

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

Cavalry

**Item number: 9/6/3 Part 1**

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

April 1917

For Bde Major

WAR DIARY

Royal Gloucester Hussars

Army Form C. 2118

APR 17

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
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Map Reference 1144,000.

121 APR 17 1917

12 Hotchkiss guns were issued to the regiment. The following packs were carried by the Regiment:- Hotchkiss Guns & Ammunition 18, Tools 9, Spare G.A.S. 2, Emergency ration and mess stores 11, Signallers 1, Medical 1. Lt. A.R. Paine relinquished his appointment as a Staff Capt at Bas. W.C. and returned to Worcester Yeo.

2nd April

A good deal of artillery activity in the morning. The regiment moved out to the outpost line at 1530 near IN BRIGAD, and was in support to the 5th Div. Pde. at IN of FAIR.

2nd

stood to arms 0730 and returned to camp 0730. Major (temp. Lieut. Col) R.M. YORKE, D.S.O. was appointed Acting Commander, Coastal Section, Delta and Eastern Force, and was granted the temporary rank of Brig. Gen. whilst employed as Section Commander, 4/20/17.

(Authority W.O. Delegated to 20705 (S.D.O.) 4/21/17. Under authority granted by His Majesty the King to the C. in C. Egyptian Expeditionary Force, the following honours have been awarded to the undesignated S.D.O. for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:-

Distinguished Conduct Medal.  
 No. 2150 S.D.O. THOMAS ALBERT SHART  
 (Auth. S.D.O. 2292 1144 00 000 4/21/17)  
 The President of the French Republic has with the approval of His Majesty the King bestowed the following decoration on the undesignated S.D.O. of the E.F.F. in recognition of his distinguished service during the campaign:-  
 Croix de Guerre.

No. 1433 S.D.O. CLEMENT CHARLES COBLE.

1033

WAR DIARY

Army Form C 2115/11

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erased heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
	(2)	
5th APRIL/17	Regt. took over the outpost line. Left camp 1200. The Regiment took over the 3rd (left) sector at IM SHIRAT.	
6th "	Stood to arms 0430. Morning patrols got into touch with enemy patrols 3 miles E. of ABU IMM TEIBIO. Regiment returned to camp by 1500.	
7th "	Moved camp to new site S.W. of 3rd A.L.H. Regt. near was shown	
8th "	Easter day Services.	
9th "	19 vehicles arrived (4 packs, 15 riders)	
	Dump and personnel was brought up from BAJA.	
10th "	Brig. Gen. P. B. HITCHCOCK, D.S.O. assumed command of the Regt. Brig. Gen. F. A. WIGGIX D.S.O. being relinquished. Lieut. A. R. DACHE was reported as the Worcester Yeo with effect from 10:4:17 (A.M. M.F.C. /10031 (B.I.) 1/10:4:17) Lieut. Lord APOLEY was attached to Regt. HQ. as Assistant Staff Capt.	unit 50 at 7:30 am etc to 4
11th "	Regt. took over the outpost line. Left camp 1145. The Regt. held the left sector as before near IM SHIRAT.	
12th "	Stood to arms 0430. Regt. returned to camp 1530. Horses had no water since they left camp previous day.	
15th "	Fired Hotchkiss Guns in afternoon.	
14th "	Hostile aeroplane dropped 3 bombs on camp and wounded one, Worcester Yeo. Enemy shelled railway dump during the morning. Artillery active.	
15th "	Regt. sent near BRN BELA. Regt. represented by Officers and Hotchkiss Guns.	
16th to 20th }	See Appendix No. 1.	

# WAR DIARY

OR

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Krase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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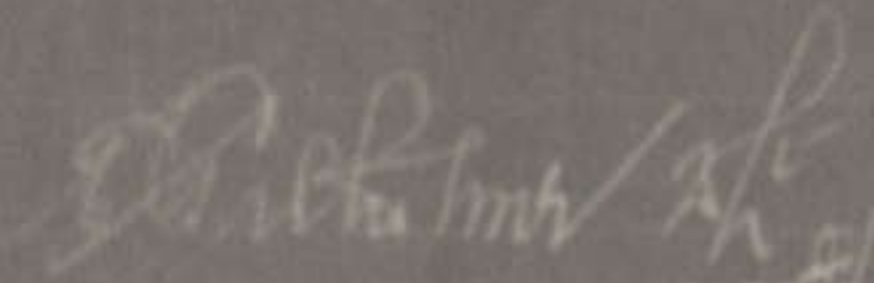
Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>April 23rd. ABASSAN-EL-KHIBIR. April 24th. 25th.</p>	<p>Khamses weather very hot. 2/Lt. Wilkins to P.A. Regt. moved from ABASSAN-EL-KHIBIR to SEMI SELA; left 1200. Capt. Wykes + Miagrato to CAIRO. Very hot day, Khamses. E/Lt. V. Gilholme appointed A/Adjutant. Capt. Howard and Mitchell proceeded on special reconnaissance in WELI SHEIKH MURAN district. Regt. proceeded to WELI SHEIKH MURAN to fill in old Turkish trenches, started 0700 returned 1700. Intense heat - Khamses. Maj. Lt. Ellis and one troop B. moved. proceeded to WELI SHEIKH MURAN - EL BAMA - EL SHAUTH - IM AJUA for the purpose of collecting Bedouins. He returned and handed to Bie. H.C. 12 men, 26 women &amp; children, 28 animals comprising donkeys, mules, cattle and camels. Regt. proceeded at 0730 to DEIR-EL-BELAH for bathing. Returned 1700. Khamses continues. Scarcity of water for horses. Bie. H.C. move to EL SHAUTH: 9 miles. Maj. Lt. F.H. Cook to P.A.</p>	
<p>26th. 27th. EL SHAUTH.</p>	<p>Regt. proceeded to EL SHAUTH, leaving SEMI SELA at 0500. Arrival EL SHAUTH 0630; distance 11 miles. Occupying recently evacuated and strongly fortified Turkish position. Evidence of strength of Turkish forces. At 1000 the Regt. proceeded to dig 1st. line trenches on ridge N.W. of Bie. H.C. Stand to arms 0800. Digging 0600. A Squad. under Capt. Langworth proceeded to CAMLI to take up a line of outposts and throw out patrols for 3 miles. During the day patrols were fired on by enemy patrols, but our patrols were reinforced by H.A.R. and enemy patrols were driven back. A Squad were relieved by the 3rd A.I.H. Regt, at 1500; returned to camp at 1630. Observation Post was established at POINT 510. Night post of</p>	<p><i>new 2 trenches from 1st line to 2nd line commenced</i></p>
<p>April 28th. EL SHAUTH.</p>	<p>At 1000 the Regt. proceeded to dig 1st. line trenches on ridge N.W. of Bie. H.C. Stand to arms 0800. Digging 0600. A Squad. under Capt. Langworth proceeded to CAMLI to take up a line of outposts and throw out patrols for 3 miles. During the day patrols were fired on by enemy patrols, but our patrols were reinforced by H.A.R. and enemy patrols were driven back. A Squad were relieved by the 3rd A.I.H. Regt, at 1500; returned to camp at 1630. Observation Post was established at POINT 510. Night post of</p>	<p><i>new 2 trenches from 1st line to 2nd line commenced</i></p>

834/4  
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Army Form C. 2118.

**WAR DIARY**  
or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**  
(Cross heading not required.)

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Continuation April 28th. * 0915. EI SHAMTAH.	1 Troop under Cnd. Lt. Morgan posted at POINT 910. Stand to arms 0400. Digging 0600. Cnd. 1/c Squadrons carried out reconnaissance with 6th. Mounted Bde. 16 BIR-EL-KSAMI and reported on water, wadi crossings and enemy in the district. Hostile aeroplane passed over.	
April 29th. EI SHAMTAH.	Hostile aeroplane passed over. <i>Report of enemy activities - Support details, counter-attack by A Coy.</i>	
	<u>Strength of Regiment.</u>	
	20 Coy. 157 ORs + 23 ORs 12 miles.	
	Reconnaissance during night. 19 Riders to Point 4000.	
	To Pt. 4000 32 miles 1 mile	
	 CAPTAIN ADJUTANT ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HUSSARS YEO.	

April 16th. 1919.

DEIR-EL-BELAH.

The Brigade moved out leaving camp at 1700 to march to IN SHIRAT. Halted there until dusk and proceeded to TEL-EL-JEMMI and went into bivouac there at 2000. Marching out strength, 20 Officers, 333 OR's, 400 animals.

April 17th.

At 2400 orders were received to leave at once. Marched out at 0100 and proceeded to EL MUNDUR with orders to turn down the WADI-EL-SHARIA and clear party of enemy but reported at KHIRBET-UM-RIJL. On arrival at MUNDUR got into touch with 3rd A.L.H. Bde, who reported that the enemy had retired from KHIRBET-UM-RIJL.

Brigade took over outpost line from EL MURKHEILEH to KHIRBET ENK both inclusive. Glos. Yeo left of the line from EL MURKHEILEH to wadi N. of KHIRBET-UM-RIJL inclusive; Worcester Yeo on right and 3rd A.L.H. Bde on the left with 54th Div. on their left again. Considerable parties of enemy were observed all day holding the high ground covering the GAZA-BIR-SABA road, and the forward observation line exchanged shots most of the day.

At 1200 the enemy shelled our Regt H.Q. at EL-MURKHEILEH. No casualties were incurred. The Regt. was relieved by the Bucks Yeo at 1530, and proceeded to water at NINWIA, distance 4 miles, arriving there about 1700 and proceeded thence to bivouac at TEL-EL-JEMMI, distance 5 miles, arriving there at 1900. The day was very hot and there were several men affected by the sun including 3/Lt. A.E. HOOKHAM who went to hospital.

April 18th.

Bde. remained in reserve at JEMMI and had to proceed to EL RISEIA for water in the evening. C.O. and Squadron Leaders proceeded on reconnaissance to MURKHEILEH.

April 19th.

Bde. moved out at 0200 and arrived MURKHEILEH 0500. Bombardment commenced 0510. Bde. moved into battle line at 0600. D. Squad. on left in touch with Worcester Yeo. A Squad. on right. B Squad. plus section V.C. in reserve. They advanced on bearing of 55° up the WADI BABA. The ANZAC Mt. Div. was responsible for our right flank, but this was considerably hindered by enemy in occupation of SAUSAGE HILL. We were supported on the right flank by the Ayrshire Bat. on the S.W. corner of SAUSAGE HILL. The Bde. despite considerable shell fire was able to continue its advance at a considerable rate. At 0910 our right which was being infiltrated from trenches on the N. end of SAUSAGE HILL was supported by a Squad. of Wey Yeo, and orders were received for the Regt. to advance no further than was necessary to keep touch with the Worcesters on the left. At 1040 a squadron of WEMR. Bde. came up on the right as escort to the battery. At 1055 the following message was received from G.O.C. 5th Mt. Bde.: - "WEMR. Bde coming up to take SAUSAGE HILL on our right. When that is clear you will push on to the GAZA-BIR-SABA road, turn left headed between road and telegraph wire and attack RIJL-EL-ATAWISH while the WEMR Bde. will attack point 567. Do not advance until SAUSAGE HILL is cleared." At about 1200 owing to the line having been swung to the left leaving the right flank exposed, considerable opposition was met with from this quarter and as the

(Continuation)

APRIL 17th

the Bde was unable to make much headway against SAUSAGE HILL. B. Squad. Glos. Yeo had to be brought up to guard the right flank from where the enemy seemed strong in artillery and had the exact range, causing considerable casualties. Artillery support was asked for, but the enemy's guns could not be silenced and their aeroplanes discovered and heavily bombed our batteries. During the day two enemy aeroplanes and one of our machines were brought down.

At 1345 the 3rd and 4th A.L.H. Bdes, who had reached the GABA-BIRBARA road at KHIRBET SHAN were compelled to retire, and the enemy, who had been heavily reinforced, at SAUSAGE HILL strongly counter attacked against WADI BABA.

The Wky Yeo, up to now had been in reserve were sent up to support the Forewater Yeo on the left.

At 1345 the counter attack was checked but the enemy still continued to press heavily.

At 1415, however, the enemy were again reinforced and re-commenced to advance.

At 1430 the Australians on both right and left were retiring, therefore with a view to being compelled to withdraw in conjunction, B. Squad were sent back to a covering position. By this time the 6th. Bde. came up on the left and the enemy were again checked.

At 1615 the situation was about the same with the enemy being held.

At 1645 orders were received for withdrawal to take place at 1850.

At 1850, however, orders were received for the withdrawal to be deferred until 1945, owing to inability to evacuate wounded before this hour.

The enemy appeared to have no further intention of pressing and by 2030 the Bde. was entirely withdrawn and returned down the WADI to EL MUKHEILEH.

The Bde. then proceeded to water at TEL-EL-JEMMI, arriving there 2300 and from thence to bivouac at EL-MENDUR. This last named place was reached at 0215.

Casualties for the day: 1 O.R. killed, 12 wounded. S.A.A. expended during the day 14,000 rounds. Only 1 horse was injured.

APRIL 20th.

The Bde. was kept in reserve with orders to be ready to move at half an hour's notice.

Watered in morning at TEL-EL-JEMMI; distance 3 miles, and on return were ordered to immediately entrench in outpost line from EL MENDUR to TEL EL JEMMI.

There was increased aerial activity throughout the day, the enemy bombing to a large extent.

At 1645 orders were received to be ready to move at 1700 to MUKHEILEH to take over the outpost line from 6th

Bde. Glos. Yeo were on the left in touch with 3rd A.L.H. Bde, holding the line as far as the WADI N of EL RIJL.

The Forces. Yeo. prolonged the line to point 320 on the right along the WADI EL-SHARIA with the Wky. Yeo. in

reserve at Bde. H.Q. at POINT 280. A. Squad. Glos Yeo held the right of the line, and B Squad, plus 1

section of M.G. on the left, 2 troops of D Squad in the centre, 1 troop in support. The night was quiet.

APRIL 21st.

Early morning patrol captured 1 Turkish soldier. The Regt. continued to hold the line and dig and commenced on second line in afternoon. We held an observation post on SAUSAGE HILL and were more or less occupied with snipers throughout the day, who were attempting to find a way up the WADI BABA.

B. & D. Squads, and 2 sections of M.G. occupied the outpost line with A Squad. in reserve. Lieut. Turner and the Desert Column Escort Troop rejoined the Regt. The night was quiet.

APR 1917

23/4/17  
APR 1917

April 22nd. Trench digging was continued throughout the day principally in the support line. Observation post on SAUSAGE HILL, had increased activity principally with enemy snipers firing 1000 rounds during the day, and the Turks appeared to be considerably reinforced in the ATAWISER district. Orders were received to withdraw at 1930, the whole Bde. moving to ABABAN EL KEBIR, which was reached without further incident 0230.

\* 23rd. At 0600 orders were received to move to a new camp one & a half miles S. of ABABAN EL KEBIR.

\* 24th. At 1230 orders were received to proceed to a new camp near KHAN YUBUS so as to be near the horse water troughs.

CASUALTIES

3037	Pte Crockett W.	killed in action	21/4/17
3112	James T. W.	2nd of wounds	27/4/17

*[Handwritten signature]*