

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/1/36

Title: 1st Australian Light Horse
Brigade

July 1917

PLACE.	DATE.	HOUR.	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION.	Remarks and references to Appendices
FUKHARI. XXXXX.	1/7/17.		Church Parade. Fixing Shelters for Camp.	
"	2/7/17.		Hotchkiss Gun practice on Range. 22 Horses arrived from Remount Depot.	
"	3/7/17.		Left FUKHARI at 1330 for GAMLI, arriving 1530 and settled in Camp prior to moving out.	Appx. LXXXIX.
GAMLI.	4/7/17.		Left at 0100 and took part in Reconnaissance; 5 men wounded, 1 injured, 2 Sand Carts damaged. Returned to Camp at 2335	Appx. XC. XC1.
"	5/7/17.		Settling down in new camp site. Developing Water Supply. Railway Construction Party of 42 Other Ranks reported to 116 th Company R.E.	
"	6/7/17.		(Inverness Battery reported. 3rd.L.H.Regiment took over GHABI Works. General inspected Works with Divisional Commander and Staff. Following Reinforcements arrived:- 1st.L.H.Regt. 1.Off.16.0/R, 2nd.L.H.Regt.1.Off. 17 0/R, 3rd.L.H.Regt. 1.Off. 13.0/R, 1st.M.G.Sqdn. 6 0/R, L.H.F.A. 2 0/R.	Appx.XC11.
"	7/7/17.		Brigadier-General attended D.H.Q. to meet General Allenby. Following Reinforcements arrived:- 1st.L.H.Regt. 10.0/R, 2nd.L.H. 3. 0/R, 3rd.L.H.Regt. 2. 0/R, 1st.M.G.Sqdn. 8. 0/R.	X -1- -
"	8/7/17.		Parade at 0500, left WADI at 0600, arrived at KHASIF 0915, left 1830, arrived back at Camp at 2115; Reserve Brigade; 1 Troop escort to guns. 3rd. L.H.Regiment acted as an independent force on left flank. General Allenby inspected the GHABI Works. Night Patrols carried out, captured 1 Camel.	Appx.XC111. XC1V.
"	9/7/17.		(Developing GHABI Works.) Night Patrols carried out. Field Troop reported back to Division.	
"	10/7/17.		B.A.C. moved into Camp. Working Parties to GHABI Works. Standing Patrols.	<i>E. Hutchinson Major</i> <i>B.M. 1st Lt & 10 Bde</i>

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

W A R D I A R Y. for Month of JULY 1917.

or

I-N-T-E-L-L-I-G-E-N-C-E S-U-M-M-A-R-Y.

Page. 2.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
GAMLI. <i>B</i>	11/7/17.		Working Parties of 150 on GHABI Works. Standing Patrols. Developing water at GHABI. Following Reinforcements arrived:- 1st.L.H.Reg. 4. O/R, 2nd.L.H.Reg. 9. O/R, 3rd.L.H.Reg. 9. O/R, 1st.M.G.Sqdn. 9. O/R.	
" <i>B</i>	12/7/17.		Working Parties on GHABI Works. Reconnaissance by Lieut.Col.Bell, 3rd. L.H.Regiment, to ESANI.	
" <i>B</i>	13/7/17.		Working Parties of 150 on GHABI Works. Standing Patrols. G.O.C. attended conference at D.H.Q.	Appx. XCV. XCVI.
" <i>B</i>	14/7/17.		(3rd.L.H.Regiment relieved at GHABI Works by N.Z.M.R.Brigade at 0800. The Brigade went into Reserve for one week. Conference with C.O's Regiments re Minor Enterprise; 3rd.L.H.Regiment carried out Minor Enterpriseto BIR HL ESANI	Appx. XCVII.
" <i>B</i>	15/7/17.		Brigade moved out at 0400 under special Instructions to take up a line in WADI GHUZZE from the wire on JEMMI to HISEIA; the Brigade was ordered to retire at 1840 arrived back in Camp at 2200. Following Reinforcements arrived:- 1st.L.H.Reg. 6. O/R, 2nd.L.H.Reg. 9. O/R, 3rd.L.H.Reg. 12. O/R.	X N/E
" <i>B</i>	16/7/17.		Brigade in Reserve. Machine Gun training carried out.	
" <i>B</i>	17/7/17.		Brigade in Reserve. Machine Gun training carried out.	
" <i>B</i>	18/7/17.		2nd.L.H.Reg. and 3rd.L.H.Reg. with 4 Machine Guns and 4 Sand Carts left camp, 2nd.L.H.Reg. 2330 and 3rd.L.H.Reg. 2130 to work in conjunction with Minor Operation scheme and co-operate with L.A.M.Battery on morning of 19th.	Appx. XCVIII. XCIX
" <i>B</i>	19/7/17.		G.O.C. left Camp at 0500 and exam co-operated with 2nd and 3rd.L.H.Regts. Enemy having been observed on left, the Brigade after carrying out minor	<i>Handwritten signature</i> B.M. ALH Bae

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Page 3.

Place.	Date.	Hour.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
GAMLI.	19/7/17.		scheme, was then ordered to remove out. The Australian Mounted Division arriving, the Brigade was ordered to come under orders of G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division. Touch with enemy was obtained throughout. The enemy having retired, Brigade was ordered to return to Camp at 2000; arrived in camp at 0115 on the 20th.	
"	20/7/17.		Brigade ordered again to move out: left camp at 0400, watered and reported to D.H.Q. at GOZ EL BASAL at 0510. Ordered in Reserve less 1st. Regiment; 4 Machine Guns which were attached to N.Z.M.R. Brigade to operate on their left. Brigade ordered to return to Camp, arriving at 1400. The Following Reinforcements arrived:- 1st.L.H.Reg. 4 O/Ranks., 3rd.L.H.Reg. 3 O/Ranks, 1st.L.H.F.A. 4 O/Ranks.	
"	21/7/17.		Took over duty as Reconnaissance Brigade from 2nd. A.L.H. Brigade. 1st.L.H. Regiment detailed 4 troops for reconnoitring; 1 Squadron sent as escort to Survey Party. Patrols reported about 50 Camelry observed, also enemy holding line from Point 630 - 720 to EL BUGGAR and across road: they had observation posts on all high ground. 5 Troops from 2nd.L.H. Regiment took up positions as night Outposts: 2000 yards East of WADDI GHUZZE opposite GAMLI. 2000 yards East of WADDI GHUZZE opposite UM URGAN. 2 Miles East of EL SHELLAL. 2 Miles East of HISEIA. Major.W.E.Markwell D.S.O. 2nd.L.H. Regiment was in Command.	Appx. C. X W/E
"	22/7/17.		Brigade stood to arms at 0330: stood down at 0520. Day Patrols were furnished by 2nd.L.H. Regiment: 1 Patrol to GOZ MABRUK. 1 Patrol to KH KHASIF. 1 Patrol to GOZ EL BASAL & HILL 510 ABU SHAWISH, with post. at EL DAMMATH.	<i>Discontinued May BM 1st Lt to Bde</i>

PLACE.	DATE.	HOUR.	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
GAMLI.	23/7/17.		<p>Information being received that BEERSHEBA was evacuated, Brigade was ordered to make a Reconnaissance: Brigade formed up 0400 and watered, crossed WADI GHUZZE at 0530: Returned to Camp at 1600 as per report. (3rd. Regt. acted as Rear Guard and covered our withdrawal, afterwards finding the Day Outpost, who reported cavalry grazing and general mounted movement from 540 WADI IMLEIH also ABU HAREIRA. KH KHASIF Patrol reported 14 cavalry astride road of EL BUGGAR at 1630; followed at 3 miles distance as patrol withdrew. Enemy bivouacs and camp observed along ridge, parallel and South west of ABU HAREIRA. Night Outpost line of 5 troops was found by 1st.L.H.Regiment, Captain Harris, Commanding, reported "All Clear". 196 cases of Comforts arrived for Brigade.</p>	Appx. C1.
"	24/7/17.		<p>Day Outpost line found by 1st.L.H.Regiment under Major White, 4 troops being used. No offensive was taken: enemy being content to hold high ridges East of EL BUGGAR. Night Outposts found by 2nd.L.H.Regiment of 5 troops, Capt. Ogilvy being in charge; no incident of note took place.</p>	
"	25/7/17.		<p>Day Outpost consisted of 4 troops under Captain R.N. Franklin, 2nd.L.H. Regiment; touch being maintained with enemy during the day; Night Patrols were found by 3rd.L.H.Regiment under Capt. Derrington; reporting "All Clear" and no touch with enemy.</p> <p>The 2nd.L.H.Regiment left camp at 2330 to carry out Minor Operation and took up position in vicinity EL KHOR AJRAM at 0330 and remained concealed till 0600.</p>	
"	26/7/17.		<p>Enemy was observed on 720 - 810 - 820 - 840 about 1 troop on each at 0600. Regiment moved rapidly to WADI SABA about 2½ miles East of RASHID BEK. They were fired on by about 8 men from high ground East of Crossing in WADI. The Area UM AJUA was swept as far as HILL 860 - 780 but was found to be clear of enemy. Regiment assembled at BIR EL ESANI, watered and fed, returned at 1235. Outpost of 5 troops was taken by 3rd.L.H.Regiment, Major Bennett Commanding; Enemy Outposts observed on high ground East of EL BUGGAR, but retired on our approach.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">X 7/7/17 B.M. Pat to Bde</p>

PLACE.	DATE.	HOUR.	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
GAMLI.	26/7/17.		<p>2 troops enemy travelling along BEERSHEBA Road at ABU HAREIRA. No traffic on Railway. Night Outpost was taken by 5 troops 1st.L.H.Regiment under Major White.</p> <p>Major Guobins, Captain McDougall, 1st.London Yeomanary reported at 1600 to be attached for duty for several days.</p> <p>1st.L.H.Regiment moved out at 2230 to carry out Minor operation - vicinity EL BUGGAR. 1 Troop was left in and around hut just North of G.in EL BUGGAR with one troop on ridge, 1000 yards South West of Hut, no cover being available nearer. At 0430 a single horseman approached going North and met two others about 720. At 0630 a patrol of 1 Officer and 8 men came along BEERSHEBA Road and approached Hut: 2 scouts were allowed to pass: fire was opened on the enemy 2 horses killed, Officer then approached and saw a couple of men after he had put up his hands, he fired his revolver, he being shot, several bullets passing through him, 1 Sergeant was taken prisoner: enemy did not attempt to come in, so Regiment retired at 0900 arriving in camp at 1250.</p> <p>One Deserter was captured by night outpost of 1st.L.H.Regiment and sent to Division. Sergeant Prisoner taken, sent to Anzac.</p>	Appx.C11
"	27/7/17.		<p>Day outpost was round by 1 troop 3rd.L.H.Regiment, taking over 510, the other outposts had pushed forward to BASAL to assist in minor operation: on regiment withdrawing, they also withdrew leaving 1 troop at KHASIF. Numerous parties of enemy were seen during the day North side of WADI IMLEIH. Enemy aeroplane landed for short time in vicinity of KH KHUWUKAH at 1215.</p> <p>Night patrols were found by 2nd.L.H.Regiment, 5 troops under Major Stoddart: 1 troop 3rd.L.H.Regiment taking over V works.</p>	5/17/17
	28/7/17.		<p>Brigade ceased to be Reconnaissance Brigade and took over GHABI Works: the O.C. 1st.L.H.Regiment taking over from 6th.L.H.Regiment at 0850: Brigadier inspected Works at 1030. Patrols of 2 Sections were found by 3rd.L.H.Regiment to patrol Railway Crossings to see they are kept clean. 2nd.L.H.Regiment detailed 1 troop to take over water duties at WADI. 2 Patrols were found at night, one 2 mile South of GAMLI on West side of WADI and one patrol South of GHABI Works from 2nd.L.H.Regiment: one troop from 3rd.L.H.Regiment taking V Works.</p>	Appx.

Checked by Major
 BM 10/11/17

or
I N T E L L I G E N C E S U M M A R Y.

Page. 6.

PLACE.	DATE.	HOUR.	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
GAMLI.	28/7/17.		School party of Officers, N.C.O's and men left for Zeitoun.	
"	29/7/17.		Brigade moved out at 0645 to cover the inspection of line by C in C : Brigade after watering, Crossed WADI GHUZZE at GAMLI and formed up about 1½ miles South of wire, in extended formation and remained in reserve: At 1145 orders were received to prepare to return to camp at 1215: Brigade moved back to Camp ,arriving at 1350. Captain. Tackaberry W.T. C.M.F. arrived from Moascar and posted to 3rd.L.H.Regiment. Night patrols to West GAMLI and South GHABI found by 3rd.L.H.Regiment also <u>V</u> Works.	Appx. C111.
"	30/7/17.		G.O.C. inspected horses xxxxxx 2nd.L.H.Regiment and Field Artillery Ambulance. Patrols to South of Gamli and Ghabi found by 2nd.L.H.Regiment. Yeomanary Officers returned to their Division.	
"	31/7/17.		G.O.C. inspected 3rd.L.H.Regiment and Machine Gun Squadron. Patrols to South of GAMLI AND GHABI found by 3rd.L.H.Regiment.	
<p><u>DECORATIONS.</u> The Military Medal was awarded to the following N.C.O's:- No. 852. L/Cpl. BLACKET.S.F. 2nd.L.H.Regt. 498. Sgt. CARLYON. J.E. 2nd.L.H.Regiment.</p>				
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>[Signature]</i> Major.</p> <p>Brigade Major. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.</p>				X 17 6/7

Secret.

Appendix LXXXIX
Copy No.....

BRIGADE ORDER No. 44
by
Brigadier.- General C.F. COX, C.B., V.D.
Commanding First Australian Light Horse Bde.

Headquarters,
2/7/1917.

REFERENCE MAP :- RAFA
~~SHIRAZ~~, 1/125,000.

1. INFORMATION.

The ANZAC Mounted Division will relieve the Australian Mounted Division as Outpost Mounted Division on Friday, July 6th.

2. MOVES.

The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will take over the WORKS X, Y and Z with ^{Section of} 3rd Regiment and Machine Gun Sqdn. by 1000 on Friday, July 6th. and will be camped in a site near EL GHABI. The remainder of the Brigade will camp at a site near EL GAMLI.

The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will move from its present Camp to the Camp site near EL GAMLI at 1330, Tuesday, 3rd. instant, and will form up ~~in~~ in Squadron Lines of Troop Columns with its right on the railway line facing South, **EAST** clear of the 2nd. L.H. Regiment in the following order.

1 Officer and 8 men (detailed by C.O., 2nd. L.H. Rgt.)
as Ground Sc outs.

B. H. Q.

- 1st. Signal Troop.
- 2nd. L.H. Regiment
- 1st. L.H. Regiment.
- 3rd. L.H. Regiment.
- 1st. A.M.G. Squadron.
- 1st. L.H. Fd. Ambulance.

Staff E.A.K. HUDSON, Major,
Captain, 1st. A.L.H. Bde.

Copies issued at 1730 to :-

- | | |
|------------|--------------------------|
| Copy No. 1 | File. |
| 2 | War Diary. |
| 3 | ANZAC Mounted Division. |
| 4 | 1st. L.H. Regt. |
| 5 | 2nd. L.H. Regt. |
| 6 | 3rd. L.H. Regt. |
| 7 | 1st. A.M.G. Sqdn. |
| 8 | 1st. L.H. Fd. Ambulance. |
| 9 | 1st. Sig. Troop. |
| 10 | Supply Officer. |

Secret

Appendix XC

BRIGADE ORDER . No. 45.

Copy No. 2

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

Reference Maps
Rafn 1/125000
Beersheba 1/125000

Headquarters.
2/7/17.

1. INFORMATION.

- (1) A Reconnaissance of the country and the defences contained in the area SHELLAL - BEERSHEBA - ASLUJ will be carried out on Wednesday 4th. July 1917.
- (2) The Australian Mounted Division with the 1st. A.L.H. Brigade attached will cover this reconnaissance.
- (3) In order to cover the reconnaissance and to allow the East-Force Survey party to complete the survey of the Northern portion of the area, the country to a line from Hill 960, East of EL HATHIRA - Hill 790, North of KH. EL SUFI to Hill 630, EL GIRHEIR, will be cleared by 0630 on July 4th.
- (4) The Division and attached troops will be disposed as follows:-
 - (a) Divisional Headquarters will be established at the ABU SHAWISH to KHALASA, FARA to BEERSHEBA cross roads, East of EL BUGGAR at 0615.
 - (b) The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will cross the Wadi GHUZZE by the crossings South of TEL EL FARA, and will make good the line 550 - 630 - 730 - 770 inclusive by 0630. The Wadi will not be crossed before 0300.
 - (c) The 3rd. A.L.H. Brigade will move via the SHELLAL and UM URGAN crossings over the Wadi GHUZZE and will make good the line 770 exclusive - 790 to the point where the black track crosses the SABA - FARA road $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles South of KH. EL SUFI (inclusive) by 0630.
 - (d) The 4th. A.L.H. Brigade will move via the crossings over the Wadi GHUZZE at TEL EL FARA and will make good the line from the cross tracks detailed in (c) exclusive to point 960 by 0630.
 - (e) 5th. Brigade will be in reserve and will be astride the SABA FARA Road one mile West of TAWEL EL-HABARI by 0630.
- (5) O.C. Field Squadron will arrange to water Brigade as far as possible from Wells and Cisterns in the area.

2. MOVES.

The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will be formed up in Squadron line of Troop Columns, 300 yards north of 1st. Regiment Bivouac at 0100 on July 4th. and will march towards FARA. Crossing the Wadi GHUZZE South of TEL EL FARA at 0300 and make good the line 550 - 630 - 730 - 770 inclusive. by 0630.

The O.C. 1st. L.H. Regiment being responsible for the left Sector 550 - 630 to Wadi HANAFISH inclusive on a bearing of 120° from 630 to 730.

The O.C. 2nd. L.H. Regiment being responsible for Right Sector Wadi HANAFISH exclusive to 730 - 770 inclusive and will get into touch with the 3rd. L.H. Regiment on his left and 3rd. Brigade on his right.

The O.C. 1st. L.H. Regiment will remain in Reserve with B.H.Q. at a point near KHIRBET IMLEIH.

3. ORDER OF MARCH.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Advance Guard. |) | |
| 2nd. L.H. Regiment less one Troop. |) | |
| Main Body. |) | |
| B.H.Q. |) | |
| 1st. Sig. Troop. |) | |
| 1st. Field Troop. |) | |
| 1st. M.G. Squadron. |) | |
| 3rd. Regiment less One Squadron. |) | |
| Battery. R.H.A. |) | |
| 1st. L.H. Regiment less one Sqdn. |) | |
| 1st. L.H. Field Ambulance |) | |
- Order of march as per margin

(2)

X 4 1/2

Left Flank Guard.) C.O. 3rd.L.H.Regiment will detail
1 Squadron 3rd.L.H.Regiment.) one Squadron as Left Flank Guard.

Right Flank Guard.) C.O. 2nd.L.H.Regiment will detail
1 Troop 2nd.L.H.Regiment.) 1 Troop as Right Flank Guard.

Rear Guard.
1 Squadron 1st.L.H.Regiment.

4. PATROLS.

On arrival at indicated line the O.C. Regiments will detail Special Officers Patrols to carry out reconnassainces as per special instructions attached.

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Cable and Visual Signal communication will be established between Brigade and Divisional Headquarters and between Regiments and B.H.Q. Brigade Gallopers will report to Divisional Headquarters East of EL BUGGAR at 0615.

6. SUPPLIES.

One full days rations will be carried on each man and one days forage on each horse.

7. AMMUNITION.

230 rounds S.A.A. will be carried on each man, 2100 rounds to each Hotchkiss Gun and 3500 rounds to each Machine Gun; Full reserve will be carried in limbers.

8. MEDICAL.

Mobile Section of 1st.L.H.Field Ambulance will accompany the Brigade.

(sgd) E.A.K.Hudson. Major.
Staff Captain. 1st.A.L.H.Brigade.

Copies issued at 0830, 3/7/17.to:-

Copy No. 1	War Diary.
✓2	File.
3.	A. & N.Z.Mounted Division.
4.	1st.L.H.Regiment.
5.	2nd.L.H.Regiment.
6.	3rd.L.H.Regiment.
7	1st.A.M.G.Squadron.
8.	1st.L.H.Fd.Ambulance.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSEBRIGADE.

Appendix XCI

Headquarters,
5/7/17.

HEADQUARTERS.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

Report of operations by 1st.A.L.H.Brigade on
Reconnaissance, 4/7/17.

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On July 4th.1917 the 1st.A.L.H.Brigade moved out from Bivouac Site at 0100 crossing the WADI GHUZZE by 0300.

On crossing the WADDI the 2nd.L.H.Regiment with 2 Sections A.M.G.Squadron formed the Advance Guard and moved forward and made good the lines from HILLS 510 - 550 - 630 - 730 - 770 inclusive, the 2nd.L.H.Regiment to make good the line WADI HANAFISH exclusive - HILLS 730 - 770 and join up with the 3rd.A.L.H.Brigade on his right at about HILL 770.

The 3rd.A.L.H.Regiment with 2 Sections A.M.G.Squadron formed the Left Flank Guard and to make good the line HILLS 510 - 550 - 630 to the WADI HANAFISH inclusive on a bearing of 120 degrees from HILL 630 to HILL 730 and keeping in touch with the 2nd.A.L.H.Regiment on his right.

The 1st.L.H.Regiment with 2 Sections Machine Gun Squadron and "B" Battery H.A.C. being held in reserve.

At 0430 touch with the enemy was gained at HILL 550 East of GOZ EL BASIL.

At 0435 HILL 550 left flank was reported "All clear".

At 0515 Vanguard crossed the ABU SHAWISH Road reported "All clear".

At 0530 "B" Squadron 3rd.L.H.Regiment occupied line HILL 510 to HILL 550 inclusive.

At 0545 "A" Squadron 3rd.A.L.H.Regiment with 1 Section A.M.G.Squadron occupied line HILL 630 to WADI HANAFISH inclusive and was in touch with 2nd.L.H.Regiment.

The ground from HILL 550 to HILL 630 was held by small parties of Enemy Mounted men, who withdrew after firing a few rounds.

A Stone Church on the West bank of WADI HANAFISH just South of W in WADI, was held by about 20 Mounted men with a Machine Gun.

1 Troop under Lieut Kelly taking advantage of commanding ground West of the Church, quickly dispersed this party, who retired into WADI HANAFISH and withdrew in direction BIR IFTEIS.

Both of these Squadrons on the left Sector were shelled by Enemy 12 pounders immediately on occupying positions, apparently from 3 guns near the junction of WADIS, Pt. 520 and one gun on Contour North of IF in IFTIES. These guns also shelled frequently throughout the day without inflicting any casualties.

At 0630 the line WADI - 730 - 770 was occupied by 2nd.L.H.Regiment and at 0635 was in touch with 3rd.A.L.H.Brigade on right.

At 0700 got in touch with WADI EL SUFI and was forced back later by superior forces.

Opposed to our front on line HILLS 730 - 770, I estimate there were one Mounted Brigade and about 400 Infantry.

Several enemy positions were identified.

Strong redoubts commanding Railway Bridge is situated on Hill 550 2½ miles East of BIR IFTEIS all high ground commanding Railway in vicinity BIR IRGEIG has been strengthened by enemy, also WADI EL SUFI.

At 1710 under cover of very heavy and accurate gun fire, two Squadrons of enemy cavalry moved from near Railway Viaduct on a bearing of 41 degrees from HILL 630. One Squadron moved rapidly towards HILL 730, and coming under fire of 2nd.L.H.Regiment changed direction and moved towards HILL 630 where they were dispersed by Hotchkiss Gun fire from HILL 630, 10 saddles were emptied, two men were seen being carried away under our fire and some horses were ridden out double barked.

Enemy had one Mountain Battery in action all day in vicinity of HILL 550 near BIR IFTEIS, this being moved forward and reinforced.

with 2 Batteries of 75 m.m. Guns from ABU HAREIRA . They ^{X 4 1/11} carefully registering the points from their positions and put in a heavy barrage when we started to withdraw.

At 1715 a message was received to withdraw on to Line HILL 630 - EL GERHEIR - Pt.720 - EL BUGGAR, keepng in touch with 3rd. A.L.H.Brigade. At 1725 had telephone communication with the 3rd. A.L.H.Brigade and arrangements made for withdrawal.

At 1730 Ambulance was ordered to withdraw about 1 mile, also my Reserve Regiment. At this time an incessant bombardment of the whole of my position became most intense and continued till 1830 when all my forward troops had been withdrawn. Touch with 3rd.A.L.H.Brigade was maintained throughout, the Brigade returned to Bivouac at 2335.

The following Casualties occurred :-

Wounded. - 5 Other ranks; 1 Other rank injured.
1 Horse killed.

Two Sand Carts were abandoned through breaking down, they were under the fire of the enemy guns and several attempts were made to remove them without success.

Attached are copies of Reconnaissances carried out by Officers Patrols.



Brigadier-General.

G.O.C. 1st.A.L.H.Brigade.

BRIGADE ORDER NO. 46.

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



Reference Map, Rafa, 1/125000.

Headquarters.
5/7/17.

1. INFORMATION.

The Anzac Mounted Division will relieve the Australian Mounted Division as Outpost Mounted Division on Friday July 6th.

2. MOVES.

(a) 1st.A.L.H.Brigade will take over the Works X,Y and Z at EL GHABI from the 5th.Mounted Brigade by 1000 on Friday July 6th. ^{GHABI}

(b) 2nd.A.L.H.Brigade will take over the site of the 3rd. A.L.H.Brigade

(c) N.Z.M.R.Brigade will take over the Bivouac site of 4th. A.L.H.Brigade

3. BATTERIES.

Batteries will be bivouaced on the Areas of Brigades with which they usually work in the field.

4. D. A. C.

The D.A.C. Anzac Mounted Division will be camped at the site at present occupied by the D.A.C. Australian Mounted Division.

5. LIGHT CAR PATROL.

1st. Light Car Patrol will be attached to the Anzac Mounted Division.

6. DUTIES.

The allocation of Duties will be as follows:-

July 6th.to 13th. The 1st.L.H.Brigade occupying the defences of EL GHABI with Works X, Y and Z. The 3rd.Regiment holding the Works with the remainder of the Brigade in support at GAMLI.

N.Z.M.R. Brigade to carry out the usual reconnaissances during this period.

2nd.L.H.Brigade in reserve.

July 14th.to 21st. N.Z.M.R.Brigade occupying the EL GHABI defences.

2nd.L.H.Brigade to carry out the usual reconnaissances during this period.

1st.L.H.Brigade in reserve.

7. NIGHT STANDING PATROLS.

The Brigade occupying the EL GHABI Defences will furnish the night standing patrols to the South, whilst the Brigade detailed for reconnaissances duty will furnish all night standing patrols East of WADI GHUZZE.

The night standing patrols on the BIR SABA and ESANI Roads will be connected up by telephone to the Brigade Headquarters.

These patrols will not be withdrawn until the patrols sent out before dawn to the South by the Brigade at EL GHABI AND those sent out East of the WADI GHUZZE by the reconnaissance Brigade report all clear.

8. RECONNAISSANCES.

(a) The Brigade carrying out reconnaissances will wire in to D.H.Q. by 1730 each day, giving a brief summary of patrol work done, new trenches seen, enemy movement observed, gun positions believed located, etc, and any item of interest which may have happened during the day. This Brigade will arrange to keep in close touch throughout the day with reconnoitring parties, and anything of importance is to be wired in at once. It should be impressed on all patrol leaders that the value of information depends to a great extent on the length of time that has elapsed since the events occurred to which it relates. It is of the first importance

+ 41/13

importance that information should be communicated with the least possible delay to the Commanders for whose benefit it is desired. Brigades sending out these patrols must therefore see that all means of communication are so organised as to ensure the rapid transmission of any information which these patrols may obtain.

(b) All Officers, down to the most junior, will be encouraged to make suggestions for minor offensive operations (raids, ambushes, etc.) and such operations will be constantly undertaken so as to maintain the interest and offensive spirits of our troops during a period of enforced waiting. Junior Officers should specially be made to realise that special recognition may be earned for keenness in looking for opportunities and for useful suggestions which may be successfully put into practice.

In this connection, the Brigade Intelligence Officer should be of the most utmost assistance to all officers in collating and distributing information and so ensuring that the results of the work of each officer is of mutual assistance and dovetails in correctly with sequence of events.

9. "ALL CLEAR" REPORTS.

"All clear" reports will be furnished by the Brigade holding EL GHABI Defences and the Brigade supplying the night standing patrols hourly from 2000 until the "Front line all clear" is given.

"Front line all clear" should, if possible, be wired through Divisional Headquarters not later than 0500.

10. STANDING TO.

The reconnaissance Brigade and the Regiment holding EL GHABI Defences will "stand to" daily at 0330 and will not stand down until "Front line all clear" is given.

The remainder of the Division will be ready to turn put at half an hours notice.

11. BIVOUAC.

In preparing Bivouac sites, anything of a regular or close formation is to be avoided, as this will only lead to casualties during air raids.

12. TRAINING

Training will be carried out in the early morning so as to avoid working in the heat.

13. DUTY.

O.C. 3rd. L.H. Regiment will take over the Works at EL GHABI from the 5th. Mounted Brigade by 1000 on Friday 6th. inst. leaving present camp site at 0800, giving a receipt ~~at~~ for all stores on charge.

The Night Patrols will be carried out by the Duty Regiment of the day

An Inlying Squadron will be detailed from the Duty Regiment and will be ready to proceed at a moments notice to EL GHABI and come under the orders of the O.C. 3rd. L.H. Regiment.

E.A.K. Hudson. Major.

Staff Captain. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

Issued at 1700.

Copy No. 1. War Diary.

2. File.

3. 1st. L.H. Regiment.

4. 2nd. L.H. Regiment.

5. 3rd. L.H. Regiment.

6. 1st. M.G. Squadron.

7. Anzac Mounted Division.

8. 1st. Sig. Troop.

9. Supply Section.



X 41
15

SECRET.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS ISSUED WITH BRIGADE ORDER NO. 45.

A reconnaissance of the country between the BIR SABA-ASLUJ AND BIR SABA - FARA roads up to the line G. EL NA'AM - EL HATHIRA is required.

Full information is required on the following points:-

- (a) The character of the country from the point of view of a force of all arms moving towards BIR SABA from ESANI or its neighbourhood.
- (b) The practicability for movement of horses, camels and wheels;
- (c) Particulars as to the approaches to the enemy's defences from W., S.W., and S., of BIR SABA.
- (d) Gun positions for a force moving against BIR SABA and facilities for observation.
Such reports on Observation positions must define clearly, and in detail, what can be seen from each.
- (e) Possible lines for enemy counter attack.
- (f) Enemy Gun and Observations positions.
- (g) Water supply.

W. H. H. H.

2/7/17.

Major.
Staff Captain. 1st. A.L. Brigade.



141
16

ADDEEDAM.
to
BRIGADE ORDER No. 46.
by

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

PATROLS.

The Brigade carrying out the patrolling of the area will find daily patrols to the following places--strength, one troop each.

(a) By Day. (1) GOZ MABRUK.

(11) KH KHABIF.

(111) GOZ EL BASAL.

(1V) Area Hill 510 ABU SHAWISH.

(V) 300 contour 1½ miles N.E. of EL NAGILI.

(b) By Night. The following standing patrols -

(1) 2000 yards East of the WADDI GHUZZE opposite GAMLIL.

(11) 2000 yards East of the WADDI GHUZZE opposite UM URGAN.

(111) 2 miles East of EL SHELLAL.

(1V) 2 miles N.E. of KKH EL SHELLAL.

(V) 2 miles East of HISEIA Crossing.

(VI) 2 miles N.E. of HISEIA Crossing.

The Brigade HQ at EL GHABI will find standing patrols by night as follows:-

(1) On the WADDI GHUZZE 2 miles South of GAMLIL.

(11) About 2 miles South of EL GHABI.

These patrols will not remain in the same place each night. They will not return to bivouac until morning patrols have reported "all clear". The patrol 2 miles N.E. of HISEIA Crossing will report to the 53rd Division Post (KENT PORT) at point 510 as it goes out and on return.

BRIGADE ORDER. No. 47.

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

Copy No. 4

Appx. XCIII

Headquarters,
7/7/17.

X 41
17

Reference Map: 1/125000.

1. INFORMATION.

- (1) A reconnaissance of the country in the vicinity of Point 720 will be carried out on Sunday July 8th.
- (2) THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION will cover this reconnaissance.
- (3) In order to cover the reconnaissance the country to a line from Point 510 - 550 - 630 (EL GIRHEIR) - 730 - 770 - Pt. 810 - Pt. 820 TAWEL EL HABARI to Point 720 - ABU YAHIA will be cleared by 1030 on July 8th.
- (4) The Division will be disposed as follows:-

- (a) Divisional Headquarters will be established at KH KHASIF by 1015 crossing the WADI CHUZZE by TEL EL FARA at 0700.
- (b) 2nd.L.H. Brigade will move via the SHELLAL and UM URGAN crossings over the WADI CHUZZE at 0600 and will make good the line 510 - 550 - Pt. 630 (EL GIRHEIR) - 730 - 770 - 810 (exclusive) by 1030.
- (c) N.Z.M.B. Brigade will move via the crossings over the WADI CHUZZE at TEL EL FARA at 0600 and will make good the line 810 (inclusive) - 820 TAWEL EL HABARI - 720 - ABU YAHIA by 1030.
- (d) 1st.L.H. Brigade less 3rd. Regiment will be in Reserve.

2. MOVES.

The Brigade less 3rd.L.H. Regiment and 3 Sections M.G. Squadron, will form up in Squadron Column of Troop Columns, 800 yards East, N.E. of 2nd.L.H. Regiment at 0500.

The Brigade will cross the WADI CHUZZE after watering horses by GAMLI Crossing at 0630 and will be astride the FARA SABA Road at KH KHASIF at 1015.

3. ORDER OF MARCH.

Advance Guard.
1 Squadron 1st. Regiment.
Right Flank Guard.
1 Troop 1st. Regiment.
Left Flank Guard.
1 Troop 1st. Regiment.
Rear Guard.
2 Troops 2nd. Regiment.
Main Body.
2 Troops & Headquarters 1st. Regiment.
B.H.Q.
1st. Sig. Troop.
1st. Field Troop.
1 Squadron 1st. Regiment.
1st. M.G. Squadron less 3 Sections.
Inverness Battery.
2nd. Regiment.

4. DUTIES.

The 3rd. Regiment (less 3 Troops) with 2 Sections M.G. Squadron, will move via BIR EL ESANI and RASHID BEK to UM AJUA in order to clear out any Enemy Patrols who may be in that vicinity, and will leave EL GHABI at such an hour as to be in position at UM AJUA by 1015.

The C.O. 3rd. Regiment with 3 Troops and 1 Section M.G. Squadron will remain and hold EL GHABI Works.

5. AMMUNITION.

230 rounds S.A.A. will be carried to each man, 2100 rounds to each Hotchkiss Gun and 3500 rounds to each Machine Gun; Full reserve will be carried in limbers.

14/18

6. RATIONS.

One full days rations will be carried on each man and one days forage on each horse: Units will be prepared to remain out 24 hours.

7. WATER.

O.C. Field Troop will arrange to water Brigade at KH KHASIF.

8. DRESSING STATION.

A Divisional Dressing Station will be established at KARM.

Mobile Section of 1st.L.H.F.A.will accompany the Brigade.

9. COMMUNICATIONS.

Cable and Visual Communications will be established between Brigades and D.H.Q. and Visual Communication with Regiment at UM AJUA.

Responsibility for lateral Communication will be from Left to Right.

X O.C.Sig.Troop will detail four gallopers to report to Divisional Headquarters at 1015.

10. Units are warned against exposing themselves on the sky line of any of the hills, collecting behind any well defined objective, or of raising dust when approaching or withdrawing from points. The Enemy shells on the slightest provocation.

E.A.K.Hudson. Major.
A/Brigade Major.1st.A.L.H.Brigade.

Issued at 1300. 7/7/17.to:-

- | | | |
|----------|-----|-----------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1. | File. |
| | 2. | War Diary. |
| | 3. | A. & N.Z. Mounted Division. |
| | 4. | 1st.L.H.Regiment. |
| | 5. | 2nd.L.H.Regiment. |
| | 6. | 3rd.L.H.Regiment. |
| | 7. | 1st.M.G.Squadron. |
| | 8. | 1st.L.H.F.Ambulance. |
| | 9. | 1st.Sig.Troop. |
| | 10. | 1st.Field Troop. |

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Appx XCIV
x 4 1/2
Headquarters,
9/7/17.

HEADQUARTERS,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.



Report of Operations by 1st.A.L.H. Brigade on
8/7/17.

The 3rd.L.H.Regiment (less 3 troops) with 2 Sections M.G.Squadron attached, left EL GHABI at 0345 on 8/7/17.

The nine troops were formed into two Squadrons, one in charge of Major Dick and one in charge of Major Bennett.

Major Dick's Squadron supplied the Advanced Guard and Right Flank Guard. Major Bennett's Squadron supplied Rear Guard and Left Flank Guard.

The Regiment reached BIR EL ESANI at 0645 and watered leaving again at 0730. RASHID BEK was reached at 0815 and Major Dick's Squadron with one Section M.G.Squadron was sent to UM AJUA which was occupied at 0830. Regimental Headquarters and Major Bennett's Squadron with one Section M.G.Squadron remained at RASHID BEK. A line of observation posts was established on Points 780 - 860, to a Point near M in line North East of Point 860.

Signal Stations were established at 780 and 860 and were in touch all day with Regimental Signal Post on Point 690. Touch was gained with N.Z.M.R.Brigade at cross road East of BUGGAR from Point 690 at 1030. And with Anzac Mounted Division at 1145. Difficulty was experienced all day in calling up this post and some messages were in consequence transmitted through N.Z.M.R. Brigade. We were unable to get in direct touch with 1st.A.L.H. Brigade at KHASIF.

Our advanced troops sighted 15 Enemy Mounted Men in vicinity of RASHID BEK at 0715. These withdrew as we advanced. Two shells were fired at our troops occupying UM AJUA at 0900. These fell about 1000 yards short.

A Survey Party (Lieut.Clowes) reported at RASHID BEK 1645 his work being then completed. No other Survey Parties were met with.

Orders for withdrawal were received by Despatch Rider at 1750 which was carried out simultaneously with withdrawal of N.Z.M.R.Brigade until they reached EL BUGGAR. The Regiment watered at ESANI and leaving there at 1930 arrived at EL GHABI at 2250.

Balance of the Brigade acted as Reserve and have no report to make other than they left Camp at 0500 and arrived back in Camp at 2130.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "G.O.C.", written in a cursive style.

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

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Appx XCV

Headquarters,
13/7/17.

HEADQUARTERS,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

X 41
20

Report on work done on GHABI works by 3rd.A.L.H.Regiment,
week ending 13/7/17.

X. WORKS.

200 yards parapet levelled and improved. Bomb store
8'X8'X6' not yet complete (about $\frac{1}{2}$ completed).
67 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards C.T. widened and deepened.
40 yards F.T. deepened.
38 yards F.T. widened and deepened.
Machine Gun position No. 02 improved and widened platform.
Two latrines completed.

MEN EMPLOYED.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>No. of Men.</u>	<u>Time employed.</u>
7/7/17.	75	2 hours.
9/7/17.	15	1 hour.
10/7/17.	38	2 hours.
11/7/17.	46	2 hours.
12/7/17.	45	2 hours.

no work on 8/7/17 on account of operations.

Y WORKS.

Levelled and improved 400 yards parapet .
Deepened 120 yards. F.T.
Deepened Aid Post 3 feet.
Deepened Bomb Post 1 foot.
Widened 30 yards F.T.
Commenced 55 yards C.T. which was marked out but not
started; average depth at present 2 feet.

MEN EMPLOYED.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>No. of Men.</u>	<u>Time employed.</u>
7/7/17.	50	2 hours.
10/7/17.	44	2 hours.
11/7/17.	39	2 hours.
12/7/17.	47	2 hours.

Z WORKS.

On 7/7/17 levelled and improved 255 yards parapet.
8/7/17. levelled and improved 200 yards parapet.
9/7/17. No work on account of operations.
10/7/17. levelling and improving 15 yards parapet & F.T.
Cover for S.A.A. on western side.
11/7/17. widened 30 yards C.T. to carry stretcher. Deepened
20 feet F.T. 9 inches between No. 9 & 10 M.G. positions.
12/7/17. Widened 30 yards C.T. to carry stretcher.
13/7/17. widened 47 yards C.T. to carry stretcher.
Spread 107 yards parados on C.T.

MEN EMPLOYED.

<u>Date.</u>	<u>No. of Men.</u>	<u>Time Worked.</u>
7/7/17.	70	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
8/7/17.	12	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
10/7/17.	60	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
11/7/17.	60	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
12/7/17.	40	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.
13/7/17.	70	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

[Signature]

Brigadier-General.

G.O.C. 1st.A.L.H. Brigade.

Appx

XCVI

GHABI WORKS.

PROGRESS REPORT. for week ending 13th. July 1917.

Work. No of Redoubt.		F.T.	S.T.	C.T.	W.	S.P.	R.	M.G.	H.G.	Aid Post.	Gun Positions.	Comm-unications.	Remarks.
X.	No. of yards proposed.	255 yards.	-	350	-	-	-	7 positions complete.	-	Complete.	-	Linked to R.H.Q. Y.&.Z. Works.	No work done on 8/7/17.
	No. of yards in hand.	58 yds. to be widened 30 yds. to be deepened.	-	283 to be deepened and widened.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	on account of operations
	No. of yards completed.	199	-	67	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Y.	No. of yards proposed.	400	-	343	-	-	-	7 positions completed.	-	2	-	Linked to R.H.Q. X.&.Z.	No work done on 8/7/17 & 9/7/17
	No. of yards in hand.	187 to be deepened.	-	235 to be deepened & widened.	-	-	-	-	-	to be roofed	-	-	owing to operations
	No. of yards completed.	213.	-	68	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Z.	No. of yards proposed.	510	250	502	-	-	-	15 completed.	-	2	-	Linked to	No work done on
	No. of yards in hand.	-	2	to be widened & deepened 395	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	R.H.Q. and	9/7/17 on account
	No. of yards completed.	510	-	107.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	X .&.Y.	of operations

12/17

(copy)

3rd.L.H.Regiment.

To/
HEADQUARTERS,

1st.A.L.H.Brigade.

Appx. XCVII.

X 41/22

Reference Maps RAFA and BEERSHEBA 1/125000.
PATROL REPORT - 3rd.L.H.Regiment. - 15/7/17.

I left SHAUTH at 2230 on 14/7/17 with two Squadrons and marched to BIR EL ESANI, which was reached at 0130. From here one Squadron under Major W.J.Bennett was sent to UM AJUA. Two troops from this Squadron were posted 1000 yards North East of RASHID BEK and two troops ~~xxxx~~ at a point near 860, South of UM AJUA. These troops were in position at 0315 and remained in hiding with a view to ambushing enemy patrols.

The Reserve Squadron took up a position at TEL ITWEIL, one troop from this Squadron being sent before daylight to point just South West of Point 750.

At dawn an enemy observation post on 780 - ABU GHALYUN could be seen from troop at UM AJUA.

At 0630 an enemy patrol, 26 strong, was sighted coming along track North of UM AJUA. Its scouts turned South and moved to a point x. about 1500 yards North West of Point 780.

At this Point three dismounted men, who ~~xxxx~~ looked like Bedouins, was seen to meet scouts. One scout then moved slowly forward, and evidently sighted one of our troops and galloped back to the patrol, who hastily returned in a Northerly direction toward KHEBAINA, then turning East moved toward ABU YAHIA. One of our troops unsuccessfully attempted to cut them off.

Another small enemy patrol was sighted at 0630, just East of road near Point 780, ABU GHALYUN. This patrol also hastily retired in a South Easterly direction immediately they saw the other patrol retiring.

The ambush scheme having failed, troops were withdrawn, and returned to SHAUTH, arriving at 1300.

In my opinion it will be difficult to ambush enemy patrols in this locality, as their scouts work very thoroughly, and they unquestionably receive assistance from Bedouins.

(sgd). Geo. Bell. Lieut.-Colonel.
Commanding 3rd.L.H.Regiment.

SHAUTH.
July 15th. 1917.

Secret
BRIGADE ORDER No. 48

Appx.

XCviii

Copy No. 2

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

Headquarters,
18/7/17.

Reference Map BEERSHEBA. 1/125000.

41
23

1. INFORMATION.

Enemy patrols are reported to move in area from KHALASA towards HILL 780 - ABU GHALYUN MADLAGA to HILL 780 and from EL HATHIRA towards RASHID BEK an UN AJUA.

2. INTENTION.

To make a sweeping movement closing in both Flanks towards WADI ESANI and capture any patrols or Bedouins who may be in the area from TEL ITWEIL South East towards KHALASA, thence North East ABU SHAWISH Road crossing the WADI to about 1 mile South of Cross Roads ABU SHAWISH, BEERSHEBA Roads, thence West to HILL 680 KHOREL AJRAM - 680 GOZ LAKHLEILAT to WADI ESANI.

3. MOVES.

(a) 2nd.L.H.Regiment will leave camp at 2330 on 18th.and move via GANLI Crossing to GOZ MABRUK - GOZ LAKHLEILAT.
1 Squadron will remain in Reserve at GOZ LAKHLEILAT and 2 Squadrons will be distributed in the area 680 KHOR EL AJRAM - KHABEIRA.

O.C. 2nd.L.H.Regiment will be responsible for the Northern Area to WADI ESANI.

(b) 3rd.L.H.Regiment will leave camp at 2130 on 18th.inst. and will march to ABU EL RIGAL.

1 Squadron will be left in Reserve at ABU EL RIGAL.

1 Squadron distributed in area 770.

1 Squadron distributed in area 820.

O.C. 3rd.L.H.Regiment will be responsible for the Southern Area from WADI ESANI.

At 0700 on the morning of the 19th. the Flanks of both Regiments will close towards the WADI ESANI, the 2nd.L.H.Regiment moving South East and the 3rd.L.H.Regiment moving North East.

Every care must be taken that Men and Horses are properly hidden and no troops will show themselves till 0700.

The L.A.M. Battery will assist in this operation leaving camp at 0530 and will go via GOZ MABRUK and thence North of 2nd.L.H.Regiment towards ABU SHAWISH Road and will cross the WADI and go as far South on the ABU SHAWISH Road as possible joining up with 3rd.L.H.Regiment coming North.

4. SIGNALLING.

Visual Signalling will be maintained between Regimental Headquarters and Brigade Headquarters.

B.H.Q. Signal Station will be established on HILL between X Post and 3rd.L.H.Regiment Camp.

5. MEDICAL. C.O. 1st.L.H.F.A. will detail 2 Sand Carts to accompany each Regiment.

E.A.K.Hudson. Major.
A/Brigade Major. 1st.A.L.H.Bde.

Copies issued at 1100 on 18/7/17.

to:-

- | | | |
|----------|----|-----------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1. | File. |
| | 2. | War Diary. |
| | 3. | A. & N.Z. Mounted Division. |
| | 4. | 1st.L.H.Regiment. |
| | 5. | 2nd.L.H.Regiment. |
| | 6. | 3rd.L.H.Regiment. |
| | 7. | 1st.L.H.F.A. |
| | 8. | 1st.Sig.Troop. |
| | 9. | M.G.Squadron. |

Appx. XCIX

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Headquarters,
21/7/17.

+ 4 1 / 24

HEADQUARTERS,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Report on Minor Operation carried out by 1 Squadron
1st. Regiment, 2nd. L.H. Regiment less 2 Troops, 3rd. L.H. Regiment, 2
Sections M.G. Squadron, 4 Sand Carts 1st. L.H.F.A., L.A.M. Battery and
Light Car Patrol on the night of 18th and day of 19th. July 1917.

The 2nd. L.H. Regiment less 2 Troops, 1 Squadron 1st. L.H. Regiment, 1 Section M.G. Squadron, 2 Sand Carts under O.C. 2nd. L.H. Regiment left camp at 2330 on 18th and moved to GOZ LAKHLEILAT, here 1 Squadron 1st. L.H. Regiment and 1 Section M.G. Squadron were left in reserve, dispositions of the remainder of this force was 'C' Squadron on Contour North of second A in AJRAM, 'B' Squadron at 680 North of KHAR, 'A' Squadron less 2 Troops between the 2 HILLS 680 and this force being under cover at 0330; A very heavy fog making observation difficult.

Orders were given that no troops were to show themselves till 0700 when without further orders a sweeping movement would commence. At this time patrols located the Enemy in force at EL BUGGAR KH KHASIF and KARM numbering in all over 1000 men with 2 Field Guns, and about 60 Camels moving to EL BUGGAR from direction of BIR SABA; an Enemy patrol of 7 men was also located moving North from direction of ESANI towards 680, these were chased and caught without use of Rifle fire.

Acting on information from Patrols, the O.C. 2nd. L.H. Regiment, ordered his Regiment to concentrate at LAKHLEILAT.

Information was then sent to C.O. 3rd. L.H. Regiment of superior forces on left flank, but with the rapidity of movement of troops it was impossible to concentrate until the sweeping movement had been carried out and any attempt at operation against enemy forces on our left was impossible until such time as the Brigade had been concentrated.

The 3rd. L.H. Regiment with 2 ~~Squadrons~~ Machine Guns and 2 Sand Carts left Camp at 2130 on 18th, and marched to ABU RIGAL where Regimental Headquarters was established on POINT 750 with 'B' Squadron and 2 Machine Guns in reserve. 'A' Squadron moved to a Point near W in WADI KHALRIA, 'C' Squadron to Point 820, the Regiment being in position by 0300 and remained under cover till 0700.

At 0700 'A' Squadron moved out and crossed WADI IMALAGA and moved to the junction of ABU SHAWISH Road - KHALASA BEERSHEBA Roads then turned North keeping the right flank about half a mile East of the ABU SHAWISH Road and the left in touch with 'C' Squadron and continued to move North until meeting 2nd. L.H. Regiment at the WADI they operating from North.

'C' Squadron moved North at 0700 and right flank in touch with 'A' Squadron with left on WADI IMALAGA until 2nd. L.H. Regiment was met at RASHID BEK.

An enemy post was seen by 'A' Squadron on Point 910 which escaped in a South Easterly direction. Several small posts were seen on high ground about 2 miles East of ABU SHAWISH Road, all of which retired in direction of BEERSHEBA as the Squadron approached.

A patrol of 3 Mounted Men watering at Water Holes on ABU SHAWISH Road West of Point 970 were fired on, one horse being killed and the Rider captured, the other two escaped. No other enemy or Bedouins were seen on South side of WADI.

The ground crossed over from 820 to ABU SHAWISH Road was very broken, stoney and ~~xx~~ difficult for troops moving South - North, on account of deep wash outs having to be crossed. Travelling East-West is easier, but narrow frontage would have to be employed on following beds of washouts.

Water at Point on ABU SHAWISH Road West of 970 is good and plentiful, similar in quality and quantity to supply at GAMLI

X 4 1/2 5

The Regiment concentrated at ESANI at 1030, watered and moved to GOZ LAKHLEILAT under orders of B.G.C.

The B.G.C. with the Light Car Patrol left camp at 0530 and moved to East side of FARA where the L.A.M. Battery was met and both moved to GOZ LAKHLEILAT.

Owing to heavy fog Enemy could not be seen, although shells were noticed dropping in the vicinity of Rail Head. The Cars made to LAKHLEILAT and finding "all clear", moved rapidly to 680, thence North of AJRAM to ABU SHAWISH Road, along ABU SHAWISH Road to WADI.

Information was received that Enemy patrol of about 12 men seen in WADI; the cars then made to cross the WADI and cut off their retreat, but having run into a blind end, they were unable to proceed further. Patrol being noticed escaping, Machine Gun fire was opened on them, but owing to being closely pursued by four of our own men this was discontinued, our own men here returning with 4 of the enemy patrol.

Enemy shell fire being opened on the Cars from the direction of ABU YAHIA they withdrew under cover; the L.A.M. Battery which had not being ordered to return to GOZ LAKHLEILAT and thence to Camp. The Light Car Patrol with 1 Squadron 2nd.L.H. Regiment which had concentrated at this Crossing then returned along track crossing WADI to RASHID BEK. Enemy shrapnel being fired for some time in our rear without any result.

All troops were ordered to water and concentrate at GOZ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ LAKHLEILAT where B.H.Q. established itself at 0945.

Up to this time we had captured 12 enemy Cavalry and 10 horses, 2 being shot; it is thought further casualties were inflicted but unable to state number.

From O.C. 2nd.L.H. Regiment;

At 0720 owing to fog I could not get touch and sent galloper with following message to B.H.Q:

"2 Regiments Turkish Cavalry vicinity of EL BUGGAR unable obtain visual touch so far".

At 0740 the following was sent to ANZAC by O.C. 2nd.L.H. Regiment through B.H.Q:

"In touch with two Regiments Turkish Cavalry EL BUGGAR concentrating on HILL 680 LAKHLEILAT.

Received from ANZAC :- "2nd. Brigade ordered to turn out at once and move towards EL BUGGAR".

At 0850 O.C. 2nd.L.H. Regiment "Enemy withdrawing can cope with situation".

At 0855 the balance of the Brigade and Inverness Battery was ordered out by Anzac Division.

At 0945 G.O.C. arrived at LAKHLEILAT.

3rd.L.H. Regiment ordered to concentrate at LAKHLEILAT with balance of Brigade.

Officers Patrols were then sent out at 1000 to get touch with enemy and find out his movements. Touch with enemy was maintained throughout the day, also posts established through AJRAM to ABU SHAWISH Road thence to WADI and RASHID BEK.

At 1330 Anzac advised Mounted Division had left ELMOLEK AND moving via ESANI to co-operate with 1st. Brigade on the right and the force to attack against the enemy left expected to arrive at 1700.

Advised Anzac: "Everything quite in touch with enemy".

At 1619 received instructions that on arrival of G.O.C. Mounted Division, to act under his orders.

At 1715 advised Anzac, "Enemy in position between W UM SIRR AND BEIT ABU TAHA dismounted patrols entered EL BUGGAR at 1515 and fired on by enemy.

At 1745 Anzac advised "G.O.C. Mounted Division arrived and acting under his orders

At 1810 advised Anzac: "Aeroplane report Anzac Division are pushing forward to pin turks to line EL GIRHEIR - EL BUGGAR"

Turks have withdrawn from HABARI except small party of 50. Main body Turks between EL GIRHEIR 720 Ridge.

At 1825 Officers Patrol with Light Car Patrol returned and reported Enemy Infantry holding line from Cross Road to 1 mile North of EL BUGGAR then 720 to EL GIRHEIR, they are digging in,

(3)

Cavalry have retired towards KH IMLEIH.

Conforming to General Hodgson movement returning to camp.

At 2000 ordered Brigade to move to GAMLI and water.

Owing to Mounted Division taking our water, the Brigade, after waiting 2 hours were forced to go down the WADI and find other watering place.

Returned to Camp at 0115 on 20th. and were then ordered to feed up, to draw rations and carry 24 hours forage and Ration and form up at 0330.

20th. July. Brigade formed up at 0330, marched to GAMLI, watered and reported to Anzac Division at 0510, that Brigade was about 1 mile East of FARA awaiting orders.

Orders were received to send 1 Regiment to N.Z.M.R. to come under B.G.C. N.Z.M.R.

1st. L.H. Regiment with 2 Sections M.G. Squadron, with Reserve ammunition were ordered to report to N.Z.M.R. Brigade and operate on their left.

Balance of Brigade ordered to close on to GOZ EL BASAL and remain in reserve

At 1150 orders were received to return to Camp and water at FARA.

Arrived in Camp at 1400.

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

Secret



BRIGADE ORDER. No. 49

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

Copy No. 2

Headquarters,
21/7/17.

Whilst the Brigade is Reconnaissance Brigade, everybody will "stand to" at 0330, saddle up and will not "stand down" till order is given from B.H.Q.

The Central Area has been allotted to this Brigade for the coming week and minor Enterprises will be carried out.

The following duties will be ~~xxxxxx~~ found during the week by Regiments in turn handing over to the night Patrols, commencing with 2nd.L.H.Regiment on 21st.July.

By Day. (1) GOZ MABRUK.
(2) KH KHASIP.
(3) GOZ EL BASAL.
(4) HILL 510 ABU SHAYISH. and Post of 1 N.C.O. and 4 men at EL DAMMATH.

By Night. The following Standing Patrols:
(1) 2000 yards East of WADI GHUZZE opposite CANLI.
(2) 2000 yards East of WADI GHUZZE opposite UM URGAN.
(3) 2 miles East of SHELLAL.
(4) 2 miles North East of SHELLAL.
(5) 2 miles East of HIRKIA Crossing.

Each Patrol will be strength of 1 troop and the whole will be under a Senior Officer who will establish his Command Post.

By Night this will be at Garden East of WADI opposite FARA and will be connected by wire with No. 1 Post and No. 5 Post.

In case of anything unusual occurring each Patrol can send back to Command Post which will be in direct touch with B.H.Q. and B.H.Q. and Patrols should change positions each night.

The Patrols will send out at day break and will report back to Command Post by 0500 all clear or otherwise; the order will then be given to the Brigade to stand down or otherwise. Delay should not ~~xxx~~ occur in getting report back as the whole force is dependent on this information.

The Day Patrols will leave camp at Daybreak, water and go out and relieve the Night Patrol which will come back to camp. A Senior Officer will establish a Post at Command Post in case of anything unusual happening when direct information can be obtained

Visual Signalling will be maintained from each Post with B.H.Q. throughout the day.

R.A.K.Hudson. Major.
A/Brigade Major. 1st.A.L.H.Bde.

Copies issued at 1930.to:-

- Copy No. 1. File.
2. War Diary. ✓
3. 1st.L.H.Regiment.
4. 2nd.L.H.Regiment.
5. 3rd.L.H.Regiment.
6. 1st.M.G.Squadron.
7. 1st.L.H.F.A.
8. Inverness Battery.
9. 1st.Sig.Troop.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.



Headquarters,
24/7/17.

HEADQUARTERS,

A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Report of Operation on 23rd. July 1917.

Information having been received that Beersheba was evacuated, Brigade was ordered to move out for Reconnaissance.

Brigade left camp at 0400 less 1st.L.H.Regiment, crossed WADI GHUZZE at GAMLI after watering and reformed up on East side of WADI at 0530. Touch was immediately obtained with N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

2nd.L.H.Regiment was detailed as Advance Guard and to march on - 810 exclusive 820 - 840 and make good all high ground. 1 Squadron of 3rd.L.H.Regiment being detailed to act as Right Flank Guard and make good WADI SABA, about 1 mile East of ABU SHAWISH Road. A patrol was sent forward to C.O. 1st.L.H. Regiment with instructions to join Main Body at about KH KHASIF: as the Column passed through at 0750 Vanguard arrived 1 mile East of EL BUGGAR reporting "all clear".

1st.L.H.Regiment joined up with Main Body at 0810. Received orders from D.H.Q. that as soon as high ground was made good, push Patrols forward BIR SABA to ascertain if defences are occupied. My dispositions were made, and 1 Squadron was sent 810 exclusive to HILL 820 inclusive, 1 Squadron was sent HILL 820 exclusive to TAWEL HABARI to HILL 840 inclusive; 2 troops being detailed to push around the Right Flank UM FARRATH towards HILL 1070, Right Flank Guard being at WADI SABA, the L.A.M. Battery and Light Car Patrol were sent to assist and come under my orders.

Sector 810 - 820. 1 troop enemy cavalry encountered on Contour 800 about 1 mile West of HILL 820, these were forced back to HILL 820 where they were reinforced by another troop; Hotchkiss Gun fire was opened on them; they retired across WADI SUFI.

Enemy Outpost line is apparently line 810 - 820 having telephone communication with main Defences as wire was found on telephone pole.

A Patrol was sent forward to investigate the defences in the vicinity of HILL 910. Several enemy posts were found in WADI SUFI with 2 troops cavalry in support; no guns or barbed wire were visible as enemy in position prevented patrol crossing WADI SUFI. Two redoubts were seen West of BEERSHEBA, each would accommodate at least 250 men. This Reconnaissance was interrupted by troops of enemy cavalry galloping to within 200 yards of patrol and opening fire.

820 exclusive to 840. Considerable of troops was observed in the direction of BEERSHEBA both of Infantry and Cavalry. Fair observation can be obtained from TAWEL EL HABARI. Patrol on HILL 840 was shelled by a Mountain Battery; opposition was too strong to permit of Reconnaissance further along BEERSHEBA Road. The Armoured Cars were used in this Sector and forced the enemy to retire.

SECTOR 840 exclusive ABUSHAR. There is a good crossing over WADI SABA, 400 yards S.W. of HILL 840. Patrol reached second A in ARAB EL AZIMUTH before being recalled. 1 Squadron enemy cavalry located near ABUSHAR, also 1 troop at Cross Roads S.W. of ABUSHAR. Enemy observation posts located on HILL 960; redoubt on R of Ridge about 1 mile East of ABUSHAR and along high ground KHALLASH Road. Patrol was shelled while crossing WADI SABA at point previously mentioned.

Right Flank Report. On approaching 840 at 0910 several shots were fired from enemy guns; located about 2 Squadrons moving towards BEERSHEBA from UM AJUA at 0900 and were lost to sight amongst Hills on SHAWISH Road in WADI East of AJUA.

Reconnaissance Report of this Squadron attached. At 1040 received orders to withdraw. this was carried out, the Brigade being ready at 1130; orders were received to move



+4¹/₂₉

(2)

back, where camp was reached at 1600 without further incident.

Jeffery

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Appx

CII

HEADQUARTERS,

A. & M.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.



Headquarters,
27/7/17.

Report on Minor Operation by 1st.L.H.Regiment on night of 26th/27th.July.

1st.L.H.Regiment left Camp at 2230, after watering at GAMLI and marched in direction of 680 East arriving at 0250, and sent forward 1 Squadron to make good the high ground EL BUGGAR, no sign of enemy being found. One troop was left in and around Hut, just North of the G in EL BUGGAR, with 1 troop on Ridge, 1000 yards South West of Hut as no cover being available nearer.

At 0430 a single Horseman passed in front of Hut, going North and met 2 others about 720. At 0630 a Patrol of 1 Officer and 8 men came along BEERSHEBA Road and approached Hut; 2 Scouts were allowed to pass.

Fire was opened when Enemy discovered our position, with the result of 1 Officer being killed and 2 horses. 2 men were seen to be wounded, 1 being helped in from about 2000 yards of position. 1 Prisoner was taken, a Sergeant of the Troop.

The Officer after having his horse shot, put up his hands and seeing only a couple of men in the Hole, fired his revolver at them, with the result that the rifles were turned on him and many Bullets passing through him.

At this time 1 Squadron and a half was seen on high ground at Cross Roads, coming from direction of BEERSHEBA; They halted and then spread along Ridge of HILL 720, putting observation posts on high ground to South.

As enemy apparently being settled down, the O.C. 1st.L.H. Regiment withdrew at 0900 and returned to Camp.

Jeffery

Brig-General.

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

+ 41/30
 Headquarters
 28/7/17.

1. INFORMATION.

The Commander in Chief will visit Desert Column Area on Saturday 28th. Sunday 29th. July.

On Sunday he will visit Railhead GOZ EL GELBIE and AEU SHAWISH.

2. MOVES.

- (a) The 2nd.L.H. Brigade will make good the ESANI Cross Roads West of TOWAL EL HABARI 720 inclusive by 0730.
- (b) The N.Z.M.R. Brigade will make good the line 720 exclusive - 630 EL GIRHEIR 550 - 510 to Point 300 inclusive and one and a half miles South West of ERK exclusive by 0730.
- Both these Brigades will report the area clear by 0800 to Anzac Mounted Division.
- (c) The 1st.A.L.H. Brigade will cross the WADI at GAMLI and will be formed up in formation to guard against aeroplane attacks by 0830 beyond the wadi at GAMLI Crossing. A Representative will remain at D.H.Q.

The 1st.A.L.H. Brigade less the 1st.L.H. Regiment will be formed up in Squadron Column of Troop Columns facing South East, 800 yards East of 2nd.L.H. Regiment Camp by 0645.

3. ORDER OF MARCH.

<u>Advance Guard.</u>)	C.O. 2nd.L.H. Regt will detail
1 Squadron 2nd.L.H. Regt.)	1 Squadron as Advance Guard.
<u>Right Flank Guard.</u>)	C.O. 3rd.L.H. Regt will detail
1 Squadron 3rd.L.H. Regt.)	1 Sqn. as Right Flank Guard.
<u>Left Flank Guard.</u>)	C.O. 3rd.L.H. Regt. will detail
1 Troop 3rd.L.H. Regt.)	1 Troop as Left Flank Guard.
<u>Rear Guard.</u>)	C.O. 3rd.L.H. Regt. will detail
1 Troop 3rd.L.H. Regt.)	1 Troop as Rear Guard.
<u>Main Body.</u>)	
B.H.Q.)	
1st. Sig. Troop.)	
2nd.L.H. Regt. less 1 Sqn.)	Order of March as per Margin.
1st.M.G. Squadron.)	
Battery.)	
3rd.L.H. Regiment less 1½ Sqdns.)	
1st.L.H.F. Ambulance.)	

4. COMMUNICATION.

Visual Communication will be maintained with D.H.Q.

5. RATIONS.

The unexpended portion of the days ration and full water bottle will be carried.

6. AMMUNITION.

230 Rounds S.A.A. will be carried to each man, 2160 rounds to each Hotchkiss Gun, 3500 rounds to each Machine Gun.

7. MEDICAL.

Mobile Section 1st.L.H.F.A. will accompany the Brigade.

E.A.K. Hudson. Major.
 A/Brigade Major. 1st.A.L.H. Brigade.