

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/15/26**

**Title: 10th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

August 1917

C O N F I D E N T I A L .  
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W A R D I A R Y  
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O F  
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10<sup>th</sup> A. L. H. B Coy

FROM Aug<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> TO AUG. 31st.  
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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917		DIARY 10 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Reg <sup>t</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Bde	
Aug 1	MARAKEB	Review 0500, Duty Regiment, Musketry practices, General Routine.	89 +34
" 2	"	Rev 0500 Musketry Practices, Gen Routine. Men & Horse Swimming	89 2
" 3	"	Rev 0500, Machine Gun Instruction Musketry Practice, Hotchkiss Rifle Instruction & Practice	89
" "	"	Signalling. Lt Col J. J. Todd & Major S.E. GRIMWOOD on Tactical Exercise under Gen Fitzgerald	89
" 4	"	Rev 0500 General Routine Duty Reg <sup>t</sup> Lt Col J. J. Todd & Major S.E. GRIMWOOD on Tactical Exercise under Brig Gen Fitzgerald 1/2 Holiday	89

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917		DIARY 10 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Reg <sup>t</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Bde	
Aug 5	MARAKEB	Rev 0500 <del>Duty Reg<sup>t</sup></del> , Church Parade	89
" 6	"	0900, Gen Routine, 2 Officers 23 O.P. musketry	89
" 7	"	Rev 0500 Gen Routine Musketry Practices with Machine Gun & Hotchkiss Rifle Signalling. Major R. L. Jackson, presented with <sup>Cross to</sup> character	89
" 8	"	Rev 0500, Machine Gun & Hotchkiss Rifle Instruction, Gen Routine Duty Reg <sup>t</sup>	89
" 9	"	Rev 0500, <del>Duty Reg<sup>t</sup></del> , Hotchkiss Rifle & Machine Gun Range Practices	89
" 10	"	Rev 0500, Gen Routine, Hotchkiss Rifle Instruction & Range Practice, Gen Ruyton on leave to England	89
" 10	"	Rev 0500 Duty Reg <sup>t</sup> Machine Gun Instruction	89

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917		DIARY 10 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Bgde	
Aug 10	MARAKEB	Musketry Practice Range Signalling	Reg
" 11	"	Rev 0500. Gen Routine, Competition of Tactical Exercise by Officers, Inspection of Lines by a Brig Gen Maygar, Half Holiday	Reg X 34 Reg 3 Reg Reg
" 12	"	Rev 0500. Gen Routine, Church Parade	Reg
" "	"	Lt Col F.H. M.C. temporarily detached for duty as A.D. to G.O.C. A.I.F. in Egypt.	Reg Reg
" 13	"	Rev 0500. Gen Routine Machine Gun Range Practice, Hotchkiss Rifle Instruction Duty Regiment, Lt Col (Brig Gen) M. Grant L.S.O. assumes command of 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Bgde	Reg Reg Reg Reg
" 14	"	Rev 0500. Officers & NCOs of Regiment on	Reg

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917		DIARY 10 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Bgde	
Aug 14	MARAKEB	Tactical Exercise (Outpost) at BENI SELA Machine Gun Instruction, Hotchkiss Rifle Instruction Lt Herbert & 29 OR. marched in from MOASCAR.	Reg Reg Reg Reg
" 15	"	Rev 0500. Gen Routine, Composite Regt made up from Bgde (A.Sgtm under Major Dunckley) on Tactical Exercise, Advanced Hotchkiss Rifle & Machine Gun Range Practice Lt G. Hodson & 1 OR. marched in from MOASCAR.	Reg Reg Reg Reg Reg Reg
" 16	"	Rev 0500. Gen Routine, Aquatic & athletic Sports held by Bgde, Duty Regt.	Reg Reg
" 17	"	Rev 0500. Gen Routine, Home Orders, Utensils Ready	Reg

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Date.	Place and Time.	DIARY 10 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Regt 5 <sup>th</sup> M.H. Bde	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1917			
Aug 17	MARAEB	2 of R marched in, 1 from J.C.C. + 1 from Secondary Division	89 X 34 89 4 89
" 18	"	Rev 0400. Regt moved to ABASSAN leaving at 0745 Arriving ABASSAN 1045	89
" 19	ABASSAN	Rev 0500 Gen Routine, Chaplain Capt McDonnell reported for duty in place of Chaplain Capt Gortman	89 89
" 20	EL KEBIR	Rev 0500, Mounted Parade about 0745 occupying positions, Led horses, fire discipline, messages, Rifle Exercise 1600 to 1645, furling sentry	89 89 89 89
" 21	"	as for previous day	89
" 22	"	Marking practice. 92 men exercised	89

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Date.	Place and Time.	DIARY 10 <sup>th</sup> Regt 3 <sup>rd</sup> M.H. Bde	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
23.8.17	ABASSAN- EL-KEBIR	Reveille 0500 The Regt moved out on reconnaissance at 1300	Appendix I Operation Order No. 2 by Lt Col T.J. TODD 850
24.8.17	1 mile NE EL BUGGAR	Regt on Reconnaissance	Commanding Appendix II Report on recon KH-IMLEIT, ABU IRBEIA, BIRIFTIS by Lieut W M LYALL Appendix III
25/8/17	ABASSAN- EL-KEBIR	Returned to Camp 0930 Routine work.	Summary of work 23-24-25/8/17 attached

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Date.	Place and Time.	Diary 10th Regt 3rd L. B. Bde	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
26.8.17	ABASSAN- EL-KEBIR	Reveille 0500 General Routine R.C. Church parade in the morning Other Denominations at 1700	GR GR GR $\times 3\frac{4}{5}$
27.8.17	w	Reveille 0500, Morning & Afternoon devoted to cleaning & care of Equipment, Saddles & Saddlework and General Routine Lieut H.C. Palmer & 1 other party marched in.	GR GR GR GR GR
28-8-17	"	Reveille 0500 Lieut Col Todd DSO & Mas, Lt Col Adair in charge on tactical exercise under the direction of Major Gen. H.W. Hodgson CVO. C.B. 76 men exercised in Musketry Practice, & Routine	GR GR GR GR GR

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Date.	Place and Time.	Diary 10th Regt 3rd L. B. Bde	Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
29-8-17	ABASSAN- EL-KEBIR	Reveille 0500, Inspection & check of Arms, Clothing, Equipment & Saddles B & C Squadrons & General Routine	GR GR GR GR
30-8-17	w	Reveille 0500 Inspection & check of Arms Clothing, Equipment & Saddles A, B, C, & D Co's, & passport 30 men exercised in Musketry	GR GR GR GR GR
31-8-17	w	Reveille 0500 General Routine Squadron & Troop leaders tactical exercise under supervision of Lt Col J. J. Todd DSO	GR GR GR GR

*James J. Todd*  
 10th REGIMENT 3rd L. B. BRIGADE

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Secret.

OPERATION ORDER No. 2.

APPENDIX I

By Lieut-Col. T. J. Todd, D.S.O., Commanding 10th A.L.H. Regt.,  
22:8:17. 3rd A.L.H. Brigade.

REFERENCE MAP. RAFA-BEERSHEBA 1/125,000

1. INFORMATION. A Reconnaissance of the country South and West of BEERSHEBA will be carried out by the General Officer Commanding Desert Mounted Corps on Friday August 24th 1917. Parties from other Corps will also be reconnoitring in the area covered. Details of which will be issued later.
2. INTENTION. The Yeomanry Mounted Division with 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Brigades will cover this reconnaissance by making good the country from a line G. ITWAIL-EL-SEMIN - G. EL-NA'AM - POINT 960 (West of cross-roads at BURSH) - TAWAIL-EL-HABARI Ridge - POINT 770 - POINT 730 - POINT 630 - POINT 550 - POINT 510 ABU SHAWISH will be made good by 0800 on August 24th.
3. MOVES.
  - (a) Thursday August 23rd (time to be notified later) 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Brigades with batteries R.H.A under command Brig. Gen. J. B. Meredith, D.S.O will move to vicinity TEL-EL-FARA on the afternoon of Thursday August 23rd, where they will bivouac night August 23rd/24th.
  - (b) Friday August 24th. 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Brigades with Batteries R.H.A under command Brig. Gen. J. B. Meredith, D.S.O will leave TEL-EL-FARA and make good the line EL-HATHIRA (exclusive) - TAWAIL-EL-HABARI Ridge - 770 - 730 - 630 & 550 - 510 ABU SHAWISH by 0800 on August 24th 1917.
  - (c) 2nd Mounted Brigade and 6th Mounted Brigade will continue the line to the right, the latter being on the extreme right.
4. COMMUNICATIONS. Responsibility for lateral communications will be from Right to Left.
5. AMMUNITION. 230 Rounds per man will be carried. Personnel equipped with pistols will carry necessary ammunition.
6. RATIONS. Unexpired portion of day's ration, special ration, and iron ration will be carried.
7. GENERAL.
 

Divisional Headquarters will be established at POINT 360 South East of RASHID-BEK.

Divisional Collecting Stations will be established at RASHID-BEK and KARM.

Withdrawal will commence at 1500 on August 24th, instructions for which will be issued on that date.

Weak horses will not be taken on this reconnaissance. Training for 23rd inst is cancelled. The whole of the morning will be devoted to packing saddlery, selection of fit men and horses, and general preparations for the move.

Greatcoats will be carried firmly strapped up on rear arch of the saddle
8. FORAGE. 2 nosebags of feed per horse will be carried also special 9 1/2 lbs grain ration on front arch of saddle

22:8:17.

Sgd. G. Rosewar. Capt.  
Adjutant 10th A.L.H. Regt.

2. WATER, BIR-EL-IMLEITH well 10 feet deep 8x8 feet  
1/2 feet deep of water showing better stone lined for  
1 foot. Hence natural formation sides, old  
dismantled hand pump at this well.  
9th. Patrol reported another well 300 yds  
N of the water latter, 1 1/2 feet good spring water.

3. ROADS (A) Good road as mentioned in (PARA. 1.  
ROUTE) running E from direction of Karm  
This road has been used a good deal by  
enemy troops is passable to wheeled traffic  
(B) Well defined road running past 550 across  
Wadi at BIR IMLEITH passing post N of 730  
thence to IRGEIG excellent road for wheels  
has been used by enemy a great deal a  
great many tracks 3 to 4 days old observed on  
this road going to J. P.O.

(C) Several horse pads cross WADI HANNAFISH  
from observation it appears several horse  
pads cross WADI IMLEITH between IFTEIS +  
IRGEIG.

(D) It appears from observation to be a good  
crossing done evidently used by enemy at  
N on Wadi IMLEITH (Sq C. 5) running N.

4. COUNTRY undulating broken in places by  
WADI beds which however are not  
very deep & sides are gradually slope & offer  
no real obstacle to mounted troops.

APPENDIX II  
RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

KH-IMLEITH - ABU IRGEIG - BIR IFTEIS

LOCALITY.

24-8-7.

REF. MAP.

BEERSHEEBA 1/125000.

SQUARES CONCERNED 5.6.7. B.C.

1. ROUTE Left column at PT 1/2 M. N.E. of EL-BUCRAH  
at 0830 travelled in NW direction  
for KH-IMLEITH crossed well defined road  
running E into highland at a pt near H. 1/2 M.  
W of 730 (Sq. B. 6). Met 9th. Patrol at BIR IMLEITH  
moving along on water reconnaissance along track  
to IFTEIS. Discovered well at IMLEITH (particulars in Para  
Water). Left IMLEITH travelled direction line for  
IRGEIG. My patrol was fired at by enemy patrol  
in WADI IMLEITH somewhere between IFTEIS + W  
(Sq. C. 5). On reaching contour 700 at PT directly  
E of 730 (Sq. B. 6) obtained fine observation of IRGEIG  
& locality marked by movement of troops in  
that vicinity. halted in this position & observed.  
From this point travelled in direct line for BIR-EL-  
GIRHEIR but on receipt of message from my right  
flankers that enemy held a small hut at W on  
Wadi IMLEITH (Sq. 5. C.) with small patrol that enemy  
also held H. at GIRHEIR I deviated my course  
to S & crossed WADI HANNAFISH about 300 yds N  
of KH-IMLEITH from there I travelled N along W. bank  
of W. HANNAFISH reached a 9th. observation post  
1/2 M. directly S of BIR-IFTEIS where splendid observation  
was obtained, from there returned to column via  
630, reached column 1400.

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(4)

5. Cont. These patrols ardently patrol along Wadi & keep out of sight as much as possible.  
 At 6.30 Hill (Sq. B. 5) many tracks of enemy observed & signs of recent tracks. This is no doubt a night post of the Turks. The enemy seemed little concerned as result of our demonstration & appeared to me they had an air of confidence about all their movements.

6. Civ. Roads.

.. Positions

Artillery Observations

posts

} Please see attached report of Artillery Officer who accompanied the patrol.

ABACHA-EL-KEBIR.

25/8/7

W M Ryall. Lt  
 KAHIT Rep.

(3)

4 Cont.

Flat for  $\frac{1}{2}$  m on S. side of Wadi IMLEIH between IFTEIS & IRGEIE from prominent points I.E. 630 & 730 this haddi is commanded & the latter points are very fine observation points & the country may be seen for miles around.

5. ENEMY. Big movement of troops in vicinity of IRGEIE also small bodies of wounded men & odd vehicles were observed moving N to S along BEERSHEVA-GAZA road.

About 900 cavalry observed moving in E direction  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. S.E. of IRGEIE, these however turned N after travelling a short distance & disappeared in dead ground, it appeared to me as tho' they were watering their horses. I estimate having seen 1500 to 2000 troops of all descriptions around about IRGEIE. A very powerful trench system was observed about Pt. 550 (Sq. C. 5.) behind this was a big encampment.

A Bridge of 5 arches was observed just S. of the above mentioned system. No rolling stock seen on railway line. Evidently Turkish main line runs roughly along Telegraph line to GAZA & the lines seems to be covered by small posts & patrols of mounted men & infantry.

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This patrol left at 0810. and  
returned at 1400.  
The reports of Patrol  
Officers have been submitted

With the exception of furnishing  
this patrol, the Regt. remained  
in Kerna during the day,  
watered during the afternoon  
from Cisterns in the vicinity  
of Brigade Head Qrs.

One troop was supplied as  
escort to the Battery when  
returning. The remainder of the  
Regt. returned with the main  
body by similar <sup>route</sup> to that  
on which they moved out.  
Watered on arrival at U.M.  
URGAN <sup>Qrs</sup> and camped on  
same ground as previous night

22/17  
Left camp at 0430, a  
small party under an Officer  
having been detailed to secure  
the ground was left in a  
clean & sanitary condition.  
Arrived camp 0920

### APPENDIX III

The following is a short  
summary of work done by the  
10th Regt. during the period  
of Country South West of  
BEERSHEBA on the 23-24  
& 25<sup>th</sup> Aug 1917.

The Regt. left camp with  
the Brigade, Head of Column  
crossing the Railway line at 1300  
23-8-17. Arrived SHELAL  
during morning and bivouaced on the  
West side of the WADI GHAYLA  
Left bivouac with column  
at 0300 24<sup>th</sup> and crossing  
the WADI at U.M. URGAN  
morning in the main body  
via KARM, KHASEIF, BIR  
ABU. TAH' H to Brigade  
Headquarters 1 mile NE of  
EL BUGGAR. Arriving this  
location at 0920.

One Troop under Lieut Witt  
headed ~~the~~ <sup>to</sup> be accompanied  
by an Officer of B' Battery  
was detailed to reconnoitre  
& report on the area SW  
IFTEIS, KH-IMLEIH, ABU IRSE

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The only casualty is that  
previously reported is  
Shammy Smith James admitted  
to Field Ambulance suffering  
flight injury from a  
kick by a horse.

25/10/17

W. Rosecrance  
Maj. R. L. L.  
4/10/17