

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/5/3**

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

October 1918

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**  
**DUPLICATE.**  
**TRIPPLICATE.**



**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*5th A.L.H. Brigade*

FOR

*October 1918*

**- OCT 1918**

Signature of Officer compiling

*T. Williams Capt.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*[Signature]*

*Commdy 5th A.L.H. Bde.*

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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.

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4020 5<sup>th</sup> ALI. Brigade 6411



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
October.			Volume (4) Page 1	
4 miles North West DAMASCUS	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct.	0600	<p>Situation — The Brigade was holding the high ground Commanding the Road and railway South West of SALAHIE. Ans Div order received: The Brigade to maintain its defensive position west of DUMAR.</p> <p>At 1700 Brigade Headquarters moved to a point immediately west of DUMAR and a defensive position was taken up South East of Wadi SABURA with the right flank thrown well across the main BARUT road.</p> <p>Patrol was sent out along railway and road to round up enemy stragglers and locate any enemy position if such existed.</p> <p>1610 Information received from Division that DAMASCUS had surrendered and 10 to 15000 Prisoners had been collected in the town, and that an enemy column of about 3000 infantry had been located moving North along the HOMS road.</p> <p>1700 Situation Report sent to Division: — All quiet on the Brigade front 14<sup>th</sup> REGT holding defensive position detailed above with RM.M.C. in close support Bde HQs in Northern end of DUMAR village.</p>	<p>APPENDIX <del>APPENDIX</del> REF MAP 1/250,000 DAMASCUS</p>
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	0945	<p>Divisional order received for the Brigade to advance to KHAN MEISELUN and occupy positions <sup>from</sup> which to observe all approaches to DAMASCUS from the North West.</p> <p>The Brigade moved at 1430 and bivouaced about 2 miles West of KHAN DIMEZ for the night</p>	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>October</u>			
	3 <sup>rd</sup> October		<p>The Brigade moved at dawn and reached KHAN <sup>MEZZELUN.</sup> <del>DIMEZ</del> at 0800 experiencing only slight opposition from a few snipers. a</p> <p>The 14<sup>th</sup> REGT occupied an outpost line west of KHAN DIMEZ sending one Squadron to reconnoitre towards Railway at ET-TEKKIE. The inhabitants of KHAN DIMEZ stated that only 1500 to 2000 enemy had passed through westward. The Brigade remained in these positions overnight and no enemy movement was evident.</p>	<p><del>APPENDIX</del></p> <p><del>NO</del></p> <p>REF MAP</p> <p>150,000</p> <p>DAMASCUS</p>
	4 <sup>th</sup> "	0800	<p>Order issued for R.M.M.C. to relieve the 14<sup>th</sup> REGT at 1500 on outpost line the Squadron at ET. TEKKIE to remain until further orders</p> <p>Patrol of 14<sup>th</sup> Regt reported having found one engine and six trucks deserted on line 3 miles North West of ET. TEKKIE.</p>	
		1030	<p>Aus Div order received to concentrate the Brigade at DUMAR. allowing the 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Division to pass through westward, one Squadron remaining at KHAN DIMEZ until 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry had reached that place order issued to units to be ready to move at half an hour notice. The Brigade left KHAN DIMEZ at 1400 on arrival of advanced troops of 5<sup>th</sup> CAV and reached DUMAR at 1900 bivouacking for the night</p>	
	5 <sup>th</sup> "		<p>Squadron of 14<sup>th</sup> Regt at ET TEKKIE ordered to return to Brigade on arrival of advanced troops of 5<sup>th</sup> CAV. B</p> <p>Aus Div order received that the Brigade would probably <sup>return</sup> <del>move</del> shortly. <del>KHAN ME</del> to EL-MEZZE.</p>	

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October

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUMAR.	6 <sup>th</sup> Oct		<p><del>units</del>  <del>Regiment</del> moved to Bwonaaco in high ground south of DUMAR village                      15<sup>th</sup> REGT who had been detached to 4<sup>th</sup> BRIGADE on L of C. duties at                      KUNEITRA rejoined the brigade and bivouaced west of 14<sup>th</sup> REGT.</p>	<p><del>APPENDIX</del>  <del>NO</del></p>
			<p>Brigade resting</p>	<p>MAP REF</p>
			<p>one troop 14<sup>th</sup> REGT proceeded to KEDEM Station to act as escort to                      RE Officer proceeding on Railway reconnaissance to DERAA.</p>	<p>1/250,000</p>
			<p>Composite Squadron of 100 ORs detailed to proceed to EL <del>DEZI</del> <sup>MEZZE</sup> to take                      over prisoner of war working Company</p>	
			<p>Caps Commander visited the Brigade and rode through the                      bivouac area.</p>	
			<p>None from Aus Div appointing Capt R Wilkinson 9<sup>th</sup> ALH. as                      officiating Brigade major. Capt Nash Wotham to report A + QMG.                      Des Caps</p>	
			<p>Routine</p>	
			<p>Capt Wilkinson reported and <del>assumed</del> duties of Brigade major.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

5<sup>th</sup> ALH Bde HARKO

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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October

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8/11/4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUMAR	15 <sup>th</sup> OCT		<p>Brigadier inspected the horses of all units of the Brigade and a wanted improvement was noticed since arrival of in town at Dumar. The Horses of the R.M.M.C. still in very bad condition and a great number sore backed.</p> <p>all units practically immobile owing to very large percentage of officers and men suffering from malaria fever.</p> <p>BC. Zula ambulance reported that he had over 15 officers and 80 men sick in the ambulance.</p>	<p>APPENDIX <del>NO</del> REF. MAP 1/250,000</p>
	16 <sup>th</sup> "		<p>The Divisional Commander rode around the horses of the Brigade and impressed on CO's the necessity for every possible care to be given to the horses.</p> <p>order issued to units to reestablish camp routine paying particular attention to grooming and care of the horses. Every advantage to be taken of available grazing and regular exercise parades commenced. Saddlery and equipment to be thoroughly overhauled.</p>	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		<p>BGC. went to DAMASCUS to see A/AAG.A.I.F. <del>D</del></p> <p>Divisional order received detailing escorts to P/W to be evacuated by route march from <sup>KAUKAB</sup> <del>Camp</del> to AFULEH.</p> <p>The Brigade to supply 3 escorts each of two troops to leave <sup>KAUKAB</sup> <del>Camp</del> 19<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> insts respectively. On arrival KONEITRA P/W to be handed over to <del>return</del> to DUMAR.</p>	<p>8101100 - OCT 1918</p>

(A7094) G.P. W12839/M1203-750,000-1/12. D. D. & L. Ltd. Form C. 2118. 14

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DUMAR  M.	17 <sup>th</sup> Oct 18 <sup>th</sup> " 19 <sup>th</sup> "		October order issued to Regiments Reference P/W escorts 14 <sup>th</sup> REGT P/W escort left for KAUKAB Routine work.	<del>REF MAP</del> REF MAP 1/250,000
M.	20 <sup>th</sup> "		25 P/W received from EL MEZZE Compound for cleaning up houses in DUMAR with object billeting troops in the event of rain Ans Dir order received RMMC. will cease to be attached to the 5 <sup>th</sup> Brigade on the 21 <sup>st</sup> inst and will march to BEIRUT leaving DUMAR on morning of 21 <sup>st</sup> and proceeding in four stages to reach BEIRUT on the 24 <sup>th</sup> order issued to RMMC to move in accordance with the above order	
M.	21 <sup>st</sup> "	0700	P/W Escort from 15 <sup>th</sup> REGT left for KAUKAB Commandant LEBON Commanding RMMC. called to say goodbye to the BGC. Capt H. Mills MC. 14 <sup>th</sup> Regt attached as Staff Captains trainees RMMC marched from DUMAR and ceased to be attached to the Brigade order issued to units reference dress of men when on duty, or outside the Brigade area	- OCT 1918

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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40th 5th ALM Bde



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<i>October</i>	
DUMAR	22 <sup>nd</sup> OCT		<p>BGC rode through Regiments bivouac area. All units have completed the erection of saddle racks.</p> <p>Colonel FOWLER ADMS Archambault mounted Division called and went over field ambulance.</p> <p>1400 P/W scout from 14<sup>th</sup> Regiment left for KAVKAB but on receipt of wire from Division cancelling all further evacuation of prisoners, wire recalled.</p>	<p><del>APPENDIX</del></p> <p>REF MAP</p> <p>//250,000</p>
	23 <sup>rd</sup>	0900 1500	<p>BGC and COs inspected houses in DUMAR with view to billeting.</p> <p>BGC went to DAMASCUS to see Divisional Commander Routine work.</p>	
	24 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Rain set in at 0900 and continued throughout the day. Troops could not be billeted owing to filthy condition of houses. Bivouac sheets urgently required and Division asked if they could be expedited.</p>	
	25 <sup>th</sup>	1200	<p>Air order received the " Brigade to be ready to move at 24 hours notice from the receipt of order. The Division is moving via eastern road to HOMS probably leaving tomorrow."</p> <p>Order issued to units to be in readiness to move</p>	

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(A7092) Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>October</i>				
DUMAR	26 OCT		<p>Ans Div order received: - 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade with A Battery AAC to march to KHAN KAUSSIER on the 27<sup>th</sup> clearing DAMASCUS by 1200.            19<sup>th</sup> BAC and Headquarters Field Squadron to join 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade at KHAN KAUSSIER            order issued to units that the Brigade will move from DUMAR at 1000 on the 27<sup>th</sup> Inst.            Standing order issued for the march reference march discipline order of march, Protection, duties etc.            Administrative orders reference rations transport etc issued by Staff Captain            5 days <sup>MOBILE</sup> supplies to be carried (3 days on man 1 on Bde transport and 1 in company of Bde Train. <del>Authority</del> Authority granted to requisition rations and horse feed if available, to make up the mobile ration to normal issue.</p>	<p><del>APPENDIX</del>            NO            REF MAP            1/250,000</p>
	27 <sup>th</sup> "	1000	<p>The Brigade moved from DUMAR at 1000 proceeded through DAMASCUS and arrived KHAN KUSSEIR at 1500            Horses watered and units moved into bivouac on high ground one mile North of village            detailing the stages of the march to HQMS            Ans Div order No 35 received</p>	<p>- OCT 1918 -</p>

WAR DIARY

HQ 5<sup>th</sup> ALH Brigade

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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8418

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
Khan Kusseir	29 <sup>th</sup> OCT		<p>October</p> <p>HONS. The advance column of the Division under GOC 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade, to include 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Artillery BAC, 19<sup>th</sup> BAC, HQ 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Field Squadron and 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Company of Tram. This column to be known as No 1 group and to move 1 day in advance of the main column.</p> <p>The stages of the track to be:—</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1<sup>st</sup> day</td> <td>DAMASCUS to KHAN KUSSEIR</td> <td>13 MILES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2<sup>nd</sup> day</td> <td>KHAN KUSSEIR to KUTEIFE</td> <td>13 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> day</td> <td>KUTEIFE to NEBK</td> <td>25 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4<sup>th</sup> day</td> <td>NEBK to HASIE</td> <td>22 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5<sup>th</sup> day</td> <td>HASIE to HONS</td> <td>24 "</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"></td> <td><u>97 MILES</u></td> </tr> </table>	1 <sup>st</sup> day	DAMASCUS to KHAN KUSSEIR	13 MILES	2 <sup>nd</sup> day	KHAN KUSSEIR to KUTEIFE	13 "	3 <sup>rd</sup> day	KUTEIFE to NEBK	25 "	4 <sup>th</sup> day	NEBK to HASIE	22 "	5 <sup>th</sup> day	HASIE to HONS	24 "			<u>97 MILES</u>	<p><del>Ref MAP</del></p> <p>Ref MAP</p> <p>1/250,000</p> <p>DAMASCUS</p>
1 <sup>st</sup> day	DAMASCUS to KHAN KUSSEIR	13 MILES																				
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3 <sup>rd</sup> day	KUTEIFE to NEBK	25 "																				
4 <sup>th</sup> day	NEBK to HASIE	22 "																				
5 <sup>th</sup> day	HASIE to HONS	24 "																				
		<u>97 MILES</u>																				
KUTEIFE	28 <sup>th</sup> "	0900	<p>The column moved off from Lwinal and travelling at the walk for 50 minutes in the hour reached KUTEIFE at 1330. Horses off saddled and watered horses at spring in village. Handed over Turkish army stores of timber and barley.</p>	<p>at the walk.</p> <p>units</p> <p>MOUKTAR.</p>																		
NEBK	29 <sup>th</sup> "		<p>Column moved from KUTEIFE at 0600 and arrived KHAN KUSSEIR at 0730. Here the 14<sup>th</sup> Regt and 2<sup>nd</sup> NZ MG Sqn left the main road and watered at AIN ET TIME, the remainder of the column watering at cistern along the road. NEBK was reached at 1630, horses watered and the column bivouaced on high ground North East of the village.</p>	<p>-OCT 1918</p>																		

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HORO 5<sup>th</sup> ALH Bde  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NEBIK	30 <sup>th</sup> OCT		<p>October</p> <p>The Column moved from NEBIK at 0600 reached KARA at 0830, where all horses of the group were watered at a running stream north of the village. moved on at 0930, reached BUREISE as 1230, halted offsaddled and fed. moved at 1345, and reached HASIE at 1600. Here it was found that water had been incorrectly reported and that a cistern south of the village was the only available supply. It was therefore decided to push on at 2400 to HOMS taking advantage to water those transport horses that could not be watered at HASIE, at cisterns along the road. Permission was obtained from the Divisional Commander for this alteration and plan. The OC BAC stated his horses unfit to resume the march until morning, so as the BAC horses had been watered at cisterns during the afternoon permission was given for them to remain at HASIE until dawn. The Column less BAC moved at 2400 reaching a point 6 miles south of HOMS at 0600, where horses were offsaddled and fed. At 0800 the march was resumed and bronze 2 miles North East of the town reached at 1100. At 1700 the BAC, having left HASIE at 0400, marched in. Throughout the march horses travelled well, the large majority reaching HOMS in good condition, in spite of the last stage of over 50 miles having been done in just over 24 hours, on 1 drink only.</p>	<p><del>APPENDIX</del></p> <p>REF MAP 1/250,000</p> <p>DAMASCUS - BEIRUT</p>
HASIE	31 <sup>st</sup> "			

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WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HASIE	31 <sup>st</sup> OCT	1700	<p style="text-align: center;">October</p> <p>Difficulty was experienced in coping with the shortage owing to the few animals left with units.</p> <p>Message received from Des Capro for the Brigade to reconnoitre for Divisional Camp site if possible 5 miles from the town.</p> <p>1800 AA+QMG And Dir arrived HQMS and took over responsibility for finding camp site for the Division.</p> <p>(Note) Throughout the month the sick rate of the Brigade was abnormally high a very large percentage of men going down with Malaria fever and pneumonia, possibly <del>caused</del> partly due to the men having left Ramleh without either Oil sheet or <sup>BIVOUAC</sup> <del>ground</del> sheet. In some instances Squadrons have been reduced to a total of 50 all ranks.</p>	<p>Volume (4) Page 10</p> <p>APPENDIX No</p> <p>REF MAP /150,000 TRIPOLI</p>

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