

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/16/13

Title: 11th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

October 1916

WAR DIARY

by Lieut Col W GRANT.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

of 11th ALH Regt AIF.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ROAD-HEAD, SERAPEUM.	1/10/16.		Capt VERNON AAMC. returned from leave.	
	2/10/16		AIF orders in Egypt received. Authority for formation of Camel Corps.	
	6/10/16.		11th ALH Regt to be 1st Camel's Regt without change in personnel or organization.	
	7/10/16.		Lieut MARSLAND and 22 of ranks sent to SIDI BISCH (change of AIF Camp.	
			Received orders to move Regt (less unfit horses & men and transport) to FERDAN.	
			Patrols relieved by BIKANIR Camel Corps at Land's End. and by Artillery at HILL 580. by 1500 today.	
			Lieut STUMM C.P. left in charge of details.	
			Parade State today shows 24 officers 562 of Ranks. Animals 522 Rides 77 L Draughts 6 packs.	
	8-10-16		The Regiment less (C Squadron) marched from SERAPEUM ROADHEAD at 0800. Halted at noon at FERRY POST RailHd to water and feed. and then moved on to FERDAN RailHead arriving there at 0700. Distance marched 15 miles. joined up with "C" Squadron who had been stationed there.	

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C/o 11th A.L.H. Regt
A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FERDAN RAIL HEAD	9-10-16		<p>The Regiment left FERDAN RAILHEAD at 0815. Strength 24 officers + 437 ranks. 474 horses and 10 mules. 1/2 Maxim Gun Detachment of the 160th Brigade (8 guns) marched with the Regt. The City of LONDON YEOMANRY also formed part of the column. All units of the column were placed under the command of Lieut Col. GRANT until BAYUD was reached. Halted at MAHADAT for 2 hours to water and feed. & then moved to BADA which was reached at 1630.</p>	
BADA	10-10-16		<p>2nd Lt GORDON and 25 ranks of C Squadron were left at BADA to hold the post and relieved a troop of the 12th ALH who were stationed there. Major C. A. LEE returned to FERDAN under instructions from the ANZAC Mtd DIVISION to take command of the 4th AUSTRALIAN CAMEL Regt. The column left BADA at 0730 and arrived at MAGEIBRA at 1315. Distance marched 15 miles.</p>	
MAGEIBRA	11-10-16		<p>2nd Lieut BRIERTY & 25 ranks were left at JEFFEIR to hold that post and relieve a Troop of the 12th ALH who were there. Column left MAGEIBRA at 0715 and arrived at BAYUD at 1130. Distance marched 10 miles.</p>	
BAYUD	12-10-16		<p>Major Genl A. G. DALLAS C.B. C.M.G. and staff arrived at 1630. Rested horses in bivouac. Fatigue parties supplied to fill fantasses & arrange loads of forage for camel transport.</p>	

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BAYUD	12.10.16		<p>7 men and horses were left at BAYUD and the Regiment marched out 400 all ranks. 430 horses and 10 mules.</p> <p>The column left BAYUD in two echelons. - No 1 at 1700. No 2 at 1800.</p> <p>No 1 echelon under Lieut Col. W. GRANT. 11th A.L.H. comprised the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/4 City of LONDON YEOMANRY. 11th A.L.H. 12th A.L.H. 1/2 MAXIM GUN DETACHMENT 160th Brigade. LEWIS GUN DETACHMENT 160th Brigade. <p>No 2 echelon under Major LANGLEY Co. 1st BATTⁿ I.C.C. was composed as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st BATTⁿ I.C.C. (less 1 Company). Mobile R.E. Detachment. SECTION HONGKONG + SINGAPORE Mountain Battery. R.F.C. Report Centre. Mobile SIGNAL UNIT. WIRELESS TELEGRAPH SECTION. MOBILE MEDICAL UNIT. S.A.A. Column. CAMEL TRANSPORT CONVOY. 	

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C/o 11th ALH Regt
A. I. F.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ZAGADAN.	14-10-16		<p>Arrived ZAGADAN at 0010 and bivouacked in a hollow so as not to be observed by the enemy who were known to have an observation post on EL RAKWA (Sq D 12). The information about the enemy is that the strength is 450 with 7 machine guns and 6 field guns. Operation order No 2 states the intention of the G.O.C is to operate against the enemy occupying BIR EL MAGHARA and the area in the immediate neighbourhood, to destroy his stores, well equipment and ammunition dump; to capture his guns and to remove or destroy his telegraphic stores, lines and equipment.</p> <p>On completion of the operation the FORCE will retire from the MAGHARA HILLS before dark and bivouac for the night in the vicinity of RAKWA.</p> <p>The FORCE will operate on the following general plan. The enemy's posts on RAKWA and BARGA will be captured before 0300 without fire action if possible and any telegraph wires will be cut and these places will be held. The remainder of the force less right and left flanking detachments and escorts detailed later will operate in two columns as follows:-</p> <p>The Right Column will demonstrate against the enemy holding the passes up the WADI MASHASH BARBVR. the main</p>	<p>Ref Map. SHEET H 36 J1</p> <p>J.14.</p> <p>I 13. J 13 H 12.</p> <p>D 12 G 13</p> <p>H 13.</p> <p>BARGA</p>

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A.I.F.

Army Form C. 2118. 980

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAYVD	14-10-18		<p>BARGA. BIR EL MAGHARA ROAD and the WADI SAFAT HAMEID.</p> <p>The left Column will turn the East flank of the passes referred to and will gain the high ground overlooking BIR EL MAGHARA 1849 - 1581. The right column will not enter the passes until the points just referred to are in our hands.</p> <p>Special instructions were issued to O/C Commanding Right and Left Columns and Officer Commanding detachment.</p> <p>The composition of the column will be as follows-</p> <p>(a) <u>RIGHT COLUMN.</u> Lieut-Col. W GRANT. 11th ALH in command. 11th A.L.H. 2 Maxim Guns 160th BRIGADE. Signal DETACHMENT. R.E. party for destructional purposes. Advanced Dressing Station.</p> <p>(b) <u>LEFT COLUMN.</u> Brig General S.F. MOTT in command. 4 City of LONDON YEOMANRY. with 2 Maxim Guns 160th Bde 12th ALH (less 1 troop), with 2 Maxim Guns 160th Bde Four LEWIS Guns 160th Bde. SIGNAL Detachment. R.E. Party for destructional purposes. Advanced DRESSING Station.</p>	<p>Sheet 1136 51 J13.</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAYUD	14-10-16		<p>Composition of COLUMN (continued).</p> <p>(c). <u>RIGHT FLANK Guard.</u> One Company Imperial Camel Corps under special instructions.</p> <p>(d). <u>LEFT FLANK Guard.</u> $\frac{1}{2}$ Company Imperial Camel Corps under special instructions.</p> <p>(e). <u>ZAGADAY.</u> $\frac{1}{2}$ Company Imperial Camel Corps.</p> <p>(f). <u>RESERVE.</u> G. O. C. and Staff. 1 Troop, 12th A.L.H. Detachment R.E. WIRELESS TELEGRAPH Section. Signal Detachment. Section HONGKONG & SINGAPORE Battery. $\frac{1}{2}$ Companies I.C.C. RAMC Special detachment. S.A.A. Column.</p> <p>(g). <u>Camel Convoy.</u> With escort 1 Company I.C.C.</p>	

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ZAGADAN	14.10 <u>16</u>		<p>The Column left ZAGADAN at 1900, the Right Column in front, with A Squadron of the 11th A.L.H. Regt. as Advance Guard. Capt GOLDENSTED of the 1st Bn. I.C.C. acted as guide as far as RAKWA</p> <p>A Squadron was detached to surround RAKWA and capture anyone on it. This was carried out, but no enemy were found there. When near RAKWA a dense fog descended on the column which had to halt until it cleared. The fog lifted at 0500, and the Right and Left Columns moved on from the southern point of EL RAKWA (1410) in a S.E. direction. The fog settled down again and it was very thick when the columns reached the WADI EL MASAGID at 0600. Several shots were fired as the head of the column reached the WADI, probably by Bedouins, which warned the Troops of our approach. Owing to the density of the fog it was impossible to locate the exact position of the pass, so the Column was retired to a position behind a sand dune, north of the WADI EL MASAGID and two troops of B Squadron were sent forward to reconnoitre. These troops captured 7 Troops and 4 Bedouins at the foot of the hills.</p> <p>(St.)</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI EL MASAGID	15.10 <u>16.</u>		<p>It was learned from these prisoners that all the field guns had been removed to EL ARISH and that the Germans had four machine guns in the position.</p> <p>In consultation with the Commander of the Left Column (Brig-Gen. S.F. MOTT), it was decided that the original order of the G.O.C. could not be carried out and a message was sent to him to that effect. He approved of the change of plan, which was that the Right Column should attack the hills to the right of the pass (i.e. hills 1046, 1121, and 1211), and the Left Column attack up the slopes of 935, on the left of the pass. The fog lifted just as the troops moved across the flat to the foot of the hills to attack.</p> <p>At this time Lieut. GEE'S Troop was some distance up the pass, and it had to gallop back under fire from Machine Guns. B. Squadron galloped to the foot of Hill 1121, and went up it dismounted.</p> <p>C Squadron and the M.G. Section, and 2 guns of the 160th Bde. M.G. Coy went to the hill N.W. of the latter.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The)</p>	<p>Ref. Map NORTH H 36 <u>J.I.</u></p>

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HADI EL MAGAGID	15.10 16		<p>The Machine Guns drove the enemy out of his Sangars on Hills 1121 and 1211 and enabled B. Squadron to advance up 1121. C. Squadron meantime cleaned Hill 1046. The Section of the HONGKONG and SINGAPORE Battery shelled the crests of these hills and shot very accurately.</p> <p>At 0930 A. Squadron rejoined after clearing RAKWA, and were held in reserve at the foot of the hill N.W. of 1121.</p> <p>The Left Column advanced partly up the slopes of 935 in conjunction with the movement of the Right Column, but as the Commander saw that it was impracticable to carry the almost impassable slopes in the time allowed for, he wired to the G.O.C. and was ordered to retire. This order was also received by the Right Column at 1000, so no steps were taken to press the attack further. The positions were held till a badly wounded man no 308 Ipr LESWELL of B. Squadron was brought down the hill, and during this wait 4 unwounded and 1 wounded Ipr were taken from the Sangar on top of the hill by Major PARSONS (The).</p>	

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WADI EL MASAGID	15.10 <u>16.</u>		<p>The Right Column was clear of the field of action by 1200. The whole Column moved for the dump which had been established at 1300 on the N.W. end of RAKWA, and the horsemen who were last reached there at 1600 and then watered.</p> <p>Our aeroplanes bombed MAGHARA throughout the morning. One Coy I.C.C. (12th) occupied G. EL LAGAMA BARGA. A section of I.C.C. was sent from RAKWA to G. EL LAGAMA during the morning. The latter remained the same evening, after engaging some Bedonins, but the former held their position until the Column moved the following day. Our casualties were No 808 Spr LESWELL J. died of wounds; and No 4 Qdr Room Sgt. NUTTING G.W. wounded in neck; also two horses killed.</p>	
RAKWA ZAGADAN	16.10 <u>16</u>		<p>Left RAKWA at 0930 in two echelons, - Horses, and Camels. 12th A.L.H. formed Rear Guard, and arrived at ZAGADAN at 1230.</p>	(left)

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ZAGADAN and BAYOUD	17-10 <u>16</u>		<p>Left ZAGADAN at 0830, and arrived at BAYOUD at 1300. The Regiment acted as Rear Guard to the Column. The whole of the water and supplies for the 14th, 15th, 16th and 17th had to be carried on camels from BAYOUD and a dump was made one day in advance at ZAGADAN. 6 gallons of water per horse and 1 gallon per man were provided, and this proved ample for the requirements. 20 lbs. of compressed forage were issued for the horses and they showed very well on it. 230 rounds of S.A.A. in addition to 2/3 of a day's ration and forage, overcoat and men's blanket were carried on the horses.</p>	
BAYOUD	18-10 <u>16</u>		<p>The Column rested in bivouac at BAYOUD. G.R.O. G.R.O. no of 13.10.16 list 213 was containing received here, containing the name of Capt. G.H. VERNON A.A.M.C., M.O. of this Regt. awarded the Military Cross.</p>	(Major-Gen)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAYOUD MAGEIBRA	19.10 <u>16</u>		<p>Major-General DALLAS and Staff left for NEGILIAT. The Column, less H.Q., No 1 Bn. ICC, Nos 4, 6, and 12 Cos. ICC, moved to MAGEIBRA in two echelons, under the command of Lieut-Col W. GRANT. No 1 Echelon (horses) moved at 0830 and arrived MAGEIBRA at 1230. No 2 Echelon (Camels) arrived later.</p> <p>Two messengers were sent to NEGILIAT from BAYOUD and they returned to MAGEIBRA in the evening with the ballot papers for the Referendum re Consecration in AUSTRALIA.</p>	
BADA	20.10 <u>16</u>		<p>No 2 Echelon (Camels) left at 0800. No 1 Echelon (Horses) left at 0745, and arrived at BADA at 1330. Took ballot in the afternoon. Received orders from No 2 Section that the whole Regt. was to move to A Subsection on the 22nd.</p> <p>Withdrawn post from JEFFIER. The post at BADA was also withdrawn, and the place evacuated. Left BADA at 0830, and arrived at FERDAN Railhead</p>	(at)

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FERDAN Railhead	21.10 16		at 15.30, after halting at MAHADAT for 2 hours to water and feed. Handed over 18 prisoners to C. Subsection Column disbanded and the units separated.	
SERAPEUM ROADHEAD	22.10 16		The Regiment moved from FERDAN Railhead to SERAPEUM Roadhead. Marching in strength 22.00 hrs. 468 O/R's total strength 23.00 hrs 579 O/R's all the horses that went out on the expedition were ridden home, except two that were killed in action.	
	23.10 16		General Routine work. Det Two troops of A Squadron under Capt Costello, Lieuts Mayle and Hunter went on to Hand's End, relieving Bikarika C. C. detachment there, taking over posts previously manned by us.	
	23.10 16		General Routine work. Intermediate No 2 Post, and No 3 Post were relieved by us, relieving Bikarika Camel Camps Det and Artillery detachments.	
	24.10 16		General Routine work. Bika	

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SERRAPEUM ROADHEAD	25.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine work. Inspection of Camp, Houses etc. by General Sir A. J. MURRAY KCB. KCMG. CVO. DSO. C. in C. E.E.F. Complimentary message from Major-Gen. DALLAS re C-in-C's inspection, expressing himself as highly pleased with all he saw.	
	26.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine work. Exercising houses.	
	27.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine work. Major Parsons, Major Bailey, Capt Alexander and Capt Costello, left for mounted officers course at School of Instruction, Zeitoun. Lieut. Mansland took over duties of Adjutant.	
	28.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine work, exercising houses etc.	
	29.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine work. Conf. Church Service at 1930. Hon Capt + Mr. Keringsham returned from hospital.	
	30.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine work. Meeting of officers at Subsection Headquarters re Sports meeting. C/O & Sgt Hoffmann represented this Regiment. C/O left at 1800 by car on leave to Cairo, Major Hoynes taking command of the Regiment during C/O's absence.	

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SERAPEUM ROADHEAD	31.10 <u>16</u>		General Routine Work, exercising horses etc. Enemy aircraft reported from the Pole (B. Subsection) at 1030, flying S.W. to This aeroplane was not seen here.	

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