

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/1/33

Title: 1st Australian Light Horse
Brigade

April 1917

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 93

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE

IX

For month of April, 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 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| BARDAWIL EL ARISH | 1/ 4/ 17 | | "B" Squadron, 2nd.L.H.Regiment left MAZAR 0950 to rejoin Regiment at HILL 200, EL ARISH. They arrived BARDAWIL 1535 and bivouacked. | |
| " | 2/ 4/ 17 | | "B" Squadron, 2nd.L.H.Regiment left BARDAWIL 0830 and arrived EL ARISH 1030. Hotchkiss Gun and Bombing practices carried out. | |
| " | 3/ 4/ 17 | | "A" Squadron, 3rd.L.H.Regiment (less 1 Troop at SHEIKH ZOWAID) left EL ARISH at 0800 to march to RAFA. Arrived SHEIKH ZOWAID 1600 and bivouacked. Hotchkiss Gun and Bombing practices continued. | |
| " | 4/ 4/ 17 | | "A" Squadron, 3rd.L.H.Regiment (less 1 Squadron at SHEIKH ZOWAID) marched from SHEIKH ZOWAID at 0830 and arrived at RAFA 1200. | |
| " | 5/ 4/ 17 | | 120 remounts (84 rides, 13 draught, 23 pack) arrived EL ARISH, but were despatched direct by rail to KHAN YUNIS to await arrival of Brigade. | |
| SHEIKH ZOWAID | 6/ 4/ 1917. | | Brigade left EL ARISH to march to KHAN YUNIS. Left EL ARISH 0830, arrived SHEIKH ZOWAID 1600. 20 reinforcements arrived. KHAN YUNIS from Training Depot, MOASCAR. | Appx. LXXV/16. |
| KHAN YUNIS | 7/ 4/ 17 | | Brigade left SHEIKH ZOWAID at 0830, arrived KHAN YUNIS 1530, bivouacked N.E. side of Town. | |
| " | 8/ 4/ 17 | | Twelve Hotchkiss guns per Regiment taken delivery of. | |
| " | 9/ 4/ 17. | | Hotchkiss Gun practices fired on miniature ranges by all Regiments of the Brigade. One senior officer per unit of the Brigade shown round the Outpost Line held by A. & N.Z. Mounted Division. | |
| " | 10/ 4/ 17 | | Hotchkiss Gun practices fired on miniature ranges by all Regiments of the Brigade. Inspection of all Hotchkiss Gun packs carried out by the Brigadier. | |

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

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|------------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| KHAN YUNIS | 11/4/17 | | Hotchkiss Gun practices continued at on miniature ranges. | |
| " | 12/4/17 | | The Brigade moved out from KHAN YUNIS at 1230 to hold the Outpost Line of A. & N.Z. Mounted Division on GOZ EL TAIRE for 24 hours. During the afternoon the Brigadier inspected the Outpost Line. Improvement of tactical points was carried out by all sectors. | Appx LXXVII (A) |
| " | 13/4/17 | | Brigade relieved on Outpost Line by 6th. Mounted Brigade, Imperial Mounted Division at 1415 and returned to KHAN YUNIS. 43 reinforcements reported from Training Depot, MOASCAR. | |
| " | 14/4/17 | | Gas Lecture given by Divisional Gas Officer to all officers and n.c.c.'s. of the Bde. Gas lectures and drill carried out in all units. | |
| " | 15/4/17. | | Gas instruction and helmet drill carried out in all units of the Brigade. 16 reinforcements reported from Training Regiment, MOASCAR. | |
| " | 16/4/17) to) 22/4/17) | | See report on operations attached. | Appxs LXXVIII. LXXIX. |
| " | 23/4/17 | | Brigade in reserve to Outpost Line. One Squadron engaged in gigging digging Work No. 5, between HILLS 360 and 330 on the Battle Line which runs WELI SHEIKH NURAN - POINT 410 - POINT 360 - POINT 330 - POINT 310 to TEL EL JEMMI. One Squadron engaged preparing water supplies at SHEIKH NAKHRUR. One Squadron engaged in filling water cisterns at ABU SITTA. Two Squadrons employed in burying the horses killed at WELI SHEIKH NURAN on 20th. | |
| " | 24/4/17 | | 2nd.L.H.Regiment took over POINT 310 on the battle line to put the position in a state of defence on the line laid down by D.H.Q. The following work was done during the day :- 200 yards fire trench dug, 60 yards communication trench dug, 8 sniper and 1 forward Hotchkiss positions dug, 300 yards approach entanglement commenced, but not completed. | |

2449 Wt. W14957/M90 750,000 1/16 J.B.C. & A. Forms/C.2118/12.

Shirley May
Bm 1st A.L. to Bde

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| SHELLAL | 24/4/17 (continued) | | 1st. L.H. Regiment prepared a direct motor road from HISEIA to ABU SITTA. | |
| " | 25/4/17 | | Work on HILL 310 completed by 2nd.L.H.Regiment. | |
| | 26/4/17 | | Brigade moved out from Bivouac area at 0300 to be in position at WELI SHEIKH NURAN as support to Outpost Line at 0415. Brigade returned to Bivouac area, after watering at SHELLAL, at 1000. Brigade moved from bivouac area at 1610 to take up Outpost Line SHELLAL - BIR SHEBA ROAD inclusive to HISEIA CROSSING exclusive. 1st.L.H.Regiment in position at 1700. Standing patrols posted 2 miles from WADI towards KHIRBET ERK and EL DAMMATH. Night quiet | |
| SHELLAL | 27/4/17 | | Position on Outpost Line being entrenched entrenched. 3rd.L.H.Regiment relieved 1st.L.H. Regiment at 1700. | |
| " | 28/4/17 | | Work continued on Outpost Line. Patrols of 1 Squadron each were despatched from 1st.L.H. Regiment at 0600 (1) Towards KHIRBET SIHAN. (2) Towards UM ZUMMARAH (SAUSAGE RIDGE). (3) Towards POINT 410 WADI IMLEIH. Patrols pushed well forward, but were persistently shelled from the enemy positions in the vicinity of KHIRBET SIHAN and ATAWINEH. 2nd.L.H.Regiment relieved the 3rd.L.H.Regiment on Outpost Line at 1700. | |
| " | 29/4/17 | | Work was continued on the Outpost Line by the 2nd.L.H.Regiment. Patrols of 1 Squadron each were despatched from 3rd.L.H.Regiment at 0730 (1) Towards KHIRBET SIHAN (2) Towards SAUSAGE RIDGE (3) Towards POINT 410 WADI IMLEIH. Patrol No. 1 reached the GAZA - BEERSHEBA ROAD just South of KHIRBET SIHAN and reconnoitred position of enemy trenches between SIHAN and ATAWINEH. Patrol No. 2 reconnoitred towards enemy positions on SAUSAGE RIDGE and located positions of fresh enemy works on that ridge. Patrol No. 3 was held up in the vicinity of POINT 410 WADI IMLEIH as the enemy is holding the WADI in strength. 1st.L.H.Regiment relieved the 2nd.L.H.Regiment on Outpost Line at 1700. | |

Brigade Major
Brigade Major P. H. H. M.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|---------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SHELLAL | 30 31/4/17 | | <p>Work continued on Outpost Line. Trenches improved, wiring commenced on Bridge Head covering SHELLAL CROSSING. 3rd.L.H. Regiment attached to and under orders of 74th. Division. This Brigade sector of Outpost Line divided between 1st. and 2nd.L.H.Regiments. C.O., 1st.L.H. Regiment being responsible for the right sector (works 1 to 7 inclusive). C.O., 2nd 2nd.L.H. Regiment being responsible for the left sector (works 8 to 13 inclusive). C.O., of each sub-Sector to be responsible for the preparation and improvement of the defences of his Sub-Section. Re-distribution of Sub-Sections to be effected by 1700.</p> <p><i>Whisham Major</i> <i>Brigade Major 1st L.H. Bde</i></p> | |

SECRET.

COPY NO.

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 38.

by

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

Headquarters,
 5/4/1917.

Reference Maps:-

EL ARISH 1/125,000.
 RAFA 1/125,000.

MOVES. 1.

The 1st.A.L.H. Brigade (less 2nd.L.H. Regiment) will leave EL ARISH, KILO 152) at 0830 on Friday, March 6th., and march to KHAN YUNIS in accordance with the following March Table:-

| | | | |
|------------|---------------|----|----------------|
| March 6th. | EL ARISH | to | SHEIKH ZOWAID. |
| March 7th. | SHEIKH ZOWAID | to | KHAN YUNIS. |

The 2nd.L.H. Regiment will leave HILL 200, WADI EL ARISH, at such an hour as to join the Brigade at EL BURJ, marching via WADI EL MAADHAN.

The Brigade (less 2nd.L.H. Regt) will be formed up South of the Railway line and Wire road, in Squadron Lines of Troop Columns, facing East with the Head of the column in line with the Water troughs, (South of the Railway line) at 0815.

ORDER OF MARCH. 2.Ground Scouts.

1st.L.H. Regt.
 1 Off. and 12
 Other Ranks.

C.O., 1st.L.H. Regiment will detail
 1 Officer and 12 Other Ranks, to act
 as Ground Scouts under the direction
 of Major F.V. WEIR.

B.H.Q.

1st.Sig. Troop.
 1st.Fd. Troop.
 1st.A.M.G. Sqn.
 1st.L.H. Regt.
 2nd.L.H. Regt.
 2nd.L.H. Regiment.
 (from EL BURJ.)
 1st.L.H. Fd. Amb.
 6th.M. Vety. Sectn.

Order of march as per margin.

TRANSPORT. 3.

Wheeled transport of the Brigade (less 2nd.L.H. Regt) will be formed up North of the Railway line, using the Railway Crossing near the horse troughs, and will proceed by main road to SHEIKH ZOWAID, marching via the beach and joining the main road at EL RISA.

WIRE ROADS AND RAILWAY LINE. 4.

No troops or transport will cross the Railway or Wire Roads except at authorised crossings.

TENTS. 5.

Tents will not be taken.

SUPPLIES. 6.

The unexpended portion of the current day's rations will be carried on each man and two feeds on each horse. Rations will be drawn at SHEIKH ZOWAID.

AMMUNITION. 7.

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

Regimental reserve ammunition will go forward by rail.

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

Copies issued at 1400 to:-

1. Northern Canal Section.
2. ANZAC Mounted Division.
3. Administrative Comm. M. ARISH.
4. 1st. L.H. Regt.
5. 2nd. L.H. Regt.
6. 3rd. L.H. Regt.
7. 1st. A.M.C. Squadron.
8. 1st. Signal Troop.
9. 1st. Field Troop.
10. 1st. L.H. Fd. Ambulance.
11. 6th. M. Vety. Section.
12. Supply Officer.
13. B.H.Q.
14. War Diary.
15. File.

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 39.

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

Appendix
LXXVII (A)

Headquarters,
11/4/1917.

Reference Map:- RAFA 1/125,000.

1. The outpost line of the ANZAC Mounted Division as per enlarged sketch submitted under this office 17/594 will be held by the 1st.A.L.H.Brigade for 24 hours from 1430 tomorrow, 12th. April. One Regiment is being furnished by the N.Z.M.R.Brigade as support.
2. C.O., 2nd.L.H.Regiment will be responsible for the Right Sector which includes works 1. 2. and 2a, and will supply 2 Squadrons in the line and one in support.
3. C.O., 1st.L.H.Regiment will be responsible for the Centre Sector which includes works 3. 4. 4a. and 5, and will supply 3 Squadrons in the line.
4. C.O., 3rd.L.H.Regiment will be responsible for the Left Sector which includes works 6 and 7 and will supply 2 Squadrons in the line 1 Squadron (less 1 troop) in support, and 1 troop to report to O.C.. Coy. I.C.Brigade at TEL-EL-JEMMI.
5. O.C., Machine Gun Squadron will detail one section with 2 guns to report to each Regimental C.O. before the Brigade moves off.
6. Boundaries of Sectors, and Positions of B.H.Q. and Supporting Regiment will be decided by the B.G.C. on the ground.
7. The 3rd.L.H.Regiment and 1 section Machine Gun Squadron will leave camp at 1200 to take over the sector allotted. The Brigade (less 3rd.L.H.Regiment) will be formed up in Squadron Line Of Troop Columns facing North East just clear of the Machine Gun Squadron lines at 1230.

Order Of March:-

B.H.Q.

- 1st. Signal Troop.
- 1st. Field Troop. (less detachment in charge of Camp Water)
- 1st. A.M.G.Squadron. (less 3 Sections.)
- 1st.L.H.Regiment and one Section M.G.S.)
- 2nd.L.H.Regiment and one Section M.G.S.)
- 1st.L.H.Fd.Ambulance Mobile Section.

8. One day's rations and full water bottles will be carried on each man and 3 feeds on each horse.
9. 200 rounds S.A.A. will be carried to each man, 2,160 rounds to each Hotchkiss Gun, and 3,500 rounds to each Machine Gun. Regimental and Machine Gun Squadron reserves in limbers.
10. O.C. Sector of outpost line will continue the improvement of tactical points.
11. The position of any Water Cisterns located by reconnoitering patrols must be noted and immediately reported.
12. O.C., 1st. Signal Troop will be responsible for communications by Cable, Helio and Lamp.

NOTE. The Water Cisterns mentioned in para. 2 are very difficult to locate and constitute a danger to mounted men as they are frequently in the crops with only the mouth of the Cistern level with the ground.

A.CHISHOLM. Major.

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

Copies issued at 1930 to :-

1. D.H.Q.
2. B.H.Q.
3. War Diary.
4. 1st. A.M.G. Squadron.
5. 1st. Signal Troop.
6. 1st. Field Troop.
7. 1st. L.H. Regiment.
8. 2nd. L.H. Regiment.
9. 3rd. L.H. Regiment.
10. 1st. L.H. Fd. Ambulance.
11. Supply Officer.

SECRET.

COPY NO.....

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 40.

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

Appendix
XXVIII

Headquarters,
16/4/1917.

Reference Maps.-

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| RAFA | 1/125,000 |
| BEERSHEBA | 1/125,000 |

INFORMATION. 1.

(a) The enemy, strength about 20,000 to 25,000 rifles in all is disposed along the 16 miles TEL EL SHEBRIA - ABU HAREIRA - EL ATAWINEN - KHIRBET EL BIR - GAZA holding apparently a small reserve 12 miles N.E. between HUIJ and TEL EL MESI.

Of the above numbers he appears to have 8,500 at GAZA: 4,500 about KHIRBET EL BIR and KHIRBET KUFEIH: 2,000 at EL ATAWINEN: and the 16th. Turkish Division (about 6,000 rifles) about ABU HAREIRA - TEL EL SHEBRIA.

(b) Our Infantry Divisions are generally on the line of the WADI GHUZZE from about UM JERRAR to its mouth. The Mounted Troops about DEIR EL BELAH and the Imperial Camel Brigade at ABASAN EL KEBIR.

The Infantry will be operating with its left on the sea and will be advancing its right flank with the intention of seizing the SHEIKH ABBAS - MANSURAH Ridge.

The Desert Column Troops will be operating to the South of the Infantry, the Imperial Mounted Division protecting the infantry flank and the ANZAC Mounted Division demonstrating against ABU HAREIRA to prevent the enemy detaching troops towards GAZA.

To cover this operation from any enemy advance from BEERSHEBA the N.Z.M.B. Brigade are forming a flank under special instructions.

The I.C. Brigade will be remaining at ABASAN EL KEBIR ready to move at an hours notice.

The L.A.M. Batteries and No. 7 Light Car Patrol will be operating under orders of G.O.C., ANZAC Mounted Division.

No. 17 W.M.C. Battery will be operating from Desert Column Headquarters at TEL EL JEMMI.

MOVES. 2.

(a) The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will leave bivouac area at KHAN YUNUS at 2030 on Monday April 16th. and will be formed up in Column of Troops on the Eastern Side of the Railway line with the Head of the Column on the North of, and in line with, the farm 700 yards from the Railway Crossing on a bearing of 67°.

The Brigade will join the Division on the march. The Head of the Brigade will be at a point on the marked Divisional Road, North of SHEIKH HAMMUDA at 2130 and will follow in rear of the 2nd. L.H. Brigade.

G.O.C., 2nd. L.H. Regiment will detail one officer with two sections to establish touch with the moving column, the officer will report to B.H.Q. immediately the Head of the 2nd. A.L.H. Brigade has passed.

(b) Order Of March.

B.H.Q.
1st. Signal Troop.
1st. Field Troop.
1st. A.M.C. Squadron.
1st. L.H. Regiment.
2nd. L.H. Regiment.
3rd. L.H. Regiment.
1st. L.H. Fd. Ambulance.
B.V.C. and Orderlies.

(c) On arrival at SHELLAL this Brigade will be responsible for:-

(1) Providing working parties to develop the horse water for the whole Division, the drinking water at KARIM ABU EL MISBIA and improving crossings at SHELLAL.

These parties will be detailed as demanded by C.F.E.

293

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 40. (Continued)

- (2) To give Warning of any hostile move from the South and South East. For this purpose observation posts will be put out on the line EL RUIBIA - GOZ MABRUK - KH EL FAR.
C.O., 2nd.L.H.Regiment will detail one Squadron for this duty
- (3) The protection of the Water developing parties from enemy advance from the South and East.
C.O.? 1st.L.H.Regiment will detail one Squadron to provide the necessary protection.

AMMUNITION. 3.

230 rounds S.A.A. will be carried to each man, 2.160 to each Hotchkiss Gun, 3.500 to each Machine Gun.
In limbers.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Regimental Reserve | 36.000 |
| Hotchkiss Gun Reserve | 12.000 |
| Machine Gun Reserve | 144.000 |

SUPPLIES AND FORAGE. 4.

One day's rations, extra ration, and full water bottle will be carried on each man, 12 lbs. grain ration on each horse and 3 day's mobile in troop packs.

WATER. 5.

Horses will be watered at SHELLAL. Drinking water will be drawn from KARIM ABU EL HISRIA.

MEDICAL. 6.

Mobile Section, 1st.L.H.Fd.Ambulance will accompany the Brigade.

RAILWAY CROSSINGS. 7.

Troops can cross the Railway line anywhere. Wheels are restricted to crossing places.

MAPS. 8.

No maps will be carried into action other than the following:-

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| SYRIA. | (Jerusalem Sheet) | 1/250.000 |
| SINAI. | (Rafa and Beersheba Sheets) | 1/125.000 |
| PALESTINE. | | 1/168.960 |
| GAZA. | (Squared Maps) | 1/40.000 |

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

Copies issued at 0800 to:-

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. | ANZAC Mounted Division. |
| 2. | War Diary. |
| 3. | B.H.Q. |
| 4. | File. |
| 5. | 1st. Signal Troop. |
| 6. | 1st. Field Troop. |
| 7. | 1st.A.M.G.Squadron. |
| 8. | 1st.L.H.Regiment. |
| 9. | 2nd.L.H.Regiment. |
| 10. | 3rd.L.H.Regiment. |
| 11. | 1st.L.H.Fd.Ambulance. |
| 12. | Supply Officer. |
| 13. | 6th. M.Vety. Section. |

293
17/1000 x
APPENDIX 11
LXXIX
FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
25/4/1917.

To:-

HEADQUARTERS,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

On April 16th. 1917, the 1st.A.L.H.Brigrade moved out from bivouac area, KHAN YUNUS, at 2030, joined up with the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division and marched to SHELLAL.

On arrival at SHELLAL the 3rd.L.H.Regiment was despatched at 0600 on 17th. April to take up a line of observation posts on the line WELI SHEIKH NURAN - EL RUEIBIA - GOZ MABRUK - KHIRBET EL FAR. The posts proceeding to EL RUEIBIA, GOZ MABRUK, and KH EL FAR, encountered small enemy patrols, mounted, who opened fire at extreme range and moved off South.

At dusk a night outpost line was taken up by the 1st. and 2nd. L.H.Regiments on the line WELI SHEIKH NURAN - EL GAMLI - GOZ EL GELEIB - DAMMATH - POINT 300.

A small enemy patrol approached our standing patrol at GOZ EL GELEIB about 2030 just in rear of the N.Z.M.R.Brigrade returning to SHELLAL. They made off on being challenged leaving one horse killed by the fire of our patrol.

April 18th.- At 0600 the outpost line was taken over by the 22nd. Mounted Brigrade. At 1000 this Brigrade moved with the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division to GOZ EL GELEIB. The Brigrade returned to Western bank of the Wadi during the afternoon to water, feed, and ration.

At 2030 the Brigrade moved to Point Of Assembly on Eastern bank of the WADI GHUZZE to take up position as Advanced Guard to the Division moving to HILL 280, WADI EL SHARIA, to operate against the enemy.

April 19th.- The Brigrade as Advanced Guard moved from Point Of Assembly at 0100 and reached Point 280, the position selected for D.H.Q. at 0415. The role of this Brigrade being to seize the position BAIKET EL SANA. I pushed forward and reached KHIRBET ERK at 0500.

By 0600 with the 1st.L.H.Regiment I had made good the BAIKET EL SANA Ridge and South to WADI EL SHARIA.

The enemy shelled this position persistently throughout the morning from the direction of HAREIRA. At 1430 I relievèd the 1st. L.H.Regiment with the 2nd. and 3rd. L.H.Regiments and extended the line held along the WADI EL SHARIA to the West to Point 340, gaining touch with the 2nd.A.L.H.Brigrade on the right. The line now held ran from Point 340 along the WADI EL SHARIA to a point due South of BAIKET EL SANA then North through BAIKET EL SANA and joining up with N.Z.M.R.Brigrade on the left. At 1500 large force of enemy infantry estimated at about a Turkish Regiment massed near the GAZA - BEER SHEBA Road, North East of BAIKET EL SANA and 3,000 yards from it preparatory to attack. I ordered the O.C., Leicester Battery to take up a position to deal with this formation. This battery under Captain ELWISS galloped out on to the plain and was in position by the time the advanced lines of the enemy had reached KHIRBET UM ADRAH, his objective by this time clearly being to attack from BAIKET EL SANA to the SAUSAGE RIDGE.

From the time the enemy reached KHIRBET UM ADRAH he came under effective artillery fire which was well directed on the vicinity of the hut.

The enemy continued his advance under cover of a heavy bombardment to within 400 yards of BAIKET EL SANA. A heavy fire fight

(2)

ensued but the fire power of our troops on BAIKET EL SANA (2 Squadrons 8 Hotchkiss Guns. 2 Machine Guns) assisted by the fire of our troops from the WADI to the South (1 Squadron, 4 Hotchkiss Guns, and 4 Machine Guns, in positions selected early in the day) caused heavy casualties to the enemy and stopped his assault. One of his Machine Guns which had advanced to within 400 yards was silenced.

The support of the Artillery was most effective in assisting to stop this advance. The battery being heavily shelled it was moved gun by gun without casualties. It came into action again on the Southern Bank of the Wadi just West of KHIRBET ERK.

At 1600 a large body of enemy cavalry estimated at about 2,000 with two batteries advanced from ABU HAREIRA on the South bank of the WADI EL SHARIA in the direction of ABU SHAWISH. The Flank Guard of this force afforded a target for our Machine Guns at a range of 1500 yards when passing South East of Point 420. This Flank Guard was also engaged by an advanced Squadron of 3rd.L.H.Regiment but they did not push any attack.

At 1750 the enemy guns opened fire from the direction of ABU SHAWISH on our battery which was supporting the SANA position from KHIRBET ERK. This battery was located and silenced by our guns. Fire was kept up by our Artillery until dark. After having broken the Infantry Assault no further advance was attempted by him and our troops were withdrawn under cover of darkness.

An Outpost line having been taken up by the 6th. Mounted Brigade and 2nd.A.L.H.Brigade on the line EL MUNKEILEH - POINT 340 - EL DAMMATH at 1900 this Brigade withdrew through the Outpost line, the withdrawal commencing at 1945. At 2200 the Brigade moved from HILL 310, proceeded to TEL EL JEMMI to water and bivouacked at EL IZRAAIN reaching bivouac area at 0430 on April 20th.

CASUALTIES. -

| | <u>KILLED.</u> | | <u>WOUNDED.</u> | |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | <u>Officers.</u> | <u>Other Ranks.</u> | <u>Officers.</u> | <u>O. Rank</u> |
| 2nd.L.H.Regiment. | 1 | 1 | - | 5 |
| 3rd.L.H.Regiment. | - | - | - | 8 |
| 1st.L.H.Regiment. | - | - | - | 2 |
| 1st.A.M.G.Squadron. | - | - | 1 | 7 |
| <u>Total.</u> | 1 | 1 | 1 | 22. |

April 20th. - Brigade moved from EL IZRAAIN at 0830 and proceeded to WELI SHEIKH NURAN, where at 1100, four enemy aeroplanes dropped 14 bombs on and around the Brigade with serious results.

CASUALTIES. -

| | <u>KILLED.</u> | | <u>WOUNDED.</u> | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | <u>Officers.</u> | <u>Other Ranks.</u> | <u>Officers.</u> | <u>Other Ranks</u> |
| 1st.L.H.Regiment. | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| 2nd.L.H.Regiment. | 1 | - | - | 8 |
| 3rd.L.H.Regiment. | - | - | 1 | 18 |
| <u>Total.</u> | 1 | - | 2 | 29 |

HORSES. -

| | <u>KILLED.</u> | <u>WOUNDED.</u> |
|-------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | |
| 1st.L.H.Regiment. | 7 | 15 |
| 2nd.L.H.Regiment. | 19 | 4 |
| 3rd.L.H.Regiment. | 27 | 25 |
| <u>Total.</u> | 53 | 44 |

Brigade moved from WELI SHEIKH NURAN at 1500 to take over outpost line held by 2nd.A.L.H.Brigade on the line POINT 310 inclusive to HISEIA inclusive. Night Quiet.

April 21st. - One Squadron 2nd.L.H.Regiment despatched at 0435 to

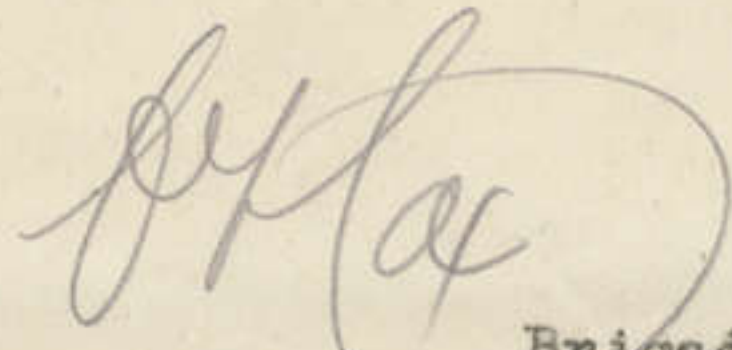
(3)

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GOZ EL GELEIB to strengthen and hold this position until dark.
Brigade releived at 1700 by 22nd. Mounted Brigade, relief
completed at 1900.

Brigade formed up at KARIM ABU EL HISEIA and marched to
ABASAN EL KEBIR. Move completed at 2200.

April 22nd. 23rd. 24th.-
preparation of defences.

Brigade in reserve and engaged on



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