

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/1/44**

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

March 1918

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~



Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

H.Q., 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde.

FOR

MARCH 1918.

MAR 1918

E 9911

Signature of Officer compiling *Christensen* **MAJOR.**

*Bde. Major, 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde.*

Signature of Officer Commanding *[Signature]* **Brig.-General.**

*R.O.C. 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde.*



Original

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page No. 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RICHON.	1/3/18.		G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Mounted Division inspected the horses of the Brigade.	
"	2/3/18.			
"	3/3/18.		Nothing to report.	
"	4/3/18.			
"	5/3/18.		Ref. Maps PALESTINE 1/63,360 Sheets, 13, 16 & 17. Brigade left RICHON LE ZION at 1030 to march to BEITUNIA. 1st. stage of the march RICHON LE ZION to RAMLEH being completed at 1400.	Appdx.1.
RAMLEH.	6/3/18.		Brigade left RAMLEH at 0830. 2nd. stage of the march RAMLEH to KURYET EL ENAB being completed at 1500.	
KURYET EL ENAB.	7/3/18.		Brigade left KURYET EL ENAB at 0830. 3rd. stage of the march KURYET EL ENAB to BEITUNIA being completed at 1245. On arrival at BEITUNIA the Brigade came under the orders of G.O.C. 53rd. Inf. Division.	
BEITUNIA.	8/3/18.		Ref. Maps PALESTINE 1/63,360 Sheets 17 and 14. 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron left BEITUNIA at 1300 under orders to report to and come under the tactical command of the 159th. Brigade at RUMMON. This Regiment watered at BEITIN at 1500 and completed the march to RUMMON at 1745. At 1430 the Brigade (Less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) left BEITUNIA and marched to BEITIN. Move completed at 1900.	
BEITIN.	9/3/18.		2nd. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron held in readiness from 0700 to move at one hours notice. Ref. Maps PALESTINE 1/63,360 Sheets 14 and 15. 1st. L.H. Regiment left RUMMON at 0500 to relieve the Infantry Post on EN NEJMEH and afford protection to the right flank of the 159th. Brigade (53rd. Division) during its advance on KEFR MALIK. All movement of horses in this area is confined to the very rough tracks between the precipitous mountains.	

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*[Signature]* MAJOR

Ade. MAJOR. 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Ade.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page No. 2.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	9/3/18.		The movement of the Regiment to the EN NEJMEH area depended on the advance of the Infantry to the North of DAR JERIR. This area was cleared by 1300 and the Regiment which had halted at ET TAIYIBEH since 0600 moved forward to vicinity of EL MUNATIR, picquetting the line EN NEJMEH - EL MUNATIR - and to the North and sending patrols to gain touch with the left flank of the 60th. Division on the WADI EL AUJAH.	
BEITIN.	10/3/18.		Brigade (less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) in bivouac, BEITIN. 1st. L.H. Regiment dismounted patrol to AIN AUJAH 113.T.24 surprised an enemy post killing 5. Patrol to KH EL AUJAH EL FOKA gained touch with patrol of N.Z.M.R. Regiment (attached to 60th. Division) at 113.T.24. Weather: showery and cold.	
"	11/3/18.		1st. L.H. Regiment picquetting the line from EN NEJMEH to the North, protecting the right flank of 159th. Brigade (53rd. Division). Country too precipitous and rough for mounted work. The bank of the WADY EL AUJAH in Squares T.7, 14, 15 & 22 are too steep to cross. Touch maintained with patrols of N.Z.M.R. Regiment on the South bank of the WADY EL AUJAH. Enemy holding strongly with Machine Guns well selected positions on North side of the WADY. Brigade (less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) in bivouac, BEITIN. Weather: showery and cold.	
"	12/3/18.		1st. L.H. Regiment still in position from EN NEJMEH to the North under tactical command of 159th. Brigade (53rd. Division.) Brigade (less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) in bivouac, BEITIN. Weather: showery and cold.	
"	13/3/18.		Brigade with Inverness Battery and B.A.C. attached (less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) left BEITIN at 0930 and marched to BETHLEHEM. Move completed at 1530. 1st. L.H. Regiment with 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron attached remained in the area EN NEJMEH - EL MUNATIR under tactical command of G.O.C. 159th. Inf. Brigade. Rained very heavily throughout the day but as the march was along the main BETHLEHEM - NABLUS Road no transport difficulties were experienced.	

MAR 1918

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*[Signature]* MAJOR

Ade. MAJOR, 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Ade.

1st LIGN  
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BRIGADE

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WAR DIARY

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page No. 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BETHLEHEM.	14/3/18.		Brigade Group (less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) in bivouac BETHLEHEM area. Weather cold and blowing hard.	
"	15/3/18.		Brigade group (less 1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) in bivouac BETHLEHEM area. Rained heavily all day, cold and blowing hard.	
"	16/3/18.		"A" Squadron 3rd. L.H. Regiment left BETHLEHEM at 1000 and marched to BETHANY to report as working party to O/C "D" Troop Australian Engineers (Bridging Troop) One Officer and 36 O/Ranks 2nd. L.H. Regiment left BETHLEHEM at 1100 to report to Engineers at TAALAT ED DUMM to prepare watering facilities for A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade group (Less 1st. L.H. Regiment, 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron, "A" Squadron 3rd. L.H. Regiment and 1 Troop 2nd. L.H. Regiment) in bivouac BETHLEHEM area. 1st. L.H. Regiment with 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron attached relieved on the line EN NEJMEH - EL MUNATIR by 20th. Corps Cavalry Regiment at 1300 and marched to BEITIN, move to BEITIN completed at 1800 Very wet cold and windy. Ground becoming too boggy for horses, lines being continually moved.	
"	17/3/18.		1st. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron left BEITIN at 0930 and rejoined the Brigade in BETHLEHEM. Moved completed at 1500. 6th. Mobile Veterinary Section rejoined the Brigade from RICHON LE ZION at 2000. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade group (less "A" Squadron 3rd. L.H. Regiment) in bivouac BETHLEHEM area. Rained hard all day, all horse lines had to be moved and where possible troops put under shelter. Weather very cold and windy. 11 horses died from exposure. Camel Transport 324 Camels reported, placing the Brigade on a camel transport basis for the forthcoming operations.	

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*[Signature]* MAJOR

Pde. MAJOR. 1st A.L.H. Pde.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page No. 4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BETHLEHEM.	18/3/18.		<p>Brigade group in bivouac BETHLEHEM area. Movement across JORDAN River postponed on account of the flooded nature of the River and Wadis. Weather fine all day but raining in spasmodic showers at night.</p>	
"	19/3/18.		<p>Brigade group in bivouac BETHLEHEM area. Weather fine.</p>	
"	20/3/18.		<p>1st. A.L.H. Brigade group left the BETHLEHEM area at 1900 to march to TALAT ED DUMM. Move completed at 0130, 21/3/18.</p>	<p>Appdx. 2. a. b. c.</p>
TALAT ED DUMM.	21/3/18.		<p>Brigade left TALAT ED DUMM at 1800 and marched to NEBY MUSA so as to be in a position to push across the Bridge being constructed at MAKHADET HAJLA immediately on its completion. Move to NEBY MUSA completed at 2030.</p>	
NEBY MUSA.	22/3/18.		<p>Brigade in bivouac NEBY MUSA.</p>	
"	23/3/18.		<p>Ref. Maps PALESTINE SHEET 18 and AMMAN 1/63,360. Brigade left NEBY MUSA at 1045 and concentrated (less 2nd. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) at AIN HAJLA. 2nd. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron crossed the JORDAN at 1200 by the bridge constructed by "A" Squadron 3rd. L.H. Regiment and patrolled East and South towards the line SALHA to AIN SUEIME. At 2100 the Brigade (less 2nd. L.H. Regiment and 2 Subsections M.G. Squadron) crossed the JORDAN by the two bridges at MAKHADET HAJLA and proceeded to Squares 0.8 and 9 being joined by the 2nd. L.H. Regiment after crossing the river. Brigade concentrated in Squares 0.8 and 9 by 0230 on 24/3/18 and outpost line taken up by 3rd. L.H. Regiment.</p>	

- MAR 1918

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*[Signature]*  
MAJOR

*Bde. MAJOR. 1st A.L.H. Bde.*

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page No. 5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref. Map <i>ES SALT</i> (Composite) <del>JORDAN</del> , 1/63,360, Square 127.O.21b.	24/3/18.		<p>Ref. Map <i>ES SALT</i> Composite 1/63,360.          Patrols from 3rd. L.H. Regiment pushed North towards UMM ESH SHERT and East to foot-hills to maintain touch with 179th. Infantry Brigade attacking the line EL HAUD to G.16.          One Squadron 3rd. L.H. Regiment pushing forward to gain information about the UMM ESH SHERT to <i>ES-SALT</i> Road encountered strong opposition on the line F.2,3 &amp; 4 from about 150 enemy cavalry who were dispersed and retired across the JORDAN by the UMM ES SHERT Crossing. The Squadron reached Square C.28 but were unable to locate any road running from UMM ESH SHERT to <i>ES SALT</i>.          One enemy battery actively shelled the Squadron from the direction of C.15 firing over 100 shells.          Outpost line for the night was held by 1st. and 2nd. L.H. Regiments.</p>	
"	25/3/18.		<p>Ref. Map <i>ES SALT</i> (Composite) 1/63,360.          2nd. L.H. Regiment moved North up the JORDAN Valley at 0800 to afford flank protection to 3rd. L.H. Regiment which moved along the foothills to locate the UMM ESH SHERT - <i>ES SALT</i> Road and push on by that route to <i>ES SALT</i>. The road was found to be a mere goat track and was not visible on the plain which accounted for the Squadron not being able to locate it on the previous day. The first three miles of climbing over this rough narrow track took the Regiment three hours in single file and the top of the mountains was reached at 1300. After this progress was more rapid and met with no opposition as far as EL FUHEIS which was reached at 1500.          The 2nd. L.H. Regiment encountering considerable opposition from UM ESH SHERT along the rugged and inaccessible banks of the JORDAN pushed North as far as WADY ISHKARARA. Enemy shelled very heavily and persistently throughout the day from positions in Squares V.30 and 36 but were out of reach of our battery which would have to move across the plain in full view and under fire of the enemy guns to get within range. At dusk the advanced troops of 2nd. L.H. Regiment were withdrawn and an outpost line held for the night on the line UMM ESH SHERT along the WADY ER RALEM to the foothills covering the entrance of the UM ESH SHERT - <i>ES SALT</i> track into the foothills.          3rd. L.H. Regiment occupied <i>ES SALT</i> at 1830 and was followed by the 179th. Infantry Brigade which had moved by the MEIDAN Road. B.H.Q. in 127.F.6.d.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">E 97/6 - MAR 1918</p>

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*[Signature]* MAJOR.  
Adj. MAJOR. 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde.



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# WAR DIARY

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Page No. 6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref. Map <i>ES SALT (Composite)</i> <del>1/63,360</del> , 1/63,360. Square 127.F.6 d.	26/3/18.		<p>3rd. L.H. Regiment remaining in ES SALT temporarily attached to the 179th. Inf. Brigade. 1st. L.H. Regiment relieved the 2nd. L.H. Regiment on outpost line and pushed forward against considerable opposition to the WADY ISHKARARA. Enemy shelled persistently throughout the day from same position as yesterday. Our battery which was moved forward last night under cover of darkness still unable to reach enemy battery. Although the position held by the enemy is in inaccessible country all our movement has to be on the open plain which affords no cover for guns.</p>	
"	27/3/18.		<p>2nd. L.H. Regiment moved out at 0700 to relieve 1st. L.H. Regiment on outpost line and to push the attack on the enemy position in Square 127.C.25 covering UMM ESH SHERT. One Squadron of 2nd. L.H. Regiment drove the enemy from and occupied the high ground on the Southern end of the rough precipitous feature in C.25. The enemy held the main plateau all day but we drove him from this position at night and entrenched in a position on South end of the main ridge. Casualties 1 O/R. Killed 4 O/R. Wounded. The enemy shelled persistently throughout the day from A.31.a. at any movement of our troops on the plain. The enemy reinforced on the plateau succeeded in bombing our troops out of the precarious hold we had gained on the Southern end of the plateau at midnight and we fell back on the left flank to a position in 127.C.31.b &amp; 32.a.</p>	
"	28/3/18.		<p>Ref. Maps ES SALT (Composite) 1/63,360, HAIFA 1/250,000. Our troops at daylight retook the position in C.25 on the extreme Southern edge of the plateau. The Squadron 2nd. L.H. Regiment was relieved by 1st. L.H. Regiment on this position at 0900 and the 2nd. L.H. Regiment concentrated in the Right sector in Square D. At 1100 one thousand enemy Infantry with two guns were observed moving from JISR ED DAMIE towards ES SALT. This force turned South at the <del>W. ES SIDR</del> W. ES SIDR and pushed South along the foothills. Part of this force reinforced enemy positions in 127.A.34,29,30 and B.25, Apparently about 300 at 1300 hours, thus making this position about 600 strong. The remainder disappeared in the foothills and reappeared in B.34 &amp; 35 apparently with the intention of getting round the flank of our position on the W. ER RALEM. To deal with this 2nd. L.H. Regiment pushed 1 Squadron on to the hilltops astride of the UMM ESH SHERT to ES SALT Road.</p>	- MAR 1918

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*[Signature]* MATOR  
Bde. MATOR. 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Bde.

F 29/7



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page No. 7.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref. Map. AMMAN ES SALT (Composite) 1/63,360. Square 127 F. 6 d.	28/3/18 (Continued)		<p>At 1100 the enemy reinforced his position on the plateau North of UMM ESH SHERT with about 400 Infantry and one Squadron of Cavalry. Inverness &amp; Ayrshire Batteries R.H.A. joined the Brigade at 1700.</p> <p>At 1800 the enemy appeared to be massing in amongst the high hills about D.4 &amp; 5. At 1830 the right flank of our line was withdrawn to join up with the Squadron astride the UMM ESH SHERT to ES SALT Road protecting our flank from any enemy movement along the hill tops. One Battalion 180th. Brigade sent out to take over the hilly ground reported at 2300 thus releasing One Squadron to hold the three miles of plain between the 1st. and 2nd. L.H. Regiments.</p> <p>Night quiet. Casualties 2 O/R Killed 3 O/R Wounded.</p>	
"	29/3/18.		<p>One Light Armoured Motor Battery patrolled for three miles up the SHUNET NIMRIN to JISR ED DAMIE Road.</p> <p>Our troops pushed forward at daylight and found that the enemy were holding in strength a position in 127.C.6D.1 &amp; 2 and B.33 - 34. There was however no evidence of the force that massed in 127.D.4 &amp; 5 but report from the 179th. Brigade at ES SALT that this party had appeared on their left flank proved that they must have got through the mountains by a route unknown to us and moved direct on ES SALT. Excellent shooting on targets offering on the plateau was done by Inverness and Ayrshire Batteries R.H.A. and A/303 Battery R.F.A.</p> <p>The enemy shelled persistently at any movement on the plain and at 1730 shelled this B.H.Q. and 1/7th. Royal Welsh Fusiliers who were moving up to relieve the 2/20th. London Regiment. Casualties 1 O/R killed &amp; 1 O/R wounded of Ayrshire Battery at B.H.Q. 1 O/R Killed &amp; 6 O/R wounded of 1/7 R.W. Fusiliers.</p> <p>At 1800 the 1/7th. R.W. Fusiliers 158th. Infantry Brigade came under orders of this Brigade and relieved the 2/20th. London Regiment which rejoined the 180th. Brigade at SHUNET NIMRIN.</p>	
"	30/3/18.		<p>One Company 1/7th. R.W.F. Battalion pushed forward and took up a line in 127.D.17 a. &amp; b 18 a &amp; b commanding any movement of enemy from their position on the WADY ER RALEM.</p>	

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*[Signature]* MAJOR

Bde. MAJOR. 1st A.L.N. Bde.

MAR 1918  
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C/2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page No. 8.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ref. Map ES SALT (Composite) 1/63,360, Square 127.F.6.d.	30/3/18.	<i>(Continued)</i>	<p>Our line now runs from right to left. Mounted day post on EL FUHEIS, Infantry 18.b.18. a.17.b.17.a. 2nd. L.H.Regiment 10.b.10.a.9.b. 3.c.8.b. 8.c. 1st. L.H.Regiment 14.d. 20.b. 20.a. 19.d. Enemy patrol which approached our extreme left post at 2340 was dispersed leaving 1 killed. Our artillery did excellent shooting on moving bodies of troops on an exposed part of the road running along the plateau in 113.X.18.d.</p> <p>Night Quiet.</p>	
"	31/3/18.		<p>From daylight for one hour the <sup>enemy</sup> <del>heavy</del> shelled heavily the precarious position we held on the Southern edge of the plateau in 127.C.19. The holding of this position gave us the use of the JORDAN River at the UMM ESH SHEET Crossing. The water available to the 2nd. L.H. Regiment on their position in 127.D.8,9,10 proving not sufficient to water the Regiment the horses of two Squadrons were withdrawn after dark and bivouacked in 127.G.20 so that they could be watered at Spring in O.6.c.</p> <p>The enemy shelled 2nd. L.H.Regiment and B.H.Q. persistently throughout the <del>day</del> afternoon. Night quiet.</p> <p>Report on operations carried out by 3rd. L.H.Regiment while attached to 179th. Infantry Brigade at ES SALT from 25/3/18 to 1/4/18 attached.</p>	Appendix 3.

*[Signature]*  
Major.  
Brigade Major. 1st. A. L. H. Brigade.

*[Signature]*  
Brig.-General.  
G. O. C. 1st. A. L. H. Brigade.

MAR 1918

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SUMMARY OF DAILY RATION STATES FOR MONTH OF MARCH 1918.

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MAR 1918

DATE. I. F. *	OFFS.	D/RANKS.	HORSES.	MULES.	DONKS.	NATIVES.
1/3/18.	87	1913	2157	107	52	16
2/3/18.	85	1929	2160	108	52	16
3/3/18.	81	1902	2152	108	52	16
4/3/18.	81	1894	2113	108	52	12
5/3/18.	81	1896	2046	108	52	12
6/3/18.	80	1876	2054	108	52	12
7/3/18.	80	1875	2049	108	52	12
8/3/18.	80	1854	2061	108	52	12
9/3/18.	79	1845	2047	108	52	12
10/3/18.	86	1885	2274	125	52	12
11/3/18.	78	1877	2245	125	54	12
12/3/18.	79	1879	2243	125	54	12
13/3/18.	79	1886	2257	125	54	12
14/3/18.	79	1889	2343	125	54	12
15/3/18.	79	1881	2346	124	54	12
16/3/18.	79	1882	2351	123	49	12
17/3/18.	79	1882	2361	123	49	12
18/3/18.	78	1835	2166	125	49	12
19/3/18.	78	1850	2142	125	49	12
20/3/18.	79	1884	2153	125	54	12
21/3/18.	79	1881	2137	125	54	12
22/3/18.	79	1843	2009	125	53	12
23/3/18.	79	1822	1982	125	53	12
24/3/18.	79	1833	2083	124	53	12
25/3/18.	79	1829	1982	124	53	12
26/3/18.	79	1827	1984	124	53	12
27/3/18.	79	1827	1980	123	53	12
28/3/18.	79	1820	1987	123	53	12
29/3/18.	79	1820	1987	123	53	12
30/3/18.	79	1810	1977	122	53	12
31/3/18.	79	1808	1976	120	53	12

*[Signature]* MAJOR.

*[Signature]* MAJOR. 1st A.L.H. Aide.

## WAR DIARY

E 27/11

OF

- MAR 1918

Headquarters, 1st. A.L.H. Brigade

FOR

MARCH

1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No. 1.	Subject.	Bde. Order No. 66.
2a.		Bde. Order No. 67.
2b.		Bde. Order No. 68.
2c.		Bde. Order No. 69.
2.		Report of operations by 3rd. L.H. Regt. at ESSALT.

*Christoph Meyer*  
Bde Major 1st A.L.H. Bde

SECRET.

Original.

A. I.

BRIGADE ORDER No. 66.

Copy No. 2

Appx. 1

E 37/12

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

Headquarters,  
3/3/18.

- MAR 1918

Ref Maps PALESTINE 1/63,360 SHEETS 13,16 & 17.

1. The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade group including Inverness Battery will leave RICHON LE ZION at 1030 on Tuesday March 5th. and march to BEITUNIA in three stages as follows:-

Tuesday	March 5th.	Leave RICHON LE ZION & march to ER RAMLEH.
Wednesday	" 6th.	" ER RAMLEH & march to KURYET EL ENAB.
Thursday	" 7th.	" KURYET EL ENAB & march via BIDDU to BEITUNIA.

2. To prevent congestion of motor transport traffic the Brigade will march in bodies of half squadrons at 150 yards distance. Vehicles will march in groups of 6 vehicles at 150 yards distance.
3. All units will be formed up just clear of their present bivouac areas at 1015 ready to move in Column of route at 1030 in the following order:-

B.H.Q.  
1st. Sig. Troop.  
1st. Field Troop.  
3rd. L.H. Regiment.  
1st. A.M.G. Squadron.  
2nd. L.H. Regiment.  
Inverness Battery.  
1st. L.H. Regiment.  
1st. L.H.F. Ambulance.  
B.V.O. & Orderlies.  
Brigade Transport.

4. Unconsumed portion of the current days ration and iron ration for men and horse will be carried. Rations will be drawn at ER RAMLEH and KURYET EL ENAB.
5. Orders regarding details left behind, Tents, etc. will be issued later.

A. Chisholm. Major.  
Brigade Major. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

Copies issued at 1700 to:-

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  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. A.M.G. Squadron.
  8. 1st. Sig. Troop.
  9. 1st. Field Troop.
  10. B.H.Q.
  11. 1st. L.H.F.A.
  12. Inverness Battery.
  13. B.V.O.
  14. 6th. M.V.S.
  15. War Diary.
  16. War Diary.
  17. War Diary.

SECRET

BRIGADE ORDER No. 67.

Appx. 2 A

Copy No. ....

Original  
by  
Brig.-General. C. F. COX., C.B., C.M.G., V.D.  
Commanding First Australian Light Horse Brigade.

E 37/13

- MAR 1918

Headquarters,  
18/3/18.

Ref. Maps PALESTINE 1/63,360 Sheets 17 & 18.

1. INFORMATION.

(a) During the night 18th/19th March the A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION will march to a bivouac site at TALAT ED DUMM in columns in the following order:-

No. 1. D.H.Q., Sig. Squadron, Field Squadron, H.Q. 18th.Bde.R.H.A.

No. 2. 2nd. L.H. Brigade Group.

No. 3. N.Z.M.R. Group Brigade Group.

No. 4. 1st. L.H. Brigade Group.

No. 5. B.A.C. Wagons.

No. 6. B.A.C. Camels and all 1st. Line Camels.

(b) The starting points for the Columns will be:  
For Nos. 1, 2 & 5 a Point on the JERUSALEM - JERICHO Road at N.E. Corner of the Walls of JERUSALEM.

For the remainder JAFFA GATE.

The head of the No. 1 Column will pass the Starting Point at 1800.

(c) The order of march of Camels will be:-

B. A. C.

2nd. L.H. Brigade.

N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

1st. L.H. Brigade.

2. MOES.

(a) 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will leave BETHLEHEM at 1800 to-day March 18th in the following order:

Advanced Guard 1 Squadron 2nd. L.H. Regiment.

B. H.Q.

Sig. Troop.

Field Troop.

2nd. L.H. Regiment (less 1 Squadron)

1st. A.M.G. Squadron.

3rd. L.H. Regiment.

Inverness Battery.

1st. L.H. Regiment.

1st. L.H.F. Ambulance.

so as to pass the Starting Point JAFFA GATE at 1940.

(b) C.O. 2nd. L.H. Regiment will detail one Squadron as Advance Guard.

(c) Camel Transport will remain in bivouac area until the Camels of the N.Z.M.R. Brigade have passed.

3. MARCH DISCIPLINE.

(a) The formation of all Mounted Troops on the March will be Column of Sections.

(b) The distances of 150 yards between groups of half Squadrons will not be maintained on a night march.

(c) Vehicles will travel in rear of the units to which they belong.



(2)

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- MAR 1918

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\* 4. All Tool Packs of 2nd. L.H. Regimentx will report to O/C Advanced Guard Squadron after arrival at TALAT ED DUMM and will remain with the Advanced Guard.

5. SUPPLIES.

(a) The unconsumed portion of the days rations and forage plus iron ration for man and horse will be carried.

(b) When the Brigade moves from TALAT ED DUMM it will take three days supplies for man and horse which will be carried as follows:-  
Unconsumed portion plus iron ration on man and horse.  
Two days Mobile Ration on Camel Echelons.

6. WATER.

All Fantasses will be filled before moving off.  
Drinking water will be drawn at TALAT ED DUMM from tanks on JERICHO Road at Square G.10b.  
Horses will water at the Mill G.4a under instructions to be issued later.

7. DETAILS.

All vehicles except those authorised to accompany the Brigade Group and those detached on special duties will be parked at the Details Camp on the Area now occupied by 2nd. L.H. Regiment.  
Major F.V. Weir, 1st. L.H. Regiment will remain in command of Brigade Details.

A. Chisholm. Major.  
Brigade Major. 1st. A. L. H. Brigade.

Copies issued at 1330 to:-

Copy No.	1.	File Copy.
	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. A.M.G. Squadron.
	8.	1st. Sig. Troop.
	9.	Inverness Battery.
	10.	B. A. C. <del>Wag</del>
	11.	1st. L.H. F.A.
	12.	Field Troop.
	13.	War Diary.
	14.	War Diary.
	15.	War Diary.



Appx. 2B.

E37/15

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

Head-quarters,  
 18/3/18.

- MAR 1918

1. INFORMATION.

- (a) Information as regards the enemy will be issued separately. As the general good will and assistance of the inhabitants East of the JORDAN is of the first importance all ranks must be warned to treat them with the greatest consideration, all payments are to be made in cash and all friction is to be strictly avoided. It must be remembered that these natives are of a very different class to those hitherto met with.
- (b) A force consisting of 60th. Division, A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION and Imperial Camel Brigade will cross the JORDAN and advance on ES SALT and AMMAN with a view to destroying the Railway.
- (c) The 60th. Division are forcing the crossings of the JORDAN on the night 20th/21st March, establishing Bridgeheads at MAKHADET HAJLA and EL GHORANIYEH, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and seizing the foothills on the line TEL EL MUSTA to EL HAUD. Under cover of the Bridgeheads the building of Bridges at MAKHADET HAJLA and EL GHORANIYEH is being carried out. The 60th. Division then follows The Mounted Troops to ES SALT or, if Mounted Troops cannot get through, fight its way to ES SALT and secure the place.
- (d) The Imperial Camel Brigade will be under Command of G.O.C. A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION for these operations.
- (e) From 1800 on night 20th/21st. March the A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION and Imperial Camel Brigade will be ready to move at one hours notice to the JORDAN by the EKTEIF Road in the following order:-  
 N.Z.M.R. Brigade.  
 2nd. L.H. Brigade  
 D. H. Q.  
 1st. L.H. Brigade.  
 Imperial Camel Brigade.
- (f) On completion of first Bridge N.Z.M.R. Brigade will cross and move rapidly to the foothills about SHUNET NIMRIN. One Regiment will proceed as quickly as possible by Road 5 with the object of seizing ES SALT by a Coup de Main. Remainder N.Z.M.R. Brigade will move by Roads 4 and 4a and gain the plateau as quickly as possible.
- (g) 2nd. L.H. Brigade will cross the JORDAN and march by Road No. 2. D.H.Q., 1st. L.H. Brigade, 18th. Brigade R.H.A. and Imperial Camel Brigade will cross and march by Road No. 3 all gaining the top of the Plateau as quickly as possible.
- (h) As soon as the Plateau is gained by all Three Columns the advance on AMMAN will begin. The N.Z.M.R. Brigade (less the Regiment to ES SALT) will direct its march just North of AMMAN sending a detachment of 1 Squadron to destroy the Railway line about 5 miles North of AMMAN. The Central Column will move direct on AMMAN by Road No. 3. The 2nd. L.H. Brigade will direct its march on EL YADUDE sending a detachment to destroy the Railway line about LEBAN STATION (Square 142.N.25) and will be responsible for watching the country towards MADEBA and EL KASTAL.
- (k) When AMMAN is occupied the destruction of the Railway will be proceeded with by the Engineers.



(2)

- MAR 1918

Appx 2 B. E 37/16



(1) Traffic at Bridges over the JORDAN will be controlled by Staff Officers of A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION and 60th. Infantry Division.

(m) The line of Supply for the A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION and Imperial Camel Brigade will be by road No. 3.

2. INSTRUCTIONS.

(a) All units of 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will be ready to move at short notice from 1800 on night 20th/21st March in the following order:-

Advanced Guard ) 1 Squadron 2nd.L.H.Regiment.  
)

B.H.Q.

1st. Sig. Troop.

1st. Field Troop. (less Detachments)

2nd. L.H.Regiment. (less 1 Squadron.)

1st. A.M.G.Squadron.

3rd. L.H.Regiment. (less 1 Troop)

1st. L.H.Regiment.

1st.L.H.F.Ambulance.

(b) C.O. 3rd. L.H.Regiment will detail 1 ~~Officer~~ Troop to report to Head-quarters 60th. Division by 0800 on March 21st.

(c) C.O. 3rd. L.H.Regiment will detail 1 Officer (Captain or Senior Lieutenant) to report to Head-quarters 60th. Division at 113. G.10d. at 0800 on 20th. March to act as Liaison Officer.

This officer will rejoin his unit as soon as the 60th. Division Head-quarters moves forward.

(d) C.O. 3rd. L.H.Regiment will detail the following party to report to C.R.E. A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION at TALAT ED DUMM at 1400 on March 20th.

8 Workers.

10 Horse holders.

1 Pack Horse with Picks and Shovels.

As far as possible men should be selected who took part in the demolition party as ASLUJ.

3. CONCEALMENT OF TROOPS.

No fires will be lit or bivouacs or tents erected by day by units on arrival in the JERICHO PLAIN, as it is of the utmost importance to conceal the concentration of troops there, and prevent leakage of information.

4. GRAZING.

No grazing of animals will take place in the JORDAN Valley owing to the danger of Surra and of poisonous grass.

5. HOSTILE AEROPLANES.

In the event of a Hostile Aeroplane approaching troops concentrated on the JERICHO PLAIN, every one will remain still and not look up. There is to be no rifle fire.

While in bivouac on the JERICHO PLAIN O.C. Machine GUN Squadron will have 4 Machine Guns in position and C.O's. of each Regiment will have 4 Hotchkiss Rifles in position ready to open fire on any Hostile Aircraft that flies low over the troops.

6. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Chisholm. Major.  
Brigade Major. 1st. A. L. H. Brigade.

Copies issued at 2300 to:-

Copy No. 1. War Diary.

2. File.

2. 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. Sig. Troop.

P.T.O.

16A

MAR 1918

(3)

- Copy No. 9. 1st. Field Troop.
- 10. 1st. L.H.F. Ambulance.
- 11. Inverness Battery.
- 12. B. V. O.
- 13. B. A. C.
- 14. B. H. C.
- 15. War Diary.
- 16. War Diary.
- 17. War Diary.

*[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a detailed report or account, possibly describing military operations or a specific event. The text is organized into several paragraphs and includes some numbered points, but the specific details are difficult to discern.]*

SECRET



BRIGADE ORDER No. 69.

Appx 2c.

Copy No.....

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

*E 27/17*

Headquarters,  
20/3/18.

Ref Maps PALESTINE 1/63,360 Sheets 17 & 18. **MAR 1918**  
AMMAN 1/63,360.  
ES SALT. (Composite) 1/63,360.

1. Reference Brigade Order No. 67 Para 2.  
The 1st. A.L.H. Brigade will leave BETHLEHEM at 1900 to-night  
March 20/21st. and march to bivouac site at TALAT ED DUMM passing  
the Starting Point (JAFFA GATE) at 2040.
2. Reference Brigade Order No. 68 Para 2.
  - (a) For 1800 on night 20th/21st. March read 1800 on night 21st/  
22nd. March.
  - (b) For 0800 on 21st. March read 0800 on 22nd. March.
  - (c) For 0800 on 20th. March read 0800 on 21st. March.
  - (d) For 1400 on 20th. March read 1400 on 21st. March.
3. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. Chisholm. Major.  
Brigade Major. 1st. A.L.H. Brigade.

Copies issued at 1015 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. A.M.G. Squadron.  
7. 1st. Sig. Troop.  
8. 1st. Field Troop.  
9. 1st. L.H.F.A.  
10. Inverness Battery.  
11. 6th. M.V.S..  
12. B.V.O.  
13. B.H.Q.  
14. B.A.C.  
15. War Diary.  
16. War Diary.  
17. War Diary.



To

Headquarters,\*

179 Infantry Brigade.

60th DIVISION.

3rd L.H. Regiment.

Appendix 3.

- MAR 1918

E37/18

In compliance with your message B.M. 27 dated the 3/4/18 the following is an account of operations carried out by the 3rd L.H. Regiment whilst acting with the 179 Bde. at ES SALT.

Reference Map COMPOSITE ES SALT 1/63360.

25/3/18 Acting under orders from the 1st A.L.H. Brigade the 3rd L.H. Regt. advanced along No. 7 road from the JORDAN VALLEY to ES SALT. Gained touch with the 179th Bde. about EL FUMEIS at 1400. C.O. reported to B.G.C. 179 Bde. at 1630 and Regiment pushed on in direction of ES SALT in advance of the 179 Bde. and reached high ground overlooking town at 1800. Pushed strong patrol into Town and found it clear of enemy. One Field Gun (No. 339) found abandoned in town. Regiment bivouacked just West of Town with 179 Bde. for the night.

26/3/18. During the day picquetted the DAMASCUS, AMMAN and UMM ESH SHERT roads and patrols from these posts failed to gain touch with the enemy. Out post line at night held with 3 Troops and two Vickers Machine Guns.

27/3/18. Day post to North West of ES SALT reported at 1310 two Sqds. of enemy Cavalry moving towards ES SALT along NABLUS road. The post was immediately reinforced by two troops, and 1 Squadron was sent to North of KEFR-HUDA, this Squadron reported 500 enemy Cavalry North West of KEFR-HUDA in foot-hills near JORDAN VALLEY, the enemy advance guard withdrew at 1530 at my pushing Squadron forward to meet them. Out-post line at night was held with 3 troops and 2 Machine Guns.

28/3/18. Under instructions from 1st Infantry Brigade 1 Squadron was sent to SWEILEH to picquet town and patrol telegraph line from SWEILEH to ES-SALT. Early morning patrols was sent out North and North West. At 0900 C.O. made personal reconnaissance of the country North West of KEFR-HUDA and reported:-

" At 1000 a column moved along NABLUS road from DAMIE East and was lost sight of in foot-hills. Compact column estimated 1000 Infantry. At 1035 4 sections with intervals of 200 yards, estimated strength 2000 Infantry, moved from the same place and South East across JORDAN VALLEY and were lost sight of at foot-hills. Post of 20 Cavalry were seen on hill about 2000 yards West of KEFR-HUDA, also 40 Cavalry moving back along NABLUS road towards JORDAN VALLEY at 1030. At 1400, 200 Infantry were seen to move to low hill about Sq. E, 18, small parties of mounted men also seen in same locality. Estimated force seen crossing JORDAN VALLEY towards ES-SALT on 27/28th. Inst., 500 Cavalry, 4000 Infantry."

The out-post line to North and West of ES-SALT was taken over by 179 Infantry Brigade, the 3rd. Regiment furnishing 2 posts of 1 troop each, 1 on the NABLUS road and 1 on track 300 yards to South.

29/3/18. At 0330 post on road running North West from ES-SALT reported 12 enemy Infantry crossing their front South West, at 0400 reported large numbers of Turks moving to South West. At 0400 post on NABLUS road came in contact with enemy patrol, 1 of which was shot at close range, enemy making no further advance posts ~~withdrew~~ withdrew at dawn. Regiment took over line of defence on left of Infantry sector due West from ES-SALT.

30/3/18. C.O. and 2 Squadron Leaders made personal reconnaissance of enemy's right flank with a view to night operations in that direction. One troop patrolled to SWEILEH road during morning and reported all clear.

31/3/18. Under orders from the B.G.C. 179 Infantry Brigade the 3rd. L.H. Regiment (less 1 Sqn. & 3 troops) moved from bivouac area at 0130 to a point about 3 miles from ES-SALT along the ARSENIYET road. The intention being to operate on the right flank of the enemy and if possible harass his right rear if he attacked 179 Out-post line. Horses of Regiment were left on ARSENIYET road and Regiment advance dismounted to high ground in H. 33 where we arrived at 0415, two troops were left in reserve. At dawn was in position in front of strong enemy post facing South. After reporting my position to Brigade I attacked this post with two troops, covering fire being given by 3 Hotchkiss Guns. The post was completely surprised. 3 Machine Guns were captured, and 1 Officer & 13 other Ranks

Alpha 3. E 37/19

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Killed, and 3 prisoners taken, and also wounded Turks were attended to by R.M.O. and left near positions as it was impossible to remove them.

Reserve troops were then brought forward and I advanced along high ground North, enemy taken in rear by Hotchkiss Gun fire retired rapidly into gorges and down NABLUS road towards JORDAN VALLEY. A number of enemy were killed or wounded as they retired towards the valley but owing to precipitous nature of country these could not be reached and exact number of enemy's casualties cannot be given. On reaching ridge over-looking NABLUS road 300 Cavalry were seen rapidly retiring and further casualties were inflicted on men and horses by Hotchkiss Gun fire. Regiment withdrew at 1000 and returned to bivouac area. I was able to report country South of NABLUS road to ARSENIYET road clear of enemy to a distance of 4 miles from ES-SALT, estimated number of enemy seen retiring to North West to JORDAN VALLEY, 300 Cavalry, and 700 Infantry. Unfortunately owing to steep nature of hills North of ARSENIYET road, I was unable to use horses in the operation. In addition to Machine Guns I also captured 15 rifles, and 2600 rounds of Machine Gun ammunition, contained in belts and packed in carriers, 2 donkeys were also captured. My casualties for the day 3 slightly wounded.

1/4/18. Officer's patrol reconnoitred ground occupied previous day and reported two small posts. Regiment covered withdrawal of Infantry from ES-SALT at 1900 and acted as rear guard to column during march from ES-SALT to SHANET NIMRIN. The Regiment then returned to 1st. A.I.H. Brigade in JORDAN VALLEY.

4/4/18

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



E 77/20

- MAR 1918



3rd. L.H. Regiment.

Appx. 3.

(Copy)

The following is a list of captures by the 3rd. L.H. Regiment whilst operating around ES SALT during period 25/3/18. to 2/4/18.

- 26/3/18. One Turkish Field Gun at ES SALT No. 339 and handed over to the 179th. Inf. Brigade.
- ~~21/3/18.~~ One Turkish prisoner passed to the 179th. Inf. Brigade.
- 21/3/18. Three Machine Guns (No. 6255, 5070 & 6491) These guns are all branded "M.G. 08, G.W.F., SPANDAU, 1917. 15 Rifles, Boxes M.G. Ammunition 12, Cans water 4, Spare Barrels 2 M.G. Ammunition in belts 2,800 rounds. Three Turkish ~~prisoners~~ prisoners, 2 passed to 179th. Inf. Brigade and one to the 1st. C.C.S. ES SALT wounded.
- 1/4/18. One Turkish prisoner passed to the 179 Inf. Bde.

GHORANIYE.  
6/4/18.

(Sgd) Angus Hean. Lieut. & Adjt.  
3rd. A. L. H. Regiment.