

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

Light Horse

**Item number:** 10/10/49

**Title:** 5th Australian Light Horse  
Regiment

January 1919

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPPLICATE.~~



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.  
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W A R D I A R Y.

of

5TH LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT. A. I. F.

for

*January 1919.*

6161 NVT - JAN 1919

Signature of Officer compiling *William Chatham Major*

Signature of Officer Commanding *William Chatham Major*

Confidential.

WAR DIARY

For month of January 1919. Army Form C. 2118.  
 5th Light Horse Regt. AIF.  
 2nd Light Horse Brigade.  
 A. & N. Z. Mounted Division. Sheet I.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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 |
|---------|------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| SEMAKH. | I    |      | Usual duties. Town picquet-1 N.C.O & 3 O/Rs. Despatch rider. Two orderlies mounted. The Regt. is ordered to furnish fortnightly patrol to Jisr Benat Yakub. Gift of 500 oranges from Y.M.C.A. Haifa distributed. Races postponed owing to wet and postponed indefinitely owing to Gen. Chauvel's visit. Fine day. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 2    |      | Usual duties. Guard for prisoner from Tiberias.. Lt. Williamson & 6 O/Rs. left for leave in Egypt. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |
|         | 3    |      | 2 competitors for Divisional Sports at Rafa left per train. Lt. Gen. Chauvel and A.D.C. Lt. Lyons arrived. Escort of Officer and 12 O/Rs. to meet him. General's Guard of 1 NCO. & 6 O/Rs. Col. Kinahan to dinner. General met Officers after dinner. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 4    |      | Usual duties and General's guard. Inspection of lines and men with all equipment by the G.O.C. The Gen. expressed himself as pleased generally; and particularly with "C" Squadron. The Gen. addressed the men afterwards and thanked them for their work etc., Col. Hawker and Staff Capt. Tiberias to lunch. G.O.C., drove to Tiberias - breakdown near Kenerith - 5 mile walk home. Dined at 3rd Batt. E.A. <i>ul</i> |                                      |
|         | 5    |      | General's Staff left. Usual duties. N.C.O and 6 picked men for Railway work to Maan. Races held. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |
|         | 6    |      | Usual duties. Summary of evidence in Tiberias-Safed Road case taken and witnesses returned to Tiberias. 27 O/Rs. marched in from Tiberias. <i>Moascar</i>  |                                      |
|         | 7    |      | Usual duties. Glorious day. Gift of oranges (one per man) by the Y.M.C.A. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 8    |      | Canon Garland arrived from Damascus. Train from Damascus through for first time. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |
|         | 9    |      | Col. Bisdie "V.C" and Capt. Mahoney visited the Regt. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 10   |      | Lecture by Canon Garland on places of interest in Syria and nearby. Lt. Gillespie and 20 O/Rs. for patrol to Benat Yakub left at 0830. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |
|         | 11   |      | Capt. Luxford went to Damascus to purchase foodstuffs and vegetables for men. Inspection of gear throughout the Regt. Patrol to Benat Yakub report all clear. Heavy rain in evening. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |
|         | 12   |      | Usual duties. Heavy rain during the day. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |
|         | 13   |      | N.C.O. and 6 men left at 0600 for Railway duty with Engineer Sigs. Leave party for Cairo left. (5 O/Rs) N.C.O and 2 O/Rs. escort prisoner to Moascar. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 14   |      | Leave party of 5 O/Rs. returned. Col. Bisdie "V.C" left for Damascus. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 15   |      | Writing material from Y.M.C.A distributed. Capt Luxford arranged with L.P.O. Damascus for a supply of vegetables; A most satisfactory contract held. First supply of vegetables arrived. "B" Squadron visited Hamme - Route march. Bright, crisp day. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 16   |      | "C" Squadron visited Hamme. Free issue of vegetables. <i>ul</i>  |                                      |
|         | 17   |      | Capt Fitzhardinge awarded "M.C". Football team - Lt. R.P. Watson and 17 O/Rs. to Brigade. Issue of vegetables from Funds. Light rain at night. <i>ul</i>   |                                      |

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*William Chatham* Major.  
 Commanding 5th Light Horse Regt. AIF.

JAN 1919

Confidential.

WAR DIARY

5th Light Horse Regt. AIF.  
2nd Light Horse Brigade.

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

A.&N.Z. Mounted Division.  
Sheet II.  
Map Ref. Syria Haifa I/250,000?

(Erase heading not required.)

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| Place   | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| SEMAKH. | 18   |      | Usual duties. Capt. Owen Staff Officer left Semakh. Continuous light rain. <i>ml</i>  |                                      |
|         | 19   |      | Church service - Capt Knight. Usual duties. <i>ml</i>   |                                      |
|         | 20   |      | Deraa escort returned. Inspection of Regt. dismounted vby C. in C. address after inspection. March past after the address. Canteen goods distributed. Regtl. Football team won first match at Rafa - 3 to Nil. against 2nd. Regt. Glorious day. <i>ml</i>                               |                                      |
|         | 21   |      | Field cashier with pay arrived. 8 re-inforcements arrived after much delay. <i>ml</i>   |                                      |
|         | 22   |      | Usual duties. <i>ml</i>   |                                      |
|         | 23   |      | " "   |                                      |
|         | 24   |      | Lt. Paul and 20 men searched Bedouin village near Jisr Mejamie under Capt. Kenny-Leveck's supervision. Shaik arrested and taken to Tiberias. 5 university students left to complete studies in Australia to report Moascar. Vegetables from Damascus. <i>ml</i>                         |                                      |
|         | 25   |      | 3 men left for Agricultural College, Jaffa. (2nd. Course)   |                                      |
|         | 26   |      | Rosh Pinah patrol, Lt. Paul in charge left at 0700. Canteen goods arrived. <i>ml</i>  |                                      |
|         | 27   |      | C/O interviewed 70 applicants for Australia leave - Chose 24 names. No. 64337 Pte Dawson M.W. drowned in Lake Tiberias whilst swimming his horse; unable to find body by diving. Rosh Pinah patrol report all clear. (body <i>ml</i> )  |                                      |
|         | 28   |      | Usual duties. Recovered of Pte Dawson; Enquiry held. Pte Dawson buried at 1700 at SEMAKH, B.W.I., Padre officiating at graveside. Lt. Col. Cave (A.A.M.C) arrived. <i>ml</i>  |                                      |
|         | 29   |      | 22 O/RS. left for Moascar to await embarkation (urgent reasons) to Australia for demobilisation. Lt. Gillespie in charge of party. Board of Enquiry find Pte Dawson's death was due to drowning every effort was made to save him and no blame is attachable to anyone. Rain. <i>ml</i> |                                      |
|         | 30   |      | Usual duties. Veterinary Officer classified all horses as ordered by <del>ADVS</del> ADVS Jordan Valley party returned. Sergt. Rose and Pte Rutledge left for Moascar for early return to Australia. <i>ml</i>  |                                      |
|         | 31   |      | Usual duties. Inspection of gear throughout the Regiment. Excellent right through. <i>ml</i>  |                                      |
|         |      |      | William Chatham<br>Major,<br>Commanding 5th Light Horse Regt. A.I.F.  |                                      |

- JAN 1919