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Australian Imperial Force unit
war diaries, 1914-18 War

Cavalry

Item number: 9/6/6 Part 2

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

Duplicate

July 1917

1st Royal Glos. Hussars Geo. Aust. Mtd. Div.

On His Majesty's Service.

July 1917.

ORIGINAL

CONFIDENTIAL.



WAR DIARY
OF

1st Royal Glos. Hussars Geo. Aust. Mtd. Div

From *1st July*

To *30th July* 191*7*

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MAP REF. RAFA & BEERSHEBA	1:125000		<p align="center"><u>1ST. ROYAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE HUSSARS YEOMANRY.</u></p> <p>Major C.E. Turner D.S.O. was appointed President of a Court of Enquiry held at Brigade H.Q.</p> <p>The Regt. less details left in camp under 2nd. Lieuts. Wilkins & Townsend moved to FARA EAST Camp, preparatory to taking over the duties of the outpost line in conjunction with the Worcester Yeo. from the 3rd. Australian Light Horse Brigade, at dawn the following morning, as per Operation Orders.</p> <p align="center">See APPENDIX I attached.</p> <p>Strength 12 Officers, 237 ORs, 286 Horses, 10 Mules, inclusive of "D" Sqn. already in outpost line acting as Div. Cavalry for 53rd. Division near EL NAGILI.</p>	
TEL-EL-FARA	July 1st. 1917.			
" 2nd. "			<p>Stood to arms and day outposts moved out by 0300 and occupied the line without opposition. One Regt. of 3rd. A.L.H. Bde. carried out reconnaissance towards BIR-EL-ESANI. Usual enemy post of about 1 troop on HILL 630 EL GIRHEIR and about 5 troops on the EL BUGGAR ridge during the day.</p> <p>Enemy harvesting party of 20 to 30 Bedouins were working W of the WADI IMLEIH near .140 and another of 40 or 50 at EL MAGAM. These parties were dispersed by long range machine gun fire: good observation being obtained at from 2900 to 3300 yds. 6 Turkish deserters from TEL-EL-SHARIA were brought in. From 1700 to 1930 60 enemy cavalry and camelmen were observed between .630 and IFTEIS. The majority of these appeared to move towards BIR GIRHEIR, but no attempt was made to follow up the withdrawal of our outposts.</p> <p>The enemy ranged with artillery of large & small calibre along the WADI IMLEIH during the day. Owing to the moon being full all lights were extinguished at 2000 as protection against hostile aircraft.</p>	
" 3rd. "			<p>Day outposts moved out to take over the line at 0300. Only usual enemy posts and patrols on EL GIRHEIR and EL BUGGAR were visible. Harvesting party of 50 camels and natives near EL GIRHEIR and another of 20 camels & 15 donkeys near</p>	

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- 2 -				
FARA EAST	3rd. July 1917.		<p>Pt. 410 were dispersed by machine gun and Hotchkiss Rifle fire, range 2600 yds; at which range good observation and close grouping was obtained. The Post on EL GIRHEIR was increased in the evening to about the same strength as the previous day. Two heavy armoured cars were sent out to Post at Pt 510 to engage the enemy if they attempted to follow up the outposts, but no activity was shown on their part. Owing to night operations the Regt. took over the night outpost duty, the remainder of the Brigade proceeding on a special mission to KHALASA. Lt. Col. A. J. Palmer D.S.O. returned from sick leave. Lt. R. G. Anderson with a draft of 38 ORs arrived (only 3 of these were old 1st. Line men), and were posted as follows:- Lt. Anderson & 13 ORs to A Sqn; 12 ORs. to B Sqn_ and 13 to D Sqn. Lieut. A. M. McGrigor sailed for leave to England.</p>	
	4th. "		<p>Only the post on TWO TREE HILL found today, consisting of one troop and two machine guns owing to the 1st. A.L.H. Bde. operating on the line Pt. 510 - EL GIRHEIR - Pt. 730 with the 3rd. & 4th. A.L.H. Bdes. prolonging the line towards BEERSHEBA to cover a reconnaissance by the Corps Commander. During the morning only the usual working and foraging parties near Pt 410 were visible and these were dispersed by M.G. & H.A.R. fire, range 2000 yds. Touch was obtained on the right with the A.L.H. & on left with D Sqn. at Pt 300. One Batt. enemy Infantry was observed at 1745 marching along GAZA-SABA ROAD past Pt. 540 towards IRGEIG and about two Coys. going in the opposite direction at the same time. The enemy were observed drilling in the evening near BAIKET-EL-SANA. B Sqn. took over the night outpost line. The Regt. less B & D Sqdns. returned to the old Brigade Camp W of TEL EL FARA at 1100. At the Hotchkiss Rifle Course held at ZEITOUN, the following results were obtained:- 2/Lt. R. H. Wilson - Instructor; 1986 Cpl. Wheeler A. C. - Instructor; 1967 Pte. Clark A. E. - Gunner.</p>	
TEL EL FARA	5th. "		<p>B Sqn. relieved one squadron of Worcester Yeo. in the day</p>	

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TEL EL FARA.	5th July. 1917.		3. outpost line from 0800 to 1400, while the latter were watering. B Sqn. returned to Camp 1600. Two troops of A Sqn. took over the duties of the night outpost at 1915. Gen. Sir E. H. H. Allenby K. C. B. assumed command of the E. E. F. d/29/6/17.	
"	6th.		Two troops of A Sqn. returned to Camp 0700. D Sqn. reported an enemy cavalry patrol of 30 men at EL NAGILI from 2250 - 2330. A Composite Regt, composed of 1 sqdn, from each Warwick, Gloucester & Worcester Yeo. was formed under the command of Lt. Col. A. J. Williams DSO. Cmdg. Worcester Yeo., with Major C. E. Turner DSO 2nd in command, to represent the Yeomanry in a composite Brigade for inspection by General Sir E. H. H. Allenby K. C. B. The Composite Bde. also included detachments from Australian & New Zealand Mounted Troops, I. C. C., Hong Kong & Singapore Battery and Notts R. H. A. The Composite Regt. moved to KHAZAR near EL FUKHARI and bivouacked there the night. Strength of R. G. H. Sqn. 6 Officers, 136 O. Rs., 146 Horses. Capt. A. H. S. Howard commanded the squadron, with Lt. Lord Apsley M. C. 2nd in command, and Lt. G. V. Hawtrey, 2/Lts. E. Gilholme, H. P. Ellis, R. H. Wilson acted as troop leaders. The Brigade less the Composite Regt. moved to MARAKEB and camped by the sea.	
MARAKEB.	7th.		Gen. Sir E. H. H. Allenby K. C. B. inspected the composite Brigade at EL FUKHARI at 1000. The Composite Regt. rejoined the rest of the Bde. at MARAKEB at 1600.	
"	9th.		The Regt. being by the sea, advantage was taken by all ranks of bathing. Hotchkiss & Signalling Classes were reopened. At recent Examinations at ZEITOUN the following passed as against their names:- TOPOGRAPHICAL Lt. E. P. Butler - passed. SIGNALLING 2599 Cpl. Jenkins S. - Qualified. HOTCHKISS "B" 3181 Pte. Jones R. R. - Gunner.	
"	11th.		Musketry Courses reopened.	

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-4-				
MARAKEB.	July 12th.		Classes continue daily.	
"	13th.		Lt. E. W. Squire RAMC was attached for duty vice Capt. C. M. Forster RAMC, to Cairo for duty at a Base Hospital.	
"	15th.		One troop per sqdn. was instructed in gas drill by the D.G.O. Draft of 30 having arrived were taken on the strength and posted as follows:- A Sqdn. 6; B Sqdn 10; D Sqdn 14.	
"	18th.		Major T. J. Longworth returned from Hospital.	
"	19th.		Owing to the period of RAMADAM nearing completion and the Mohammedan festival of BAIRAM being imminent with the new moon, and considerable activity on the part of the enemy being shown, at 1150 the Bde. was ordered to saddle up and be ready to move at once. At 1830 orders were received to turn out immediately and proceed to KILO 9 near EL FUKHARI on the RAFA - SHELLAL LOOP LINE. The Bde. moved off at 1900 and arrived at its destination at 2300, distance 8 miles - bivouacked the night. Marching out strength of Regt. 15 Officers, 274 ORs, 322 Horses, 10 mules. Left in Camp unable to mount 100 ORs.	
KILO No 9 EL FUKHARI.	20th.		Stood to arms and saddled up at 0500. At 1000 news was received that the enemy who had occupied the EL GIRHEIR - EL BUGGAR Ridge in force had been driven back, and the Brigade was ordered to return to MARAKEB at 1045, which place was reached at 1330, watering at ABASAN EL KEBIR en route.	
MARAKEB.			Lieut. E. T. Cripps went to Field Ambulance.	
"	21st.		Draft arrived composed as under:- Capt. C. E. F. Henry, 2/Lt. G. P. Simonds and 38 O. Rs. who were posted as follows:- Capt. Henry to O. C. Australian Mtd. Div. Details RAFA; 2/Lt. Simonds to D. Sqdn. A Sqdn. 12 O. Rs.; B. Sqdn. 14 O. Rs. D. Sqdn. 12 O. Rs; this brought the total strength of the Regt. everywhere up to 29 Officers 497 O. Rs. 370 Riding Horses, 42 Pack and 63 Transport Animals. This is the first time the Regt. has been up to strength in personnel since August 1915.	
"	22nd.		2/Lt. Simonds to Hospital.	
"	24th.		2/Lt. Simonds returned from Hospital. Transport returned to the Regt. from Brigade Transport Column. 1 Officer, 27 O. Rs., 24 Horses, 28 Mules.	

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25th July. MARAKEB.			<p>5. Lieut. E. T. Cripps returned from Hosp, and proceeded to Alexandria on leave to England. Lt. Col. A. J. Palmer, awarded the D. S. O. for distinguished services in the Field. Lieut. Lord Apsley awarded the Military Cross for Distinguished services in the Field. (Auth. London Gazette 4.6.17). Lieut. E. W. Squire, P. A. M. C. proceeded to Alexandria en route to England.</p>	
26th July. MARAKEB.			<p>The Regt. was inspected by G. O. C. Desert Column and Aus. Mtd. Div.</p>	
27th July. MARAKEB.			<p>The Regt. was inspected by the A. D. M. S. Desert Column.</p>	
28th July. MARAKEB.			<p>2/Lt. H. P. Ellis and 2 O. P.'s. proceeded to ZEITOUN to attend Topographical and Hotchkiss Courses respectively.</p>	
30th July. MARAKEB.			<p>Lieut. G. V. Hawtrey was attached to Aus. Mtd. Div., to undergo a further course of instruction in Staff work. Lieut. R. G. Anderson was transferred from A. to B. Sqdn.</p>	
			<p>Extract from London Gazette d/22.6.17:- Capt. (now Major) T. J. Longworth to be A/Major 25.9.15. " A. H. S. Howard to be A/Major 9.1.17. Capt. & Adj. A. G. Wykeham-Musgrave to be A/Major and to vacate the appointment of Adj. 22.3.17.</p>	
			<p>2/Lieut. (temp. Lieut.) A. A. Lord Apsley, M. C. to be A/Capt. 7.3.17. " (temp. Lieut.) E. T. Cripps to be A/Capt. 7.3.17. " E. Gilholme (21st Lancers) to be A/Lieut, whilst attached, 10.3.17.</p>	
			<p>Extract from London Gazette, 5.3.17:- Major A. J. Palmer, to be temp. Lieut. Col. 20/12.16.</p>	
			<p>Extract from London Gazette, 7.3.17:- Lieut. F. A. Mitchell to be A/Capt. 20.12.16.</p>	
			<p>Extract from London Gazette, 23.6.17:- Major (temp. Lieut. Col.) (temp. Brig. Gen.) R. M. Yorke, D. S. O. to be Lieut. Col. (temp. Brig. Gen.) with precedence as from 1.1.16.</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Contd. July. 30. MARAKEB.			<p style="text-align: center;">6.</p> <p>Major (A/Lieut. Col.) A. J. Palmer to be Lieut. Col. with precedence as from 1.6.16. Capt. (temp.) C. J. Ratcliff to be Capt. with precedence as from 30.9.14., and remain seconded. Capt. (temp.) (temp. Major) C. E. F. Henry to be Capt. (temp. Major) with precedence as from 7.10.14. Capt. (temp. Major) C. E. F. Henry relinquishes temp. rank of Major, 24.6.17. Capt. (A/Major) A. H. S. Howard relinquishes A/rank of Major, 24.6.17. Capt. (A/Major) A. G. Wykeham-Musgrave relinquishes A/rank of Major, 24.6.17. Lieut. (temp. Capt.) E. J. B. Herbert to be Lieut. with precedence as from 1.6.16 and relinquishes temp. rank of Capt. 24.6.17. Lieut. (A/Major) F. A. Mitchell, M. C. to be Lieut. with precedence as from 1.6.16. and relinquishes A/rank of Capt. 24.6.17. Lieut. E. P. Butler to be Lieut. with precedence as from 1.6.16 2/Lieut. (A/Capt.) Lord A. A. Apsley, M. C. to be Lieut. with precedence as from 1.6.16 and relinquishes A/rank of Capt. 24.6.17. 2/Lieut. (A/Capt.) E. T. Cripps to be Lieut. with precedence as from 1.6.16., and relinquishes A/rank of Capt. 24.6.17 2/Lieut. R. G. Anderson to be Lieut. with precedence as from 23.7.16. 2/Lts. (Temp. Lieuts.) A. M. McGrigor and G. V. de Freville relinquish the temp. rank of Lieut. 24/6/17.</p>

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7.								
<u>SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF JULY.</u>								
			<u>Officers.</u>	<u>O. Rs.</u>	<u>Riding Horses.</u>	<u>Pack Animals.</u>	<u>Transport Animals.</u>	
Strength of Regt. in field.								
1-7-17.			14	296	345	42	3	
31-7-17.			18	459	349	41	64	
Total effective strength.								
1-7-17.			21	348	375	42	61	
31-7-17.			24	484	369	41	64	
Numbers to Hospital etc.			1	55	9	-	-	
Returned from Hospital etc.			3	71	13	-	-	
Casualties in action. Killed.			-	-	-	-	-	
" " " Wounded.			-	-	-	-	-	
Died.			-	-	-	-	-	
Evacuated to B. V. H.			-	-	12	1	-	
Drafts received.			3	123	-	-	2	
Transferred or struck off strength.				8	-	-	-	
(Sgd). A. G. Wykeham-Musgrave. for O. C. Capt. & Adjutant. Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeo.								
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R. G. H. OPERATION ORDER NO. 2.O U T P O S T O R D E R S.

Map ref. 1:125,000.

1.7.17,

RAFA-BEERSHEBA & 1:40,000.

1. INFORMATION. Enemy by day holds the line KH, KHASIF - EL GIRHEIR - WADI IMLEIH. By night has posts along the WADI IMLEIH and at EL BUGGAR.
2. INTENTION. The Brigade will take over the Outpost duties from the 4th A. L. H. Bde. and D. L. O. Y. 1.7.17. The Worcester Yeo. will be responsible for the line by night up to and including 3/4th and also assume day duties by dawn 4th inst. The R. G. H. will be responsible for line by day up to 3rd inclusive and take up night duties from 4th inclusive. In the event of attack the Bde. will concentrate as far as possible on the line IM SIRI - EL PUGGAR and operate against the enemy's flank.
3. DISPOSITIONS.

<u>Posts.</u>	By day No 1 - GOZ MARRUCK 1 troop (found by Warwick Yeo.)
	2 - GOZ EL BASAL 1 troop.
	3 - On 500 Contour Line 2 miles S. of Pt 510 1 troop.
	4 - Pt. 510 ABU SHAWISH with post on ruins 300 yds N. of it.
	5 - TWO TREE HILL, 1 troop.

Outpost H.Q. and 2 troops plus 2 sections of M.G. near GOZ EL GELEIB. This line will be withdrawn at discretion of O. C. Outposts at dusk. Touch will be maintained with D. Sqn. post at Pt. 300, N. E. of EL NAGILI.

By night - 6 Standing Patrols (strength 1 NCO and 6 men) will be placed about 1 mile E of the barbed wire in front of the Infantry line on a front from cross track E of GAMLI to half way between EL DAMATH and EL NAGILI, where track crosses the road.

The exact location of these troops will be communicated to O. C. Infantry. Touch will be kept with D. Sqn. Post where track crosses road, N of NAGILI (H33b). One Subaltern Officer at No. 3 Post will be i/c the line. In the event of attack by body of enemys troops; patrols will give the alarm and slowly retire behind the barbed wire. The alarm will be given by firing rifles. These patrols will be posted at 1915; and at 0300 will move forward about 1 mile. If "All Clear", a report will be immediately sent to GOZ EL GELEIB and the post remain in observation until the day post pass ~~them~~ through them. As soon as No. 3 Post finds GOZ EL GELEIB "All Clear" it will report to Regtl. H.Q. and will report further on receipt of "All Clear" from other Posts.
4. ORDERS. D Sqn. will take over the D. L. O. Y. Sector in accordance with Operation Order No. 1 d/30/6/17. The outpost line (less D Sqn. Sector) will be under the command of Lieut Lord Apsley with troops as detailed for the first 24 hours. For 2nd 24 hours Lieut. E. T. Cripps will be in command. One sqdn. of Worcester Yeo. will report at GOZ EL GELEIB, 0800 daily to relieve 1 sqdn. R. G. H. while it is watering.
5. COMMUNICATION. The S. O. will arrange for all communications.
6. OFF SADDLING IN CAMP ETC. All troops with the exception of 2 Orderlies (by night), will off saddle when in bivouac, but no horses will be off saddled when in the outpost line, either by day or night. The Regt. will stand to arms and the ~~xxxxxx~~ day posts move out at 0300.
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 2000.
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 0900 and 2100 daily and by all Posts and Patrol Leaders as soon as they return to Camp.

9. AMBULANCE 1 Sandcart will be at our Regt'l. H.Q.
10. PARADE. The Regt. will parade in marching order with two filled nosebags and tomorrows breakfast and mid-day meal on the man at 1700, E. of Camp, facing E.
11. PACKS. The following packs per sqdn. will be taken to FARA EAST CAMP:- Hotchkiss, Rifle and Ammunition, 2 S.A.A., 1 Tool, 1 Dixie, H.Q. and Medical. Only Hotchkiss Rifle Packs will be taken into the outpost line.
12. ADVANCE PARTY. Lieut. & Q.M. F.C. Brain with 1 N.C.O. and 2 men per sqdn and 1 N.C.O. from H.Q. will proceed to new camp at 1630. Transport Limbers leave here 1500.

(Sgd). A.G. Wykeham-Musgrave.

Capt. & Adjt.
1st Royal Gloucestershire Hussars Yeo.

Issued at 1330.