

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

Light Horse

**Item number:** 10/4/10

**Title:** 4th Australian Light Horse  
Brigade

October 1917

Original

— 4<sup>th</sup> A. L. H. Brigade —

— War Diary —

— 1/10/17 - 31/10/17. —

— Volume 1. —

— Pages 51 - 58. —

— Appendices 170 - 188. —

Reuben Stenpe Major  
Brigade Major  
4<sup>th</sup> A. L. H. Brigade

OCT 1917



Original

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Original

4<sup>th</sup> LH Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA.	1/10/17	0930	Brigade Operation Order No 32 issued on Div. order No 13.	Appen 170.
		1120	Conference of COS and adjutants at Bde Hqs. Order No 32 discussed.	
	2/10/17	0645	outposts provided by 4 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt report all clear.	- OCT 1917 Appen 171.  Appen 172
		1000	The Brigade left front line wire to take up the line 840 (exc) - 820 - 810 - 770 - 730 - 630 - 510.	
		2200	12 <sup>th</sup> LH holding the line 840 (exc) - 820 - 810 - 770 - 730 were ordered to withdraw to FARA.	
		2300	4 <sup>th</sup> LH holding the line 630 - 510 - 300 ordered to withdraw to FARA.	
	3/10/17	0100	BHQ & Reserve Troops resumed to FARA.	
		0215	4 <sup>th</sup> LH all in at FARA	
		0225	12 <sup>th</sup> LH all in at FARA.	
		0515	Night Standing Patrols provided by 11 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt report all clear	
		0630	Day outposts provided by 11 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt report all clear.	
		1400	Conference of COS and adjutants at BHQ. Operations of 2 <sup>nd</sup> discussed.	
		1800	Reports on operations of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> sent to Divisional Hqs	
		1955	Day outposts all in. Night Standing Patrols in position. Port Said Rest Party proceeded to Port Said	
	4/10/17	0430	Stand to.	Appen 172
		0500	Night Standing patrols provided by 4 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt report all clear.	
		0650	Day outposts provided by 12 <sup>th</sup> LH Regt report all clear.	
		0800	Day outpost report for the 3 <sup>rd</sup> sent to Divisional Headquarters	

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Sub Lt J. Major



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA	4/10/17	0900	Bde HQ & 11 <sup>th</sup> LIRs commenced Range practice on LHA 31 Range.	
			Lieut A. W. MANNING 11 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regt <del>was</del> recommended for Military Cross for patrol work in connection with Reconnaissance of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct & with appendix 171	
			No 81 Sgt SMITH A. W. 11 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regt & No 380 2/Sgt SMITH W. H. 12 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regt recommended for Military Medal in connection with above Reconnaissance & appendix 171	
		2030	1 Sgt & 5 Scouts patrolled to 630 but failed to locate any enemy posts or patrols. amendments to Operation Order No 31 issued	Appen 173
	5/10/17	0430	Stand to	
		0510	Night standing patrols provided by 12 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regt reported all clear.	
		0610	Day outposts provided by 4 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regt reported in position and all clear	
		0800	Day outpost report for the 4 <sup>th</sup> Oct sent to Div HQs	Appen 174
		1100	Conference at Div HQs on Communications to Aerial Contact patrols.	
		1630	all clear.	
		2030	1 Sgt & 5 Scouts patrolled to 630 & located a Turkish patrol near 550 & 114 SIRI	- OCT 1917
	6/10/17	0430	Stand to. 11 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regiment moved out to day posts.	
		0505	all clear from night standing patrols 4 <sup>th</sup> LIR Regt.	Appen 175
		0800	Day outpost report for 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	
		0900	C in C inspected one sqn 12 <sup>th</sup> LIR & 190 sqn on Range. & also Horses & Bile line	
			Orders for outposts for 7 <sup>th</sup> issued with Proposed scheme for minor operation on the 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Appen 176
			Warrant Officer of Intelligence Personnel of the Brigade	cancelled. = Appen 177



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA	6/10/17	2045	Day outposts all in. Night standing patrols of 11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt report all clear	
	7/10/17	0430	Stand to	
		0500	Night standing Patrols report all clear.	
		0625	Day post of 12 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt report all clear.	
			Corps Commander awarded Military Medal to 81 Sgt W A SMITH 11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt + to 380 L/Cpl N H SMITH 12 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt	
		0800	Day outpost Report for the 6 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	Appen 178
		1830	Night outposts in Position.	
	8/10/17	0430	Stand to.	
		0500	Night outposts report all clear.	
		0615	Day outposts provided by 4 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt report all clear.	Appen 179
		0800	Day outpost report for the 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	
			CHABRI Range handed over to 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde.	
		0845	Hostile aeroplane brought down at 002 EL BITSAZL.	
			Lieut A W MANNING 11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt awarded Military Cross.	
		1620	Day outposts report all clear.	
		2000	SR/435. Code received. Orders issued for minor operations on the 9 <sup>th</sup> .	Appen 180
			11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt one Sqn 12 <sup>th</sup> LIT + one Batt AITAC took up day outpost line.	
	9 <sup>th</sup> /10/17	0430	Stand to. 11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt one Sqn 12 <sup>th</sup> LIT + one Batt AITAC took up day outpost line.	
		0500	Night standing patrols report all clear.	
		0545	Battery opened fire on 630 + 720	
		0615	outposts occupied 630 + 720. No enemy hit.	

Lieut O'Leary Major

OCT 1917



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA	9/10/17	0800	Day outpost Report for 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Appen 181
		1615	Situation all clear.	
		1800	5 <sup>th</sup> Bde took over outpost Bde	
			Stand to for 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde cancelled.	
	10/10/17	0800	Patrol & outpost Report for 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct.	17 ppen 182
	13/10/17		Tactical Scheme. Practice cooperation with aeroplane contact Squadrons. Satisfactory except Klaxon Horn dits & dashes slurred. Men standing about report centre signs & code strips & flags obscured the view	
	16.10.17		Following names submitted for promotion to Brevet Rank in C.M.F. Lieut Col J.W. PARSONS to be Brevet Major Major P.J. BAILEY - - - - Major P.A. CHAMBERS - - - - Major G.J. RANKIN - - - - Major K.A. MCKENZIE - - - on promotion to Captain	
		1530	Divisional Order No 14 received.	
		2200	Bde Operation Order No 33 issued	
	18.10.17	0800	Bde moved out on to the line 840-820-810-790-770. No opposition. Enemy unusually quiet throughout the day.	Appen 183.

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Calvin Major.

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H<sup>nd</sup> IT Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FIRRA.	18/10/17	1450	NOTTS Battery shelled Railway Stn at IRGEIG getting direct hits on to Stn Buildings. also shelled small redoubt at range of 3000 yds shooting good but no casualties could be observed.	
		1730	Bde withdrew without being followed up by the enemy.	
			Divisional Order No 15 received	
	19/10/17	2105	Parties for Zeiton School of instruction entrained.	
	20/10/17	1600	Brigade Operation Order No 34 issued	
	21/10/17	1000	Day outposts taken over by 12 <sup>th</sup> d IT Regiment. A Batt ITTC at GOZ EL BASHAL	Appen 184
	22/10/17	0530	4 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> d IT Regts at SOSEIN.	
			all quiet throughout the day.	
		1700	Night posts taken up by 4 <sup>th</sup> d IT Regt with a troop each at BEIT GHAZALI and 530. Remainder of Bde withdrew to camp.	
			all quiet during the night.	
	23/10/17	0430	Bde stood to. Night posts report all clear.	
			Divisional Operation No 16 received.	
	24/10/17	2100	Bde Operation Order issued. No 35	
	25/10/17	1700	4 <sup>th</sup> Bde relieved 3 <sup>rd</sup> d IT Bde on outpost line	
			Dispositions. Right Sector 11 <sup>th</sup> d IT Regt EL BUGGAR to 630 inclusive Sector HQ at 550 N of IM SIRI	Appen 185 5 OCT 1917

Cap J. J. M. J.



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4<sup>th</sup> LIT Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA	25/10/17		<p>Left Sector 4<sup>th</sup> LIT Regt 630 (exclusive) to 280 inclusive  Sector HQ 800 yards W of 510  Reserves 12<sup>th</sup> LIT Regt MG Sqn less 3 sub-sects 1/2 mile E of 602 EL BASAL  BITQ at 602 EL BASAL  Section Heavy artillery at 550 N of IM SIRI ranged onto BIR IFTEIS  BIR EL GIRHEIR BIR IMLEIH and T15  Section RHA 1000 yards E KHASIF ranged onto E slopes of 720  Section RHA at 550 N of IM SIRI ranged onto E slopes of 630  MG Support <sup>sub</sup> The Section covering 720. one covering 630 one covering 570 &amp; 550.  communications. cables laid to Each regimental sector to Heavy Battery to RHA to 158 Mt Bde. from Regimental Sectors to 720. 630 550 510 Two Tree Hill  Touch was gained with NZMR <sup>Sqn</sup> at 680 KHOR EL AJIRAM both day and night. Touch with ESANI via NZMR at 680  at dawn two enemy patrols located E of EL BUACAR and N of BIR EL GIRHEIR.  510 &amp; 630 shelled with about 20 shells. Otherwise all quiet  outpost line handed over to 8<sup>th</sup> MTD Bde</p>	
	26/10/17	0500		
		1725		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA.	26.10.17		Div order No 17 received. Lieut H. McFARLANE 9 <sup>th</sup> LH appointed Staff Captain	
	27.10.17	0745	Orders to saddle up & be ready to move in support of out post line which was being attacked by one Bde 2 Sgts & 2 Batteries of enemy.	
		1515	Bde operation order No 36 issued	
			Orders issued to be ready to move at 1/2 hr notice throughout the night. and to stand to in full marching order at 0500 on 28 <sup>th</sup> .	
	28.10.17	0500	Stand to	
		1630	Bde moved to Div starting point	
		1700	A B1 & B2 echelons moved with No 1 column via E bank of wadi GHUZZE	
		1730	at Div starting point Brig Gen Grant assumed command of No 2 column & moved to ESANI via W bank of wadi GHUZZE reaching there 2030 and bivouaced.	
ESANI	29.10.17	0830	Bde watered at ESANI. Capt H McFARLANE reported as staff capt	
		1900	Moved to KHALAZA	
KHALAZA		2100	Arrived & bivouaced the night.	
	30.10.17		Divisional operation order No 18 received with March Table to point of concentration at ISWAIWIN. 11 commissions approved	
		1400	Bde operation order No 37 issued	
ASLUT		1800	Bde moved to <del>KHALAZA</del> ASLUT following 3 <sup>rd</sup> LIT Bde	
	31.10.17	0030	Bde halted.	
		0800		

Appen 186.

OCT 1917

Appen 186 a

Appen 187

Calb Tenye Major



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4<sup>th</sup> LIT Bde

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ISWAIWIN	31/10/17	0900	Bde reached ISWAIWIN and concentrated with the Division.	
		1500	11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt ordered to relieve 8 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt on the line 1280-1210 with RHQ at 1180	
BEERSHEBA		1630	Verbal orders received from Division to attack & take BEERSHEBA as quickly as possible operating on the left of the 1 <sup>st</sup> LIT Bde with light on MILAH road and left on ISWAIWIN - BEERSHEBA road. 7 <sup>th</sup> MTD Bde were to cooperate from direction of RAS GHANNAM. 4 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regiments & MA Sqn advanced. 4 <sup>th</sup> on the right each sqn extended 12 <sup>th</sup> on the left in 3 lines. MA Sqn on left of 12 <sup>th</sup> LIT. The Bde went in at the gallop capturing the line of trenches on the plain about one mile E of the town. The Notts BATT silenced & drove out a garrison in a redoubt on point 980 which was enfilading our advance. Meanwhile the 11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt was ordered up & by the time they arrived the Bde had captured the town. The 11 <sup>th</sup> LIT Regt was pushed thro to the W & N edge of the town & held an outpost line against a counter attack. By the morning of the first of Nov the number of prisoners captured was 58 Officers 1090 Other ranks and 8 guns 4 machine guns. Our casualties were 2 Officers 33 ORs Killed 4 - 35 ORs wounded.	
			Report on BEERSHEBA operations	

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Appen 188

Calderhead  
Bde Major  
4<sup>th</sup> LIT Bde



Original.

- OCT 1917

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- 4<sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Brigade -

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## BRIGADE OPERATION ORDER NO. 32

by

Brigadier-General W. GRAVE, D.S.O.

Commanding

4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

Reference 1/125,000 map.

- OCT 1917

Appen 170

Original

6 40/10

1. In order to cover a reconnaissance on the 2nd October the Division will make good the line GOZ SHEHILI - INN SAID - 960 - 970 - 840 - 820 - 810 - 770 - 730 - 630 - 550 - 510 by 1400.
2. (a) The 74th Division are reconnoitring the area bounded on the North by the SABA - PARA road and on the South by the black track running E. W. E. through the first A of ABUSHAH.  
(b) Officers of the 20th Corps are reconnoitring the country made good.
3. The 4th L.H. Bde will take over the duties of Outpost Brigade at 0530 on the 2nd October.
4. The 3rd L.H. Bde will make <sup>be ing</sup> good the line GOZ SHEHILI - 840 (inclusive) by 1400 on 2nd October.
5. Move 2nd October.  
(a) The 4th A.L.H. Regiment will take over the day outpost lines passing through the front line wire at 0530 on 2nd October.  
(b) The 11th A.L.H. Regiment will leave sufficient troops in camp in order to take up the Night Standing Patrols at 1800, on 2nd.  
(c) By 1230 the day outposts will have made good Pt. 720 and 630 in order to prevent the enemy holding up the advance of the column to the line 820 - 810 - 770 - 730.  
(d) By 1400 the 12th L.H. Regiment with 1 Subsection H.G. Sqn attached will make good the line 840 (exclusive) - 820 - 810 - 770 - 730 (inclusive).  
(e) By 1400 the 4th L.H. Regiment with 1 Subsection H.G. attached will make good the line 730 (exclusive) - 630 - 550 - 510 - Two Tree Hill - Pt. 300.  
The day posts on Two Tree Hill and Pt. 300 may be reduced to a half troop each.
6. The 4th L.H. Brigade will move as follows to take up the above line.  
(a) Starting Point. 400 yards East of the gap in front line wire opposite the main PARA crossing.  
(b) Time of Starting. 1000.  
(c) Order of March.  
Advanced Guard. 12th L.H. Regiment and 1 Subsection H.G. Squadron.  
Main Body. B.H.Q., Signal Troop.  
11th L.H. Regiment less Night Standing R Patrols  
H.G. Squadron less 2 Subsections.  
Battery R.H.A.  
Field Ambulance.  
Field Troop.  
(d) 1 Squadron 4th L.H. Regiment will move under orders of G.O. 4th L.H. Regiment.  
(e) The Squadron 1/2 County of London Yeomanry will march so as to be at BASHID BUK by 1215, and report to B.H.Q., two troops will be placed at the disposal of both G.O.C. 179th and 181st Infantry Brigades for the remainder of the reconnaissance.  
(f) "A" Echelon will accompany units. "B" will remain in camp.  
(g) Brigade Headquarters will be established 1 mile N.E. of EL HUGGAR.  
(h) 11th L.H. Regiment, H.G. Squadron less 2 Subsections, Battery R.H.A., Field Ambulance will be in reserve at EL HUGGAR.



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7. Cable communication will be established from Brigade to 4th and 12th L.H. Regiments Headquarters. No lamps will be used. Responsibility for communication will be from right to left.
8. The withdrawal will commence at 2200 for which further orders will be issued later.
9. A Dressing Station will be established at EL HUGGAR at 1400.
10. Advanced D.H.Q. will be established at RASHID BEK at 1200.
11. The Field Troop will arrange to water the Brigade at EL HUGGAR, KHASIF and IN SIRI.
12. The Post at GOZ LAHLEHILAT found by the 2nd Battalion I.C. Brigade is being withdrawn from 1100 on October the 2nd to 0700 on October 3rd.
13. Brigade Scouts. The Scouts will reconnoitre the Wadis HANAYISH, and SIRI reporting on all water in the area. They will also endeavour to find any indications as to the camping areas of the enemy's night posts on or East of the line 720 - 630. Detailed instructions will be issued.
14. No lights will be allowed after 1800.
15. Units will carry one day's rations and fodder only.

*Leah Lengre*

1st October 1917.

Issued at 0930.

Copies to 1. War Diary.

2 " "

3 Australian Mounted Division.

4 4th A.L.H. Regiment.

5 11th " "

6 12th " "

7 H.C. Squadron.

8 "C" Sqn. 1/2 County of London Yeomanry.

9 Field Ambulance.

10 Signal Troop.

11 Field Troop.

12 Battery H.R.A.

13 Spare.

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



REPORT ON OPERATIONS OF 2nd OCTOBER

BY 4TH L.H. BRIGADE.

OCT 1917

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1. Attached are reports from C.O's 4th and 12th L.H. Regiments and from the O.C. Brigade Scouts.
2. 1000 The Brigade left the front line wire.  
1200 The 4th L.H. Regiment occupying the Day Outposts pushed their right forward and occupied 630 and 720 driving off enemy cavalry of 19 and 15 respectively from the above points. When the 12th L.H. Regiment drew level with the 630 - 720 line the 4th L.H. Regt. on 720 drew away to the North to KH ELEIH. The 12th L.H. took up the line TAWIL EL HABARI to 730.  
1355 The Brigade was in position and touch was gained with the 3rd L.H. Brigade on the right.  
1450 In touch by cable with Divisional Headquarters.  
1555 Desert Corps Aeroplane flew over and dropped sketch showing position of forward troops.
3. WITHDRAWAL. "A" Echelon, Battery and Field Ambulance less 2 sand carts were concentrated at KAFM at 2100 and moved with an escort of 1 Squadron to FARA arriving there at 2400.  
12th L.H. Regiment were ordered to withdraw at 2200 and the 4th L.H. at 2300.  
The cable wagon cut out at 2115 and proceeded to RASHID BEK with an escort on 1 N.C.O. and 8 men.  
The withdrawal was not followed up by the enemy.  
The Brigade were all in at FARA at 0315.
4. WATERING. The 11th L.H. Regiment, Battery, M.G. Squadron and Ambulance watered at EL BUGGAR and KHASIF.  
4th L.H. Regiment watered at 550 just N. of IM SIRI.  
12th L.H. Regiment watered only a few troops in the Wadi HANAFISH.
5. INFANTRY RECONNOITRING PARTIES. 3 Brigade Commanders from the 74th Division reported going out to 4th Brigade Headquarters and were provided with escorts from the Squadron 7th Brigade.  
A Lamp was seen flashing on TAWIL EL HABARI by the most forward troops and a patrol went back to investigate and found it coming from a car belonging to the Infantry Reconnaissance.  
Parties of Officers proceeded direct to the Northern portion of the line without reporting to Brigade Headquarters. Several parties went beyond the line held by our troops. Several cars on top of 630 drew shell fire from HAREIRA. In one case a Troop Leader holding a forward position was given orders by a Brigade Commander to provide an escort to the Wadi HANAFISH East of 630. This troop Leader explained that he was holding an position ordered by his Squadron Leader and could not leave it.
6. "B" Battery H.A.C. went out to EL BUGGAR with 6 horse teams. Although the Brigade took 2 hours to reach KHASIF the Battery was fully a mile in rear at KHASIF. 8 horses are required in order to keep pace with the Brigade.

Leab Tenya

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



OCT 1917 B 40/13

RECONNAISSANCE REPORT.

OPERATIONS 2ND. OCTOBER 1917.

By LT.COL.D.CAMERON. COMMANDING 12TH L.H.REGIMENT. A.I.F.

Ref- 1/125000 Map.

October 2nd. The Regiment moved as Advanced Guard to the Brigade from point 400 yards E. of gap in front line wire opposite FARA at 1000. After passing 720 "A" Squadron moved forward and took up the line one mile S. to one mile N. of Point 820. "B" Squadron took up the line one mile S. to one mile N. of Point 810. "C" Squadron took up the line 770 inclusive to 730 inclusive. By 1350 the line 840 exclusive 820, 810, 770, 730 (inclusive) was made good.

**ENEMY.** No opposition was met with in taking up the line. During the day numbers of mounted troops were seen travelling in both directions along GAZA-SABA road. A large camp was observed on a bearing of 128 deg; distant about 2 miles from Pt.810. Another on W. side of Wadi opposite Irgeig bearing of 15 deg; distant about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Point 810. One Squadron of enemy cavalry in vicinity of KH ABU IRGEIG, mounted patrol at "L" of W. EL SUFI. About 1 Regiment of horses watered in small parties of about a troop at a time at a point in WADI SUFI due E. of 770. The watering extended over three hours, from 1400 to 1700. One Company of Infantry North ABU IRGEIG about 1500 yards marching S.E. Two guns shelled 730, one situated about 1000 yards N.E. of KH ABU IRGEIG, the other on a bearing 87 deg; from point 730 and 800 yds E. of "I" in IRGEIG. There was intermittent shellfire from hills W. of 960 & 910, exact positions of guns could not be located.

**ENEMY DEFENCES.** Since going over this country in the latter part of August the enemy has started to entrench on contour 800 about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. of cross roads, about 300 yards of trench has been started but is not completed, being in places only one foot deep, but sufficiently wide enough for men to lie down in them and obtain good cover. Single men fire pits are scattered about on top of the hill. There were 3 machine gun positions which had recently had machine guns in them.

On contour 800 about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. of cross roads and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile N. of FARA-SABA ROAD there are three gun emplacements, recently built, which had the appearance of having had guns in them. More trenches appear to have been dug about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles E. of 840 and these trenches were strongly manned all day, large bodies of enemy infantry being concentrated about the spot.

**AEROPLANE.** No enemy planes were seen. Our own planes signalled they had seen the report centre at 1500. Great difficulty (partially owing to the strong wind that was blowing) was experienced in hearing the Klaxon horn consequently all the flares were not lighted. Judging by the difficulty experienced it would be impossible to hear these horns if much firing was going on in the vicinity.

At 1515 flares were lighted in answer to Klaxon horn by forward posts from 810. At 1520 flares were lit at 770. At 1540 flares were lit at 820. All in answer to the Klaxon horn.

**WATER.** With the exception of the wells at EL BUGGAR no water was located during the day.

**WITHDRAWAL.** At 1000 the Regiment withdrew to FARA, watered at FARA and arrived in bivouac at 0225 third Octr. No enemy seen during withdrawal.

**CASUALTIES.** Eight horses escaped from the horse holders at a Post near Point 730, at 1940. They included 6 rides, 2 Hotchkiss pack, saddles and pack saddles were on them. 4 rides & saddles have since been recovered and one Hotchkiss pack horse was found by the 4th L.H.Regiment injured. It was destroyed by them and the pack saddle has been recovered. Total horses missing now 2 rides, 1 pack. Description of missing horses;

Rides - Brown mare <sup>8</sup> nr.shldr; <sup>C</sup> thigh, star

TH

12



640/14

OCT 1917

RECONNAISSANCE REPORT Continued.

CASUALTIES. Rides - Brown gelding, <sup>C</sup> 12 near thigh, <sup>M</sup> off shldr.  
Pack - Grey gelding <sup>S</sup> near thigh ~~off shldr.~~  
The saddlery that is missing consists of two sets (universal)  
complete.  
One Hotchkiss Ammunition pack complete with 1920 rounds of  
S.A.A.

A flight of birds frightened the horses. The horseholders  
were injured in attempting to prevent their escape.

*W. Curran* Lt.Col.

12th L.H. Regiment. A. I. F.



4th. Light Horse Regt.

REPORT ON DAY OUTPOSTS 2/10/17.

*B 40/15*  
OCT 1917

~~0615~~

0615. Day Outposts in position and reported all clear, with the exception of 630, which was held by the enemy of a strength of 19.

0930. An advanced patrol reconnoitred S. of 630 and were fired on by enemy from 630.

1130. A patrol of 9 men approached 630 and engaged the enemy from the S. He immediately withdrew into the Wadi towards KHDORBIT.

1200. Enemy dropped 2 shells at BIR EL GIRHEIR from direction of BIR IFTEIS.

The line 630 - 720 was made good. 15 enemy withdrawing from 720 into broken ground in W. HANAFISH in direction of 730.

1340. A reconnoitring patrol was fired on by enemy from 580 in W. EL SUFI

1400. The regiment had made good the line 730 (exc) - 630 - 550 - 510 - Pt 300.

1430. The Report Centre sign was put out on 550. (Regimental Headquarters)

1410. Post of 8 enemy was observed between C and U in CULTIVATION E. of BIR IFTEIS.

1450 The dropped 12 H.E. shells on the S.E. slopes of 510. The gun was observed to be 82° from Two Tree Hill,  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile E. of W. IMLEIH, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile N. of B in BIR IFTEIS on the black track. This gun also fired at 1630.

1520. Enemy shelled Northern slopes of 630, dropping 14 shells in 3 mins. from direction of BIR IFTEIS.

1630. For demonstration purposes one flare was lit at Pt ~~300~~ 300 and also one each at 630 and BIR IMLIEH.

1940. About 12 enemy cavalry approached outpost near BIR IMLIEH, on being challenged they retired under fire of outpost along contour towards G in GIRHEIR, immediately a red flare was sent up by the enemy towards direction of IFTEIS.

1945. The outpost at BIR IMLEIH reported horses galloping from direction of 730 and disappeared into broken ground in W. HANAFISH.

2225. Horses suddenly appeared from Wadi near BIR EL GIRHEIR galloping around the slopes of 630. The outpost on the slope of 630 fired on them as they crossed the front. Horses then galloped towards towards the Wadi at BIR IMLIEH. At 2230 a horse with Hotchkiss Gun pack and ammunition was caught at BIR IMLIEH, the horse was badly wounded and died shortly afterwards. The Hotchkiss equipment was brought back and has since been claimed by 12th. L.H. Regt.

2230. The right flank of the outpost line retired on a line 630 - 720 to conform with the movement of the left flank of 12th. L.H. Regt.

2300. The outpost line commenced to withdraw. B Squadron being on the extreme left withdrew direct to FARA. A and C Squadrons withdrew to GOZ EL BASAL

0230 (3/10/17). The Regiment arrived in bivouac.

*Austmann*  
Lieut  
Adj't.



REPORT ON OPERATIONS BY BRIGADE SCOUTS. 2/10/17

Reference BEERSHEBA 1/125,000

OCT 1917

INSTRUCTIONS. Reconnoitre WADIS HANAFISH and SUFI from source to outlet.

STRENGTH OF PATROLS. SUFI Patrol : 1 Officer, 2 Sergeants and 11 O/R's.  
HANAFISH Patrol : 1 Sgt. 5 O/R's.

SUFI PATROL.

ROUTE. (From FARA via KHASIF - 820 - KH EL SUFI thence down Wadi  
( arrg. (0930) (1130) (1430) (1440)  
bed to a new well 900 yards South of Pt. 650 (Sq. C 5).  
Here we were held up and retired. Reported back to B.H.Q.  
at 1745 ( IM N E BUGGAR).

ACCESS. Using Wadis as access country is passable for all arms the whole way. Hills are stoney and slopes steep. Formation limestone. FARA - SABA road is easily followed and is in good order.

FUEL. Nil.

ENEMY DISPOSITIONS The first redoubt we saw was at a point about 500 yards N.W. of where black track, red road and telegraph line meet 1 inch S.E. of BIR ABU IRGEIG. This redoubt would accomodate about 1 Company and 1 Platoon. This was manned when we passed. There is at least 1 M.Gun in this redoubt. Second redoubt was on Pt. 650 just South of I in BIR ABU IRGEIG. This redoubt would accomodate about 1 Company and 2 Platoons. About two platoons manned this redoubt and the open country near by and laid in wait for our patrol. There are at least 2 M.Guns in this redoubt. About 2½ Squadrons of Cavalry are bivouaced 2½ to 3 miles N.E. of SUFI near Hill 870. The left bank of Wadi SUFI S.W. of 650 redoubt is loopholed and manned by about a platoon. About 2 Squadrons of Cavalry moved from BEERSHEBA towards SUFI at 1500. One Squadron came toward 650 from direction of KH ABU IRGEIG. They appeared to have instructions to patrol the Telegraph line.

ENEMY ACTIONS. They scarcely made any movement and allowed us to race up to what proved to be an old well recently dug out. This well was within 900 yards of the 650 redoubt. (Particulars in water report) Sgt SMITH of the 11th L.H. and L/Sgt SMITH N of 12th L.H. determined to measure this well although it was right in the open. They dismounted and did their job. They hardly mounted before a barrage of rifle and M.Gun fire was put right round us, ~~although only about 100 rifles~~ and about 100 yards in front. About 3 M.Guns and 200 rifles were operating against us. Although only about 100 rifles from 650 appeared to be under good control. The rest of the firing was independent. They lifted the barrage as we galloped out and followed us for 1000 yards. We could get no cover. It is an awkward redoubt to approach from S. and West. When the rifle fire ceased two small guns opened shrapnel and pisted us back to a point about 1 mile N.E. of Hill 820 (C.7). At 820 a Battery put a salvo of shrapnel just behind us This firing was from the direction of BEERSHEBA. The H.E. gun from the North then had 2 shots at the patrol.

OTHER FEATURES. There is a natural raised platform of earth about 1 mile S.E. of Pt. 650 upon which is mounted what looks like a small anti-aircraft gun. We could not say for certain what it was. A hut stands near by with what looks like a man standing on the S.W. corner of the roof. I believe this to be a dummy observation post.

-/2 STABLES.



OCT 1917

640/17

STABLES.

At KH EL SUFI there is a large cave cut in the limestone with stone front and floor and a wooden door. It is 35' square and used to accomodate horses. We did not see the SUFI well, but the floor of the stables were wet, believed to be with water, so the well is probably near by. The stables would accomodate 50 horses, are cleaned out occasionally and were used on the 2/10/17. We concluded they were used daily. A stone hut stands near by. There is a Tree on a branch Wadi  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch N. of SUFI useful for identification.

WIRE.

There is no wire near any of the redoubts.

TELEPHONE.

We got within 1000 yards of Telegraph line. It is easily visible from Wadi and could be cut at the posts with rifle fire from Wadi. Patrol returned to EL BUGGAR where we reported to Brigade and got into communication with HANAFISH patrol by telephone to 4th L.H. Regt. Headquarters. Returned to camp at 2100.

ROADS.

KH IMLEIH. Crossing good for all arms. Not used for 48 hours.

EL GEHEIR. Good crossing all arms. Fairly old tracks visible. There are formed roads here. Not metalled.

~~Patrol~~ Patrol shelled away from here.

REMARKS.

There are no signs of recent camps anywhere along the HANAFISH Wadi.

ENEMY.

No enemy were seen about the HANAFISH.



SECRET.

DAY OUTPOST REPORT.

for 3rd October 1917



0445. Night Standing Patrols reported all clear.

0500. Day outposts moved out.

Appen 17 2  
- OCT 1917

0540. Enemy patrol of 8 men rode away from the cistern just North of KHASIF (where they had been watering) up the W. UM SIRR.

0550 Enemy patrols appeared on 630 and 720..

0610. All day outposts in position.

0840. An enemy patrol of 10 men rode out at the gallop from Wadi N.E. of EL BUGGAR via SIRR towards 630. One of our troops and a Machine Gun was sent against 630 but failed to push the enemy off 630. Two enemy patrols attempted to work forward from 720.

1020. 32 Explosions heard in the direction of BEERSHEBA.

1245. 3 Troops and a Subsection M.G. Squadron cleared up the situation on 630 and 720. One of our horses killed. Enemy driven back to Wadis IMLEIH and HANAFISH.

1515. 630 was occupied by one of our Troops supported by another Troop and 1 Machine Gun  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile South of 630.

1800. Day outposts withdrew.

4/10/17.

*Real Kenzie*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.

W.D.



Reference Brigade Operation Order No. 31 - OCT 1917

1. Para. 4 Sub. para. 2.  
~~Delete "In addition ----- to ----- 1 Subsection H.C. Squadron."~~  
Substitute: In addition two troops and one Subsection H.C. Squadron will be in support at GOZ EL BASAL and two troops at GOZ EL GHILIB. The remaining Squadron of the Regiment with one Subsection H.C. Squadron attached will move to K 27 D 1/40,000 GAZA - SHELLAL at 0530 and remain in reserve for the day. An orderly will remain at the Signal Office at "A" Battery H.A.C. for communications. Reserve Squadron will also communicate with GOZ EL BASAL by helio. Lines will be put down for the reserve troops and they will off-saddle but will be ready to move at short notice. They will be watered half at a time. No. 1 and 2 posts and support troop at GOZ EL BASAL will be relieved for water at different times by the Reserve Squadron.
2. Para. 4 (b) Sub. paras 1 and 2. are cancelled and the following substituted :-  
"The following posts will be found by the Outpost Brigade :-  
1. A troop of not less than 16 H.C.O's and men at Pt. 280.  
2. A troop of not less than 25 H.C.O's and men at Cross roads between EL HAGHIL and EL DAMATH.  
3. A troop of not less than 25 H.C.O's and men at On road 1/2 mile N. of U in CULTIVATION.  
4. A troop of not less than 25 H.C.O's and men at E of ANU GOSSEIN.  
  
Patrols of 1 H.C.O. and 2 men will be sent every two hours commencing at 1800 towards the next post and will meet the patrol from that post half way between. In addition No. 4 Post will send a patrol to the Wadi GHUZZE opposite EL RUHMA.  
Total strength of outposts.  
One Squadron with its full complement of Officers.  
C.C. Squadron will be at No. 3 Post which will be the report centre.  
Posts will be in lateral communication by wire."
3. C.C. 4th Battalion I.C. Brigade is relieving 2nd Battalion on Patrol Duties.

4th October, 1917.

*Leadb. Temple*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.

- Copies to :-
- 1 War Diary.
  - 2 " "
  - 3 4th A.L.H. Regiment.
  - 4 11th " "
  - 5 12th " "
  - 6 H.C. Squadron.
  - 7 "A" Battery H.A.C.
  - 8 Field Ambulance.
  - 9 Signal Troop.
  - 10 Spare.



SECRET.

DAY OUTPOST REPORT.

4th October, 1917.

*Appen 174*

*640/20*

OCT 1917

4-10-17.

0620. Outposts in position, all clear.
0700. Nine enemy seen on Hill 630.
0730. Forward Post KHASIF reports in position all clear.
0900. One Squadron and 1 Subsection M.G.S. moved off from GOZ EL BASAL to make good points 720 and 630. Reserve Squadron less 1 Troop and 1 Subsection M.G.S. moved up from UM URGAM to GOZ EL BASAL.
1105. Hill 720 made good. Enemy patrol reported in vicinity of 810.
1225. Hill 630 made good.
1245. One Squadron withdrew from Hill 630.
1255. Reserve Squadron less one Troop and 1 Subsection M.G.S. withdrew from GOZ EL BASAL returning to UM URGAM.
1330. 2 enemy troops occupied 630.
1430. 1 of our Troops occupied 550.
1730. Troop withdrew from 550 to Contour 500, and thence to FARA. Enemy still occupied 630, when troop withdrew from 550, a white flare was observed behind 630.
1100. ENEMY. - 60 enemy mounted on horses, camels and foot, were observed by advanced patrols from 720 withdrawing in N.E. direction, about 2500 yards distant. Enemy patrols were seen in vicinity of 810. On the Southern side of W. INLEIH a section of men occupied a small trench, near W. of WAM INLEIH, and a mounted patrol of 8 men were seen near IFTEIS. Bombing practice was carried on about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile N.E. of 380.
1730. WITHDRAWAL. Forward post withdrew.
1800. Outpost line withdrew.

*Leab Lenze*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



DAY OUTPOST REPORT FOR 5/10/17

B.G/213  
6-10-17

0600. All posts in position. Situation normal. **OCT 1917** *Appendix 125*  
0645. Enemy shelled 510 from direction N. of BIR IFTEIS. *E 40/21*  
0720. Enemy dropped 6 H.E. shells  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile S.W. of 510 from direction of HAREIRA.  
0730. Advanced ~~enemy~~ patrol was fired on from Hill 630 which was held by about 20 enemy cavalry.  
0755. Hill 630 occupied, enemy retiring in direction of 720.  
1015. Our forward patrols from KHASIF were fired on from 720 and on reconnoitring reported it to be held with a Machine Gun and 50 rifles.  
1100. Three troops and one Subsection M.G. Squadron operated against the enemy on 720. He withdrew without opposition towards 730.  
1210. 15 H.E. shells were fired at 720 from direction N.N.E. of 720 falling approximately 1000 yards short.  
1510. Enemy shelled S.W. slopes of 510 (7 shells) from direction of BIR IFTEIS and at 1620, 4 shells  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile S.W. of 510 from direction of HAREIRA.  
1615. Situation normal.  
1800. Night Standing Patrols in position. Day Outposts withdrew.

*Leab Tengie*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



SECRET.

4th A.L.H. Regt.  
11th " "  
12th " "  
4th M.G. Sqn.  
"A" Batt. H.A.C.  
~~Reserve Sqn. 11th A.L.H.~~



Appendix 176  
640/22

1. 12th L.H. Regiment will take over the day outposts tomorrow the 7th and the night outposts on the night 7th/8th.
2. The position of the Reserve Squadron is about 300 yards East of "A" Battery H.A.C. and West of both wire entanglements.
3. With a view to carrying out a minor operation at a later date against the enemy on 630 and 720 the O.C. Outpost will not occupy these points unless the enemy attempts to establish himself in strength on the above line.  
*gout* On the 11th October the Reserve Squadron 11th A.L.H. Regt. will be required to escort "A" Battery H.A.C. and assist in the operation. C.O. will instruct the O.C. of this Squadron to accompany O.C. "A" Battery H.A.C. to the outpost line tomorrow. Time leaving will be notified.

Attention is drawn to the prompt rendering of situation reports from O.C. Outposts. Much inconvenience is being caused through these reports not being at the Office this Office at the times specified.

*Leab Tenye*

6/10/17.

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



DC/220.  
7/10/17.

Proposed Scheme for Minor Operation to be carried out  
on 9th October.

OCT 1917

afjw 177  
640/23

1. INFORMATION. When the usual day outpost line has been taken up the enemy has always been located on 630 and 720 at daylight. The outpost troops have operated against parties of up to 50 on these points each day, driving them eastwards. When our troops withdrew to the usual outpost line the enemy has invariably occupied these points as points of observation and advantage.  
From the 6th October the outposts have not been operating against the usual patrols and posts on the above line and the enemy have held 630 and 720 from early morning.
2. PROPOSAL. It is proposed to shell 630 and 720 on the morning of the 9th October.
3. SCHEME. The O.C. Battery, O.C. Escort Squadron, and Brigade Scouts will reconnoitre the ground today the 7th Oct.
4. In order to have the Battery in position by daylight the outpost line will be taken up as follows :-
  - (a) The outpost line will be taken up by 0400.
  - (b) The two support troops at GOZ EL GELIB will move to BASAL making a Squadron and one sub-section M.G. Squadron.
  - (c) The Reserve Squadron and one sub-section M.G. Squadron will escort the Battery into position at 550 N. of F in KHASIE.
  - (d) Another Squadron will move to GOZ EL GELIB.
  - (e) Total troops in the outpost area 4 Squadrons.  
2 Sub-sections M.G. Sqn.  
1 Battery.

*The battery will remain in position.*
5. ~~At daylight all troops will be concentrated~~ to give the enemy on 630 and 720 the impression that only the usual day posts have been taken up.  
When a favourable opportunity offers itself one section of guns will fire at 630 and section at 720 searching in rear of these points and then searching the Wadi HANAFISH.  
The outposts will then immediately move forward rapidly and occupy 630 and 720, the Battery withdrawing while these points of observation are deneged the enemy.

7th October 1917.

*Leab Teigne*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



S E C R E T.

B.G/219  
6-10-17.

DAY OUTPOST REPORT, 6/10/17.

- OCT 1917

*Append 178*

*840/24*

0515. Passed through wire.

0635. Hill 630 was held by 7 Turkish cavalry, who retired without firing on the approach of our patrol. Established observation post 1000 yards E. of Point 630 with a troop and subsection M.G. in support. All other day posts in position by 0645. Troop in support at 630 sent a patrol to Wadi HANAFISH at 0830 and 1000 who reported all clear on return. Eight shrapnel fired by enemy field gun (a specimen attached) on to 630. This gun was removed at 0715 by 6 horses towards EL SHERIA. It was located 2000 yards N.W. of Viaduct.

Between 0840 and 1000 four Sqdns of mounted troops watered at BIR ABU IRGEIG.  
0700. No. 3 Post sent a patrol towards IFTEIS. On reaching a trench shown by SHERIA map 1/40,000 Sq. J.36 an Infantry outpost was leaving the trench at the time, the patrol fired on them and at once retired. A battery opened fire on the patrol from a Point 520 North of IFTEIS, ref. BEERSHERA 1/125,000. Nine shots were fired. No casualties. Three more shots were fired at Point 510.

1100. Patrol sent towards BIR IFTEIS on reaching Point 500 yards W. of K in KHIRBIT was fired at by troops in Wadi at junction of small Wadi 300 yards North of K in KHIRBIT. A convoy of about 900 camels was seen moving from HAREIRA in the direction of KAUWUKAH.

1700. An engine and two trucks passed over Viaduct in direction of SABA. All patrols withdrew at this hour.

WATERING. All posts with the exception of 1 and 2 Posts were watered by 1300, at Cistern 500 yards North of KHASIF.

*Leadbetter*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



Appen 179

8 40/25

OCT 1917

0610. Day Outposts in position.

0630. Enemy observed in small numbers occupying 630, with small forward post on 550.

0700. Enemy Machine Gun practice was heard going on in WADI, N. of 510. Numerous bodies of enemy cavalry ~~seen~~ were seen N. of 510, on N. bank of WADI IMLEIH. Enemy helio was seen on 630. Enemy outpost observed opposite Two Tree Farm, on the bank of WADI IMLEIH.

0800. KHAIST and 720 "All Clear".

0816. Reserve Squadron in position, and in touch with Posts No.1, 2, and 3 report "All Clear".

0830. No. 3 Post shelled with small H.E. Several of these shells d  
dropping amongst the horses on contour 500. They came from a  
N.E. direction.

1000. No. 4 Post reports forward patrols at IM SIRI, and S. of KHASIA in position, and a small enemy patrol advancing from EL HATHIRA.

1015. Small enemy post on contour S. of H near EL BUGGAR.

1120. A number of enemy left 630 withdrawing one at a time, later another body of about 20 mounted men came from E.N.E. direction to 630.

1230. Two suspected spies, who were captured making from the direction of TEL EL FARA towards the Turkish lines were sent into ~~attack~~ Brigade Headquarters.

1500. Enemy Post near EL BUGGAR withdrew.

1630. Situation normal. Small enemy patrol still on 630. Elsewhere "All Clear".

1745. Outpost line withdrew. Small enemy patrol still on 630.  
Elsewhere "All Clear".

1830. Day Outpost passed through Night Outpost line.

CASUALTIES. - Nil.

1650. SUPPLEMENTARY. No. 4 Patrol reports two ten pound H.B. shells fired from the direction of 630. One landed within two hundred yards of stone heap at IM SIRI, the other twelve hundred yards from 550, near BEIT ABU TAHA. The O.C. Patrol is confident that these were fired from the vicinity of 630.

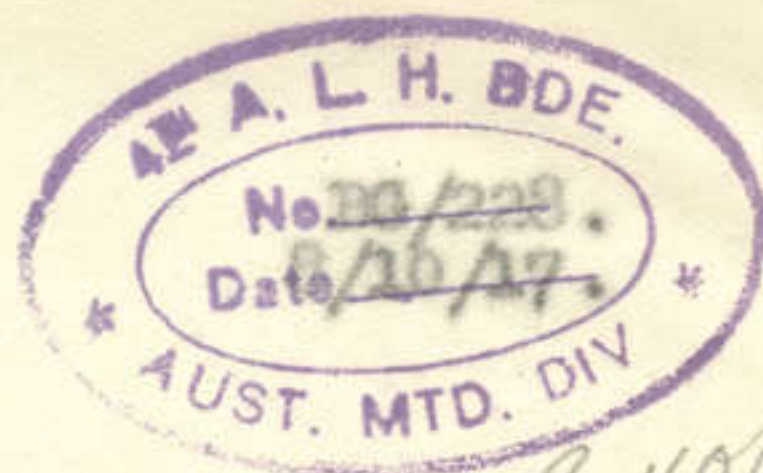
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



S E C R E T.

4th A.L.H. Regt.  
11th " "  
12th " "  
4th M.G. Sqn.  
"A" Battery H.A.C.

*Appendix 180*



OCT 1917

1. On the morning of the 9th October a minor operation will be carried out against enemy posts on 630 and 720 by the following troops under the command of Lieut-Col. J.W. PARSONS, D.S.O.
2. By 0400 on the 9th October the 11th A.L.H. Regiment will occupy the usual day outpost line.  
By 0400 the two support troops at GOZ EL GELIB will move to GOZ EL BASAL.  
The Reserve Squadron 11th A.L.H. Regiment and 1 sub-section M.G. Squadron will leave K 27 D as escort to "A" Battery H.A.C. to KHASIF in order to be in position by 0400.  
One Squadron 12th A.L.H. Regiment will move to GOZ EL GELIB by 0400 and will be in helio communication with BASAL and in telephone communication through B.H.Q. to BASAL. This Squadron will act under orders of C.O. 11th A.L.H. Regiment.
3. By daylight all troops in the outpost area will be so concealed to give the enemy the impression that only the usual outpost line has been taken up.
4. O.C. Battery will wait for a favourable opportunity to open fire on 630 and 720.
5. As soon as the Battery opens fire the O.C. outposts will move the Squadron at GELIB and the Squadron at KHASIF rapidly forward and occupy the line 630 - 720 to endeavour to capture or pick up any wounded.  
The Brigade Scouts will operate under orders of C.O. 11th A.L.H. Regiment, less one Sergt. and two men who will accompany the escort squadron and Battery as guides.
6. The Battery after firing will immediately withdraw to TEL EL PARA via ANU SOSHIN avoiding KAHK and GOZ EL BASAL covered by the squadron and sub-section M.G. Sqn at GOZ EL BASAL while the points 630 and 720 are denied the enemy as observation points.
7. If all is quiet after the operation the C.O. 11th A.L.H. Regiment will withdraw the squadron of the 12th A.L.H. Regiment at GELIB.
8. C.O. 11th A.L.H. Regiment will report on the situation every hour commencing 0400.
9. Battery will carry the limber rounds with them. No other wheels will accompany them.
10. Troops will go out as light as possible. No lights till 0530.
11. The question may arise as to when the Artillery should open fire. This must be left to the discretion of the O.C. "A" Battery H.A.C.
12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

8th October, 1917.

*Leahy*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



S E C R E T.

*Appendix 181*

DAY OUTPOST REPORT 8/10/17.

*OCT 1917*

*6 40/27*

0610. Day Outposts in position. Small enemy patrol of 4 men on 630.
0630. Our forward patrol from 510 was fired on from 550 by about 12 rifles.
0700. Enemy shelled slopes of 510 from direction of HIR IPTAIS.
0845. Enemy aeroplane "Albatross Scout" was observed to be landing after an air fight near GOZ EL BASAL. One reserve troop immediately mounted and galloped after the plane which was at this time very low. Upon landing the pilot surrendered. He stated he intended to burn his machine on landing "but the cavalry came too quickly!"  
The second reserve troop was sent in direction of 720 to make good IM SIRI and 550 ridges to guard against any movement the enemy might make from that quarter, as 30 enemy showed themselves on 720 as the plane landed.
1100. Reserve troops withdrew to GOZ EL BASAL.
1615. Situation normal.
1700. 10 enemy cavalry occupied 630. Hill 720 all clear.
1830. Night standing patrols in position. Day outposts withdrew.

9/10/17.

*Leah Tengre*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



SECRET.

B.G/233  
10-10-17

Appendix 182

DAY OUTPOST REPORT, 9/10/17

OCT 1917

0400. The usual day outpost line was taken up with "A" Battery H.A.C. at KHASIF and 1 Squadron 12th L.H. Regiment at GOZ EL GELEIB.
0540. Two horsemen were seen on 630.
0545. Battery opened fire on 630 and 720.  
No. 3 Post reports that when the first shell burst on Point 630 about 9 Turks jumped out of their trenches and hesitated about moving. When more shells came over they rushed their horses and rode towards the WADI IMLEIH. Shells seemed to burst about 100 yards too far forward. In getting away the enemy seemed to come more under this fire but there were no casualties as a troop rushed this position a few minutes after fire ceased. A dead camel was noticed in a dug-out. It had been dead about 3 days, possibly killed by overs from Machine Gun fire in the attack on this position on the 3rd inst. A troop rushed 720 directly the shelling had ceased but could find no trace of enemy or any fresh track. There were three H.E. shell holes 30 yards East of Hut, one a 100 yards N.W.
0740. Counted 25 Mounted Cavalry at Point 820.  
A Turk surrendered at Post 1 Point 300, had neither arms or equipment in possession.  
Enemy mounted patrol of 14 took up position on Hill 730 from 0730 to 1000.  
About two Regiments of mounted troops watered in vicinity of BIR ABU IRGEIG.
0830. Gave orders for 12th L.H. to return to camp.
1430. All outpost horses watered.
1600. Train observed, engine and two trucks, going to KH ABU IRGEIG.
1700. Regiment withdrew from outpost line.

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



SECRET.

COPY NO. 1.....

BRIGADE OPERATION ORDER NO. 33

by

Brigadier-General W. GRANT, D.S.O.

Commanding

4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

640/24  
Appen 170  
183  
OCT 1917

Reference 1/125,000 Map.

1. The Division with 7th Mtd. Bde. attached will cover a reconnaissance by Officers of the XXth Corps on Thursday October 18th.
2. The following line will be made good by 1200 :-  
7th Mtd. Bde. Point 870 E. of KHALASA to 840 (exclusive).  
4th L.H. Bde. 840 (inclusive) to 770 (inclusive).  
5th Mtd. Bde. 770 (exclusive) to 300.  
The withdrawal will commence at 1730, orders for which will be issued later.
3. The 11th L.H. Regiment with one Squadron <sup>4th L.H. Regt</sup> 1/2 County of London Yeomanry and 3 Subsections M.G. Squadron attached will make good the line 840 inclusive to 770 inclusive by 1200 as follows :-  
One Squadron from 840 inclusive to SABA - FARA road (exclusive).  
11th L.H. Regt. from SABA - FARA road (inclusive) to 770 (inclusive).  
In order to cover a reconnaissance by the XXth Corps Officers of the Wadi EL SUFI and Point 790, two Subsections M.G. Sqn. attached 11th L.H. Regt. will cover the approaches from the Wadi EL SUFI North and South of Point 790.  
"A" Battery H.A.C. will send an Officer forward with the Advanced Guard to reconnoitre a covered approach to a position for the Battery to come into action from the vicinity of Cross Roads TAWEL EL HABARI to shell Wadi EL SUFI.
4. Order of March.  
Advanced Guard  
11th L.H. Regiment with 1 Sqn 1/2 County London Yeomy. and 3 Subsections M.G. Sqn attached.  
Also Field Troop.  
Main Body.  
B.H.Q.  
Signal Troop.  
4th L.H. Regt. <sup>less one Squadron</sup>  
"A" Battery H.A.C.  
12th L.H. Regt.  
M.G. Squadron less 3 Subsections.  
Field Ambulance.  
Starting Point. 400 yards E. of gap in front line wire opposite main FARA crossing.  
Time of Starting. 0800.
5. 11th L.H. Regt. will gain touch with 5th Bde. on the left. Sqn 1/2 County London Yeomanry will gain touch with 7th Bde. on the right. A cable will be laid to Headquarters 11th L.H. Regt. from Brigade Headquarters. The Sqn. 1/2 County London Yeomy. will communicate direct with Bde. Headquarters by visual and if possible with 11th L.H. Regt.
6. Brigade Headquarters will be established at the V in CULTIVATION. 4th L.H., 12th L.H., M.G. Sqn less 3 Subsections and Field Ambulance will be in reserve West of Bde. Headquarters.
7. Watering. Morning 18th October  
4th L.H. Regt. 0600.  
12th " " 0615.  
B.H.Q., Sig. Troop, Ambulance 0630.  
M.G. Sqn. 0645.  
11th L.H. Regt. 0700.
8. "B" Echelon will remain in camp. "A" Echelon will accompany Units. Units will take rations and fodder for October 18th.
9. Divisional Headquarters will be established at Point 680 KHOR EL AJRAM.



C40/30

OCT 1917

- 2 -

10. Officers of XXth~~re~~ Corps should be within the line by 1730.
11. Divisional Dressing Station at Point 680 KHOR EL AJRAM.
12. The pumping parties and guards in the Wadi GHUZZE of the 4th L.H. Regt. will remain in camp.

16th October, 1917.

Issued at 2200.

Copies to :-

1. War Diary.
  2. " "
  3. Camp Commandant.
  4. M.G. Squadron.
  5. Signal Troop.
  6. 4th A.L.H. Regt.
  7. 11th " "
  8. 12th " "
  9. Field Ambulance.
  10. "A" Battery H.A.C.
  11. 1/2 County London Yeomy. ( "C" Sqdn. ).
  - 12~~th~~ 4th Field Troop.
  13. File.
- 

*Leadbetter*  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



To R.H.Q.  
4th A.L.H. Regt.  
11th " "  
122th " "  
H.Q. Squadron.  
"B" Battery H.A.C.

"A" Battery H.A.C.  
Field Ambulance.  
Signal Troop.  
War Diary (2).



OCT 1917 E 40/31

Reference Brigade Operation Order No. 35.

1. For "A" Battery H.A.C. read "B" Battery H.A.C.
2. Para 3 is cancelled and the following substituted :-  
"The 11th L.H. Regiment with one Squadron 4th L.H. Regiment and three Subsections H.Q. Squadron attached will make good the line 840 inclusive to 770 inclusive by 1200 as follows :-  
One Squadron 4th L.H. Regiment from 840 inclusive to PARA - SABA road exclusive.  
11th L.H. Regiment from PARA - ~~SABA~~ SABA road inclusive - 820 - 790 - 810 - 770 inclusive.  
In order to cover a reconnaissance by the XXth Corps Officers of the Wadi EL SUFI the 11th L.H. Regiment will hold Point 790 and two Subsections H.Q. Squadron will cover the Wadi EL SUFI from KH EL SUFI as far as the W in Wadi EL SUFI.  
"B" Battery H.A.C. will send an Officer forward with the Advance Guard to reconnoitre a covered approach and position to shell the Wadi EL SUFI and enemy works in the vicinity of Point 650.
3. 11th L.H. Regiment and Squadron 4th L.H. Regiment will report hourly on the situation commencing 1200.

17th October, 1917.

*Leah Lengye*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



SECRET.

COPY NO. 3

BRIGADE OPERATION ORDER NO. 34

by  
Brigadier-General W. GRANT, D.S.O.  
Commanding  
4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

Appen  
184  
640/32

Reference 1/125.000.

OCT 1917

1. At 0530 on 22nd October the 4th L.H. Brigade will take over the duties of Outpost Brigade from the 3rd L.H. Brigade.
2. The 12th L.H. Regiment with one Battery R.H.A. and two Subsections Machine Gun Squadron will occupy and hold the Outpost line by 0600 as follows :-
  - (a) One troop at each of the following points :-
    1. EL BUGGAR.
    2. 720.
    3. 630.
    4. 510 ABU SHAWISH.
    5. TWO TREE HILL.
    6. Point 800.
  - (b) Local Supports.  
One troop and one Subsection M.G. Squadron in support of 630.  
Local Reserve. *One troop and one subsection m.g. sqdn in support of 720.*  
One Squadron and Battery R.H.A. at GOZ EL BASAL.
3.
  - (a) 4th L.H. Regiment less one Squadron doing duties, will be in Outpost Support at garden ABU SOSEIN at 0530.
  - (b) 11th L.H. Regiment and M.G. Squadron less 2 Subsections will be in Outpost Reserve East of the front line wire opposite UM URSAN crossing at 0530.
  - (c) Brigade Headquarters will be at ABU SOSEIN at 0530.
  - (d) "A" and "B" Echelons less Water carts will remain in camp.
  - (e) Field Ambulance will remain in camp.
4. B.H.Q. will communicate to GOZ EL BASAL by wire and visual.
5. Arrangements are being made to water the troops on the forward line at KHASIF, IM SIRI and 500 N of IM SIRI.  
Support and Reserve Regiments will water at PARA, orders for which will be issued later.
6. The Outposts will withdraw at 1730 if all is quiet through the Night Outpost line.
7. The 4th L.H. Regiment will take over the Night Outposts in accordance with B.G./200 by 1730 on 22nd October.
8. Stand to and Reports will be in accordance with Operation Order No. 31.
9. It is again impressed upon all units the necessity of keeping off all motor roads.
10. On the night 21st/22nd October, the 3rd L.H. Brigade hold KH EL FAR and GOZ EL BASAL as part of the Night Outpost line.
11. At 0530 on 23rd October the 5th Mounted Brigade will take over duties of Outpost Brigade.

21st October, 1917

Issued at :-

Copies to :-

- 1, 2 & 3 War Diary.
- 4 Signal Troop.
5. 4th A.L.H. Regiment.
6. 11th " "
7. 12th " "
8. M.G. Squadron.

9. Ambulance.
10. Battery R.H.A.
11. Spare.

Leadbey  
Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



E40/33

OCT 1917

SECRET.



To 4th A.L.H. Regiment.  
11th " "  
12th " "  
H.Q. Squadron.  
Field Ambulance.  
Signal Troop.  
Battery R.H.A.  
War Mary.  
Spare.

Reference Brigade Operation Order No. 34 Para 7.

In order to protect convoys from GAZI to EBAN along the West bank of the Wadi GHUZZE, the 4th L.H. Regiment will establish posts of one troop each at HIT GHAZALI and Point 530 one mile N.W. of GERATIN from 1630 to 0630 on night 22nd/23rd of October.

These posts will communicate with each other and HIT - GHAZALI with I.C.C. Post on 630 TEL. ITUNEL every two hours throughout the night.

21st October, 1917

*Leab Tengri*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



BRIGADE OPERATION ORDER NO. 35  
by  
Brigadier-General W. GRANT, D.S.O.  
Commanding  
4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

*E 40/34*  
*Appendix 185*

Reference 1/125,000.

**- OCT 1917**

1. At 1700 on 25th October the 4th L.H. Bde. will take over duties of Outpost Brigade.
2. The line EL HUGGAR - 720 - 630 - 550 - 510 will be held as a line of resistance. From 510 (exclusive) to 280 inclusive will be held as observation posts.
3. From before dawn on the 26th October one Infantry Brigade of 53rd Division will be in the GOZ EL GELEIB - IMARA area.
4. In case of attack the line EL HUGGAR - 720 - 630 - 550 - 510 will form the pivot of our operations.  
If the enemy succeeds in occupying the outposts of above line he will be driven off them.
5. The outpost line from EL HUGGAR inclusive to 280 (inclusive) will be divided into two Regimental Sectors with the following dispositions :-
  1. Right Regimental Sector. 11th A.L.H. Regiment.  
EL HUGGAR - 630 (inclusive).  

Standing patrol on high ground on road 1 mile East of EL HUGGAR.	1 Troop.	} 1 Sqn.
Hill 720 two troops dug in close behind OP's. 1 troop in close support.	3 Troops.	
Hill $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S.E. of 630 1 troop dug in behind OP's.	1 Troop.	} 2nd. Sqn.
Hill 630 1 troop dug in behind OP's. 1 troop in close support.	2 Troops.	
Squadron Reserve.	1 Troop.	

One Squadron in Regimental Reserve.
  2. Left Regimental Sector. 4th A.L.H. Regiment.  
630 (exclusive) - 280 inclusive.  

550. 1 troop dug in behind OP's	2 Troops.	} 1st Sqn.
1 troop in close support.		
510. 1 troop dug in behind OP's	2 Troops.	
1 troop in close support.		

Standing patrols from 510 (exclusive) to 280 (inclusive) found from 1 Squadron.  
1 Squadron in Regimental Reserve.
3. Six Machine Guns will be placed in the line to cover by long range fire the fronts of both sectors.
4. One Battery R.H.A. and one Heavy Battery will be in position before dawn to cover the front of Hills 720, hill  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.E. of 630 and hill 630.  
*MILE*
5. 12th A.L.H. Regiment, H.Q. Squadron less three Subsections and Ambulance will be in Brigade Reserve in the vicinity of 550 N. of IM SIDI.
6. Standing patrols will be established between posts. ESAME force maintains posts by day as follows :- 1 Troop each at 680, a. 15 a. and, a. 25 e., and by night half troop each at a. 22 a. central and a. 29 B. 26. Reference 1/20,000.
7. Just before dawn patrols should move out through the outpost line for a short distance.



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8. During the night the garrison will occupy the points detailed. If the garrison is driven into the cruciform post by an attack by ~~inferior~~ force the supporting troops will counter attack at once. The remainder of the troops in each Regimental Sector should be distributed in depth ready to reinforce the line or deliver a counter attack. Every effort must be taken to keep the position secret and the same points should not be occupied by day as by night.

9. S.O.S. Signals will be as follows :-  
Red lights at Hill 720.  
White lights at Hill 1 mile S.E. of 630.  
Green lights at Hill 630.  
These signals must be known to all and apply only to the night 25th/26th October.

10. A careful system of gallopers should be organised from each garrison and support to the forward cable head in each Regimental sector. Cables will be laid from Brigade to Regimental Headquarters.

11. A drinking water trough will be at GOZ EL BASAL.

12. Outpost troops will not carry fighting rations.

13. The whole of the Outpost Brigade will "Stand To" at 0430.  
No lights between sunset and sunrise.

*Leab Tenye*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.

24th October, 1917.

Issued at :- 2/80.

Copies to :-

1. War Diary.
2. " "
3. " "
4. Camp Commandant.
5. H.Q. Squadron.
6. Signal Troop.
7. 4th A.L.H. Regiment.
8. 11th " "
9. 12th " "
10. Field Ambulance.
11. Battery R.H.A.
12. File.



IRREGULAR OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 36

by  
Brigadier-General H. GRAVE, D.S.O.  
Commanding

4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

Reference : 1/125,000  
1/20,000.

INFORMATION.

1. The Australian Mounted Division less 9th Htd. Bde. will march to KHALASA on 28th October.
- (a) The Division will march in two Columns - No.1 and No.2.  
No.1 Column consists of Escort. All wheels and donkeys by No.1 Route.  
No.2 Column consists of rest of Division by No.2 Route.
- (b) ROUTES. No.1 Column via Roads G1, D, E2, E.  
No.2 Column via Roads B, M, E2, C.
- (c) STARTING POINT FOR DIVISION.  
No.1 Column : Start at point 1 mile W. of EL FARFA South  
No.2 Column : Start at point 1 mile S.E. of "X" (Crossing Work).
- (d) TIME OF STARTING FOR DIVISION.  
No.1 Column : 1700.  
No.2 Column : 1750.
2. The 12th A.L.H. Regiment will detail one Squadron as advanced guard to the No. 2 Column of Australian Mounted Division and also one Squadron as rear guard to No.2 Column of Australian Mounted Division.  
The Division will march in order :-  
Division H.Q. Group.  
4th A.L.H. Brigade less 2 Squadrons.  
3rd A.L.H. Brigade.
3. The 4th A.L.H. Brigade will march as follows :-  
Order of march )  
Nos. 1 and 2 Columns. } B.H.Q.  
9th Mobile Vet. Section.  
4th Signal Troop.  
4th Field Troop.  
4th A.M.G. Bdn.  
4th A.L.H. Regt.  
11th A.L.H. Regt.  
12th A.L.H. Regt. less 2 Squadrons.  
4th Field Ambulance.  
"A" Battery H.A.C.
- STARTING POINT. No.2 Column - H.Q. 8th A.L.H. Regiment.
- TIME OF STARTING. No.2 Column : 1650, 28th October.
4. No.2 Column - in Column of Squadrons in line of troop column at 50 yards distance.
5. MARCH ORDERS FOR NO.1 COLUMN.  
No.1 Column will pass starting point at 1700.
- ORDER OF MARCH. No.1 Column.  
Commander : Major McLAURIN, Commanding 8th L.H. Regiment.  
Escort : 8th A.L.H. Regiment and 3rd A.M.G. Bdn.  
Main Body : (1) Vehicles and "A" Echelon of 3rd Bde. Group.  
" " " " " Div. Troops.  
" " " " " 4th Bde. Group.  
in order of march of No.2 Column.

640/36  
- OCT 1917  
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ORDER OF MARCH No. 1 Column, Main Body (continued).

- (2) "A" Echelon of groups in above order of march.
- (3) "B" Echelon of groups in above order of march.
- (4) Vehicles of Field Ambulances in above order of march.

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Commanders of 4th A.L.H. Brigade Echelons are :-

- "A" Echelon : Lieut. STEWART, 4th A.L.H. Regt.
- "B" " : 2/Lieut. L.O. COLE, Brigade Transport Officer.
- "C" " : Lieut. J.P. BURN, 12th A.L.H. Regt.

Each Echelon of each Unit is to have a definite Commander detailed to it, who will report to C.O. "A" Echelon, and then all the Echelon Commanders of the Brigade will report to C.O. No. 1 Column with details as to number of vehicles etc. and length of each Echelon Column.

Echelons of 4th A.L.H. Brigade will assemble in order of march with the Head near 4th A.H.C. Squadron Headquarters, facing South, at 1630.

No. 1 Column will move in column of route. It must be clearly understood that all wheeled vehicles move with No. 1 Column, with attendant Personnel.

6. All troops and Transport will halt for the last ten minutes of each hour automatically.
7. Divisional Starting points will be marked by a flag and a lamp.
8. Reports by advanced guard to Head of Column. Brigade reports to Head of Brigade.
9. Posts will be established at the following points by 5th Mtd. Bde. to protect the march of the Division:-
  1. @ 870.
  2. 910.
  3. Spur 1/2 mile W. of H of H KHAZALI.
  4. 780.

10.  bivouac AREAS. The 4th A.L.H. Brigade will bivouac at KHAZALI in area No. 1 as under :-

- N. Boundary G.20.a.7.0 to G.21.a.1.0.
- E. " from G.21.a.1.0. to G.20.d.9.8. to G.26.b.4.1.
- S. " from G.26.b.4.1. to G.26.a.8.1.
- W. " from G.26.a.8.1. to G.20.a.7.0.

Bivouac parties and guides to camps will meet all units and Echelons of Transport on arrival at KHAZALI, under arrangements as detailed in this office A.812 of 26/10/17.

11.  SUPPLYING. All units will carry fighting rations; plus breakfast and morning food.
12.  CAMP SITES. All camp sites in VARA area must be left in a thoroughly clean and satisfactory state. If rear parties can be left and sites therefore should be given a good preliminary cleaning in order that when units move off the lines to form up, a few minutes work will suffice to leave all lines and their vicinity satisfactory. C.O's. Units will be held personally responsible that this is carried out.

13.  ATTENDANCE.

27th October, 1917.

Issued at 1515.

Copies to :-

1. Camp Commandant.
2. 4th M.C. Squadron.
3. 4th Signal Troop.
4. 4th A.L.H. Regt.
5. 11th " "
6. 12th " "
7. 4th A.L.H. Bde. Ambulance.
8. 4th Field Troop.
9. 9th A. Hdb. Vet. Section.
10. "A" Battery R.A.C.
- 11, 12, & 13 War Wagon.

*Edw. Stenry*

Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.



## BRIGADE OPERATION ORDER NO. 37 .

by  
Brigadier-General W. GRANT, D.S.O.  
Commanding  
4th Australian Light Horse Brigade.

E440/38

Reference 1/125,000.

OCT 1917

1. The army will attack on Z day with the primary object of capturing BEERSHEBA.
2. (a) Preliminary instructions No. 1 has been read to those concerned.  
(b) Final objective of XX Corps is to be line through M of AZAZIMEH - B. of BEERSHEBA - halfway between the two points 910 on the railway.  
(c) 60th Division is on right of XX Corps. XX Corps cavalry Regiment will be operating E. of KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road.
3. Tasks of Desert Mounted Corps are :-  
(a) Attack BEERSHEBA from the East so as to envelop the enemy's left rear and  
(b) Seize as much water supply as possible in order to form a base for future operations Northwards.
4. Corps moves as follows:-  
(a) A. & N. Z. Division and 8th A. L. H. Regiment from ASLUJ at 1800 via M - N and M - N1 roads.  
(b) Advanced Corps Headquarters to Cross Roads N/N1 where it halts.  
(c) 7th Mtd. Bde. establish outposts on line 121 0 ( 1½ miles S. of RAS GHANNAM - G. EL NA'AM) by 0630 on Z day.
5. 8th L. H. Regiment will probably on reaching track junction W/N move Westwards in order to take up a position astride the W road West about 2 miles from ISWAIWIN and will act either as advanced or left flank guard to Australian Mounted Division.
6. The Division is to concentrate near ISWAIWIN by 0930 marching via M, N and N1 roads.
7. (a) The 4th A. L. H. Brigade will march in the following order of march:-  
Bde., Hqrs., Signal Troop.  
4th A. L. H. Regiment.  
M. G. Sqn.  
"A" Battery H. A. C.  
11th A. L. H. Regiment.  
12th " "  
Field Troop.  
Field ~~Troop~~ Ambulance.  
"A" Echelon in above order.  
Time of starting and starting point will be issued later.  
(b) O. C. "A" Battery H. A. C., M. G. Sqn., and Field Troop will accompany Bde. Hqrs.  
(c) Units will march as closed up as possible. If gaps occur connecting files will be pushed forward.
8. Regiments will be responsible for the protection of both flanks. One troop on each flank will be put out as flank guards by each regiment.
9. On the march and at halts each Unit will take steps to protect its troops against hostile aeroplane bombing or machine gunning.
10. When a hostile aeroplane is overhead there should be no movement and men should not look up as faces are most conspicuous.
11. The whole Division will halt and clear the road (a) from 0030 to 0300 unless it is possible to water at ASLUJ, in which case part of the halt will be spent there. (b) for ten minutes before every clock hour. (c) the road must be cleared at all times for Staff Officers, gallopers and despatch riders.



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12. Transport which becomes blocked must at once clear the way for fighting troops.
13. There is to be no smoking from the commencement of the march till dawn on Z day.
14. Care will be taken that no Officer or man goes forward in possession of maps or papers (except such as are essential to the conduct of operations) which if captured would give information of value to the enemy.
15. Watches will be synchronised at 1330 on Z - 1 day.
16. N Road is now known to branch off M Road at a point due East of Point 1260, thence through W of W EL IMSASH, thence through word IMSASH joining up with original N Road at point due South of letter H. This new bit of road is good going and follows the valley all the way to H.
17. Reference Para. 7:-  
STARTING POINT : 500 yards South of B.H.Q.  
TIME OF STARTING : 1800.
18. "B1" and "B2" Echelons with attendant personnel will be ready concentrated by 1800 and will move to No.2 Area after Brigade has left under orders of Lieut. BARR and Lieut. COLE. These echelons will remain in No.2 Area until further orders. One motor cyclist will be detailed to report to O.C. Echelon No.2 Area at 1700.  
All donkey men not actually required for operations will be left with "B" Echelon.
19. Machine guns will be changed from "A" Echelon to pack during the halt from 0030 to 0200.
20. 12th A.L.H. Regiment will detail 1 N.C.O. and three sections to report to O.C. "A" Echelon at 1800 to act as escort.

30th October, 1917.

Issued at \_\_\_\_\_

(Sgd.) Thos. McThurgie Major,  
Brigade Major,  
4th A.L.H. Brigade.

- Copies to :-
1. 4th A.L.H. Regt.
  2. 11th " "
  3. 12th " "
  4. 4th A.M.G. Sqn.
  5. 4th L.H. Field Ambulance.
  6. "A" Battery H.A.C.
-



1. 1st Lt. J. H. ...  
2. 2nd Lt. ...  
3. 3rd Lt. ...  
4. 4th Lt. ...  
5. 5th Lt. ...  
6. 6th Lt. ...  
7. 7th Lt. ...  
8. 8th Lt. ...  
9. 9th Lt. ...  
10. 10th Lt. ...

*For War*

OCT 1911



SECRET.

Appen 188

Report on Operations (Attack on BEERSHEBA)  
By 4th A.L.H. Brigade, 31-10-17.

640/40

Reference Map: 1/63360.

OCT 1917

Instructions were received from G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division and also direct instructions from the Corps Commander to attack BEERSHEBA moving on the left of the A. & N.Z. Mtd. Divn. and to go right through the town.

The Brigade was then assembled in a valley about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile South of Hill 1390 with the exception of 11th A.L.H. Regiment which was on detached duty about 2 miles to the South West of that position.

The Brigadier and Brigade Major accompanied by C.O's. 4th and 12th L.H. Regiments went forward to reconnoitre the most suitable ground for the approach of the Brigade to the point of deployment. The Brigade was ordered to move as soon as ready, which it did soon after 1600.

The route taken was along the Wadi about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile South of W Road, and the Brigade deployed where that road crosses the 1100 Contour.

The 4th L.H. Regiment was ordered to advance on the sector from the left of the A. & N.Z. Mtd. Divn. to W Road.

The 12th L.H. Regiment was ordered to advance on the left of the 4th L.H. Regiment.

These two Regiments were ordered to attack, each in three successive lines of a squadron each line.

The 11th A.L.H. Regiment was ordered to follow on in rear and act as a reserve.

One subsection of 4th Machine Gun Squadron was sent with each of 4th and 12th L.H. Regiments, and the Machine Gun Squadron less one subsection was ordered to move down the Wadi and co-operate with the reserve Squadron of the 12th L.H. Regiment in protecting the left rear of the line from attack by the enemy, who were seen in trenches on Hill 1180 (N.E. of RAS GHANNAM).

Both the 4th and 12th L.H. Regiments went forward at a gall op and took successive lines of trenches until reaching the Wadi at BEERSHEBA.

The left flank of the 12th Regiment came under heavy machine gun fire from trenches on Hill 1180 (mentioned above).

The M.G. Squadron immediately opened fire on this redoubt and the Brigadier ordered Major HARRISON, O.C., Notts. Battery, R.H.A. which had then come up to the point of deployment, to open fire on these trenches. It was then practically dark and impossible to take distances with the range finder, but Major HARRISON opened fire and found the range with his second shot, and quickly drove the Turks off the ridge.

On it being reported that the trenches in front of the town had been taken, the 4th and 12th L.H. Regiments were ordered to push right through the town and capture as many prisoners as possible.

This movement was carried out in a very able manner and resulted in the capture of 9 field guns, 7 ammunition limbers, 4 machine guns and about 700 prisoners.

The 11th A.L.H. Regiment which had arrived at the point of deployment after the Battery had come into action, was moved forward together with the Notts. Battery and "A" Battery H.A.C. to BEERSHEBA.

On reaching that place the C.O's. 4th and 12th Regiments reported that they had captured the place. The 11th Regiment was accordingly ordered to push through the town and hold it against any counter-attack from the North, West and South-west. This was carried out and the 11th Regiment captured about 400 prisoners who were retreating from the South-east.

The 4th and 12th Regiments were ordered to withdraw from their line and reorganise. When this was done the 4th L.H. Regiment took up an outpost line from the WADI EL SABA to the Mosque, and the 11th Regiment from the Mosque to the KHALASA Road, the 12th Regiment being held in reserve near the Railway Viaduct.

Appendices

4th Bde Diary October 1917



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The two Batteries were placed in position on the bank of the Wadi, South of the town, so as to co-operate in driving back any counter-attack by the Turks.

The Brigade remained disposed as above until relieved by the 5th Mtd. Bde. and the Infantry the following morning.

Nine Field Guns were captured; seven of these have been parked South of the Viaduct, and two which were drawn from their positions by the 11th Regiment, with a view to their being brought in later. Next morning these were found to have been removed by our Infantry, it is understood by one of the London Regiments.

Four Machine Guns and tripods complete and one Machine Gun Tripod, with machine gun equipment, were brought in by the 4th A.L.H. Brigade.

Four Field Gun Limbers containing shells have been brought in and three more are being brought in to-day, 2nd inst.

In addition numerous vehicles, animals, stores and equipment have been, and are still being brought in.

The number of prisoners captured is 59 Officers and 1090 other ranks.

All ranks behaved in a most admirable manner and fearlessly charged several successive trenches at the gallop, in many cases in the face of severe machine gun and rifle fire.

The rapidity of the attack seemed to demoralise the Turks and also avoided their artillery fire.

About 1700 two enemy planes passed over, dropped bombs, and on return one flew low and machine-gunned Bde. H.Q. personnel, Signal Troop and pack horses, doing no damage, however beyond one horse wounded.

The total casualties in the action for this Brigade were:-

	<u>Killed.</u>	<u>Wounded.</u>	<u>Missing.</u>
4th L.H. Regt.	2 Off. 9 O/R.	13 O/R.	-
12th " "	- 20 " 4 Off. 14 "	-	1 O/r. (believed killed.)
4th M.G. Sqdn.	- -	1 "	-

Total. 2 Off. 29 O/R. 4 Off. 28 O/R. 1 O/R.

I desire particularly to bring to your notice the undermentioned officers:-

Lieut. Col.	M.W.J. BOURCHIER,	4th L.H. Regiment.
" "	D. CAMERON,	12th " "
Major.	HARRISON,	Notts. Battery.
Lieut.	L.W. DELPH,	Signal Squadron.
Major.	K.A. MCKENZIE,	Bde. Major, 4th L.H. Bde.
Lieut.	H.L. MARSLAND,	A/Staff Captain "
Major.	J. LAWSON,	4th L.H. Regiment.
"	G.J. RANKIN,	" " "
Capt.	A.D. REID,	" " "
"	N.G. RAE,	" " "
Lieut.	J.D. HICKEY,	" " "
"	M.J. HEMMONS,	" " "
Major.	E.M. HYMAN,	12th L.H. Regiment.
"	C.M. FETHERSTONHAUGH,	" " "
Capt.	J.R.C. DAVIES,	" " "
Lieut.	R.K. ROBEY,	" " "
"	A.C.L. ABBOTT,	" " "
"	W.J. MURRAY,	" " "
2/Lieut.	E.A. MULFORD,	" " "
Lieut.	R.W. LINDEMAN,	" " "

2nd November, 1917.

*H. Grant* Brigadier-General,  
Commanding 4th A.L.H. Brigade.



# REPORT ON OPERATIONS (ATTACK ON BEER SHEBA)

4th. A.L.H. BRIGADE.

OCT 1917

Reference is made to Map 1/65562.

At 1600 on the 31/10/17 the A.S.N.Z. Mounted Division was operating to the East and North East of Beersheba, and was pushing back the enemy down the Wadi EL SABA. This Division was operating dismounted but owing to the stiff opposition, the progress was slow and it appeared as if the town would not be taken from that direction before dark. It was essential that the place be taken quickly, as the horses had not been watered since the previous day and had made a night march of over 30 miles.

At 1615 orders were received from the G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division, and also direct instructions from the Corps Commander, for the 4th. A.L.H. Brigade to attack direct on Beersheba moving on the left of the A.S.N.Z. Mounted Division, and to take the place before it was dark.

The Brigade was then in reserve in a valley, about 6 miles East of Beersheba, and the horses were being fed. It was realised by the Brigadier that he would have to act quickly, as only a little over an hour of daylight remained in which to carry out the operation.

The Brigade was assembled in a valley, about half a mile South of Hill 1390, with the exception of the 11th. L.H. Regiment which was on detached duty about 2 miles South West of that position.

Orders were sent to the 11th. A.L.H. Regiment to concentrate and follow the Brigade, and the Brigade was ordered to saddle up and move when ready, under the Second in Command of Regiment - the senior to command. The Brigadier and Brigade Major, accompanied by the G.O's. 4th. and 12th. Regiments, galloped forward to reconnoitre a covered way of approach for the Brigade to the point of deployment, and for the direction of the attack. This was necessary as the 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade had just previously been heavily shelled in attempting to cross exposed ground.

The Brigade started about 1630 and moved at the trot. Shortly afterwards two enemy planes passed over and dropped bombs and on return one flew low and Machine gunned Brigade Headquarters personnel and Signal Troop, which was moving in rear of the Brigade. No material damage was done beyond one horse wounded, but it somewhat delayed the establishment of communications.

The route taken was along the Wadi about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile South of W. Road, and the Brigade deployed where the road crossed the 1100 contour.

The 4th. L.H. Regiment was ordered to advance on the sector from the left of A.S.N.Z. Mounted Division to W. Road. The 12th. A.L.H. Regiment, was ordered to advance on the left of the 4th. L.H. Regiment, these two Regiments were ordered to attack mounted, each in three successive lines, of a Squadron each line. The files were at about 4 yards interval, and 300 yards distance between Squadrons. They were ordered to charge with drawn bayonets, held in the hand, as no swords were issued to these troops.

The 11th. A.L.H. Regiment was ordered to follow on in rear and act as a reserve.

One subsection of 4th. A.M.G. Squadron was sent with each of



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4th. and 12th. A.L.H. Regiments, and the Machine Gun Squadron as one subsection was ordered to move down the Wadi, and co-operate with the reserve squadron of the 12th. A.L.H. Regiment, in protecting the left rear of the line from attack by the enemy, who were seen in trenches on Hill 1180 (N.E. of RAS CHANNAH).

Both the 4th. and 12th. L.H. Regiments went forward at a gallop and took successive lines of trenches until reaching the Wadi at BEERCH EBA. The left flank of the 12th. Regiment came under heavy Machine gun fire from trenches on Hill 1180 (mentioned above).

The Machine Gun Squadron immediately opened fire on this redoubt and the Brigadier ordered Major HARRISON, O.C., Notts' Battery, R.H.A., which had then come up to the point of deployment, to open fire on these trenches. It was then practically dark and impossible to take distances with the Range Finder, but Major HARRISON opened fire and found the range with his second shot, and quickly drove the Turks off the ridge.

On it being reported that the trenches in front of the town had been taken, the 4th. and 12th. L.H. Regiments were ordered to push right through the town and capture as many prisoners as possible.

This movement was carried out in a very able manner and resulted in the capture of 9 Field Guns, 7 Ammunition Limbers, 4 Machine Guns and about 700 prisoners.

The 11th. A.L.H. Regiment which had arrived at the point of deployment after the battery had come into action, was moved forward together with the Notts' Battery and "A" Battery, H.A.C. to BEERCH EBA. On reaching that place the C.O's. 4th. and 12th. Regiments reported that they had captured the place. The 11th. Regiment was accordingly ordered to push through the town and hold it against any counter attack from the North, West, and South West. This was carried out and the 11th. Regiment captured about 400 prisoners who were retreating from the South West.

The 4th. and 12th. Regiments were ordered to withdraw from their line and reorganise. When this was done the 4th. L.H. Regiment took up an outpost line from the Wadi EL SABA to the Mosque, and the 11th. Regiment from the Mosque to the KHALASA Road, the 12th. Regiment being held in reserve near the Railway Viaduct.

The two Batteries were placed in position on the bank of the Wadi, South of the town, so as to co-operate in driving back any counter attack by the Turks.

The Brigade remained disposed as above until relieved by the 5th. Mounted Brigade and the Infantry the following morning.

The rapidity of the attack seemed to demoralise the enemy as they mostly fired high, and it was afterwards found that the sights of their rifles were never lowered below 800 metres. The enemy Artillery was also unable to estimate the pace, and the shells all went over the heads of the advancing troops.

From the location of the enemy's trenches as shown on the accompanying sketch it would appear that they were prepared for any advance down the Wadi ABU SHA'AI which would have offered a certain amount of cover while in the Wadi bed, but did not anticipate a mounted attack across the plain.



3.  
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*C 40/44*  
If a dismounted attack had been made from the Wadi Abu  
Sh A 'AI it is certain that we would have suffered heavy casual-  
ties, as the trenches were very strong, and in the bends  
Machine guns were placed to enfilade the Wadi beds.

On the 19th. April 1917 at the second battle of GAZA this  
Brigade made a long advance on foot, with two regiments  
(1th. and 12th.) and the Machine Gun Squadron and had 187  
casualties without any satisfactory result being obtained. Here  
the casualties were 32 killed, and 32 wounded, total 64, which  
is about one third of the number sustained in the second GAZA  
battle, and resulted in the capture of 59 Officers and 1090  
other ranks, besides 10 Field Guns, 5 Machine Guns, and a large  
number of vehicles, stores, and animals. In addition the enemy  
did not have time to destroy the water supply which was the  
most important factor in the situation.

The high percentage of killed to wounded was due to the hard to  
hard fighting against superior numbers at the trenches. The  
majority of the wounded fell before the trenches were reached.

*W. Grant* Brigadier General,  
Commanding 4th. A.L.H. Brigade.

*Commanding 4th. A.L.H. Bde.*