

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/17/18**

**Title: 12th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

September 1918



Secret

WAR DIARY

Duplicate

For September From 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> 1918.

12<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment



W. J. Cole  
Commanding 12 LH Regt. ~~139~~



Confidential

War Diary September 1918 Page 1.

Date	Place	Time	Remarks	Remarks
1-9-18	RICHMOND O.S. Coy. C.S.S.	0500	Reveille	
		1130	Church Parade	
		1300	2 Officers Marched in from Schools	
		1530	Australian Mail Arrived	
		1530	Meeting of all Officers to discuss training.	
2-9-18		0400	Rivets for Hutchkin Gunners	
		0500	Reveille	
		0545	Hutchkin Gunners left under Lt Wright for range	
		1500	Practicals usual training carried out during day	
		1500	9.0 C. A. M. C.O. & Adj. went to rifle range	
3-9-18		0500	Reveille	
		1600	Parades carried out as per syllabus	
		1600	A.D.M.S. inspected area and gave an excellent report same	
		1900	Lecture by M.O. on V.D.	
		0500	4th Brigade concert party entertained troops of Brigade	
4-9-18		0500	Reveille	
		0600	Lt Steep & 10 K sent to practice Popham Point	
		0700	50 Reinforcements arrived from Moascar	
		0400	Reveille for range practice	
5-9-18		0600	Regiment moved off Rifle Range & commenced shooting at 0.745	
		1630	Finished 3 practices, shooting was very poor	

Presley Capt Adj. 13/13

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Remarks

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
6 9 1918	Orange Grove Reckan	0750	Reveille for the
		0750	Tactical scheme carried out for troops till 0930
		1000	Watered Horses
		1400	G.O.C. evacuated ill. Lt Col Boucher DSO assumed Temp Command Bde
7 9 18		0500	Reveille
		1000	Instruction in Chuko practice at well W Ludd 3 1/2
		1300	2 officers and 340/4 arrived from Moscow
		1400	1 officer + 340/4 on Demolition practice
8 9 18		0500	Reveille
		1130	Church Parade
		1300	New Syllabus of training week ending 14 Sept
		0500	Reveille
9 9 18		0800	Sword Drill, Regimental Drill & Manoeuvre G.O.C. Direction with Bde Staff saw the best at drill
		1400	Chubero Inoculation
		0500	Reveille
		0800	Mounted Parade
10 9 18		1300	all officers went out on a tactical scheme without troops
			Received Bde Scheme for 12 <sup>th</sup>

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Jas. M. ...  
Capt. A. ...  
12/11/18





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War Diary

September 1918 Page 3

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
11 9 18	Orange Road	0500	Reveille
	Rushon	0800	Mounted Parade
		1300	Commanding Officer to Division on Topographical Lecture
		1400	orders issued re Transport
12-9-18		0500	Reveille
		0700	Bde Tactical Scheme carried out
		1000	9 1/2 CM held in Regt lines against Tn Smith
		1340	Received orders re Divisional Scheme for Saturday
13 9 18		0500	Reveille
		0700	Regt. orders issued for turnout of Regt.
		1400	Regt turned out for inspection, was very bad
14 9 18		0500	Reveille
		0700	Regt moved off lines
		0740	Formed up in Byde Mass for inspection by GOC
			Division, then moved off on Tactical schemes
		1500	Arrived back in Camp
		1600	20 officers marched in from Rempt. Camp
		0500	Reveille
			Very hot muggy all Day
		0730	Voluntary Church parade in 7 M CA
		0800	Received order for Parade 16.9.18 from Byde
		0900	W O. Kahl & a recommended for a commission
			Desturley Capt. H. H. Regt

1/29/18





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War Diary

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Date	Place	Time	Remarks
16 9 18	Orange Grove Kericho	0500	Reveille
		0740	Relay Pioneer Troops mounted special instruction
		0800	Remainder swordmanship, advance rear + flank guards
		1000	Surplus gear sent to Dump at Ludd
			fresh maps received BIDISH, TIREH, TULKERAM, FEJJA
			V VI VII + VIII IX
		1000	All Bed Maps sent to OLD ISMAILIA PALACE CAIRO
		1300	10 Remounts and 2 Pack Horses Received
		1400	all officers went out to see machine gun demonstration
		17 9 18	Orange Grove Kericho
0600	Hatkins Practice on Range		
0600	Range Practices for Sqdns as follows 40600 30900 C1200		
0800	C.O. to G.H.Q. for conference re operations		
1930	Conference of all officers by C.O.		
18 9 18	Orange Grove Kericho	0500	Reveille
		0700	operation orders issued
		1000	Inspection of Regt by C.O.
		1930	25 Officers 3950/R 404 Horses, 60 mules, 9 donkeys
			marched out to J. 31 area arrived at 2300 hours settled down by 2330

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5/104



Sheet 1/20000

J. Buckley Capt 1st Lt 12th LHR Regt







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War Diary

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Date	Place	Time	Remarks	Remarks
21-9-18	Stact <del>VII</del> + <del>VIII</del> 097d 24	0330	A Squadron moved to LETTUN to do day outpost taking over from 8 LH	
	097V 15C	0430	Remainder of Regiment moved O FENHAN trotted almost all the way, Halted at 097V 15C arriving at 054 bivouacked Captured 1 prisoner at this place Watered Horses	
		0700		
		0800	Sent 2 troops A Sqdn BKERR ADAN + BURKIN respectively and 1 troop to SILY reporting all clear and good water supply	
		1930	Sent two troops and one section out on outpost duty 1 Troop to 2nd B Co escort to GOC Demers	
22-9-18		0430	Hood to and saddled	
		0800	Watered	
			Regt. supplied same duties as on 21-9-18	
	097V:6	1045	Captured 1 prisoner	
			moved from V16 to V23C as reserve	
	097V23C	1430		
		1500	Regt. watered	
		1400	1 Sqdn sent to 3rd B Co for duty	
23-9-18	097V23C	0430	Hood to saddled up	
		0750		
		0900	Received orders to prepare to move at once being relieved by 5th Bde	
		1230	moved from 097V23C halted at 1015 + 1120 for 10 minutes	
		1700	Arrived at 4 FULEH	
		1800	Sent 1 Troop + 1 NCO + 9 ranks on water guard	
			Received orders to detail 1 Sqdn to escort 4000 prisoners to LETTUN tomorrow morning early A Sqdn detailed	
			75th unit need not stand to tomorrow	
		1900		



+  
1/30

J. M. Kelly Capt 4th Lt Regt



Confidential

11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> Regt

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Date	Place	Time	Remarks
24 9 18	Bisoun	0500	Reveille
		0515	Orders received from Bde that Regt will move at 0830 to Ras Elain (M G 34L) C Sqdn to take over from 3Bde all routes from Stowards ELAFULEH to SHOTTA
			Had bath during the march 10 minutes in each hour
		1330	Arrived at Bisoun and brownacked watered & fed up
		1600	Saddled up
		1630	Moved out en route for TARSU JAMEH
		2030	Arrived TARSU JAMEH off saddled fed up and brownacked
		2030	Received orders that at 0230 25 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Regt would move out to attack SAMAKH 11 <sup>th</sup> Regt to attack 12 <sup>th</sup> in support
25 9 18		0100	Stand to
		0230	Moved from Bisoun
	Reaching bridge over stream	0300	Arrived at halting place 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Regt going into action at 0400 coming under heavy M G fire and was held up temporarily. C Sqdn 12 <sup>th</sup> Lt Regt were then sent out on their left to attack the town on the N and were eventually successful in gaining their objective by 0500 the 11 <sup>th</sup> entering by the South Gate. Total losses number of men 11 <sup>th</sup> 3 Officers killed and 2 wounded 11 O/R killed and 25 O/R wounded. The 12 <sup>th</sup> had 10 O/R killed & 19 O/R wounded. 8 horses wounded & 4 killed. The 11 <sup>th</sup> Lt Regt lost heavily by entering the town from the S side coming under direct fire from the enemy's M G fire. 10/M of the 12 <sup>th</sup> was shot by a German who had put



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War Diary

September 1918 (Page 8)

Date	Place	Time	Events	Remarks
25 9 18	R Way Jordan SAMAHA	0500	of the White Flag, this ending in a bloody combat many being killed who would otherwise have been taken prisoner. (Re taken the 11 <sup>th</sup> Lt & C Sqdn of the 12 <sup>th</sup> . 240 prisoners were taken many M Gs, IT was just ready to dig in out	
		0845	G O C sent C Sqdn under Capt Lowrey M C to Tiberius	
		1700	C Sqdn sent report that TIBERIUS captured without any resistance. Prisoners taken 95 + 13 M G. We had no casualties. The remainder of Regiment were in position due to of SAMAHA point 377 during outpost the heat terrific	
26 9 18		0400	Hood to and saddled up	
		0600	Waked, troops doing outpost coming under M G fire while being shot from under cover	
		0800	Some of our forward post compelled to withdraw by enemy M G fire	
		0900	Enemy reported in force.	
		0940	1 Section M G sent up from B gde to support	
		1045	77 M M captured from enemy sent up to Regt and was very successfully used by a scratch team	
		1800	15 <sup>th</sup> Regiment took the support line from 1st Regt 12 <sup>th</sup> Remaining in support	
			D. J. Lowrey Capt Adjut 1st Regt	



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War Diary

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Route	Place	Time
27.9.18	E of SAMAKHA	0530
	Point 377	
	TIBERIUS	0830
	METDEL	1000
	JUNNIE	1120

Regt moved out to Samakh orders were that the Bde should move towards DAMASCUS

Arrived at TIBERIUS watered & drew rations

Watered horses filled water bottles

Moved out en route for JUNNIE halted there for 20 minutes and were then hurried forward to the Jordan to assist 3rd Brigade who were held up. The Regt were sent out to the right to cross the Jordan from a bridge head. This was a most difficult task, the hills being very steep and rocky, almost an impossible task. All horsemen accomplished the night. Packs & M Gears had to be left behind till the morning on the West side.

Regiment were located at crossing on E side of Jordan moved out en route to DEIR ES SHARAF

Arrived halted for 2 hours Turks having evacuated moved out again marched on again

Arrived at EL KUNEITRA 3 Villages having surrendered 2 Tanks dropped. Poms & M Gunned the Colours but without success, one of our planes bringing down 1 Tank

Horses & men very tired Horses dying & men going sick (Peruacked) Men Horses retreating

28 9 18	E JORDAN	12400
	DEIR ES SHARAF	1000
	EL KUNEITRA	1200 1530
	DEIR ES SARAF	1300
		1900



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1/10

Assureley Capt 12th Regt



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War Diary

September 1918 Papers

Date	Place	Time		Remarks
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29.9.18	DEIR ES	0530		
	SARAS	0900		
		1300		

Regt feeling well after the rest  
 Fresh meat issued

Orders received to be ready to move off for DAMASCUS at 1530 & would march on but Brucher DSO<sup>2</sup> force B.H.O. being in lines of communication had many halts en route and was held up several times.

30.9.18		0100		
	KHA N	0500		
	ES SHINA			
		1130		

4 Bgds led advance guard taking over from 3<sup>rd</sup> Bgdt  
 Bgdt captured 450 prisoners & many M.G.s

Halted for 1 1/2 hours  
 C Sqdn captured 47 prisoners & M.G.s weapons  
 mt. Regt sent out to attack a position S of DAMASCUS & gained our objective the Regt went in in columns of squadrons and went in splendidly and were then within 3 miles of the outskirts of the City

	EL			
	MEZLO	1800		

Moved around to be ready to move to Ruwac area Regt detailed to guard 3500 prisoners

For the week 2 officers & 300 men sent out



+ 139  
 11/11  
 Dussukley Capt 14 Sept  
 12th LHR



4th A.L.H. Brigade.

Syllabus of training, Week Ending 7th September, 1918.

*Appendix 3*

<u>Morning</u>			<u>Afternoon</u>		
<u>Date</u>	<u>Nature of Training.</u>	<u>Hours.</u>	<u>Nature of training</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Range Remark</u>
2.9.18.	Mounted swordsmanship training. Squadron drill & manoeuvre. 4th, 11th & 12th Regts. Hotchkiss range practice.	0800-0900 0900-1000 0800-1600	Classes. Extra Hotchkiss Gunners Signallers N.C.O'S.	1400 to 1500	Reveille Hotchkiss Rifles 0400. Move 0600 and water. Mid-day meal, and feed.
3.9.18.	4th L.H. Regiment, Range Practices. Remainder. Mounted swordsmanship training. Squadron drill and manoeuvre.	0800-1600 0800-0900 0900-1000	do	do	Reveille 0400. Move 0600 and water. Midday meal & feed.
4.9.18.	11th L.H. Regiment Range practices. Remainder. Mounted swordsmanship training. Squadron drill and manoeuvre.	0800-1600 0800-0900 0900-1000	do	do	do
5.9.18.	12th L.H. Regiment Range practices Remainder. Mounted swordsmanship training. Squadron drill and manoeuvre.	0800-1600 0800-0900 0900-1000	do	do	do
6.9.18.	Tactical scheme with troops No 1. "The Pursuit"	0800-1600	do	do	do
7.9.18.	Gas Drill. Cleaning saddlery and kit.	½ hour .	nil.		
8.9.18.	Church Parade.		nil.		

*9/11/18*