AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

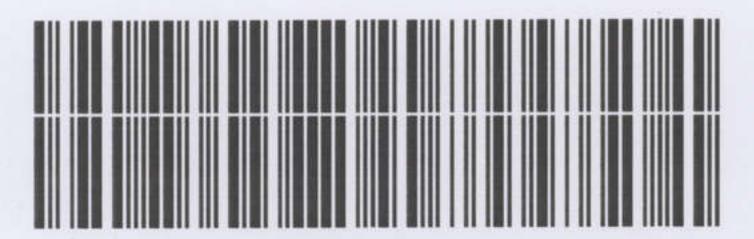
New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/1/36

Title: Headquarters New Zealand Mounted

Rifles Brigade

April 1918



AWM4-35/1/36

Estimated enemy casualties: - 110 Killed, 310 Wounded.

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

Place Date Hour 1918 Summary of Events and Information.

Remarks and References to Appendices

Reference Map

1/63.360

AMMAN.

ES SIR Maril 1st (continued)

As the rearguerd was clearing the village the inhabitants commenced to open fire from houses, caves and rocks on either side of the defile. Wellington M.R. promptly replied and severly punished the circassians comprising the ambuscade. Auckland M.R. were ordered to take up a position about Sq.A.l.d. and Canterbury M.R. a position Sq.N.30.c.d. to cover the withdrawal of Wellington M.R. About 80 casualties were inflicted on the enemy forces. Out Machine Guns and then one Battery 181st Inf Bde. came into action and all firing was quickly silenced.

Meanwhile a strong Turkish Force was reported to be approaching and the march was continued. The Brigade arrived at SHUNET NIMRIM at 2015.

Our captured during the operations included 9 Turkish Officers, 188 O/Rs, 7 Germans O/Rs

Five Machine Guns and share in the capture of three Mountain Guns.

Our Casualties:- Killed 6 Officers, 32 Other Ranks, Wounded 6 Officers, 116 Other Ranks, Missing 13 Other Ranks.

S.C. Nichblls Major
Brigade Major
N.Z.M.R.Brigade.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1010167

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTEDRIBLES BRIGADE

Hour, Date, Place 1918			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendice	
HUNET NIMRIM	April	2nd	The Brigade was bivouacked at SHUNET NIMRIM. Orders were received that the Brigade was to cross the JORDAN and bivouac in the JORDAN VALLEY in the vicinity of JERICHO. The Brigade left SHUNET NIMRIM at 0745, arriving in new bivouac at 1100		
ERICHO		3rd	Brigade remained in bivouac. At 0655 eight hostile aeroplanes flew over camp, dropping five bombs; 8 men(Auckland M.R.Regt)being wounded, 18 horses wounded & 5 killed. At \$1630 orders were received that the Brigade was to establish posts at MANDESI YEHUD AND HAJLA FORDS. Three troops Wellington M.R.were detailed and were in position by 1800	Sheet To and	
	"	4th	Wellington M.R. stood to arms at 0400 and at 0700 all clear was received and Regiment was ordered to stand down. Auckland M.R. detailed three troops, to relieve posts from Wellington M. at Fords. Relief was effected by 1900.	d.	
	"	5th	Auckland M.R. stood to arms at 0400. At 0730 "all clear" was received and regt ordered to stand down. Three troops Canterbury M.R. were detailed to relieve posts of Auckland M.R. on the fords. Relief was effected		
	"	6th	Canterbury M.R. stood to arms at 0400. At 0730 "all clear" was received and regiment ordered to stand down. Three troops Wellington M.R. relieved troops from Canterbury M.R. on the Fords. Relief was effected by 1730		
	"	7th	Wellington M.R. stood to arms at 0400 and at 0630 all clear was received and Regiment ordered to stand down. Three troops A.M.R. relieved posts wellington M.R. on the Fords. Relief was completed at 1730.		
	"	8th	Auckland M.R. stood to arms at 0400, at 0600 "all Clear" was received an Regiment ordered to stand down. A working party of 100 was detailed to construct inner bridge head at EL GHORANI MEH. Three troops C.M. Regt relieved posts from A.M. Regt, at Fords. Relief was completed by 1730.		

(73989) W4141-463. 400,000. 9/14. H.&J.Ltd. Forms/C. 2118/10.

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

Hour, Date, Place		Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendice	
TERICHO	April 9th	Canterbury M.R.Regt stood to arms at 0400, at 0600 "all clear" was received and Regiment ordered to stand down. Work on inner defences at EL GHORANITEH continued. Three troops Wellington M.R. relieved posts on Fords held by Canterbury M.R.Regt., relief was completed by 1730.		
	" 10th	Wellington M.R.Regt., stood to arms at 0400 and at 0600 all clear was received and Regiment ordered to stand down. Work on inner defence at GHORANIYEH continued. Three troops Auckland M.R.Regt., relieved posts from W.M.R.Regt on the Fords.Relief was completed by 1730.	TO TO THE PARTY OF	
	" 11th	Auckland M.R. egt stood to arms at 0400.At 0625 a message was received that enemy were heavily shelling right flank of I.C.C.Bde. and that are attack was developing.lst L.H.Bde.also reported about 1,000 Infantry advancing in extended order towards the bridgehead at GHORANIYEH.Bde. was ordered to be ready to move at short notice.At 0745 A.M.R.Regt. were ordered to detail one troop to patrol down the WEST bank of the JORDAN as far as PUHM EL BAHR.Patrol at 1500 reporting all clear. AT 1200 Brigade was ordered to off saddle and stand down.Three troops from A?M.R.Regt.relieved troops on Fords. Canterbury M.R.Regt was ordered to establish a new post at HENU.	m XXXX	
	" 13th	Brigade stood to arms at 0400.At 0630 orders were received that the Brigade would off saddle and stand down. Work on the inner defences at GHORANIYEH continued. Four troops from Wellington M.R. Regt., relieved posts from Camterbury M.R. Regt., at fords, relief was effected at 1730.		
	" 13th	Brigade stood to arms at 0400 and at 0600 was ordered to stand down. Work on the inner defences at GHORANIYEH continued. Four troops from Auckland M.R.Regt relieved posts from Wellington M.R.Regt at fords. Relief was effected by 1730		
		S.C.Nicholls. Major Brigade Major N.Z.M.R.BRIGADE H.&J.Ltd. Forms/C. 2118/10.		

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCEXSUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

Hou	r, Date, Pla 1918	X	Summary of Events and Information Ren	narks and references to Appendices
RICHO	April	14th	Brigade stood to arms at 0400.At 0600 Brigade was ordered to stand down. Work on inner defences at GHORANIYEH continued, Four troops from C.M.R. Regt., relieved posts from A.M.R.Regt., at fords.Relief was effected by 153	0.
	***	15th	Brigade stood to arms at 0400.At 0600 Brigade was ordered to stand down. Worth on the inner defences at GHORANIYEH continued. Four troops from W.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from C.M.R.Regt., at fords. Relief was completed by 1730.	Sheet 18 and ES
	**	16th	Brigade stood to arms at 0400.At 0600 Brigade was ordered to stand down. Work on inner defences at GHORANIYEH continued. Four troops A.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from W.M.R.Regt., at fords. Relief was completef by 1730.	and Ha
	"	17th	Brigade stood to arms at 0400.At 0600 Brigade was ordered to stand down. Work on inner defences at GHORANIYEH continued. Four troops C.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from A.M.R.Regt., at fords.Relief was completed by 1730.	THE
	- 19	18th	"rigade stood to ar,s at 0400.At 0545 Brigade was ordered to stand down. Four btroops from W.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from C.M.R.Regt., at fords. Relief was completed by 1600. Brigade was ordered to move to a bivouac inside the Bridgehead on EAST bank of the JORDAN to take part in operations against the enemy at SHUNET NIMRIM. Orders marked "A" & B" attached. Brigade left bivouac at 1945 arriving on EAST of Jordan at 2200.	
RANIYEH	***	19th	At 0430 C.M.R.Regt., with 1 Sect.M.G.Sqdn., attached, left bivouac with ordered to move SOUTH of the GHORANIYEH- SHUNET NIMRIMROAD and drive in or develop any enemy posts WEST of the foothills. At 0600 the Regt., came under heavy Artillery fire from the direction of SHUNET NIMRIM. The advance wascontinued, enemy patrols falling back to entrenched positions on the hills. The Regt advanced until held up by rifle and M.G.f where they remained keeping the enemy under observation during the remainder of the day. At 1830 orders were received that the C.M.R.Regt., would withdraw to a position covering the 2nd L.H.Rde. on the right and the 1st L%H.Bde on the left. Sufficient patrols to be left out to keep	fire

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE

Hour, Date, Place			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendice	
HORANIYEH	April	19th	continued enemy under observation during the might. One squn.W.M.R.Regt., was detailed to patrol the area south on wo 5 hoad connecting with the 2nd whileder, on the right and 1st L.H.Bde.on the left. At \$2045 the Bright ordered to withdraw and return to old bivouse west of the JORDAN. Bright commenced to withdraw at 2100 and at 2300 was concentrated in old bivouse.	Was	
JERI CHO	11	20th	Four troops A.M.R. Regt, relieved posts from W.M.R. Regt., at fords. At 1400 Sqdn.W.M.R. Regt., patrolling area WEST of the JORDAN withdrew and rejoined Brigade.		
	**	21st	Four troops from C.R.R.Regt., relieved posts from A.M.R.Regt., at fords Work on inner defences at GHORANI YEH continued.		
	n	22nd	Four troops W.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from C.H.R.Regt at the fords.		
	11	23rd	Four troops from A.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from W.M.R.Regt., at fords The Bde., moved to new bivousc near the foothills at KAKUN.		
KAKUN	.0	24th	Four troops &.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from A.M.R.at Fords.		
	n	25 th	Four troops W.M.R. Regt., releeved posts from C.M.R. at fords.		
	- 11	26th	Four troops A.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from W.M.R.Regt., at fords.		
		27th	Four troops C.M.R.Regt., relieved posts from A.M.R.Regt., on the fords.		
	."	28th	Posts from MANDESI and HAJLA Fords were withdrawn. Two troops from W.M. R.Regt were detailed to relieve posts from C.M.R.Regt., framat YEHUD & HENU Fords.		
	***	29 th	Two troops from A.M.R.Regt., were detailed to releive posts from C.M.R. Regt at fords. The Brigade left bivouac at 2400 and at 0400 was concentrated inside the bridgehead at EL GHORANIYEH ready to take part in 1.&J.Ltd. Forms/C. 2118/10.operations EAST of the JORDAN. Orders marked "C" a ttache		

Army Form C. 2118.

MAKENXKICKEN CEXSUMMARY.

Place Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1918		At 0400 W.M.R.Regt., and 1 Section M.G.Sqdn.were ordered to move forward and protect the right flamk of the 180th Brigade who were attacking on the line 127.f.23.c.MAKKAR ED DERBASI. At 0730 orders were received that 180th Inf.Bde., would assault on the line MAKKAR ED DERBASI exclusive to JOFFT DERBASI-127.p.25.central, the fihal objective being Sq.U.26.b.NORTH of EL HALAII with a view to cutting off any of the enemy retiring up WADI JERIA. At 0800 Orders were received that the attack would be delayed one hour. At 0800 C.M.R.Regt., and 1 Section M.G.Sqdn., moved forward to attack on the right of the 180th Inf Bde., Auckland M.R.Regt., and 1 Section M.G.Sqdn., moved forward in support. Wellington M.R. Regt., and 1 Section M.G.Sqdn., were ordered to rejoin Brigade and remain in Brigade Reserve. Canterbury M.R.Regt., moved forward and came under very heavy shell fire from the direction of SHUNET NIMEIM, at least four enemy batteries being in action. At 0300 a message was received that the attack by 180th Inf Bde., was delayed. Canterbury M.R. Regt., was also held up on the line 127.R.4.bR.10.d.extimated enemy strength on our immediate fronts being 1,000. At 1820 orders were received that the Brigade would withdraw as soon as it was dark and concentrate SOUTH of EL GHORANIYEH, Wellington M.R.Regt., and 1 Section M.G.Sqdn., were ordered to remain in present position and come under the orders of 180th Inf Bde., The Brigade ommenced to withdraw at 1930 and at 2200 were concentrated at 127.Q.10.d. At 2240 orders were received that the Brigade less Wellington M.R.Regt., and 1 Sqction M.G.Sqdn would come into Corps reserve and be ready to move on one hours notice.	Appendices Sheets 18 and ES SALT composit

(10340) W2 W4300/P713 750.000 3/18 E 2688 Forms/C2118/16.

REFERENCE MAP: - ES SALT -- (Composite) 1/63,360

(1) INFORMATION

Information as regards the enemy on our immediate front will be issued later.

(2) INSTRUCTIONS

In order to inflict losses on the enemy, and to convey the impression that we are about to advance again at AMMAN.operations will be carried out against SHUNET NIMRIM, which will take place as follows on April 18th and 19th.

(3) (a) From 1500 on the afternoon of Aprill8th the B.G.C., 20th Inf.Bde., will take over charge of the bridgehead at EL GHORANIYEH from the B.G.C. lst L.H.Bde., under arrangements to be made between the Brigadiers.
(B) During April 18th the enemy's position will be bombarded by the 10th meavy Battery and 383 Seige Battery. This bombardment will begin as soon as possible after daylight.

(C)At 1500 on April 18th the 180th Infl Bde., will march to bivouac about one mile WEST of EL GHORANIYEH. This march is intended to look like am move against SHUNET NIMRIM, and therefore the B.G.C., 180th Inf Bde., will make his Brigade as conspicuous as possible, and arrange his march axin such a way that it cannot escape the notice of the enemy.

(D)During the afternoon and evening 18th April the Anzac Mtd Divn., and 3022 Field Artillery Bde, will move EAST of the river, the Artillery covered by the Anzac Mtd Divn., Positions will be occupied by which a bombardment

The C.R.A.ANZAC Mtd Div., and 302 F.A.Bde., will reconnoitre positions at once under cover of our patrols from which the guns will open fire and routes leading to these positions from the bridgehead. They will report at once if these routes require any improvement for the passage of the Artillery by night.

(E) On April 19th the enemy's position at SHUNET NIMRIM will be bombarded

by Heavy Seige, Field and Horse Artillery Batteries.

(f) During the day the ANZAC Ntd Div., will demonstrate against the enemy.

The Demonstration will be made towards KABR MUJAHID on the SOUTH and

The Demonstration will be made towards KABR MUJAHID on the SOUTH and in the direction of ES SALT in the NORTH, combined with keeping his attention by pushing forward direct on SHUNET NIMRIM. The Division will however not be committed to an attack. If the enemy retires he will be followed but no troops will enter ES SALT as it is important that no occasion maximushould be given to the Turks to illtreat inhabitants on our subsequent withdrawal.

- (3) During these operations the AUJAH frony will be held by Imperial Camel Pde, the PATALIA I.S. Infantry, the 301st Field Infantry Bde., and one Sadn., Hyder-abad I.S. Lancers.
- (4) ACKNOWLEDGE

Issued at 1800

Copy No 1 to AM.R.

2 C.M.H

3 W.M.R.

4 M.G. Sqdn.

5 N.Z.M.F.A.

6. Signal Troop

7 Field Troop

8 A.D.C.

S.C. Nichblls Major
Brigade Major
N.Z.M.R.BRIGADE

N.Z.M.R.BRIGADE ORDER NO 43

REFERENCE MAP:-ES SALT(Composite) 1/63,360 JORDAN VALLEY 18/4/1918

Reference N.Z.M.R.Brigade Order No 42.

INFORMATION

Orders for action on April 19th will be issued later.

2. INSTRUCTIONS .

- (A) The Brigade will cross the river tonight, April 18th, and bivouac in bridgehead ready to move out and take part in operations.
- The Brigade will pass the starting point-present Brigade Headquarters at 1800 in order of march as follows:-

Brigade Headquarters Signal Troop Canterbury M.R. Regt. Auckland M.R. Pegt. Machine Gun Squadron. Wellington M. P. Regt., N.Z.Field Troop N. Z. Mounted Field Ambulance Limbers.

- (d) All Units will carry two days supplies, i.e., Forage for horse and rations up to and including breakfast 20th inst., plus Iron ration.
- Ammunition limbers and water carts only will be taken. These will be Brigaded, and remain in a bivouac site WEST of the JORDAN.
- Bivvies will not be struck and usual camp guards will be detailed.
- Canterbury M.R. Regt., will detail one Subaltern as O.C. Details/Advance parties will report to Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters at 1600 tog day.

3. ESCORT

Each Regiment will detail four men under a Sergeant to be detailed by Canterbury M.R. Regt., to act as escort to ammunition limbers. This escort will pick up limbers at starting point at 1800.

ACKNOWLEDGE.

Issued at 1100

Copy No I to A.M.R.

C.M.R.

W.M.R.

M.G. Sqdn.

N.Z.M.F.A.

Signal Troop Field Troop

A.D.C.

S.C. Nicholls. Major Brigade Major. N.Z.M.R.BRIGADE

REFERENCE MAPS:- PALESTINE 1/63,360 AMMAN & ES SALT Composite Sheets

JERICHO 29th April 1918

. 1. INFORMATION

(a) Information about the enemy will be issued later.

(b) The Corps commander intends to envelope the right of the enemy's main forces about SHUNET NIMRIM, capture ES SALT and advance to the line KUSR

(142.T.9)-Pt 2900(142.0.35)

- (c) In consequence the following moves are taking place on April 30th.
 (1)SHEA'S FORCE Detachment under Lt-Col, G.M.M.Onslow DSO, consisting of one Mtd.Regt., (7th L.H.)1 Sqdn.Hyderabad Lancers and 1 Battn., Patalia Inf.seize memy's advanced works near KABR SAID and KABR MUJAHID tracks(No 2 & 3 Roads) under special instructions issued to 60th Division. Occupy line MAKKAR ED DERBASI)TEL EL MUSTA -EL HAUD.179th Bde., attacking EL HAUD and 190th Bde., MAKKAR ED DERBASI -TEL EL MUSTA.Hour of attack 0200 April 30th.
 The A.&.N.Z.Mtd Div., (less 1st L.H.Bde & 1 Regt & 1 Sqdn.2nd M.H.Bde., and 1 Regt., N.Z.M.R.Bde) are held in readiness awaiting orders to occupy the line KUSR (142 T.9.(-ES SALT.
- (2) HODGSON'S FORCE Advance rapidly EAST of JORDAN not later than 0400 detaching one Mtd Bde., & 2 Batteries R.H.A. to face N.W.occupy position astride UMM ESH SHERT -JISR ED DAMIE and ES SALT-JISR ED DAMIE Tracks. The remainder of this force move on ES SALT from the WEST and NORTH WEST. When ES SALT is occupied 1 Bde., advance to Pt 2900(142.0.35) with object of capturing enemy retiring from before SHEA'S force. HODGSON'S FORCE are allotted GHORANIYEH Crossings, from 2200 April 29th to 0230 April 30th. No 6 Road is allotted to this force.
- (3) SMITH'S FORCE By 0400 April 30th throws the Fight flank forward aboutxkx 113.X.23.a.and establishes a post on the right Bank of the JORDAN near the bend in 113.X.17.d.
- (4) BRIDGEHEAD GARRISON 20th Indian Infantry Bde., is remaining on the Bridge-head.
- (5) CORPS RESERVE 6th Mounted Brigade including 1 R.H.Battery and Imperial Service Cavalry Bde., form Corps Reserve, 2 miles WEST of EL GHORANDYEH.
- (6) MOVES The Anzac Mtd Divn., will be under the orders of Major General T.S.M.SHEA, CB, CMG, DSO, and will be held in readiness for the first part of the operations.
- (a) The N.Z.M.R.BDE will leave present bivouac tonight, 29th April and move to a position in broken ground, S.E. of EL GHORANIYEH bridge alongside Road No 3 close to where the outer bridgehead wire crosses the road. The Brigade will pass the starting point-Road just EAST of Brigade Headquarters-at 2400 tonigh 29th April. Order of march as follows:-

Brigade Headquarters
Signal Troop
Wellington M.R.Regiment
One Section M.G.Squadron.
Canterbury M.R.Regiment.
Machine Gin Sqdn(less 1 Section)
Auckland Mtd R.Regt.
Field Troop
Mounted Field Ambulance.

(b) On arrival at bridgehead Wellington M.R.Regt., and 1 Section M.G.Sqdn attabhed will come under orders 180th Inf.Bde.,
(c) The 2nd L.H.Bde., (less 1 Regt and 1 Sqdn) will concentrate under cover

about Road Junction BUTMET HALHUL-by 0200 on April 30th

(3) DETACHMENTS One Regt., 2nd L.H.Bde., will be detailed to operate with detachment (a) mentioned in para.1.(c).(1) against KABR MUJAHID.

(b) 1 Sqdn., 2nd L.H.Bde to be on NORTHERN flank of 179th Bde., The Sqdn will commence crossing the bridgehead EL GHORANIYEH at 1830 on April 29th and report to B.G.C.179th Inf Bde., on arrival.

Detachment(continued)

- (c) The Wellington M.R.Regt.with 1 Section M.G.Sqdn., attached will guard the SOUTHERN flank of the 180th Inf Bde.which is attacking line MAKKAR ED DERBASI-TEL EL MUSTA. The Regt., to be in position by 0430.0/C Regt.wil report to B.G.C., 180th Inf Brigade during the 29th April for instructions
- (4) AEROPLANE CO-OPERATION The following have been arranged.

 (a) Aeroplane contact patrols of the area of operations from 0530 to 0700 1100 to 1230 and 1530 to 1700.

(b) Tactical reconnaissances at 1500 and 1600.
(c) Strategical Reconnaissances at 1200 and 1600.

- (d) One Machine (Artillery co-operation) throughout the day. Messages from "A" and "B" will not be dropped on formations lower than Divisional Hqrs.
- (5) COMMUNICATION WITH ARTILLERY The Anzac Mtd Division will use RED and YELLOW flags. Remainder of Corps, RED flares to indicate position of advanced troops to Artillery.
- (6) AMMUNITION DUMPS are being formed WEST of EL GHORANIYEH bridge and at SHUNET NIMRIM.
- (7) MEDICAL Receiving Stations are at the antique to the bridge.
- (8) PRISONERS Collecting Station at the entrance to the bridgehead on No 5 Road
- (9) TRAFFIC CONTROL Instructions are being issued by A.P.M.Desert Mounted Corps
- 10) MAKHADET HAJLA REPORT The bridge over the JORDAN at MAKBADET HAJLA Is being left down until further orders.
- (11) DOCUMENTS All ranks will be searched for documents before gbing into action
- (12) COMMUNICATIONS
 - (a) The present cable connecting 2nd L.H.Bde., with Divisional Headquarters will not be removed.
 - (b) As little damage as possible will be done to enemy telegraph routes which may be met. Poles must not be removed.
- (13) ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS Administrative Orders and Instructions have been issued separately.
- (14) ACKNOWLEDGE

Issued at 1900

S.C. Nicholls Major Brigade Major N.Z.M.R.BRIGADE

Copy No 1 to A.M.R.

C.M.R.

W.M.R.

M.G.Sqdn.

N.Z.M.F.A.

Signal Troop

Field Troop

A.D.C.

Copy No 9 to Brigade Transport

10 G.O.C.

11 War Diary

13 do

13 do7

14 D.HQ.

15 File

16 do