

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

Cavalry

Item number: 9/6/5 Part 2

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

Duplicate

June 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.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and References to Appendices
	<u>MAP REFERENCE 1:125,000. RAFA - HEPHSHEBA.</u>	
1917.	<u>1st ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HUSSARS YEO.</u>	
1st June. TEL-EL-FARA.	The Brigade left bivouac camp at TEL ITWEIL at 0300 crossing the Wadi at BIR EL ESANI to take up a line to cover reconnaissance by G.O.Cs Army and Desert Column. Thick fog came down at 0345 and did not lift until 0700.	
	The 5th Mounted Brigade held the line from Pt 750 MAALAGA - RASHID-BEK - KHOR-EL-AJRAM, the 6th Mounted Brigade prolonged the line to the N. The Royal Gloucestershire Hussars held the line from RASHID BEK to KHOR-EL-AJRAM, the Worcester Yeo, operating on the right, Warwick Yeo, and "B" Battery H.A.C. in reserve. One section of Machine Guns was attached to each Regiment. There was long range firing at enemy patrols during the day. Brigade withdrew at 1215.	
	After watering at BIR-EL-ESANI and TEL-EL-FARA the regiment arrived in camp at 1830.	
2nd June.	2nd Lt. R.H. Wilson proceeded to ZEITGUN to undergo Hotchkiss Course.	
	Digging party of 1 Officer and 68 ORs reported to Warwick Yeo, at EL GHABI, distance 4 miles, at 0800, and returned to camp at 1515.	
3rd June.	Camp was inspected by ADMS IMD.	
4th "	Digging party of 1 Officer and 68 ORs reported to EL GHABI.	
5th "	Digging party of 1 Officer and 50 ORs to EL GHABI. Hostile aeroplane dropped 3 bombs on Warwick Yeo, but did no damage.	
6th "	Digging party of 1 Officer and 37 ORs to EL GHABI. Camp was inspected by the ADMS Sanitation, Desert Column.	
	Lieut. G.V de Freville returned from Signalling Course ZEITGUN and went to Brigade H.Q. as Brigade Signalling Officer.	
7th "	Digging party of 1 Officer & 50 ORs to EL GHABI.	
	No 2454 Sgt. Charles Henry Arnison to be 2nd Lieut. on probation General List for duty with R.F.C. d/26-5-17. (Auth. GRO List No. 290 d/2-6-17).	
8th "	Digging Party 1 Officer and 46 ORs to EL GHABI. The continual	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2112.

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7th June.

Digging in the hot sun is being felt by the men and several cases of heat collapse have occurred. Only one man to 4 horses being left in camp for duty with horses it is difficult to give the horses as much attention as required. About 120 men are being dressed daily for septic sores out of a total strength of 293 ORs. 2nd Lt L.L.Wilkins returned from Hospital.

8th "

Digging party of 1 Officer and 27 ORs to EL GHABI.

9th "

Digging party of 1 Officer and 36 ORs to EL GHABI.

10th "

"A" Squadron acted as escort to a section of 60 pounder Heavy Guns, which proceeded E of the W. GHUZZI via SHELLAL as far as KARM in conjunction with a reconnaissance carried out by the 6th Mounted Brigade. Left camp 1000, returned 2000. No incident of any interest occurred and no good targets being obtained the guns did not come into action. Very few enemy were seen.

11th "

2nd Lt. G.E.Hookham returned from Hospital and took over duties of Regt1. Signal Officer.

Digging party of 1 Officer and 22 ORs to EL GHABI.

Lieut. E.P.Butler proceeded to CAIRO for Night Marching and Compass Course.

12th "

Digging Party of 1 Officer and 70 ORs proceeded to EL GHABI leaving camp 0430 returned after watering 1215.

13th "

Digging party of 1 Officer and 72 ORs proceeded to EL GHABI.

2nd Lt C.J.Orford proceeded to CAIRO regarding his transfer to ECTC, ASC.

14th "

Digging party of 1 Officer and 72 ORs proceeded to EL GHABI. Major Turner and Squadron Leaders carried out a reconnaissance of the EL GIRHEIR - EL BUGGAR area.

15th "

2nd Lt. R.H.Wilson returned from Hotchkiss Course at ZMITOUN.

16th "

Squadrons carried out troop training.

17th "

Lt. Col A.J.Palmer granted sick leave.

18th "

Commenced Musketry Firing Class near EL GHABI.

For stood to arms daily at 0330.

Reconnaissance of outpost line by Officers.

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APPENDIX NO. I.

20th June.

21st "

The Regiment, less Details left in Camp under 2/Lt L.L. WILKINS, moved to a camp half a mile E of WADI GHUZZI at TEL-EL-WARA and took over the duties of outpost from the Worcester Yeo. at 1900 in accordance with Operation Orders attached.
Line by day GOZ MABRUK - GOZ-EL-BASAL - 500 contour line 2 miles S of Pt 510 - Pt 510 ABU SHAWISH - 2 Treehill. By night 1 mile E of barbed wire from GAMLI to EL DAMATH - EL HAGILI.
For this duty, owing to the weakness of the squadrons D Squadron was split up between A & B Squadrons. Strength of Regt. 16 Officer 247 ORs, 305 Horses, 9 Miles. Major Longworth was appointed O.C. Outposts Line. By night 2 troops under Lieuts Turner and Wilson were in the line forming 6 Posts of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men each. The Worcester Yeo had 3 Officers' Patrols out to the WADI IMLEIK who returned about midnight, otherwise the night was quiet.

22nd. June

The line moved forward 1 mile at 0300 and the troops for the day line leaving camp at the same time, took over the day posts, which consisted of 1 troop each except 2 TREE HILL which was only 1 N.C.O. & 4 men and signallers. Sqn. H.Q. and reserve troops were at GOZ-EL-GELEMIEB. On the left touch was maintained with the Duke of Lancasters Own Yeomanry acting as Divisional Cavalry to the 53rd Div. Major Turner D.S.O. was in command of the Regt in place of Lieut. Col. Palmer D.S.O. who was sick.
Communications were maintained between Regtl. H.Q. at the camp and the 5th. Mtd. Bde H.Q. by telephone which was extended by night to the centre of the night line, and by day to GOZ-EL-GELEMIEB.
Other Posts were connected by visual.

Patrols were sent out to EL-GIRMEIR, KIRBIT and towards KIRBIT KHASIEF, all of which places were held by the enemy. In the evening the enemy shelled Pt. 550 and No. 2063, Pte. Cox, B. was wounded.

Lieuts. Townsend, Ellis and Wilson carried out reconnaissance of the WADI IMLEIK during the night, finding enemy posts all the way along between the W of WADI IMLEIK and Pt. 520.

JUN 1917

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Army Form C. 2118.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	—4—	
23rd June	Capt. A.H.S. Howard returned from Hosp. Took over same line without opposition and the enemy held the same places. The usual patrols were sent out during the day. The GOZ MABRUQ Post was attacked by a patrol which was driven off. Lieut. Hawtrey carried out reconnaissance towards EL-GIRMEIR during the night.	
24th "	Took over the same day outpost line, with the exception that the post at GOZ MABRUQ was reduced to 1 N.C.O., and 8 men with a Hotchkiss Rifle, and GOZ-EL-BASAL was not posted with a view to drawing the enemy forward prior to a sweeping operation to be shortly carried out. GOZ MABRUQ Post was again attacked, by an enemy troop which was driven off. The Regt. was relieved of night outpost duties by the A.L.H. Bde at 1700. The	
25th "	Carried out operations in the EL BUGGAR - KARM area in accordance with operation order and report. — See APPENDIX. II Marching out strength - 15 Offr, 234 O.R's, 271 animals. Casualties - 2/Lieut. E.H. Cook, 1895 Sergt. James, B.L. wounded and remained with unit , 1821 Far/Sergt Morgan, F.W. 2869 Pte Davies, C.R.C., 3418, Pte Thorpe, H.J. accidentally injured. 1 horse killed, 8 wounded. Returned to the old camp W. of FARAS 1530.	
26th "	No. 235007 R.Q.M.S. Brain, F.C. to be Q.M. with Hon. rank of Lieut, 12/9/16. Supplement to London Gaz. No. 30097 d/25.5.17. All N.C.Os and men were allotted new Regimental numbers. 2/Lieut. R.H. Wilson was temporarily transferred to A. Sqn. 2/Lieut. E.H. Cook went to hospital.	JUN 1917
27th "	Major T.J. Longworth went to hosp.	
28th "	The name of the Division was changed from Imperial Mtd. Div. to Australian Mtd. Div.	
29th "		
30th "	D. Sqn. proceeded to Ft. 303, 1 mile S. of KARIM ABU-EL-MISEIA preparatory to leaving the relieving the D.L.O. Yeo in the outpost line the following day. Marching out strength - 3 Offr, 78 O.R's, 98 animals.	

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Army Form C. 2118.

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

-5-

30th June.

SUMMARY.

Strength of Regt. 20 Officers 366 ORs 483 Horses 46 Mules.
1/6/17
2/6/17 Strength of Regt. 19 Officers, 354 ORs. 432 Horses, 46 Mules.
Numbers to Hospital & Rest Camp. 96 ORs.
" returned from Hosp. & R.C. 87 "
Casualties in action Killed 3 Officers 1 OR. 1 Horse.
Wounded 1 Officer. 4 ORs 9 Horses.
Draft Received Nil.
Remounts " Nil.
Horses Died Nil.
" to Base Vet. Hos. 10.
" Destroyed 1.

John Fletcher - Major
CAPT. & ADJUTANT
ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HORSE YEOMANRY

30 JUN 1917.

R.E.G.Y.

OPERATION ORDER NO. 1.
MEN. REGT. 11126000.

Copy No. 1.

21-6-17.

1. **INFORMATION.** Enemy by day holds the line KM. KHASIF - .550 W of EL GIRMIRI; by night has posts along the WADI IMLEMIM and at EL BUGGAR.
2. **INTENTION.** The Regt. will take over the outpost duties from the Worcester Yeo. at 1900 today until the 25th inst. In the event of attack the Brigade will concentrate as far as possible on the line IM-SIRI - EL BUGGAR and operate against the enemy's flank.
3. **DISPOSITIONS.**
 - (a) **By Day.** Post No 1 - 1 troop GOZ-MABRUK.
 - " 2 - 1 " GOZ-EL-BASAL.
 - " 3 - 1 " On 500 Contour Line 2 miles S of .510.
 - " 4 - 1 " .510 ABU SHAWISH, with a post on ruins 300 yds N of it.
 - " 5 - 1 N.C.O. & 4 men & Signallers on 2 Tree Hill.
 - Sqdn. H.Q. and 2 Troops (less No 5 post) in reserve near GOZ-EL-OMLIMIS.
 - This line will be withdrawn at discretion of O.C. Outposts at dusk.
 - Troop will be maintained by day with the D.L.O. Yeo. at .300 at first t in cultivation. The latter will be responsible for ground N of the line from HISNIA crossing to the 1st A in ABU MARHARA.
 - (b) **By Night.** 6 Standing patrols (strength 1 NCO & 6 men), will be placed about 1 mile E of the barbed wire in front of the infantry line on a front from cross tracks E of GAMLI, to half way between EL DAMATH and EL NAGILI, where track crosses road.
 - The exact location of these posts will be communicated to OSC Infantry.
 - Troop will be kept with D.L.O. Post where track crosses road N of EL NAGILI.
 - One Subaltern Officer will be i/c of group A, viz. 1, 2 & 3 posts, and another group B, viz. 4, 5 & 6. In the event of attack by body of the enemy troops, patrols will give the alarm and slowly retire behind the barbed wire.
 - The ALARM will be given by firing one red Very Light.
 - These patrols will be posted at 1930, and at 0300 will move forward about a mile under the direction of the group Officers. If "All Clear" these Officers will each fire a WHITE Very Light and remain in observation until the day posts pass through them.
 - The two support troops will arrive at GOZ EL GELMIR in time to fire a third Very Light if all clear, immediately the other two have been sent up. The "All Clear" will also be confirmed by telephone from them.
4. **ORDERS.** The outpost line will be under the command of Major Longworth with troops as detailed for the first 24 hours. For 2nd 24 hrs Lt. Lord Apaley will be in command.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS.** The Signalling Officer will arrange for all communication.
6. **OFF SADDLING.** All troops with the exception of two orderlies (by night IN CAMP etc.) will off-saddle when in the bivouac, but no horse's will be off-saddled when in the outpost line, either by day or night.
7. **LIGHTS.** No lights or smoking will be permitted in the outpost line between 1900 and 0430. In camp all lights to be out by 2100.
8. **REPORTS.** Regtl. H.Q. will be at FARA EAST Camp, where all reports should be sent. "All Clear" reports will reach Regtl. H.Q. by 0830, 1530 and when Night Outposts are in position. Intelligence reports will be rendered to Regtl. H.Q. by 1000 & 2000 daily.
9. **Parade.** The Regt. will parade in Marching Order with 2 nose bags filled and tomorrow's breakfast and midday meal on the men:-
"A" Sqdn. - 1600. Remainder 1630.

A75/7

10 Advance Party. 2nd Lt. E. Gilholme with 1 N.C.O. & 2 men per sqdn. and 1 N.C.O. M.Q. will proceed at 1530 to take over the new camp from the Worcester Yeo.

11 PATROLS. Three special Worcester patrols (strength about 12 each) will be returning through the Outpost Line between 2400 and 0300 tonight.

sgd. A.G.Wykenham-Musgrave.

Capt. & Adjt.

1st Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeo.

Copy No 1. Office.
2 A Squadron.
3 B "
4 D "

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two copies

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~~SECRET.~~

COPY No. 1

R.G.H. OPERATION ORDER No. 1.

-00-

Map Ref. 1:125,000.

AH5
JUN 8 1917.

1. INFORMATION The enemy have small detachments within the area West of the General line Point 720 - EL BUGGAR - RASHID-HBK supported by a Squadron at EL BUGGAR.
2. INTENTION The mounted Regiments of the Bde reinforced by the Bucks and 1 Sqn. of Dorset Yeo, will take part in a drive operation on the 25th inst. The above force (less R.G.H.) will bivouac near Pt. 750 - IM'ALAGA on the night 24/25. The R.G.H. with 3 light armoured cars will take up the perimeter KH-IMLEIH - Pt. 720 - cross roads W. of TAWEIL-HABARI exclusive (Northern sector) while the rest of the force will continue the perimeter to ESANI Southern sector) 1 Sqn. 4th A.L.H. Bde will occupy line KHIRBIT-BIR-EL-GIRHEIR by 0800 on 25th.
3. ORDERS
1. The Regt. will concentrate near Pt. 510 at 0745, and move off 0815 via north of Pt. 630 to be in position by 1000 on the line KH-IMLEIH - Pt. 720 - cross roads TAWEIL-EL-HABARI exclusive.
 2. B. Sqn. will be responsible for the sector KH IMLEIH to half mile S.E. of Pt. 720 on the ABU SHAWISH road. A Sqn. will prolong the line to the cross roads exclusive where they will gain touch with the Warwick Yeo. One light armoured car will accompany B. Sqn. and two will go in rear of A. Sqn.
 3. The drive westwards will commence at 1010 in two bounds to the following general lines:- (a) All units will move at a trot to the line W. UM-SIRR-EL BUGGAR - Pt. 680 E. - Pt. 680 W. (b) All troops will converge on line drawn N. and S. of KARM, pace as required. A halt of 10 minutes will take place between bounds unless prompt movement is required of any unit, and the Regt. will adjust its alignment and check its direction.
 4. Flank and Rear Protection. Sqns. will provide their own protection during the approach march and the drive. At least one troop under an officer will be used in each squadron for this purpose. Capt. A.H.S. Howard with a Galleroper will watch the movements of the rearguard.
4. MEDICAL Motor Ambulances will be at SHANAG and GOZ-EL-EASAL by 1100. Two cycle carts will accompany the Regt under the M.O. and remain with the B. Sqn. troop at IMLEIH. Should serious wounds occur during the approach march or drive, units will arrange for protection and also notify their rearguard.
5. COMMUNICATION. There will be the minimum of Signalling. The helio will only be used by B.H.Q. in case of need, when called units will reply by the same means. Flags will be sparingly used: if it is necessary to ask or give identity between units, the first two Regimental letters will be sent followed by Squadron letter. At least one flag per troop should be taken. Should Turks be seen moving within the area, the letter T may be flagged, followed by the compass letter giving direction. Scouts and Patrols Officers will signal enemy's presence by waiving their helmets. Lieut. E. Gilholme will act as Galleroper to the O.C. and each Sqn. will detail one officer or senior N.C.O. for this duty with the Sqn. Leader. The advanced scouts of each Sqn should also be under an officer or senior N.C.O.

JUN 1917

A/H/5
9**6. FORMATIONS.**

A general alignment only is required of bodies larger than a Sqn. Extensions should be small in view of possible mounted action, and no units smaller than a troop should be used in the drive. An approximate frontage for a Sqn. of 4 troops should be threequarters to 1 mile, but when enemy is reported or suspected to be in strength, a close formation is needed: all officers must show dash and initiative in intervening in any combat entered into by neighbouring formations. The charge will be preceeded by a cheer or a warning to others and officers must remember to fall back one horse length into front rank when charging.

7. EQUIPMENT

Troops will march as light as possible. One bandolier only will be carried. Wallets, messtins, or Iron rations will not be taken. Only Hotchkiss Rifle Packs will be taken. Spare shoes will be left in wallets. During the drive swords will be drawn and carried across the pommel of the saddle by all except scouts and rearguards, who advance their arms.

8. PERSUIT

Persuit is left to the discretion of leaders subject to the following general instructions. (a) within the drive Turks in movement will be followed by an equal force until their capture by another unit seems certain; (b) The general alignment should be kept by other than persueing bodies; (c) stragglers breaking back will be rapidly followed as far as the rear guard line or further if capture appears immediately possible.

Rear guards will observe all country behind them and help to cut off stragglers whenever the situation allows.

9. PRISONERS

Prisoners will have the bolts taken out of rifles and marched with linked horses under suitable protection to KARM. Wounded prisoners will, if possible: serious cases can be left. Captured camels, if they cannot be brought along, will be destroyed.

10. REPORTS

Bde. H.Q. will leave Pt. 750 at 1000 and will move via MSANI - Pt. 680 W. Regtl. H.Q. will be in centre of A Sqn line., where all reports should be sent.

11. PARADE

Sqns. will parade under Sqn. arrangements in above order with one feed on saddle and unexpired portion of days ration, which should be cut into sandwiches and carried in haversack. Horses will be fed during the concentration: Sqns. should leave camp in sufficient time to effect this. Order of march:- B.A. HQ. Three spare horses per sgn. will be taken, tenued-at

Issued at 1630

Copy No. 1 for Gen
2 A
3 B
4 C

R.G. by Rebam - Magrave.
CAPT & ADJUTANT
ROYAL GLOUCESTER... RUSSAND YEO.

25/6/17

AH5
10REPORTS - NOTES.

- 21 JUN 1917.
1. Ridges 1000 ft. above about two trapezoidal pits, half mile S. of Pt. 720 facing W.
 2. EL BUGGAR. (a) Nine pits scattered over a small area covering nearly approach, sufficient for one troop. (b) Two pits, one facing N., were observed on the ridge round where track cuts contact base of Hill of KIRKESI TABA.
 3. About 1,000 yds E. of KARI on bearing of 113° from KARI house (a) A line sixteen rifle pits 700 yds long at 50 yds interval, facing N.
 (b) About 15 yds S. of above a zig-zag line for about 20 men, facing N.
 (c) One line trenches traversed S. E. E. of above 700 yds long, all facing N., ~~and no work commenced in place~~.
 (d) At N. extremity of Northern line of trench one ~~re~~oubt defended on NW & S., accommodation 10 men.
 (e) A communication trench crossing KARI - KARA ROAD about 600 yds long, about 2 ft deep, running line S. from this ~~excavated~~ to another ~~excavated~~ but not in course of construction. This ~~re~~oubt being in Warwick Yeo sector was not recommended by us.
 (f) About 400 yds due N. of first ~~re~~oubt a smaller pit has been dug with ramped entrance from N. side - diam. about 20 ft.

TRACKS.

Many tracks of narrow wheels running E & W along track from UMSIR which stops just S of Pt 720, also signs of considerable wheeled traffic on track running N & S half mile S of KH. KIRKESI - tyres or wheels appeared to be about 3 to 4 inches in width. The main track leading to Hill 630 appears to come from the crossing of WADI TELAT at KHIREH.

- WELLS.
- a. At KHAKSIR - Well No 1 - Circumference 50 ft, depth of water 10 ft, depth from surface to water 60 ft.
 - b. Well No 2. Circumference 19 ft, depth ~~40~~ of water 8 ft, depth from surface to water 50 ft. Wells at EL BUGGA appeared to be regularly used - supply of water plentiful. Five caves with stone pillars; no signs of these being occupied by the enemy - height 25 ft, width 12 ft, length 15 ft. Just outside the caves there is a pit which could easily accommodate a squad ~~hide~~ from view.

CAVES.

~~Camels~~. Nearly all observations of ground used by small outlying posts go to show that these ~~are~~ camel corps posts used for night work probably on account of the greater silence of the camel.

COMMUNICATION.

Teleph one wire to EL BUGGAR carried on poles from the E.

Turki h paper picked up today enclosed.

Glo. Hussars
June '17

JUN 1917

A/5
11

DAY OF OPERATIONS CARried OUT ON THE 25/6/17.

The Regiment concentrated in the vicinity of Pt. 710 in preparation with orders issued, and moved out in a front in column of troops in extended order 50 yards distance at 0815. After proceeding half a mile we came under shell fire from two guns firing N.E. and a few seconds later approximately Pt. 520, one and a half miles S.E. of KHASIF. Apparently about 5000 lbs shell. — Range accurate. Casualties from shell fire:- Officer, 2/Lt E.H. COOM

A. 5. P.M., 5 killed, 10 wounded horses, 1 killed, 8 wounded.

KHIBIT-

The 4th, A.L.I. unit were holding line 1700. — A. 01-01-0100 II - BIG ISLIM, with post on Pt. 720. This greatly facilitated our advance march. Arrived Pt. 720 by route 1700 at 0900 and 0930, thence along W. KARAFISH at 0920 - having encountered no opposition from rifle fire.

At 0945 a. 1700 about two squadrons of cavalry and 15 to 20 camels were seen approaching at rapid pace from the N. On our opening fire at 1700 yds they at once stopped and then retired immediately. Our pursuit march was continued and contact was gained with the Warwick Line at 0955, about 1 mile S.E. of Pt. 720.

These troops followed up for the drive rearwards of one troop per Squadron took up ~~****~~ positions about three-quarters of a mile S. of Pt. 720 and engaged enemy line of rearguard about 1 mile further N.

Drive started at 0955 and was completed without incident at 1115.

Note. Information was obtained from the 4th A.L.I. that Pt. 630 and Pt. 720 to the effect that between hours of 0500 and 0600 five hundred to one thousand mounted men, camels and packhorses left the neighbourhood of UM SIME and KH. KHASIF, proceeding N.

Glo. Kus^s &
June 17