

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

Light Horse

**Item number: 10/15/18**

**Title: 10th Australian Light Horse**  
**Regiment**

December 1916

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118 58

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
B. + x1 Malha	1/12/16	0730	Party of Officers from Brigade went out under cover of reconnaissance party to examine country between Laqama Hills and Malha. Returned at 1200	
		2400	Reconn. party returned. Enemy fire on scouts as they withdrew at 1500 at range of about 2000 yards. Troop 10th L H supported scouts retirement. No casualties.	HR
	2/12/16		Routine. A Squadron proceeded to Kassieba for one week.	HR
	3/12/16		One troop furnished escort for C. in C. at Majar.	HR
	4/12/16		Two officers + 4 NCOs fully equipped proceeded to NZ Bde H.Q. at Mustagidda to become acquainted with country. One officer proceeded to Majar to learn duties of Camel Officer. Attached L Company, Camel Transport Corps.	HR
	5/12/16		Party of 2 officers from each Regt proceeded to Beverat via Zabatia + Arnussi to reconnoitre a road along which the Brigade could move by day or night.	HR
	6/12/16		Duty Regiment.	HR
	7/12/16		Brigade turned out by Brigadier for practice alarm. Regt out in 9 minutes.	HR
	8/12/16		One officer accompanied Brigadier to Kassieba to inspect Squadron stationed there.	HR
	9/12/16		A Squadron returned from Kassieba. One officer accompanied Brigadier to Beverat. Duty Regt.	HR
	10/12/16		Church Parade. Brigade turned out for practice alarm. Hostile aeroplane flew over when Brigade was formed up. Brigade scattered.	HR
	11/12/16		Routine.	HR
	12/12/16		Two officers from Regt accompanied Brigadier to reconnoitre country for practice attack. Hostile aeroplane, dropped five bombs vicinity of camp. One bomb killed a horse in M. B. Squadron did not explode. No other damage done.	HR
	13/12/16		Brigade turned out practice alarm.	HR
	14/12/16	0300	Combined practice operations 9th + 10th Regts each representing a Bde for practice attack on Masaid. Regt left Malha, marched to Arnussi, watered and attached East of Beverat to put off retreat of infantry when driven back by infantry 10th Regt acted as 1st Bde. 9th Regt Reserve Bde. Hostile aeroplane dropped 3 bombs in vicinity of column when it was returning to Arnussi at 1415.	
		1830	No damage done. Arrived at Malha 0120.	HR
	15/12/16		Routine.	HR
	16/12/16		Routine.	HR
	17/12/16		Church Parade. Duty Regt.	HR
	18/12/16		Brigade turned out. Practice alarm.	HR
	19/12/16		Routine.	HR

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

*J. Robertson*  
for C.O. 10th L H Regt



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bir el Malha	20/12/16	0600	Brigade received orders to march. 1100 Bde marched for Bir Gympie 1300 Arrived at Bir Gympie. Watered & fed. 1400. 10th Regt Advanced Guard pushed on for Bir Gympie	
Bir Gympie		1550	10th Regt arrived at Bir Gympie Watered. Horses did not drink much as water was salty.	
		2200	Div as Mtd Div less 2nd Bde marched for El Arish 3rd Bde last Bde. 10th Regt Adv Regt of Bde. Bde's objective Bir el Masmi	HR
Bir el Masmi	21/12/16	0500	Brigade arrived Bir el Masmi 3rd Bde. Divisional Reserve El Arish unoccupied. 1100 Bde moved to Masmi to water & feed horses watering very slow. Only half of Bde watered by 1530 when Bde moved on. 1530 Bde moved on to Bir Abu Zehari. 10th Regt rest for water. Watering completed 2100. Remain for night.	HR
Bir Abu Zehari	22/12/16	0630	Bde moved to 1/2 mile West of El Arish Drew rations and watered horses 1800. Bde moved out for Divisional Rendezvous in Wadi el Arish 2 miles South of El Arish to be there by 1700. Rations were very late in arriving at Rendezvous. 10th Regt rations issued by 2230	HR
	23/12/16	0045	Division marched for El Magdhaba. 3rd Bde centre Bde. 0800 Arrived in vicinity of El Magdhaba	
		0930	Bde received orders to push round <sup>right</sup> flank of enemy who was believed to be evacuating N2 Bde on night. Camel Corps frontal attack from West 1st Bde in Reserve. 8th & 10th Regt front line 9th Regt in Reserve. 10th Regt pushed East until North of position & then advanced SE successively occupying ridges supported by Lewis & M Guns. Lewis guns were especially useful. 1130 A party of enemy were seen advancing from ESE with evident intention of enveloping our advance. Troops with	

H. Robertson  
for CD. 10th Regt.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
El Magdhaba	23/12/16	1230 1320 2300	<p>one Lewis gun and 1 Sect. M Guns were pushed out to deal with it. They drove back enemy who retired completely out of fight. 10th Regt. were extreme left of our line so this cleared the left flank of our attack.</p> <p>Fast ridge overlooking wide plain in which Wadi was had been occupied. All available troops were pushed out to and</p> <p>Reverse 14th Bde. attached from NE (on our right). 1305 Regt pushed forward mounted at gallop across plain about 1 3/4 mile wide to make good Wadi el Arish. Came under heavy rifle fire about halfway across but pushed on and fire slackened. Wadi was occupied 290 men including 6 officers. 50 camels &amp; 4 ponies were captured. A party was left to collect same &amp; Regt pushed on. Extreme left enemy round south of Wadi &amp; faced West. pushed on for last series of entrenchments onto which enemy had fallen back. Advanced at gallop but were met by very heavy fire. 2 Troops charged right through enemy &amp; joined up with 10th Bde. who were facing East. Lewis &amp; M Guns were brought into action and Regt attached again mounted. 1615 Turkish force surrendered. Prisoners captured by Regt. receipts for some obtained were 722 all ranks 57 camels (loaded with ammunition stores etc) &amp; 11 horses. 1700. Regt watered at camp within Magdhaba. 1845 Bde marched back to position of deployment 3 miles N.W. of Magdhaba. 1945 Bde halted. Water was issued to men &amp; men horses fed.</p> <p>March back to El Arish commenced.</p>	
	24/12/16	0430	<p>Brigade halted to draw rations from camels. 0830 Brigade arrived at Masa'id.</p>	<p>Robertson for C.O. 10th Regt</p>



# WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Masa'id.	25/12/6		Routine <u>HR</u>	
	26/12/6		Bde. inspected by Sir Philip Chetwode. G.O.C. Desert Column & complimented on work done <u>HR</u>	
	27/12/6		Routine <u>HR</u>	
	28/12/6		Routine <u>HR</u>	
	29/12/6		Routine <u>HR</u>	
	30/12/6		Routine <u>HR</u>	
	31/12/6		Routine <u>HR</u>	

J. J. Roberts  
for G.O. W. L. H. Regt