

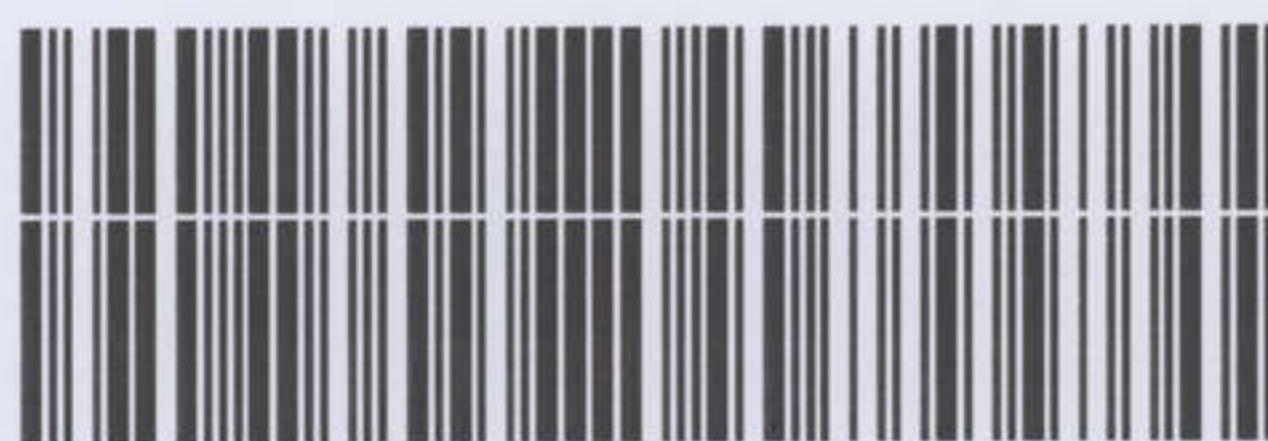
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/1/9

Title: Headquarters New Zealand Mounted
Rifles Brigade

January 1916



AWM4-35/1/9

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required).

N. Z. M. R.

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.

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and References to Appendices.
<p>ZEITOUN CAIRO JAN 1 to JAN 22</p>	<p>This period has been occupied in re-organisation, re-equipping & bringing all units up to War Establishment. Reinforcements have been drafted into the Regts. and horses re-issued.</p> <p>Steady training has been continued daily in the desert - designed to harden the horses gradually & to test the men in horsemanship. All men not up to standard were sent back to the Detail Squads. - each Regt.</p> <p>These detail Squads were organised into a Reserve Regt. of 4 Squadrons. A number of officers (primarily subalterns) attended the School of Instruction at ZEITOUN as well as the Brigades usual quota of N.C.O.s - men to the Machine Gun signalling - N.C.O.s classes. This quota, about 50 in all has been sent regularly for some months from the Detail in the ZEITOUN Camp.</p> <p>The O.C. School has reported very highly upon the work done by the men from this Brigade - in in the m. gun course especially and in his last report he states that the quota from this Brigade m. gun N.C.O.s - men gained the highest marks obtained by any unit since the establishment of the school.</p> <p>The training carried on by the Regts. has consisted of steady work & Squadron training only - no tactical exercises being attempted - the horses all being too soft & men in need of all mounted drill & steady riding before possible to fire them.</p> <p>In 'Inter-divisional Diodes' (i.e. units passing - full marching order with m. line transport) have been held since week 2 all deficiencies in arms & equipment etc. noted. There have been found to be inevitable & the steady improvement in the 'horse-art' of all units, by noticeable.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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811

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
<p>Z E I T O U N . C A I R O Jan. 23</p> <p>Rpt Map AFRICA 1:125,000</p> <p>Sheet <u>Mark H 36</u> H IV B E L B E I S</p> <p>E G Y P T 1:250,000 Sheet 25</p>	<p>The Brigade marched out this morning at 0900 for NAWA en route to SERAPEUM on the SUEZ CANAL. All units were up to full war establishment and the Brigade was accompanied by the following attached units - OTAGO M.R. Regt. B.A.C. (N° 3 Coy) M.F. Amb.</p> <p>First line transport remained - camp 2 was sent down by train. Baggage was conveyed by N° 3 Coy. A.S.C. as far as BELBEIS (end of 2nd day march). Supplies to NAWA by train.</p> <p>The Brigade reached NAWA at 1630 & bivouacked on a patch of desert about 1 mile E of railway station. A cold wind blew all day & there were showers at night.</p> <p>The day's march lay through cultivation throughout - Dist. 14 miles</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>marching out Delta</u></p> <p>Officers 108 Men 2182 Horses 2789</p> <p>Recon party of 1 officer & 20 men was left to bring in by train the 1st line transport and an advance party of 1 officer & 20 men was sent to pitch camp at SERAPEUM.</p>
<p>N A W A B E L B E I S J A N . 2 4</p>	<p>The Brigade left at 0800 and arrived at BELBEIS at 1630 & baggage at 1700. The bivouac lay on E side ISMAILIA on a patch of desert about 1 mile from the town. Both today & yesterday supplies arrived late.</p> <p>The march lay through rich 'delta' cultivation & the stream at noon divided the 2 leading Regts. crossing the ISMAILIA CANAL at INSHAS & following the E. bank to camp. The 2 remaining Regts. followed the main road through BELBEIS. There were several heavy showers during the afternoon & a cold wind.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Distance marched 23 miles</p>	
<p>B E L B E I S A B U H A M A D Jan 25</p>	<p>The march was resumed at 0830 across the cultivated land by a small canal bank to ABU HAMAD - which was reached at 1330, & the Bde. camped on a patch of desert 1 mile N. of village - Supplies were again late & horses were not fed until 2000. Baggage came from BELBEIS by rail & native transport was hired to cart from station.</p>	

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112 m. R.

611

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<p style="text-align: center;">ABU HAMAD JAN 25</p>	<p>Cont:- The night was very cold & there were several showers of rain - but - spite of wet blankets for the men & horse blankets - place of their clothes canvas (felt lined) covers - for the horses - the health of men & horses is excellent. Distance marched 10 miles.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ABU HAMAD to KASSASIN Jan 26</p>	<p>The Brigade moved off at 0830 and marched through ABU HAMAD thence across the ISMAILIA CANAL at ABASCA & down the S. Bank to TEL EL KEBIR thence across CANAL and railway & by the desert to KASSASIN which was reached at 1630. After leaving TEL EL KEBIR the Bde. moved in column of troops on hard desert. The troops settled down remarkably quickly - no tent pegs either head or heel are used - bags filled with sand are used instead & have proved extremely satisfactory. Rafts are pitched - the equipment in line being immovable. Weather still cold & stormy - no chance of drying blankets. Supplies again late, owing to bad train arrangements. Distance marched 18 miles.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">KASSASIN to ABU SUEIR Jan 27</p>	<p>The march was resumed at 0830 and excellent time made on hard flat desert to ABU SUEIR which was reached at 1300, here the Army Corps Commander (General Sir A. Godley) met us. It was expected to get all blankets dried but rain again came on & continued most of the night. Supplies again late. Formation on march. Column troops. Distance covered 10 miles.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">ABU SUEIR to MOASCAR Jan 28</p>	<p>The march was resumed at 0830 and MOASCAR reached at 1300. Route lay through heavy sand hills - Formation column troops. Camped at MOASCAR - between the railway line & ISMAILIA CANAL and next to the A.I.F. Bde. Beautiful weather - no wind & no rain being the first fine warm day since starting the march. Dist about 10 miles.</p>	

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N.2 m.R

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.																														
<p>MUASCAR to SERAPEUM Jan 29/15</p>	<p>March continued to SERAPEUM at 0830 - through ISMAILIA 2 up S. bank side of ISMAILIA to SWEETWATER CANAL - then along E side to SERAPEUM - 2 camping on the prepared site on W. side railway line about 1 1/2 miles from SUEZ CANAL. Which was reached at 1300 - distance marched about 10 miles. The whole march was singularly free from casualties. Mules - 2 2, Mules 18 horses 18. This is especially satisfactory - because the weather conditions were expected to cause many more, and the irregular manner in which the supplies came to hand might well have caused the horses to suffer.</p>	<p>State - N.2 m.R Camp - Serapeum</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">Mules</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Horses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Mules</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">97</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2100</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2612</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><u>BAC</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">3</td> <td style="text-align: right;">82</td> <td style="text-align: right;">86</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><u>2.7 Amb.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">6</td> <td style="text-align: right;">127</td> <td style="text-align: right;">76</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><u>Yel. Section</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">1</td> <td style="text-align: right;">13</td> <td style="text-align: right;">15</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3" style="text-align: center;"><u>Total</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;">107</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2322</td> <td style="text-align: right;">2807</td> </tr> </table>	Mules	Horses	Mules	97	2100	2612	<u>BAC</u>			3	82	86	<u>2.7 Amb.</u>			6	127	76	<u>Yel. Section</u>			1	13	15	<u>Total</u>			107	2322	2807
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<p>Jan 30-31</p>	<p>Units settling down to camp. Training in the desert began 31st. The march being allotted to "Inspection on the march & at Serapeum".</p>	<p style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em;">C. P. ...</p>																														