

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/3/30

Title: 3rd Australian Light Horse
Brigade

July 1917

C O N F I D E N T I A L.

W A R D I A R I E S

O F

3rd A.L.H. Bde H. d. 2/15

From Ist. July 1917 To 31st. July 1917.

242.
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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

(Erase heading not required.)

Ref. Maps. RAFA }
BEER SHEBA } 1:125,000

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
UM URQANI	1.7.17	WSKH	One troop. proceeded to contour 300 feet EAST of NAGILI at 0400. For report see App. I Circumstances obscure. Patrol was accompanied by 4 observers from R.F.C. sent out to gain information of ground from the different aspect to that of the air.	App. I
ditto	2.7.17	WSKH	Combined church parade held at 0800. One regiment to stand to "dawn" at 0330 102H "stood to arms" & then proceed to BIR EL ESANI making good that area by 1100 to cover reconnaissance of the water there by Doctor HUME, Egyptian Government & CE Desert Column, returning to camp by 1700. For report see App. II. Digging party from 82H of 150 men exclusive of horses holders, did 2 hours digging on X.Y.2 (GHABI) works day by 5 th Mtd Bde. The improvement of these trenches is under the orders of G.O.C 5 th Mtd Bde. 92H supplied a similar party, who worked from 1300 to 1900.	App. II
ditto	3.7.17	WSKH	82H stood to arms at 0330 and supplied party for digging for two hours in the morning	
ditto	4.7.17	WSKH	Brigade left at 0030 on operations. see App. III & IV. Four officers R.F.C. accompanied the column in order to learn the country from the ground as well as from the air	App. III App. IV
ditto.	5.7.17	WSKH	Majorce Dangar MC. (BM) returned to duty from hospital (wounded 19.4.17)	
ditto	5.7.17	WSKH	102H stood to arms 82H supplied digging party for GHABI works in the afternoon Lt Col WH SCOTT DSO returned from hospital (wounded 28.5.17)	
UM URQANI	6.7.17	WSKH	Brigade moved to ABASAN EL KEBIR and the division was relieved from front line duties (see App. V). Bde. Lines taken over by 2nd L.H. Bde, this Bde taking over those of 42. Bde. clear, but not laid out with much system.	App. V
ABASAN EL KEBIR	7.7.17		Units settling in - watering carried out at ABASAN - Combined Church Parade 1700.	
"	9.7.17		Gen. Royston returned from 10 days' leave. C Major W.S.K Hughes proceeded to Division to take over duties as G.S.O. 2, during absence Captain Casanagh, and to complete a month's attachment.	
"	10.7.17		Having renovated the range fittings 10 th L.H. commenced Musketry. 15 rds per man allotted - all units firing two grasping practices and one individual at 500-600 yds	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABISAN el Kebir.	10/7/17	10	Lt Col Saw + Major Kirkwood of 4 th A.S.H. visited the Brigade.	
	(Contd.)			
	11/7/17	11	8th L.H. shooting - Meeting of C.O.s re Beer for the men. Considered by all to be beneficial making everyone contented. Mounted parade between 1000 and 1200 commenced, every available horse being taken off the lines. Hours not satisfactory but not work in otherwise on account of watering in which duty 5 hours daily is taken up to complete the Brigade. Water and arrangements good but distance too great.	
	12/7/17	12	Mounted parade - not much energy or enthusiasm displayed. Drilling in the heat of the day not satisfactory - other arrangements to be made. 9th L.H. on range - work well carried out. Instructions received to prepare improvised packs. - Protest sent in to D.H.Q., strongly advising Limber in preference.	
	13/7/17	13	Major General Hodgson visited mounted parade. Lt. Col. Scott and Doc Major. was went round the old front line.	
	14/7/17	14	G.O.C. weekly inspection. Horse blankets of the Brigade disinfected. Instructions issued for the completion of the sun shelters.	
	15/7/17	15	No Church Parade - Parade indisposed. Men feeling the effects of inoculation	
	16/7/17	16	2 hours Mounted Parade in the morning.	
17/7/17	17	Usual Routine		
18/7/17	18	Dismounted Parade of the Brigade to allow the G.O.C. to speak to the men. very fair turn out - Gen Rowton + Lt Roth left for Cairo. The formation to be thoroughly overhauled.	2/12	

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN	19/7/17	10 th	at 10 ¹⁵ verbal order received to the Brigade to be turned out within 2 hours and the Division to be concentrated at EL MELEK. Brigade moved out with 1 st Line Transport at 1230, carrying extra days ration from EL MELEK. moved via GAZ MABRUK to Pt 680. LAKH LEILAT. in support of the A.M.S. Division. Eventually ordered to Bir el ESANI to water and bivouac for night. Sub LA finding the protection - Good water	
on the Mac	20/7/17	10 th	at 0430 Brigade crossed the wadi and moved on Pt 840. (C7) eventually holding a line from Goss Road W. of TAVNEIL to YAHIA. at 1100 the line withdrawn without interference to EL GAMLI. Dabon. and returned to Camp by 1730.	See Appendix VI
ABASAN.	21/7/17	10 th	preparing to hand over and move to the Beach 2 nd	
"	22/7/17	10 th	6 th Mtd Bce took over our lines, which were exceptionally clean (and commented upon) at 1030. Brigade moving into 6 th Mtd Bce lines on the beach which were not too sanitary.	See Appendix VII
Marakeb	23/7/17	10 th	Quite evident that the swimming of men and horses will take regularly. all ranks appreciating the sea. G.O.C. Division moving about Camp.	
"	24/7/17	10 th	Horses already showing improvement from the salt water swimming. B.M.C. received 2 nd inoculation + A.E.	
"	25/7/17	10 th	Conference at G.O.C. Brigadiers Bce-Major, + Staff Cpts attending, mainly to discuss carrying of mobile rations, etc. and the turning out of the Division in an emergency.	
"	26/7/17	10 th	Regiments of the Brigade commenced musketry instruction and Boyds. Rangework on the beach.	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARAKEB BARANT	27/7/17	11h	Brigadier inspected 1 Troop from each Regiment, and a Hotchkiss Rifle Team to consider the best means of carrying reserve days ration and forage. all agreed grain sack carried across the waddles most advantageous way.	
"	28/7/17	11h	Camp inspection by the Brigadier - a good turnout. Horses improving in condition - Major Austin, Fly Expert, visited Brigade previous day (27/7/17) and was not satisfied with the state of the gth of M.F. Sgt. Line.	
	29/7/17	11h	Two Church Parades Chap. Capt Legate (Presby Chap) taking his first service ^{divided} recommended N.E.O. near ASC Train proceeded to M.O.A.S.C.A. for fire on this probability	
	30/7/17	11h	Usual gun fire - Musketry being carried out by all units	
	31/7/17	11h	Gen. Court Martial for the trial of Lt. A Watt, 5th Lt. (Brig. Gen. Meredith presided) Capt McDonald the member for the Brigades.	
<u>Strength at 31/7/17.</u>			<u>Personnel</u> 890 off. 1913 priv.	<u>Animals</u> 2386

242
5

By
Lieut. Col. L. C. MAYGAR, V.C., D.S.O., Cmdg. 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade.

2nd. July 1917.

app I

1. INFORMATION. On July 6th. 1917, the Division will be relieved by the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division as Outpost Mounted Division and will go into Reserve taking over the bivouac area now occupied by the Reserve Division.
2. INTENTION. On relief, Brigades and Units will march independently to their new bivouacs.
3. ORDER OF MARCH.

B.H.Q. & Details.
10th. A.L.H.
M. Gun Sqdn.
9th. A.L.H.
8th. A.L.H.
Fld. Amb.
4. STARTING PT. Railway Crossing on SHELLAL Line North of Field Ambulance. The Brigade will not form up but will join in the Column from their own lines.
5. TIME OF STARTING. 1300.
6. SUPPLIES. Rations for the current day only will be taken. Ration parties will form up under Q.M. Duty Regiment between 10th. L.H. and Fld. Amb. lines at 0730. on July 6th. and will meet Brigade Supply ~~Office~~ Convoy in the new Bivouac Site at 1000.
7. TRANSPORT. In addition to transport now with Brigade the following allotment of extra limbers will be made :-

B.H.Q.	1 Limber.
M.G.S.	1 Limber.
8th. L.H.	4 Limbers.
9th. L.H.	2 Limbers.
10th. L.H.	3 Limbers.
8. EQUIPMENT & STORES. Blanket Shelters, meat safes, and sanitary equipment, are Regimental Equipment, and will be taken to the new bivouacs. Equipment that cannot be moved on 6th. will be left under a small Guard on Hill 200 yards North of B.H.Q. Units will advise before 1800 on 5th. inst. the approximate amount of baggage that will be left.
9. TENTS. Tents issued as shelters are to be left standing.
10. CLEANLINESS ETC.. Owing to several Units in turn having to occupy the same ground, the necessity of leaving lines clean must be impressed on all ranks. The Brigade Sanitary Officer will inspect sites after departure of Units, who will render a certificate that they are all clean and in a sanitary condition. These certificates will be sent to B.H.Q.
11. Brigade Headquarters will close at URGAM for Despatches at 1100 and for wires at 1230, reopening 30 minutes after arrival of Brigade at the new sites.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.



(Sgd) W.S.K. Hughes, Major,
Act. Brigade Major,
3rd. A.L.H. Brigade.

COPIES TO :-

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. War Diary. | 2. File. | 3. Staff Captain. |
| 4. 8th. A.L.H. | 5. 9th. A.L.H. | 6. 10th. A.L.H. |
| 7. M.G. Sqdn. | 8. Fld. Amb. | 9. 3rd. Sig. Troop. |
| 10. 3rd. F. Troop. | | |

242

SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER No.35.

War Diary

Copy No.

By
Lieut. Col. L. C. MAYGAR, V.C., D.S.O., Cmdg. 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade.

2nd. July 1917.

Ref. Map. BEERSHEBA. I:125000.

. INTENTION. A reconnaissance of the country and the defences contained in the area SHELLAL - BEERSHEBA - ASLUJ will be carried out on Wednesday 4th. July 1917.

The Australian Mounted Division with the 1st. A.L.H. Brigade attached will cover the reconnaissance.

. MOVES. In order to cover the reconnaissance and to allow the East Force Survey Party to complete the Survey of the Northern portion of the area, the country to a line from Hill 960, East of EL HATHIRA - Hill 790, North of KH. EL SUFI to Hill 630, EL GIRHEIR, will be cleared by 0630 on July 4th.

3rd. A.L.H. Brigade will move via the SHELLAL and UM URGAN Crossings over the WADI GHUZZE and will make good the line 770 exclusive, - 790 to the Point where the black track crosses the FARA - SABA Road 1 1/2 Miles South of KH. EL SUFI (inclusive) by 0630.

4th. A.L.H. Brigade will be on the Right and 1st. A.L.H. Brigade on the Left with 5th. Mounted Brigade in Reserve.

Brigade Headquarters will be established in vicinity of Pt. 820. Notts Battery, R.H.A., will accompany the Brigade.

An Officers Patrol from each Regiment, for which Special Orders are being issued, will carry out a reconnaissance of area enclosed by line GOZ SHEIHILI - HAYATHIYA - BIR IBN TURKIA - Pt. 970 - HATHIRA. 10th. A.L.H. will detail 1 Sqn. to act as support to these Patrols.

. ORDER OF MARCH. Advance Guard. 8th. A.L.H. less 1 Sqn. & 2 Troops. (Cmdr. Major McLaurin).

Right Flank Guard. 2 Troops 8th. A.L.H.

Left Flank Guard. 1 Sqn. 8th. A.L.H.

Main Body. B.H.Q. & Details.
9th. A.L.H.
M. Gun Sqn.
Notts Battery.
10th. A.L.H. less 1 Troop.
Fld. Ambulance.
Transport.

Rear Guard. 1 Troop 10th. A.L.H.

10th. A.L.H. will detail 2 Troops as escort to the Guns if they become detached.

. STARTING Pt. Head of Track leading to WADI, South of Notts Battery Bivouac.

. TIME OF STARTING. At 0100.

. SUPPLIES. 24 Hours Rations and Forage, also Iron Rations. Water-bottles and Bags filled.

. AMMUNITION. 230 Rounds S.A.A. per man. Each Regiment will take 1 Limber S.A.A., and M. Gun Sqn. will take 3 Limmers S.A.A.

. TRANSPORT. 8th. & 9th. A.L.H. will each take 1 empty Limber G.S. Water Carts filled will accompany the Column. Q.M. Duty Regiment will be in charge of all Limmers and Water Carts and will move via Main FARA - SABA Road to a point 1 Mile South West of Pt. 820.

. WATERING. Units will at once report to B.H.Q. any wells or cisterns with any water in discovered during operations. Water Buckets and a few long ropes will be taken.



242
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IO. COMMUNICATION. Visual Communication will be established with B.H.Q. as early as possible.

Cable and Visual Communication will be established between Divisional H/Qrs. and Brigade Headquarters.

Divisional H/Qrs. will be situated at the ABU SHAWISH to KHALASA - FARA to SEBA Cross Roads East of EL BUGGAR at 0615.

II. MEDICAL. A Divisional Dressing Station will be established at KHASIF.

12. GALLOPER. IOth.A.L.H. will detail I Officer to act as Brigade Galloper, and he will report to B.H.Q. at 0115.

13. GENERAL. a. Withdrawal will take place when the Survey Party have completed their work.
b. Special attention is drawn to the rendering of reports & messages. Approximate numbers of enemy and approximate place must be given in every case if accuracy unobtainable.
c. Information is required concerning the country in vicinity of the line to be taken up and also to the East of this line obtained by observation. Any main tracks, crossings, etc. will be noted. Water if found will be at once reported as in Para. 9.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) W.S.K. Hughes, Major,
Act. Brigade Major,
3rd.A.L.H. Brigade.

Copies to :-

- 1. War Diary.
- 2. File.
- 3. File.
- 4. Cancelled.
- 5. 8th.A.L.H.
- 6. 9th.A.L.H.
- 7. IOth.A.L.H.
- 8. M.Gun Sqdn.
- 9. Notts, R.H.A.
- 10. 3rd. Sig. Troop.
- 11. 3rd.A.L.H.F.A. Is.
- 12. 3rd. Fld. Troop.



War Diary /

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS RE PATROLS MENTIONED IN OPERATION

ORDER No. 35.

Approved

1. A Reconnaissance of the Country between the BIR SABA - ASLUJ and BIR SABA - FARA Roads up to the line G. EL NA'AM - EL HATHIRA is required.

2. Areas are allotted to Brigades as follows :-

4th.A.L.H.Bde. - Line HATHIRA - EL NA'AM to line Hill 970 - BIR IBN TURKIA.

3rd.A.L.H.Bde. - From above line to line GOZ SHEIHILI - HAYATHIYA.

5th.Mtd.Bde. - GOZ SHEIHILI - HAYATHIYA to the South.

Full information is required on the following points :-

(a) The character of the country from the point of view of a force of all arms moving towards BIR SABA from ESANI or its neighbourhood.

(b) The practicability for movement of ~~horses~~, camels, and wheels;

(c) Particulars as to the approaches to the enemy's defences from W., S.W., and S. of BIR SABA.

(d) Gun positions for a Force moving against BIR SABA and facilities for Observation. Such reports on Observation Positions must define clearly, and in detail, what can be seen from each.

(e) Possible lines for enemy counter attack.

(f) Enemy Gun and Observation Positions.

(g) Water Supply.

3. Each Regiment will detail a Patrol of 1 Officer, 1 N.C.O. & 10 O/Ranks to carry out the above work. The Officers will report to B.H.Q. at 1630 on July 3rd. for further instructions.

The area will be divided into 3 Parts for purposes of reconnaissance as under :-

10th.L.H.Patrol, are enclosed by following lines all inclusive :-
Line BIR IBN TURKIA - 1030 HAYATHIRA along W. EL HAYATHIRA to its junction.

9th.L.H.Patrol. Line HAYATHIRA - 910 GOZ SHEIHILI to junction of Black Track and KHALASA - SABA Road along the Road N.E. to where WADI MIRLABA crosses it.

8th.L.H.Patrol. From N.W. Boundary of 9th.L.H.Patrol area on the East between lines SHEIHILI - UM AJUA on the S.W. and through Pt. 970 to AJUA on the N.East.

4. 10th.L.H. will detail one Squadron to act as contact Squadron to support these Patrols.

5. The Patrols and Supports will leave the Column at about 0330 by a direct order from B.H.Q. and will commence their withdrawal not later than 1400.

6. Reports will be made direct to Divisional Headquarters.

(Sgd) W.S.K. Hughe Major,
Act. Brigade Major.
3rd.A.L.H. Brigade.

Copies to :-

- 1 War Diary.
- 2 File.
- 3 File.
- 4 8th.A.L.H.
- 5 9th.A.L.H.
- 6 10th.A.L.H.



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SECRET.

Report of Covering Party for ESANI
Reconnaissance.

War Diary
3rd. A. L. H. Bde.
App II

10th. L. H. Regiment left Bivouac at 0700 crossing the WADI at UM URGAN and watering on route arrived at ESANI at 1030.

At 0950 the Left Flank of the Advance Guard came in touch with enemy, strength I Troop, 2 Miles N.N.W. of ESANI, shots were exchanged and enemy retired. At 1015 150 enemy were seen on Left front about 2 Miles N.N.E. of ESANI, but did not approach.

A Post was established on 680 GOZ LAKHLEILAT which pushed back small enemy patrols and reported 2 Squadrons of enemy holding the line 680 KHOR EL AJRAM to 690 RASHID BEK. One Squadron moved right across the front of the Regiment towards 780 and disappeared.

Another Observation Post was established at Pt. 750 2½ Miles S.E. of ESANI. Small parties of the enemy numbering about 50 in all were seen in vicinity of MALLAGA - ABU GHALYUN.

The Reconnaissance being completed the Regiment commenced to withdraw at 1230. When half way to GOZ MABRUK on route to ESANI at about 0800 smoke was seen in two places five or six Miles away towards the S. East, which appeared to be Signals.

No casualties occurred.

3rd. July 1917.



W. Kent Hughes Major,
Act. Brigade Major,
3rd. A. L. H. Brigade.

Ref. Map. BEERSHEBA, I:125000.

App IV War Diary

I. ITINERARY. The Brigade left Bivouac at 0030 and moving via KARM and KHASEIF made good the line Pt. 770 (exclusive) - Pt. 790 - to where black track cuts the FARA - SABA Road by 0630, the left flank being linked up with 1st. L. H. Bde. and the right with the 4th. A. L. H. Bde. This line was held with two Regiments and 2 Troops M. Gun Sqdn. till 1745 when one Regiment took up line Pt. 720 - high ridge 1 Mile East of EL BUGGAR with one Section R. H. A., and the remainder of the Brigade retired through this line in conjunction with 1st. & 4th. A. L. H. Brigades. The Brigade then withdrew to Bivouac, watering enroute at the WADI, the Rear Guard arriving at the WADI at 2300.

ENEMY.

Two small enemy patrols of about 12 Mounted men were encountered just North of ABU SHAWISH - FARA - SABA Cross Roads ^{at 0500} and shots were exchanged the enemy retiring on BEERSHEBA at a gallop. A Patrol had evidently camped at the small Northern Well of the group of wells one half mile North of I in CULTIVATION, Sq. B 7, as there was fresh dung on the ground and two lances and a water bucket were found. The patrol was evidently surprised and left in a hurry.

The line as above was occupied with no opposition and the Western outskirts of BEERSHEBA were plainly visible from any part of the line. Enemy appeared to be holding a very strong entrenched line running through JENEITERI - EL ABREIJ - Pt. 910 (S.W. Corner of D 6) and bending back towards BARGHUT. On the high ground behind the Westernmost Pt. 910 there was an extremely strong redoubt and wire entanglements.

No Camps were visible in the Sector of enemy line from a point East of 790 to KH. ABU IRGEIG, but a great number of Bedouins' Camps were visible. One redoubt on Hill near E 580 (C 5). One troop of Cavalry was seen at different times during the day near KH. ABU IRGEIG.

Small bodies ^{of enemy} only were seen and mostly mounted men but ^{there was} every indication of presence in strength.

At about 0900 two squadrons of enemy Cavalry moved out from EL ABRIJ and occupied a position but did not approach within rifle fire.

Two redoubts seen, one near 650 S. of U in BIR ABU IRGEIG on West of Railway, and the other near contour 700 in Sq. C 5, East of BIR ABU IRGEIG.

Aeroplane reported 150 Bedouins in WADI MUGHEIER and enemy holding entrenched line through Pt. 910 at 0650.

GUNS.

Enemy held fire when troops advanced until the aeroplane landed between Pt. 820 - FARA - SABA Road when fire was opened with 9 pounders, H.E. and Shrapnel. The second shot found the mark and owing to difficulty with engine the plane had to be left temporarily. Throughout the day enemy shelled the positions at odd times with 15 pdr. & 9lbs. and Shrapnel searched the Southern sources of WADI HANAN for supports. Between 1030 & 1130, 50 to 60 H.E. & Shrapnel shells of above calibre were fired at ^{the} aeroplane scoring many direct hits with the Shrapnel. (At about 1430 the Pilot crawled out to the machine and salvaged the machine guns and then crawled out again, started the engine and taxied the machine out of range. Immediately ^{the} machine had left six shells were fired at ^{the} original place.) Enemy shelled ridge Pt. 820 to Pt. 790 at odd times throughout the day. Two enemy 15 Pdr. Guns were located in WADI MUGHEIER about 60° from Hill 790.

Enemy Gun seen firing at 1745, from Point East of Railway (Sq. C 6) on Contour 700 between two small ~~MUGHEIER~~ WADIS and South of black track. Enemy shelled Pt. 790 from concealed positions in WADI IMLIEH. (Sq. C 5)

2/12

1. ENEMY. Enemy shells were about 15 Pdrs., shrapnel and H.E. also H.E. of heavy calibre were fired from the direction of BIR IFLEI (Sq. B 5) on to Hill 720 (B 6) when the Brigade was retiring. The enemy shelled our position with a Battery of Mountain Guns which appeared to be firing from behind the Westernmost 910. Two heavier Guns also fired from a direction of JENEITERI. The neighbourhood of 790 appeared to be his best range. Fuze cap herewith was picked up half mile S.S.E. of A in CULTIVATION 200 Yards East of where the Northern Branch of the two dongas shown on the map joined the main WADI running North.

3. COUNTRY. The country East of ABU SHAWISH - FARA SABA is difficult for wheeled traffic unless the main road and tracks are used as the WADIS shown on the map are mostly deep wash-outs. These can for the most part be skirted or crossed, but wheels would do better by keeping to the main road. The ground is undulating and ridges covered with loose stones making travelling rough on horses. Nature of country is similar to country in vicinity of EL BUGGAR, only the undulations are of a steeper nature. Pts. 820 & 810 are not easily distinguishable unless bearings are taken.

4. WATER. Practically nil. One cistern was located at the Western H in Sq. C 6, water 20 feet from surface, 6 feet deep, and 15 feet in diameter, but stinking and useless. One small well containing water was reported S.E. of Pt. 790 in WADI SUFI but enemy opened shell and rifle fire on the spot. Two cisterns were located at Eastern H in Sq. C 6, one dry and one containing one foot of water which was useless.

5. ROADS & Those shown on the map are correct and those not shown are :-
 One track leading East passing through North of 810 and 790 crossing GAZA - BEERSHEBA Road after junctioning with the track shown on the map leading from KH. IMLIEH due East.
 Two tracks just South of 720 running E.S.E. & E.N.E. probably leading to enemy Camps.

*Casualties 3as wounded
4 horses wounded*

W. S. Kent Hughes

Major,
Act. Brigade Major,
3rd. A.L.H. Brigade.

5th. July 1917.

Headquarters,
Auss. Mtd. Divn.

Herewith report on Operations carried out on 4th. inst. also reports from Special Officers Patrols as laid down in Divisional Order No. 4, also a report from the supporting Squadron, who brought in 37 Bedouins, 2 Camels and 4 Donkeys, Herewith also a bundle of papers found at IBN SAID.

W. S. Kent Hughes

Major,
Act. Brigade Major,
For G.O.C. 3rd. A.L.H. Bde.

5th. July 1917.

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SECRET.

OPERATION ORDER No. 36.

Copy No.

By - Lieut. Col. L. C. MAYGAR, V.C., D.S.O, Cmdg. 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade.

2nd. July 1917.

1. INFORMATION. On July 6th. 1917, the Division will be relieved by the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division as Outpost Mounted Division and will go into Reserve taking over the bivouac area now occupied by the Reserve Division.

2. INTENTION. On relief, Brigades and Units will march independently to their new bivouacs.

3. ORDER OF MARCH.

B.H.Q. & Details.
10th. A.L.H.
M. Gun Sqdn.
9th. A.L.H.
8th. A.L.H.
Fld. Amb.



4. STARTING PT. Railway Crossing on SHELLAL Line North of Field Ambulance. The Brigade will not form up but will join in the Column from their own lines.

5. TIME OF STARTING. 1300.

6. SUPPLIES. Rations for the current day only will be taken. Ration parties will form up under Q.M. Duty Regiment between 10th. L.H. and Fld. Amb. lines at 0730 on July 6th. and will meet Brigade Supply ~~Office~~ Convoy in the new Bivouac Site at 1000.

7. TRANSPORT. In addition to transport now with Brigade the following allotment of extra limbers will be made :-

B.H.Q. 1 Limber.
M.G.S. 1 Limber.
8th. L.H. 4 Limbers.
9th. L.H. 2 Limbers.
10th. L.H. 3 Limbers.

8. EQUIPMENT & STORES. Blanket Shelters, meat safes, and sanitary equipment, are Regimental Equipment, and will be taken to the new bivouacs. Equipment that cannot be moved on 6th. will be left under a small Guard on Hill 200 yards North of B.H.Q. Units will advise before 1800 on 5th. inst. the approximate amount of baggage that will be left.

9. TENTS. Tents issued as shelters are to be left standing.

10. CLEANLINESS ETC... Owing to several Units in turn having to occupy the same ground, the necessity of leaving lines clean must be impressed on all ranks.

The Brigade Sanitary Officer will inspect sites after departure of Units, who will render a certificate that they are all clean and in a sanitary condition. These certificates will be sent to B.H.Q.

11. Brigade Headquarters will close at URGAM for Despatches at 1100 and for wires at 1230, reopening 30 minutes after arrival of Brigade at the new sites.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

(Sgd) W.S.K. Hughes, Major,
Act. Brigade Major,
3rd. A.L.H. Brigade.

COPIES TO :-

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1. War Diary. | 2. File. | 3. Staff Captain. |
| 4. 8th. A.L.H. | 5. 9th. A.L.H. | 6. 10th. A.L.H. |
| 7. M.G. Sqdn. | 8. Fld. Amb. | 9. 3rd. Sig. Troop. |
| 10. 3rd. F. Troop. | - | - |

11
242

SECRET.

Copy No. 8

OPERATION ORDER No 37.
by
Lieut Col L.C. MAYGAR, V.V., D.S.O.
Commanding 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

app VI

In the Field
July 19th 17.

1. On 21st and 22nd July 1917 the Division, on relief by the Yeomanry Mounted Division, will move to MARAKEB and become the Reserve Mounted Division.
2. Reliefs will take place as under:-
 - (a) 21st July 17. 4th A.L.H. Bde to the bivouac of 5th Mtd Bde.
 - (b) 22nd July 17. 3rd A.L.H. Bde, on relief by 5th Mounted Bde at 1030, will march to their new bivouac.
 - (c) 5th Mounted Brigade will remain in their present bivouac.
3. Regimental Transport vehicles will all be parked at a site which will be indicated.
All draught horses are to be taken to the beach.
4 Limbers per Regt, 2 Machine Gun Sqdn, 1 B.H.Q. 1 Signal Troop
1 Field Amb may be taken to the beach.
4. Ammunition.
Ammunition will be left in charge of Guard with the transport referred to in para. 3. Further instructions will be issued later.
5. Tents and Shelters
The following tents C.D.L. will be left standing in Regimental bivouacs :- All Tents taken over from N.Z.H.R Bde.
6. Watering Arrangements.
The following will be the hours for watering horses on 21st and 22nd instant at ABASAN.

	<u>MORNING.</u>	<u>AFTERNOON.</u>
<u>21st July</u>		
3rd A.L.H. Bde	0800 to 0900	1430 to 1530.
<u>22nd July.</u>		
3rd A.L.H. Bde	0700 to 0800	
7. Rations
Ration parties of all units will report to their Supply Off^r at Supply Depot KHAN YUNUS at 0530 on morning of 22nd and will accompany camel convoys to MARAKEB.
8. Camp Sites.
Units are reminded that relieving units will occupy the same ground that is now being camped on. It is therefore, necessary that the greatest care should be taken to leave all camps clean and tidy.
9. B.H.Q. will close at ABASAN at 0900 and reopen immediately on arrival in the new bivouac.

Issued at 1300.
To.

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

5th L.H. 6th Lh. 10th L.H.

M.G. Sqdn, Field Amb, Sigs

~~B.H.Q. 30000.~~

See diary

21
24/2

SECRET

Ref Map BEERSHEBA - RAFA 1:125000

U.S. Army
app VI

REPORT ON OPERATIONS, July 19th - 20th.

ITINARARY.

At 1030 19/7/17 a verbal message was received to turn the Brigade out within two hours - at 1230 the Brigade, 1169 all Ranks, moved to EL MELEK the whole Division being concentrated at that point - Instructions were to take as much Ration and Forage as possible, this being carried on the horse and man and in the 1st Line Limbers which accompanied the column to EL MELEK, at which point they were parked.

From EL MELEK the Brigade proceeded to pt 680 GOZ LAKHLEILAT via GOZ MABRUK in Support of 4th A.L.H. Bde who were pushing in on the right of the 1st Bde.

One Regt (8th Regt) was detached at GOZ MABRUK to make good and hold the Water at BIR el ESANI

At 1830 the Brigade moved to BIR el ESANI to water and bivouac for the night, 8th L.H. being responsible for the protection, the Brigade bivouaced on the S of the Wadi - All quiet during the night.

At 0325 instructions contained in A.M.D. O.A.431 d/20th were received and acted upon.

The 9th L.H. moving on a bearing of 70 degrees acted as the advance Regiment supported by 10th L.H. - two Sections of the M.G. Sqn being allotted to the 9th L.H.

First touch with the Enemy was made on approaching 840, small enemy Patrol firing on our advanced troops, these were driven in and the line Cross Roads W of TAWELL to 840 to ABU YAHIA taken up; the enemy holding a parallel line and astride the Wadi at Pt 720 - before the order to retire was received the left of the line was pushed forward, the most advanced post being in a small enemy trench astride of small Wadi at its cutting with contour 800 about 1 1/2 miles S.W. of 4 Square 5 C. The above trenches are more than a week old - 25 to 30 one man rifle pits were observed to the W of this position and running back to the track running N to Kh el SUFI, these pits were evidently dug yesterday, facing S - this was evidently an Outpost Line and easily pushed back. On the Brigade retiring the enemy were holding a line running E and W 800 yards northerly of this advanced position.

On the first line taken up one group of 25 and another of 8 Rifle pits were found evidently dug within the last two days.

At 0830 a message was received that the 12th L.H. were in position from RASHID BEK to UM AJUA.

During the day, with the exception of odd horsemen, no formation of Cavalry were seen.

The Retirement commenced at 1100 and was not followed up in any way by the Enemy

ARTILLERY

The enemy Artillery fired between 25 - 30 rounds during the day, from nothing larger than 9 pounders.

Our Batt^y (Notts) came into action between 0900 - 1100 expending 66 Rounds - targets fired upon being an Observation post, enemy in position at 720 and the WADI W and S of this point - Five large platoons of the enemy were noticed to move out of the Wadi and move NE.

The Batt^y horses arrived back at GAMLI in a distressed condition and remained there until rested to proceed to Camp in the cool of the evening.

WATER

The Water at BIR el ESANI was plentiful - two large pools 1/2 mile West of the main crossing were not touched.

Crossings

In the dark the Battery had a certain amount of difficulty

31

242

In pulling out of the WADI but with care and good driving there should be no difficulty - the bed of the Wadi is very rocky

Country This has already been reported upon by previous reconnaissances.

At 10.30 AM a verbal message was received to turn the bridge out within two hours - at 10.45 the bridge, 100 ft long, moved to the WADI and the whole Division being concentrated at that point - instructions were to take the bridge out and to be ready as possible, this being carried out in the last line of the Division which was the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, at which point they

[Handwritten signature]

proceeded to pull the bridge out in the direction of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, in support of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, who were to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

Major.

for Lieut Col Cmdg
Brd A.L.H.Bde.

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 11.00 AM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 11.30 AM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 12.00 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 12.30 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 1.00 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 1.30 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 2.00 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 2.30 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 3.00 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

At 3.30 PM the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

The 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, was to be ready in the event of the 1st Bn, 1st Div, 1st Div, being required to make

Continuation of

SECRET

OPERATION ORDER No 37.

by

Lieut Col L.C. MAYGAR. V.C., D.S.O.
Commanding 3rd A.L.H.Bde.

App VII

In the Field.
July 21st 17.

1. The Brigade will move to MARAKEB and take over the Bde Area of the 6th Mounted Brigade leaving the present bivouac at 1030 in the following order:-

B.H.Q & Details.
8th L.H.
M.G. Sqdn
8th L.H.
10th L.H.
Field Ambulance.

The Head of the Column will pass the line B.H.Q - Supply Depot at above time - Units will join in the Column as comes their turn moving in Column of Squadrons in Line of Troop Columns & extended intervals and distances.

2. Wheeled Transport under Lt McKellar divided into two Columns KHAN YUNUS and BEACH will assemble at 1030 at the Starting Point - Camel Transport will assemble in rear of Wheeled. Ref para 3 Order No 37 the following will also be taken:
All Maltese Carts. Water Carts will not be taken

3. The following detail will be left with the Transport at KHAN Yunus under the command of a Sgt to be detailed by 8th L.H.
8th, 9th, 10th L.H. Regts 1 N.C.O. & 4 O.Rs each
M.G. Sqdn 2 O.Rs
8th L.H. & M.G. Sqdn 1 Team of four horses each
8th L.H. 1 Sgt.

The above personnel will retain their Horses
Special instructions will be issued the Sgt - the above personnel will furnish the necessary guard over the Transport.

4. Special attention is drawn to D.R.O.s No 4 Paras 28 & 29 & 21/7/17 and issued today - The incinerators mentioned will be apportioned out by the Field Troop
5. The following is the allotment of Camel Transport:-
8th, 9th, 10th 53 each - M.G. Sqdn 31 - F. Amb 23 - B.H.Q 9
Sig Troop 8 - Supplies & Ordnance 5 each.
The above to be drawn from B.H.Q. at 0800 on 22nd inst.
6. Safes and Latrine Buckets and seats will be taken.
7. 8th, 9th, 10th, M.G. Sqd and Field Amb will send an Officer ^{represent} to take over their area at MARAKEB - to report to B.H.Q. 6th Mtd Bde at 0900.

ISSUED at 1600

- to
No 1. File.
✓ 2. War Diary
3. 8th L.H.
4. 9th "
5. 10th "
6. Field Amb.
7. Sig Troop.
8. M.G. Sqdn.

Sgd C.C. DANGAR. Major
Brigade Major.
3rd A.L.H.Bde.

711
242