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war diaries, 1914-18 War

Cavalry

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Title: 1/1st Warwickshire
Yeomanry, Australian Mounted
Division

July 1917

On His Majesty's Service.

Warwick Yeo Aust. Mtd. Div.

July 1917

ORIGINAL.

CONFIDENTIAL.



WAR DIARY

OF

WARWICK YEO. AUST. MTD. DIV.

From *1st July*

To *31st July* 1917

VOL. No.

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WAR DIARY

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Officer Commanding
Warwick Yeomanry.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
EL GHABI.	1/7/17.		<p>The Regt. stood to arms as usual; and the usual daylight patrols were furnished. Major A. C. Watson was on duty all day on a Court of Inquiry at Brigade Headquarters. Lieut. F. H. King with one troops "C" Squadron carried out the reconnaissance to RAMLET EL DEBBA leaving Camp at 0645 and returning at 1545, about 22 miles being covered. Two Bedouins were found; one was in possession of a revolver and was shot, the other escaped. Country very heavy south of EL INGUA. Tracks not easily distinguished. A few shacks and heaps of corn were burnt. Several patches of cultivation were seen. No water was found. We observed a few Bedouins going West from Pt. 560, some distance off. A loaded "Rimington" rifle was found between Pts. 630 & 560 which was eventually handed over to Brigade Headquarters.</p>
	2/7/17.		<p>The usual routine was carried out. Digging parties from the 3rd & 4th Australian Light Horse were sent to "X & Y Redoubts to improve the trenches, 150 other ranks in the morning and 120 other ranks in the evening, also a party from the Field Troop, Royal Engineers. 2nd Lieut. W. B. Mercer, with one Troop "D" Squadron carried out the Southern Patrol, leaving Camp at 0630 and returning at 1445. They reconnoitred south to ABU MAREITH West to NAGAL EL ASEISI and back by SHALLUF. Several Bedouins were seen around ABU MAREITH by the advanced points but they could not be found on reaching the area. Several patches of cultivation, mostly harvested. Heaps of threshed corn were found in the district Pt. 530. Pt. 750 SHALLUF probably 100 quarters. By signs and tracks there are probably about 50 natives in this district. Ground fairly good going except on the tops of ridges. Map is misleading, as the nature of the ground alters gradually, on coming on to where "sand dunes" is marked. Four columns of dust were reported near KHALASA. Owing to distance away, could not give any details. Distance covered 24 miles. One Troop from "B" Squadron under 2nd Lieut. R. J. Gilman carried out the outpost duty at GOZ MABRUK. They left camp at 0300, and left the post at 1900. Reports sent to Gloucester Yeo. at FARA EAST.</p>
	3/7/17.		<p>The Regt. stood to arms at 0345. Daylight Patrols, were sent out from each Redoubt, and Listening Patrols during the night. Working party from the 3rd Australian Light Horse on trenches at X & Y Redoubts for 2 hours. 2nd Lieut. C. L. Joynson rejoined from MUSTAPHA. The Regt. in conjunction with the Worcester Yeomanry were detailed to undertake the following operations. No operation orders were issued on account of the secrecy of the mission. Major A. C. Watson reported to Brigade Headquarters & was given a verbal outline of the scheme at 2000 on the 2nd inst. He issued instructions to Squadron Leaders the following morning at 0700 (the 3rd) At 1700 the O. C. (Major A. C. Watson) and Squadron Leaders reported to Brigade Headquarters. Capt. C. J. H. Wheatley (O. C. "B" Squadron) could not</p>

J. B.

J. B.

J. B.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
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Officer Commanding,
Warwick Yeomanry.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
3-7-17 EL GHABI.	3/7/17.		<p>attend, as his Squadron had already moved out of Camp. The Scheme was as follows: The Regt. & Worcester Yeo. to leave point 510 at 1915 and march to Pt. 860 1 mile N.W. of KHALASA, via BEIT GHAZALI, Pt. 680 - 820 a distance of 17 miles to reach Pt. 680 by 0130 on the 4th. One Squadron to leave camp at 1600 & reach pt. 680 by 1915, make good the surrounding Country and flash a lamp every 10 minutes from 2100 to guide the Regiments to that point then to act as advanced guard to pt. 860 (B Squadron under Capt. C. J. H. Wheatley was detailed for this). On reaching this Point, Regiments were to gallop out and surround KHALASA forming a cordon round the village, the Regt. on the East from the cross roads North to the cross roads South of the village, the Worcester Yeo. on the West to join up with us. The object was to capture a Turkish agent who was reported to be living there. Brigade Headquarters were to be at the North point of the village. On the mission being completed Regiments to come back at the trot at to Pt. 820, then to move to ESANI, the Regiment acting as advanced guard, and the Worcesters rear guard, to be in position at ESANI by 0630 and act as South flank guard to an Australian Brigade who were operating to the North and West. One Squadron to be left at Pt. 820 till daylight and then to act as protection to Lieut. A. C. Alan Williams who was detailed by the Brigade to make a special reconnaissance of the country. N.E. - E - S.E. of KHALASA "B" Squadron under Capt. C. J. Wheatley moved out of Camp at 1600 and took up a position at Pt. 680 at 1915. A lamp was flashed every 10 minutes from 2100 as per instructions to guide the Regiments "C" and "D" Squadrons under Lieut. H. Higson and Lieut. J. B. Rodger M.C. respectively marched at 1900 and rendezvous// at 1715 at Pt. 510 where they were joined by the Worcester Yeo. 6xx Royal Engineers and 3 Natives. The Brigade moved at 1930 on a bearing of 122° halting before each hour for 10 minutes. "D" Squadron formed the advanced guard, the remainder in column of Troops. At 2300 a halt for one hour was called to locate "B" Squadron light, if possible.</p>	J.B
	4/7/17.		<p>A point 1 mile South of KHALASA on the KHALASA-UMAJUA road was reached at 0130. "D" Squadron was ordered to surround the village with one Troop of "C" Squadron forming connecting files to picket the road to UM AJUA. This was done at 0150. The village was found to consist of 5 well built stone houses and a mass of ruins. No inhabitants were found. Dogs were heard barking about 1½ miles West of the village. 2/Lieut. A. H. Michell and 3 men were sent out at 0230 to reconnoitre and found a small Bedouin encampment. One Squadron of the Worcester Yeo. were sent to round them up. The Hills around were picketed and x horses fed at 0400. At 0445 the Regiments moved into position for a drive Northwards to ESANI. J. B. Rodger Lieut. in command of "D" Squadron was left.</p>	J.B.

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Officer Commanding,
Warwick Yeomanry.

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
KHALASA.	4/7/17.		at KHALASA to form a protection for 2nd Lieut. A. C. Alan Williams who carried out the reconnaissance as detailed, a copy appended. Two light ambulances accompanied him with the Doctor. At 0505 the drive commenced, the Regiment on the right & the Worcesters on the left. Our Right rested on the high ground overlooking the WADI with the left on the line Pt. 820-770-750 ESANI. Regiments in line extended 32 Bedouins and 14 Camels were captured. Several of the Natives were armed. Two English Aeroplanes (burnt) were seen one mile East of Pt. 820. ESANI was reached at 0700 where horses were watered and off-saddled, two Troops at the time. Lieut. H. Higson in command of "C" Squadron placed the necessary posts and withdrew at 1800 reaching camp at 2100. "D" Squadron under Lieut. J. B. Rodger M. C. returned to camp at 1900.	J. B.
EL GHABI.	5/7/17.		The usual routine was carried out. 2nd Lieut. C. M. Armstrong and one Troop from "B" Squadron supplied the outpost at GOZ MABRUK. 2/Lt. C. L. Barker with 6 Other Ranks were detailed to take over the water duties at KHAN YUNIS from the 6th Mounted Brigade 150 other ranks from the 3rd Australian Light Horse arrived for digging, and were allotted 100 to Y & 50 to X at 1700.	J. B.
	6/7/17.		The Regiments stood to arms at 0545 and the patrols went out as usual. 2/Lt. A. H. Michell and one troop "C" Squadron left camp at 0300 reaching GOZ MABRUK at 0400. He was relieved at 1100. The Regiment was relieved by the 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade at 1000 and moved to their new camp at MARAKEB reaching there at 1630. Capt. C. J. H. Wheatley in command of composite squadron bivouacked overnight near Kilo 12 FUKHARI. The Squadron consisted of 6 Officers and 139 Other Ranks, made up as follows:- 2 Troops "B" Sqn. 1 Troop each "C" & "D" Lieut. - Col H. A. Gray Cheape returned from leave.	J. B.
	7/7/17.		The men were rested as much as possible, the camp was put straight and the men put up their bivouacs. Both men and horses bathed in sea under Squadron arrangements. The Composite squadron was inspected by the new Commander in Chief, (GENERAL SIR EDMUND ALLENBY, K. C. B.) at 0900. The C. O. (Lieut. Col. H. A. Gray-Cheape, D. S. O.) 2nd in command (Major A. C. Watson) and Lieut. & Adj. J. Black also went over. 2/Lt. R. P. Prankard returned from hospital having been granted one week's leave on being discharged. 12 Other Ranks were sent to reinforce 2nd Lieut. C. L. Barker, Water Officer, Northern area KHAN YUNIS.	J. B.
	8/7/17.		The usual routine was carried out. Church Services as follows:- 0700 Holy Communion 1800 Evensong. The C. O. & Squadron Leaders selected a site for a rifle range.	J. B.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Officer Commanding,
Warwick Yeomanry.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARAKEB.	9/7/17.		Major A. C. Watson, 2nd in command, proceeded on seven days leave. 2/Lt. R. J. Gilman left for ZEITOUN to attend a Hotchkiss Gun Course. One Troop per Squadron fired on the Brigade Range.	J. B.
	10/7/17.		Nothing of interest to report. Regtl. Targets were completed.	J. B.
	11/7/17.		Hotchkiss Gun firing & musketry was carried out. 2 enemy aeroplanes over camp at 0915. No bombs were dropped. 2/Lieut. F. A. Drake returned from Brigade for duty. Lieut. J. S. Stafford took his place. Squadron Leaders met C. O. at the Orderly Room, and discussed system of training. 2/Lieut. J. I. Greensitt & 2/Lt. S. G. Hill rejoined from Mustapha for duty. The C. O. inspected the horses of "B" Squadron, Signal, and Headquarters.	J. B.
	12/7/17/		Hotchkiss Gun drill was carried out by teams and Musketry on the Range. The C. O. inspected the horses of "C" Squadron at 0830. Arrangements were made for a daily supply of fruit and vegetables from the Canteen at KHAN YUNUS. Usual bathing parades for men and horses at 0900 and 1500. Signalling classes for 2 hours morning and afternoon.	J. B.
	13/7/17.		Usual Hotchkiss Gun drill, Musketry on the range, and Signalling classes. The C. O. inspected the horses of "D" Squadron at 0830. Usual bathing for men and horses at 0900, and 1500.	J. B.
	14/7/17.		Hotchkiss Gun drill, Musketry on the Range, and Signalling classes. Usual bathing parades. Squadron Leaders met C. O. at the Orderly Room and discussed sanitation and training during stay at MARAKEB.	J. B.
	15/7/17.		Church Parade followed by Holy Communion at Regimental Headquarters at 0900. Horse blankets and grooming kits were deloused at KHAN YUNUS at 0900. 2nd Lieut. F. A. Drake and 2nd Lieut. W. B. Mercer represented the Regt. at a meeting at KHAN YUNUS to discuss the best method of carrying 2 days Emergency Rations on a pack horse. Bathing in the morning but the sea became too rough later. A draft of 29 other ranks arrived from KANTARA at 1900.	J. B.
	16/7/17.		Hotchkiss Gun teams fired on the Range. Usual Musketry & Signalling instruction. The G. O. C. Australian Mounted Division (MAJOR GENERAL H. W. HODGSON, C. V. O., C. B.,) made an informal inspection of the Camp at 1030. 2nd Lieut. C. L. Barker with composite troop was relieved of Water Duties at KHAN YUNUS, and reached camp at 1100. Usual bathing parades and exercises.	J. B.



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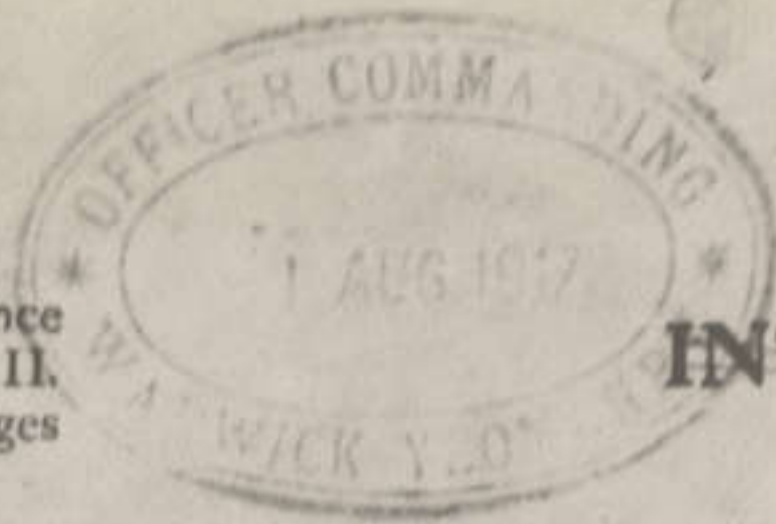
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MARAKEB	16/7/17		Lieut. J.H. King was admitted to hospital. A draft of 23 other ranks rejoined from United Kingdom, were inspected by the C.O. (Lieut. Col. H.A. Gray-Cheape, D.S.O.) at 0800 & allotted to squadrons. 6 Other Ranks rejoined from Hospital. Capt. G.J. Wheatley proceeded on 7 days leave.	16
	17/7/17		Inter Troop Hotchkiss Gun competition commenced. The 4 Troop Teams of 'D' Squadron competed & the 2nd Troop team was selected to represent the Squadron in the forthcoming Regimental Competitions. Usual signalling instructions & bathing parades. Lieut. & Adj. Black proceeded to KANTARA on duty.	17
	18/7/17		Inter Troop Hotchkiss Gun competition. The four Troop Teams of 'C' Squadron competed & the 2nd Troop team was selected to represent the Squadron in the Regt Competition. Usual signalling instructions & bathing parades. Lieut. H. Higson proceeded on 7 days leave. A demonstration of loading, firing & unloading the 'Vickers' Machine Gun was given by the Machine Gun Squadron at 1730. The C.O., Squadron Leaders & Troop Officers attended. Usual signalling instructions & bathing parades.	18
	19/7/17		Inter Troop Hotchkiss Gun competition. The 4 Troop Teams of 'B' Squadron competed & the 1st Troop team was selected to represent the Squadron in the Regimental Competitions. Signalling & bathing parades in the morning. Major A.B. Watson returned from leave. Orders were received at 1500 for the Regt to saddle up at once & be ready to move off, if ordered. The Regt with the rest of the Brigade left MARAKEB at 1900 & proceeded via KHAN YUNIS to Kilo. 9 on the RAFA WELI SHEIKH NURAN Railway, reaching there at 2315. Horses were off saddles and the men rested. The enemy had occupied the line EL GIRHEIR-KARM-KHASIF with troops & guns & the 5th & 6th Mounted Brigades were detailed as reserve troops to the Anzac Mounted Division who were holding the Outpost Line. The Regiment turned out 19 Officers 314 Other Ranks, 335 Horses 22 packs.	19
WELI SHEIKH NURAN	20/7/17		The Regiment saddled up at 0500 & awaited further orders. At 1015 orders at 1015 Orders were received to return to MARAKEB as the enemy had withdrawn from the line occupied & the Brigade moved off at 1045 reaching camp at MARAKEB at 1330. Usual bathing parades for men & horses in the afternoon.	20



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARAKEB	24/7/17		The men's shoes were noted as much as possible. The Medical Officer (Capt. E. Stille, RAMC att'd) made a careful inspection of the Regiment to ascertain the number now suffering from septic sores. Lieut. & Asst. J. Black returned from KANTARA. Usual Bathing Parade for men's shoes. Squadron leaders met the C.O. at Orderly Room at 0800 & discussed various matters connected with training.	YB
	25/7/17		Holy Communion at 0630 & Evening Service at 1830. There was a meeting of Squadron & Troop Leaders & Nos. 1. of Hotchkiss Gun teams at 1100 to discuss various improvements which had been suggested in connection with the equipment. Usual bathing parade for men's shoes.	YB
	23/7/17		Inter Squadron Hotchkiss Gun Competitions at 0800. The teams selected from each Squadron competed & the "D" Squadron team won the competition. Usual bathing parade & Signalling Classes. Elementary Musketry was carried out by Squadrons at 1530. 16 Officers & Other Ranks attended at the Machine Gun Squadron lines for instruction in the "Cross" Guns at 1700.	YB
	24/7/17		Capt. G. H. Wheatley returned from leave. The C.O. & 2nd in Command with Squadron & Troop Officers left Camp at 0800 & carried out a tactical exercise in the neighbourhood of GOZ EL TAIRE ridge. Elementary Musketry & Hotchkiss Gun instructions under Squadron arrangements. Usual Signalling Classes & Bathing Parades. 16 all ranks attended at Machine Gun Squadron lines for instructions in "Vickers" Guns. Regt. Transport was handed back to the Regiment by Brigade Transport Officer.	YB
	25/7/17		All Officers & 75% of R. Co's Men are being instructed in loading & firing Hotchkiss Gun. Elementary Musketry & Hotchkiss Gun firing were carried out under Squadron arrangements. Usual Signalling classes & Bathing Parades. Lieut. J. K. Motson proceeded on 7 days leave. 16 All ranks attended at 1630 at Machine Gun Squadron lines for instruction in "Vickers" Gun firing & loading. In a Lieut. R. J. Galman returned from Hotchkiss Gun course at Zeton.	YB
	26/7/17		Lieut. H. Higgins returned from 7 days leave. Lt. R. P. Rankin was admitted to Hospital. The Regt. was to have been inspected by the Desert Column Commander at 1000 but at that hour was postponed until tomorrow. In the afternoon the usual training in Hotchkiss Gun, Musketry & Signalling was resumed.	YB



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARAKEB	27/7/17		<p>Major General SIR H G CHAUVEL, KCMG, CB, G.O.C, DESERT COLUMN, accompanied by Major General H.W HODGSON, C.V.O., CB, and Brigadier General PD FITZGERALD, DSO, inspected the Regiment at 1200. The men paraded in Drill Order in the horse lines. In the afternoon the usual training was resumed & men and horses bathed. In the evening the C.O. judged the teams of B & D Squadrons who were competing in the Lloyd Lindsay competitions, also the mounted tug was between 'D' Squadron & the Transport. The results were that a 'D' Squadron team for Lloyd Lindsay & the Transport Team for Tug 'A' was selected to represent the Regiment at the Gloucester Yeomanry sports tomorrow. J. J. Greenitt, and No. 310586 L/C Libby, of 'C' Squadron & the 31st L/C Hutchings, of 'B' Squadron proceeded to ZEITOUN to Hotchkiss Gun 'A' Course.</p>	
"	28/7/17		<p>The A.D.M.S. Desert Column held a Medical Examination of the Regiment at 1130. The usual inspections of saddlery, arms &c took place in the morning. In the afternoon sports were held by the Gloucester Yeomanry. The Regimental Team for the Lloyd Lindsay competitions open to the Brigade won the 2nd Prize & the Tug 'A' (Mounted team) won the 1st Prize open to the Brigade, beating the Worcester Yeo. in the final pull. Lt R. J. Selman won the 2nd Prize in the Officers Mule Race, also open to the Officers of the Brigade. Usual signalling instructions & bathing paradises.</p>	
"	29/7/17		<p>Holy communion service at 0800, evening service at 1130. The Squadron leaders met the C.O. at the orderly room at 0900 & discussed training & other matters. Usual bathing for men & horses.</p>	
"	30/7/17		<p>A Hotchkiss Gun Competition was held on the range at 0800 to decide which team should represent the Regt. in the forthcoming inter regt. competition. Teams from 'B' 'C' & 'D' Squadrons competed & the 'B' Squadron team was selected. The usual Musketry & signalling classes were continued & bathing paradises were held morning & afternoon.</p>	



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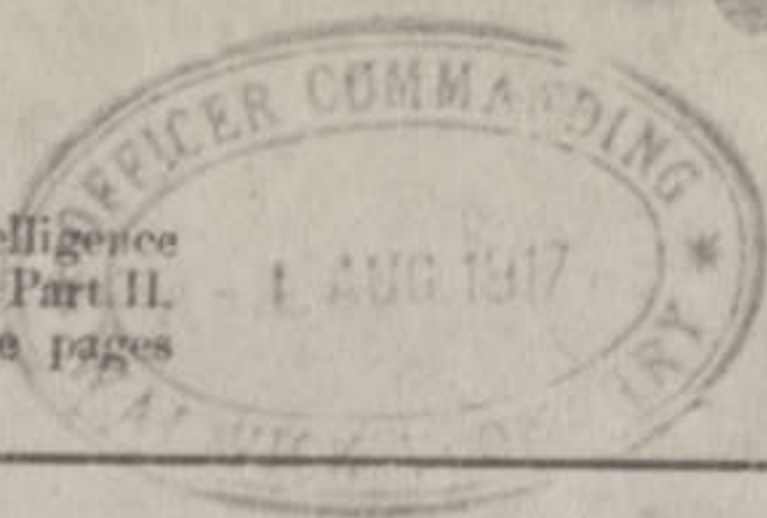
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY,

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to operations
MARAKEB	31/7/17		<p>Musketry + Signalling classes were carried out in the morning. The Co Qmet the Squadron leaders at 0800 + discussed training + also the programmes of the forthcoming Brigade + Regimental Horse Shows. The Lt Col (First Colonel H. A. Gray Cheape, DSO) attended as a member of a General Court Martial which assembled at Divisional Headquarters at 0900. Lt Col Armstrong proceeded to CAIRO on duty.</p>	J.B.

~~J. Black~~
Lieut Adjutant
Warwick Yeom.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><u>Appendices</u></p> <p><u>No. 1</u> The G.O.C. wishes to express his appreciation of the excellent work carried out by the Officers' Patrols who carried out the special reconnaissances ordered on July 4th.</p> <p>These patrols not only covered considerable distances, at the least over 60 miles on a particularly hot day, but they also brought back information which should prove of the greatest value, in spite of the whole of these reconnaissances being carried out under constant opposition from superior forces of the enemy.</p> <p>He wishes particularly to express his appreciation of the reconnaissance carried out by Capt N. L. Rae, 4th Australian Light Horse Regt, whose area took him into close proximity of the enemy's defences at SABA whose report should prove to be of considerable value in future operations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed H. C. Woods Lieut Colonel General Staff Australian Mounted Division</p> <p>11 July, 1917</p>	