenches to be furnished to RAIL HEADQUARTERS by 12th Infantry Brigade, and 4th Pioneer Battalion, as soon as dispositions are complete.

PTO

BALANCE OF TROOPS AVAILABLE FROM NO. 2 SECTION "A" SUBSECTION.

9. Headquarters and 2 Squadrons 9th Light Horse at ROADHEAD in rear of Headquarters 12th Infantry Brigade.
1/3 Squadron 9th L.H. - No. 7 Post.
1/3 " 9th L.H. - No. 58 Post.
Detachment Bikaner Camel Corps - Post 58.

Over

APPENDIX.

2.

- 3rd Light Horse Brigade Headquarters (RAILHEAD Hd. Qrs) RAILHEAD.
- 10th L.H. Regiment do.
- 4th F. Coy. R.E. do.
- Supply Depot do.
- Camel Transport do.
- A.M.C. Units (3rd L.H. Bde. & 12th Field Amb.) do.
- Headquarters & 2 Battalions 13th Inf. Brigade (Reserve) do.
(by the 8th instant).

CAMPS PROTECTION.

10. Each Headquarters Camp is responsible for its own immediate protection against Surprise or Rush during night time, and will irrespective of front linedefence, making provision accordingly.

REPORTS.

11. AEROPLANE REPORTS (FRIENDLY OR HOSTILE) to be sent PRIORITY, (S.B.) instantly to Rail Headquarters, giving details as to:-

- (a) NATIONALITY.
- (b) DIRECTION OF FLIGHT.
- (c) TIME SEEN
- (d) PLACE OF OBSERVATION.

If from a Work NEW DESIGNATION is to be employed, otherwise Headquarters of Camp, e.g., HIBBITA 62, 58, 55, 3, 7, and 9.

Copy No.

- 1. Office.
- 2. "
- 3. 4th Aust. Divn.
- 4. Anzac Mtd. Divn.
- 5. 9th L.H.
- 6. 10th L.H.
- 7. Supply Depot.
- 8. F. Amb. (sgd) C.C. Dangar, Captain
Brigade Major,
3rd A.L.H. Brigade
- 9.)
- 10.)
- 11.) 12th Inf. Brigade.
- 12.)
- 13.)
- 14. 3rd Sig. Troop.
- 15. Pioneer Battn.
- 16. 13th Inf. Brigade.
- 17. 11th L.H. Regiment.
- 18. R.E., Railhead.

Above moves to be completed by 10th instant. The 12th Inf. Brigade, as seen as dismounted and moved to the front of the 12th Inf. Brigade.

Headquarters and 2 Battalions 13th Inf. Brigade. The 13th Inf. Brigade is to be moved to the front of the 12th Inf. Brigade. The 11th L.H. Regiment is to be moved to the front of the 12th Inf. Brigade. The R.E., Railhead is to be moved to the front of the 12th Inf. Brigade.

By
Brigadier-General J.M. Antill, C.B.,
G. O. C. 3rd A. L. H. Brigade & Railhead.

RAILHEAD.
8th May 1916.

A Column composed as under will be organized immediately with a view of operating against the enemy should an attack be attempted on the Canal, and all preliminary arrangements will forthwith be made by units concerned :-

INFORMATION AND INTENTION.

1. Information and intention will be notified later when orders to move are issued.
It may be that the role of the Column is in support of a specially threatened portion of the front line on the other hand the Mobile Column may be required to operate in defence against the front or flank of the enemy. More definite orders therefore cannot be issued until the situation develops.

COMPOSITION OF COLUMN.

2. Commander - G.O.C., 3rd Light Horse Brigade (Brigadier-General J.M. Antill, C.B.)
Headquarters - 31 men, 39 horses.
Signal Unit - 18 men, 18 horses.
2 Squadrons 3rd Light Horse Brigade - 302 men, 317 horses, (which includes 15 spare horses.)
2 Troops Divisional Cavalry.
One Section Inverness Battery (Guns only) 76 rounds per Gun on Camels - 48 men, 60 horses.
Detachment R.E. - 11 men, 11 horses.
Infantry Headquarters and Signal Section.
13th Infantry Brigade (less two Battalions) 1600 men, 52 horses.
Machine Gun Company (4 Guns only, detailed to follow).
W/T Section - Self contained.
Part of 3rd L.H. Field Ambulance - 48 men, 7 horses.
Medical Convoy - 22 men, 38 horses.
(Lewis Gun Sections will not accompany Battalions.)

DRESS.

3. Mounted Men - One Blanket, water-proof sheet, and 25 % Wire Cutters, water-Bottle, Haversack, one sand bag, and 2 small feeds for horse to be carried on the saddle.
Infantry - will carry Blanket, water-proof sheet, one sand bag, Haversack, water bottle filled, and no Packs.
All ranks will carry one Emergency Ration.

AMMUNITION.

4. Light Horse - 200 rounds per man (200 in reserve).
Infantry - 120 rounds per man (200 in reserve).
Machine Guns - 3,500 per Gun (6,000 in reserve).
The whole of this reserve ammunition will be carried on Camels. These Camels are included in those to be drawn as mentioned in para 6, and Units will be responsible that their own reserve ammunition is loaded.
Position of ammunition reserved in Column, will be notified later.

FORMATION.

5. The Column will form up as follows :-
Infantry in Mass, North of the road 400 yards East of 3rd Light Horse Field Ambulance, with their right on the road.
R.E. Detachment on right of Infantry - W/T Section on left of Infantry
Remaining Units on Regimental Parade Grounds.

REGIMENTAL FIRST LINE TRANSPORT.

6. A copy of this will be forwarded to Units comprising the Column as soon as compiled. O'S C. Units will ensure the numbers mentioned are not exceeded.
On the Column being ordered to prepare to move, O.C. Units will send responsible person to Camel Transport Corps Lines for the number of Camels apportioned to them.
These camels when loaded will remain with their Units under supervision of an officer, until orders are issued as to where the First Line Transport is to assemble under a Q.M.S. of

P.T.O.

each Unit, the whole to be under an officer (Mounted) to be detailed by G.O.C., 13th Infantry Brigade, and to be escorted by one Troop of Divisional Cavalry.

TOOLS. 7. Half the Camels ~~from~~ Battalion, ^{to} allotted for tools will carry sand bags. A very small proportion of Picks (if any) will be taken.

SUPPLIES AND WATER. 8. O.C., Supply Depot, Railhead, will provide for the Column as mentioned in schedule to be forwarded him. Camels required as before mentioned will be applied for, and drawn from O.C., Camel Corps.

CAMEL TRANSPORT. 9. O.C., Camel Transport, will organize a Column sufficient to carry the following :-
2 days supplies for man and horse.
One days water for horse, and 2 days water for man will accompany the Force. This will be under the command of Captain Dunningham, 3rd Light Horse Brigade.

STARTING POINT. 10. RAIL-HEAD.

COMMUNICATION. 11. By Wireless and Visual Signalling.

REPORTS. 12. TO O.C., Column, after the Column has moved, who will be at Hill 120, 2 miles due EAST of Railhead (unless otherwise ordered.)

GENERAL. 13. No memornada, letters, orders, etc., will be carried by any individual. A Map and blank note-book is all that is required. Compasses, Field Glasses, and Electric Torches, will be carried, where procurable.
It is most important that the G.O.C. should be kept fully informed of all developments which occur after the Column has moved. In order that this may be done constant reports through Signallers to Headquarters will be arranged for. The task allotted to the Column will be of a very arduous nature. It is therefore all important that personnel, both man and horse, should be specially selected. Dismounted men particularly must be picked having regard to good feet and stamina.

If the march be at night the strictest silence and order must be maintained. No lights, no smoking, and no rifles, will be loaded - Arms to be inspected before moving off.

(sgd) C.C. Dangarm Captain.
Brigade Major,
3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

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|-------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| Copy No. 1. | Office. | 10. | Supply Depot. |
| 2 | " | 11. | R.E., Railhead. |
| 3. | 4th Aust.Divn. | 12. | Camel Trans.C. |
| 4. | Anzac Mtd.Divn. | 13.) | 13th Inf.Bde. |
| 5. | 10th L.H. | 14.) | |
| 6. | 9th L.H. | 15.) | 13th Inf.Bde. |
| 7. | Div.Troop,R.H. | 16. | |
| 8. | Inverness Bty. | | |
| 9. | Field Amb. | | |