

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/10/35

Title: 5th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

November 1917

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

5th Light Horse Regiment, A.I.F.
2nd L.H. Brigade
Anzac Mounted Division

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.

Reference
Bunakaba 1/250000
Heide 1/250000
Jaffa 1/250000
1 in 1 mile

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Hebron Road.	1st.		at 1000 the Regt. moved off from Bivouac, up Hebron Road in direction of Dhakeriyeh on reconnaissance, reached point near Makruneh, where enemy were found to be holding ridges in some strength, and opened fire with two guns and machine guns. In the afternoon Regt. moved forward to reconnoitre towards Deir Soidah, but found enemy holding strong position which checked advance. Regt. withdrew to Makruneh at dusk, and later moved back to B. S. D. near W. Hamam, watered horses and bivouaced here for night. DCC	
	2nd.		Regt. ordered to rejoin rest of Bde. which had proceeded up Hebron road earlier in day on reconnaissance. Bde. found enemy still holding hills in strength N. of Makruneh. Regt. reached position near el in W. el Ghoran at 1800 and remained there during night. Outposts and standing patrol were sent out to the N. and N.E. DCC	
	3rd.		Regt. on reconnaissance towards Dhakeriyeh, which place was held by enemy. 7th L. B. was in support. Artillery Battery shelled enemy position at Dhakeriyeh. The intention was, if possible, to attack enemy position from the N.E. and to work well round on his left flank towards the Hebron road. Country was very rugged and rough, the whole Regt. had in many places to walk and lead horses up and down the hills. At 1300 a position was reached overlooking the Hebron Road. Enemy reinforcements were observed arriving from Hebron by mules, horses also a number of cavalry seen from Khuweitah. At 1500 the Regt. was ordered to withdraw to bivouac site. DCC	
	4th.		Patrol sent out to observe country towards Dhakeriyeh and to the N. and E. Bivouac area heavily shelled during day by enemy guns near Dhakeriyeh. One man and 4 horses slightly wounded. DCC	
	5th.		Day Patrol sent out. Regt. remained in bivouac area. The whole of the area was heavily shelled throughout the day, at 1100 four enemy guns concentrated their fire on the camp and caused casualties. 9 O.R. wounded, 14 horses killed and 17 horses wounded. DCC	
	6th.		Regt. moved from el in el Ghoran to Bunakaba, arrived here 1200. Went to pick up hospital. At 1630 Bde. left Bunakaba and moved in direction EL SHERIA DCC	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
7th.	7th.		<p>The Regt. with rest of Bde. passed captured position of SHERIA and came under enemy shell fire. Right flank guard captured Turkish at a detached farm. about 1500 the Regt. moved forward, supported by a squadron of the 6th L. Co. to capture enemy position at Tel. Abu Dilakh. Enemy guns shelled the advance very heavily and position was found to be strongly held. Regt. advanced 3/4 mile from Railway line. It was found to be impossible to dislodge enemy before dark and the Regt. remained on outpost. 1 Officer and 2 O.A. wounded. DCC</p>	
	8th.		<p>Regt. advanced and cleared ridge at Tel Abu Dilakh. 2 enemy guns were captured by Squent. E.G. O.G. Prisoners taken during day. Regiment occupied and held position watching country to the N. and N.E. of the W. el Kesi. Heavily engaged throughout the day with a strong force of enemy Infantry who repeatedly attempted to advance on our position. This enemy force pinned Right flank guard to a large convoy moving N.E. Our casualties were 3 O.A. Killed, 1 Officer and 17 O.A. wounded. Outpost line held along S. bank of W. Kesi, with 7th L. Co. DCC</p>	
	9th.		<p>Division advanced through Kh. Umur Rujum and Bureir to El Huleikat and KAUKABA. 2nd L. Co. Bde. on right and 10th Bde. on left in the advance, 7th mounted Bde. in Reserve. 5th. and 7th. Regts. advance guard to Bde. at Kaukaba a large enemy was reported convoy was reported moving N.E. protected by Infantry. The Bde. was ordered to move forward and attack. The Regt. moved on the left of the 7th. Regt. and after a gallop of 7 miles came up with the enemy near Suofir. Pursuit was continued to near El KUSTINE. By this time over 300 prisoners had been captured and a large number of waggons taken. Enemy guns shelled advance very heavily from the N. KUSTINE was found to be strongly held by enemy Infantry and machine guns. (During advance 2 enemy guns were taken near Bureir.) It was then getting dark and orders were received to hold position. Later, orders were received from Bde. to withdraw to SUAFIR for the night. Large amount of boots captured by Regt. during day. 1 Officer and 2 O.A. wounded. DCC</p>	(see "A.") for list of Prisoners, Guns etc. (taken.)
	10th.		<p>Camp area heavily shelled during morning. Patrols sent towards El Kustine which was found to be still strongly held. Casualties 1 O.A. Killed and 1 O.A. wounded. DCC</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10th.		at dark Bde. moved to foot of sand hills near Hamame. DCC	
	11th/12th.		Bivouaced near Hamame. Plentiful supply of water secured in dunes on Beach. DCC	
	13th.		Regt. moved from Hamame at 1200 with rest of Bde. near SUAFIR. Bde. Desert Corps reserve. DCC	
	14th.		Bde. moved through EE TIME and bivouaced at KEZAZE. for night. DCC	
	15th.		Regt. still at Kezaze. DCC	
	16th.		Regt. moved with rest of Bde. to RAS DEIRAN and bivouaced for night. DCC	
	17th.		Regt. still at Ras Deiran. DCC	
	18th.		Regt. moved with Bde. through Raule and ludd to point 7 miles W. of ludd and bivouaced for night. DCC	
	19th.		Regt. relieved 6th L. B. on outpost duty, holding line from the EI Yehudie to BUDRUS. The 10th L. B. Bde. being on our left and the 7th mounted Bde. on our right. 2 casualties - O.R. - from enemy shell fire. DCC	
	20th.		Regt. relieved on outpost line by 7th L. B. and returned to Bivouac near ludd. DCC	
	21st.		Regt. moved from camp site with rest of Bde. (less 6th Regt.) and took up outpost line in conjunction with 7th Regt. from Pt. 765 towards Dhahr Selmeh. N.Z. M. B. held line on our left. DCC	
	22nd.		7th L. B. were relieved by the I. B. B. This Regt. still in outpost line. DCC	
	23rd.		Regt. still in outpost line. Patrols sent to FORD IN SUMMER and NAHR EL AUJA. DCC	
	24th.		Regt. still in outpost line. Patrols sent to FERREKHIVEH and FORD IN SUMMER. Constant work was done to entrench positions. DCC	
	25th.		Regt. still in outpost line. N.Z. M. B. crossed Nahr el Auja and took up position. DCC	
	26th.		Regt. still in outpost line. 2 mtrs counter attacked and New Z. M. B. and Infantry had to withdraw across Nahr el Auja. Patrols were sent to watch country to N. and N.E. of Mulebbis. DCC	

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2nd L. B. Brigade,
Anzac Mounted Division.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27th.		Regt. still in outpost line. Much enemy movement observed and after very heavy bombardment, enemy Infantry attacked point 765, held by the J. C. Co. and from which position Large Bodies of enemy crossed the Kahr el Anjar moving in an E. direction during the day. Patrols were sent out to watch country to the N. and N.E. of Mulebbis and came in contact with enemy throughout the day. Casualties during day 30th. wounded. DCC	
	28th.		Regt. relieved in outpost line at 1800 by 6th. and 7th. Regts. and moved back in supports. 10th. and 12th. wounded. DCC	
	29th.		Regt. in supports. DCC	
	30th.			
<p>Honours gained by Regt. during month.</p> <p>190. Sgt. R. S. James the Military Cross. 1377. L. Cpl. J. T. Kelly " " 3013. Pte. R. Speed. " " 557. Cpl. E. A. R. Mewitz " " 1534. Pte. R. B. Richards " " 976. L. Cpl. W. A. Richards " " 174. " F. B. G. Bullen. " " 283. Cpl. G. E. Cox " " 2220. Pte. W. E. O'Connor " "</p>				
<p>Donald C. Cameron Lieut. Colonel Commanding 5th L. B. Regt., A.I.F.</p>				

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2 tanks.
 5 Marquee and 71 Bell tents.
 330 Rifles destroyed on Xustue Ridge
 1 large dump of Rebels.

30.11.17 Donald Cameron Lieut. Colonel,
 Commanding 5th. L. B. Regt.

5th. L. B. Regt. A.I.D.

was diary.

appendix "A" to Diary November, 1917.
 list of Prisoners, Guns and Booty
 Captured by the Regt. during month.

Prisoners. all Turks.

Date	Officers	Other Rank
7.11.17	7.	17.
" 8.11.17	3	60.
" 9.11.17	15.	500.
" 10.11.17	-	12.
Total.	20.	609.

Guns.

Date	Field Guns
8.11.17.	7.
" 9.11.17	2.

Boots.

12 Railway Smokers.
 6 bunches of grain (loose oats)
 2 " " flour.
 1 " " new clothing.
 1 " " Coal and wood.
 1500 Rifles.
 103 Waggon.
 2 motor lorries.
 2 Artillery Range directors. (complete)
 2 Field Batteries
 1 Dump of medical stores.
 1 " " Equipment:
 (Horse shoes, nails and walbago)
 1 Boring plant.
 1 Bore, with pump, engine, troughing &

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