

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/6/24**

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

April 1917

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

1st Lt 14 Regiment

810

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.

Page 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ARISH	1/4/17		Church Parade. One other rank to Field Ambulance	
"	2/4/17		Bomb and Hotchkiss classes. 1 other rank to Field Ambulance 1 other rank from F. Amb.	
"	3/4/17		Bomb & Hotchkiss classes. Two other ranks to F. Amb. Material to be stored carted to Ordnance dump. - Capt E E STUCKEY reported for duty from 1st Lt Training Regiment with 1 other rank.	
"	4/4/17		Lieut. F. C. W. WRIGHT and 30 other ranks on being relieved at BAROANIL post by 4th L. H. BDE marched back to camp. - 12 drivers, with 3 G. S. Waggon and 23 horses rejoined from Anyac Division Transport KANTARA. One other rank to detention. Lieut. U. A. BLACKET and 10 other ranks to KANTARA for remounts.	
"	5/4/17		Majors T. E. W. W. IRVING & A. A. WHITE. M.C. sick to Field Ambulance. 7 other ranks sick to Field Ambulance. Regiment on fatigue duty getting ready to move. Lieut. W. F. M. EDWARDS and 5 other ranks to KHAN YUNUS to draw Hotchkiss guns. Lieut. C. A. HORDERN marched in from hospital and posted to B Squadron.	
SHEIKH ZOWAID	6/4/17		One other rank rejoined from Transport KANTARA, 2 other ranks to Field Ambulance. Regiment left EL ARISH <del>arriving at</del> and marched to SHEIKH ZOWAID arriving at 1615 and bivouaced for night.	

Lt. Colonel Lt. Colonel  
C.O. 1st Light Horse Regiment

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1st Lt H Regiment  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Khan Yunus	7/4/17		Left SHEIKH ZOWAHD at 0830 and arrived in camp KHAN YUNUS at 1600. 1 other rank to Field Ambulance.	
"	9/4/17		6 other ranks marched in from MOASCAR and 34 remounts under Lieut V.A. BLACKET and 10 other ranks Lieut. W.J.M. EDWARDS and 5 other ranks reported back with 12 Hotchkiss guns. Lewis guns returned to Ordnance	
"	9/4/17		Hotchkiss gun practice carried out on 30 yards range. 9 pack horses drawn from N.Z.M.B. Brigade - 1 other rank to Field Ambulance Lieut. A.M. GARBETT and 2 other ranks marched in from DIVISIONAL HEAD QUARTERS.	
	10/4/17		2 other ranks to Field Ambulance - swimming parade - Hotchkiss gunners with packs and guns paraded at B.H.Q.s for inspection	
	11/4/17		1 other rank transferred - 1 other rank taken on strength from F. Amb. 8 horses drawn from remounts - Lieut. F.C.W. WRIGHT and 30 other ranks on picket duty in KHAN YUNUS. Hotchkiss gun practice carried out. Majors T.E.W. IRWIN & A.A. WHITE M.C. marched in from No 2 Stationary Hospital EL ARISH. Hostile aeroplane fired on camp at 1630 but no casualties.	

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

Lieut. T. Crawley Lt Colonel  
CO 1st Lt H Regiment

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1st Lt Regiment  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Khan Yunus	12/4/17		Regiment left camp at 1215 and took over line of outpost from WORCESTER YEOMANRY. Lieut. W H McKeown and 45 other ranks remaining in camp. Lieut. A M GARBETT and 2 other ranks detached to B.H.Q.	
"	13/4/17		Relieved from outpost line by Bucks YEOMANRY at 1405. Marched to camp arriving at 1545. 2 other ranks to hospital - 16 other ranks marched in from MOASCAR.	
"	14/4/17		at 1015 all officers and N.C.O's attended gas lecture at B.H.Q. 2 other ranks to Field Amb. One other rank marched in from hospital	
"	15/4/17		One other rank to Ambulance - Lieut. A M GARBETT left detached duty at B.H.Q. and reported as C.S.O.3 to Imperial Mtd Div. all ranks inoculated against cholera. C.O 2nd I/c Adjutant and Q.M. attended at B.H.Q. at 1100 to hear plans for coming operations. Brigadier inspected horses. CAPT. E E Stuckey returned to 1st L N Training Regt.	
"	16/4/17		3 other ranks to Field Ambulance 11 other ranks marched in from MOASCAR Regiment marched out of camp at 2015 joining Brigade at Hendersons and marched to SHELLAL.	

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

from H. Grawice Lt. Col  
C.O 1st L N Regiment

3

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 10

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**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY**

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1st L H Regiment  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHELLAL	17/4/17		Regiment arrived at SHELLAL 0500. Several enemy air craft over, dropped bombs and used machine guns - no casualties - bivouaced all day - One other rank to Field Ambulance. Regiment found outpost as per OUTPOST. ORDER No 1 attached	
	18/4/17		Relieved by 22nd Mounted Bde at 0615 marched to bivouac area - 1100 - Regiment marched to GOZ GELEIB, 1130, Lieut J. B. EGAN sent to connect with Imperial Mounted Division, 1300 received orders to move back to bivouac area SHELLAL, watering horses on road in - 2030 left bivouac area and crossed WHADI EL GHUZZE where we joined rest of Division. Regiment doing van guard with "C" Squadron advance party. 0500 arrived at ERK - 0515 "C" Squadron pushed BAIKET-EL-SANA and although heavily shelled had no casualties, and commenced to dig in, 0630 "B" Squadron reinforced "C" Squadron right continuing line, to WADDI SHIRIA inclusive, 0800 Lieut W. J. M. EDWARDS and 12 other ranks patrolled country to "C" Squadrons left trying to reach BEERSHEEBA-GAZA road, but was unable to do so as he was fired on, from, U.M. ADRAH - 1335 Lieut W. F. M. ROSS and troops were detailed as escort to guns - 1500 Enemy commenced to move against BAIKET EL SANA and their artillery fire increased in intensity and accuracy - 1530 "B" Squadron relieved by 2nd L H Regiment. "C" Squadron were to be relieved by same regiment but owing to enemy counter attacking were unable to do so - 1600 A Squadron were detailed to escort guns picking up Lieut W. F. M. ROSS and troops - 1955 Regiment withdrew - 2030 "C" Squadron	

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

Lieut A. G. ... Lt Colonel  
CO 1st L H Regiment

WAR DIARY

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1st L.H. Regiment  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHELLAL/ERA	18/4/17		rejoined Regiment having acted as rear guard to Brigade-2330 arrived TELEL JEMMI where we watered horses. Casualties 2 other ranks wounded and 1 other rank sick to J. Amb.	
ELIZRAIN	20/4/17		0415 Arrived in bivouac area ELIZRAIN-0745 received orders to be ready to move at 0800 0840 moved with Brigade 1000 halted 1 mile N of WELI SHEIKH NURAN 1020 heavily bombed. Lieut J.B. EGAN and 2 other ranks wounded. 24 horse casualties 1330 went to water at ABU HISSAN-1730 took over outpost line from 5 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regiment Sector divided into 3 parts A Sqdn on right B Sqdn centre C Sqdn left R HQ at EL-NAGILI reference map BEERSHEBA. 1-125,000.	
EL NAGILI	21/4/17		1130. N <sup>o</sup> 2 Observation post reported seeing bodies of enemy. Lieut W.H. JAMES reported 20 enemy cavalry advancing at the trot 1215 Lieut. W.H. JAMES reported 500 cavalry advancing-1225 Lieut. W.H. JAMES reported enemy retiring before our rifle fire-1235 MAJOR THE W.W. IRWIN was sent to appreciate position. Situation-1320 Major IRWIN reported advance patrols driven back. Estimated strength 1 Squadron on bearing of 160° 17 mile distant. Rifle fire being exchanged but no casualties to us. Several enemy seen to fall-1710 outpost line handed over to Staffordshire Yeomanry-2010 reformed at ABU HISSAN after watering horses moved to ABASAN EL KEBIR-2220 halted at ABASAN EL KEBIR and went into bivouac.	
ABU SITTA	22/4/17		0740 left bivouac 0800 rejoined Brigade and bivouaced 0955 3 bombs dropped from hostile plane 2 other ranks wounded-1525 moved out-1605 halted at ABU SITTA and bivouaced being in reserve to outpost line 7 reinforcements marched in with 10 remounts 10 other ranks to J. Amb.	
"	23/4/17		Bivouaced all day. "A" Sqdn being sent on fatigue for brigade. Lieut. F.M. MACK reported for duty from hospital 20 remounts marched in 8 other ranks to J. Amb.	
"	24/4/17		Still in bivouac B Squadron on duty road making. Very hot day, all horses watering at ELIZRAIN. Gas helmet inspection all ranks paid- 4 other ranks to J. Amb.	

Lieut. R. C. ...  
C.O. 1st L.H. Regiment

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABU SITTA	<del>24/4/17</del> 25/4/17		Horses sent to water at ABU HISEIA remaining out all day grazing. Lieut F.A. GUTHRIE and 24 other ranks arrived KHAN JUNUS from MOASCAR.	
SHELLAL	<del>25/4/17</del> 26/4/17		Moved out 0300 to reserve position near MELI SHEIKH MURAN. All clear being given moved on to SHELLAL where horses were watered and then returned to bivouac - 1530 moved out - 1650 arrived SHELLAL and took over outpost line. Line running SHELLAL-BEERSHEEBA road inclusive to HISEIA crossing exclusive. 22nd Mtd Brigade on our right and camel battalion on our left. Line divided in three parts 'A' Sqdn on right 'B' Sqdn in centre 'C' Squadron on left R.H. & at SHELLAL crossing. Lt W. SUTHERLAND to F. Amb.	
SHELLAL	<del>26/4/17</del> 27/4/17		0345 stood to arms 0530 patrols reported all clear - during morning received orders to dig in each Squadron getting assistance 2 Troops 3rd L.H. Regiment - 1645 handed over outpost line to 3rd L.H. Regt and moved to camping area on W bank of WADI - 1/2 mile from HISEIA.	
SHELLAL	28/4/17		0600 A, B & C Sqdns went on patrol 'B' Sqdn to SIHAN 'A' Sqdn to SAUSAGE RIDGE 'C' Sqdn to point 4/10 WADI TALAH. Each Sqdn came in contact with enemy but no casualties. In afternoon squadrons returned to camp 1800 'C' Sqdn moved out as support Squadron to outpost line. 4 other ranks to F. Amb.	
SHELLAL	29/4/17		0600 'C' Sqdn rejoined Regiment, Regiment remained in camp all day as unlying Regiment 1700 took over outpost line from 2nd L.H. REGT and line held by I.C.C. at HISEIA Crossing Squadrons & R.H. & as before.	
SHELLAL	30/4/17		Enemy aircraft made several reconnaissances of our line - 1700 Regiment plus 2 sections M.G.S. took over SHELLAL half of OUTPOST line permanently 2nd L.H. REGT taking left half shifted BIVOUAC area across WADI - 'A' Squadron & 'B' Squadron less 2 Troops finding outpost with 'C' Squadron and 2 Troops 'B' Squadron in support. 2 other ranks to F. Ambulance.	
SHELLAL	30/4/17		0800 enemy plane dropped bombs no casualties - 1700 'C' Squadron relieved 'A' Squadron and 2 Troops of 'B' Squadron relieved 2 Troops of 'B' Squadron on outpost line. Both Squadrons to remain in position marched in. One other rank to F. Ambulance. Lieut. A. Blacket to KHAN JUNUS in charge of Brigade Details.	

Lt. Col. G. G. Granville  
Co 1st Light Horse Regiment

Copy No 5

~~ORDER~~ ORDER No 1  
 Lt. Col. C. H. Gravelle DSO  
 commanding 1st L A Regiment.

Reference MAP JERUSALEM 1/250,000. H. Q. 17. 4. 17

Intention 1. The Regiment will take up  
 outpost line tonight from WELI  
 SHEIK NURAN - TELEL FARRA to CROSS  
 ROADS inclusive at L in cultivation  
 about one mile S of GOZ EL  
 GELEIB

Information 2. Nothing is at present  
 known of results of today's  
 operations. Small enemy patrols  
 were pushed back from GOZ  
 MABRUK and in buildings on  
 EAST bank of WADI EL GHUZZE  
 E.S.E. of TELEL FARRA. Our own  
 division will camp on W bank  
 of WADI EL GHUZZE between TEL  
 EL FARRA and ABU EL HISEIA and  
 will be coming in through outpost  
 line, how unknown.

Dispositions 3. 'A' Squadron will take  
 line WELI SHEIK NURAN in-  
 clusive to TELEL FARRA exclusive  
 'C' Squadron and one section M.C.  
 Sqdn. will take TELEL FARRA  
 'B' Squadron and one section M.C.  
 Sqdn from TELEL FARRA exclusive  
 to CROSS ROADS inclusive



PAGE (2) Copy No 5

Dispositions (Contd) All posts to be in position by 1800.

RATIONS 4. Unexpired portion of days rations, iron rations, and 3 days emergency rations to be carried. Full water bottles which are not to be used during outpost.

PATROLS 5 One N.C.O and 3 men will be found by each post to go out and remain out for one hour at 2100-2400-0100-0200-0300-0400

COMMUNICATION 6. Communication will be by lamp and mounted orderly.

STAND TO ARMS 7. Stand to arms 0400

REPORTS 8. Reports will be sent to R.H.Q TEL EL FARA at each hour and half hour. YEREY Light signals as laid down.

E. J. Katar Lieut/Maj

Copies to No 1 File War Diary K Regiment

2 A Sqd

3 B Sqd

4 C Sqd

5 War diary File

Distributed by Orderly at 1500  
please acknowledge

1st Light Horse Regiment

Summary of Casualties for month of April

810

Sick to 3 Amb		Killed		Wounded		Missing		Transferred	
off.	OR	off.	OR	off.	OR	off.	OR	off.	OR
1	33	-	-	1	6	-	-		3

4/5/17

Col. <sup>Lat. M. G. ...</sup> Lt. Col.  
C. O. 1st Light Horse Regiment

Particulars of officers:- Lieut J B EGAN wounded (comb) 20/4/17  
" L W SUTHERLAND sick 26/4/17

APPENDIX.