

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/14/44**

**Title: 9th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

October 1918

CONFIDENTIAL.



ORIGINAL COPY.

A U S T R A L I A N I M P E R I A L F O R C E .

W A R D I A R Y .

O F

9th LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

F O R

O C T O B E R , 1 9 1 8 .



Signature of Officer compiling... *O'Shawls adjt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding... *J. H. ...*  
Lieut. Col.  
9th Light Horse Regt.

OCT 1918

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

9th Light Horse Regiment.

3rd Light Horse Brigade.

Australian Mounted Division.

Army Form A.C.I. 2118.



E50/1

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			28 October, 1918. <span style="float: right;">Page 1 Volume 61.</span>	
DUMAR	1st	0500	<p>The Regiment joined remainder of 3rd L.M. Brigade, crossed the BARADA by Bridge at Dumar, thence proceeded along main road towards DAMASCUS. The road here was strewn with enemy dead and wounded, and in places dead animals and abandoned transport and guns, almost completely blocked the roadway. The road for about a mile presented a horrible sight amidst such charming surroundings. The devastating effect of accurate Machine gun and rifle fire was everywhere apparent. Many of the vehicles had overturned into the BARADA. About one thousand prisoners were collected in vicinity of Dumar Railway Station. A complete train was taken between DUMAR and DAMASCUS side of Gorge. A few Germans made a slight stand here, but were soon overpowered by advanced Regiment (10th L.M.)</p>	SYRIA BEYRUT 1/250000
DAMASCUS			<p>The Brigade continued to advance along Main Road towards DAMASCUS unopposed, entering the City near the Victoria Hotel at about 0700. Large crowds of enthusiastic inhabitants lined the Streets offering gifts of fruit, cigarettes etc. and at several places residents from the upper storeys of shops and houses sprinkled scent on to our troops passing along the roadway below. This part of the operation was more like a triumphal march and quite a new experience to most of our troops. The Brigade continued to push on through the narrow Bazaar alleyways between SALAMIYE and AMARA until the main Aleppo Road was reached. The Brigade then advanced North East along Main Aleppo Road. Horses were watered near JOBAR and a halt made for half an hour, then the advance continued. The advanced Regiment gained contact with enemy rearguard in vicinity of HARISTA EL BASAL. 9th Regiment trotted forward in close support to 10th Regt. 10th Regiment overcame opposition and 9th Regiment remained in close support.</p>	
HARISTA EL BASAL		1400	<p>At about 1300 B &amp; C Squadrons less heavy packs were placed on either flank of 10th L.M. and half an hour later A Squadron less heavy packs <sup>moved</sup> to left flank of 10th L.M. Information now received that a large <del>enemy</del> force of enemy with a strong rearguard were retreating N.E. along main Aleppo Road.</p> <p>Major DALY with Regimental Headquarters moved to the left flank and pushed forward rapidly to within one mile South West of KHAN AYASH. Here touch was gained with B Squadron holding a position approximately one mile West of KHAN AYASH and with C Squadron at KHAN AYASH. 10th Regiment were astride the Main Road 1 1/2 miles S.W. Khan Ayash with advanced troops at Khan Ayash. The enemy were now moving up the pass leading into the Hills just North of KURBEL/ASAFUR, thus securing their retreat.</p>	

2 OCT 1918

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WAR DIARY

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9th Light Horse Regiment,  
3rd Light Horse Brigade,  
Australian Mounted Division.



E50/2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Page <del>2</del> Volume 61.	Remarks and references to Appendices
	October 1918.				
1 Mile S.W. of KHAN AYASH	1st	1300	The Regiment less A Squadron concentrated on Main Road 2 miles S.W. KHAN AYASH and withdrew to Bivouac at KHAN KUSSIER, A Squadron rejoining en route. Lieut HOGAN and 10 O/Ranks mounted as night outpost near the Khan at KHAN KUSSIER. Lieut. Colonel SCOTT rejoined Regiment. Following members of 9th L.H. taken Prisoners of War 29/9/18 now reported to be in hospital DAMASCUS :- 553 Sgt. A.E. King, 228 Cpl. A.L. Betteridge, 921 Cpl. A.C. Down, 1528 L/C. C.B. Clark, 2116 L/C. E.P. Mannahan, 2140 Tro. D.B. O'Donnell., 702 Cpl. M.G. Adams.		Syria Reint 1/250000
Khan Kussier.	2nd.	0615.	Lieut. HOGAN reported a large column of Infantry moving North, one mile EAST of Regimental bivouac. Doubt existed as to whether they were enemy or part of Sheriffian Army. A mounted patrol from A Squadron was immediately despatched to investigate and report, and message signalled to Brigade Headquarters reporting presence of column about 2000 strong and asking for information. B & C Squadrons were ordered to turn out in light fighting order Mounted.		
		0630	A few shots were heard from direction of column and shortly after a galloper from 8th L.H. Standing patrol came in hurriedly along road and reported that the column was enemy Infantry. Remainder of Regiment less heavy packs was now ordered out. Reconnoitring patrol had now returned and confirmed 8th L.H. Galloper's report.		
		0645	The Regiment less heavy packs moved out to attack. Just after moving following message received from Brigade Headquarters :- "Believed to be Germans and move out at once and investigate 8th L.H. and four Machine Guns will be ready to support you if required". With B Squadron in advance and Lieut. SHARP's Troop from A Squadron as right flank guard, the Regiment moved at 0645 at a fast trot N.E. along Main road for about half a mile, then swung towards the left through the vineyards. The rear of enemy column was now observed about one mile ahead on main road. The Regiment by increasing the pace and moving towards the foothills rapidly gained on the enemy, who had by now mounted several Machine Guns and pushed out several small parties to his left flank to endeavour to hold up our advance. Although the Regiment came under Machine gun and rifle fire, the enemy failed to check the		

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**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

2th Light Horse Regiment.  
3rd Light Horse Brigade.  
Australian Mounted Division.

(Erase heading not required.)



E50/3

Place	Date	Hour	October 1918. Summary of Events and Information	Page 3 Volume 61. Remarks and references to Appendices
Khan Kussier <i>sp</i>	2nd.	0700  0735	<p>the speed of our advance, the Regiment soon reaching a favorable position about one mile from left flank and opposite centre of enemy column. Orders were now issued for <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> A Squadron to move rapidly and seize KHAM AYASH, and C Squadron to seize Main Road in vicinity of KUBBET I ASFUR. C Squadron pushed forward followed immediately by A Squadron. The enemy brought heavy fire to bear on these two Squadrons, but their advance continued rapidly whilst B Squadron took up a position dismounted and brought fire to bear on to centre of enemy column. Regimental Headquarters was established about <u>B</u> in in WATER CHANNEL, and touch gained by heliograph with Brigade.</p> <p>Regimental Headquarters moved to B Squadron position leaving a Signal Station to maintain touch with Brigade. A &amp; C Squadrons were now observed to be ahead of enemy Cavalry advanced Guard, and to be swinging in towards Main Road to seize KHAM AYASH and KUBBET I ASAFUR, thus completely cutting off all chances of enemy retreat.</p> <p>About this time the head of Main column of enemy seemed to be in a state of uncertainty, and their Leaders appeared to be conferring. Simultaneous with the final movement of A &amp; C Squadrons, remainder of Regiment under orders from Major DALY, mounted, drew swords and charged the main column, detaching a small party from B Squadron to gallop round the rear of enemy. The combined movement was entirely successful. The main column surrendered before our troops reached them. A &amp; C Squadrons with drawn swords quickly charged the enemy advanced troops composed mostly of Cavalry. A Squadron at KHAM AYASH rushed a Machine Gun just as it was mounted and ready to fire. C Squadron seized the pass and captured two 75 M.M. Guns near KUBBET I ASAFUR. (No M 15 S.K.N.)</p> <p>The whole enemy force amounting to 91 Officers, 318 Cavalry, 1064 Infantry, 3 Germans, 26 Machine Guns, 1 Mountain Gun (No. F7524) 2 7.5 C.M. M 15 GKN Guns, 12 Automatic rifles, 264 Rifles, 285 Animals, was captured within one hour of the Regiment moving from bivouac at KHAM KUSSIER, approximately 7 miles. Amongst the Officers captured was the Divisional Commander who defended SHUNET NIMRIN against our attacks in May 1918. The Regimental Standard of the 46th Regiment was captured. Personnel captured belonged mostly to 46th Regiment.</p>	<p>Syria Beirut 1/250000</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">OCT 1918</p>

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WAR DIARY  
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9th Light Horse Regiment,  
3rd Light Horse Brigade.  
Australian Mounted Division.

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E50/4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Page 4 Volume 31.	Remarks and references to Appendices
Khan Ayash.	2nd.		October 1918.		Syria Beirut 1/250000
		0300	The rapidity of movement contributed largely to the success of the operation, but much credit is due to both Major W.T. CHARLEY and Major C. BLEECHMORE for the skillful manner in which they manoeuvred their Squadrons in so quickly seizing Khan Ayash and the Main Road entering the pass at Kubbet I Asafur. <i>Also to Major T.J. DALY for ordering charge &amp; Lieut O.J. SHAW for quick issue of orders and initiative both.</i>		
			Lieut. FREEBAIRN with troop escorted the prisoners to Brigade Headquarters. After the past strenuous fortnight the horses responded to this additional test with wonderful vigour. Ground over which the Regiment <sup>ADVANCED</sup> was fairly rough and covered with small loose stones. Except for a few small dry walls the line of advance was devoid of cover. When Main column surrendered No. 902 Signaller J.M. Smyth and No. 1353 Signaller N.C. Malliday were moving back to Regimental Headquarters Signal Station when they encountered a party of the enemy composed of 3 Germans and 35 Turks, taking up a position within a few hundred yards of the Signal Station. A German Officer was mounting an Automatic Rifle when Smyth and Malliday with great gallantry under bomb fire rushed the German Officer taking his pistol and fired into the enemy and seized the automatic rifle. The enemy were so surprised that they surrendered in a body. This promptness of action prevented the enemy obtaining reverse fire on to the portion of Regiment guarding the main column of prisoners.		
		0900	After collecting the captured war material into one dump the Regiment returned to bivouac at Khan Kussier.		
		1400	A Squadron moved out to reconnoitre country for stragglers 6 miles East of bivouac. They returned at 1700 reporting country clear of enemy. Our Casualties for the day 1 man accidentally injured (crushed by his horse which was shot under him) Animals - 1 ride killed 4 rides wounded.		

- OCT 1918

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)



9th Light Horse Regiment.  
3rd Light Horse Brigade.  
Australian Mounted Division.

E 50/5

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October 1918.

Summary of Events and Information

Page 5 Volume 61.

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Khan Kussier	3rd	1400	Lieut. FREEBAIRN with troop from B Squadron moved out and mounted an outpost at B in Wadi MARABA to guard this approach to Damascus from the North. Local inhabitants were very friendly disposed towards our troops bringing many presents of Grapes, eggs etc. into the lines. Khan Kussier was surrounded with flourishing vineyards and orchards being abundantly watered. The grapes were ripe and of exceptionally good quality and flavour, and were used chiefly for drying into raisins. 21 O/Ranks marched in from LUDD.	Syria Beirut 1/250000
	2th	0900	C Squadron moved out to relieve a Squadron of the 8th L.H. Regiment holding the pass at Kubbet I Asafur.	
		0830	Lieut. MANN with working party and A Echelon transport moved out to collect War material captured by Regiment at Khan Ayash. About 5 full limber loads of Machine Guns, automatic rifles etc. collected.	
		1100	Orders received to move S.W. of Damascus leaving C Squadron at DUMA to hold Main Aleppo Road in vicinity of Khan Kussier with one troop to relieve Lieut. FREEBAIRN's troop at B in Wadi MARABA.	
		1500	The Regiment less C Squadron moved via Main Aleppo Road through Damascus to a point 2½ miles S.W. of EL MEZZE and bivouaced for night. 4 O/Ranks taken prisoners of War on 23/9/18 and recaptured in Damascus 1/10/18 rejoined Regiment.	
2½ miles S.W. El Mezze.	5th	0820	Moved to a bivouac site 1½ miles South of EL MUADHAMIYE. The fast marching of the past fortnight had caused many casualties in sore backs amongst the horses of the Regiment, particularly pack animals and rides in low condition. About 30 of these were placed on the Sick Horse lines and about 30 others were treated in the lines. Great credit is due to the assiduous manner in which Farrier Quartermaster Sergeant Turner and his assistants carried out their duties in attending to horse casualties. The greater number of these horses were fit again within a fortnight.	

- OCT 1918

# WAR DIARY

or

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Army Form C. 2118

9th Light Horse Regiment,  
3rd Light Horse Brigade.  
Australian Mounted Division.



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October 1918.

Summary of Events and Information

Page 6 Volume 61.

Remarks and references to Appendices

EL MUADHAMIYE

6th

In bivouac resting. Combined Brigade Church Parade. Thanksgiving Service for recent victory.

Syria  
Beirut  
1/2500000

7th.

Three parties each of 1 Officer & 20 <sup>1st Lt</sup> O/Ranks proceeded to DAMASCUS. Court of Enquiry held reference 9th L.M. Personnel taken Prisoners of War.

8th.

Three leave parties proceeded to Damascus. Information received that Armoured Cars had entered BEIRUT and found City evacuated.

9th

1400

Moved to a point two miles S.W. of KAUKAB arriving at 1510. No. 1212 Trooper Eric K. Smith died from Cholera, this being the first Cholera case to occur in the Regiment. No. 553 Sgt. A.E. King, Prisoner of War 29/9/18 rejoined Regiment from hospital Damascus.

10th.

Usual Damascus Leave parties proceeded. No. 921 Corporal A.C. Down and No. 2216 L/Cpl. E.P. Manrahan, taken Prisoners of War 29/9/18 and recaptured in German Hospital Damascus 1/10/18, now reported Died of Wounds. Capt. A.M.M. NELSON proceeded to Damascus to assist in Administration of Hospitals.

11th

No. 142 Trooper A.A. Johns died (Cholera suspect). All further leave to Damascus cancelled.

12th

0645

Dismounted parade of the Regiment. C.O. warned all ranks of dangers of Cholera and necessary precautions to be taken. Lieut. H.M. STEPHEN to Hospital. A Large amount of sickness in Regiment. Commenced using Turkish Prisoners to build Maize shelters, cleaning of lines and other odd jobs.

- OCT 1918



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650/7

Place	Date	Hour	October 1918.	Summary of Events and Information	Page 7. Volume 61.	Remarks and references to Appendices.		
Kaukab	13th			Lieut. L.M.S. MARGRAVE M.C. to hospital.		Syria		
	14th			All horses grazed from 0930 to 1200. Information received that our Cavalry had occupied TRIPOLI.		Beirut 1/250000		
	15th			C Squadron rejoined Regiment.				
	16th			Information received that MOMS was occupied by our Cavalry on 15th instant.				
	17th			No. 1203 Trooper W. Stevens died in 3rd Light Horse Field Ambulance.				
	18th			Usual Routine. Grazing horses. Improving Camp etc.				
	19th			Information received that following members of 9th L.H. Regiment awarded Military Medals :- 608 Temp/Sgt. J.R. Forrester.      605 Tpr. F.R. Morgan.      580 Sgt. M.C. Maxwell. 2830 Tpr. W.P. Whittlesea      1212 Tpr. E.K. Smith      2309 L/C. R.L.W. Dennison. 649 Tpr. J. Carroll.      213a Tpr. M.L. Partington      851 Cpl. J.D. Millgrove. 271 Tpr. T.W. Harvey      1004 Tpr. W.H. Watson.				
	20th	0830		Owing to likelihood of rainy weather the Regiment at 1500 moved to a favorable bivouac site West of Main road. Lieut. MUELLER & Lieut. HOGAN with troops proceeded on Escort Duty with 1000 prisoners to KUNEITRA.				
	21st			Lieut. STEPHEN returned from Field Ambulance. Sergeant R.C. Eley proceeded to Cadet School, ZEITOUN.				
	22nd			Corps Commander visited Regiment.				

- OCT 1918

A.P. & S.D., Alex./<sup>2009</sup>/<sub>50025A</sub>/11: 17/5M. W.M. & Co.

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250/8

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Page 3 Volume 61.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
	October 1918.				
Kaukab	22nd		Worked 250 Prisoners during day clearing lines of stones, building maize shelters etc.		Syria Beirut 1/250000
	23rd		Usual Routine.		
	24th		Rained all day. No cover except few maize and stone shelters built by prisoners.		
	25th		Orders received that Australian Mounted Division would march to HOMS.		
	26th		Usual Routine.		
	27th	0945	The Regiment moved out on first stage to HOMS, joined remainder of Brigade and proceeded by Main Road through Damascus to JOBAR arriving at 1540 and bivouaced for night. 21 O/Ranks 70 spare horses were left at Divisional Depot DAMASCUS to collect reinforcements. Major CHARLEY left as O.C. Divisional Depot.		
JOBAR					
	28th	1030	Moved from JOBAR to 1 mile West of ADRA, arriving there at 1430 and bivouaced. Bivouac sheets arrived. Lieut. SHARP sent to BEIRUT for change and Rest.		
KUTEIFE	29th	0430	Reveilled, and at 0630 moved to KUTEIFE arriving there 1045 and bivouacked.		
	30th	0500	Reveilled and at 0700 left KUTEIFE arrived at NEBK 1645 and bivouacked. Orders received that last two stages of march NEBK-NASIE, NASIE - HOMS, would now be completed in one stage with a 5 hours halt at NASIE.		
NEBK	31st	0400	Reveilled and at 0545 moved off on final stage of trek. Arrived KARA at 0830 where horses were watered and march resumed at 1015. Arrived at NASIE 1550 where a halt was made to feed up. Information was received here that an Armistice had been completed with TURKEY, hostilities ceasing at 1200 on 31st instant.		

OCT 1918

SYRIA  
Tripoli  
1/250000

A.P. & S.D., Alex. <sup>2009</sup>/<sub>50025A</sub> /II: 17/5M. W.M. & Co.



OCT 1918

SUMMARY OF MESSAGES DESPATCHED.

Appendix 1.

E50/10

B13 A Squadron 2nd.

Brigade report many stragglers wandering about vineyards in area out to about 5 miles east of bivouac area. A Squadron less heavy pack will move out at 1400 today to clean up this area returning to present bivouac at sundown about 1730. A Signal Station will be established on top of white house on Main road. If visual communication impossible use mounted orderlies only if urgently required.

9th L.H. 1240.

W.S.39 Major Bleechmore O.C. A Sqn. 2nd.

I wish most heartily to congratulate you and your Squadron on its very smart turn out this morning. Although your Squadron did not receive orders to saddle up till over quarter of an hour after the other Squadrons it was ready to move off by the time balance of Regiment had cleared the starting point. Please convey my thanks to all ranks of your command.

W.M. SCOTT, Lieut. Col. 9th L.H. 1400.

SUMMARY OF MESSAGES DESPATCHED

Appendix 1.

B8 1st. 3rd L.H. Bde.

Returning to B.M.Q. under instructions received from 10th Regiment.

9th L.H. 1800.

B6 1st 3rd L.H. Bde.

Situation report. Have only gained touch with B Squadron of this Regiment. This Squadron has been on extreme left flank about 2000 yards WEST KHAN AVASH. About 2000 enemy retired N.E. along Main road disappeared into hills at 1530. Am withdrawing B Squadron to Command Post 1 mile North 10th Headquarters.

9th L.H. 1725.

B9 2nd 3rd L.H. Bde.

Large column of Infantry, camels and pack animals moving North 1 mile East of 9th Bivouac. Are any Hejaz troops in vicinity.

9th L.H. 0620.

B10 2nd 3rd L.H. Bde.

Enemy numbering 1500 with 200 pack mules and Machine guns retreated North about 1000 yards West along Main Road. Have headed them off with two small Squadrons. Suggest sending another Regiment with Machine Gun Squadron to my Command Post quickly as possible.

9th L.H. 0745.

B17 2nd 3rd L.H. Bde.

Major Bleechmore's Squadron has scoured country six miles East of bivouac finding no enemy. He is returning 1 mile South of route taken out.

9th L.H. 1615

B12 2nd 10th L.H.

What appears to be a convoy observed 0945 5 miles East Main Aleppo Road.

9th L.H. 0945.

B11 2nd 3rd L.H. Bde.

One own four Germans wounded unable to ride. Could vehicles be sent out collect on main road 1 1/2 miles N.E. Vineyards.

9th L.H. 0945

*J.P.S.*



650/11  
- OCT 1918

SUMMARY OF MESSAGES RECEIVED. Appendix 2.

BM307 1st 9th L.M.  
Withdraw to bivouac area B.M.C. aaa Advise other troops in your vicinity to do the same.  
3rd L.M. Bde. 1300.

MC1 1st 9th L.M.  
Am with 10th L.M. advance guard aaa Await instructions at same reconnoitred villages and all country two miles east of DUMA Road all clear Enemy retired to hills.  
C Sqn. Patrol

BM310 1st 8th 9th & 10th L.M.  
Outpost dispositions aaa 9th L.M. Regt. will provide picket of one troop in suitable position on road about half a mile North of bivouac area aaa. Otherwise units will provide their own local protection. 9th and 10th arranging mutually aaa 8th L.M. Regt. will provide two small pickets one on each flank of B.M.C. group aaa All troops except those actually on outpost may off saddle.  
3rd L.M. Bde. 1905.

BM213 2nd 9th L.M.  
Believed to be Germans aaa Move out at once and investigate aaa 8th L.M. Regt and 4 Machine guns will be ready to support you if required.  
3rd L.M. Bde. 0645.

2nd 9th L.M.  
Have patrolled six miles East of bivouac aaa No enemy in sight Returning 1 mile South of route taken out.  
O.C. A Sqn. 1535.

BM356 8th 9th and 10th L.M. Regts. 3rd.  
All Sheriffian soldiers are in the immediate neighborhood of Damascus Any other native soldiers in villages outside these precincts who claim to be Shereffian soldiers are Bedouin or Druse irregulars aaa In the event of any breach of the peace disorder or looting they should be considered hostile and treated accordingly.  
3rd L.M. Bde. 1230

BM358 3rd 8th 9th 10th L.M. and 3rd M.G.S.  
9th L.M. Regt will detail one Squadron to relieve 3th L.M. Regt. by 1130 tomorrow 4th Inst. aaa The duty of this Squadron will be to guard the main ~~XXXX~~ Aleppo road by establishing a post in the foothills in a suitable position aaa It will also patrol for a distance of 4 miles in direction of BEIT EL MAISARI to ensure that country in that direction is clear of the enemy aaa 3th L.M. Regt.

P.T.O. *[Signature]*

