

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/9/48

Title: 4th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

December 1918



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.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 1

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4th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

645/1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI	Dec 1	0700	Party of 2 Officers and 12 Other Ranks proceeded on 6 days leave to BAALBEK.	
		0700		
		to	Steady Rain.	
		0900		
		2.0900	Meeting of Sports Committee.	
		0800	to	
		1200	Party of men out cutting bamboo to make sides for cook houses. A large party supplied cleaning Football Ground and erecting goal posts.	
		1700	Officers Regimental Mess commenced.	
		1800	Meeting of Officers to discuss Mess regulations and interior economy of the Regiment generally	
		3		
		1000	Parade as per Syllabus.	
		1400	Football Match between Squadrons.	
		4		
		1330	Football match between "B" Squadron and 4th M.G.Sdn and 11th L.H.Regt combined. Won by "B" Squadron who played with good system throughout.	
		1900	Party of 1 Officer and 4 Other Ranks went to Concert given by an English Regiment in the Theatre Royal TRIPOLI.	
		2000	Officers Kits arrived from dump LUDD.	
		5		
		0500	One Other Rank proceeded on 1914 leave to AUSTRALIA. One Other Rank proceeded on 1914 leave to ENGLAND. All 1914 Other Ranks have now proceeded on leave.	
		6		
		0900	7 of the poorest horses destroyed. Heavy rain all day.	
		1900	Officers guest night at Regimental Mess.	
		7		
		0800	Working party on road cancelled owing to rain.	
		1500	100 bags of parcels and papers received.	
		1600	4 parcels received from Regiment's Comforts Fund.	
		1800	Debate held by Officers. Rained heavily all day.	
		8		
		0900	6 rides destroyed. Educational Classes.	
		1330	Exercising horses. Recreation.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI	Dec 9	0900	Photographs taken by Official Photographer. i. All Officers at present with the Regiment. ii. Headquarters Officers.	
		0930	Major J. Lawson, D.S.O. proceeded to embark on 1914 Leave to ENGLAND. Lieuts Murray, Purnell, Bingham M.C. and Birkett-Vipont proceeded to embark on 1914 leave to AUSTRALIA.	
	10	0930	Photographs taken by Official Photographer. i. N.C.O's and Men of Headquarters. ii. "A" Squadron. iii. "B" Squadron. iv. "C" Squadron. v. First Line Transport. vi. Original Horses.	
		1500	"A" Squadron played "C" Squadron Football. Won by "C" by 4 goals.	
	11	0530	2 Officers and 7 Other Ranks proceeded on short leave to EGYPT.	
	12	1700	Lieut Wilkie returned from dump LUDD.	
	13	1000	Gallows for Sword fighting erected and Sword work commenced.	
	14	0800	11 Other Ranks on road making.	
	15	0800	21 Other Ranks on road making.	
	16	1100	Received Xmas cable from Regiment's Comforts Depot:- "Hearty congratulations Xmas and New Year." Reply sent by Lt-Col M.W.J. BOURCHIER, D.S.O.:- "Compliments of the Season and many thanks from 4th Regiment."	
	17		GENERAL HOLIDAY throughout E.E.F. Owing to wet weather Church Service to be held on Football Ground was cancelled.	
		1000	Roman Catholic Service was held in TRIPOLI.	
		1400	A. Meet of the Hounds was held. Tailor procured to alter Men's Tunics.	
		1800	Capt Wellings, Lieut Hemmons and 31 O/Ranks marched in from MOASCAR.	

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4th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI.	Dec 18	0700	7 Other Ranks proceeded on short leave to EGYPT.	
	JNT	1000	Major A.D.REID, M.C. marched in from MOASCAR, and assumed command temporarily of the Regiment. Capt C.L.G.TREWIN relinquished temporary command of the Regiment.	
	JNT	19 1500	All cook houses completed.	
		20 0830	Working party sent to Engineers.	
	JNT	1500	300 Other Ranks disinfected at EL MINA disinfecting plant.	
	JNT	21 0900	Consolidated return of all captured Guns etc., sent in.	
	JNT	22 1400	Meet of Hounds. 3 Officers acting as hares and 60 O/Ranks as hounds. Hares caught between 3 & 4 miles from base.	
		1700	Picket supplied on ZGARTA Village.	
	JNT	23 1045	Football match between Officers and Sergeants. Won by the latter. Slight rain during the morning.	
		1430	Exercising horses.	
	JNT	24 1000	Lt-Col M.W.J.BOURCHIER, D.S.O. returned from attached 4th Brigade and resumed command of the Regiment. Major A.D.REID, M.C. relinquished temporary command of the Regiment.	
	JNT	25 0530	1 Officer and 2 Other Ranks proceeded on short leave to EGYPT.	
		1100	2 Officers and 6 Other Ranks returned from short leave to EGYPT. 20 O/Ranks Reinforcements marched in from MOASCAR. GENERAL HOLIDAY. XMAS DAY. Christmas Greetings sent to all Units of 4th L.H. Brigade.	
		1115	Church Service held on Football Ground.	
		1430	Football match, Officers v Sergeants, won by the former.	
	JNT	26	GENERAL HOLIDAY. BOXING DAY. Football matches held morning and afternoon.	
		1330	Horses exercised.	
	JNT	27 1000	Lt-Col M.W.J.BOURCHIER, D.S.O. evacuated sick to hospital. Major A.D.REID, M.C. assumed command temporarily of the Regiment.	

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4th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI	Dec 27	1400	Applications called for appointment to Foreign Office and Diplomatic Service.	
		1800	1 Officer and 3 Other Ranks applied.	
	28	0800	Watering hours changed to leave camp at 1000.	
	29	0900	Received 80 cases of Comforts from Australian Comforts Fund.	
		1330	Squadron Football match. Pay Requisition sent in.	
	30	0800	Sword work at dummies and special classes for Physical Training.	
		1330	"B" and "C" Squadrons, the two unbeaten Football teams in the competition played. The game throughout was fast and clean, and was anybody's game until the final whistle blew when the scores stood at 2 goals 3 behinds to 2 goals 1 behind in favour of "C" Squadron.	
	31	0800	Rain during the early part of the morning so that the party to the CEDARS and the trip to the Beach were cancelled.	
		1230	The Regimental Football team journeyed to the 3rd Aust L.H. Brigade where they played the 8th L.H. Regiment team. Organised parties under an officer went down to witness the match.	
			Notes. Throughout the month the health of the Regiment has been good, the percentage of evacuations being very small. Cookhouses on the scale of one to every two troops have been built of wood; tiles and bamboos, avens have been made in these, composed of stones, clay and iron bands off tibbin bales. The rations have been good, and a large quantity of extra comforts have been received through Comforts Depot and purchased out of Regimental Funds, in addition to this each troop pools a small sum weekly towards its messing, consequently troops are provided with three hot meals daily and as often as possible tea for night duties. A good Brigade Football ground has been made just below the Regimental lines and Rugby and Australian rules football are played on every available opportunity. This Regiment being a Victorian Unit has three teams in the Australian rule competition and up to date have two unbeaten teams. Paper chasing has been started and two runs have been held, On the first run there being about 30 starters and on the second 60.	

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4th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																														
			<p><u>Notes cont.</u></p> <p>Medicine Ball and Physical Culture have been started and the later reinforcements are very keen on mounted sword work at the dummies.</p> <p>Good progress has been made with the Educational classes and the following numbers are receiving instruction.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>BOOKKEEPING.</td> <td>2 classes each 6 hours a week,</td> <td>22 receiving instruction.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>STENOGRAPHY.</td> <td>2 classes " 4 " "</td> <td>10 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elementary Surveying.</td> <td>1 class 6 " "</td> <td>7 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farriery.</td> <td>every day.</td> <td>28 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Saddlery</td> <td>do</td> <td>8 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>First Aid Vet.</td> <td>3 days per week</td> <td>10 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Carpentry</td> <td>daily</td> <td>12 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Languages.</td> <td>French and Arabic.</td> <td>2 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Typewriting.</td> <td>daily</td> <td>2 do</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">Total up to date</td> <td><u>101</u></td> </tr> </table> <p>As often as possible men are given the opportunity of visiting the CEDARS OF LEBANON for which purposes they are granted 3 days leave .</p> <p>The Regiment is bivouaced on a dry sloping hill and plenty of tentage is available, very little discomfort is experienced during the wet weather.</p> <p>An E.P. Tent has been fitted up with tables and benches where men can play cards, read or write during their spare time.</p> <p>One day during the month a troop competition was held for the best turned out troop. Brig-General GRANT D.S.O. was asked to judge and he decided in favour of Lieut Gooding's troop with Sgt Jenkins's troop a close second, a case containing 48 plum puddings was given to the winning troop.</p> <p><i>31. This month has been devoted to Educational Classes as per...</i></p> <p><i>FWS</i></p>	BOOKKEEPING.	2 classes each 6 hours a week,	22 receiving instruction.	STENOGRAPHY.	2 classes " 4 " "	10 do	Elementary Surveying.	1 class 6 " "	7 do	Farriery.	every day.	28 do	Saddlery	do	8 do	First Aid Vet.	3 days per week	10 do	Carpentry	daily	12 do	Languages.	French and Arabic.	2 do	Typewriting.	daily	2 do	Total up to date		<u>101</u>	
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4th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information				Remarks and references to Appendices			
			The following were the points received:-							
			Order	Troop.	Sqdn.	Arms possible 20	Bivvy lines possible 15	General turn out. Saddles etc. 65	Possible Total 100	
			1.	C	B	16 1/2.	12	59	87 1/2.	
			2.	B	A	14 1/2	12	58	84 1/2	
			3.	B	B	16 1/2	11 1/2	52	80	
			4.	{	B	C	16 1/2	11	52	79 1/2
					D	C	15	10 1/2	54	79 1/2.
			5.	D	A	16 1/2	12 1/2	50	79	
			6	{	C	A	12	11	53	76
					A	C	15 1/2	10 1/2	50	76
			7	A	A	9 1/2	12 1/2	52	74	
			8	A	B	13	12 1/2	48	73 1/2	
			9	C	C	15 1/2	11 1/2	46	73	
			10	D	B	15	10 1/2	45	70 1/2	
			11		H.Q.	10	10 1/2	42	62 1/2	
			12		Transport	12	9 1/2	30	51 1/2.	

200

J. H. Sheehan Com-adjt Officer Company

A. Reid Major
O.C. 4th L.H. Regt.

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(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293-75 s.o.o. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.