

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/14/12**

**Title: 9th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

December 1915

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut - Col. W. GRANT  
C/O 9<sup>th</sup> L. H. Regt

Date.	Place and Time.	56	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1/12/15	RHODODEINDROM SPUR	<p>The Brigadier informed C/O of Regt that it was intended to hold the line with a smaller number of men during the winter + to rest the remainder at IMBROS. The difficulty of landing supplies has increased as most of the barges have been washed up on the shore at IMBROS + there were very few boats left for landing supplies + personnel. The intention is to increase the patrols + reduce the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">W.G.</p>

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut - Col W. GRANT  
C/O 9<sup>th</sup> L. B. Regt

Date.	Place and Time.	57	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1/12/15	RHODODENDRON SPUR	number of observation posts in the fire trenches.	

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Lieut Col. W. Grant  
Commanding 9<sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt.

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Date	Place	Time	
1915 Dec 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ANZAC	10am	ADJUTANT warned to be ready to proceed to IMBROS to represent the NZ & A Division in the Rest Camp movement. Boat left at 3pm.
Dec 3	<del>Imbros</del>		Adjutant prepared plan of proposed Camp at Imbros & forwarded same to W.A.Q.M.S. of NZ & A Div <sup>n</sup> . Adj <sup>t</sup> returned to Regt H'Qrs at ANZAC under instructions from Lt Col. COKE. A.Q.M.S. at General H'Qrs IMBROS. Lieut MALCOLM N.M. returned to duty during the past week. Lieuts Fylyffe & PALMER

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Date	Place	
	ANZAC	Reinforcement officers reported for duty during the week. The men had been detained at LEMNOS in the Detail Camp.
11 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		Major BARLOW S.W. who is now in charge of the Regiment reported to Brigadier at 10am.
12 <sup>th</sup> Dec.		C/o Adj <sup>t</sup> called to Brigade H'Qrs at 10am for instructions in anticipated evacuation.
13 <sup>th</sup> "		C/o received orders to remove the Regt H'Qrs to the H'Qrs AREA of the 10 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt & to take over a portion of the line of fire trench held by the 10 <sup>th</sup> Regt as far as W.P. (West Point) by 1400. Orders also received that all sick or weak men were to be collected &

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Date	Place	
13/12/15	Rhododendron Spur.	handed over to Lt-Col. Todd C/o 10 <sup>th</sup> Regt. to proceed to Lemnos. 40 Men were handed over & marched out. Our troops occupied the fire trench to W.P. & joined up with the 8 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt. who took over the remainder of the line held by the 10 <sup>th</sup> Regt. Ordered to be ready to march the Regiment out at an hour's notice. Two officers & 50 <sup>of</sup> R to be selected to remain behind to hold the line. Capt RAGLESS B.B & Capt SHEARER J.H. selected & 50 <sup>of</sup> R from D Squadron. An Iron Cross received from the Beach was sent to Hill 60 & placed on the grave of the late
14/12/15		

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Date	Place	
		Lieut-Col. C. REYNELL by The F. BOCKELBERG. All men in the trenches tonight. 4 officers on duty for 6 hours watches. All Quiet. Scouts report that the enemy is working hard putting up wire entanglements & improving his parapets. Very Cold wind blowing. All surplus baggage sent to the Beach
15/12/15		Fresh instructions received as to the final parties. Evacuation to be completed on two successive nights. First night to be divided into A, B, & C parties. Second night to be divided into A, B & C parties. Major Parsons to be <sup>of</sup> C party 1 <sup>st</sup> Night & to take charge of the Brigade
17/12/15		

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Lieut-Col. W. GRANT. C/o 9<sup>th</sup> LARegt

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Date	Place	
17-12-15	Rhododendron Spur	<p>party of about 170 Total. Major S.W. Barlow to be ofc 'A' party 2<sup>nd</sup> Night of Brigade Total 100 Major W.J. FARR. Brigade Major to be ofc 'B' party 2<sup>nd</sup> Night in charge of Total of 60 Lt-Col. MAYGAR C/o 2<sup>nd</sup> Regt to be ofc 'C' party 2<sup>nd</sup> Night in charge of final 40 officers &amp; men. Big fire on the beach near Williams' Pier at mid- -night. Large quantity of stores burnt.</p>
18.12.15.		<p>all officers called to Brigade HQs for final instructions. First party to leave tonight. 7 officers &amp; 150 of TR marched out</p>

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Date	Place	
Night 18/19	Rhododendron Spur	<p>from this Regt. at 10pm. all officers &amp; men in trenches Officers on 6 hour shifts. Post stood to arms from 5am to 7:30am. Scouts reported all quiet in front. Enemy working.</p>
19 <sup>th</sup> .	Rhododendron	<p>disposed of all Ammunition &amp; Bombs. Kept fires going throughout the Camp. Men moving about. Placed in position automatic rifles to fire at intervals after the last party leave. The enemy blew up a mine at the APEX doing considerable damage to trenches at 12 Noon. Our position was shelled during the afternoon by the enemy with 11 inch shells. Time 3pm.</p>
4pm		<p>Handed over our line of trench to 8<sup>th</sup> LARegt</p>

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Date	Place	
19-12-15.	Spur Rhododendron	A party Marched out & farmed up at Saddle Post as follows
		8 <sup>th</sup> LAReg <sup>t</sup> 3 off. 48 9R Total 51
		Rde Hqrs. 1 1
		Signal Troop 4 4
		9 <sup>th</sup> LAReg <sup>t</sup> 5 34 39
	10 <sup>th</sup> " " 4 4	
		8 91 " 99
		Moved off at 5.15pm
		reached Mam Sap at 5.30pm
		" Wharf @ 6.10 "
		Lighter loaded & left @ 6.30 "
		All men on HMS "MARS" @ 8. "
		Men were given a meal on board.
20/12/15	MUDROS HARBOR	Reveille on "MARS" at 5am. officers assembled & Orders read re disembarkation. 3 <sup>rd</sup> LARde party to go aboard transport "BELTANA" by lighters Sea Prince &

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Date	Place	
20/12/15	MUDROS HARBOR	CROSSWAITE. All aboard the Transport by 12 Noon.
21/12/15		"BELTANA" tied to Transport "MEGANTIC" in harbour. Sailed at 4pm. Stiff wind blowing from the South. Lt-Col. Lord KENSINGTON Mc Troops.
25/12/15.	Rhododendron ALEXANDRIA	Arrived ALEXANDRIA @ 7.30 am. Wharf @ 4pm. Disembarked by 6pm. Entrained and left at 8pm.
26/12/15.		Arrived CAIRO 1.25 am. Arrived Helmiéh 2 am. Disentrained & arrived Racecourse Camp Heliopolis at 3 am. Major BARLOW reported to A.M. 2. Hqrs at 9.30 am Parade State of Camp shown as follows:-

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date	place		off.	of R.	Total
26/12/15	Race Course	M. E. F. men 1 <sup>st</sup> party away	<del>5</del>	40	40
	Helopolis	old 9 <sup>th</sup> L.H. men in Camp	5	387	392
		Marched In	5	34	39
		Total.	10	461	471

27/12/15  
MAJOR J. W. FARSONS and Lieut R. Wilkinson  
and 160 Otkes also arrived from  
ANZAC.

MAJOR BARLOW & the men who left  
ANZAC on the night 18/19<sup>th</sup> arrived on  
26/12/15

28.12.15 CAIRO  
Received instructions to absorb all the  
reinforcements of 9<sup>th</sup> Regt, also that  
the 4<sup>th</sup> L.H. Brigade would probably  
be re-formed and that D Squadron  
was to be kept separate.

Drafted reinforcements to Squadrons.  
Total parade state shows

officers	Sqts	of R.	Total
29.	31.	802 =	862.

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date	Place.	
		of this number the strength of D Squadron is officers Sqts of R. Total 6 6 101 113.
29.12.15.		Application was made today to have the reinforcements of the South Australian Squadron of the 11 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt. sent to this camp to be attached to D Squadron for training.
30.12.15.		Syllabus of training for the reorganization of the Regiment was outlined today. HORSES. Only 342 horses are in the lines, the remainder having been taken by the Composite Regiment to the Western front. Requisitions for Equipment have been sent to S.O.O.