

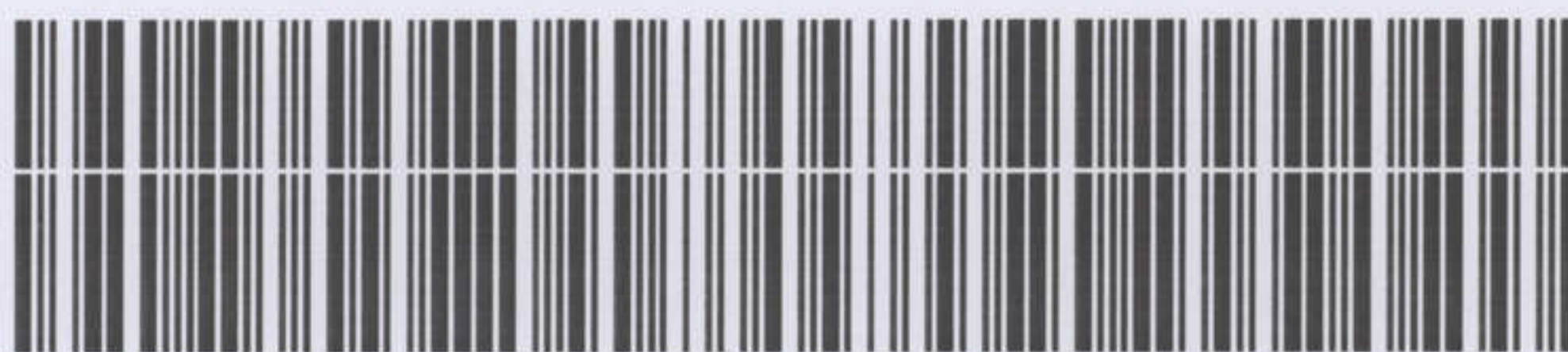
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/2/15 Part 1

Title: Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment

August 1916



AWM4-35/2/15PART1

640

HILL 70
KANTARR

WAR DIARY



AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

August 1st

Regiment rested in camp.
 Special Operation Order No. 5 O.C. Section Auckland
 received at 1000 - Operation Order No. 108 by Lt Col
 G. R. Mackay issued at 1100. - Intention to
 establish strong post at BIR EN NUSS and
 Special Patrol to BIR NAGID.
 The 11th Squadron detailed & left Hill 70 at 1600 -
 Lieut Gullayson R.C.M. and Messrs detailed for
 NAGID Patrol - Lieut Riddock 5th Squadron
 attached to 11th Squadron for duty at BIR EN NUSS

Aug 2nd

Regiment rested in camp all day.
 Reports received from Lieut Gullayson & Messrs
 from NAGID. That they were in touch with
 enemy and main enemy were occupying long
 low ridge from HILL 200 to HAMISEH.

Aug 3rd

Duty Regiment.
 Operation Order by Brig Gen. Blythe received at 1700.
 for Regt to proceed to DUIDAR in support of 5th Light
 Horse on reconnaissance to BIR-NAGID. The Regt.
 (less 11th Squadron) and one section and W.L.M.R.
 Machine Gun Squad (Lieut. Hinman) left HILL 70
 at 2200 and arrived at DUIDAR and relieved
 5th Light Horse at 2400.

Aug 4th

DUIDAR Patrols sent out to HILL 331 & HILL 383
 at 0230. Patrols reported all clear at 0430.
 Report received from 5th L.H. Regt at 0700 that NAGID
 was clear. Message received at 0900 from Bde Hqs.
 for 2 Squadrons less 2 Troops (4th Squadron) to
 proceed ^{in direction of} CANTERBURY HILL ~~in direction~~ and
 rejoin Main Body on the way. Capt. Ransford,
 Lieut Martin 2 Troops (4th Squadron) detailed
 to remain at DUIDAR & send out patrols on the
 DUIDAR - GATHA road. The Regt rejoined
 the Bde at 1030. Enemy reported on our
 right flank at 1100 holding MOUNT ROYSTON.

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES.

Aug 4th (Cont). Verbal Order received from G.O.C. for the 3rd Squadron to advance on ROYSTON with C.M.R. on the left flank and Yeomanry on right. 2 Troops 4th Squadron and Machine Gun Sec (under Lieut. Hinman) under the Command of Major M. Carrall went up in support of 3rd Squad. at 1300. On arrival of support, steady advances made. Order. Signal message received from G.O.C. force that a general attack would be made on the enemy position at 1645. 1700. The enemy put up number of white flags and 3 officers + 153 O/Rs surrendered. MOUNT ROYSTON taken at 1730 and by 1830 practically a whole Turkish force in the vicinity of ROYSTON surrendered. Approx. 1000 prisoners, rifles, quantity of ammunition and 4 Mountain Guns were captured by C.M.R. Company, Yeomanry and A.M.R. Orders to withdraw received at 1900 and rendezvous at PELUSIUM. On arrival of Infantry of 52 Div. Arrived at PELUSIUM 2100.

Casualties: Killed in action: 2 O/Rs 3rd Squadron
 Wounded: 4 O/Rs do
 2 O/Rs 4th Squadron

5 Aug PELUSIUM. The Regt moved out from PELUSIUM with the Bde at 0600 + furnished all protection on the march. Arrived BIR-EN-NUSS 0730. where the 11th Squadron (less 2 Troops) and 2 Troops of Fourth Squadron rejoined the Regt. Report by the C.O. 11th Squadron received at 0800 that 2 Officers and 9 O/Rs were missing from outpost at ABO-RAME on night of 3rd Aug & believed to be prisoners of war. The Regt left NUSS with the Bde at 1030 in the direction of QATIA. Verbal attack orders received at 1400 to attack the S.W. corner of the HOD with the 5th L.H. Regt on left flank & the 3rd Bde on our right flank. C.M.R. in reserve. The attack commenced at 1430, and as the 3rd L.H. Bde did not come upon our right. Command Regt took the right flank. The fighting continued throughout the

010 2

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

5 Aug (cont)

afternoon and at 1800 the 11th Sqn was withdrawn from the position held by the left and sent out on the right flank to reinforce C.M.R. Orders to withdraw received from the J.C.C. Force at 1900 and rendezvous at a point 2 miles W on GATIA ^{-DUREGAR} road. Lieut Johnson and 12 men (3rd Squadron) remained at GATIA as listening post. On arrival at rendezvous point the Bde moved back to KATIB GARHIT. arrived at 2330 & bivouaced for the night.

Casualties: Wounded in action Lt. J. Dale-Taylor
20/R 3rd Squadron
40/R 11th do.

Lieut. O.P. Johnson promoted to Captain, vice Capt. J.J. Raynes Secorder dated 27-6-16.
Capt. J.J. Raynes returned to New Zealand on duty and to SECORDER. Dated 27-6-16.
Capt. O.P. Johnson posted to H.L.M.R. Training Regt & Secorder dated 27-6-16.

Lieut. H. Coates returned from Hospital dated 4-8-16.

6th August

Reprob Ray & Coates, on advance of 1000 yds. from the Bde. They were ordered to report to the Bde. at 0530. The Bde. had advanced on the night of 5th/6th.

KATIB-GARHIT. The Regiment left GARHIT with the Bde at 0630 & furnished advance & flank guards to the Bde on the march GATIA. Being reported all clear the Bde moved on towards OGHRATINA with instructions from the J.C.C. for the A.G. to locate enemy. Advanced scouts got into touch with the enemy at 1100. holding long ridge & line RODHA-DHABA DHAKAR and also ridge one mile South of road. Our advanced screens kept in touch with the enemy all day. Enemy guns opened heavy fire on us at 1530 and continued fire until 1830. Orders to withdraw to RABTA received at 1900 and arrived there at 1930 and bivouaced for the night. No casualties.

7th Aug

ER-RABTA. Operation order by Brig. Gen. Chaytor received at 0130. Lt. Johnson & Coates detailed for special advance patrol and left camp at 0400. Regt left bivouac with the Bde at 0430 and took up position in reserve on the OGHRATINA road. Enemy shelled our positions heavily

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

7th Aug (Cont)

up till 0800 and again at 1700 until 1830 with very little effect. Orders to withdraw to RABAH received at 1900 whole Regiment bivouaced for the night. No casualties. Operation Order by Brig Gen. Chaytor for the 8th inst issued at 0900. The intention being to advance on OGHRATINA.

8th Aug

RABAH. Regiment moved out with the Bde at 0430 and moved right on to OGHRATINA - The enemy having retired during the night. Patrols were sent forward & got into touch with the enemy patrols at DEBABIS. Regt left OGHRATINA with the Bde at 1115 & arrived at DEBABIS at 1330 and bivouaced for the night. Enemy patrols pushed in reports received that they were holding BIR-EL-ABD in force. No casualties. Message (written on board) found at OGHRATINA evidently written by a German artillery officer or N.C.O. stating that Lieut. Alcepp was prisoner of war. Operation Order by Brig Gen. Chaytor issued at 1700. The intention of G.O.C. being to attack BIR-EL-ABD at 0630 on the 9th inst. with 3rd Brigade on the right flank and 2nd Brigade on left.

Copy of message found OGHRATINA written on board. This was a German artillery observation post. See all the movements of the English Cavalry. Lt. Alcepp, a M. Rifle now prisoner of war - a gentleman - and when in our hands dated 6/8 VIII. 18

9th Aug

DEBABIS. Regiment moved out of DEBABIS with the Bde at 0430 and furnished the advance guard to the Bde. Lieut. Coates & Reed being sent out as advance patrols. Patrols & advance screen got into touch with the enemy at 0515. Orders received at 0545 from G.O.C. for Regt. to withdraw the advance screens and attack BIR-EL-ABD on the South Telegraphs line at 0630 and that 3rd Bde would support us on right flank. 3rd Squadron on the left and 2 Troops of 11th Squadrons and one section machine guns under Lieut. McBarroll on the right commenced to advance at 0630. One section machine guns under Lieut. Hinman covered the 3rd Squadron's advance. Reports received at 0645 that the enemy were bringing up large reinforcements over the long ridge S.E. of BIR-EL-ABD and the Regiment was compelled to extend its front on the right as the 3rd Brigade had not yet arrived. At 0700 Major McBarroll went out

010/5

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

gt. Hedges

to command the right of the sector held by the Regiment and also took up 2 Troops (4th Squadron) in support.

The C. M. R. who were on our left and the Regiment made steady advances and the enemy were pushed back.

at 0900 our right flank was reinforced with one Squadron of 5th Light Horse as the 3rd Brigade had not arrived.

Steady advances were made both by C. M. R. and the left flank of the Regiment and at 1100 we held a line running S. E + N. W. across Telegraphs line. At 1120 C. M. R. and 2 Troops 3rd Squadron on the left were compelled to retire on account of heavy enfilade fire and we were compelled to withdraw the left flank back to the Telegraphs line which left us with two exposed flanks as the 3rd Brigade on the right had not yet been reported.

The enemy attacked our position strongly at 1145 but we were able to hold them until reinforcements arrived at 1200. (2 Troops Warwick Yeo, 1 Troop 5th Light Horse + one section W. M. R. machine guns.) Further reinforcements arrived at 1430 and were sent out to reinforce the right flank as the 5th Light Horse on the extreme right flank reported that the enemy were advancing in force on the ridge held by them. Report received from Major McBurnell ^{at 1350} that 2 Troops of 3rd Bde had been seen within 1000 yards of our right flank at 1200 but they had since disappeared. At 1500 we were holding the enemy well. At 1615 orders received from the G. C. C. to withdraw to a position 1000 yds N on line running North + South over Telegraphs line. Major McBurnell took charge of the withdrawal on the right flank of the sector and on receipt of his report at 1800 that the right flank had started to withdraw the Warwick Yeo + 2nd Light Horse Troops were withdrawn on the left flanks followed by the W. M. R. Machine gun Section, and then the 3rd + 4th Squadrons.

At 1830 the whole of the Regmt. including all Troops that had been sent up to reinforce had been successfully withdrawn.

6406

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

9th Coy (cont.)
 Land returned to Coyd
 on arrival at
 OGHRA TINA 2200
 2 Lt. R. S. Mannero returned from 8th ANZAC Division

with only few casualties, considering the way the enemy advanced when they saw the withdrawal taking place and the exceptionally heavy rifle & machine gun fire which was brought to bear on us. Lieut. Newman this Sector of machine guns did very good work in covering the retirement from the left flank as did Lieut. McCallum with his machine gun section in covering the retirement on the right flank. The final withdrawal was delayed on account of shortage in sand carts for evacuating the wounded but the latter were all successfully got out before the withdrawal actually started. The Coy rendezvoused at DEBABIS and when all units were reported present at 1930 - the Regiment moved back to OGHRA TINA & bivouaced for the night.

Casualties: Killed in action: Capt P. Johnson
 Wounded in action: " M. Aldred
 " " " " Lieut. A. M. Martin
 Killed in action (3rd Squad) 4 C/R
 " " " (4th do) 6 C/R
 Wounded in act. (3rd Squad) 10 C/R
 " " " (4th do) 7 C/R
 " " " (11th do) 2 C/R

13/699. 2nd Lt. Johnson M.E. promoted
 7/2nd Lieut. to company Captain
 dated 10/8/16.
 11th August

10th August OGHRA TINA The Regt moved out with the Brigade at 0630 & furnished all protection on the march. Arrived at DEBABIS 0900 and the 4th Squad took up the outpost line until relieved by C.M.R. at 1900. 2 Lieut. Mannero De Castro & boats were sent out at 0930 on special patrol. All patrols got into touch with the enemy who were holding a line on the high ridge E of BIR-EL-ABD. Patrols returned at 1900. Regiment bivouaced at DEBABIS for the night. No casualties. Capt M. Aldred & 10 C. boats to hospital.

11th August DEBABIS Regiment rested in bivouac all day & took over the outpost line from C.M.R. at 1830 and furnished all protection to the Brigade for 24 hours. Caspian aeroplanes landed 1 1/2 miles SE of bivouac after being fired on by enemy plane both Pilot & observer seriously

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

11th Aug (cont) wounded. The Regt sent out a Jund over the aeroplane at 1800. No casualties.

Advice received that several cases of Cholera had occurred amongst the troops in the Salina. Our wounded had drinking water from Aedes yeast dispenser strictly prohibited.

12th August DEBABIS. Stand to arms at 0330. Outpost reported all clear at 0400. C. M.R. Regiment passed through the outpost line on reconnaissance to BIR-EL-ABD at 0430. Enemy plane dropped several bombs in and around HOD-DEBABIS. Several casualties reported including 1 Offr. belonging to the Regt. killed. The Regt moved out with the Bgd ^{at 1145} in support of C.M.R. who had reported ABD all clear and who were moving on to reconnoitre SALINARIA. Major McCarroll, Chap. Capt. Williams, Lieut. Reed and one Troop left bivouac DEBABIS at 1000 as burial party and all the dead belonging to the Regiment were buried on the ridge about 900 yards W. of BIR-EL-ABD. All graves being plainly marked. At 1830 C.M.R. reported SALINARIA + country 2 miles E. all clear + Bregt withdrawn from BIR-EL-ABD at 1845 + returned to bivouac at DEBABIS.

13th August DEBABIS. Outpost reported all clear at 0400. Lieut. Col. Mackesy assumed temporary command of the Regt. Major J. McCarroll temporary command of the Regt. Orders received at 1400 for the Regt to relieve 5th Light Horse at BIR-EL-ABD. The Regt left DEBABIS at 1530 + took over the outpost line 1/2 mile E BIR-EL-ABD at 1730. The whole of the country in and around BIR-EL-ABD in a filthy condition. Signs that the enemy had retired in great hurry although they had buried most of their dead. 3rd Squadron. Outpost Squadron. 4th + 11th Squadns Julyang prospect.

14th August. Outpost reported all clear at 0430. Three officers patrols sent out at 0430, one due E one to NE + one to S.E. All Patrols returned at 1600 + reported no signs or trace of the enemy. One prisoner was brought in by the N. patrol. Orders received at 1630 from B.H.Q. that the Regiment was to take over the line HOD-HISHA - BIR-EL-

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

- 14th Aug (Cont) ABD and HOD. BADA. Squadrons were detailed as under. 4th Squadron to HISHA. 3rd Squadron BIR-EL-ABD. 11th Squad. BADA, with Regt. Hqs at BIR-EL-ABD. 4th + 11th Squadrons moved out to their stations on arrival of ration Camels at 0130 on 15th inst. Further reports re Cholera received. and steps taken to minimise the danger of contracting the disease. Plague of flies at BIR-EL-ABD.
- 15th August BIR-EL-ABD. Night Outpost reported all clear at 0430. Officers patrols sent out about 5 miles E from HISHA ABD + BADA with central post 1 mile E of SALMAMA. All patrols connected up and the 11th Squad patrol connected with the 3rd Brigade on the right. All patrols returned at 1600 and reported no signs or trace of the enemy. The strength of the Regt was reduced to 17 Officers + 243 OR + 271 Horses. — Large number of men available at HILL 70 waiting for remounts.
- 16th August BIR-EL-ABD. Night outpost reported all clear at 0445. Patrolling from each station same as yesterday. All patrols returned at 1600 and reported all clear.
- 17th August BIR-EL-ABD. Night outpost reported all clear at 0445. Day patrols passed through the outpost lines at 0600. Enemy planes appeared at 0800 and returned East at 0830. Day patrols returned at 1600 and reported all clear. Message received from N.Z.M.R. Brigade that 2nd Lieut Dale - Taylor had died at 1140 on 16th inst. Special Paction Order of 8th August by Lieut. Gen. de Hon. H.A. Lawrence received thanking all ranks for the good work done under trying conditions during the recent fighting.
- 18th August BIR-EL-ABD. Night Outpost reported all clear at 0430. Day patrols went out as usual at 0600 and returned at 1600 reporting all clear. Report received at 2130 of Cholera. Camel patrols were in the vicinity of GANADIL and GEISI.
- 19th August BIR-EL-ABD. 5th Light Horse Regt passed through the outpost line at 0320 on reconnaissance to GANADIL and

WAR DIARY

ACKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

19th August Surrounding country. Day patrols went out as usual at 0600. The 5th L. A. reported all clear through our post at SALMANA at 1100. Report received at 1500 that the 5th L. A. had captured 67 Turks & a few Bedouins on the coast about 6 miles NE of SALMANA. — The Regiment with the prisoners returned & passed through the outpost lines at 2130 on their return to HOD-AMARA.

20th August BIR-EL-ABD. Night Outpost reported all clear at 0445. The Regiment was relieved by C.M.B. at 0730 and left BIR-EL-ABD at 0800 & returned & rejoined the Brigade at HOD-AMARA at 0930. The Regiment took over the Outpost line at 1830.

21st Aug. HOD-AMARA. Outpost reported all clear at 0445. Regiment Duty Regiment. Lieut Faulkner & Boates detailed as Officers' patrols to reconnoitre SABKHET-EL-BARDAWIL. Patrols left at 0300 and returned at 1900 after making a successful reconnoissance. The following congratulatory telegrams received:
Well done — whole of the A.I.F. here send hearty congratulations to the Light Horse & Mounted Rifles on the really fine work you have done & we send best wishes to all of you.

(Sgt) Gen. Birdwood.
Congratulations to all Officers & men in the Brigade on their good work.

(Sgt) Gen. Russell

22nd Aug HOD-AMARA. The Regiment rested in bivouac all day & took over the Outpost line at 1830.

23rd Aug HOD-AMARA. Duty Regiment and supplied all protection to the Brigade. All O commanding to the Brigade met the C.O. A.I.F. M.B. Bgde at 1530 and went out to new positions etc.

24th Aug HOD-AMARA. The Regiment rested in Camp all day & took over the outpost line at 1830. Operations Order by Lieut Col. McKernan of Coy. A.I.F. Bde received at 1200.

WAR DIARY

AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

- 24th Aug (cont) Intention. to make a reconnaissance of the ground N of BIR-SALMANIA to MAT-EBLIS and the island of EL-GALSS.
- Operation Order No 12 by Major J. McBarrell issued at 1300. Troops take part in reconnaissance to EL-GALSS. 4th & 11th Squadrons. Capt M. Almer, ret'd from Hosp. dated 23/8/16.
- 25th Aug. HOD-AMARA. The Regt. less the 3rd Squadron, moved out with the M.L. Mt. Bde at 0200 on reconnaissance to EL-GALSS. Arrived at the Island at 0830 after passing SABKHET-EL-BARDANIL. No enemy traces of recent occupation found. Left EL-GALSS at 1400 & arrived at HOD-AMARA at 2000. Lieut. Faulstich ^{and Graves} acted as guides to the Bay throughout the reconnaissance. 56 O/Rs rejoined from HILL 70 and 60 remnants arrived with them and were taken on strength of the Regt.
- 26th Aug. Regiment rested in Camp all day and took over the Outpost line at 1830.
- 27th Aug. Outpost reported all clear at 0500. Voluntary Church service held at 1930. Enemy aeroplanes flew over Camp at 0500 and dropped three bombs. No damage was done.
- 28th Aug. Regiment rested in Camp all day. Half the Regiment received 1st Inoculation for cholera. Regiment took over Outpost line at 1830.
- 29th Aug. Outpost reported "all clear". Duty Regiment. Major Schofield to Hospital. Rest of the Regiment received 1st Inoculation for cholera. Two enemy planes flew over the Camp going W at 0800 but did not trouble us, and returned at 0830 going East. News received at 2000 that Roumania has declared War on Austria & was already fighting across the Balkans.
- 30th Aug. Outpost reported all clear at 0500. Regiment rested in camp all day & took over the outpost line at 1830. Major Munro to Hospital. Health of the men improving all round but number of the Officers are run down. Official news received confirming the entry of Roumania into the War on the side of the Allies. Board of Enquiry held on horses killed and ^{and missing} destroyed between 3rd Aug 1916 & 12th Aug 1916.

WAR DIARY

HUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES

30th Aug (cont)

Finding of the Board 34 horses struck off strength
Nos as per R/O 623 of 31-8-16. Finding of the Board
was confirmed by the C.O. H.Q. M.R. Bde dated 31/8/16.
Constitution of the Board. Capt Rawstead President
Lieut Reed } members.
Lieut Coates }

31st Aug 1916

Sniffel reported all clear at 0500. 8th Regiment.
Lieut S.A. Barr to Hospital. Board of Enquiry
Constituted as under. Capt Rawstead President
Lieut DeLasho } members
" Ruddocks }

assembled at 1000 to hear evidence & form an opinion
in regard to Lieut Allsopp & 7 O/S reported
missing. The finding of the Board was that in
their opinion they were captured on the night of
the 3rd August 1916 and believed to be prisoners
of War in the hands of the Turks. The proceedings
and finding of the Board and all papers were
forwarded to Hqs M.R. Bde.

Two enemy 'planes appeared but did not drop any
bombs. Major Gen Chamber visited the
barracks and was very pleased in the improvement
of the houses and with the Camps generally.

Ernest Lewis
Adjutant
Huckland Mtd Rifles

HOD AMARA
31st August 1916