

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/13/38

Title: 8th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

August 1918

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLUFF. Y.5.d.4.5. Jericho B.6.Sheet.	Aug.10	0730	Situation for 24 hours Quiet. No artillery fire.No casualties. S.A.A.Expenditure-Nil. Evacuations:Front Line. 1 Off.(2/Lt.P.Burns.)6 o/rs.(inc.271 SSM.S.B.Murphy.& 980 Sgt.McLennan) Led Horses. 2 o/ranks. Working Party from Reserve Squadron,wired 100 yds. at VYSE,and built 1 sangar between Bluff 2 & 3 posts. Working Party from Indian Bde.under Mjr.Bleechmore,(9th.L.H.)rebuilt No.3 Sangar,BLUFF. 2000 91 cases of comforts received by Regiment,60 from Comforts,and 31 from Regtl.Funds. Strength Main Body:-15th Officers 265 o/rs. Led Horses 4 Offrs. 153 o/ranks. <i>bmw</i>	
do.	2	0700	Situation quiet.Casualties Nil. Ammunition expended: Nil. 0800 Gen.Bartholomew (Genl.Staff.) and Brig.Genl.Wilson,visited Bluff,and viewed the positions. 1100 2/Lieut.W.A.McCONNAN left for Rafa Gas School. - Evacuations: Front Line 4 o/rs. Led Horses-Nil. - Working Party from Reserve Squadron at VYSE. Working Party,(Indians) under Major Bleechmore,at No.3 Post BLUFF. 1500 Major Y.H.Walker.M.C. took over charge of Led Horses,relieving Captain J.M.TAYLOR,who returned to Front Line,and took command of VYSE Post. 1900 Court Martial Party.(Lieut.Peppercorn,MC.& Fitzgerald)returned from Jerusalem. Heavy Shelling of MUSSALLABEH,by 5.9,4.6,and small guns from enemy positions near RED HILL. Personnel. Main Body: 14 off. 261 o/rs. Led Horses 4 off.149 o/rs. <i>bmw</i>	
do.	XXXXXX	3 0700	Situation Very Quiet. A little shelling over the Section. Casualties Nil. Ammunition Expended. Evacuations: Main Body : 1 Off.(2/Lt.Stanbury.MM.) 5 o/rs. (Malaria) Led Horses.Nil . /Nil. Strength: Main Body 14 offs. 258 o/rs. Led Horses 4 offs. 148 o/rs. 0900 Lt.Mulholland reported to Front Line from led horses. 1500 Mjr.Hughes M.C.,DAQMG.Aust.M.Div.,and Staff Capt.,3rd.L.H.Bde.,visited lines,and inspected emergency rations. 1900 Working Parties from Reserve Squadron,to VYSE and MUSSALLABEH. 12 o/rs. 4th.L.H.Bde.supplied Bluff Working Party. 1400 Gas Helmets of Front line men re-sprayed. <i>bmw</i>	

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Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
BLUFF : Y.5.d.4.5. (Jericho B. 6 sheet 1/40,000)	Aug. 4th.	0700	Situation Quiet. Evacuations 7 o/ranks from Main Body. 1 o/r from Led Horses, and Sgt. J.M. Gray from School of Bayonet Fighting, Alexandria. Casualties: Nil. Ammunition Expended: Nil. Working Parties from Reserve Squadron to VYSE (12 o/r) and MUSSALLABEH (16 o/rs.) ditto. 4th. A.L.H. Bde. supplied party on works on BLUFF. Strength: Main Body. 13 Offrs. 253 o/ranks. Led Horses 3 Offrs. 150 o/ranks. <i>lower</i>	
ditto.	5th.	-	Situation Quiet. Casualties Nil. Evacuations: Front Line: 5 o/r. Led Horses 5 o/rs. Major CRAWFORD and 2 o/rs, on Egyptian Leave. Reserve Squadron Working Party to MUSSALLABEH. 4th. L.H. Bde. supplied party for BLUFF Sangars and deepening trenches. 1505 Tpr. Fitzgerald, awarded 28 days Field Punishment No. 2 by F.G.C.M., Jerusalem. 3293 Tpr. Callender - Acquitted. Strength: Main Body: 12 offrs. 245 o/rs. Led Horses 3 Offs. 146 o/rs. <i>lower</i>	
ditto.	6th.	0700 2100	Situation Quiet, except for reciprocal shelling. Casualties Nil. Evacuations. 1 Offr. (Lt. PATTERSON) and 6 o/rs, from Front Line and 3 o/rs from Led Horses. Strength: 12 Offs. 240 o/rs. with M. Body. 3 off. 143 o/rs Led Horses. 10 reinforcements arrived from led horses. <i>lower</i>	
ditto.	7th.	0700 0800 1000	Situation Quiet. Shelling rather heavy? Casualties: Nil. Evacuations Front Line: 12 o/rs. (inc 1 AAMC) Led Horses 9 o/rs. (Malaria) 2 Deserters came in to MASKERAH post from direction of Es Salt. No particulars. Unable to speak 4 Deserters came in to MASKERAH from direction of Damieh. Poor Condition. and ragged /s. Arabic. Lines visited by D.D.M.S. (Col. FOWLER) & Mjr. Evans in connection with Malaria trouble. Strength. 11 off. 243 o/r. M. Body----- 3 off. 141 o/rs. Led Horses. <i>lower</i>	
ditto.	8th.	0700	Situation Quiet, except for intermittent shell fire. Casualties Nil. Evacuations Front Line 7 o/rs. Led Horses 4 o/rs. Lieut. M.W. Cowell returned from Bayonet Fighting School, Alexandria. Captain QUINLAN A.M.C. attached, vice. Capt. ANDREWS A.M.C. to 3rd. L.H. F.A. <i>lower</i>	
ditto.	9th.	0700	Situation Quiet. Casualties Nil. Evacuations Front Line 7 o/rs. Led Horses 1 o/r Troops Paid. Strength - Main Body 12 off. 224 o/rs. Led Horses 3 off. 130 o/rs. <i>lower</i>	

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Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BLUFF. Y.5.d.4.5. Jericho B.6.Sheet.	AUG.10.	0700	Situation quiet. Casualties Nil. Evacuations, Front Line 30/Ranks, Led Horses 11 Off 40/Ranks. Major Y.H.WALKER.M.C. evacuated to Hospital. Strength, Main Body 12 Off. 217 O/Ranks. Led Horses 3 Off, 132 O/Ranks.	
		2200.	The portion of the Regiment in the Front Line changed over with the 9th.L.H.Reg. Hdqrs, A and C Sqdn's led horses came up from Sq.K.6. and these Troops moved back to Madhbeh, Sq.29. occupying the site vacated by the 9th.L.H.Reg. "B" Sqdn. changed with one squadron 9.L.H. going from VYSE to ABU TILLUL, and remained as Supports to the 9th. and 10th L.H.Regts. "B" Sqdn. led horses did not come up from Sq.K.6. the change being effected dismounted. The Regiment became Brigade Reserve on the change over being effected.	
MADHBEH. Sq.Y.29.	11th.	0700.	Situation quiet. No "stand to". Evacuations 5 O/Ranks sick. Strength, Main Body 13 Off. 305 O/Ranks, Led Horses 1 Off. 34 O/Ranks.	
		1900.	"A" Sqdn. furnished a Mounted Patrol, 10 Off, 8 O/Ranks to a position approximately 1000 yards in front of MASKERAH. No enemy encountered.	
Ditto.	12th.	0700.	2 O/Ranks on Egyptian leave (7 day's).	
		1200.	Capt. QUINLAN, A.M.C. relieved by Capt. P.A.MORRIS, A.M.C. as R.M.O. Strength, Main Body 13 Off, 287 O/Ranks, Led horses 10 Off, 50 O/Ranks. Evacuations, Lieut. R.F.MANN from led horses, 2nd. Lieut. W.A.McCONNAN from Rafa Gas School, and 12 O/Ranks. Lieut. T.R.Peppercorn M.C. from Main Body to Led Horses to take charge vice Lt. Mann evacuated.	
		1900.	Patrols. "A" Sqdn. supplied Standing Patrols, dismounted, in front of Wire "G" Section, (10.L.H.), strength 2 Off. 42 O/Ranks. These Patrols to try and intercept any enemy patrols from GRANT HILL, and capture prisoners for information. No enemy encountered. "C" Sqdn supplied the mounted MASKERAH Patrol. Nothing unusual encountered.	
Ditto.	13th.		Capt. J.M. Taylor second member on Sack Board held at B.H.Qrs. Lieut. E.M.JENNER and 14 O/Ranks, reinforcements from Moascar. Lieut. Currington and 2 O/Ranks returned from Junior Officers School at Richon. Evacuations, 7 O/Ranks. Strength Main Body, 12 Off. 282 O/Ranks, Led Horses 10 Off. 40 O/Ranks. No. 668. Sgt/Cook J.F.Doyle remanded for F.G.C.M.	

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MADHBEH.	Aug. 14th.		"B" Sqdn. led horses brought from Wadi NEUIAMAH and "B" Sqdn personnel brought from ABU TILLUL posts in Front Line back to Regtl. Hqrs. at MADHBEH, relief being carried out by the 1st. B.W.I's. Patrols, MASKERAH "C" Sqdn, Standing Patrol "A" Sqdn. Evacuations 7 O/Ranks. Strength, 15 Off. 331 O/Ranks. <i>Wmeh</i>	
Do.	15th.		Day spent in reorganising cleaning, and checking. Patrols supplied MASKERAH A Sqdn, Standing Patrol C Sqdn. 2200. Lieut. R.F. Mann reported from Hospital Jerusalem. Evacuations 2 10 O/Ranks. Strength, 15 Off, 324 O/Ranks. <i>Wmeh</i>	
Do.	16th.	0630.	Lieut. R.H. Borbidge and 2 O/Ranks to School of Instruction, Zietoun. Lieut. TR. Peppercorn M.C. and Lieut. M. Gray to Hospital. Evacuations 2 Off, 6 O/Ranks. Strength, 16 Off, 315 O/Ranks. 2 Horses wounded at AUJA water troughs No 2 crossing, by enemy shell-fire. Patrols, MASKERAH, "B" Sqdn. The Standing Patrols reduced by one half, the 1st. B.W.I. Battn. supplying the rest of the Personnel. Strength now consists of 1 Off, 22 O/Ranks supplied by "C" Sqdn. <i>Wmeh</i>	
Do.	17th.		Lieut. JENNER took over the acting duties of R.Q.M. from Lieut. MACKAY, (proceeding on EGYPT leave). S.Q.M. Sgt. V.J. DORMAN nominated for Cadet School Course and interviewed Brigadier. Lieut. S.L. Mulholland to 3rd. M.G. Sqdn as waiting member on a F.G.C.M. Patrols, MASKERAH "C" Sqdn, STANDING, "A" Sqdn. <i>Wmeh</i>	
Do.	18th.		Lieut. MACKAY and 2 O/Ranks on Egyptian leave. Evacuations 17 O/Ranks. Strength, 13 Off, 291 O/Ranks. Evacuations, 15 O/Ranks. <i>Wmeh</i>	
Do.	19th.		Patrols, MASKERAH "C" Sqdn, STANDING "A" Sqdn. Evacuations, Lieut. BOWMAN, D.C.M. and 17 O/Ranks. 18 O/Ranks marched in from MOASCAR and various Rest Camps. Usual Patrols supplied to MASKERAH and MUSSALLABEH. Strength, 12 Off. 276 O/Ranks. <i>Wmeh</i>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MADHBEH.	1918. Aug. 20.	1600.	STRENGTH, 110ff. 278 O/Ranks. Chap-Capt. MOORE and six other ranks evacuated to Hospital. An experiment with a new issue of Rifle Grenade Discharger was carried out during the afternoon and all Officers and N.C.O's given an hours instruction in charging and firing Grenades (Mill's), at various ranges. The demonstration was very satisfactory and instructive. Enemy shelled Water Area intermittently, our casualties, Personnel Nil, 2 Horses wounded, "A" Sq Usual Patrols Supplied.	
	21.		Strength 110ff, 275 O/Ranks. Evacuations, 9 O/Ranks. Major A. CRAWFORD marched in from Jerusalem after Egyptian leave. Usual Patrols supplied.	
	22.	0900.	F.G.C.M. on Regimental Headquarters on 668 Sgt/Cook J.F.DOYLE and 1371 Trooper C.V.SUARES. President, Mjr. Timperley, 10L.H., Members, Capt. J.M.TAYLOR, 8L.H., Lieut J.MacDONALD, 9.L.H., Waiting Member, Lieut. M.W.COWELL, 8.L.H. Prosecutor, Capt. W.McGRATH. M.C., 8.L.H. THE FINDING in both cases was "GUILTY".	
		1300	A party of Officers from 3rd.L.H.Reg, reported to take over reliefs. Lieut. CURRINGTON D.C.M. in charge of Brigade Advance Parties departed for Talaat ed Dumm at 1300. All Transport packed and ready to move for Talaat ed Dumm. Evacuations, Lieut. S.L.MULHOLLAND and 19 O/Ranks to Hospital.	
		1945.	3rd.L.H.Reg. marched in and relieved this Unit. IT had taken over all Area Stores throughout the day, thus enabling the Unit to move away from MADHBEH quickly. Passing through Routes 29, Tel es Sultan, Roman Road, the Regiment reached TALAAT ED DUMM at 0100, immediately in rear of the Transport wagons, which had come by NEBY MUSA (Southern Road). Strength, 110ff. 255 O/Ranks.	
TALAAT ED DUMM to ENAB.	23rd.	0100.	Bivouaced near Water Area. Area Stores and Bivouac Site taken over by 7th A.L.H. Regiment moved in Brigade Column To Enab. Passed 2nd A.L.H. Brigade at BETHANY 2200 through JERUSALEM at 2300, watered at KULONIEH 0100, 24th Inst. Between JERUSALEM and KULONIEH No. 2214 Tpr. LYNCH "C" Sqdn, leading 22 horses and riding one, his horses took fright to at some market camels and LYNCH and horses fell 20 feet clear over the roadside. Tpr. LYNCH was unconscious and evacuated to Hospital, the horses were uninjured. Evacuations, 5 O/Ranks.	
ENAB to LATRON.	24th.		KULONIEH 0100, arrived ENAB 0215, and bivouaced there until 1900. Major A. CRAWFORD evacuated and 3 O/Ranks. Transport arrived at ENAB 0530. Regiment departed for LATRON 1930, and arrived there at 2300.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 75,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LATRON to LUDD.	25/8/18.		Regiment bivouaced at LATRON until 1900. Capt. T.S.AUSTIN and 50 O/Ranks evacuated. Strength, 9 Officers, 244 O/Ranks. Left LATRON at 1915 and arrived at LUDD 2330. Transport arrived 2400. Bivouaced among Olive Trees near Orangery, North of Station. Throughout the move Lieut. CURRINGTON D.C.M. acted as advance bivouac officer and Lieut. E.M.JENNER as transport officer. Their arrangements were very good.. It was full moonlight throughout and men and horses travelled well, shewing signs of tiredness the last night. <i>Wm</i>	
LUDD.	26th.		Reveille 0600. Regiment granted rest until Monday, 2nd Sept. 1918. Cleaning of Saddlery and harness proceeded with.. Evacuations, Lieut. W.M.COWELL and 6 O/Ranks. Marched in from various reinforcement and rest camps, 30 other ranks. Strength, 8 Off. 274 O/Rks. <i>Wm</i>	
LUDD.	27th.		Evacuations, Nil. Marched in, 1 O/Rank. Squadrons cleaning saddlery and equipment. A good Ordnance issue of Boots and Clothing received. 410 Swords, (Cavalry, Thrust) received, also scabbards. 40 Remounts drawn. All fair quality horses and in good condition. No 110, Driver F.P.TAYLOR departed to MOASCAR to proceed on transport duty to AUSTRALIA. No 1873, Trooper HIGGINS was intended for this duty but he had been evacuated to hospital on the 21st Inst, (Malaria), and could not be available. Breast Lines procured for horses. <i>Wm</i>	
LUDD.	28th.		Cleaning of Saddlery and Harness, checking equipment &c. Resting. Court Martial Papers in connection with 668 Sgt/Cook F.J.DOYLE, and 1371 Trooper C.V.SUARES to hang for Premulgation. SENTENCE, Sgt. DOYLE, 6 Months I.H.L. and reduced to the ranks as from 12/8/18. 90 days remitted of this Sentence by Mjr. General H.W.HODGSON. G.O.C., A.M.D. SENTENCE, *Trooper SUARES, 6 Months I.H.L. Sentences confirmed by Major General H.W.HODGSON, G.O.C., A.M.D. DOYLE and SUARES placed under Guard awaiting Commitment. Evacuations 1 O/Rank. <i>Wm</i>	
LUDD.	29th.		Cleaning of Saddlery &c. THE C.O. held a inspection of Saddlery.. Evacuations, 7 O/Ranks. Chaplain, Rev. F.H.MOORE returned from hospital. Officers Mess and Men's Canteen opened. A Lecture on the Venereal Scourge was given by the D.D.M.S. (Lt. Col. FOWLER), at B.H.Q. to all the Officers of the Brigade. The object was to try and get the co-operation of all responsible persons in preventing the spread of the disease. <i>Wm</i>	

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LUDD.	30/8/18.		Marched in from 3rd L.H.Training Regiment, Meascar, 20 Officers, 42 O/Ranks. Lieut C.F.Newman returned from Hospital via Meascar and 2/Lieut.C.M.SHAW, late of Cadet School, and I.C.C. were in this Draft.. 2/Lieut. SHAW taken on Strength.. 2/Lieut. A.B.C.Hammesley temporarily attached from the 10th L.H.Regt. for duty. <i>Wm</i>	
LUDD.	31/8/18.		Brigadier's Inspection, but Brigadier called away and inspection carried out by the C.O. and Brigade Major. Lieut A.H.CURRINGTON D.C.M. and 4 O/Ranks evacuated to Hospital. Strength, 12 Officers, 322 O/Ranks. <i>Wm</i>	
<p><u>RESUME</u></p> <p>The Regiment marched out to, the JORDAN VALLEY from TAALat ED DUMM, on the 14th JULY, with a Effective Strength of 23 Officers and 395 O/Ranks. It marched away from the VALLEY on 22nd August and arrived at LUDD on the 26th August with a total Effective Strength of 12 Officers, 270 O/Rks, (Fighting Column of 9 Officers and 244 O/Ranks). At LUDD there only remained in Officers, the C.O. Adjutant, Sig. Officer, and Medical Officer on HEADQUARTERS, and 1 Captain and 3 Junior Subalterns for the three squadrons.</p> <p>MALA RIA in malignant form was responsible for practically the whole of the front line evacuations.</p> <p>The total evacuations for the Month of August were 14 Officers and 250 O/Ranks. <i>Wm</i></p> <p>Marched in, 4 Officers, 116 O/Ranks.</p>				
<p><i>Wm</i></p> <p>Lieut. Colonel.</p> <p>C.O. 8th. A.L.H. REGIMENT.</p>				

AUG 1918

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WAR DIARY.

of

8th Australian Light Horse Regiment

for

July 1918.

LIST OF APENDICES.

no.

Subject.

1

Statement of Strength.--July.

...*Tom Dwyer*..... Capt.
Compiling Officer 8th A.L.H. Regiment.

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8th Australian Light Horse Regiment.

A.I.F.

STATEMENT OF STRENGTH.

1918		Off.	O/Ranks	Off.	O/Ranks.
July 31st.	Opening Strength.			23	459
	Evacuations:-				
	Sick	14	250.		
	Seconded	1			
	Extra Reg. Employed		1		
	To Cadets School & S/O.		1		
	On Transport duty.		1		
				15	253
	Taken on:-			8	206
	Marched in from Tng. Regiment.			3	105
	do do do Hospital.			1	11
	Closing Strength.			12	322.

Tom Grath Capt.
Adjutant, 8th A.L.H. Regiment.

Tom Grath Capt.
Compiling Officer. 8th A.L.H. REGT

8th A.L.H. Regiment.

PROGRAMME of TRAINING for the first WEEK as under.

	<u>HOUR</u>	<u>SUBJECT.</u>	<u>MANUAL</u>		<u>HOUR</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>MANUAL.</u>
1st. Day	0500-0600.	Disatd Troop Drill	Cav. Training sec 119-126.		Two hours in forenoon (depend- ent on watering hours.).	Mtd. troop Drill	Cav. Training Sec 119-128.
2nd. Day.	Same as first Day.				Same as first Day.		
3rd. Day	0500-0600.	Rifle exercises. Smartening up Drill.		do	do	do	do
4th Day	0500-0600.	Care of Arms and Ammunition. Mechanism of Rifle.	Mus. Regs. Part. 1. Sec. 2, 3, 49.	do	do	do.	do.
5th Day.	0500-0600.	Aiming and Trigger Pressing. Adjustment of Sights.	Mus. Regs. Part 1. Sec. 36, 38, 2 43.	do	do	do	do
th Day	0500-0600	Rapid Loading.		do	Mounting Dismounting Hanging over Horses Leading Horses.		

11 available men are to attend Training Parades. All Camp duties will be cut down to the minimum possible. Regimental signallers and Hotchkiss gunners will attend the first weeks training.

No dummy cartridges are available for rapid loading practices. Ball cartridge will have to be used and every attention must be given to safety precautions.

1/8/18.

(Sgd) W Mc. Grath Capt/Adj.
8th A.L.H. Regiment.

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Aug 18

8th.A.L.H.Regiment.

~~PROGRAM~~ PROGRAMME of TRAINING for the second WEEK as under.

<u>DAY.</u>	<u>HOURL.</u>	<u>SUBJECT.</u>	<u>MANUAL.</u>	<u>HOURL.</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>MANUAL.</u>
Monday.	0500-0600	Swordsmanship Dismounted.	Training with the sword.	0900-1200.	{ Riding with the Rifle (by troops) Practice of charge formation without swords (by troops). Troop Drill at faster paces (trot)	Cav Tng Sec. 80. Cav tng Secs 204- 207.
Tuesday.	" "	"	"	" "	" "	" "
Wednesday.	" "	"	"	0900-1200-	{ 1 hour swordsmanship, mounted.... 2 hours squadron drill.	{ Tng with the sword. Cav Tng secs 129 -136.
Thursday.	" "	"	"	" "	" "	"
Friday.	" "	"	"	" "	Tactical exercise by troops.	-
Saturday.	" "	Rapid Loading.	Musk Regs Part II Secs. 260-263. 2	"	Tactical exercise by squadron.	-

TROOP TACTICAL EXERCISE. Attack ~~by~~ by troop forming part of an advance guard without waiting for other assistance on enemy post estimated at half their own strength. To bring out co-operation of H.G. with remainder of troop using mounted action on same principles as similar exercise at BELAH in March last.

SATURDAY. Tactical exercise similar to above but carried out by squadron.

HOTCHKISS GUNS. Hotchkiss teams will receive special instruction in their gun at the early morning parade in lieu of training set out in the programme. During the mounted swordsmanship instruction in the forenoon parade the H.Gs will be detached and will carry on specialist training.

SIGNALLERS. Regimental and squadron signallers will be detached and will carry out programme of training to be issued separately. Swords and Rifle buckets will be carried by all ranks other than signallers and Hotchkiss gunners as from Monday 9th inst.

NO No dummy cartridges are available for Rapid Loading Practice. Ball cartridges will have to be used and every attention ~~must~~ must be given to safety precautions.

Sgd. W. McGRATH. Capt/Adj. t.
8th A.L.H. Regiment.

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