

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/2/40

**Title:** Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment

September 1918



AWM4-35/2/40



# WAR DIARY

## AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Hour Date	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JERICHO	1/9/18	The Regiment remained in bivouac and carried out training as per syllabus. The following Officers and O/Rs were recommended for the General Despatched: Lieut G.S.Reid. Capt.A.C.M.Finlayson. Revd.J.D.M.Wilson. 13/441 Farr/Sgt Snowden.S. 13/309 S.Q.M.S.Cavanagh.E.P.	Ref Map JERICHO (B--6) 1-40,000
	2/9/18	The Regiment remained in bivouac, Training as per syllabus. Two Machine Guns captured by Regiment presented to N.Z.War Museum.	
	3/9/18	The Regiment remained in bivouac, Training as per syllabus.	
	4/9/18	The Regiment remained in bivouac, Training as per syllabus.	
	5/9/18	At 1930 the Regiment moved to new bivouac at EL MADHBEH, Y.29.a.arriving there at 2130 and relieving 3rd L.H.Regiment, Orders No 70 attached.	
EL MADHBEH	6/9/18	The Regiment stood to at 0400 and remained in bivouac. At 1830 a patrol of 22 O/Rs under 2/Lt T.H.Bond reported to O.C.VYSE Post and formed standing patrols in front of this Post. Lt.S.C.Reid appointed Commandant WADI AUJAH Area.	
	7/9/18.	The 3rd Sqdn stood at 0400 and remained in bivouac. Working party of 1 Officer & 40 O/Rs reported to O.C."D" Field/Troop at 1600 for work on inner defences. Night standing patrol under Lieut H.T.Penrhys-Evans as for 6/9/18. A patrol of 6 men under 2/Lt H.A.Collins made a special reconnaissance by night of the ground WEST of GRANT HILL. Lt S.C.Reid marched out on detachment to B.H.Q.	DAMEIH (C-6) 1-40,000
	8/9/18	The 4th Sqdn stood to at 0400. The Regiment remained in bivouac. A working party as for previous day. Night standing patrols under 2/Lt J.T.Hatton as for 6/9/18. Lieut R.C.Chapman accompanied a special patrol from W.M.R. which reconnoitered ground in vicinity of W.20.R.S.M.Palmer. W.MC.marched in from Cadet Wing, ZEITOUN.	
	9/9/18	The 11th Sqdn stood to at 0400. The Regiment remained in bivouac. Working party and night standing patrols (2/Lt J.C.Self) as usual. The following Officers & 27 O/Rs embarked for N.Z. dated 31/8/18. Capt.G.F.Yerex. Lt.D.S.M'Cathie.MC.(Duty) 4/9/18 2/Lt C.B.Reid.(Duty) 4/9/18 2/Lt.A.G.Shand.(Duty) 4/9/18.	



WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL MADHBEH	10/9/18	The 3rd Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party of 1 Officer & 30 O/Rs as 7/9/18. Night standing patrols (2/Lt H.A. Collins) as usual. 54 O/Rs from N.Z.T.U.&.D., ISMALIA.	DAMIEH (C-6) 1/40.000
	11/9/18	The 4th Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party as for 10/9/18. Night standing patrols (Lt L.C. Ryan) as usual. Revd J.D.M. Wilson, C.F. marched in from N.Z.T.U.&.D., ISMALIA. 2/Lt from School of Inst, EL ARISH.	
	12/9/18	The 11th Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party & Night standing patrols (Lt C.R. Chapman) as usual. 2/Lt L.M. Patterson marched out on detachment to B.H.Q.	
	13/9/18	The 3rd Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. At 0600 a Working party of 1 Sgt and 25 O/Rs commenced work on AUJAH Crossing. Working party of (1 Off & 35 O/Rs) and night standing patrols (2/Lt E.A.H. Bisley) as usual. Major. H.C. Hemphill & 2/O/Rs from N.Z.T.U.&.D., ISMALIA.	
	14/9/18	The 4th Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party and night patrols (2/Lt J.T. Hatton) as usual. Major. H.C. Hemphill on detachment to B.H.Q.	
	15/9/18	The 11th Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party and Night patrols (2/Lt T.H. Bond) as usual. 2/Lt A.B. Moore & 21 O/Rs from N.Z.T.U.&.D., ISMALIA.	
	16/9/18	The 3rd Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party and Standing patrol as usual (Lt H.T. Penrhys-Evans)	JERICO (B--6) 1-40,000
	17/9/18	The 4th Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Working party and Night Standing patrols (2/Lt. A.B. Moore) as usual.	
	18/9/18	The 11th Sqdn stood to at 0400, and remained in bivouac. Night Standing patrol (2/Lt. J.C. Self) as usual. All heavy gear and technical equipment was packed up and carted to dump during the afternoon.	

W.W. Averill Captain  
Adjutant.



# WAR DIARY

## AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
WADY AUJAH	19/9/18	At 0400 the Regiment moved out and took up a position near No 1 Crossing WADY AUJAH. Y.24.c. At 0900 a patrol of 1 N.C.O. & 4 men (3rd Sqdn) was sent out to Sq. W.24.c. to observe for any movement of the enemy. Patrol returned at 1130 and reported no abnormal movement. 1 O/r wounded by enemy shell fire. At 1830 the Regt. withdrew to old bivouac.	DAMIEH (C-6) 1-40,000
EL MADHBEH	20/9/18	The Regt. stood to at 0400. At 0530 a patrol of 1 N.E.O. & 3 men was sent out to W.24. to ascertain if the enemy had retired. Patrol met by enemy shell fire and forced to retire. At 0830 a patrol of 8 men under 2/Lt J.T. Hatton moved out to reconnoitre the route to FK. FUSAIL. (U.27) Patrol was heavily shelled by enemy batteries and was unable to go further than EL BAGHALET (W.16). At 2000 the Regt. left bivouac and concentrated in Sq. W.35.b.8.2. where 1 Sect. M.G. & 1 Set joined and were attached to the Regt. The 4th Sqdn was sent forward to reconnoitre FK FUSAIL and TELES EDH DHAIB. The following Officers marched in from N.Z.T.U. & D., ISMALIA. Capt. M.R. Reed. 3rd Sqdn. Lt. M.E. Johnson. MC. 4th.	
FUSAIL	21/9/18	At 2400 the 4th Sqdn sent back and reported country all clear as far as Cross Roads in U.13.d. At 2415 the Regt. moved North via ROMAN ROAD and at 0330 occupied FK. FUSAIL and TELL ES EDH DHAIB. Patrols were sent to RUJM ABY MEHEIR (P.12.d) and Cross Rds in U.17.d. The Regt. took up a position in U.19.b.7.3. At 0600 11th Sqdn. moved out and occupied TALET AMRAH (U.10.d.) 1 Troop 11th Sqdn. moved up ROMAN ROAD to p.5 Central and were here held up by the enemy. 1 Troop 3rd Sqdn. was sent up later in support. Patrols were also sent out in direction of EL MERMALEH (V.3) and MAFID JOZELEH Bridge. (V.23) and WADI MELLAHAH. Enemy were found to be holding strong line WEST of Jordan covering Bridge at MAFID JOZELEH 24 Turk Po & W and two Machine Guns captured during the day also a large amount of War Material.	ES SALT Composi 1/63/36
JISR ED DAMIEH	22/9/18	At 2400 the Regt. moved out as advance guard to the Brigade via the ROMAN ROAD up the West bank of the Jordan. At 0330 the Regiment was astride the NABLUS-DAMIEH Road in Sq L.35.a. The 3rd Sqdn. was sent towards the Bridge at JISR ED DAMIEH and drove in the enemies outpost covering the Bridge. 4th Sqdn established themselves on the line L.36. c.29.d.29.a. The 11th Sqdn. occupied EL MAKHRUK (L.28.a.) and intercepted a large portion of the Turkish 53rd Div who were retiring from NABLUS. Report on further operations <del>xxx</del> attached. At 1600 the Regiment withdrew to bivouac. 2/Lt R. Gillespie marched in from N.Z.T.U. & D., ISMALIA.	AMMAN 1:63:360

W.W. Averill      Captain  
Adjutant.



# WAR DIARY

## AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ES SALT	23/9/18	The Regiment stood to at 0400. At 0830 the Regt. crossed the JORDAN at DAMIEH Bridge and concentrated with the N.Z.M.R. Bde on EAST bank (S.I.C.) At 1130 the Regt. with the Brigade moved EAST and at 1700 arrived at ES SALT. The Regt. bivouaced for the night just WEST of the Town. A special patrol of 1 Troop under Lt. L.C. Ryan was sent into ES SALT to report on water and supplies.	AMMAN L:63:360
SUWEILEH	24/9/18	The Regt. stood to at 0500. At 0830 the Regt. moved out via ES SALT-AMMAN Road and at 1200 occupied the Circassian village of SUWEILEH without opposition 7 Turk P of W captured at SUWEILEH. At 1800 a demolition party of 3 Officers and 100 O/Rs under the command of Major J.H. Herrold was sent out to cut the HEDJAH Railway line EAST of AMMAN. This party succeeded in removing a complete set of Rails in SQ. 142.V.36.c. and returned to SUWEILEH at 0530. The following Officer was evacuated to Hospital:- 2/Lieut J.T. Hatton.	
AMMAN	25/9/18	The Regiment stood to at 0400. At 0600 the Regt. with the Brigade left SUWEILEH and moved on AMMAN via the Main Road. At 0730 the Brigade advance guard came under shell and Machine Gun fire from AMMAN defences. Special report on operations attached. The Regt. remained in bivouac for night in Sq. 142.Z.2.a.7.O.	
	26/9/18	The Regiment stood to at 0330. At 1500 the Regt. moved to new bivouac in Sq. 142.Z.3.a.2.6. At 2030 the 4th Sqdn. moved out and took up an outpost line in Sq. Z.11., Z.3., X.35.	
	27/9/18	The Regiment remained in bivouac.	
	28/9/18	The Regiment remained in bivouac. The following were recommended for immediate reward for operations from 21/9/18 to 25/9/18, inclusive:- Capt. A.C.M. Finlayson Major J.H. Herrold. 2/Lt H.A. Collins. 13/446 Cpl (T/Sgt) Sweetman E.P.S. 13/904 Cpl Foote. E. 13/164 L/Cpl (T/Cpl) Buckland. A.F. 24941 Tpr. Tompkins. W.E. The following Officer was evacuated to Hospital (from Detach. B.H.Q.) Major H.C. Hemphill.	

W.W. Averill      Captain.  
Adjutant.



WARV DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AMMAN	29/9/18	At 1000 a patrol of 1 Officer & 4 O/Rs was sent NORTH up the Railway to report on the effect of the demolition. They returned at 1400 and reported four trucks derailed. At 1530 the Regiment moved out as advance guard to the Brigade and marched to KISSAR Station. 142.J.13.a. At 1800 the 11th Sqn. were sent out and formed an outpost line surrounding the Station to the SOUTH. The remainder of the Regt bivouaced just SOUTH of the Station.	Ref Map 1:63:360
EL KASTAL	30/9/18	At 0130 the Regiment moved out as advance guard to the Brigade and marched SOUTH reaching EL KASTAL Station U.30.d. at 0530. At 0600 the Regiment formed a cordon round the Station from EZ ZOBAYER to V.19.a.0.5. relieving 2nd Brigade. At 1000 the Regiment was relieved by C.M.R. and concentrated in the vicinity of the Station. At 1800 1 Troop of the 3rd Sqn. took up an outpost position on the Railway about Sq.V.19.a.0.5. The remainder of the Regiment bivouaced in vicinity of the Station. The following Officer was evacuated to Hospital:- Lieut. H.T. Penrhys-Evans. 2/Lieut J.T. Hatton marched in from Hospital.	

W.W. Averill Captain.  
Adjutant.



WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
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SUMMARY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1918

<u>To Hospital</u>	3 Officers	86 Other Ranks
<u>Killed in Action</u>	5	" "
<u>T O T A L</u>	8 Officers	91 Other Ranks
<u>Reinforcements-Training Regiment</u>	6 Officers	96 Other Ranks
<u>T A O T A L</u>	6 Officers	96 Other Ranks
<u>Present Strength</u>	22 Officers	473 Other Ranks

W.W.Averill Captain  
Adjutant

1  
10  
18



BY

Lieut-Col., J.N.M'Carroll, DSO. Commanding A.M.R. Regiment. JERICHO 6/9/18

REFERENCE MAP

JERICHO (B.6) 1:40,0001 INTENTION

The G?O.C.N.Z.M.R. Brigade will take over command of the Left Sector during the night 5/6/September with Headquarters about Y.29.a.  
 Moves will take place as follows during night 5/6th Sept:-

- (a) Canterbury M.R. will move to bivouac site about J.6.b.
- (b) Wellington M.R. will move to bivouac site about Y.27.d.
- (c) Auckland M.R. will move to bivouac site about Y.29.d.

2. MOVES

The Regiment will pass the Starting Point-just East of 3rd Squadron Lines:-in column of route at 1930 to-day 5th inst. Order of march as follows:-

Headquarters  
 4th Squadron  
 11th Squadron  
 3rd Squadron.

3. TRANSPORT

Ground Sheets and Blankets will be carried on the horse. Bivvy Sheets, technical equipment etc. will be stacked at EAST end of Squadron Lines by 1700.  
 1st Line Transport is allotted as usual.

4. SANITATION

O.C. Squadrons will ensure that their lines are left in a clean and sanitary condition.

5. MARCHING OUT STATES To be rendered to O/Room by 15006. WORKING PARTY

O.C. 4th Squadron will detail 6 men to report to O/Room dismounted at 1630-Short fatigue.

(Signed) W.W. Averill Captain  
 Adjutant.

Copy No 1 to C.O.

2	O.C. 3rd Sqdn
3	" 4th "
4	" 11th "
5	War Diary
6	" "
7	" "
8	Transport



By  
Lieut Col. J.N.M. Carroll DSO, Commanding A?M?R? Regiment EL MADHREH 15/9/18

## REFERENCE MAP

JERICHO (B.6) 1:40,000

1. INFORMATION

The objective of the forthcoming operations will be to inflict a decisive defeat on the enemy, and drive him from the line NABLUS-SAMARIA-TUL KERAM-CAESAREA. The Army is to pivot on its Right in the JORDAN VALLEY and to attack with the 20th Corps astride the NABLUS ROAD and the 21st Corps against the enemy's right. Desert Mounted Corps (less ANZAC Mounted Division) are being held in rear of 21st Corps, ready to move on AFULE and BEISAN under special orders. The FORCE in the JORDAN VALLEY will be known as CHAYTOR'S FORCE.

2. INTENTION

- (a) This force, will in the first place, be responsible for the defence of the front NORTH end of the DEAD SEA. GHORANIYEH BRIDGEHEAD-AUJAH BRIDGEHEAD-MUSALLABEH-ENMEJMEH exclusive.
- (b) It will use every means to prevent the enemy withdrawing troops to reinforce other parts of the line, or concentrating against the 20th Corps.
- (c) When the advance of the 20th Corps begins, every endeavour will be made to protect the RIGHT flank of that force.
- (d) If the enemy reduces his strength in the JORDAN VALLEY the FORCE may be called on to advance NORTHWARDS to JISR ED DAMIE.
- (e) The Force may be required to sent a detachment to join with an Arab Force from the SOUTH.

3. MOVES

The Regiment will concentrate tomorrow in WADI AUJAH in Square Y.30.b. Moves will take place as follows:-

- (a) The Regiment in full marching order will pass the Starting Point-Road 400 yds EAST of Regtl Headquarters in column of route at 0400 tomorrow, 19th instant, Order of march as follows:-

Headquarters  
3rd Squadron  
4th Squadron  
11th Squadron.

- (b) All dismounted men will parade at Headquarters at 0800 tomorrow and will march under the senior N.C.O. present, to the Brigade Dump. Sq. H.18. These men will come forward as reinforcements as required. Os.C. 3rd and 11th Sqdns will each detail a full Corporal to remain with the men.

4. SUPPLIES

Supplies will be carried as follows:-

- (a) On the man-unexpended portion of days ration, and Iron ration one full days ration and one special emergency ration. On the horse unexpended portion of days forage, one days full ration, and one days special emergency ration.
- (b) On first line transport-One days full ration for man and horse, plus one days special emergency ration.

5. CAPTURED MATERIAL

All enemy captured enemy material will be handed to Headquarters at once. In the case of articles of Military Value i.e. Guns, Machine Guns, etc. A small guard will be detailed to remain on until articles have been stencilled with the name of the Regiment.

6. MOSQUITO NETS

All Mosquito nets will be carried.

7. SANITATION

The present bivouac site will be left in as clean a condition as possible. Whenever the Regt comes into a new bivouac Os.C Sqdns. will ensure that trench latrines are at once prepared and that men do not defecate indiscriminately.

(Signed) W.W. Averill Captain  
Adjutant.

Copy No 1 to C.O.  
2. O.C. 3rd Sqdn  
3. " 4th "  
4. " 11th "  
5. War Diary  
6. " "  
7. " "  
8. File



AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

REPORT ON OPERATIONS AT JISR ED DAMIEH 21st & 22nd SEPTEMBER 1918

REFERENCE MAP-----DAMIEH 1.40.000

Leaving KH FUSAIL at 2400 as advance guard, we proceeded via the JERICHO BIESAN Road. The advance guard cleared the country covering the bridge at MAFID JOZELEH. Thence to the main road DAMIEH NABLUS. On reaching this road I found a large number of enemy Infantry had just passed on that way to JISR ED DAMIEH. I at once sent one Sqn. after them, one Sqn. astride the ~~the~~ Main road facing WEST to intercept prisoners, one Sqn. from the Road to the river facing NORTH and EAST with listening Posts facing EAST. The Sqn. sent towards the Bridge at DAMIEH overtook enemy Infantry and captured a number of prisoners. This enemy force had a Cavalry outpost line, which brought a heavy fire to bear, but my Sqn. soon drove them in and down to the River flat. The Sqn. held high ground overlooking the Bridge until daylight when the enemy delivered a strong counter-attack forcing the right of this Sqn. to retire and took up a strong position supported by Artillery. Realising that the enemy were strengthening their post by digging and by the arrival of reinforcements, I recommended that they should be attacked at once, and, as I did not consider I was strong enough to do so I asked for assistance. 1 Sqn. C.M.R. and 1 Company B.W.L. were sent up in support. Meanwhile our artillery did some excellent shooting. I personally reconnoitered the whole line which was nearly half a mile long, in the shape of a crescent with a flat top. The enemy on the inside looking over while we held the outer line looking at them about 500 yards. Being unable to find a weak spot in the enemy line I decided to advance all along the line, closing in on the Bridge. I put 1 Sqn. plus two troops with one Sub-section M.G. on the left overlooking the Bridge and road. These troops were not to take part in the advance, but were to inflict punishment on the enemy when the advancing line drove them from ~~the~~ their position. From the left line ran:- A.M.R. (less 2 Troops) Company B.W.L. with one Troop A.M.R.; one Sqn. C.M.R.. 1 Troop A.M.R. I held in reserve. Punctually to time the whole line moved off with bayonets fixed, and with a few stops advanced to the edge of the high ground overlooking the Bridge. The Turk could not stand against this onslaught; some surrendered others ~~and~~ fled only to be overtaken and dealt with by the troops on the right. The advance over the intervening ground was carried out in splendid style. The long range overhead M.G. fire was most effective. The advance of the B.W.L. was particularly keen and workmanlike. They dashed down the hill in great style. The C.M.R. advanced rapidly closing in on the right. 1 Troop mounted advanced in fine style, but were stopped suddenly by a steep cliff. They at once wheeled Sections right, moving round and down to the river, and did a lot towards rounding up the prisoners. The enemy was now in great disorder and was being severely punished and the Bridge had been secured intact. Seeing what looked like Artillery EAST of the JORDAN, I ordered all ranks back to the high ground WEST of the river covering the Bridge, which is suitable for all arms except Heavy Artillery. All ranks carried out their duties in a business like manner, some particularly prominent cases have been brought to your notice. I understand that this is the first battle for the B.W.Ls, their baptism augers well for the future. Our casualties were light. A.M.R. 3 O/Rs Killed, 1 O/R died of wounds, 1 O/R wounded. -B.W.L. 1 O/R wounded. C.M.R. & M.G. nil. The total captures in these operations were approximately 350 P of W 7 M.Gs. 1 Ant Rifle, also a large quantity of transport and other material.

J.N.M. Carrol Lieut-Col.,  
Commanding A.M.R. Regiment.



AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

REPORT ON OPERATIONS AT AMMAN---25/9/1918

REF MAP-----AMMAN--1-63360

At 1030 the Regiment was ordered to go into action at a point held by the 6th Wellington M.R. Squadron. The Regt. with one Sect. Indian Mountain Battery and 1 Sect. M.G. attached, moved to Sq. 142. W. 36. c. 2. o. The Guns were here brought into action against redoubts held by the enemy to the EAST. The 4th Sqn was sent forward to Y. 6. b. 3. 8. to engage one of the enemy's redoubts. Seeing that there was a large portion of the line between this point and the AMMAN-ES SALT Road undefended and that this was a weak spot in the enemy's defence, I moved to Y. 6. c. 3. 5. sending one Sqn into action to the East. This Sqn very soon came under very heavy M.G. Fire. These Machine Guns were engaged by the Artillery, and the Sqn was able to move forward in short rushes, a few men at a time.

I still held 1 Sqn in hand, awaiting an opportunity to go in mounted. The question of cover for horses, however, proved a great difficulty. At 1530 I sent this Sqn in mounted, they got into action without casualties, but as they halted to dismount, the enemy opened a heavy enfilade machine gun fire, which made it necessary for the led horses to retire.

The Regt. now held a line from X. 31. d. 3. 5. to Y. 6. d. 3. 8. with two strong enemy redoubts on the left and one facing the Right all of which were wired. The troops on my right flank were now pushing forward vigorously, and the whole Regiment and a small party of W.M.R. who were with my Regt. moved forward in conjunction. The 4th Sqn advanced steadily towards the double redoubt on the left, covered by Artillery and M.G. Fire. Both Redoubts put up a white flag and over 60 of the enemy surrendered, to the 4th Sqn, while a considerable number fled into the WADI AMMAN. The advance continued and all enemy were driven into the main WADI, which ran at right angles to our lines of advance. C.M.R. were now advancing NORTH up the WADI, thus pinning the enemy force in a pocket.

As soon as we reached the WADI AMMAN, I sent one Sqn. across and established a strong Post at Z. 3. a. 1. 8., and another through the station to the East. there they joined up with the 1st L.H. Brigade and the main action was over. All ranks showed great keenness in their work, I have brought home specially to your notice, 17 Officers and 175 O/Rs, P of W were handed over to C.M.R. and W.M.R. but a considerable number of prisoners captured in the WADI were from our drive in the hills. During the Action we captured 1 4.2" Howitzer (unnumbered), 2.7.5. cm Hows (Nos 1509 & 1510 mk CKL/15) 2-7.5. cm Field Guns (Nos 25 & 26 mkd RHMF) 5 machine guns (Nos 21127, 19791, 21580 19296, 23929) mkd DWM Berlin). There were more machine guns captured but on going over the ground the morning after, we were unable to find them. A large amount of War material was also secured.

J.N.M'Carroll Lieut Col.,  
Commanding A.M.R. Regiment.