

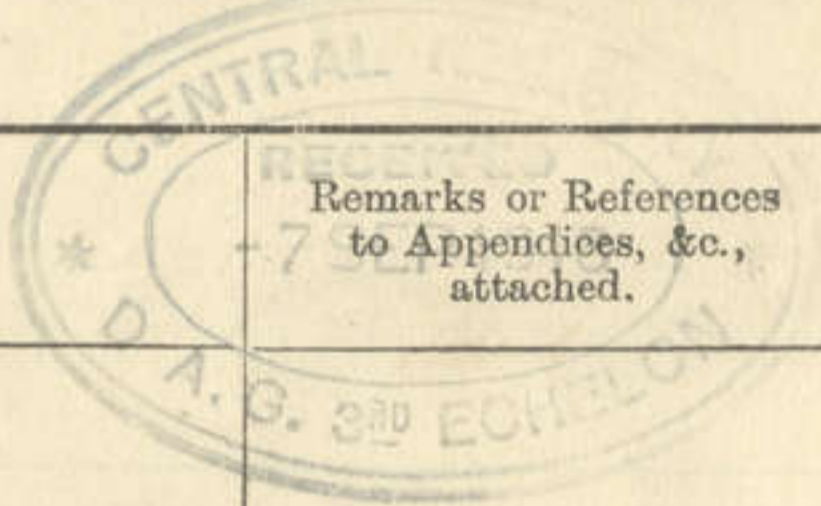
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit
war diaries, 1914-18 War

Light Horse

Item number: 10/7/17

Title: 2nd Australian Light Horse
Regiment

August 1916



Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916			
August 1	ROMIANI	Regt Turned out at 0115	
"	2	0215 Regt marched to KALIA in Jock	
"	3	with enemy all day returned 2200 1730 on out post duty engaged enemy all night	
"	4	engaged in B Hill of Etmales all day	
"	5	list of casualties attached. out posts all night	
"	6	engaged enemy all day. returned to camp 2300	
"	7	Resting Horses & collecting arms & resting	
"	8	Resting Horses & collecting arms & resting	
"	9	1430 Regt marched to Kapa hence to a position NE of Bn & abd. engaged enemy	
"	10	Returned to OCHRAELNA at night list of casualties attached.	
"	11	Resting Horses at HODEL NEGLIAT out posts at night	
"	12	Resting Horses all day	
"	13	Resting Horses & burying dead	
"	13	1000 Left HODEL NEGLIAT arrived ROMIANI 1430	JW 241 + Regt 2L + Regt

C.11/56.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916			
August 14	ROMANI	Repeating Party buying dead	
15	"	Duty Regiment. Bathing Parade	
16	"	Camp duties Bathing Parade	
17	"	Bathing Parades	
18	"	Two Troops Reconnaissance Duty	
19	"	St. Johns + 15 OR treat to Sunjoro	
20	"	Church Parade. Again Bathing	
21	"	Troop C Again. 3 Double Sections	
22	"	Patroling. Troop escort to OCHRAINA	
23	"	Horses being inoculated.	
24	"	Camp Routine & Reconnaissance	
25	"	Patrols to HODUMU UCBA. Hill 110	
26	"	treat to OCHRAINA	
	"	Inoculation. PARADE.	
	"	Must be instruction	

Wasson Lt
" adj
2 Little

C.11/56.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1916			
Aug 27	Romani	Camp Routine	
" 28	"	Musketry Instruction & Barring Parade	
" 29	"	Musketry Instruction & Barring Parade	
" 30	"	Musketry Instruction. Duty Regt-	
" 31	"	Musketry Instruction. Barring Parade	

J. Mason Lt
 ad
 2 LH Regt

ROMANI.

6th August 1916.

To 1st Light Horse Brigade.
From 2nd Light Horse Regiment.

I beg to submit my report on operations from 3rd to 5th insts. inclusive.

On the evening of the 3rd inst. I took up Outpost line as ordered from Mt MEREDITH exclusive to high ground South of HOD-EL-ENNA inclusive, ~~to~~ - "A" Squadron (Major Birkbeck) taking right of line, Section of M.G. Squadron (Lt Hackney) centre and "B" Squadron (Major Shanahan) left of line and in touch with 3rd L.H. Regt there. "C" Squadron (Capt Stodart) was in reserve and was stationed behind my H.Q. at second re-entrant South of Mt MEREDITH. Strong enemy patrols probed our line throughout the night and supports were eaten up very early. By midnight all my reserves except one Troop were employed in strengthening the line which was very thin owing to the considerable frontage. I repeatedly asked for reinforcements which Brigade were unable to supply and by 02.00 on 4th inst. it was apparent that the line would have to swing back or be penetrated. The Right, being hard pressed and in danger of being cut off, Major Birkbeck wisely withdrew to strengthen the M.G. Section, advising me of his action. The enemy then made a determined attack on the line held by "B" Squadron and I was obliged to put every available man, Reg. H.Q. Staff, Signallers and batmen under Capt Stodart to prevent the Turks breaking through between "B" Squadron and the Machine Guns. About this time the telephone line was broken and I had no further communication. About 03.30 it was seen that Mt MEREDITH was occupied by the enemy and Major Shanahan was thus taken in flank. His position was most precarious and the greatest credit is due to him and his Squadron for the way they held on in ^{compliance with} ~~obedience to~~ my orders. A Squadron of the 1st L.H. Regt had been sent by Brigade to support him and I sent Sergt Menzies to guide it to him but it never quite reached his position. I was now informed that the 3rd Regt on my Left had been forced to withdraw and it became apparent to me that I should be surrounded. I therefore sent back to select a position to retire to in neighbourhood of HOD-ABU-ADI. I hung on to the centre of my position till the last possible moment in order to allow Major Birkbeck and the M.G. Section to withdraw and get round behind my Right. The Turks were now among the led horses of "B" Squadron and within 50 yards of mine. I therefore ordered Capt Stodart to withdraw which we did at the gallop under a very heavy fire from three directions. On the previously mentioned position I had selected I converted my Outpost line which was naturally much disorganised, into a Rear-guard for a withdrawal to WELLINGTON RIDGE and if necessary to ET MALER. The greatest credit is due to all Officers and other ranks of the Regiment that this difficult operation was carried out. It enabled several of my men who had been unhorsed, to rejoin, but its chief object was to allow Major Birkbeck and the M.G. Section to get round via HOD ES SEIFANYA and rejoin me which they did on the second ridge to which we retired. Here we linked up with part of the 1st and 3rd Regiments. The withdrawal to ET MALER was carried out in an orderly manner by troops, each ridge in turn being held till we were outflanked and suffering losses from enfilade fire. I wish to bring under your notice the excellent work of Major Markwell, my Second in Command. The credit of the successful withdrawal of my Right is in a great measure due to him. He was invaluable to me throughout the night as owing to difficulty of communication, he frequently had to act on his own initiative and his judgment was invariably correct. I consider his consistently good work, followed by this action of night of 3rd/4th August entitles him to substantial recognition. He also gave very great assistance in getting unhorsed men away under very heavy fire. I strongly recommend him for D.S.O.

The work of Capt Stodart on the same night was also splendid. The position in the centre was held by him till the last possible moment and the withdrawal under heavy fire was admirably carried out. His work throughout has been consistently good. I have already brought to your notice his action in assisting to carry a wounded man away under heavy fire at QATIA some days ago. His ~~command~~ control of his Squadron under extreme conditions has been admirable.

O V E R

I recommend him for D.S.O.

Major Shanahan, who I regret to say was badly wounded during the Rear-guard action while carrying in a wounded man, also did very good work. His Squadron held its ground immediately South of Mt MEREDITH even after that hill had been taken by the enemy. The Turks were among his led horses with the bayonet when he was forced to retire. He himself brought several unhorsed men from the Outpost position hanging on to his stirrup leathers. I consider that his determination and self-sacrifice should be recognised suitably.

Among the other Officers, where one and all did their duty so magnificently, it is difficult to discriminate but I think the work of Major Birkbeck and Lieut Hackney of the M.G. Squadron deserves mention.

It is impossible to do justice to the work of all N.C.O's and men but in my opinion the following deserve mention :-

No 107 Acting S.S.M. Manzies J.A. for especially good work on night of 3rd/4th August in assisting to organise the Outpost position and supervise Cossack Posts and in carrying orders in the dark where the two lines were so close that it was almost impossible to distinguish them.

No 350 Cpl Mowbray C. for excellent work while in charge of a Cossack Post which he held on to till the last minute. He also carried a wounded man out of action on his horse under heavy fire. This man

also did very good work on GALLIPOLI. He was severely wounded at QUINN'S POST in the sortie of 7th August 1915.

No 1172 Pte Shand M.H. for assisting to organise scattered parties of men who were without leaders during the withdrawal from Outpost line to WELLINGTON RIDGE. These he formed up and led into action himself at a very critical moment. There were no Officers or N.C.O's about at that particular point.

No 534 Serjt Kirkbride T. for his coolness, judgement and devotion while acting as Troop Leader by keeping his men together in a dangerous and exposed position whilst covering the retirement of other troops thereby risking being cut off.

On morning of 4th inst. I assembled as many men of the Brigade as I could gather in the vicinity of ET HALER and reported to Div. H.Q. I subsequently received orders that my Regiment was temporarily attached to the 2nd L.H.Bde and was instructed by Col. Royston to assist in the sweeping operation from BIR-EL-ARALS, BIR-ABU-DIYUK and Mt ROYSTON. My Regiment was again employed in the Outpost line that night. At 04.00 on 5th inst. in conjunction with 7th L.H.Reg. my Regiment advanced and carried high ridges between Mt MEREDITH and Mt ROYSTON with the bayonet. During this advance we captured over 400 prisoners, 67 laden camels, some horses, a great quantity of rifles and equipment, a complete Field Hospital and two German Machine Guns with German crew of six men. The Officer, unfortunately, escaped but his papers were taken and handed to Major Foster of Div. Staff. They included Diary, Operation Order for attack on ROMANI, plan of defences of QATIA and appreciation of the situation. The Regiment also assisted in the capture of about 600 Turks who were left with the 7th L.H.Regt.

Led horses were brought up to the men about Mt MEREDITH. The Regiment subsequently was ordered to rejoin the 1st L.H. Brigade near QATIA. Men and horses are naturally very exhausted.

I confidently trust that the work of the Regiment during these few days will meet with your approval and would like to emphasise what I consider the chief points viz :-

- I. The holding of an extended Outpost line in face of strong attack.
- II. The conversion of this Outpost line into an effective Rear-guard. This enabled the remainder of the 1st L.H.Bde who were to the North of us, to seize positions and gave the 2nd L.H. Bde time to get out.
- III. The advance on foot with bayonet under heavy fire resulting in capture of many prisoners and much enemy material.

I regret to say the operations resulted in the loss of Lieut Righetti and Lieut Woodyatt killed, Major Shanahan severely wounded and Lieut Pledger wounded. The total casualties are 9 killed, 30 wounded and 10 missing.

Geoffrey H. Royston
ag. C/S 2nd L.H. Regt.

C A S U A L T Y R E P O R T.

2nd Light Horse Regiment. ROMAN I. 6th August 1916.

K I L L E D.

Lieut. Righetti A.S. ✓ 4/8/16. No. 2477 Pte O'Callaghan T. ✓ 4/8/16.
 Lieut. Woodyatt P.S.R. ✓ 4/8/16. No. 2329 Pte Dale T. ✓ 4/8/16.
 No. 599 Sgt. Jepson C. ✓ 4/8/16. No. 1400 Pte Cunningham T.A. ✓ 4/8/16.
 No. 1018 Pte Finnis P.W. ✓ 4/8/16. No. 797 Pte Campbell D.D. ✓
 No. 1048. Private Toohy M. ✓ 4/8/16.

W O U N D E D.

Major Shanahan M. ✓ seriously 4/8/16.
 Lieut. Pledger G.T. ✓ slightly "
 No. 2150 Pte Birch V. ✓ seriously "
 No 1329 " Larcep C.R. ✓ " "
 No 949 " Lavercombe A. ✓ " "
 No 1028 " Ingles J. ✓ " "
 No 1114 " Duffy P. ✓ " "
 No 779 " Lancaster T.W. ✓ slightly (Retd to duty 7/8/16)
 No 1182 " Morgan J.A. ✓ seriously (Since died Cairo 13/8/16) 5/8/16
 No 550 " Murray M.E. ✓ " 4/8/16
 No 1441 " Layton V. ✓ " 5/8/16
 No 939 " Devine C.H. ✓ slightly 4/8/16
 NO 2398 " Hudson M. ✓ seriously "
 No 651 " Wilde F. ✓ " "
 No 1058 " White C.W. ✓ " "
 No 4052a " Sullings H.A. ✓ slightly "
 No 2185 " Lunn J.H. ✓ seriously "
 NO 1027 " Ince W.K. ✓ " "
 No 2187 " McLoughlin G. ✓ " "
 No 1732 " Sullivan G. ✓ (Since died 5/8/16) "
 No 1271 " Simonsen M. ✓ " "
 No 1260 " Pounteney A. ✓ " "
 No 2185 " Lang T.H. ✓ " "
 No 1013 " Campbell W. ✓ " "
 No 747 " Collins C.W. ✓ " "
 No 486 " Collins F.J.A. ✓ " "
 No 1152 " Begg W. ✓ " "
 No 1259 " Pigram J. ✓ " "
 No 802 " Marron T. ✓ " "
 No 1155 " Davies W.J. ✓ slightly "

M I S S I N G.

No 1266 Cpl Somerville J. ✓ 4/8/16.
 No 2197 Pte McColl R.M. ✓ "
 No 461 Sgt Drysdale G.R. ✓ "
 No 973 Pte Ward J.E.N. ✓ "
 No 953 " Hobson E. ✓ "
 No 1444 " Littler W.F. ✓ "
 No 317 Cpl Easton F.H. ✓ "
 No ~~142~~ Dvr Day A. ✓ 2/8/16
 No 2146 Pte Kennett V.I.N. ✓ "

*Wasson Lt-
Adj 2 LH Regt*

C A S U A L T Y R E P O R T .2nd Light Horse Regiment. R O M A N I. 9th August 1916.Killed in action.No. 1341 Private Parkes W.J. 9/8/16.Wounded.

No. 2169 Pte Ferrar A. ✓	9/8/16.	No. 274 W.O. Crain E.W. ✓	9/8/16.
No. 454 W.O. Fanning T.P. ✓	do.	No. 534 Sergt. Kirkbride T. ✓	do.
No. 1488 Pte Cowley E.W. ✓	do.	No. 1301 Pte Greenhalgh R. ✓	do.
No. 357 Sgt Macfarlane R.H. ✓	do.	No. 1169 " Jackson R.B. ✓	do.
No. 2191 Pte Mitchell W.R. ✓	do.	No. 1270 " Hawthorne E.J. ✓	do.

M i s s i n g .

No. 1590 Pte Hansley G.W. ✓

Masson Lt
Adj. Gen.
2 L.H. Regt