

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/8/33

Title: 3rd Australian Light Horse
Regiment

August 1917

Confidential
Original

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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHAUTH	1/8/17		Lient Griffin and 14 other ranks proceeded to PORT SAID Rest Camp. A Squadron furnished usual standing patrols. Lient Sandland and 12 other ranks occupied V Works from 1900 to 0500. Eighteen other ranks arrived from details. Lient A. H. Gray evacuated to hospital.	
	2/8/17		Lient Stevenson and 12 other ranks occupied V Works from 1900 to 0500.	
	3/8/17		B Squadron under Major Bennett moved out at 2300.	Reference map, R.A.F. BEERSHEBA, 1/125000
	4/8/17		B Squadron took up a position on a ridge about 400 yards WEST of Point 750 WEST of WADI IMALAGA. Two Officers Patrols were sent out, one to HILL 770 and one to HILL 860. All posts were in position at 0330. At 0630 an enemy cavalry patrol (strength 16) was observed making WEST at HILL 860 South East of UM AUJA. Their advanced scouts working about 400 yards in front of the main body reached HILL 750 at 0800. Upon seeing our party they commenced to retire. We opened fire with two troops and two other troops moved off mounted round their left flank and tried to cut them off but only succeeded in taking 3 prisoners. The remainder of patrol retired in direction of BEERSHEBA and took up a position about HILL 970. Officers patrol from HILL 770 reported all clear WEST of GOZ SHEIHILI and patrol from KHALASA sent in 3 Bedouin prisoners taken one mile SOUTH WEST of KHALASA. This party ran away as our patrol approached but offered no resistance when patrol caught up with them. Both patrols returned to Squadron at 1400. At 1630 parties of unarmed Bedouins numbering 26 with 9 camels and 3 donkeys were seen approaching HILL 750 from direction of BEERSHEBA. They attempted to get away but were fired on by our men. The whole of the party were captured. Three patrols (about 40 mounted men in all) were seen about 2 to 3 miles NORTH EAST of RASHID BEK at 0600 on 4th. The Squadron withdrew to ESANI at 1800. A Squadron furnished standing patrols south of GAMBI and south of GHABI Works. Lient Hamilton and 12 other ranks occupied V Works.	Commanding 3rd English Horse Regt Gen Will French Col - AUG 1917
	5/8/17		B Squadron took up a position half a mile south of HILL 860 at 0300 and remained in position till 0830 but no enemy patrols were seen south of ESANI. One enemy mounted patrol was seen at 0600 moving along the North Bank of WADI ESANI to a point about half a mile WEST of RASHID BEK, they retired along the same route. The Squadron withdrew at 1100 and returned to camp. Communication was established with camp by means of wireless and despatch riders. One horse had to be destroyed owing to breaking its back when falling down a hill. Church service was held at 1830. Thirteen other ranks arrived from Details.	804

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SHAUTH	6/8/17 7/8/17 8/8/17 9/8/17 10/8/17 11/8/17		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>under batt J. J. Bigg</i></p> <p>A^a Squadron moved out at 2200 and proceeded via SHELLAL crossing to HILL 300 arriving there at 0230. Patrols were sent out from here to patrol WADI IMLIEH from 410 to 310. Patrols returned to HILL 300 at daylight. Patrols were also sent to patrol the WADI from ERK in the direction of 410 for a distance of 1 mile. Patrol was sent to 410 and patrolled WADI for a distance of 1/4 mile EAST where they were fired on. Squadron withdrew at 1200 and reached camp at 1500. The Regiment with 1 Section R.H.A. (Smugglers Battery) and one Section M.G.S. moved from camp at 2300 and proceeded via GAMLIC crossing to EL DAMMATH which was reached at 0230. Lieut Kelly & 18 other ranks proceeded on leave. B^a Squadron was sent to occupy WADI IMLIEH between KHIBBET ERK and HILL 410, this Squadron was in position at 0330. Regt Headquarters was established at TWO TREE HILL East of DAMMATH with B^a Squadron and one section R.H.A. A^a Squadron took up a position about 2000 yards South of Point 410. The Squadron occupying the WADI IMLIEH was shelled at intervals during the day by one gun (10 or 12 pounder). The position of this gun was not located. A force of about 30 enemy occupied 410 during the day. A small patrol from the Squadron in the WADI approached within 300 yards of 410 and reported small trenches on Western side of the HILL commanding the right bank of WADI IMLIEH. There was also one troop of cavalry near the road about 1000 yards EAST of crossing at W. in W. IMLIEH. This troop was reinforced at 1500 by two more troops moving from 420. WADISHERIA was also occupied by enemy dismounted troops between Points 380 and 420 and there was continual movement of small enemy patrols from WADISHERIA towards the GAZA - BEERSHEBA road. The Squadron at WADI IMLIEH withdrew at 1830 coming under sharp rifle fire from Point 410. The Section of R.H.A. fired 14 rounds at enemy at this point and is reported by the Officer in the WADI to have done excellent shooting dispersing 2 troops that were moving from a point just north of 410. The Regiment returned to camp arriving at 2300. Lieut Riley & two other ranks proceeded to School of Instruction. Lieut Hean rejoined Regiment from Brigade Headquarters. Lieut Kelly Sandland & 12 other ranks occupied V^a Works from 1700 to 0500. Eleven other ranks proceeded to Port Said Rest Camp. Lieut McDonald and 12 other ranks occupied V^a Works. Lieut McDonald proceeded to School of Instruction Ajlun. Lieut Riley returned from School of Instruction to give evidence on URRY'S F.G.S. etc. Fourteen other ranks returned from Port Said Rest Camp. B^a Squadron moved out at 0330 and carried out the following patrols; 1 troop under Sgt Kelly to GOZ MABRUK to GOZ BASAL. Lt Sandland with 1 troop from A^a Squadron left camp at 1130 and relieved troop at GOZ BASAL the latter troop going on to 510. GOZ MABRUK patrol captured 5 bedouins and 2 donkeys. The Patrols were relieved at 1800 by B^a Squadron and 1 troop A^a Squadron who carried out standing patrols as follows; - Lieut Hamilton with 1 troop at No 1 Post (Point 400)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Geo Bell</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lieut Colonel</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Commanding 3rd Light Horse Regiment</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AUG 1917</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>2/4</i></p>

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SHAUTH	12/8/17		Major Dick returned to Regiment from hospital. Regiment moved out with Brigade at 1530 and proceeded to ESANI arriving there at 1830, watered and fed up and moved on at 2100 arriving ABU GHAYLUN at 2330 and GOZ SHEIHILI at 0100.	
	13/8/17		Left GOZ SHEIHILI at 1245 and returned to ESANI via ABU GHAYLUN, watered and fed up & moved off at 1640 arriving GAMLI at 1915 watered & returned to camp arriving 2015. On outward journey 'A' Squadron supplied night & left flank guards of two troops each. 'B' Squadron supplied rear guard of one troop. 'B' Squadron supplied 1 troop as escort for cable wagon from F camp to GOZ SHEIHILI and return. On return journey 'A' Squadron supplied 2 troops as night & left flank guard and 'B' Squadron 2 troops as advance guard. On arrival at GOZ SHEIHILI outposts were put out on both flanks front and rear these were supplied by 'A' and 'B' Squadrons. Lieut Kelly & 12 other ranks returned from leave. Lieut Kelly & Bowell rejoined Regiment from details. Lieut Kelly & 12 other ranks occupied 'V' Works. Regiment stood to arms at 0230 on 14/8.	
	14/8/17		'A' Squadron under Major Dick moved out at 0400 and carried out day patrols as follows: - Lieut Sandland with one troop to GOZ MABRUK Lieut Reidy with 1 troop to KHASIF, IV. Hamilton with 1 troop to Point 510. Headquarters of Patrol were established at GOS EL BASAL. The KHASIF Patrol exchanged a few shots with an enemy patrol of about 30 strong otherwise nothing of note occurred. The day patrols were relieved at 1900 by 'B' Squadron and one troop of 'B' Squadron who carried out the usual night standing patrols. Regiment left camp at 1500 and marched with Brigade to a Point 1 mile north of GOZ SHEIHILI. 'A' Squadron under Major Dick being advance guard to Brigade. From this Point the Regiment moved out independently and occupied a line from the ASLUS - BEERSHEBA road over Point 1040 to Point 960 North of KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road gaining touch with 2nd A.L.H. Regiment at well on WADI HALGON. Patrols were sent to Points 1150, 1160 (GOZ-EL NAAM) and remained at these points till the Regiment withdrew. Our Patrols were fired on from Point 1150 on BEERSHEBA road north of Well. An enemy post of 4 men left this point as our Patrol advanced and the position was taken up without other opposition. At 0730 a troop of 25 enemy cavalry approached along the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA road their advanced Patrol reaching within 900 yards of Point 960 where they fired a few shots and then withdrew. While enemy's artillery were shelling an aeroplane about 300 enemy dismounted men stood up on the parapets of trenches at RUWEHI. Working parties could be seen at work at different points along enemy trenches West of BEERSHEBA - ASLUS road along the word RUWEHI. These trenches are on the forward slope and very conspicuous from our side. Orders to withdraw were received at 1320 and withdrawal was carried out without interference by enemy. The Regiment rejoining the Brigade at 1430. 12 Bedouins and 5 camels were captured at WADI ISDEIB in the early morning. We had no casualties. 10 reinforcements arrived from Details. Remained at SHAUTH.	
	15/8/17			
	16/8/17			
	17/8/17			

1875 Wt: W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 I.E.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

AUG 1917

Geo Bell Lieut. Colonel. Recommending 2nd Light Horse Regt. 14/1/3

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SHAUTH	18/8/17		Regiment moved with Brigade at 0900 and marched to MARAKEB, arriving at 1300	
MARAKEB	19/8/17		2 Lieuts, Bean and Chambers and 3 other ranks returned from School of Instruction. Lt. Col. Bell departed on leave to Cairo, 17 other ranks proceeded to Port Said Rest Camp, 11 other ranks returned from Port Said Rest Camp.	
	20/8/17		at MARAKEB	
	21/8/17		All ranks were inoculated against cholera	
	22/8/17		Duty Regiment, Capt Derrington carried out duties of Field Officer	
	23/8/17		Major G. G. Brooks D.S.O. and Lieut Hearn attended a lecture by Capt Coates at Desert Mounted Corps Headquarters	
	24/8/17		Lt. G. J. Riley proceeded on leave to Cairo Eleven other ranks arrived from Details	
	25/8/17		Eight other ranks proceeded to School of Instruction Azeitoun, Major Bennett proceeded on leave to Cairo	
	27/8/17		Fourteen other ranks who had previously been trained in Railway Construction proceeded to Beleh	
	28/8/17		Capt McFarlane and 15 other ranks proceeded to Port Said Rest Camp	
	29/8/17		Fourteen other ranks returned from Port Said Rest Camp. All ranks were inoculated against typhus	
	30/8/17		Lt. Col. G. G. Bell D.S.O. returned from leave	
	31/8/17		Major G. G. Brooks D.S.O. proceeded on leave to Cairo	

Lt Col Bell, Lieut. Colonel
 Commanding 3rd Light Horse Regt.
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AUG 1917

3rd LIGHT HORSE REGIMENT.

WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF AUGUST, 1917.

CASUALTIES.

Appendix

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- AUG 1917

<u>No.</u>	<u>SICK!</u> <u>Rank.</u>	<u>Name.</u>	
	Lieut.	Bray	A.H.
2223	Tpr.	Shepherd	A.C.
1310	"	Callow	C.R.
1123	L/Cpl.	Schofield	A.C.
2993	Tpr.	Bartlett	V.T.
3295	"	Hogarth	T.R.
1571	Cpl.	Mates	J.A.
651	Tpr.	Moore	F.J.
1011	Dvr.	Barreau	A.H.
3191	Tpr.	Walsh	L.
403	Tpr.	Dunham	R.H.
2861	"	Clark	E.
617	"	Bowes	W.
2350	"	Possingham	C.A.
345	L/Cpl.	Stokes	T.F.
3333	Tpr.	Ruffels	C.R.
1236	Dvr.	Houston	S.E.
3304	Tpr.	Sexty	C.R.
201a	Dvr.	Atkinson	C.O.
197	"	Talbot	E.A.
1177	Tpr.	Curry	P.
3329	"	Keegan	C.
1278	"	Sims	J.B.
866	"	Flanigan	J.A.
855	"	Byrne	M.
1050	"	Simes	R.M.
2884	"	Northcott	B.M.
9211			
1388	"	Brimble	R.F.
2296	"	Hanton	H.G.
1254	"	Josephs	F.W.
3296	"	Ladner	M.J.
3289	"	Burnett	E.H.
963	"	Wilson	A.
3071	"	Potter	G.L.
3236	"	Hywood	J.
7977	Sgt.	Ricketts	T.
27	Cpl.	Masters	C.
2878	Tpr.	Kitto	R.E.
702 702	"	Allen	H.J.
2480	"	Shuttleworth	W.S.
3332	"	Rattray	L.W.
3193	"	Hodgers	G.J.W.H.
420	Cpl.	Goulston	B.H.
3233	Tpr.	Earle	W.J.
2644	"	O'Conner	B.D.
2997	"	Burrows	C.C.
458	"	Morgan	H.A.
2329	"	Inglis.	O.

MARAKEB. 31st August, 1917.