

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/21/21

Title: 1st ANZAC Mounted Troops

April 1918

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

18TH LIGHT HORSE REGT., AUSTRALIAN CORPS MOUNTED TROOPS.	
No.
Date

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

AUST. CORPS MOUNTED TROOPS.

FOR

April

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

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Signature of Officer Commanding

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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.

13TH LIGHT HORSE REGT., AUSTRALIAN CORPS MOUNTED TROOPS.

WAR DIARY

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

AUST. CORPS MOUNTED TROOPS.

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Field
Hasebroeck
the 5. A
map reference

Place	Date	Hour
	1/4/18	
	2/4/18	
	3/4/18	

13th A.L.H. Regt. in Camp at LOCRE (Belgium). Hd. Qrs of Regt and Aust. Corps Mounted Troops in LOCRE - all horses under cover and men in huts. strength off mt OKs 344 horses 399 including 3 off. 7 OKs 6 horses on detachment. 2 troops "standing to" to be attached to 1st & 2nd Div. Cyclist Bn. in Camp at LOCRE. Strength off. 18 OKs 331 including 120 OKs supernumerary to establishment

Aust. Corps wire G 850 ordering 13th L.H. Regt to move to CAESTRE area and Cyclist Bn. to MORBECQUE area on 2nd inst.

fine sunny day

13th L.H. Regt. moved by march route to BORRE
Cyclist Bn " " " " " MORBECQUE occupied billets at AU SAUVERRAIN

detachments with corps & div. signal & salvage Corps. A.P.M. - & Corps Commanders' Guard moved with these units. Other detachments rejoined during day.

fine warm sunny day - light rain at night. Accommodation for night good.

Aust. Corps wire G 885 of 2nd received 6 a.m. ordering mounted troops to proceed to VALHON area.

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WAR DIARY

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AUST. CORPS MOUNTED TROOPS.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
France Hazebrouck Sheet. B. A Lens Sheet. 11	3/4/18		13 th L.H. Regt. moved to HUCIER - following detachment to move with Regt. Corps H.Q. 2 off. 39 ORs 44 horses Corps Heavy Artillery 10 off 9 ORs 11 horses & 19 S. wagon from 5 th Div. being Corps Reinforcement. Camp - under authority Aust. Corps 124/420. Rainy day. Route HAZE BROUCK, S'POL S'VENANT	
	3/4/18		LILLERS, PERNES. Distance 50 kilometres. Accomodation - slightly congested.	
	4/4/18.		13 th Light Horse moved via S'POL and PREVENT to PROHEN-LE-GRAND. Byclist Btr " " " " " " " " MEZEROLLES. Accomodation	
			at both villages good. light rain in morning. dull day.	
	5/4/18		13 th Light Horse moved via MAIZICOURT to DOMLEGER. Byclist Btr " " " " " " " " AGENVILLE. Dull day, no rain	
			accomodation fair horse lines bad.	
	6/4/18 } 7/4/18.		Mounted troops stayed at destination on 5/4/18. Time occupied cleaning of equipment, bicycles, saddles, & grazing horses. Both days were fine warm - but rains fell each night.	
	8/4/18		13 th A.M. at DOMLEGER. Aust. Corps were AA 470 of 17 th Div. for Cyclist Btr to move. Byclist Btr. moved to VILLERS BOGAGE via BERNAVILLE, CANAPLES, PLESSLLES. and supplied detachments of 4 off. 17 N.C.Os & 70 ORs to a P. W. 4 th Aust. Div. for	

A6915 Wt. W11422/M1160 359,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/6.2118/14.

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	8/4/18		Traffic control duty under Aust. Corps wire AA 136 of 5/4/18. 1 Platoon self contained to each 1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th Aust. Divs.	
			13 th L.H. Regt. also sent 4 self contained troops of 10 off. 28 ORs to each 1 st 2 nd 3 rd 4 th Aust. Div. 1 troop to each Div. for reconnaissance and intercommunication.	
			1 Troop of Light Horse and 1 Platoon Cyclist Btr. held in readiness to join 5 th Aust. Div. Raining all day.	
	9/4/18		13 th Light Horse moved to LONGPRE-LES-AMIENS - NCA DOMQUEUR-S'OUEN. 5 th VAST. under Aust. Corps wire G 140. Dull day no rain.	
	10/4/18		13 th L.H. nil. Cyclist Btr. received orders to move to ALLONVILLE on 11/4/18. Dull day.	
	11/4/18.		13 th Light Horse troop attached 1 st Aust. Div. Returned to unit and 1 troop sent to 5 th Aust. Div.	
			Cyclist Btr. moved to ALLONVILLE and sent 1 Platoon to join 5 th Aust. Div. Sunny day, rain at night.	
	12/4/18.		13 th L.H. Regt. supplied 10 off 30 ORs for traffic control for one day Aust. Corps wire AA 501. Cyclist Btr. 10 off 16 ORs " " " under A.P.M. Corps.	
	13/4/18		13 th L.H. Regt. sent 1 NCO to each 2 nd 3 rd 4 th 5 th Div. Invis for 4 days as Hotchkiss machine gun instructor.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	14/4/18		13 th Light Horse received 15 reinforcements - bringing Regt. up to strength	
	15/4/18		nil - dull cool day, light showers.	
	16/4/18			
	17/4/18		byclst Btr. 3 ORs evacuated to hospital from platoon attached 5 th Aust Div. Gas poisoning dull day - frequent showers.	
	18/4/18		byclst Btr. - 1 OR killed from platoon attached 5 th Aust. Div. weather better.	
	19/4/18		byclst Btr. 3 ORs evacuated to hospital from gas from platoon attached 5 th Aust. Div.	
	20/4/18		nil - dull day.	
	21/4/18		21 ORs Capt. commanders Guard supplied by byclst Btr. rejoined unit	
	22/4/18		nil 13 th LH Regt. supplied 30ff. patrols to check M.T. circuits + M.T. exceeding speed also 30ff. patrols to carry out a road Reconnaissance of all 3 rd + 4 th class roads and tracks in Corps Area. with a view of using them for evacuating civilians and moving troops should occasion arise.	
	23/4/18		byclst Btr. - 3 ORs. evacuated to hospital from platoon attached 5 th Aust. Div. with gas.	
	24/4/18		13 th LH Regt. troop attached 5 th Aust. Div. in action at VILLERS BRETTONEUX casualties 1 killed 1 wounded. work done by troop attached <u>Appendix T</u>	
	25/4/18			byclst Btr. platoon in action in same place as Light Horse, Casualties 1 OR wounded 2 ORs gassed.

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or

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 17 Amiens	26/4/18		nil - Bull day, light rain	
	27/4/18		" " " no rain	
	28/4/18		" " " "	
	29/4/18		" " " "	
	30/4/18		" " " "	

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WAR DIARY

OF

Aust. Corps Mounted Troops

FOR

April 191*8*

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
<u>I</u>	<i>work carried out by troop of Light Horse attached to 5th Aust. Div.</i>
<u>II</u>	<i>Report from Veterinary officer</i>
<u>III</u>	<i>" " Medical officer</i>
<u>IV</u>	<i>General Report on 13th Aust. H. Regt.</i>

Appendix I.

13TH LIGHT HORSE REGT., AUSTRALIAN CORPS MOUNTED TROOPS.
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Operations carried out by Light Horse Troop attached 5th Aust. Div.

Strength taken forward 10/8 23 ORs

I moved out of camp at about 9a.m. on 24th & reported to Lt. Col. Scudamore 59th Bn. made arrangements to protect his flank in a counter attack. This attack not taking place I was then attached to Lt. Col. Layh & at about 10.40p.m. sent out two patrols, one to 56th Bn. and one to Bpts LEABBE to gain information re the enemy's own dispositions. The 56th Bn. front patrol returned quickly with the necessary information. The right patrol however, had a much more difficult task as troops appeared generally to know very little which was absolutely accurate; an extra patrol being sent, however, gained reliable information from the right. I was then attached to Lt. Col. Watson advanced Bde. A.D. proceeded to 08 05.7. 7 men however were retained by Lt. Col. Layh. Numerous patrols were dispatched during the day to

Keep touch with our own infantry
 and the 8th Division on the right.
 Report any changes of our own
 front line. Patrols operating on the right
 to make a personal inspection
 of the ground held, to get reliable
 information.

No casualities occurred during the
 night, one patrol however having a lucky
 escape in C 28 d. after being covered
 by machine gun fire at close range
 managed to make good their escape
 and returned with reliable information
 at 10 p.m.

At 10 p.m. I went forward with 6 men
 to advanced Bde. HQ. new position at
 O 17 c 5.7. leaving the remainder of my
 men at O 8 c 5.7.

At about 9.30 a.m. on the 25th 2 patrols
 were despatched, one to find the exact
 position of the 57th Btri's right flank and
 unit on their right. The patrol detailed for
 this advanced East of the station at
 O 36 d. and were held up by enemy
 machine gun fire. The party crept along
 cautiously & came upon an enemy
 post containing 4 men whom they
 captured. A little later the NCO captured
 another prisoner ascertained where the

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Appendix II

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 57th 13TH Light Horse Regt. planks was withdrawn
 by VILLERS BRETTONEUX
 prisoners. Durham light
 infantry were digging in rear of
 at 034 d.

A patrol approached VILLERS
 BRETTONEUX from the west entering
 BOIS LEARBE at 026 d. down to 8th Div. HQ
 whose line at this time ran through
 026 b6.1 - 032 a7.3. The 25th Imperial Bde.
 were holding the left front and the
 23rd Bde. on the right front. Patrol pushed
 onto 032 b 33 a, 33 b to 34 a central. At
 34 b. 2 Btms. Middlesex Regt. were digging
 in - one of the officers stated they had
 advanced according to instructions but
 could not get in touch with troops
 on the left until 12.30 p.m. The CO had
 gone out to make a personal re-
 connaissance, present strength of this
 Regt. was 38 men, no machine guns
 left. Patrol pushed on to 035 a + c.
 where they were fired on from direction
 of 036 d. central. They then returned
 through VILLERS BRETTONEUX to 028 c
 then to base.

Another patrol was pushed out
 to find the 57th Btm. right flank
 to approach via 029 030 + 036

Appendix III

4
 This patrol had to pass through very
 heavy fire, one man & horse killed -
 one man & horse wounded and a 3rd
 man slight shell shock. brought these
 3 men back with 3 fresh men
 pushed on through 029 b + d to 030 c
 to 036 a where patrol came upon the
 57th Btm. just on outskirts of VILLERS
 BRETTONEUX, the Btm. had to retire
 as some of our own shells were falling
 short. Patrol secured exact positions and
 returned.

During the day several escorts for
 prisoners to Div. HQ
 A patrol went out at 10.30 p.m. to guide
 troops from 027 d. 4.5 to line
 running from 036 b5-1. to railway
 line at 036 c. 8.3.

At 3 a.m. on 26th orders received to
 again come under direct command
 of Div. stop return to BLANGY TRONVILLE
 best horses & men. Arrived there
 at 7 a.m.

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(Sgd) L. Reid. Lt
 13th LH Regt.

APPENDIX 1

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Appendix II.
Report from Veterinary Officer.
During the month the health of the
horses of the Regt. has been very good in
the whole - only a very few cases of
sickness & a few injuries having occurred.

The condition of the horses has
improved considerably - all horses
looking much better than at the
beginning of the month. There are still
half a dozen or so - poor ones but these
should soon pull round under
present conditions with the extra attention
feeding & grazing they are getting.

Eight horses were suffering from
Specific Ophthalmia and subject to the
recurring attacks of the disease. Two
horses have been evacuated blind
as the result of this complaint.

The march down to the present area
from the northern area brought out
several sore backs & saddle sores
chiefly about the rear of the back. Two
of these were severe cases. The cause of
these may have been either (a) blanket
pressing too tight on horses backs.
i.e. blanket not tucked up between
fins of saddle as is done on withers.

(2) Appendix II
or (iii) riding too short. Otherwise the
horses took the march down well.
One case of tetanus occurred & was
destroyed.

The casualties of the month were
3 ophthalmia cases evacuated
1 tetanus destroyed
Other casualties
2 picked up nails
10 injuries (5 killed).
1 killed in action
1 evacuated wounded.

R.A.B. Stanhope Capt
V.O.

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APPENDIX

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Appendix III

Medical Officers Report.

although sick parades have
 been lower than usual during
 April there has been less sickness
 than during the preceding 2 months.
 Accidental minor injuries have
 been numerous, boils have been
 fewer, scabs have been rare.
 Several cases of conjunctivitis have
 occurred in the last few days
 probably caused by fly infection.
 Altogether the health of the men
 is satisfactory.

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L. C. Lademgo
 M.O.

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Appendix IV
General report on
13th L.H. Regt. for April, 1918.

1. Training - on account of enemy observations and movement of troops through area mounted training was not possible. dismounted parades were carried out every afternoon except Saturdays & Sundays. Consisting of musketry instruction, map reading, visual training, Patrols, Reconnaissance work. Wednesday Afternoon of each week was set aside for inspection of gas equipment and instructions in gas drill, troop musketry (with masks adjusted)
2. Specialists - classes were formed for the instructions of signallers each morning.
3. Musketry Practice and A.A. Defence
Anti Aircraft Hotchkiss guns issued to the unit were fired at short range on improvised "butts" to test the guns

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4. Anti Aircraft practice for the gunners. 4 Anti Aircraft guns were mounted to the protection of billets and horse lines - the guns were mounted from 6.30 p.m. daily to 6 a.m.
4. Billets and supplies - Billets and supplies have been on the whole very good. Horses were picketed in the open during the month - cover not being available.
5. Discipline - Has been exceptionally good - only a few minor offences having been brought up.
6. Recreation - concerts were arranged twice weekly from Regt. talent and were much appreciated. Inter Squadron football matches were arranged every Saturday and Sunday afternoons
7. Health of personnel & horses - The health of the men and horses has been very good. The horses stop the march at the

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beginning of the month, well
weather conditions have been
favourable throughout the month.
The horses are grazed for 2 hours
every morning.