

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/13/34

Title: 8th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

April 1918

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th Light Horse Regt.

FOR

APRIL 1918.

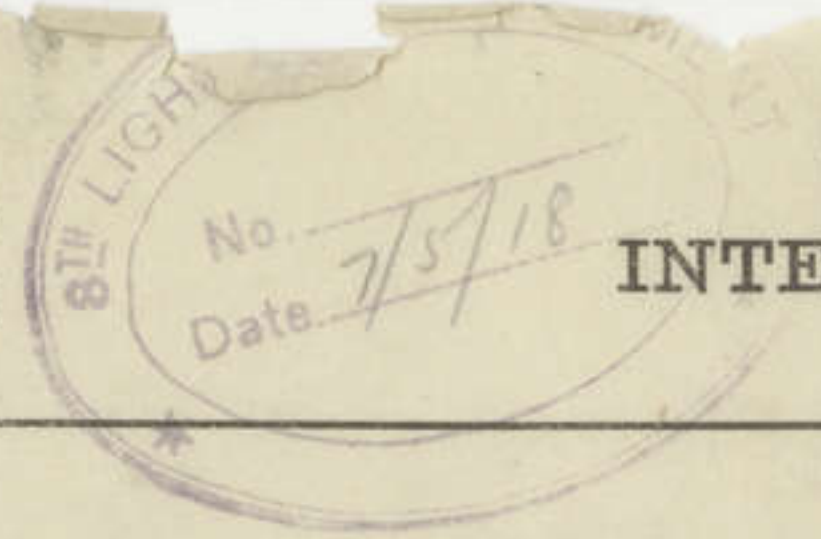
- APR 1918

Signature of Officer compiling R. H. Bouridge Lieut

Signature of Officer Commanding Quayle M. J. Laurin Lieut Col.
C. O. 8th A. L. H. Regiment.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page I Volume 16.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
GAZA	1/4/18		Roo Lt. Pepperscorn, M.C. Regt moved with Division from BELAH to GAZA at 1500. Capt McLeath returned from Hosp. Lt Mulholland left in/c. of dismounted party at Bede Dump. Belah. <u>RUB</u> GAZA to MEJDEL.	
MEJDEL	2/4/18		Roo Lt Newman. Regt moved from MEJDEL to WADI SUKERIER. 1130. Capt Austin + batman reported from Cairo leave. <u>RUB</u>	
WADY-SUKERIER.	3/4/18		Roo Lt Mann. advance Bwonae officer Lt Pepperscorn, M.C. Regt moved from MEJDEL. 1100. arrived WADY-SUKERIER. 1445. Capt McLeath to Hosp <u>RUB</u>	
DURAN.	4/4/18		Roo Lt Pepperscorn, M.C. Bwonae officer Lt Taylor. Regt moved from Wady-Sukerier 1100 arrived DURAN. 1430. <u>RUB</u>	
SELMEH.	5/4/18		Duty Regt. F.O. Capt Austin. Roo Lt Newman Bwonae officer Lt Mann. Lt Taylor + 300R. reported to Staff Capt 0615. Regt moved from Duran 1100. arrived SELMEH. 1600. <u>RUB</u>	
"	4/4/18		Roo Lt Pepperscorn, M.C. Capt Austin + 4 offntrs cadre relief to moascar. Lt Bowman + Mitchell + Gray + 24 offntrs reported from Aus. Div detail camp Ludd. <u>RUB</u>	
"	7/4/18		Roo Lt Mann. Cleaning + fixing up new Bwonae area. Squads cooking instituted. <u>RUB</u>	
"	8/4/18		Duty Regt. F.O. Mess Crawford. Roo Lt Bowman. Board of Enquiry convened to report on lost horses. President Mess Prusty Member Lt Taylor + Lt Pepperscorn, M.C. leave parties of 16 per Coy send an officer to JAFFA. <u>RUB</u>	

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Volume 16

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SELMEH	9/4/18		Rao Lt Gray. Capt McPherson & batman from Meascar. Detailed Demolition party. Lictured by OC Field Engineers. <u>RHB</u>	
"	10/4/18		Rao Lt Mitchell. Mgrs Walker M.C. + 200P proceeded to 133 rd Flying Corp for instruction re "Aeroplanes + Contact. Patrols." Mgrs Shannon + 2 officers per Coy. Attended lecture by OC Field Engineers. Training. 1 1/2 hrs drill. "Mtd Attack" at a slow pace. Spr Donovan + Sara proceeded to Suez to await embarkation to Australia. Lt Mulholland. + 110P reported from Des Corp. Detail Camp Luda. 5000 from Cadre Meascar. Lt Taylor waiting member. at Court Martial held at 10th L.H. Mgrs. <u>RHB</u>	
"	11/4/18		Duty Regt. F. O. Mgrs Prusty. Rao Lt Conway. 600 + 1500 P Tanks making necessary preparation for forthcoming operations. All movement ^{operational} orders postponed 1600. <u>RHB</u>	
"	12/4/18		Rao Lt Faulkes. Taylor. Mgrs Shannon proceeded with Bgde Party to carry out front-line reconnaissance. Mgrs Walker M.C. President of Board of Enquiry (ref. Sacks etc) at B.H.A. 19 Remounts taken on strength. <u>RHB</u>	
"	13/4/18		Rao Lt Ewynne. 30 Tanks proceeded to Meascar to relieve Cadre. Lt Jenner & batman reported from Meascar. Trackie parade + turnout of Working parties. <u>RHB</u>	

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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SELMEH.	14/4/18	-	Duty Regt. F.O. Mgrs Walker M.C. RCO Lt Mutholland Ch parade 1100. Mgrs Shannon proceeded on a reconnaissance to MEDJEL-YABA. <u>RMB</u>	
"	15/4/18	-	RCO Lt Newman. Regt carried out Sqdn Mtd drill. <u>RMB</u>	
"	16/4/18	-	RCO Lt Jenner. Training. Regt carried out training on "outposts & patrols". <u>RMB</u>	
"	17/4/18	-	Duty Regt F.O. Mgrs Crawford RCO Lt Taylor. Training. Regt carried out training of "Advanced Guards & Patrols" 1000-1330. 3 Cadre & COs + 150 ranks marched in & taken on strength. <u>RMB</u>	
"	18/4/18	-	RCO Lt Peppercorn M.C. Mtd Bayonet drill 1100-1200. F.G.M. held in 8 th LH. Pres. Mgrs Daly ^{9th LH} Mgrs Capt Nelson 9 th LH & Lt Borbridge 8 th LH. Waiting members Lt Herbert 10 th LH. accused person Spr Patton 8 th LH. Charge attempted suicide. <u>RMB</u>	
DEIRAN.	19/4/18	-	RCO Lt Mann. Regt moved with Bgde from SELMEH. to DEIRAN. Moved at 0900. arriving at 1400. Mgrs Walker M.C. + 30 ranks proceeded on short leave to Cairo. <u>RMB</u>	
LATRON.	20/4/18	-	Duty Regt F.O. Mgrs Finlay. RCO Lt Gray. Regt moved from DEIRAN. 0830. & arrived at LATRON. 1400. <u>RMB</u>	
ENAB.	21/4/18	-	2 nd Lt Bowman. Regt moved from LATRON. 0900 & arrived ENAB. 1400. Voluntary ch parade. 1800. <u>RMB</u>	
TALAT-ED-DUMM.	22/4/18	-	F.O. Mgrs Crawford. RCO Lt Mitchell. Regt moved from ENAB. 0700 & arrived TALAT-ED-DUM. 1500. Lt Cowell & batman reported to Regt. at JERUSALEM. <u>RMB</u>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TALLET-ED-DUMM.	23/4/18.		Roo Lt Conway. Cleaning of Bwona area which was found in a very dirty condition. <u>RHB</u> .	
WADY NVEIAMEH	24/4/18		Lt O. Mgr Prusty. Roo Lt Faulkes. Taylor. Regt moved from TALLET-ED-DUMM. at 0730. Watered + proceeded to Bwona area at WADY NVEIAMEH. North West of Jericho. The Road to Jericho very steep + rocky in places. Lt Newman + 2 O Ranks left for Hoascar as 3rd relief of Cadre. <u>RHB</u>	
"	25/4/18		Roo Lt Guynne. 2 officers per Sqn carried out a personal reconnaissance of the Bridge-head + sector of line held by the Camel Corp. Lt Taylor, Gray + Mackay. + 4 O Ranks. proceeded to Sct. of Dist. LIEUTOWN. + EL ARISH. <u>RHB</u>	
"	26/4/18		Duty Regt Lt O. Mgr Crawford. Roo Lt. Cowell. Lt Mulholland with two troops moved from Bwona at 1900. to relieve two troops holding fords at MANDESI + AUIA. on the Jordan R. C Sqn under Mgr Crawford moved out at 2200. to relieve a Sqn of 5th L.H. Regt. holding viaduct on WADY NVEIAMEH. Sq 113. H.33.C. in communication with all detached posts by phone. <u>RHB</u>	
"	27/4/18		Roo Lt Bowman.	
"	28/4/18		Roo Lt Mitchell ChParade. 1030. <u>RHB</u>	
"	29/4/18		Duty Regt Lt O. Mgr Prusty. Roo Lt Jenner. Regt moved from Bwona on operations at 2130. + crossed the GHORANNYA BRIDGE on the Jordan R. at 2400. The Brigade regrouped at WADI MUHAIR where horses were fed. + the column moved again at 0300. Before reaching road the 4th Bde which was ahead of us, was heavily shelled by the enemy + the A BTY. H.A.C. had much difficulty in crossing. <u>RHB</u>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. Page V. Volume 16

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ES-SALT.	30/4/18		<p>The Regt reached Road at 0800. & immediately commenced the climb through the mountains. The 9th L.H. as advance Guard. The road offered many difficulties & it was only possible to get through in single files in many places. Small parties of the enemy were encountered & driven off by the advance Guard & the Regt reached Square H 15D. at 1300. A halt of 4 hrs was made here during which time small advanced positions were taken by the 9th & 10th Regts & an attack on 2900 planned. At 1700 orders were received from GOC 2nd Bde to stand by in a place of readiness in order to move upon ES-SALT at the gallop if the attack on 2900 proved successful. At 1745 the objective was gained by the 9th & 10th Regts & the GOC gave orders for the 8th Regt to break through & advance on ES-SALT. At 1815 Major Shannon gave orders to advance on the village mounted & Major Puerthy with 3 troops of A Sqdn galloped through ES-SALT. capturing many prisoners & transport motor lorries, motor car, ambulance wapons & large dumps of military stores, including machine guns as per appendix. Two troops of A Sqdn moved out & secured the ES SALT - AMMAN - NIMRIN JUNCTION. at 1900. P.S.A. was established at the intersection of AMMAN - NIMRIN + NABLUS. Roads. Picquets were placed over military stores. Posts & telegraph offices secured & 100 prisoners who had not been passed back to Bde were locked in the CARACOL. Over 200 prisoners were taken in this operation. <u>RHB</u></p>	

Quely. McLawrie Lieut. Col.
C.O. 8th L.H. REGT.

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WAR DIARY

OF

8th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

FOR

APRIL 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	No. 1.	Subject.
1		Es-Salt Operations.
2		do do.
3		Summary of Strength.
4		Captured Material.

Operation B.

8th Australian Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.

NO I.
Fig
8

Secret. - APR 1918

Preliminary Instruction No 1

1. PACK ANIMALS

Present Strength: R.H.Q.-3, A 13, B 13, C 11, Total 40.

A & B Squadron will each hand over to R.H.Q. Two for water, Signals and stretchers, making Hdqrs 7 and Sqdns 11 each.

Squadron Packs will be used as under -

Hotchkiss Guns and S.A.A. Sticks 6 p Sqdn.

2 Boxes Grenades, and 1 Box of Bombs 1 p Sqdn.

S.A.A. 2 Boxes, & 1 box of ~~limbs~~ H.G. Sticks

A Squadron to carry one extra box of sticks. 1 p Sqdn.

Tools 2 p Sqdn.

H.G. Sticks in boxes. A Sqdn one pack horse carrying 6 boxes

1 Box grenades, 1 Box of Bombs, & 1 Box S.A.A.

C Squadron 1 pack horse.

One pack horse from B Sqdn carrying Field Medical panniers

Signals 5 Pack horses are allotted.

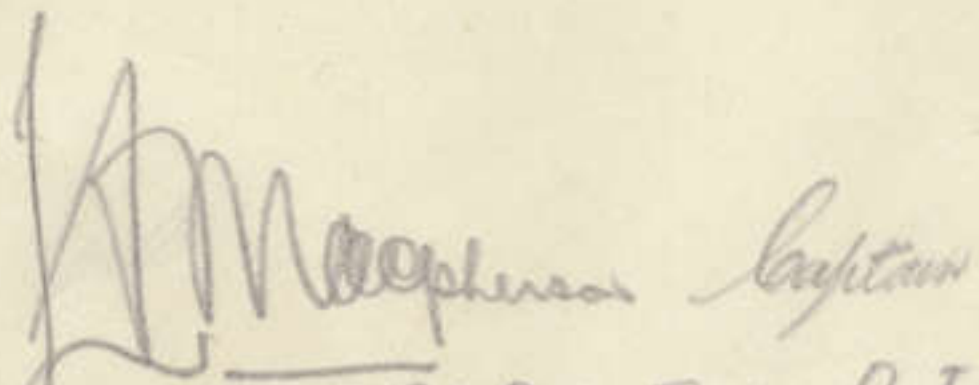
Stretchers 1 Pack horse from R.H.Q.

Water Equipment 1 Pack horse from R.H.Q.

Leather Ammunition Panniers

These will be carried on riding saddle and will contain 1700 rounds per Squadron.

General Pack horses handed over to Regt. Hdqrs will be complete with pack saddles and pack leaders. All basket panniers in possession will be handed over to R.H.Q.


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

Issued at 1030

8th Australian Light Horse Regiment

Secret. - APR 1918

Operation B Preliminary Instruction No. 2.

- 1 Maps The following Maps will be carried:-
- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| PALESTINE SHEET. No. 18. | 1/63,360. |
| COMPOSITE ES-SALT. | 15. |
| AMMAN | |
| SYRIA - JERUSALEM | 1/250,000 |
| HAIFA. | |

All maps other than those mentioned above will be left in dumps, under Squadron arrangements

2 PRISONERS & GUNS.

- (a) All prisoners will be rapidly evacuated to B.H.Q.
 (b) Captured guns will if possible be removed to the rear, otherwise they will be destroyed.

3 INFORMATION

- (a) All ranks are warned that, if captured, every man is bound to give his true name and rank if questioned on the subject and it is his duty to refuse to answer further questions
 (b) No documents or marked maps likely to disclose information useful to the enemy are to be carried by officers or men taking part in active operations.
 (c) All ranks are to be searched for documents before going into action.

4 WATER

Water will be scarce. All ranks will start with their water bottles and jannamers (if in possession) full, and will conserve the water as long as possible.

5 STORES

- The following stores will be carried:-
 (i) Flares 20 per troop. To co-operate with our artillery
 (ii) Bombs. 48 per Regt.
 (iii) Rifle Grenades. 144 per Regt.

6 AEROPLANE CO-OPERATION

Co-operation with aeroplanes to be carefully studied; fullest possible use being made of means at disposal.

7 DISCIPLINE

The strictest silence will be maintained during the night march. No lights are to be lit until permission is obtained from Regimental Headquarters.

8 COMMUNICATIONS

Visual signalling will have to be to a great extent depended on owing to the difficulties which will present themselves. Squads will take special steps to maintain communications under the varying conditions which may be expected.

(2 Contd)

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Preliminary Instructions No. 2.
(Continued)

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9. ENEMY COMMUNICATIONS.

Enemy communications will be destroyed whenever met with.

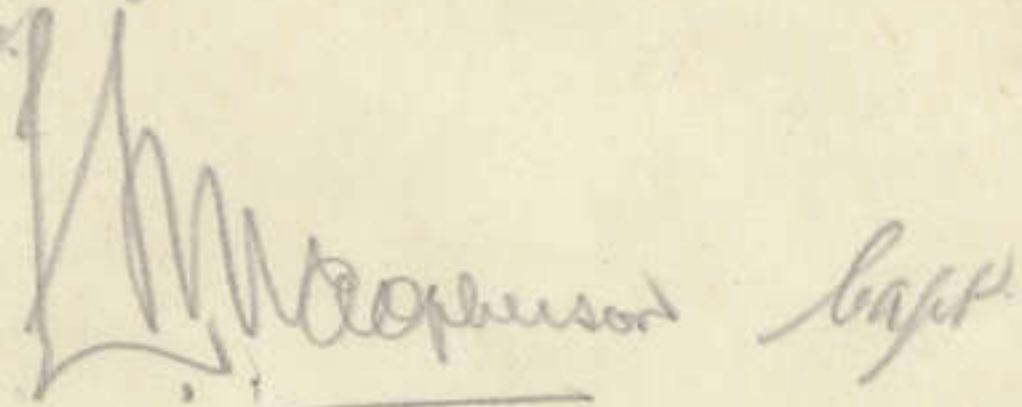
10. RATIONS. The following rations will be carried:-

On the man and horse

- (a) For the man 2 days emergency ration and 1 day's iron ration.
- (b) For the horse 2 days emergency rations limited to 7 lbs of grain for each day = 14 lbs for the two days.

11. BAGGAGE.

All Squadron Stores and Baggage etc will be stacked at Regtl. Qtrs by 1800 to-day.

 W. J. Thompson Capt

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

Issued at 1140.

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3.

Sth Australian Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.

Summary of Strength for the month of April 1918.

<u>Strength.</u>	March 31st	17	Officers	489	O/Rks.
	Reinforcements	4	do	37	do.
	Transferred in	5	do.	-	do.
	Evac. hospital	1	do	25	do
	Transferred out	5	do	24	do.
<u>Strength.</u>	April 31st.	18	do	477	do

Average strength for the month - Officers 18.27
 - O/Rks 477.17

In the Field.
 May 1st 1918.

W. Macpherson
 Captain,
 A/Adj. for C.O. Sth A.L.H. Regiment.

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LIST of MATERIAL CAPTURED
AT ES-SALT.

1. Large Ammunition Dump.
1. Machine Gun Ordnance, including 28 Machine Guns, (Berlin 1917) Maxim Type.
 - 26 mountings, M.G. 8 M.G. Shields.
 - 12 Large Boxes spare parts.
 - 12 Iron Cases (for 2 barrels + rod) - empty.
 - 12 Packing Cases.
 - 12 Belt filling machines, in cases, complete.
 - 50. M.G. Water Tanks.
 - 150/200 M.G. Boxes (Belts or ammunition)
 - 100 Coils Barb Wire.
 - 1500 Standards Barb Wire.
 - 1 Boiler
 - 1 Motor Car (Good Order)
 - 1 " Ambulance (do)
 - 5 " Lorries.
 - 5 Waggon with 10 horses and harness
 - 6 Barrels.
 - Packing Cases, (medium size)
 - 1 Water Cart (Turkish)
 - 3 Camel Pack Saddles
 - 1 Motor Bicycle (Good Order).

J. Macpherson Capt.
Adjut 8th L. H. Regiment.