

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

Light Horse

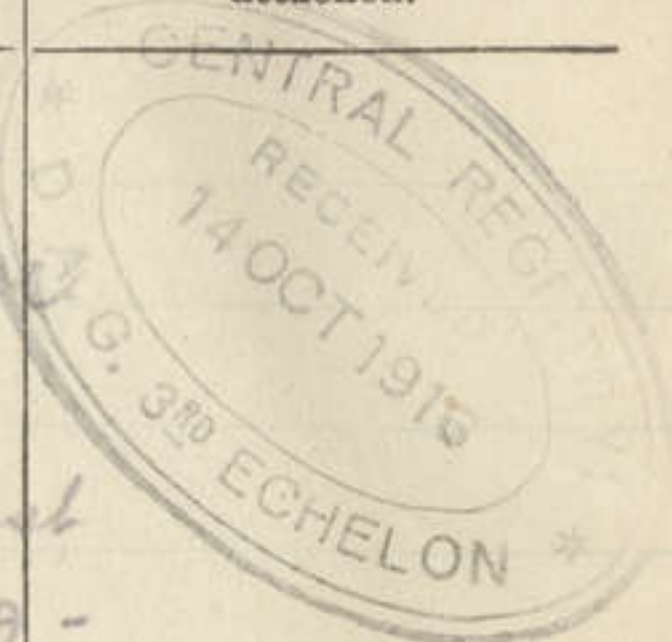
Item number: 10/3/20

Title: 3rd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

September 1916

HQ 3rd AIF

Date	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1 st Sept: 1916	—	G.O.C. inspected front line accompanied by O.C. regiments, with a view of taking up a more permanent line.	
2 nd Sept	—	One Squadron 9 th L.H. took up new Outpost dispositions, having one Squadron 24 hours out the BADA - KOMOISSIA - BAYUD line.	
3 rd Sept	—	10 th L.H. took over HISHA - ADD - BADA line from 5 th L.H., 2 nd Bde. 5 th L.H. to FATIR Hod to await 2 nd Bde.	
4 th Sept	—	B. M. to Romany to fix up details. Res. Capt. Collich covers his connection with the Brigade having been ordered to France. Undoubtedly great loss.	



C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
5 th Sept.	—	3 complete M. G. sections to front line. Major Richards completing remainder with all last. The last 2 days supply convoy from ER RABAH. Colonel Browne, G.S.O. i. A.M.D. inspecting	
6 th Sept.	lines	Meeting of O.C. Units to discuss a proposition — and the position in which brigade columns are to be born. 2 troops, 10 th L.H., collecting war material 15 miles East of ABD:— Result:— 1100 empty shell cases all sizes, shell cases, mountain pans, etc.	
7 th Sept.	—	Nothing of importance.	
8 th Sept.	—	B.M. Sanitary Officer visits Anzara	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		to inspect camp to be taken over. One Regiment on fresh ground outside Hrod. 10 th L.H. carrying out reconnaissance of road E of SALMANA. 3 new wells discovered 9 miles E of SALMANA.	
9 th Sept.	————	Goc. to Romani to attend conference of Brigadiers.	
10 th Sept.	————	Preparing to move. Remaining Officers to M. G. Squadron appointed. Good progress being made in organizing Squadron, Division apparently satisfied.	
11 th Sept.	————	Left HASSANIYA for AMARA handing over former Regimental Hrod to Mr. A. B. D. a good clean hand over. AMARA fairly satisfactory.	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
12 th Sept.	<p>More troops remaining AMARA than expected on account of forthcoming operations.</p> <p>10th L.H. Hill on front line. Meeting of representatives all units re Memorial to be erected by the A.M.D. on Canal in memory of the fallen. SALMANA inspected re bivouac for coming operations.</p>	
13 th Sept.	<p>Argentine Battery marched into Camp</p> <p>Gifts received from Comforts Fund. - 5 complete sections M.P. & now both Bde. Numerous Div. Officers making their arrangements re operations from the H.Q.</p>	
14 th Sept.	<p>Captain Chambers, R.A.M.C. left the Bde.</p>	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
5 th Sept.		Making final arrangements for MAZAR operations. Canal Coy. Hong Kong Singapore Battery arrived. Moved out midnight to SALMANA. Most of Brigade camped in Hod.	
16 th Sept		In camp by 0400, remained there all day. made cover as much as possible. Enemy plane came over, fired on camp killing one man and one horse. Making arrangements by Engineers' post. Moved out by 1800. for MAZAR.	
17 th Sept.		Operations in vicinity of MAZAR. Report attached. A long and trying day for men & horses. Feel confident if there had been co-operation from the W by 2nd A.P. Coy. and Artillery result would have been different.	

C.11054.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
18 th Sept	Returned to SALMANA by 1800.	Waiting arrangements on return journey at 9 mile point bar. on account of congestions and no systems.	
19 th Sept.	Returned to AMARA. Took over front line again.	Found that Railway compartment running over our line of bells at AFEIN. Some bells already filled in. Railway Engineers seeing us through by digging stores.	
20 th Sept	Ordinary duties.	10 th L.H. captured 3 prisoners near SALMANA with their camels. Also 2 nd own natives camel drivers, originally captured at Qatia. Prisoners state 500 only at MAZAR day of attack.	
		8 th L.H. took over front line from 10 th L.H. 10 th L.H. in Camp at new Hod N of BHR. on account of	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
		<p>suspected cases of diphtheria in 8th L.H. L.C. and other officers to ROMANI to attend Court of Inquiry on water supply late operations. Agershire Battery + N-2.M.R. Coe to ROMANI.</p>	
21 st Sept.		<p>— Captain Finningan joined the Brigade attached to 9th L.H. Horses showing effect of late operations.</p>	
22 nd & 23 rd Sept.		<p>— Horses going off tremendously. Chiefly on acc of forage issued (compressed) and their turning against the water.</p>	
24 th Sept.		<p>— Three Church Parades especially good turn-out by 9th L.H. - Scout Patrol</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
25 th Sept ^r	to EL - GALSS.	G.O.C. inspecting advanced line with G.O.C. 2 nd Section and G.O.C. Division	
26 th Sept ^r		Railway pushing on well. AEF IN ADVS inspecting horses, splendid distribution of Comfort Food Gifts.	
27 th September.	1916	By G. R. O. dated 25 th September the following honours were conferred on the Brigade. D. S. M. awarded to No 215 Sqdn - Sgt Major A. J. Lee of the 10 th L. H. Regiment. Military medals awarded to. No 196 Trooper F. S. Hartley	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
	Aust: A	M. C. attached 8 th A. L. H. Regt, No 1139 L/Cpl J. N. Rickaby 9 th A. L. H Regt; No 481 Trumpeter Alfred George Rooney 8 th A. L. H. Regt and No 2000 Trooper J. D. Marshall, 8 th A. L. H. Regt No 1304 Trooper W. H. Crawford 11 th A. L. H. Regt. and No 364 Trooper W. R. Wilson 11 th A. L. H. Regt.	
28 th Sept ^r	H. O. B.	Railway well past AMARA. to BEYOND.	
29 th Sept ^r		All Regiments firing Lewis Gun Practice under Instructors 42 nd Division	

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HQ 3rd AIF Hqde

Date.	Place and Time.	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
30 th Sept ^r	<p>Who are doing excellent work. Sharp unexpected shower during the night. L. Company - Camels - supplying 1st Line G. O. C inspected M. G. Squadron. Turn out good - but a number of minor points requiring attention. Inspection needed field work very fair - but all ranks displayed that lack of "happiness" required by an M. G. Squadron.</p>	
1 st October	<p>Three Church services - Capt Weames attached to Brigade Staff for Duty</p>	
2 nd Oct ^r	<p>Brig Gen G. H. Wiggan 5th Mtd Bde inspected</p>	

C.11056.

OPERATION ORDER

APPENDIX.

Copy No.

By

Brigadier-General J.R. ROYSTON, C.M.G.,
G. O. C. 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.

D.S.O. 11918

*

A. I. F. HASSANIYA.
10.9.16.

1. INTENTION. The 3rd Light Horse Brigade will take over on the 11th instant that portion of the Front Line at present held by the N.Z.M.R. Brigade, with Headquarters at HOD EL AMARA.
The Advanced Regiment (10th Light Horse) will continue to hold the line HISHA ABD BADA.
2. DISPOSITION. Units of the Brigade will take over the sites at present occupied by the respective Units of the N.Z. M.R. Brigade, with the exception of the 9th Light Horse which will make a new bivouac E of that occupied by the Auckland Regiment - the 8th Light Horse will be in HOD AMARA.
O.C. 8th Light Horse will detail one Squadron to be at AMARA at 0500 on 11th instant to take over the day duties from the outgoing Brigade.
3. MOVE. The Brigade will move out of its present Camps at 0930 on 11th inst., in the below mentioned order, Units proceeding from their respective bivouacs to join head of Column in direction of HOD EL HOWEITIR.
Order of March- B.H.Q., 8th L.H., Machine Gun Sqdn., 9th L.H., Field Amb., Camel Transport.
Rear Party Party under an Officer will remain to see that the Camp is scrupulously cleaned and handed over in a sanitary condition. These parties to follow the Brigade as a formed Unit - on no account are stragglers to be allowed.
4. FITTINGS. All sanitary fittings and bivouacs to be left standing.
5. AMMUNITION. 240 rounds will be carried on the man and on first line camels.
O.C. B.A.C. will hand over all ammunition in his dump to the incoming Brigade and take over that at AMARA.
Machine Gun Squadron will take 3000 rounds per gun only.
6. FANTASSES. Units will take their first line complement of fantasses ONLY.
7. RATIONS & FORAGE. The unconsumed portion of the day's ration will be carried.
Rations will be issued at AMARA at 1600 on 11th inst.
8. COMMUNICATIONS. Brigade Signalling Officer will arrange to take over all existing communications and connect the two Regiments with Brigade Headquarters as soon as possible.
9. CAMEL TRANSPORT. Camel Transport will be in charge of Camel Transport Officer and will join in rear of the Column, each Unit's Transport being in charge of an N.C.O.

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

Copies to :-

1. File.	6. F. Eng.
2. 8th L.H.	7. Sig. Troop.
3. 9th L.H.	8. C.T.C.
4. 10th L.H.	9. B.A.C.
5. M.G. Sqdn.	10. Spare. <i>Field Amb.</i>

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SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 2

APPENDIX.

Copy No. 16..... 12

By
Brigadier-General J.R. ROYSTON, C.M.G. & D.S.O.,
G.O.C. 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.



Reference MAPS
SABKHET EL BARDAWIL
1/125,000.

1. INFORMATION, INTENTION & INSTRUCTIONS. Reference ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION Operation Order No. 41, and instructions attached.
2. MOVE. The Brigade will leave HOD AMARA at midnight 15/16th inst. to march to SALMANA - moving on to the road as soon as possible.
3. ORDER OF MARCH.
 - Advance Guard. 9th Light Horse Regiment.
 - Main Body.
 - Headquarters and attached Units.
 - 10th L.H. Regiment (to join at ABD)
 - 3rd A.L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron.
 - N.Z.M.R. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron.
 - Ayrshire R.H.A.
 - Inverness R.H.A.
 - N.Z. Field Amb.
 - 3rd A.L.H. Field Amb.
 - 8th Light Horse (less 1 Squadron)
 - Flank Guard. 2 Troops 8th Light Horse.
 - Rear Guard. 2 Troops 8th Light Horse.
4. DETACHED TROOPS 10th Light Horse will join the Column at ABD.
5. OBSERVATION POSTS. On arrival at SALMANA the following Observat-
ion Posts of 1 Officer and 20 other ranks will be
established :-
 - 10th L.H. N.E. overlooking the Lake.
 - 9th L.H. due E.
 - 8th L.H. S.E. connecting with advanced posts
of 3rd L.H. Brigade bivouaced at HOD EL GE'EILA
and not as stated in para 4 of "A".

The force mentioned in para 5 of "A" is being
found by 10th L.H.
6. CAMP PROTECTION. O.C. Regiments will leave behind sufficient
personnel to care for horses remaining and for the
maintenance of the following posts :-
 - 10th L.H. - 3 Observation Posts on Front Line.
 - 8th & 9th L.H. - 1 Observation Post each.
 - O.C. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron and N.Z.
M.R. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will each keep one
gun mounted and manned against aircraft.
 - O.C. 8th L.H. Regiment will detail one Officer
to remain at AMARA in charge of all Brigade Details.
7. AMMUNITION. According to para 9 "A".
8. SUPPLIES. According to para 10 "A".
9. WATER. O.C. Units will impress on all ranks the
absolute necessity of conserving water during the
operations.
10. WATERING. ~~See~~ Special orders for watering on the 16th
inst. at SALMANA will be issued later.
11. STARTING POINT. 500 yards E of Brigade Headquarters.

P.T.O.

/over.



12. CAMEL TRANSPORT. The only camels to proceed beyond SALMANA will be as follows :-

- 1. With each L.H. Regiment carrying S.A.A. for men. 11.
 - 2. " " " " " " Lewis Gun. 1.
 - 3. " " Machine Gun Squadron for S.A.A. 24.
 - 4. " " Signal Troop technical equipment. 2.
 - 5. - Also camels with Medical Units and Guides.
- All Units with above transport will have a responsible person in charge, the whole being under an N.C.O. deputed by B.H.Q.

13. REPORTS. To head of Main Body.

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

- Copies to :-
- 1. 8th L.H.
 - 2. 9th L.H.
 - 3. 10th L.H.
 - 4. 3rd L.H. Bde. M.G. Sqn.
 - 5. 3rd Signal Troop.
 - 6. Supply Section.
 - 7. Field Troop.
 - 8. Inverness R.H.A.
 - 9. Ayrshire R.H.A.
 - 10. N.Z. M.R. Bde. M.G. Sqn.
 - 11. Camel Trans. Corps.
 - 12. 3rd L.H. Field Amb.
 - 13. N.Z. Field Amb.
 - 14. Bde. Amm. Column.

According to the following:-

1. 3rd L.H. Bde. M.G. Sqn. - 1 observation post each.

2. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will each keep one.

3. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

4. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

5. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

6. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

7. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

8. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

9. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

10. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

11. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

12. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

13. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

14. 3rd L.H. Bde. Machine Gun Squadron will detail one officer.

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Units may arrange to take the 1st Line Fantasses and sufficient camels to carry them to SALMANA if desired, for water for the 16th inst., but it must be clearly understood that a small escort will have to be taken to see them back to Camp on evening of 16th., and arrangements made with Camel Officer for forage and rations for 16th inst. for the camels and drivers so taken.

Camels proceeding past SALMANA will be rationed for 16th inst., but will draw at SALMANA for 17th inst. Other camel rations will be drawn as usual at AMARA.

Camels and their escorts will march in separate column leaving ground N of Brigade Headquarters at 0030 on 16th inst. 8th Light Horse will detail an Officer to take charge.

15.2.16.

W. Skent Hughes Captain,
S.C. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

APPENDIX.

By

Brigadier-General J.R. ROYSTON, C.M.G., D.S.O.,
Commanding 3rd A. L. H. Brigade.HOD AMARA
15.9.16.

Ref. Map. QATIA 1,100,000.

SABKHET EL BARDAWIL 1,125,000.

INFORMATION: 1. No further information than that in Operation Order No. 2.

INTENTION: 2. The force will attack BIR EL MAZAR at 0445 on Sept 17th.

FORCE FOR THE OPERATION: 3. Add to the List of Units under para 3a(11) in Operation Order No. 2.
"One Section HONG KONG and SINGAPORE MOUNTAIN CAMEL BATTERY."

RENDEZVOUS: 4. The rendezvous for the force is East of HOD SALMANA and 3½ miles along the telegraph line from the 2 under SAL in BIR SALMANA.

MOVES: 5. The Brigade will leave bivouac at 1745 to arrive at rendezvous by 1915.

STARTING POINT: 6. The Starting Point will be just East of the rendezvous and will be selected by an Officer of the ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION Staff and one from each Bde. They will meet at an hour to be notified later.

HOUR OF START: 7. The head of the Column will pass the Starting Point at 2000.

ORDER OF MARCH: 8. The Brigade will take up the following position in the Column:-
----- 2 Batteries R.H.A. and escort.
3rd A.L.H. Brigade. (in following order of march)
Headquarters and attached Units.
9th Light Horse.
1 Sect. M.G. Sqdn.
1 Squadron 8th L.H.
10th L.H.
1 Sect M.G. Sqdn.
8th L.H. (less 1½ Sqdn)
3 Sections M.G. Sqdn.
Field Amb

9. REAR GUARD. 2 Troops 8th Light Horse.

10. INSTRUCTIONS. The Column will halt at a point ¼ mile N.E. of POINT 157 on the Western end of the marsh marked at that point and await a message from No 1 Imperial Camel Battalion, which is acting under special instructions.

11. At 0115 Sept 17th and after the message from No.1 Imperial Camel Battalion has been received the 3rd L.H. Bde will move off under special instructions to a position to attack BIR EL MAZAR from the South and South East at 0445.

12. The Column (less 3rd L.H. Bde and No 1 Imperial Camel Battalion) will move on at 0120 to a point West of BIR EL MAZAR and will deliver the attack from the West at 0445. Special instructions have been issued to Brigades and No 1 Imperial Camel Battalion.

P.T.O.

13. SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. On breaking off from the Column the following dispositions will be taken up :-

9th L.H. and 1 Section Machine Gun Sqdn leading will follow the Northern edge of sand hills with the S.E. of MAZAR as their objective.

One Squadron 8th Light Horse will move on MAZAR between the 9th and 10th Regiments.

10th L.H. and one Section Machine Gun Squadron will move on MAZAR directly from the South;

8th Light Horse (less one Squadron) and 3 Sections Machine Gun Squadron will be in support in rear of centre of attacking line.

The above will move as a Column until the turn Northwards is made. From the "Break-off" Units will be responsible for their immediate flank

Further special instructions are attached.

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

- 1. 9th L.H.
- 2. 8th L.H.
- 3. 9th L.H.
- 4. 10th L.H. (less 1 sqdn)
- 5. 3 Sections M.G. Sqdn.
- 6. Field Amb.
- 7. Camel Transport Column
- 8. Camel Transport Column
- 9. Camel Transport Column
- 10. Camel Transport Column
- 11. Field Amb.

10. INSTRUCTIONS. The Column will halt at the point marked at the point on the Western end of the plain marked at first point and await a message from the Imperial Camel Battalion, which is acting under special instructions.

At 01.00 hours the message from No. 1 Imperial Camel Battalion has been received. The 9th L.H. will move on to Mazar and the 10th L.H. will move on to Mazar from the South and position to attack Bir Mazar from the South East at 04.45.

The Column (less 9th L.H. and No. 1 Imperial Camel Battalion) will move on to Mazar from the West of Bir Mazar and will deliver the attack from the West at 04.45. Special instructions have been issued to Brigades and No. 1 Imperial Camel Battalion.

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



Headquarters,
 Anzac Mounted Division.

3rd Light Horse Brigade report on
 MAZAR OPERATIONS - September 16/18th.

According to orders contained in Operation Order No. 41 dated 10/9/16, and subsequent instructions, the Brigade proceeded to SALMANA and thence to a point 7 miles E of MAZAR. At this point the Brigade was detached to take up its allotted position for the attack on MAZAR from the S and S.E. - the route taken being along the Northern edge of the sand dunes so as to avoid any chance of detection, travelling being very heavy in parts.

Great credit is due to the Advance Regiment (9th A.L.H.) for directing the Brigade to its point of attack.

Before turning N one Troop was detached with a view of making touch with the I.C.C. at MALHA, but failed to do so.

On turning N the Brigade was brought directly opposite MAZAR from the S.

At 0500 3 Squadrons were lining the second ridge running E and W and S of MAZAR. This line was immediately pushed forward, with little opposition, to the ridge directly overlooking MAZAR. It was then realised that the line was not sufficiently extended to the E, so it was added to by 2 Squadrons of the 9th Light Horse.

By 0530 3 Squadrons of the 10th Light Horse on the left, and 9th Light Horse on the right, with one Squadron of 8th Light Horse in the centre were drawing fire on a front of 2 miles with a view of ascertaining the strength of the position. These Squadrons were supported by Machine Gun fire - 2 Squadrons and 2 Sections of Machine Guns being in support.

Taking into consideration the country to be traversed, and the length of the march, the time allotted (1½ hours) to sum up

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the situation was hardly long enough. The enemy were content to keep up a continuous sniping fire with occasional heavy bursts, accompanied by anti-aircraft gun fire.

It was soon realised by observation and the amount of fire drawn, that the enemy was in strength, and as a general action was not to be commenced if such conditions existed, the Brigade proceeded to withdraw.

Up to that time only one casualty had occurred.

On the enemy realising a retirement was taking place a brisk fire was opened, resulting ~~xxx~~ in the below mentioned casualties.

During the time allowed to ascertain the strength of the position (0500 - 0615) little or no activity was shown from the W, and on account of the guns not coming into action this was one of main factors in arriving at the decision to retire.

The I.C.C. and Hong Kong Singapore Battery were unable to arrive at their allotted position in the time, and only came in sight 3 miles to the S when the retirement was ordered. This delayed the movement which could not continue until they were safely away, their retirement being covered by the 8th Light Horse.

During the final retirement of the Brigade the 7th Light Horse rendered considerable assistance, particularly in covering the last 3 Troops of the 10th Light Horse, which were forced to remain to ~~xxxxxx~~ assist 3 men with 4 camels who suddenly appeared on our right flank going towards the enemy and who were subsequently found, had gone astray.

As soon as the position was evacuated the enemy brought a very accurate searching gun fire to bear on the valleys previously occupied.

On the Brigade concentrating the return march was commenced, the Column arriving at the point selected for watering at 1300. This was not carried out in the most expeditious and workable

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(3).

manner when the much needed water could not be fully appreciated.

From thence the Brigade proceeded to bivouac at SALMANA, and the following morning the present Front Line was re-occupied, and the remainder of the Brigade going into Camp at AMARA.

The following are the casualties :-

	<u>Officers.</u>	<u>Other Ranks.</u>
Killed	1	2
Wounded	-	8
Injured	-	2

20.9.16.


 Brig-Gen.
 G.O.C. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.