

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/1/32**

**Title: 1st Australian Light Horse**  
**Brigade**

March 1917

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1917.

## FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

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 reference Append
Bir-el-abd	1/3/17		Usual patrols carried out	nothing of importance to report.
"	2/3/17		Do.	Do.
"	3/3/17		Do.	Do.
"	4/3/17		Do.	Do.
"	5/3/17.		Preparations made Bir-El-Abd for watering horses and camels of 6th. Mounted Brigade on 7th. 8th. And 9th.	
"	6/3/17.		Do.	Do.
"	7/3/17.		B/H.A.C. Berks/H.A.C. Imperial Mounted Division Signal Squadron camped at ABD en-route for SHEIKH ZOWAIID.	
"	8/3/17.		37 O/Ranks Reinforcements reported from MOASCAR. Dorset Yeomanry camped at ABD en-route for SHEIKH ZOWAIID. Alwar Battalion moved from ABD en-route for MAZAR.	
"	9/3/17.		Brig-General WATSON, <sup>G.O.C Northern Canal Section</sup> visited ABD. and Berks. Yeomanry camped at ABD en-route for SHEIKH ZOWAIID.	Headquarters 6th. Mtd. Bde.
"	10/3/17.		Gwalior Battalion moved from ABD en-route for MAZAR.	
"	11/3/17.		42nd. Divisional Train reached ABD at 1130 en-route for EL-BURJ. 94th. Sanitary Section left ABD for EL-ARISH.	
"	12/3/17.		1st. Line Transport of 52nd. 53rd. and 54th. Divisions passed through BIR-EL-ABD.	
"	13/3/17/		1st. A.L.H. Regt. (less one Squadron) moved from BAYUD and MAGEIBRA to HOD-EL-GE'EILA. Move completed at 1200.	

*R. Mitchell*  
Brigade Major, 1st A.L.H. Bde

Appx. LXXIII.  
(B.R.O. 36.)  
(17/3/17)

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

WAR DIARY

FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1917.

Army Form U. 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
BIR-EL-ABD.	13/3/17.		<p>BAYUD. The Garrison at MAGEIBRA withdrawn and garrison of one Squadron left at Ist. Line Transport of 229th. Infantry Brigade passed through BIR-EL-ABD. Brigadier General, C.F. COX. C.B. V.D. to hospital. 10 Reinforcements from MOASCAR.</p>	
"	14/3/17.		<p>HOD-EL-GE'EILA. One Squadron Ist. A.L.H. Regt. marched from BAYUD and rejoined the Regiment at Move completed at 1530.</p>	
"	15/3/17.		<p>2nd. A.L.H. Regt. (less one Squadron) marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL en-route for EL-ARISH area. Disposition on arrival in EL-ARISH Sub-Section will be Regtl. Headquarters at HILL 200 WADI-EL-ARISH one Squadron (less one troop) at WADI MAADHAR. One Squadron at LAHFAN one Troop at MASMI. Move to BARDAWIL completed at 1430.</p>	
"	16/3/17		<p>2nd. A.L.H. Regt. (less one Squadron) marched from BARDAWIL to WADI EL-ARISH (HILL 200). Move completed at 1230.</p>	
TILUL	17/3/17.		<p>Ist. A.L.H. Brigade (less 2nd. L.H. Regt.) marched from BIR-EL-ABD to TILUL, arrived TILUL at 1550.</p>	<p>APPX. LXXIV (BRO. 37) (17/4/17)</p>
MAZAR	18/3/17.		<p>Brigade (less 2nd. L.H. Regt.) marched from (TILUL) to MAZAR. Arrived MAZAR 1100.</p>	
BARDAWIL	19/3/17.		<p>Brigade (less 2nd. L.H. Regt) marched from MAZAR to BARDAWIL arrived BARDAWIL 1450.</p>	
EL-ARISH	20/3/17.		<p>Brigade (less 2nd. L.H. Regt) marched from (BARDAWIL to EL-ARISH (KILO 152) arrived EL-ARISH 1100.</p>	
"	21/3/17.		<p>Brigade (less 2nd. L.H. Regt) camp erected at KILO 152, EL-ARISH.</p>	
"	22/3/17.		<p>Pipe Line Patrols taken over from KILO <del>122</del> 125 to KILO 162. One Troop Ist. L.H. Regt. stationed at BARDAWIL (KILO 139)</p>	<p>APPX. LXXV. (Special Order)</p>

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

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	23/3/17.		Nothing to report.	
"	24/3/17.		Do.	
"	25/3/17.		Do.	
"	26/3/17.		Pipe Line Patrol extended to KILO 193. From KILO 168 to KILO 193 to be carried out by one Troop to be stationed at SHEIKH ZOWAIID.	appx. LXXVI (Special Code)
"	27/3/17.		One Troop 3rd.L.H.Regt.stationed at SHEIKH ZOWAIID. B rigadier General C.F.Cox C.B. V.D. returned from hospital.	
"	28/3/17.		Nothing to report.	
"	29/3/17.		Hotchkiss Gun practices fired on miniature ranges.	
"	30/3/17.		Hotchkiss Gun practices fired on miniature ranges. Bombing practices carried out.	
"	31/3/17.		Nothing unusual occurred. Hotchkiss Gun practices fired on miniature ranges. Bombing practices carried out.	

*Episholin Major.*  
*Regade Major, 1st A.L.H. Bde.*

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SECRET.

COPY No.....

BRIGADE ORDER No. 36.

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

APPENDIX  
LXXIII.

Headquarters,  
12/3/1917.

Reference Maps:-

- KATIA 1/125,000.
- SABKHET EL BARDAWIL 1/125,000.

INFORMATION.

1. Owing to the alteration in the situation, the garrison at MAGEIBRA will be withdrawn and garrisons maintained at BAYUD and ARNUSSI only, consisting of one Squadron each with the present attachments of I.C.Corps.

MOVES.

2. On 13th. March, the 1st. A.L.H. Regiment, (Less one Squadron) will leave BAYUD and MAGEIBRA, and march to HOD EL GE'EILA, where it will bivouac.

One section 1st. A.M.G. Squadron, at present attached to 1st. A.L.H. Regiment, will rejoin the M.G. Squadron. Move to be completed by 1200 and report sent to B.H.Q.

PATROLS.

3. The JEFIR and RUEISAT patrols will be discontinued, but all other patrols at present carried out from MAGEIBRA will, in future, be done from BAYUD with the addition of a Weekly Patrol to MAGEIBRA.

SUPPLIES.

4. The Squadron at BAYUD will be supplied through the Regiment at HOD EL GE'EILA.

The Depot at HASSANIYA will be transferred to BIR EL ABD on 13th. March.

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

Copies issued at 1000 to:-

- 1 B.H.Q.
- 2 D.H.Q.
- 3 Northern Canal Section.
- 4 File.
- 5 War Diary.
- 6 1st. A.L.H. Regiment.
- 7 2nd. A.L.H. Regiment.
- 8 3rd. A.L.H. Regiment.
- 9 1st. A.M.G. Squadron.
- 10 Signal Troop.
- 11 1st. L.H. Field Ambulance.

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Appendix No. LXXIII

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

SECRET.

Headquarters,  
14/3/1917.

To:-

- |   |               |    |                          |
|---|---------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | B.H.Q.        | 6  | 1st. A.L.H. Regiment.    |
| 2 | D.H.Q.        | 7  | 2nd. A.L.H. Regiment.    |
| 3 | N.C. Section. | 8  | 3rd. A.L.H. Regiment.    |
| 4 | File.         | 9  | 1st. A.M.G. Squadron.    |
| 5 | War Diary.    | 10 | 1st. L.H. Fd. Ambulance. |

"H" Company Camels.

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With reference to Brigade Order No. 36 on March 14th. 1917.

One Squadron 1st. A.L.H. Regiment will leave BAYUD and rejoin the 1st. A.L.H. Regiment at HOD EL GE'ELIA.

C.O., 1st. A.L.H. Regiment will report completion of move to B.H.Q.

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

Copies issued at 0800.

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APPX. LXXIV.

SECRET.

BRIGADE ORDER No. 37.

COPY.....

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

Headquarters,  
15/3/1917.

MOVES. 1.

The 1st.A.L.H. Brigade (less 2nd.A.L.H. Regiment) will leave ABD SUBSECTION, Saturday 17th. March, at 1000, and march to EL ARISH according to the following March Table:-

17/3/17.	BIR EL ABD	to	TILUL.
18/3/17.	TILUL	to	MAZAR.
19/3/17.	MAZAR	to	BARDAWIL.
20/3/17.	BARDAWIL	to	EL ARISH.

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The Brigade (less 1st. and 2nd.A.L.H. Regiments) will be formed up SOUTH of the Railway line at BIR EL ABD in Column Of Troops facing EAST, with the Head of the Column in line with B.H.Q., at 0945.

The 1st.A.L.H. Regiment will leave HOD EL GE'BILA AT 1030, and join the Brigade, (less 2nd.A.L.H. Regiment) at SALMANA.

ORDER OF MARCH. 2.

Ground Scouts. C.O., 3rd.L.H. Regiment will detail 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks to act as Ground Scouts

Order of March.

- B.H.Q.
  - 1st. Sig. Troop.
  - 1st. Fd. Troop.
  - 1st. A.M.G. Sqn.
  - 3rd. L.H. Regt.
  - 1st. L.H. Regt. (from SALMANA)
  - 1st. L.H. Fd. Amb.
  - 6th. M.V. Secn.
- Order of march as per margin.

GROUND SCOUTS. 3.

The officer in charge of Ground Scouts will be responsible for finding the best route for the Brigade to pass over, leaving the main road clear for Wheeled and Camel transport.

SUPPLIES AND WATER. 4.

Ration, Forage and Water, will be drawn at the Bivouac Station on completion of each day's march.

TENTS. 5.

All Tents will be taken by Rail.

BAGGAGE GUARD. 6.

Baggage Guard and Details will be under the Command of Lieutenant C.W. HARRIS, M.G. Squadron.

CAMP SITE. 7.

All Camp Sites must be left thoroughly clean, everything must be

(2)

moved with the exception of the Latrine accommodation.

AMMUNITION. 8.

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

All 1st. Line Ammunition and B.A.C., S.A.A., will go forward by rail.

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

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Copies issued at 1600 to:-

1	File.
2	D.H.Q.
3	War Diary.
4	N.C. Section.
5	1st. A.L.H. Regiment.
6	2nd. A.L.H. Regiment.
7	3rd. A.L.H. Regiment.
8	1st. A.M.G. Squadron.
9	1st. L.H. Field Ambulance.
10	"N" Company Camels.
11	Supply Officer.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.  
=====Headquarters,  
14/3/1917.

To:-

HEADQUARTERS,

NORTHERN CANAL SECTION.

Herewith proposed MARCH TABLE for movement of this Brigade from BIR EL ABD to EL ARISH, on dates set out in Table.

Marching Out States and Train Transport requirements attached.

Unit.	Date.	March.	
1st. A.L.H. Bde., (less 2nd. A.L.H. Regiment.)	17/3/17.	BIR EL ABD	to TILUL.
	18/3/17.	TILUL	to MAZAR.
	19/3/17.	MAZAR	to BARDAWIL.
	20/3/17.	BARDAWIL	to EL ARISH.

Supply arrangements have been made by  
Brigade Supply Officer.

Please advise as early as possible when  
trucks will be available.

Major.  
for G.O.C., 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

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FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

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MARCHING OUT STATE AND TRAIN TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS

By March Route

By Rail

Unit	Offs.	O.R.	Horses			Vehicles	M. Guns	Lewis Guns	H's. Guns	Camels	Natives	Personnel	Baggage TONS	Remarks
			Rides.	Pack	Drt.									
B.H.Qrs.	4	35	39	-	14	2	-	-	-	10	3	5	3	Tents, Ammn, etc.
Sig.Trp.	1	35	31	4	2	1	-	-	-	10	3	2	1	" "
Fd. Trp	-	15	15	-	10	1	-	-	-	5	2	4	6	" & Equipment
M.G.Sqdn.	8	186	193	40	77	18	12	-	-	4 3/4	25	13	7	" " & Ammn.
1st.L.H.Regt.	16	438	483	24	48	8	-	3	1	97	50	24	8	" " "
3rd.L.H.Regt.	16	437	490	22	37	7	-	3	1	94	50	13	9 1/2	" " "
1st.L.H.F.Amb.	4	64	41	5 1/2	54	2	-	-	-	2 1/2	13	45	13	" " "
6th.M.V.S.	1	21	32	-	8	2	-	-	-	7	3	9	2	" " "
Supply Sec.	2	9	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	1	" " "
B.A.C.	-	4	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	9 1/2	" & Ammn.
Camel Coy/	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5 1/2	15	-	-	
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1268</b>	<b>1347</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>300</b>	<del>166</del> <b>176</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>60</b>	

Estimated 10 Trucks required  
1 Horse Truck "

*E. H. ...*  
Major.  
FOR G.O.C., 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

Appendix No. LXXIV

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SECRET.

COPY NO.....

SPECIAL ORDER

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

Headquarters,  
21/3/1917.

PIPE LINE PATROLS. 1.

1st.A.L.H. Brigade is responsible for the patrolling of the Pipe line from KILO 125, to KILO 162.

"A" Sector      KILO 125      to      KILO 143.  
"B" Sector      KILO 143      to      KILO 162.

C.O., 1st.L.H. Regiment will be responsible for the patrolling of "A" Sector, and will detail one Troop to be stationed at BARDAWIL.

This Troop will be changed each week.

Tents and 48 hours rations will be railed to BARDAWIL tomorrow morning.

24 hours rations will be held as reserve, and rations will go forward by rail each day.

O.C., Troop will report to Supply Officer today for further information re supplies.

C.O., 3rd.L.H. Regiment will be responsible for the patrolling of "B" Sector.

This will be done from Camp.

The whole line from KILO 125 to KILO 162, must be patrolled twice daily.

All Patrols will report on completion of their tour of inspection as follows:-

"A" Sector, to Camp Commandant BARDAWIL.

"B" Sector, to O.C., 12" pipe line, behind Y.M.C.A. Tent, near R.T.O'S. office, EL ARISH.

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

Copies issued at 1200 to:-

- File.
- War Diary.
- Northern Canal Section.
- El Arish Sub-section.
- 1st.L.H. Regiment.
- 2nd.L.H. Regiment.
- 3rd.L.H. Regiment.
- Supply Officer.

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APM. LXXVI. 11

SECRET.

COPY. No. ....

SPECIAL ORDER

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



Headquarters,  
26/3/1917.

Reference Maps:- EL ARISH 1/125,000.  
BAFA 1/125,000.

INFORMATION. 1

The Eastern Boundary of Northern Canal Section is now longitude 34° 10'.

PIPE LINE PATROLS. 2.

The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade is responsible for patrolling the Pipe line from KILO 125 to Eastern Boundary of Northern Canal Section.

- "A" Sector will now extend from KILO 125 to KILO 152.
- "B" Sector will now extend from KILO 152 to Longitude 34° 10'.

C.O., 1st. L.H. Regiment will be responsible for patrolling of "A" Sector, and will extend the Eastern Boundary of the troop stationed at BARDAWIL from KILO 145 to KILO 152.

C.O., 3rd. L.H. Regiment will be responsible for patrolling of "B" Sector.

From KILO 152 to KILO 168 will be carried out from Camp.

From KILO 168 to longitude 34° 10' will be carried out from SHEIKH ZOWAID.

C.O., 3rd. L.H. Regiment will detail one troop to be stationed at SHEIKH ZOWAID. This troop will leave EL ARISH at such an hour as to reach SHEIKH ZOWAID by 1200, 27th. inst.

RATIONS AND FORAGE. 3.

24 hours rations will be carried by each man and three feeds on each horse of the troop proceeding to SHEIKH ZOWAID. Further supplies will be drawn from Supply Depot, SHEIKH ZOWAID.

REPORTS. 4.

All Patrols will report on completion of their tour of inspection as follows:-

- "A" Sector to Camp Commandant, BARDAWIL.
- "B" Sector, (1) Patrol from KILO 152 to KILO 168, to C.O., 12" Pipe line, EL ARISH.
- (2) Patrols from KILO 168 to longitude 34° 10' to C.O., Pipe line SHEIKH ZOWAID.

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

Copies issued at 1230 to:-

1. Northern Canal Section.
2. Administrative Commandant, EL ARISH.
3. 1st. L.H. Regiment.
4. 2nd. L.H. Regiment.
5. 3rd. L.H. Regiment.
6. War Diary.
7. File.
8. Supply Officer.