

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/13/30

Title: 8th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

December 1917

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Page 16 Volume 12

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KH. DEIRAN	28/11/17		Arrived at 0800 & bivouaced. Horses watered twice.	
9			Brigade moved at 0000 to BEAFILYAH and travelling all night arrived there at 0745.	
BEAFILYAH	29/11/17		Moved to EL BURJ at 1500 and took over right sector of line occupied by 5 th R.S.F. at 2030 and kept there until 1900. 30 th Nov 1917 1 of rank wounded	
9			Relieved at 1900 by 4 th L.H Regiment and moved towards left flank 1 mile	
EL BURJ	30/11/17		Taking up line J19a - J20d, relieving the 9 th L.H Regt who again moved further left. B Sqn took right flank (approx J20) & C Sqn left flank, Hdqts at J19 central.	
"	1/12/17		Line was all quiet until 0030 on 1/12/17 when Capt Walker, B Sqn, reported enemy concentration on his immediate front. B.H.Q. were wired immediately, priority, for reinforcements. The enemy attacked about 250 strong with many bombs at 0045 and after half an hour's heavy fighting at very close quarters "B" Sqn were compelled to fall back on to (Mr Crawford's) C Sqn's position. Here a fresh line was made every available man being in the firing line. 48 men of the Gloucester Yeomanry, under Lt-Col Palmer, arrived at 0200 & the enemy just then made a fresh assault. One company of the 4 th R.S.F. under Capt Henry arrived at 0230 and all were immediately sent into the line. The enemy made two distinct rushes with about 500 men, and were each time held off with a very heavy close range fire. The fighting gradually diminished and the position was rendered absolutely safe by the arrival at 0430 of another R.S.F. company who were kept in supports. B Squadron took possession of their original position & touch was again made with 4 th L.H Bde on right flank.	



- NOV 1917

C. O. Str. L. H. Regt. A. I. F.

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WAR DIARY

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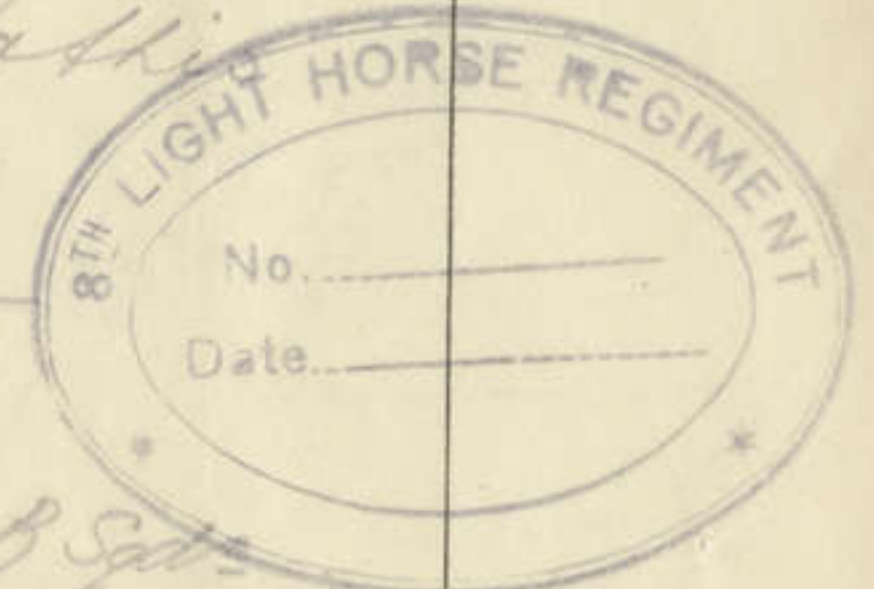
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL. BURT	1/12/17		<p>Throughout the hours of fighting there was much heavy bombing especially on the part of the enemy who were evidently well supplied. Our Mills Grenades were very superior & effective. The 9th L.H. had managed to get a rearward machine gun fire & this partly had the effect of cutting the enemy off from SHILTA village.</p> <p>At daybreak the survivors surrendered amounting approximately to: 6 officers (including the Battalion Commander) and 112 ranks and about 20 wounded. The enemy dead amounted to approximately 100 (20 on B Sgt. ridge & 80 on C Sgt. ridge). The R.S.F. & Yeomanry did splendid work & had it not been for their very quick arrival after the alarm the Regiment would have received a very severe handling. Our casualties were (approx) 2 officers - Capt Fay & Lt S.V. Moore killed and 5 ranks, and 2 officers and 35 ranks wounded (some of these since died). All ranks displayed great intrepidity and dash throughout. Mr Genl Hodgson visited the Regiment next morning & personally expressed his pleasure and congratulations. The two attached telegrams are copies of those received from Desert Corps & 20th A. Corps. During the morning the R.S.F. were withdrawn & Regiment continued to hold the line with Gloucester Yeomanry in support. Much booty was collected throughout the day included in which were 8 new type automatic rifles.</p> <p>The 5th Mts (2 Coy) reported to R.H.Q. as reserves at 2030 and retired at 0500 on 2/12/17.</p> <p>During the day a wire was received containing following awards: -</p> <p>405 Lt J. Kerr 1176 Sgt E.S. Ackland } Military Medals. 303 L. Taylor</p>	 <p>Lt Colonel - DEC 1917 5th L. H. Regt. A. I. F.</p>

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EL. BURJ	1/12/17		Regiment held firing line as taken over on night of 30 Nov/1 Dec, with Gloucester Yeomanry in supports. At 2030 1 Coy of St. Notts reported as Reserve Troops and remained in vicinity of Regimental Headquarters until 0500, 2nd Dec. <i>Wm</i>	
do do	2/12/17		Regiment in same firing line. Enemy very quiet on front. Capt G. Foy & 5 Wanks buried at spot in Sq J 26 P.C. (M. Sheet 17) Gloucester Yeomanry in support. 1 Coy of Royal Dublin Fusiliers reported as reserves at 1715 & left at 0600 on 3 Dec. Night very quiet <i>Wm</i>	
do do	3/12/17		Regiment relieved by Worcester Yeos at 1000 from firing line and went into bivouac 400 yards South of EL. BURJ at 1200. <i>Wm</i>	
do do	4/12/17		Brigade in Divisional Reserve at bivouac 400 yards S of EL BURJ. Day spent in reorganising and checking of equipment etc. Capt L.A. Macpherson & Lt T.R. Pappercorn recommended for M.C.'s and SSM. BURKINGTON for D.C.M. <i>Wm</i>	
do do	5/12/17		Still in reserve. 6 Wanks arrived from led horses. Lt Glanfield sent to School of Instruction, Zetoun to Topography course. Sgt J. BOWMAN awarded D.C.M. Regiment moved to new bivouac 400 yards North of EL. BURJ, at 1530. <i>Wm</i>	
do do	6/12/17		Burial party supplied by ^{bury} enemy dead, killed night 30 Nov/1 Dec. Some had already been buried but dead buried by parties amounted to 72. The following equipment was also gathered in, in addition to previous salvaging, 79 rifles, 30 bayonets, 250 bombs, and much sundry equipment. 13 Wanks arrived as reinforcements. <i>Wm</i>	
do do	7/12/17		Following promotions were wired through from G.H.Q. Mjr McLaurin, R.M.G. to be temp'y Lt-Col. Capt J. Spreat to be major, Capt Y.H. Walker to be temp'y major, Lt L.A. Macpherson, W.A. MULLINET, W. McGrath, T.S. Austin, to be Captains. Rained all day. Troops had no shelters or firewood. <i>Wm</i>	



Lt-Colonel
 C. O. S. L. H. Regt. A. I. F.
 - DEC 1917
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL. BURT (400 yards W)	8/12/17		Rained all day. Gen ^l Hodgson visited camp. Bivouac shelters arrived at 1000. Major Crawford, Capt Macpherson, & Lt Mulholland, went on to reconnaissance to 4 th Brigade & 3 Signallers arrived from Beitoun School of Instruction. W.M.S.	
	9/12/17		Remained in bivouac all day. Enemy very quiet. Weather very wet. W.M.S.	
Kefr Kut	10/12/17		Moved to a bivouac near Kefr Kut, 1 mile E of EL. BURT. Raining heavily. W.M.S.	
	11/12/17		Remained in bivouac. Raining heavily. W.M.S.	
	12/12/17		Relieved 12 L.H. Regt. at 0930 in sector J16a - J16d. Front all quiet. W.M.S.	
			A report received from O.C. fed horses that enemy aeroplanes had raided & bombed the horse camp at 1530 on the 11 th inst & again at 0700 on the 12 th inst. The total casualties were 4 Hanks wounded, 21 horses destroyed, 27 wounded and evacuated & 18 slightly wounded. This happened at a bivouac in the vicinity of 1 mile W of SURAFEND. W.M.S.	
Sq J16a - J16d Palestine Shet	13/12/17		In line all day. Enemy very quiet. Regiment manned rock redoubts at night with whole strength but at day retired to rear sheltered positions only supplying 2 day observation posts & 1 day patrol of 1 officer & 14 men.	
			3 nominations made for Officers Cadet School viz 340 Sgt W.N.J. COWMAN, 95 Sgt M. Gray, 1620 Sig ^l M.L. Mitchell. W.M.S.	



- DEC 1917

H. Colonel
C. O. 8th. L. H. Regt. A. I. F.

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WAR DIARY

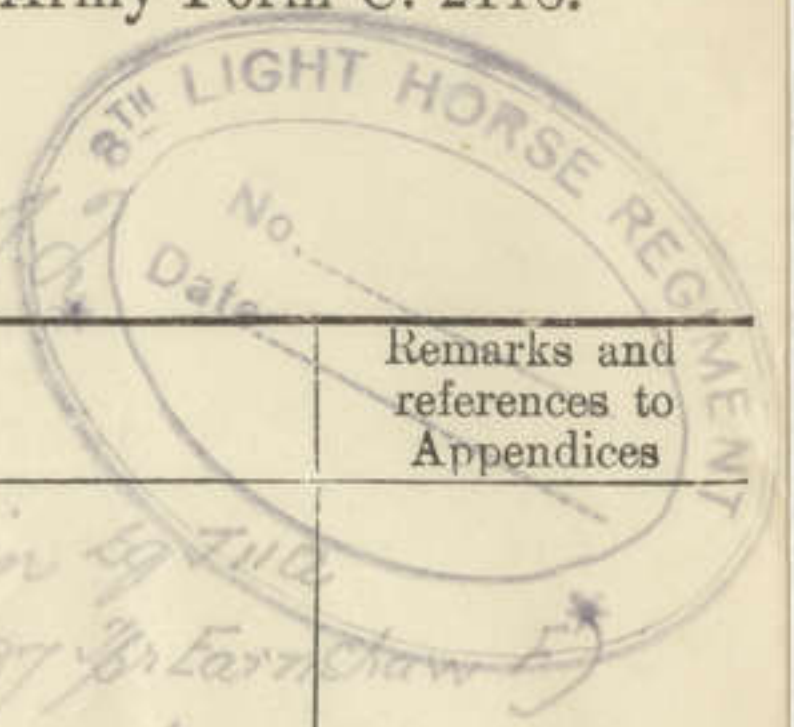
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sg J16a-J16d. Pat. Sheet 14.	14/12/17	0700	<p>Day Patrol under Lt S.L. Mulholland was ambushed by the enemy at a spot in 19720 & had 1 man (1063 P. Peterbudge) killed & 3 Wanks (832 Lt W. Kelly, 1064 Lt T.J. Cahill, 2937 P. Earnshaw) taken prisoners. The party of four abovementioned were advance points & three of them had evidently in the extremely rocky country been allowed to walk through the enemy ambush. (P. Peterbudge however fired a shot wounding a Turk & this was the start of the enemy plan. They immediately fired a volley at Peterbudge killing him instantly and rushed the other three men. The remainder of the patrol could not see all that was going on or fire owing to the nature of the ground but on gaining the spot subsequently found Peterbudge's body (which was brought in & buried at the camp) & a wounded Turk (subsequently buried). A Court of Inquiry was subsequently held on 16th Dec '17 and the finding was that the 3 Wanks abovementioned were taken prisoner, no blame being attachable to anyone.</p> <p>Capt Mulder arrived with some Canteen Stores and a small mail. 10m 6</p> <p>15/12/17 Polling day for Conscription Referendum in Australia. Troops paid. 10m 6</p> <p>16/12/17 Wire received Captain L.A.V. Macpherson & Lt Peppercorn. Military Cross, 1010 P. H.W. Keable D.C.M. men building stone Sangars in firing line. A small issue of boots and pants made. 10m 6</p> <p>17/12/17 Line all quiet. 10m 6</p> <p>18/12/17 Line all quiet. Letter mail for troops. 10m 6</p> <p>19/12/17 Wire received S.S.M. Currington D.C.M. 10m 6</p>	<p>Remarks and references to Appendices</p>

Lt Colonel
C. O. 8th. L. H. Regt. A. I. F.

- DEC 1917

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J16a - J16d (Pal Sheet 14)	22/12/17		Men engaged in firing line duties and road parties. Front very quiet.	
	to 23/12/17		20 Reinforce arrived	
	24/12/17		"B" Coy on left flank (J16a) relieved by 11 th L.H. Regt. Heavy rain.	<i>low</i>
	25/12/17		Heavy rain. Front all quiet	<i>low</i>
	26/12/17		Moved to SUFFA as reserve Regt & bivouaced night 26/27 Dec 1917.	<i>low</i>
	27/12/17		Moved forward over WADI SHAMY as Reserve Regt to Brigade in a general advance in conjunction with 10 th Division on right flank who attacked in direction from SUFFA to RAS KHEMER. All objectives gained. Regt bivouaced 27/28 Dec Sq J19a.	<i>low</i>
	29/12/17		Moved forward and bivouaced J13a. Reserve Regiment	<i>low</i>
	29/12/17		Moved forward to KHURBETHA - IBN - HARITH & bivouaced just 200 yards South of village.	<i>Reserve Regt.</i>
	30/12/17		Bivouaced KHURBETHA - IBN - HARITH. Reserve Regiment	<i>low</i>
	31/12/17		Relieved by Connaught Rangers & moved back to KEFR - RUT to await the coming of horses to take Brigade back to Rest camp.	<i>low</i>



W. G. M. P. Aminist
Colonel.
C. O. 8th. L. H. Regt. A. I. F.

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E 49/6

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- DEC 1917

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Copy of Wires received through
3rd L.H Bde Hdqrs on 1st Jan 1918
Des Corps aaaa Please convey
Corps Commanders Congratulations
to Lt-Col McFaurin & all ranks of
8 L.H Regt on their brilliant fight
last night aaaa ends.

20th Corps says aaaa

Commander much admires
the staunchness of your troops who
with small forces beat off
strong attack of enemy last
night and captured so many
prisoners aaaa ends.

E 49
8

- DEC 1917

8th A.I. Regt

<u>Total Strength</u> 1/12/17	23	395
Reinforcements	1	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	24	458

To Hospital	3	74	
Killed	2	7	
Missing (May)		3	
on sp. sp. sp.	1	5	85

19 373

3 of Rank to Comm Rk	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	22	370

Total Strength 3/12/17

Tom Pratt
Capt

Adjutant 8th L. H. Regt. A.I. F.