

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/16/11**

**Title: 11th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

August 1916

CONFIDENTIAL WAR DIARY

By Lieut Col W GRANT C/O 11<sup>th</sup> ALH Reg

DATE	PLACE	125. Reference Map QUATIA 1/100000 C.18
1-8-16		2 Troops under Lieut COSTELLO as escort for guns to MAHADAT. 24 hours tour of duty. also escort with wireless section from MAHADAT to BADA.
2-8-16		Fatigues supplied for loading and unloading supplies for Column at A.S.C. dumps
3-8-16		Major led with one Squadron less 1 troop proceeded to MAHADAT. to relieve CITY of LONDON YEOMANRY as support to Artillery.
4-8-16		MOBILE Column moved from Rail Head at 12.45. - watered at MAHADAT. bivouacked BADA.
5-8-16		Patrol sent to JEFFEIR at 0400 1 troop under Lt MANNING as observation post. Regiment moved to JEFFEIR. in support of I.C.C. bivouacked for night. Supplies brought by camel transport. Lt MANNING's Troop returned to BADA at 16.00.

Rail Head FERDAN  
 "C" Subsection Canal Defence  
 No 2 Section



CONFIDENTIAL WAR DIARY

by Lt Colonel W GRANT C/O 11<sup>th</sup> LHR

DATE	PLACE	126.
6-8-16	MAGEIBRA	Moved to MACEIBRA arrived 0945 with ICC. ICC moved towards BAYUD + Squadron with Major PARSONS in support. W.S. Patrol of 10 men under sergt MERSON of A Squadron sent to BADIEM where they captured 8 Turks who were there as a camp guard. 500 kits and a lot of tools + equipment were found in the camp. As the G/O was the senior officer present he stayed at MAGEIBRA to receive messages by Wireless from the Commander of the Mobile Column at JEFFEIR retaining one Troop under Lieut KOCH for protection of the camp together with the M.G. section. The balance of the regiment (5 Troops) under Major PARSONS moved in support of the I.C.C. to BIR EL AWEIDIYA with instructions to.

## Confidential, War Diary

by Lieut-Col W. GRANT

c/o 11<sup>th</sup> L. H. Regt

DATE	PLACE	127
6-8-16	MAGEIBRA	<p>return in the evening to water the horses + to draw rations + forage. There are 9 wells at MAGEIBRA, + the Sertas left 3 pumps and about 20 small wooden buckets at the wells. There is a good supply of water here and the quality is good.</p> <p>The 4 Coys of the I.C.C (viz Nos 4, 6, 9 + 10) under Major de KNOOP gained touch with the enemy at 17.30 about 1 1/2 miles N.E of BIR EL AWEIDIYA (Reference Map QUATIA <math>\frac{1}{100,000}</math> C 18)</p> <p>Two Troops under Lieut STUMM + 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut HOFFMAN remained with the I.C.C + occupied a position for the night covering the well. The remainder of the Regiment under Major PARSONS returned to MAGEIBRA.</p> <p>CITY of LONDON Yeomanry arrived at 1800. Lieut KOCH's troop furnished the outposts with two other</p>

## Confidential, War Diary

of Lieut-Col W. GRANT

c/o 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt

DATE	PLACE	128
6/8/16	MAGEIBRA	<p>Troops held off as Enlying Picquet. Aeroplane dropped message at 18.30 giving information about enemy in the vicinity.</p>
7/8/16	MAGEIBRA	<p>Camel convoy with supplies arrived at 00.30. Rations + forage for 24 hours were issued at 3.30 + the horses watered. Moved at 05.30 for AWEIDIYA with the Light Horse + one squadron + the M.G section of the C of L. Yeomanry. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt CHARK of the C of L. Yeo. with one squadron remaining at the camp under 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt GRANT'S instructions to guard the camp and to send out a patrol of one Troop to the N.E to gain touch with the enemy. Arrived at AWEIDIYA at 07.15 and relieved the troops of Lieut STUMM + 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut HOFFMAN who were sent back to camp to draw their 24 hours rations + forage. They were ordered to return when this was completed.</p>

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of Lieut-Col. W. GRANT  
C/O 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt  
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PLACE DATE	PLACE	
7/8/16	BIR EL AWEIDIYA	These two Troops & the I.C.C. were on a high sand ridge running E and W about 3/4 mile N of the well at AWEIDIYA. They reported the enemy to be in a position on a high sand dune 3/4 mile S.E. of HOD EL MUHAMMAM and the lower slopes running N.E. from it. Pops were also observed on the high ground near HOD EL BAHEIR. I instructed the C. of T. Troop to attack on the south side of the enemy, with the Light Horse on their right facing N.W. and the I.C.C. to move to the N.E. and then N so as to come against his <del>rear</del> flank and rear and to join on to the other flank of the Light Horse. A message dropped from one of our planes at 07:10 assured me that no enemy were within 8 miles Eastward of AWEIDIYA, and as his front was too strong to be taken I

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DATE	PLACE	
7/8/16	BIR EL AWEIDIYA	decided to attack his flank rear. The enemy had two field guns, at least two machine guns and 250 rifles in action at this place. The action started at 10:50, and at 12:50 he finally retired having been driven out by the Light Horse who advanced altogether a mile on foot, & the presence of the I.C.C. who threatened his rear. at 12:30 four columns were seen retiring from the high ground near HOD EL BAHIER where they had expected to be attacked from the direction of MAGEIBRA & had the position carefully prepared. The pursuit was then taken up & 40 Turks were captured near BAHIER together with their rifles and a lot of equipment and S.A.A. We came into action with the enemy's rear guard at 14:30 near HOD EL DHAHEIHA. The I.C.C. arrived shortly afterwards and

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DATE	PLACE	
		131
7/8/16	HOD EL DHAHEIHA	<p>were deployed on the right of the Light Horse. The enemy was driven out of his first position and retired about 1/2 mile to the Northward where he made a determined stand. His strength was probably 4 field guns, 6 Machine guns and 1000 rifles.</p> <p>The C of I, Seamanery arrived on the scene of action at 15.30 + I ordered them to occupy the line on the right of the I.C.C. so as to get round the enemy's flank. They did not get into action until 16.15 after making a long advance on foot + mistaking No 4 Coy of the I.C.C. for the enemy. As they did not appear to be in a good position here I withdrew them and sent them 800 yards to the North so as to outflank the enemy. This movement was carried out satisfactorily.</p>

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of Lieut-Col W. GRANT  
C/O 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt

DATE	PLACE													
		132												
7/8/16	HOD EL DHAHEIHA	<p>The two Troops of the 11<sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt which had been sent to camp in the morning for supplies arrived at 17.00. These two Troops were put into the gap in the line between the I.C.C. and the C of I. Sec. and were instructed to cover the withdrawal of our force + act as rear guard. at 17.15 I ordered the force to withdraw at 17.45 but owing to the difficulty of evacuating the wounded caused by shortage of cacholes + medical arrangements in the I.C.C. the retirement could not be carried out until dusk. The rear-guard left at 19.30 after all the wounded had been evacuated.</p> <p>The total casualties in the force were</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Officers</td> <td>O. R's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>1</td> <td>37</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>3</u></td> <td><u>49</u></td> </tr> </table>		Officers	O. R's	Killed	2	12	Wounded	1	37		<u>3</u>	<u>49</u>
	Officers	O. R's												
Killed	2	12												
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	<u>3</u>	<u>49</u>												

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Lieut Colonel W. GRANT  
C/O 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt

DATE	PLACE	
7/8/16	133	
7/8/16	HOD EL DHAHEIHA	Our casualties were as follows -
		Killed
		No 148 L/Capt GLASBY, T.I.
		840 Sgt STEVENS H.R.
		850 " GIBBON H
		916 " BARRETT B.J.
		Wounded
		Capt + adjt ALEXANDER L.S.
		164 Sgt JACKSON P.S.
		750 " BOTT P.V.H.
	953 " SMITH A	
	354 " STEELE J.J.	
	Camp at MAGEIBRA was reached by the various units that night, but B Squadron under Major LEE did not arrive till next morning having stayed the night at the AWEIDIYA well.	
	Capt VERNON our M.O. stayed out all night with the wounded + went back from AWEIDIYA on the 8/8/16 to bring in a wounded man arriving in camp at 15.35 that day.	

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C/O 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt

DATE	PLACE	
	134	
8/8/16	MAGEIBRA	Brought the conduct of Capt VERNON under the notice of the G/O Mobile Column, and also that of Major LEE for the skillful way in which he led his squadron. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieut FARLOW was also mentioned for his dash and enterprise in capturing the 140 Turks. Capt ALEXANDER was also mentioned for the able manner in which he carried out his duties.
		Lieut MANNING'S Troop, which arrived the previous day from JEFFIER as escort to the G/O Mobile Column, was sent out to search the scene of action + bury the dead. He found that the Turks had retired in the night.
		The rest of the Regiment stayed in camp that day to rest + re-fit.
9/8/16		Hostile aeroplane dropped 3 large bombs on the camp which

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DATE	PLACE	135
9/8/16	MAGEIBRA	Stamped our passes which were watering at the time. 19 horses got away. 5 were caught the same day + 30 the following day at SIKARA. The regiment left Camp at 14.30 for HOD EL BAYUD with instructions to relieve the C of I. Tro. who had gone there in the morning. Arrived there at 18.30 and watered at the wells then returned to hill 286' where we camped with the C of I. Tro. + Nos 4 + 10 Coy of I.C.C.
10/8/16	HOD EL BAYUD	Sent a patrol of the I.C.C. to the S.E at 0500, and one Troop of Light Horse to the E, N.E + N respectively at the same time. These were instructed to return at 0800 + water their horses. At 05.50 instructions arrived from the C/O Mobile Column for the two Coy I.C.C. to move to HOD EL HOMOSSIA and for the Light Horse

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DATE	PLACE	136 QUATIA 100000 C.18 Reference Map SABKHET EL BARDAWIL 125000
10/8/16	HOD EL BAYUD	to follow in that direction when the horses were watered. We were further instructed to get in touch with the 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Brigade. The latter instructions were entrusted to the I.C.C. to carry out. The patrols sent to the S.E + E were re-called and the L.H. patrol to the N.E was picked up after the regiment had watered at the wells. The troop that went to the N under Lieut GEE searched HOD. EL HOMOSSIA and RÂS. The enemy were found to be occupying the high sand dunes about one mile N.E of RÂS. Touch was here gained with a member of the 8 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt who was one of a patrol sent out from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Brigade. Lieut GEE's troop returned to BIR EL BAYUD to water + was then ordered to follow the regiment to HOD UMWEIH EL GAMAL. The N.E patrol, one troop under Lieut KOCH

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DATE	PLACE	137
		Reference Map SABKHET EL BARDAWI 1:25000
10/8/16	GAMAL	observed 100 camels at 08.15 near HOD UMWEIH EL HIWU, T captured one Turk at GAMAL. Our screen was fired on from the hills North of HIWU at 08.40. The enemy snipers were driven back and at 09.40 we had gained the ridge W + N.W. of HIWU with the enemy in an entrenched position on the hills S.W. of MUSHALFAT. One squadron was engaged at this time with the other squadron + M. G. section in reserve. At 09.45 I sent an order to the two Coy I.C.C. who were at HOMOSSIA to join up on my left. This order was received by Major BARDWELL at 10.45 but he did not move up to my support until 11.00 although only two miles away. We were stelled by two field guns up to 10.30 when their fire ceased for some time. Rifle fire was heard on our left at 10.00

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DATE	PLACE	138
10/8/16	HIWU	and Machine Gun fire at 12.20 in the same direction. It was assumed that this came from the 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Bde, but No 4 Coy I.C.C. reported that it could not get touch with the former. at 15.30 I ordered B Squadron under Major C.A. LEE to move to the S.E. of MUSHALFAT to fire on the HOD at long range as parties were going there for water. at 16.25 the C. of I. Co arrived and relieved us of the line held by the Squadron under Major BAILEY. From 1600 the enemy's fire increased and he had evidently reinforced his line + had two field guns, 4 machine guns, about 1000 rifles in action. at 16.45, he advanced and tried to cut off B Squadron, + at the same time some camel men came from the North + fired into the flank + rear of the Squadron. The fire of two



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DATE PLACE 139

10/8/16 HILU troops of Major BAILEY'S Squadron was concentrated to cover the retirement of B Squadron which was skilfully carried out by Major TEE & his Troop Leaders. Lieut STUMM, KOCH, GEE & 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut FARLOW. The C of I, Sec. received orders to retire at 1700 and carried this out at the same time as the regiment withdrew. Some of our men were dismounted on a ridge in rear to cover the withdrawal of one Squadron of the C of I, Sec. In the retirement of Lieut GEE'S troop which was on the extreme right, their led horses were almost surrounded before they were moved & L<sup>t</sup> GEE & his men had to get away on foot. No 1307 Sgt GRAYFORD W.H. carried out & bandaged up Sgt MCKAY (since dead) after his horse & comrades had left & the enemy were almost upon him - finally

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DATE PLACE 140

10/8/16 BAYUD getting away on foot under heavy fire. The regiment retired to BAYUD - watering at the wells & then camping on the high ground to the south of them with the remainder of the Mobile Column. at dawn (04.45) it was noticed that the Turks were subterranean on the high ground North of the wells and about 1000 yards in front of the I.C.C. but Machine guns were the first to open fire on them & that stopped their digging. The I.C.C. lifted the sand dune on the right & their LEWIS guns did good work in enfilading the Turks. The C of I, Sec. held the ridge opposite the wells & sent one Squadron to our right which apparently did not come into action at all as it went to our right rear. Under orders from the C/O Mobile Column

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DATE	PLACE	141
11/8/16	BAYUD	One Squadron under Major BAILEY was sent to our left front with instructions to attack the enemy's right flank on the ridge in front of our position. This was done & the Squadron had worked up to 800 yards of his main position when orders were received at 0845 that if the enemy was not driven out by 0900 the column would retire to MAGEIBRA for water. The advance of the Squadron was therefore not pushed and they were afterwards withdrawn. Major LEE's Squadron covered the general retirement and left at 11.20. The Turks could be seen retiring before we left the vicinity of our camp but we had to go back for supplies. We had one casualty No 543 Sqr Lt MARCH <sup>G.F.</sup> was wounded. We moved to BAHIER where we watered & then moved to

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DATE	PLACE	142
11/8/16	MAGEIBRA	MAGEIBRA which was reached at 1800. Our casualties on the 10 <sup>th</sup> were killed No 315 Sqr MCKAY. I.F. Wounded No 248 Sgt BRODIE. R.W.F. 136 Sqr DUPPY D.H. 203 " ROSE J.F. 1426 " CROFT A.E. 1361 " RYAN J.W. 269 " EVANS J.H. 214 Cpl THISTLEWHITE G. Missing probably captured No 251 The CLARKE. J.
12/8/16	"	Sent patrol of 4 men at 0200 to AWEIDIYA & then to BAHIER, & then to camp to see if Turks were advancing. (This was in response to a wire from Section H.Q.). Patrol returned at 06.30 & reported all clear. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Light's FARLOW's troop moved out at 0500 for BAYUD with a Coy



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DATE	PLACE	145
15/8/16	MAGEIBRA	Aeroplane dropped 4 small bombs on camp at 06.50 - no damages. all horses & camels taken off the lines <sup>at 06.30</sup> and split up into small parties until aeroplane had passed. Lieut KOCH's troop sent to BADIEN to collect tools etc left by Turks at their camp. One section with two signallers posted on hill 48H' three miles south of camp.
16/8/16	"	Lieut MANNING's troop patrolled 7 miles to the southward & then returned via AYEIDIYA. No signs of enemy in that direction. Lieut BARTWETT's troop returned from BAYUD at 17.30
17/8/16	"	Moved to JEFFIER at 04.30 arrived there at 08.15. Only sufficient water to give one bucket to each horse. Left at 10.15 & arrived BADA at 11.30
18/8/16	BADA	Moved to FERDAN Railhead & arrived there at 10.00. Halted for 1 hour

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DATE	PLACE	146
18/8/16	FERDAN RAILHEAD	at MAHADAT and watered the horses. The C/O of the Mobile Column and staff returned at the same time. During these operations 3500 <sup>xxx</sup> S.A.A. were carried on mules for each of the two Maxim guns. It was found that the weight of the gun on the mule was too heavy in the soft sand, and although we had spare mules it was difficult to keep them up with the horses. 140 rounds S.A.A. were carried on the man, 50 in a spare bandolier round the horse's neck & 40 in the shoe-case. Total 230. No transport available for reserve ammunition for rifles. Reserve for M.G. carried on camels in S.A.A. column. 24 hours rations & forage were generally carried on the horse. The latter - one feed in nosebag & the balance in a sandbag on

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DATE	PLACE	147
12/8/16	FERDAN RAILHEAD	The pommel of the saddle. The LEWIS guns used by the I.C.C. did good work & could be used on some of the sand dunes that a maxim could not be fired on. The sand jammed them sometimes but often rifles jammed under the same conditions. The majority of the rifles that jammed were made at LITHGOW. The slide bar expands when heated & jams the bolt. The signalling gear was too heavy for the signaller's horse & was carried on a spare pack mule.

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Date	Place	148
19.8.16	FERDAN RAILHEAD	Lieut BRIERTY went to FERRY POST RAILHEAD to ascertain camp site, watering arrangements etc. Returned in afternoon Sent baggage (4 trucks) on Desert Railway to Lighter at FERDAN. Party, for whom <sup>5/0/R</sup> shoes were not available, were sent as loading party to proceed with lighter. Lighter left FERDAN about 1600 arrived FERRY POST about 1800
<u>20.8</u> <u>16</u>	FERDAN RAILHEAD	Regiment, less C Sqdn intact, left for FERRY POST RAILHEAD about 0550; arrived about 0815 after fairly heavy going through sand. Occupied site of C.L.Y. camp. DODINGTON met Brig. Gen. <del>DODINGTON</del> commanding B Subsection.

HRM

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of Lieut-Col W. GRANT  
C/O 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt A.I.F.

DATE	PLACE	149.
<u>21.8</u> <u>16</u>	FERRY POST RAILHEAD	Cleaning Camp, stables etc. Train arrived about 1200 with Regt baggage from Lighter Unloaded near stables. Tents pitched for all ranks. Patrol of INCO. 2 O/R sent to BIR MURRA, about 5 1/2 miles on bearing 216°, at 1630. Reported all clear on return about 2030.
<u>22.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	A Sgd <sup>tn</sup> under Major LOYNES detailed <del>for duty</del> to relieve 12 <sup>th</sup> LH. at HAGLEY PARK and DUNTRON. Capt COSTELLO with 2 troops under Lieut <u>H. STUMM</u> and Plt BARTLETT J.S. left for DUNTRON at 1300. Major LOYNES with 2 troops under Lieut <u>HUNTER</u> and Plt B. BEATON left for HAGLEY PARK about 1400.

HLM

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DATE	PLACE	150.
<u>22.8</u> <u>16</u>	FERRY POST RAILHEAD	BIR MURRA patrol left at 0600 all clear.
<u>23.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	BIR MURRA patrol left at 0630. all clear. Received instructions to draw horses from 3 <sup>rd</sup> LH. Troop Regt.
<u>24.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	Major PARSONS and Capt MUNRO, with 16 O/R proceeded to MOASCAR and drew 31 horses from 1 <sup>st</sup> LH Troop Regt. This was a mixed lot of horses, of poor stamp on average. BIR MURRA patrol left at 1600. all clear.
<u>25.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	Apperitioned horses M.G.S 1; HQS 8; A. 5; B9; C 8. Parties from 'A' & 'C' Sgd <sup>tns</sup> came in and took delivery here. BIR MURRA patrol 0615 all clear.

HLM

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C/O 11<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regt A.I.F.

DATE	PLACE	151
<u>26.8</u> <u>16</u>	FERRY POST RAILHEAD	<p><del>Capt</del> BIR MURRA patrol 0630 All clear Capt MUNRO with 35 O/R went in to MOASCAR to take delivery 68 Light Draught Horses @ 2359. Untrucked, watered &amp; fed before leaving.</p> <p>2 Troops of 12<sup>th</sup> LH under Lieuts HAYDON and BROWN, and CAPT. FETHERSTONHAUGH etc, arrived about 1700. Camped with us for the night.</p>
<u>27.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	<p>2 Troops of 12<sup>th</sup> LH, rationed and foraged by us, moved on to FERDAN en route to Mobile Column.</p> <p>Capt MUNRO returned from MOASCAR with 68 Light Draught Horses. Good average lot.</p> <p>Appportioned these horses to Squadrons HQs and MGS. A. &amp; C. Sod has sent over</p>

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DATE	PLACE	152
<u>27.8</u> <u>16</u>	FERRY POST RAILHEAD	<p>their mules, A 10; C 14 and took delivery of their draught horses in Gen, A 8; C 14, the balance of A. Spain draught horses remaining here BIR MURRA patrol 0600. all clear Lieut GEE with 25 O/R took in to MOASCAR and ISMAILIA 74 mules, which they trucked at ISMAILIA for BILBEIS General DALLAS, N<sup>o</sup> 2 SECTION, visited RAILHEAD BIR MURRA patrol 1600. All Clear visited front line with General DALLAS and Staff <del>C</del> who afterwards inspected the camp. Pay drawn for Regiment. BIR MURRA patrol 0615. All clear Lt KOCH returned from CAIRO</p>
<u>28.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	
<u>29.8</u> <u>16</u>	"	

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DATE	PLACE	
		153
<del>30-8</del> <del>16</del>	FERRY POST RAILHEAD	C/O left at 0930 for KANTARA Lewis Gun Classes arranged for 1 NCO 6 O/R of B. Sqdn with 1/1 HEREFORDS, DUNTRON. Correspondence received from 3rd L.H. Bde re formation of Australian Camel Regiments BIR MURRA patrol 0630. All clear
<del>31-8</del> <del>16</del>	" "	C/O interviewed G.O.C. ANZAC <del>Returned</del> MTD Div. with regard to formation of Camel Regiments
<del>31-8</del> <del>16</del>	" "	C/O returned from KANTARA at 1500, with Capt ALEXANDER reporting from Hospital BIR MURRA A Patrol 1630 All clear