

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/13/19

Title: 8th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

January 1917

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

J.L.H.

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

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASAIID. KILO 139.	1-1-17		Left Bivouac & travelled to KILO 139.	
	"	0800	No. 1899 J.W. Chapman, P.I. KILLED. 7 No. 1449 J.W. Rowe, S.I. WOUNDED by Aerial bomb dropped by enemy aircraft. Bivouacked.	
	4.1.17		Returned to Bivouac at MASAIID.	
MASAIID	8.1.17	1200	Left with Brigade & travelled to rendezvous E of NADI EL ARISH.	
NADI EL ARISH	"	1400	A Sqn was detached as escort for SOMERSET BTRY RHA. Left for SHEIK ZOWAIG, where we halted until 0100, afterwards continuing the march to position on high ground over Lucas Egyptian frontier line, on the dispositions of troops for attack on Turkish redoubts being promulgated it was found that the Regt was to be held in Reserve. During the progress of the fight which commenced at 0900 we supplied outposts, patrols & guards with prisoners & captured stock.	
RAFA	"	0600	D.H.Q. ordered a patrol under Lt. Macpherson to proceed in an EASTERLY direction & endeavour to get in touch with enemy reinforcements reported by our air service to be marching WEST to the relief of the TURKISH FORCE opposing us in the redoubts.	
"	"	0900	Lieut. Macpherson reported that he was in touch with a body of enemy troops estimated at 2000 INFANTRY, and 1 Sqn CAVALRY, 5 miles from frontier line & due E of redoubts.	
"	"	1600	After outposts had been established, this patrol was withdrawn to main body. In the meantime, the ENEMY had capitulated & orders were received from D.H.Q. for the Regt to take over the duties of REAR GUARD, to assist when ever possible in collecting prisoners & wounded. During the night 9/10's most communications with D.H.Q. at SHEIK ZOWAIG were interrupted, it was eventually discovered that the wire had been cut in several places, this appeared, more particularly on account of bare footed tracks to have been the work of Bedouins.	
"	10-1.17	1000	A patrol from C. Sqn under Lieut. Walker captured an enemy outpost of 9 men.	
"	"	1100	The work of burying dead & collecting wounded & enemy arms etc was now complete, simultaneously a report was received from a friendly Bedouin, that a mixed force of enemy & Arabs were threatening our right flank, one Sqn was immediately despatched & turned the flank of the hostile force, who retired (after being subjected to a heavy fire) in a E.S.E. direction. A patrol under Lieut. D'ENYAR captured five of this force, which consisted of 2 Sqns. our losses were one horse killed.	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	10.1.17	11.30	As the whole of the our troops were now clear, the Regiment withdrew to SHEIK ZONAIG, arriving there at 1600, after drawing rations forage etc & watering horses off saddled for 2 hours. This was the first opportunity of watering, or removing saddles since leaving MASAIID (8.1.17)	
SHEIK ZONAIG	"	18.00	Left for MASAIID arriving at 0735. 11.1.17.	
MASAIID	15.1.17	07.30	Major McLaughlin to Hospital. Crisp.	
"	19.1.17		Brig Genl J.R. Royston to Hospital ^{has left} Lieut Col. L.B. Maygar assumed command of Brigade. The command of Regt being taken over by Major W.J. Day.	
"	"		B.H.Q. advises as follows - Capt A.E. Wearne ^{S.L.H.} has been awarded the Military Cross. This officer has been twice previously mentioned in despatches.	
"	20.1.17		Lieut. S. Fay to Hospital. Capt H.H. Beath sent to Kantara Details Camp.	
"	21.1.17		Telegraphic advice from B.H.Q. as follows - under mentioned promotions to commissioned rank. 195. R.S.M. NUGENT. 87. S.S.M. COWELL. M.W. 279 S.S.M. R.H. BDRBRIDGE. 32. S.S.M. PEPPER CORN. T.R.	
"	26.1.17		Lieut. V.H. Walker has been awarded the Military Cross for Maghdaba & Rafah operations. Capt Wearne Lt Watt & Lt Mulholland to Schools of Instruction. all ranks granted leave 5% of strength to Port Said.	
"	30.1.17		B.O. and Capt leaders attended Artillery, with Aeroplane cooperation, practices at Wadi St. Arush.	
"	31.1.17		Brigade Concentration at Masmi Wells.	