

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/1/30

Title: 1st Australian Light Horse
Brigade

January 1917

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

WAR DIARY

FOR MONTH OF JANUARY, 1917.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ARISH	1/1/17		Usual Outpost Line HILLS 110 - 100 - 160 taken over at 0800 from Imperial Camel Corps.	
"	2/1/17		Usual Outpost line maintained.	
"	3/1/17		Usual Outpost Line maintained.	
"	4/1/17		Usual Outpost Line maintained.	
"	5/1/17		Usual Outpost line maintained and standing patrol placed at night on EL ARISH - RAFA Road one mile from HILL 110.	
"	6/1/17		Re-distribution of Outpost Line, HILL 160 taken over by I.C.C. Standing Patrols placed at night on the three roads leading through this Brigade sector from the East and these three roads patrolled by day for a distance of five miles from Outpost Line.	Appx. LXV. (Special Order)
"	7/1/17		Usual Outpost Line maintained and patrols to the East carried out. Brigadier inspected the horses and lines of the Brigade. Three enemy 'planes bombed the camp at 1136 - damage, one horse killed, two wounded, one man slightly wounded. Enemy 'planes dropped several bombs in the camp area between 2115 & 2130 - no damage.	
"	8/1/17		Day observation posts at HILLS 110 and 100 taken over at 0600 by 156th. Brigade. Brigade moved out with Mounted Troops of DESERT COLUMN at 1600 to participate in the raid on RAFA. Arrived SHEIKH ZOWAID 2130	Appx. LXVI. (Raid Order No. 33)
SHEIKH ZOWAID. RAFA	9/1/17		Left SHEIKH ZOWAID at 0100 for RAFA. Raid on RAFA position successfully carried out. Left scene of operations at 2150.	Appx. LXVII. (R.O. 33) (14/48)
SHEIKH ZOWAID	10/1/17		Arrived SHEIKH ZOWAID at 0130, water ^{ed} horses and bivouacked from 0230 to 0520.	

Brigade Major 1st A.L.H. Bde

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

WAR DIARY

FOR MONTH OF JANUARY, 1917.

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEIKH ZOWAIID	10/1/17	(contd.)	Left SHWIKH ZOWAIID ^{ak 0710} with ANZAC Mounted Division for EL ARISH. Returned to Camp 1215. (Report on Operations attached Appx. LXVll).	
EL ARISH	11/1/1917		Outpost Line handed over by 156th. Bde. at 0700. Usual Patrols to the East carried out.	
EL ARISH	12/1/1917.		Usual Outpost Line maintained and patrols to East carried out.	
EL ARISH	13/1/1917		Outpost Line taken over by 5th. Mounted Brigade at 1200 and to be held for six days by that Brigade. G.O.C., ANZAC Mounted Division addressed the Brigade, complimenting all ranks on the work done at RAFA on 9/1/17.	
EL ARISH	14/1/17		Brigadier inspected the horses and lines of the Brigade.	
EL ARISH	15/1/17		Despatched patrol of officers and n.c.o's to examine country to S.E. for instructions. Two Troops sent as escort to topographical Survey Party, camped midway between HILLS 100 and 160.	
EL ARISH	16/1/1917		Reconnaissance of country as far as EL BURJ carried out by 1 Squadron.	
EL ARISH	18/1/1917		Escort of 2 Troops sent with Railway Survey Officer to EL BURJ.	
EL ARISH	19/1/1917		Outpost Line taken over from 5th. Mounted Brigade at 1200. Escort to Topographical Survey Party relieved by 5th. Mounted Bde. at 1200.	
EL ARISH	20/1/1917.		1st.L.H.Regiment, with 1st. Field Troop and detachments of N.Z.M.R. and 3rd.L.H.Bde. Field Troops despatched at 0830 to reconnoitre and develop the water in the vicinity of EL BURJ.	Appx. LXVlll. (20.34)
EL ARISH	21/1/1917		Development of water at EL BURJ being carried out. Country patrolled to distance of 5 miles to East of EL BURJ.	
EL ARISJ	22/1/1917.		Development of water in vicinity of EL BURJ continued. Country patrolled to distance of 5 miles East of EL BURJ.	Appx. LXIX. (20.34)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

XX
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
XX

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ARISH	23-24/1/17		Usual Outpost Line maintained. Country patrolled to 5 miles East and South East of EL BURJ.	
EL ARISH	25/1/1917		Outpost Line taken over at 1200 by 5th. Mounted Brigade. Escort of 2 Troops to Topographical Survey Party relieved by Escort of 2 Troops of 5th. Mounted Brigade.	
EL ARISH	26/1/1917		Reconnaissance km of country to the East of EL BURJ as far as SHEIKH ZOWAID CARRIED out by 1 Squadron of 1st.L.H.Regiment.	
EL ARISH	27/1/1917		Country to East and South East of EL BURJ patrolled for a distance of 5 miles.	
EL ARISH	28/1/1917		Rifle Range and area for Machine Gun fire selected. Usual patrols carried out.	
EL ARISH	29/1/1917		The 1st. A.L.H. Regiment at EL BURJ relieved by 5th. Mounted Brigade (less one Regt.) and returned to EL RISA Camp at 1600. Machine Gun Field Firing carried out.	
EL ARISH	30/1/1917		Outpost Line taken over from Regiment of 5th. Mounted Brigade. Machine Gun Field Firing continued.	
EL AIRSH	31/1/1917.		Usual Outpost Line maintained. Machine Gun field firing continued. Summary of prisoners, reinforcements, etc. attached.	Appx. LXX

Brigade Major
1st A.L.H. Bde

SPECIAL ORDER

b y

Brigadier-General C.F. COX, C.B., V.D.
Commanding First Australian Light Horse Brigade.

Headquarters,
5/1/17.

Reference Map :- AL ARISH 1/125,000

1. OUTPOSTS.

The Outpost Line to be held by 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will be from the sea just North of HILL 110 to HILL 160 exclusive.

By Night:-

One Troop will be stationed near the main EL ARISH - RAFA Road about last A of MABWALA and will supply standing patrols of 1 n.c.o. and 8 men each on the BEACH ROAD and on the main EL ARISH - RAFA ROAD, 1½ miles from HILL 110.

Two Troops will be stationed at HILL 100 and will supply:-

(a)- Standing Patrol of 1 n.c.o. and 8 men on track just South of and running roughly parallel to the main EL ARISH - RAFA ROAD.

(b)- Patrols of 1 n.c.o. and 8 men at varied hours of the ~~xxxxxx~~ night between HILL 100 and Troop at last A of MABWALA, and between HILL 100 and Post of I.C.C. on HILL 160
O.C., Machine Gun Squadron will have 2 guns posted on HILL 100.

By Day:-

The remaining Troop of the Squadron detailed for Outpost duty will supply:-

(a)- Observation Posts of 1 Section each with Signallers on HILLS 110 and 100.

(b)- Patrols of 1 n.c.o. and 8 men to proceed at irregular hours of the day for a distance of 5 miles along:-

(i) The BEACH ROAD.

(ii) The Main EL ARISH - RAFA ROAD.

(iii) The track just South of and running roughly parallel to the Main EL ARISH - RAFA ROAD.

A.CHISHOLM Major
Brigade Major, 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

by
Brigadier-General C.F. COX, C.B., V.D.
Commanding First Australian Light Horse Brigade

APPX. LVI
MC.-Grs.,
8/1/17.

INFORMATION. 1.

It is the intention of the Desert Column Commander to make a raid on the RAFA position at dawn on Tuesday, 9th. instant. The troops engaged will be:- ANZAC Mtd. Div., 5th. Mtd. Bde., I.C.C. Bde. (less 1 Coy. at LAHMAN).

INSTRUCTIONS 2.

The 1st. A.L.H. Bde. will be formed up with the Head of the Bde. on a N. and S. line drawn through 2nd. L.H. Regt., about 400 yds. N. of 2nd. L.H. Regt., in Column of Sqdn. Lines of Troop Columns, facing East at 1525.

ORDER OF MARCH. 3.

D.H.Q.

Sig. Troop.

Detachment. Fd. Troop.

M.G. Sqdn.

1st. L.H. Regt.

2nd. L.H. Regt.

3rd. L.H. Regt.

Order of March as per margin.

Flank Guards of one Troop on each flank will be provided by 1st. L.H. Regt.

A halt will be made at SHEIKH ZOWAID until 0100.

ESCORTS. 4.

- C.O., 2nd. L.H. Regt. will detail the following escort
(i)- 1 Troop to report to C.C., A.S.C. at ANZAC Supply Depot at 1500, Monday 8th. inst., as escort to convoy.
(ii)- 1 Troop as escort to 1st. Line Transport of this Bde.

WATER 5.

C.C., Field Troop will report with half his Troop to C.C., Fd. Sqdn. at position of assembly and will act under his orders.

SUPPLIES 6.

One day's rations, extra ration and unconsumed portion of current day's rations will be carried on each man.

1 day's forage and unconsumed portion of the current day's forage will be carried on each horse.

Half a gallon of water per man will be carried on 1st. Line Camels, the number of camels thus released will carry extra forage for horses..

AMMUNITION 7.

200 rounds S.A.A. will be carried to each man, 3,500 rounds to each Machine Gun and 5,000 to each Lewis Gun.

The Machine Gun Sqdn. will carry 24,000 rounds from 1st. Line Ammunition in limbers.

BLANKETS 8

One blanket per man will be carried on 1st. Line Camels.

ORDERLIES 9.

Lieut. E.S. KAYNE, with two Orderlies detailed by C.C. 1st. Signal Troop will report to D.H.Q. at position of assembly. They must go prepared to stay with D.H.Q. throughout the operations.

DETAILS 10.

C.O., 2nd. L.H. Regt. will detail 2nd. in command of the Sqdn. supplying the two escort Troops to be in charge of Bde. details during the absence of the Bde.

The Division will move off from SHEIKH ZOWAID at 0100. C.O., 1st. L.H. Regt. will detail 1 Sqdn. as Advanced Guard, and 1 Troop on each Flank as Flank Guard for the Bde.; the Flank Guards will keep touch with the Flank Guards of the Rear Bdes.

Copies issued at 1400 to:-

File, D.H.Q., D.H.Q., War Diary.

1st., 2nd., 3rd. L.H. Regts., M.G. Sqdn.

Ambulance, Fd. Troop., Sig. Troop., Camel Officer, Supply Officer.

A. C. H. I. S. H. C. L. M. Major,
Brigade Major, 1st. A.L.H. Bde.

790
17/48
PPA. LXVII
FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.
=====

Hd.-Qrs.,
A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.

Headquarters,
11/ 1/ 1917.

Report on operations carried out by 1st.A.L.H.Brigade
at RAFA on 9/1/17.

First A.L.H.Brigade moved from EL RISA with ANZAC Mounted Division at 1600 on 8/1/17, arrived at SHEIKH ZOWAID at 2130, bivouacked until 0100 on 9/1/17, then moved with ANZAC Mounted Division to KARM IBN MUSLEH.

After reconnaissance of position by G.O.C., attack was ordered to be made at 1000, my sector being the enemy's Works, C.3, C.2, C.1.

At 0945 I despatched the 1st. L.H. Regiment with 4 Machine Guns to advance on these positions, keeping touch with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade on their right. I also sent 2 Machine Guns to afford cross fire from that flank. To keep touch with the N.Z.M.R. Brigade, this Regiment was compelled to move farther to the right than was intended with the result that their advance was directed on Work C.4. The Regiment moved into action mounted up to 2,000 yards of enemy position, the horses being immediately sent back. During the advance (dismounted), which was across perfectly open country, they came under heavy shrapnel, ~~xxxx~~ machine gun and rifle fire, but with very few casualties. The 1st. position was taken up on SUNKEN ROAD, running about 800 yards East of Work C.4.

At 1100, with the intention of pressing my attack at 1130 in conjunction with the 3rd.L.H.Brigade, I reinforced my line with 2nd. and 3rd.L.H.Regiments; the 3rd.Regiment on left of 1st.L.H.Regiment and the 2nd. to reinforce its right which was too much extended, endeavouring to keep touch with N.Z.M.R. Brigade. The reinforced line immediately began to push forward, the order of units from left to right being 3rd.L.H.Regt., "B" Sqdn.2nd.L.H.Regt., "C" and "A" Sqdns.1st. L.H.Regt., "A" Sqdn.2nd.L.H.Regt.

By 1300 the centre of my line had pushed forward to LARGE TREE, and by 1330 the right had pushed round on the ridge North West of LARGE TREE, capturing enemy trenches marked A & B in attached rough sketch, 24 prisoners being taken in "A" trench by 1st.L.H.Regiment and 20 prisoners in "B" trench by 2nd.L.H.Regiment. Close touch with N.Z.M.R. Brigade was then established. The attack was then directed on work C.5, but advance was prevented during bombardment by our own Artillery, whose fire was directed at MAIN REDOUBT on RIDGE 255, and Work C.5. Immediately on cessation of our Artillery bombardment at 1530 the enemy heavily shelled with high explosive that portion of my line attacking C.4, this with heavy machine gun fire from MAIN REDOUBT on the right of my line held up further advance for the time being.

About 1630 the advance of N.Z.M.R. Brigade from the North was very rapid, my right co-operated and pushed their attack on Work C.5, which was rushed and surrendered about 1700, the whole position surrendering practically at the same time.

Machine Guns:- 11 Machine Guns were employed during the action and excellent work was done, no movement was made without covering fire being afforded by both Lewis and Machine Guns.

Four guns were detailed to 1st.L.H.Regt. with 2 additional guns to protect the advance of the left flank which was open when the attack first opened.

When the line was reinforced, 3 Machine Guns were

detailed to 2nd.L.H.Regiment, reinforcing the right of the line, and 2 Machine Guns to 3rd.L.H.Regiment, reinforcing the left of my Sector.

Three Section Officers of Machine Gun Squadron were wounded.

Only one Gun was put out of action during the day and that owing to a worn ~~barrel~~ barrel.

Communications.

Telephone communication was established with each Regiment, who in turn established telephone communication with each Squadron. Touch was also maintained with D.H.Q. by 'phone. Much excellent work was done by members of my Signal Troop in repairing lines under very heavy ~~xxx~~ shell and Machine Gun fire, one line being cut three times by direct hits with high explosive shells.

Casualties:-

Unit	<u>Killed</u>		<u>Wounded</u>	
	Offs.	O.R.	Offs.	O.R.
1st.L.H.Regt.	—	3	2	28
2nd. "	—	6	1	19
3rd. "	—	9	2	47
M.G.Sqdn.	—	1	3	8
1st.L.H.Fd.Amb.	Not returned to camp			
TOTAL	—	19	8	102

Horse Casualties

<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Missing</u>
3	10	5

Ammunition expended.

<u>S.A.A.</u>	<u>Machine Gun</u>	<u>Lewis Gun</u>
102,000	75,000	11,000

J.H. Cap
Brig.-General,
G.O.C., 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

CASUALTY RETURN.

- List No.9. -

Engagement at RAFA, 9th. January, 1917.

KILLED.

No.	503	L/Cpl.	WALLER	W.A.	(Anzac Provost Corps, attached, 1st. L.H. Regiment).
	494	Cpl.	LAW	J.	1st. L.H. Regiment
	136	L/Cpl.	LEESE	E.A.	do.
	124	Sgt.	BARNES	J.P.	2nd. L.H. Regiment
	962	L/Cpl.	ANTHONY	A.H.	do.
	1080	"	ANGUS	M.	do.
	135	Sgt.	COWLEY	E.C.	do.
	352	"	MATTHEWS	A.	do.
	859	Cpl.	CAMERON	C.A.	do.
	113	Sgt.	BOWYER	S.E.	3rd. L.H. Regiment
	932	"	ROGERS	E.A.	do.
	106	L/Cpl.	BAX	M.	do.
	1093	"	DONNELLAN	W.J.	do.
	103	Tpr.	BROWN	R.W.	do.
	903A.	"	ROBERTS	C.	do.
	1510	"	TAYLOR	T.B.	do.
	1417	"	BENNETT	C.P.	do.
	2992	"	BOLT	A.C.	do.
	1688	"	ROBERTSON	F.J.K.	M.G. Squadron

WOUNDED.

(1st. L.H. Regt.)

No.	443	Major	T.E.W.W. IRWIN.	No.	399	2nd. Lieut.	C.A. HORDERN.
	473	L/Sgt.	TREASURE P.H.		800	Cpl.	BUTTER A.K.
	1005	L/Cpl.	CAMERON C.S.		2878	L/Cpl.	ROBERTS D.L.
	2882	"	CARMICHAEL C.M.		1598	Tpr.	GAVIN P.J.
	1272	Tpr.	KENSITT C.L.		1677	"	BRYANT S.P.
	1087	"	WALCOTT G.D.		2461	"	BROWN A.
	2390	"	CRAWSHAW R.W.		2952	"	COOTES S.H.
	872	"	TURNBULL J.O.		805A.	"	STANTON F.T.
	946	"	HOWARD J.H.		954	"	JAMES R.
	983	"	JOHNSON S.E.C.		2898	"	NICHOLL A.H.
	868	"	SCOTT T.M.		871	"	WALLER G.
	1641	"	HASTIE S.J.		2949	"	HASTIE W.
	2945	"	McPHEE W.H.		1207	"	McNICKLE W.R.
	1282	"	LEONARD J.			"	FRATER R.H.
		"	STHILL L.L.				

No. 384 Tpr. SAUNDERS G. (Anzac Provost Corps, attached)
(2nd. L.H. Regiment)

	Lieut.	SINCLAIR	D.H.M.	(not evacuated).
174	Cpl.	LEVER	H.E.	2391 L/Cpl. UNDERWOOD R.J.
2877	Tpr.	FISHER	C.H.	2784 Tpr. BARNES P.E.
1576	"	FARQUHARSON	C.W.	215 " SAULL H.
1002	Cpl.	RYAN	E.M.	2633 " CUNNINGHAM H.L.
890	Tpr.	SOUL	A.W.H.	1158 " DOYLE J.A.
2634	"	CROZIER	J.F.	1043 Sgt. STEVENS S.
1083	"	BOYLE	J.J.	2889 Tpr. ROSS H.
147	Cpl.	EVANS	C.W.	1389 " BOYTER H.
2658	Tpr.	STANLEY	A.	2179 " COOK J.
2213	"	REID	T.	(not evacuated).

- 2 -

CASUALTY RETURN.- List No.9. -WOUNDED.(3rd. L.H. Regiment).

No.	494	Major C. MILLS.		No.	380	Major L.A. LEWIS	
	441	S.Q.M.S. TYRELL	G.R.		Sergt. BURBURY	A.C.	
	260	Sgt. LADE	C.H.		" TONGS	C.J.	
	747	Cpl. AYLIFFE	J.H.		Cpl. NOBLETT	E.	
	1470	" GOURLAY	T.P.		Cpl. CLARKE	A.	
	1128	L/Cpl. KNOX	W.R.		L/Cpl. MATES	J.A.I.	
	290	Tpr. COATES	G.S.		Tpr. MOONEY	J.	
	803	" ELLIS	M.A.		" HARVEY	P.A.	
	993	" BUTLER	H.E.		" DAWSON	J.W.	
	941	Dvr. PRICE	E.J.M.		" CAMERON	A.W.	
	938	Tpr. ELLIS	J.H.		" SYMONDS	F.H.	
	1184	" DALZELL	J.N.		" WHITE	J.V.	
	1300	" HAVEY	W.		" SPAREE	F.J.	
	1420	" JOSEPHS	R.M.		" CLARKE	W.J.	
	1120	" BISHOP	J.H.		" SIZE	W.M.	
	1460	" WADE	J.		" THOMPSON	N.A.	
	1368	" KEMPE	E.E.		" NICHOLS	R.V.	
	2472	" WRIGHT	E.		" MILLER	O.	
	2272	" MURRIE	M.I.		" JOHNS	E.	
	321	" WATSON	H.C.		" ARTHUR	B.	
	709	Sgt. MUSSON	G.		Cpl. DOUGLAS	D.R.	
	1344	Cpl. GARRETT	F.G.		Tpr. KENNEDY	G.A.	
	1235	Tpr. KINNEAR	G.A.		" MORISON	J.C.L.	
	1123	" PENTLEOW	F.		" AUGHEY	A.C.	
		" SCHOFIELD	A.C.				

(M.G. Squadron).

	Lieut.	HARRIS	C.W.	2nd. Lieut.	HARVEY	F.
2nd.	Lieut.	KEMP	A.C.	2806	Tpr. ACKLAND	R.C.
2816	Tpr.	BEATTIE	A.B.	2347	" RYAN	S.M.
2651	"	WATSON	T.R.	1122	" RICHARDSON	G.B.
1330	"	MILLER	G.	2829	" PETERS	B.
2889	"	SAYERS	R.R.			

(1st. L.H. Fd. Amb.)

1st. L.H. Fd. Amb. still at SHEIKH ZOWAID; figures not yet available for this unit.


 Brigadier-General,
 G.O.C. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

BRIGADE ORDER No. 54

by

Brigadier-General C.F. COX, C.B., V.D.Commanding First Australian Light Horse BrigadeHeadquarters,
19/1/1917.

SECRET

Reference Map EL ARISH 1/125.000

1. INSTRUCTIONS.

A thorough reconnaissance of the country in the vicinity of EL BURJ will be carried out tomorrow, 20th. instant.

Search is to be made for water.

(i) On the Beach.

(ii) In the sandhills.

(iii) In the caravan route and South of it.

Any water found will be developed to the greatest possible extent.

In addition to the search for water, practicable routes between the sea and the caravan route are required.

The report must furnish information as to the possibilities of making a road which would enable animals to pass from the caravan route to the sea to water, or to carry water from the sea to EL BURJ, stating :-

(i) Amount of material required.

(ii) Time required in which such a road could be made.

2.- TROOPS FOR RECONNAISSANCE.

1st. A.L.H. Regiment.

1st. Field Troop.

Detachments, 2nd. L.H. Bde. and 3rd. L.H. Bde. Field Troops.

3.- MOVES.

The 1st. L.H. Regiment will leave EL RISA Camp at 0830 to carry out the reconnaissance and will return on completion of the development of the water in the vicinity of EL BURJ; this will probably be afternoon of 21st. instant.

4. OUTPOSTS.

Outposts both by day and night will be pushed well out in the direction of SHEIKH ZOWAID.

5.- ESCORT.

C.C., 1st. A.L.H. Regiment will detail one Troop as escort to Camel Convoy.

6.- RATIONS, FORAGE AND WATER.

Unexpended portion of day's rations and forage will be carried. Camel Convoy carrying rations, forage and water for 21st. instant, will leave EL RISA at 1400 tomorrow.

7.- BLANKETS.

Blankets will be carried in Regimental limbered wagons

8.- COMMUNICATIONS.

C.C., 1st. Signal Troop will establish communication with 1st. L.H. Regiment by the main EL ARISH - SHEIKH ZOWAID telegraph line, which will be temporarily disconnected on Eastern side of EL BURJ.

9.- REPORTS.

Full report to be sent to R.H.Q. on completion of reconnaissance.

A. CHISHOLM Major,

Copies issued at 2200 to:-

Brigade Major, 1st. A.L.H. Bde.

No. 1 File No. 2 War Diary No. 3 D.H.Q. No. 4 1st. L.H. Regt.

No. 5 Signal Troop No. 6 Supply Officer No. 7 Camel Transport Officer

No. 8 Field Troop.

790

11

Appx LXIX.

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

B.M., 9/59. 20/1/1917.

Report on water reconnaissance in vicinity of EL BURJ. Water is available in large quantities on and near the beach North of EL KHARRUBA. Several tracks could be easily made across the dunes at EL KHARRUBA to the beach. The material for making roads is plentiful, but will have to be carried to the proposed road. The length of track required to be made is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile. The Southern side of the sand dunes will be tested tomorrow morning, but it is not anticipated that water will be obtained at less than 30 feet. The ground in the vicinity of BIR EL BURJ is too hard for the Norton tube. If extra Engineers could carry equipment for sinking deep wells South of the dunes, water should be available anywhere on the flat in satisfactory quantities.

1st. A.L.H. BRIGADE.
EL RISA.

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

B.M. 964 21/1/1917.

Report on water reconnaissance in vicinity of EL BURJ. The country to the South of the road is being prospected this morning, but it is anticipated that water if found will be brackish. The water in BIR EL BURJ is slightly brackish. Three Troops were watered at this well with buckets and lowered the water considerably, but as the lift is too great for the pumps an accurate estimate of the supply could not be arrived at. Between BIR EL BURJ and EL KHARRUBA it is estimated that 30 wells could be sunk. This area is being prospected with Norton Tube. The Regiment watered in one hour on the beach from 2 spear points. The $\frac{3}{4}$ mile belt of sand dunes at EL KHARRUBA can in its present state be easily crossed by horses or camels at several places. With the facilities at present existing, one Brigade can be watered straight away.

1st. A.L.H. BRIGADE
EL RISA.

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

B.M. 971 21/1/1917.

Report on water reconnaissance in vicinity of EL BURJ. Half mile South of the main road, Norton Tube was sunk 20 feet with no result, levels shew that water will not be available in this area under 30 feet. North of road not yet tested, Engineers express opinion that ground is too hard for Norton Tube and levels shew that water is not likely to be available in less than 30 feet. Six spear points are in on the beach and will give sufficient water to water one Brigade in one hour. This is also excellent drinking water. On the beach East of a North and South line drawn through EL KHARRUBA, spear points will not work, the sand being too fine, but ample water is available at shallow levels by digging.

1st. A.L.H. BRIGADE.
EL RISA,

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

B.M. 973 22/1/1917.

Report on water reconnaissance in vicinity of EL BURJ. The area South of sand dunes between EL KHARRUBA and BIR EL BURJ is being prospected this morning with Norton Tube. Numerous holes are being dug on the beach for the insertion of spear points.

1st. A.L.H. BRIGADE,
EL RISA.

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

B.M. 976

22/1/1917.

Report on water reconnaissance in vicinity of EL BURJ. The area South of the sand dunes between EL KHARRUBA and BIR EL BURJ was found to be too hard for the Norton Tube, which bent at 10 and 15 feet. The area further South of the main road was prospected this afternoon and the Norton Tube driven in the most likely looking spot to a depth of 18 feet, but without success. The whole of the area EL BURJ - EL KHARRUBA has now been prospected, resume of the reconnaissance being that ample water is available on the beach, but in the area South of the sand dunes water is not available at less than 30 feet and can only be obtained by sinking wells. East of a North and South line drawn through EL KHARRUBA water on the beach is only available by digging as the sand is too fine for the spear points.

1st. A.L.H. BRIGADE.
EL RISA.

TURKISH PRISONERS FROM VICINITY OF SHELLAL, WHO CAME
IN AND WERE HANDED OVER TO A.P.M. ANZAC MOUNTED DIV.
DURING MONTH OF JANUARY, 1917.

January 12th.	-	10
13th.	-	3
14th.	-	9
15th.	-	3
18th.	-	2
20th.	-	15
21st.	-	2
22nd.	-	2
25th.	-	3
26th.	-	1
27th.	-	4
29th.	-	2

TOTAL		55

Turks, 1 civilian, 1 bedouin.

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED FROM TRAINING REGIMENT
DURING MONTH OF JANUARY, 1917.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Jan. 8th.	1	70	85
" 16th.	-	36	36
21st.	-	5	-
25th.	-	37	-
28th.	-	62	-
		-----	-----
TOTALS	1	210	121
		-----	-----

AVERAGE DAILY STATE FOR MONTH OF JANUARY, 1917

<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>	<u>Horses</u>		
		<u>Riding</u>	<u>Draught</u>	<u>Pack</u>
87	1726	1920	225	109