

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

Cavalry

Item number: 9/6/10

Title: 1st Royal Gloucestershire
Hussars Yeomanry, Imperial
Mounted Division

December 1917

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Royal Gloucester Hussars Army Form C. 2118
December 1917

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.

| Summary of Events and Information | | | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------|--|
| Place | Date | Hour | |
| | 1917. | | |
| | Dec. 1st. | | <p>At 0110 on the morning of 1st, received orders to stand-to ready to support the firing line, and almost immediately were sent out to 8th. Aus. Light Horse H.Q.'s, N. of EL BURJ, and reached the firing line at 0150. 2/Lieut. H.P. Ellis and his troop filled a gap in "C" Sqn, 8th A.L.H., where he was killed very shortly.</p> <p>Lt. G.V. Hawtrey and Lt. E.G. Townsend took their troops to fill a gap between "B" & "C" Sqns, 8th A.L.H., the whole of the Gloucestershire Yeo Composite Sqn, being under command of Capt. A.G. Wykeham-Musgrave.</p> <p>The arrival of the Gles. Yeo detachment of 7 Officers and 42 Rifles, 6 H.Q. teams, helped to drive back a determined attack by the Turks, and a Coy. of Royal Scots Fusilliers arriving at 0255 further helped us, and the attack was driven off. From this time till 0415 the firing and bombing by both sides were intense. A second Coy. of R.S.F. arrived and was kept in reserve till 0415, when the Turks made another very determined attack which failed completely, and at daylight being so placed it was impossible for them to return they surrendered. Unwounded prisoners consisted of 4 officers (including Brigade command) 2 Cadets, and 105 O.R.'s, also 19 wounded O.R.'s. Many dead were counted in front of our line, 120 being in front of ground held by 8th A.L.H., Gles. Yeo, and R.S.F. A prisoner reported they were the 90th. Regt, 1st Coy, Stern Treppen Bde, and had come from GALICIA quite recently, and had also been in GALLIOLI, and went into action for the first time on this front on the day previous. They appeared well armed and equipped having 1917 "Mausers," breech stick bombs, Austrian pattern clothing for the most part and steel helmets.</p> <p>During the day the R.S.F. were withdrawn and all remained quiet except for occasional shelling. In the evening the Gles. Yeo, were withdrawn into support and bivouaced just W. of 8th. A.L.H.</p> <p>Casualties:- Killed in action - 2/Lieut. H.P. Ellis. No. 235137 - Pte. Cox B. Wounded " " (afterwards died) 235186 L/Cpl. Baker, T. Wounded " " No. 235085 Sad/Cpl. Williams, R.W. " " 32298 Pte. Penting, P.A.</p> <p>A quiet day and night.</p> |
| | Dec. 2nd. | | <p>All quiet.</p> |

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| Place | Date 1917. | Hour | Summary of Events and Information (2) | | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------------|------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | Dec. 4th. | | All quiet. | | |
| | " 5th. | | All quiet. Bde. moved forward in the afternoon and took up a line (1 st Sheet 11b):- | | |
| | | | Warwick Yeo. J.13 Central - SHILTA. | | |
| | | | Worcester Yeo. J.15 A. 5,2 - J.15, D. 7, 9. | | |
| | | | Gloucester Yeo. In support, also 1 Coy. R.I. Fusilliers. | | |
| | " 6th. | | All quiet; remained in support. | | |
| | " 7th. | | 0800 relieved Worcester Yeo in front line for 48 hours. No active hostilities except sniping, M.G. and H.R. fire. | | |
| | " 8th. | | Bde. reconnaissance of high ground S. of DEIR EL KUDDIS, with a view to attacking. On approaching the summit of hill we came under heavy M.G. fire from enemy S. of KUDDIS. | | |
| | " 9th. | | Very wet and cold. 0800 relieved by Worcester Yeo. | | |
| | " 10th. | | At 1500 we occupied a new sector going on the right of Worcester Yeo as far as J. 16 Central with 12th. A.L.H. on our right. | | |
| | | | The 1st. Coy of R.I.F. at SHILTA were replaced by 1 Sqn, Warwick Yeo. | | |
| | | | A fairly warm day and troops got the chance to dry their clothes and blankets which had been wet for three days and nights, but in spite of bad weather sick parades remained extremely small. | | |
| | " 11th. | | All quiet. | | |
| | " 12th. | | It was decided to build a stone sangar to be occupied in case of attack, by the Composite Squadron under Capt. A.G. Wykeham-Musgrave, and an old fort situated on the highest point of our line was chosen for the purpose. | | |
| | " 13th. | | The above work continued, and work on other strong posts commenced. | | |
| | " 14th. | | " " " " 4 Deserters came in. | | |
| | " 15th. | | " " " " 1 Deserter came in. | | |
| | " 16th. | | Divisional Commander and G.O.C. 5th. Mtd. Bde, visited the line. | | |
| | " 17th. | | G.O.C. 5th. Mtd. Bde, and G.S.O.1, Div. Major Schuster, 20th Corps, visited the lines. | | |
| | " 18th. | | The building of the fort entailing much labour in moving heavy rocks, now nearing completion. S.A.A. and bombs were stored in caves which were also capable of holding the garrison in case of shell fire being opened by enemy. | | |
| | " 19th. | | Strength of garrison:- 7 Offs, 110 O.R's, and 8 H.A.R., with 1 section 19th. M.G. Sqn, under Lt. Parker. | | |

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| Place | Date 1917. | Hour | Summary of Events and Information (3) | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|---------------|-------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | Dec. | 20th. | <p>Two small sangars and one large one in rear of them have now been completed between Gloucester Yee and the line held by 8th. A.L.H. They are situated in Palestine 1" sheet 14, 085, 516 D.</p> <p>Lieut. E.T. Cripps to hospital: strained knee.</p> <p>Lieut. R.H. Wilson and 43 O.R.'s. from "D" Sqn, arrived, their Sqn. having been relieved from Escort duty at Desert Corps H.Q. and were allotted the three sangars in J 16 D.</p> <p>G.O.C. 5th Mtd. Bde, visited the line.</p> | |
| | " | 21st. |) | |
| | " | 22nd. |) All quiet. Building the fort continued. | |
| | " | 23rd. |) | |
| | " | 24th. | 4th. A.L.H. Bde, relieved 5th. Mtd. Bde, which went into Divisional reserve, Gloucester Yee being situated W. of SUFFA | (MAP REF 1" map sheet XVII, 29 B) |
| | " | 25th. | Rain fell heavily all day. | |
| | " | 26th. | The C.O. accompanied Brig. Gen. P.V. Kelly, D.S.O., C.M.G., on a reconnaissance. Orders were received to move to a position of readiness N. of SUFFA by 0730, 27th | |
| | " | 27th. | Reveille 0500. Moved off 0615 and reached a position 1" map sheet 17, 085, J24, C, by 0730. Observation posts at 099 "0" 19, A, 3, 5, and 085, J24, A8, 2, were at once sent out and connected with R.H.Q. by telephone. Remained in this position all day. | |
| | " | 28th. | At 1600 received orders to go into bivouac threequarters of a mile west of our position of readiness. A reconnaissance of the line SHABUNY - 085 0, 9 Central was made by C.O. and Officers during the afternoon and routes of approach noted. | |
| | " | 29th. | Remained in Divisional reserve all day. Moved to a new bivouac area 1" map 085, J5D at 0900. A working party of 60 men were employed readmaking. | |
| | " | 30th. | Working party 90 readmaking. | |
| | " | 31st. | Working party of 60 readmaking up to 1200. The Bde. was relieved by 29th. Bde and moved to half mile S. of EL BURJ to await the arrival of the horses and proceed to join the remainder of the Bde. at YEBNAH. | |

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|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|--|---|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|----|-----|-----|----|----|--|
| | | | <p><u>STRENGTH OF REGIMENT WITH UNIT IN-THE-FIELD for month ending DECEMBER 31st 1917.</u></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td><u>Offs.</u></td> <td><u>O.R's.</u></td> <td><u>Horses.</u></td> <td><u>Mules.</u></td> <td><u>Donks.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>15</td> <td>373</td> <td>381</td> <td>42</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="6"><u>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH:-</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>19</td> <td>401</td> <td>403</td> <td>42</td> <td>17</td> </tr> </table> <p>1 Officer killed in action during month. 1 " to Hosp. 2 Officers joined Unit & taken on strength during month.</p> <p>2 O.R's. killed in action during month. 3 O.R's. wounded " " " " 33 O.R's. (excluding 2 O.R's wounded) to Field Ambulance during month. 61 O.R's. from Hosp. during month.</p> <p>1 horse died during month. 11 horses evacuated to Vet. Hosp. 2 " from Mob. Vet. Hosp. 2 Donks. died.</p> | | <u>Offs.</u> | <u>O.R's.</u> | <u>Horses.</u> | <u>Mules.</u> | <u>Donks.</u> | | 15 | 373 | 381 | 42 | 15 | <u>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH:-</u> | | | | | | | 19 | 401 | 403 | 42 | 17 | |
| | <u>Offs.</u> | <u>O.R's.</u> | <u>Horses.</u> | <u>Mules.</u> | <u>Donks.</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 15 | 373 | 381 | 42 | 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>EFFECTIVE STRENGTH:-</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 19 | 401 | 403 | 42 | 17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | <p><i>Epps</i></p> <p>CAPT. & ADJUTANT ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HUSSARS YEO.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |