

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/9/45

Title: 4th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

September 1918

WAR DIARY

4th Light Horse Regt.
SEPTEMBER 1918.

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

Volume IX
Page I

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LUDD	1st to 17th		The Regiment was camped at LUDD, training, equipping and firing range practices preparatory to moving out on operations. <i>JW</i>	
	18th	1900 2200	The Regiment moved out from camp at Olive Grove LUDD. <i>JW</i> Arrived at Square J.31.b. and bivouacked for the night. <i>JW</i>	
	19th	0230 0400 0900 2000	Our aeroplanes flew over towards the enemy lines on bombing and reconnaissance expeditions. <i>JW</i> Bombardment was heard, but as first line trenches were soon crossed our cavalry went through the infantry and pursued the retreating infantry. <i>JW</i> The Regiment moved out and marched in a Northerly direction throughout the day. The NAHR ISKANDERUNEH (Sheet TIREH) was reached, horses were watered and the Regiment bivouacked for the night. <i>JW</i>	
	20th	0400 0600	The Regiment moved out to Descorps at Bkt. EN NESSAR (Sheet TIREH) to report as Corps Escort. Moved off and searched the country along the coast for 600 enemy cavalry who were reported to be in the sand dunes. Our forward patrols failed to get in touch. From here the Regiment moved to Square G.13.b. (Sheet 1" to 1 mile) to guard the entrance to the MUSMUS pass; arriving there at 1600. Outpost patrols were sent out on either side of the Wadi to UMM EL FAHM and DEIR EL HAWA. <i>JW</i>	
G.13.b.	21st		Patrols and outposts as for previous day. "C" Squadron detached for escort duty with prisoners <i>JW</i>	
	22nd	0730	Moved to LEJJUN and bivouacked. "C" Squadron still detached, burying dead horses and cleaning area. Remainder of the Regiment guarding prison compound and escorting prisoners. Lieut-Col Bouchier D.S.O. rejoined Regiment from 4th L.H.Bde. and took over command from Major G.J.Rankin D.S.O. <i>JW</i>	
	23rd		Still on same site and work. Weather fine, hot in the mornings and cold at night. <i>JW</i>	
23rd	24th		Same site and work as for previous day. Water for drinking purposes and animals plentiful and handy to camp. Horses were grazed during day close to camp. <i>JW</i>	
	25th		As for yesterday. <i>JW</i> <i>Sheeps camp.</i>	

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Page II

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LEJJUN	26th	0530	Moved out to EL AFULEH with orders to rejoin the Australian Mounted Division. From there we moved through to NAZARETH, having to proceed in single file up the road leading to and through NAZARETH owing to the very great congestion of traffic and troops on this road at the time. Once clear of here we moved straight on, with the exception of a halt for lunch, to TIBERIAS, reaching there about 1730; Here the horses were watered in the Sea of Tiberias. Orders were received to attach ourselves to the 5th A.L.H. Brigade. <i>JAT</i>	
	27th	0600	Moved to ROSH PINA where we had lunch. The Regiment was then ordered in conjunction with the 14th L.H. Regt. to clear the enemy from a position he was holding in Square P.27.3.3. (Sheet 1" to 1 m.). From this position they could command the only recognised crossing over the Jordan River at this place. The Regiment moved out with "C" Sqn. as Advanced Guard and crossed the river in an almost impassible place about EL MIN (1" to 1 mile) and after a very hard journey over very rough and rocky country, reached ED DORA well on the enemy's left flank about 1900. The country was far too rough to permit of going further in the dark, so a halt was called and outposts put out. <i>JAT</i>	
	28th		The advance was continued and the Regiment moved up in rear of the enemy's position, which he had vacated during the night, and came out on the road at DEIR ES SARAS, where we rejoined the 4th A.L.H. Brigade. The column then moved on to KUNEITRA where we had lunch, and then moved to MANSURA where "A" and "B" Squadrons put out an outpost line to guard the road leading to MANSURA. <i>JAT</i>	
	29th	1100	The 11th L.H. Regt. took over the outpost line and at 1500 the 4th L.H. Regiment and 12th L.H. Regiment moved off as "BOURCHIER'S FORCE". The 11th L.H. Regiment and the remainder of the Brigade remaining to guard Lines of Communication. We travelled throughout the night. <i>JAT</i>	
SASA	30th	0500	The Regiment received orders to take over the Advanced Guard from the 3rd L.H. Brigade. "B" Sqn. provided the vanguard. For the first half hour the advance was very difficult owing to the darkness and having to advance through the narrow passes with snipers on both sides.	
		0530	The vanguard swept out on the plain and advanced rapidly to within half a mile of the KAUKAB ridge. This Advanced Guard under Major A.D. Reid M.C. was very well carried out and swept away all opposition, capturing 350 prisoners, a field gun and several machine guns. The action of Lieut. Bingham and his troop in galloping amongst a column of the enemy and cutting off 180 men and a field gun being a particularly fine piece of work. On reaching the vicinity of the KAUKAB ridge patrols were sent forward to reconnoitre the NAHR BARBAR for crossings. This was found to be passable at almost any place for mounted troops. <i>JAT</i>	

SEP 1918

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Page III.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	30th		<p>While here a massed enemy column about 2 miles long was seen to proceed along the foothills and occupy the KAUKAB ridge in force, having M.Gs; on all the commanding positions. This was reported and the Regiment was ordered to occupy a neighbouring ridge. The Regiment was then reinforced by the 12th L.H. Regiment and after all positions had been well shelled by the Nott's Battery, both Regiments charged the position with the sword - the 12th L.H. Regt. on the right of the position and the 4th L.H. Regt on the left. "A" and "C" Squadrons made the charge and "B" remained in reserve "C" Squadron struck an impassible ravine and had to change direction, this was splendidly done, the whole squadron swinging as one man. The enemy had withdrawn all his forces with the exception of 8 officers, several men and a few machine guns which were captured, then the road was clear and the Advanced Guard was taken over by another unit. The Regiment then re-formed and proceeded to re-join the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade at the edge of the foothills close to the gardens on the edge of the DAMASCUS gardens. We remained with the 3rd A.L.H. Brigade for two hours and then reported to Australian Mounted Division as escort troops and put outposts around Divisional Headquarters for the night.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>JHP</i></p>	
	OCTOBER			
	1st	0530	<p>Orders were received to reconnoitre towards MEIDAN Station and find out the enemy's line. "C" Squadron were detailed to do this work, this advance was very difficult as fruit gardens had to be passed through and many steep drains covered with thick vegetation had to be crossed, as the troops passed through this they were subjected to constant sniping from isolated parties of the enemy hidden amongst the trees.</p>	
		0800	<p>"C" Squadron reached MEIDAN Station which they captured; the yards being full of rolling stock and booty, the following being some of that captured:- Safe, 2 wagons and dynamo, 2 cooker wagons, 1 truck load of electrical appliances, 1 ice chest, 2 trucks machinery, 2 trucks containing a quantity of shells, 1 motor car, 5 M.Gs., 1 truck of artificial manure, disinfecting wagon, many bales hemp, 1 Field gun, 1 truck of timber, several engines and carriages and hundreds of trucks. A guard was left here to prevent natives looting the place and several cases of wine which were found in trucks were broken open and destroyed to prevent any possibility of trouble. The Sqdn. then advanced into the outskirts of the town near the Turkish Hospital, there many thousands of Turks concentrated here, an advance was made towards these and after a small encounter in which 1 officer and 3 O/rks of ours were wounded, the enemy threw down his arms. This squadron then sent a message to Regimental H.Q. to the effect that they had a number of Field Guns, machine guns and some thousands of prisoners and that they required assistance to control these; in the meantime the squadron posted guards on all the important places, including the Central, German and Turkish Hospitals and Spanish Consulate to prevent the natives looting.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>JHP</i></p>	

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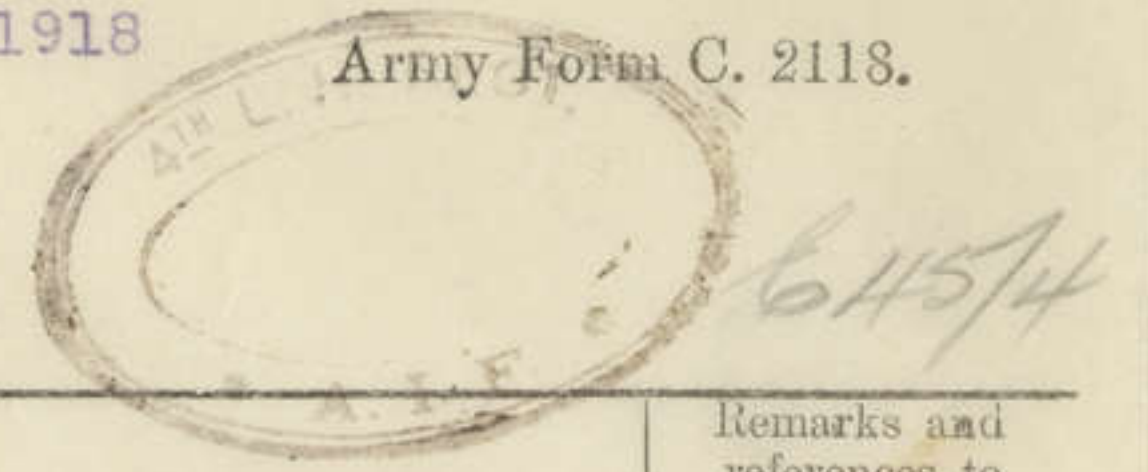
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 Page IV

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																												
DAMASCUS	OCTOBER 1st	1030	<p>The Regiment proceeded in support of "C" Squadron and reached the Turkish Hospital where the greatest chaos prevailed, the wards were packed full of dead, wounded and sick and the surrounding yards were swarming with Turks. Guards were placed on all the entrances and the wards cleared with the exception of wounded and sick, the Turkish Hospital staff of doctors, orderlies and sisters being left to look after these. The remainder were all congregated in the main square below and marched off under escort to the open country near Divisional Headquarters. The first batch of 3800 went under escort of "A" Squadron and the second of 5400 under "B" Squadron. Since then large batches have arrived and given themselves up, being despatched as they arrived. The remainder of the Regiment were employed during the day in guarding different places and keeping order in the city which was very difficult owing to the presence of a number of Bedouin tribes who galloped up and down the streets day and night discharging their firearms, looting and terrifying the inhabitants.</p> <p>The Regiment bivouacked for the night in the Hospital Square. JHP</p>																													
	2nd		<p>The Regiment kept its guards on the same places as yesterday and with a party of Turks buried all the dead Turks and generally reorganised affairs in the Turkish Hospital. As many men as were available were sent to march through the city.</p> <p>Total Captures for period ending to day are:-</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>TURKS.</th> <th>GERMANS.</th> <th>F/GUNS.</th> <th>T/MORTARS.</th> <th>M/GUNS.</th> <th>AUTOMATICS.</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Officers</th> <th>O/Ranks</th> <th>Officers</th> <th>O/Ranks</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>276</td> <td>11,683</td> <td>4</td> <td>423</td> <td>23</td> <td>2</td> <td>48</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>9</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>4 small model field pieces and much captured material including several trains.</p> <p>NOTE:- Although throughout the operations the main road was followed, the country was often very difficult owing to the number of flanking movements which had to be made to dislodge the enemy from his positions which were always such that they commanded the approach along the road. Considering all things the condition of the horses is very good. The transport which travelled by the main road was always very close up and had some long hard treks.</p> <p>On 29th September when Lieut-Col Bouchier took command of "Bouchier's Force", Major G.J. Rankin D.S.O. assumed command of the Regiment; JHP</p>		TURKS.	GERMANS.	F/GUNS.	T/MORTARS.	M/GUNS.	AUTOMATICS.	Officers	O/Ranks	Officers	O/Ranks				276	11,683	4	423	23	2	48							9	
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J.H. Rankin Capt & Adjt.
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G.J. Rankin Major,
 O.C., 4th Light Horse Regiment;

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