

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/43/10 Part 1

**Title:** 5th Australian Light Horse Field  
Ambulance

May 1919



AWM4-26/43/10PART1



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

5th. Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance.

FOR

May

191<sup>9</sup>



Signature of Officer compiling

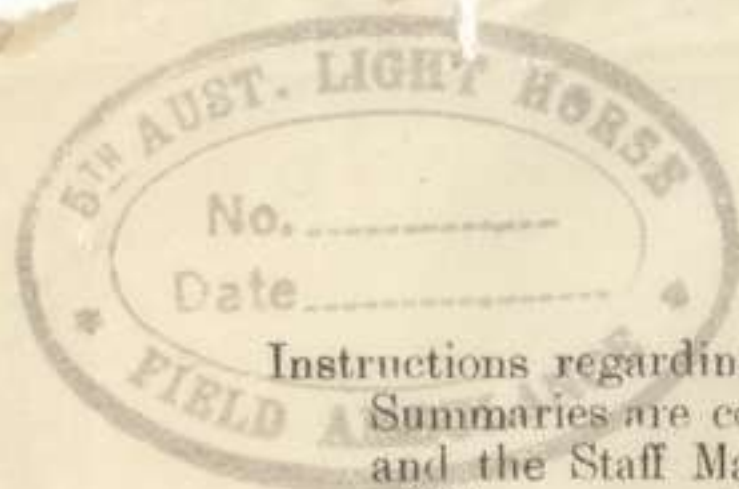
*J.H. Seecombe*

Lt. Colonel.

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J.H. Seecombe*

Lt. Col.



No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

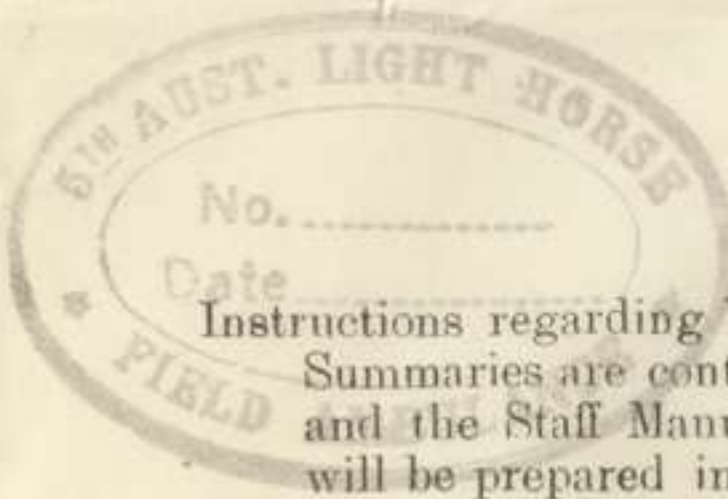
Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

# WAR DIARY OR INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOASCAR - ISMAILIA	May 1919		Strength:- 5 Officers (Lt Colonel S.H. Seccombe Captains G.S. Shipway, J.J. Kelly H/Captain G.M. F.H. Phillips and Captain A. Stephenson detached to Central Training Depot Moscow. attached 7 Lieut. H.V. Byth Educational Service. 71 other ranks 3 R Troop 4 Large Mules 1 G.S. Limber 1 G.S. Wagon. 14 Q.M. detached to Headquarters 5 <sup>th</sup> A.L. H. Bde. AIF Circular memo No 41 reference "Release from imprisonment before completion of sentence" read on parade. No 986, Sgt Duggan. A marched out to AIF HQ's. Cairo transferred to Educational Service A.I.F. Sgt/lt. "Accountancy Branch"	
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		A number of medical examinations & vaccinations carried out. Khamses blown; all day, & very unpleasant. Instructions from ADMS Ausdis. for RMO 14 Regt	JHS 2



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 1919	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Captain D. L. HOWELL to proceed to A.H.Q. Cairo forthwith for duty.	
			Captain W. G. H. TREGEAR posted as R.M.O. 14 Recon. vice HOWELL.	J.H.S.
ISMAILIA		3 <sup>rd</sup>	During the afternoon <del>the</del> a cricket match held against the Central Training Depot teams, Ambulance men in comfortably.	J.H.S.
MOASCAR		4 <sup>th</sup>	1 OR rejoined ex Hospital 26 <sup>th</sup> ISMAILIA (Duty). Final of Bridge Tournament held in Mess' mess Shed.	J.H.S.
MOASCAR		5 <sup>th</sup>	1 Heavy Ambulance Car T. 1 RASC MT Native Driver takes on strength.	J.H.S.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 19/19	6 <sup>th</sup>	During the morning several medical Boards held, also a number of vaccinations carried out.	J.H.S.
ISMAILIA	7 <sup>th</sup>		"Repatriation Benefits in Australia" read on parade. No 2527 Dr. O'NEIL. R.I.R. transferred to Res Camp Port Said for duty. "Recommended by ADMS Aussdis for position of ER Sqd AFMC Port Said". Very showery all day, but exceptionally pleasant during the evening.	J.H.S.
MARSA MATRUH	8 <sup>th</sup>		Application called for the Brigade R.O's 3 Clubs for Audit Sects A HQ Cairo. 392 recommended. No 16913 Ser HUTTON, M. and No 16854 Cpl Thomson J.S.M. marched out to 17. Details pending embarkation 109. Leave U.K. retained here for duty.	J.H.S.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 1919		Personnel of unit vaccinated against Small pox.	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		1 QR transferred to Audit Section AHQ Cairo.	J.H.S.
	10 <sup>th</sup>		6 QR Drivers rejoined at 5 <sup>th</sup> L & 3rd HQ's Educational Unit Table of 75 <sup>th</sup> Division received & opportunity given to all ranks to attend classes.	J.H.S.
	11 <sup>th</sup>		Demobilisation A.I.F. summary fortnightly figures ending 30/4/19 explained to all ranks by C.O.	J.H.S.
	12 <sup>th</sup>		2 QR transferred to Audit Section AHQ Cairo. Memo re erecting of Fungac Memorial in Egypt read on parade & explained by C.O.	J.H.S.
	13 <sup>th</sup>		1 QR detached to Ker Street GAZIRESH to collect unit Records.	J.H.S.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ENGLAND	May 1919		1912 rejoined at Ken Street GAZIASH.	
	14 <sup>th</sup>		N: 16846 T/Cpl POLLARD A.M. promoted Corporal. Educational Books for free distribution 10 Agriculture Victorian 2 Studies on Social Problems. Education. Notice received from S. L. 3 de 279	
			1912 suitable as instructor to be detailed to attend Instructor's course "Internal Combustion Engines" N: 4630 Pte GOURLAY H.C.E. recommended.	H.S.
MASCARA	15 <sup>th</sup>		3912. to Jerusalem special leave. In future <sup>men</sup> proceed to Somalia on leave may travel in motor lorries (4) which have been placed at the disposal of Aussis.	H.S.
	16 <sup>th</sup>		Memo from D.D.M.S. A.I.F. Success of H/Capt. G.M. Phillips required for 2 days duty at A.I.F. Cairo	H.S.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 1919	16 <sup>th</sup>	information required for the history of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. 7. ambulance.	<u>WHS</u>
			Capt. G. S. Shipway to be Major temp. as from 7/5/19	<u>WHS</u>
			Amb: - A.A.G. A.I.F.	
	17 <sup>th</sup>		192 to A Details leave U.K. Debaty Society formed opening Debate at 10.15 hrs this day. Subject "Is the present policy of "White Australia" in the best interests of Australia?" C.O. occupied the Chair.	<u>WHS</u>
	18 <sup>th</sup>		The Ambulance team played HQ's Australian Mounted Division results in a win for the Ambulance by 60 runs.	<u>WHS</u>





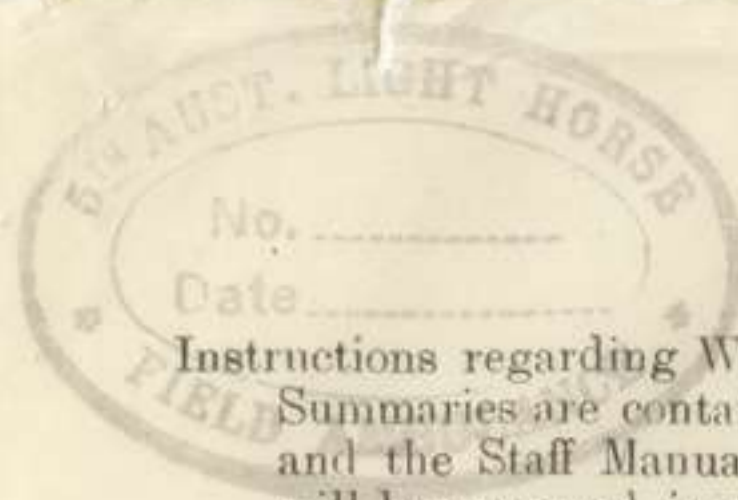
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 19 1919		H/ Capt. & Q.M. Phillips F.F. proceeded to A149 Camp	<u>JHS</u>
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Khamseer blow; all morning; clearing up during the afternoon.	<u>JHS</u>
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Personnel sleeping tents struck for two hours. Memo from A.D.M.S. Australia Mr. Devin in reply to protest lodged re Non-Combatant personnel detailed for Guard duty see appen. I	<u>JHS</u>
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		A.I.F. Circular memo re despatches of cables read on parade.	<u>JHS</u>
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		Several Medical Boards held. Remount units and Divisional Train.	<u>JHS</u>



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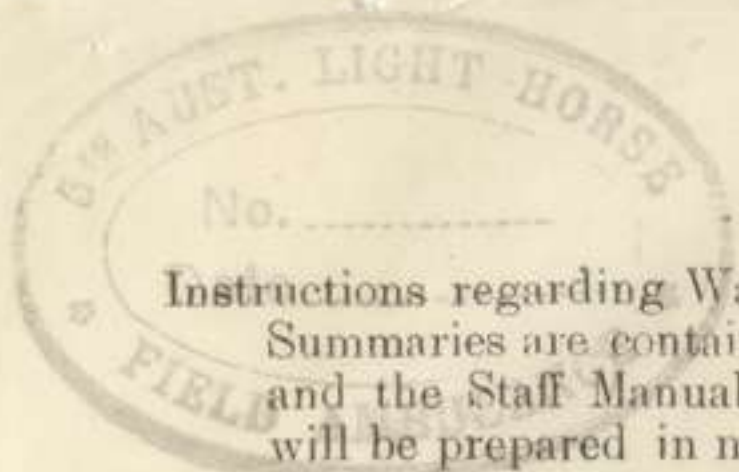
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 1919			
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		H/Capt & QM F.H. Phillips rejoined ex A.H.Q. Cairo. 1 OTR to A.B. Depot for early repatriation Aust.	HL
MORSEAR - ISMAILIA	24 <sup>th</sup>		Captain K. A. STEPHENSON D 2 OTRs rejoined X C.T.D. Mozambique. 1 OTR sick to hospital. Demobilisation A.I.F. Letters from A.D.G. to D.G. London re situation in Egypt read on parade & posted in mess hut. Educational Services List of students successful in examinations promulgated in Routine Orders See appen. II	HL
	25 <sup>th</sup>		2 OTRs to A.B. Depot Mozambique leave UK.	HL
	26 <sup>th</sup>		1 OTR duty A.H.Q. Cairo. weather excellent	HL
	27 <sup>th</sup>		several medical boards (536 completed)	HL
	28 <sup>th</sup>		unit personnel inoculated against cholera	HL

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May 1919	1 9 <sup>th</sup>	proceeded to Port Said on Non - military Duty.	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		6 OR's leave JERUSALEM. Univ inoculations T.A.B.	H.S.
	30 <sup>th</sup>		1 OR Drives to 5 <sup>th</sup> Brigade HQ's main G.S. Shipway & 1 OR proceeded under instruction from ADMS Jerusalem to 15 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. & 14 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. to complete A.I.F. Forms 536. 1 OR rejoined at Cairo No: 16956 Pte DUNSTAN L.C. and No: 20108 Pte SIMS A.E. promoted T/corporal Educational Services 28/4/19.	H.S.
	31 <sup>st</sup>		Additional 3% leave U.K. application called for 3% leave approved Cairo 72 hours clear in Cairo. 1 OR rejoined ex Desert Res. Camp Port Said.	H.S.

H. Secombe Col



# WAR DIARY

OF

~~5th. Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance.~~

FOR

May 1919

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1   | Reply to letter forwarded to A.D.M.S. Ausdiv. re<br>Non-Combatant personnel performing "Combatant"<br>Duties. |
| 2   | Educational Services.   |
| 3   | Hospital Admissions and Discharges for month ending<br>31/5/19.   |
| 4   | Quartermasters Department.  |

*S. Steele*  
Lt. Colonel.  
Commanding 5th. Aust. L.H. F. Amb.

COPY

I



A. D. M. S.

AUS-DIV.

Reference attached file, it is considered that Brig. General Grant's (temporary commanding the A.M.D.) ruling is incorrect, and the procedure as laid down therein should not be worked on.

The drivers are A.A.M.C. the ruling given in this office 31/1 refers to the drivers of an Imperial Unit who are detached from the R.A.S.C. to the R.A.M.C.

Under the circumstances existing at the time of the subject detail, and the necessity of detailing the most available personnel it would seem somewhat necessary to depart from a hard and fast rule, to carry out orders as expeditiously as possible, as was done by the G.O.C. 5th L.H.Bde.

Signed.

A. Norris. Major.

for A.A.& Q.M.G. A.M.D.

19th May 1919



Copy.

To.

A.D.M.S.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

The Commander of the 5th A.L.H.Bde was quite within his rights in ordering the Guard in question. The C.O. of the 5th A.L.H.F.Ambulance is wrong in his statement about the drivers. These transport drivers and the transport sergeant do not belong to the A.A.M.C., But to the A.A.S.C., and are only attached to a Field Ambulance from the Divisional Train, and are combatants.

This is not the time to raise arguments about how men should be employed, as it may even be necessary to arm non-combatants in the event of a rising of the Natives, and it is the duty of everyone to loyally carry out the orders of superior authority.

22nd April 1919

Signed.

W. GRANT Brig.General  
Commanding AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.



Australian Mounted Division

Attached herewith is a copy of wire received from 5th L.H. Brigade this day.

The instructions contained therein has been carried out but it is considered necessary that a ruling be obtained as to the legality of this order, as an important principle is involved.

The execution of this order has produced the following anomalies:-

- (1) A non-combatant non-commissioned officer, untrained in the use of arms, is in command of 2 ambulance drivers and has 2 combatant privates drawn from Brigade H.Q. under him.
- (2) The ambulance drivers are non-combatants, trained only in the handling of a rifle and not in its use.
- (3) They possess no side-arms.
- (4) The N.C.O. is liable to punishment for failure to carry out properly a duty in which he has received no training.

The drivers of an Ambulance are armed with rifles in order that they may be able to protect their patients should occasion arise. They are non-combatants, wearing the Geneva Cross.

It is submitted that the use of ambulance personnel for guard and sentry (outside their own Unit) is inadvisable and contrary to Army practice.

It is not unusual, on the other hand for a Medical Unit to call on a combatant Unit for protection.

May this be referred to the authority competent to give a definite ruling as to army regulation and practice on the subject and the bearing of the Geneva Convention thereon.

(Sgd)

C. LOWTHER CLARKE  
Lt.Col.

C.O. 5th L.H.F. Ambulance.

16-4-19



Educational Service Department.

Report on work carried out in the 5th. L. H. F. Ambulance for month - ending 31/5/19.

During the last week of April the unit came under the influence of the A.I.F. Educational Scheme.

Sec. Lieut. H.V. Byth "B.A.", Educational Officer A.A.M.C. of Australian Mounted Division marched in on 25th. April, and formed a School which has been going successfully up to the time of writing.

The scheme allows for the appointment of one Sergeant and two Corporals in each Field Ambulance for Educational work. Pte. Bainbridge T. ( No. 18857 ) was promoted T/Sergeant, teaching general subjects. No. 16956 Pte. Dunstan L.G and No. 20108 Pte. Sims A.E. were promoted T/Corporals and have been teaching Book-Keeping and Mathematics respectively.

Men who enroll themselves in any classes attend whenever they can be spared from duties. The Scheme provides for the continuation of classes during the voyage to Australia. Total enrolment at time of writing is 36. The present curriculum includes English, History, Geography, Book-Keeping, Shorthand, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Mensuration, Trigonometry, French, German, Latin and Greek.

It is proposed to give instruction in Internal Combustion Engines during the voyage to Australia, and Pte. Gourlay H.C.G. has been nominated for an instructor's course in the 2nd. Signal Sqdn. A.E., and has now completed this course.

Lectures have been given on two occasions during the month by W.O. Postlethwaite on Vet. Surgery, and once by Pte. Gourlay on Horticulture. In connection with the school a Debating Society has been formed, Lt.Col. S.H. Seccombe being elected President, Major Shipway and Capt. Phillips Vice-Presidents and Sgt. Bainbridge Secretary.

Three very satisfactory debates on " White Australia ", " Total Prohibition ", and " Are Australians too fond of Sport ", have been held, the President taking the Chair at the first debate. Meetings are held on Saturday mornings.

Examinations are held periodically and the four best papers in each subjects are sent to the Director, Educational Service, A.I.F. H.Q.s Cairo, the names of successful candidates appearing in Divisional Routine Orders.

H.V. Byth Sec. Lieut. Educational Service Aust. Mtd. Division.



List of Students successful in Examinations. 5th. L. H. F. Amb.

Week-Ending 16.5.19.

History.  
 No. 18191 Pte. Taylor Y.R.H.  
 " 16885 " Barrett C.  
 " 20106 " Suters A.R.  
 " 3117 " Murray J.

Trigonometry.  
 " 20108 Pte. Sims A.E.

Geometry.  
 " 16911 Sgt. Bradley R.A.  
 " 16968 Pte. Kenihan G.R.

French.  
 " 16842 Sgt. Axelsen E.  
 " 17579 S/" Daniel B.J.  
 " 18188 Cpl. Pittman C.F.

Algebra - Higher Class.  
 " 16968 Pte. Kenihan G.R.  
Algebra - Lower Class.  
 " 16885 Pte. Barrett C.  
 " 16953 " Fiddes R.R.F.  
 " 16965 Dvr. Dalling H.

Shorthand.  
 " 16911 Sgt. Bradley R.A.  
 " 16885 Pte. Barrett C.

English.  
 " 18191 Pte. Taylor Y.R.H.  
 " 16885 " Barrett C.  
 " 18188 Cpl. Pittman C.F.  
 " 20106 Pte. Suters A.R.  
 " 16965 Dvr. Dalling H.  
 " 16873 Pte. Garrity J.B.

Book-Keeping.  
 " 18188 Cpl. Pittman C.F.  
 " 3117 Pte. Murray J.  
 " 2616 " Hutchison L.W.J.

Arithmetic.  
 " 20106 Pte. Suters A.R.  
 " 16885 " Barrett C.  
 " 16911 Sgt. Bradley R.A.  
 " 16965 Dvr. Dalling H.





5th L.H.F. AMBULANCE. III

List of Admissions and Discharges  
for month of MAY. 1919.  
-----000-----

Admissions.		Transfers.		Discharged to Duty.					
Officers	O/R's Total	Officers	O/R's Total	Officers	O/R's Total				
1	-	-	-	-	-				
2	-	1	1	-	-				
3	-	-	-	-	-				
4	-	1	1	-	-				
5	-	-	-	-	-				
6	-	2	2	-	-				
7	-	-	-	-	-				
8	-	-	-	-	-				
9	-	2	2	-	-				
10	-	2	2	-	-				
11	-	-	-	-	-				
12	-	-	-	-	-				
13	-	1	1	-	-				
14	-	1	1	-	-				
15	-	2	2	-	-				
16	-	1	1	-	-				
17	-	1	1	-	-				
18	-	1	1	-	-				
19	-	-	-	-	-				
20	-	1	1	-	-				
21	-	-	-	-	-				
22	-	1	1	-	-				
23	-	1	1	-	-				
24	-	3	3	-	-				
25	-	1	1	-	-				
26	-	2	2	-	-				
27	-	3	3	-	-				
28	-	1	1	-	-				
29	-	2	2	-	-				
30	-	1	1	-	-				
31	-	2	2	-	-				
TOTAL.	-	33	<del>10</del> 33	-	19	19	-	12	12.

17



Quartermasters

Department.

Month-Ending 31/5/19.

IV

Rations.

The supply and quality of rations on issue to Units in Moascar is quite insufficient. If it were not for the liberal use of Regimental Funds, and Canteen Rebates for purchases of food stuffs, there would not be sufficient food to go round. Potatoes, were not issued for the past 20 days and nothing allowed in lieu of them, and the stocks arriving at present are very poor and small. Vegetables fresh have been very short in supplies and poor quality. Leeks with 50 % of tops unfit for use, Beetroot and Marrows which when cleaned for cooking show very little amount eatable.

Tea. The quality of tea has been very bad and has been continuously condemned by the Medical Officer and destroyed, but the same quality is still issued. Tinned Stores Milk and Jam on issue appears to have been stocked in the sun for some long period, and are unfit for use in a large number of cases. Altogether it appears as if the remainder of the Dumps were being cleaned up and issued to troops, without any prior examination of the quality of stocks.

Equipment & Clothing.

The Mobilisation Store Table has been completed and sent on to Cairo. Clothing Stores ~~xxx~~ arrive in sufficient quantity except Boots A.B. and Hats Felt. The sizes mostly in demand 6 & 7 for Boots are unobtainable in Egypt and the only Hats available are size 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ .

Camp Equipment.

Mess Huts and Sheds have been repaired with matting drawn from the Engineers by the unit.

Comforts Fund

and Red Cross, have sent cases of stores for the use of the unit personnel and patients respectively. These stores have helped to ~~break~~ great deal to break the monotony of army issues of Food and Clothing.

Educational

Tables, Stools and extra Camp Equipment have also been drawn to equip classes held under the Educational Scheme.

Hon. Captain & Quartermaster,

5th. Australian Light Horse Field Amb.