AWM4

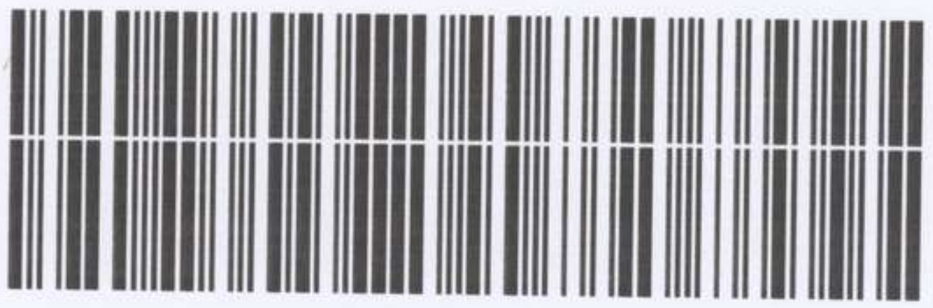
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/3/17

Title: Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment

January 1917



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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
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CANTERBURY MTD. RIFLES.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ELARISH	JAN 1		The Regiment less details moved out at 1000 to ~~March~~ KILO 139 - Connected up with Bde at Old A.S.C. Dump W of W.M.R Lines Proceeded to KILO 139 along beach in Column of Troops. Two Hostile planes came over us while on the March but did not bomb us. Arrived at KILO 139 at 1300 - Pon Camping Ground ~~Employment~~ Rained during day.	
KILO 139	2		Camp routine carried out - Cpl Pavelka M + Sept McPherson M departed to Training Regt Moascar -	
	3		C.M.R duty Regt - O/C 1st Sqd detailed Capt of Day + 10 2nd Sqd detailed two Sections as outpost at night. Board of Inquiry held into lost Equipment.	
	4		Camp routine Carried out. The Regt paraded at 1300 in Mass ready to ~~move~~ connect up with Bde at 1315. Bde proceeding back to MASAID - Rest day very Hoovy Arrived back in Bivouac at 1600	
	5		Camp routine Carried out.	
	6		C.M.R duty Regt - 8th Sqd detailed a Capt of the Day. Aeroplane ~~detailed~~ detailed	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASAID	JAN 7.		Church service held at 1045 - Camp Routine as usual Instruction on Submarine attacks & positions selected for Regt to proceed to case of attack.	
"	" 8		~~Camp Routine as usual~~. Orders received that the NZ MR Bde will move out at 1200 Starting point on Beach N of NZMFA. Bde paraded at 1145 on Beach N of CML lines Connection up with Bde as stated - Proceeded along Beach towards Wade EL ARISH where the Bde halted at the wells of the 52nd Division after watering proceeded to position near 1st Bde L H arriving there at 1400 Off. Saddled and fed ups - and remained here till 1600. At 1600 a general Move was made in direction PAFA. Very Cold night: halted at intervals during the evening. Arrived at SHEIKH ZOWAIID at 2130 - Fed ups Horses - and had a halt till 0100 - At 0100 the Column moved out again in an Easterly direction at about 5 Miles out the NZMR Bde branched off and proceeded in direction of SHOKH-el SOFI. Where an encampment of Otoshi Arabs were repulsed.	
ON MARCH	- 9			

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On March	7/8/17	06:30	Large number of Arabs attd. A.M.R advance guards & they proceeded to collect the Men. Bde then moved on over the Border into Turkey and concentrated behind Hill 350 (Reference Maps RAFA 1-125000) Commanding Officers went forward to view the Situation.	
		09:15	Received orders that there would be a General advance to the Turkish positions at RAFA and trenches at Q 25 a 1000. The N Z M R Bde move out of behind HILL 350 at 09:40 and made a flanking movement around to the N.East of Hill 255. The ~~Force~~ Brigade was very open & suffered few Casualties on the Movement to the flank. One Troop of the 8th Sqd proceeded to the high Sand Hills North of RAFA & Cut off some of the enemy Capturing a large number of Men. Camels Donkeys & Guns. also took possession of the Police Post Capturing numerous Maps & Telephonic instruments. The remainder of the 8th Sqd under Brgn Bruce Bassed forward	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			Continued	
RAFA	5th Aug.	1000	And pushed forward towards the Turkish Redoubts on HILL 255. The remainder of the Regt dismounted in rear of POLICE BARRACKS.	
		1130	H.Q.S. C.M.R. in POLICE BARRACKS. The 10th Sqd under Major Marchesan were sent to take up a position on the RIGHT of the 8th Sqd —	
		1200	at 1200. the 1st Sqd under Major Hurst. M. advanced took up a position on RIGHT of 10th Sqd. The advancement was over open country & no shelter or protection. Very heavy fire (Rifle) but our Lewis Guns & Machine Guns of Machine Gun Sqds. Kept up a splendid Covering fire while our troops were advancing. 1st Sqd connected up with the 5th Mtd Bde on their ~~Left~~ Right & 8th Sqd connected up with N.Z.M.R. on their LEFT. Message	
			received that a Combined attack was to be made at 1545. Message not received till 1605. Our advance was pushed on & we succeeded in advancing & Capturing the Turkish Redoubts at 1630. Capturing 132 prisoners. Instructions were received to Man the Captured Trenches as reports received that a Number of Turkish Reinforcements were within 3 Miles of RAFA.	15

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	JENG.	1715	Received further orders that the Column would move off at 1730 So horses were kinghts up + ready to move off by 1735. Our Casualties were. KILLED:- 7/514 Tpr Gibbs L.W. 10th Sqd 1258 " Le Lievre M.J. 10th Sqd 16041 " Leangham A. 8th Sqd 16107 " Mitchell G.A. 8th Sqd.	
			Wounded: Major Bruce R.J. 8th Sqd 2nd Lt Lalla L.C. 10th Sqd 7/1113 Temp Sgt McEntosh C.F. 10th Sqd (since died) 1244 Tp Handasides D. 10th Sqd 16373 " Boag J.W. 10th Sqd 24848 " Drayton G.F. 10th Sqd 7/1330 " Bain D. 8th Sqd 24913 " Muskmmin R. 8th " 7/1603 " Cottrell A.M. 8th " 1335 Tp Blee T.J. 8th Sqd 9/1786 " Brown J.H. 8th Sqd. 7/1236 L/C Godfrey D.H. 10th Sqd 2231 Tp Buckley 10th Sqd 1077 " Harris R. 10th Sqd 17386 " Clunes Rook 10th 7/2159 " Swayland F.A. 2nd Sq 13475 " Scott W. 10th Sqd 7/1792 " Thompson J.W. 10th Sqd 1820 " Benford R. 10th Sqd	

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CANTERBURY MTD. RIFLES.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	23rd		Our (Bde) Captures are estimated at:-	
			6 Germans	9 Horses
			167 Turks	18 Mules
			2 Officers	20 Pack Saddles
			21 Gedoums	2 Riding Saddles
			43 Rifles + Bayonets	50 Pack + Riding Camel Saddles
			5000 Rounds Ammunition	3 Tents
			55 Camels	15 Camel Loads Fodder
			Also 123 prisoners taken in the final Charge. This included One Major (Regt Commander) and 5 other officers. Large Numbers of Turks Dead were found in the trenches Our Artillery did good work - The Turks had 4 Mountain Guns which were captured -	
		1800	The N.Z.M.R. Bde moved off in direction of SHEIKH ZOWAIID arriving there at 2230 - & after waiting proceeded to our allotted Camping Area where all our Rations were ready - Bivouac for the night.	
SHEIKH ZOWAIID	24th		Received orders at 0210 that the Bde would move off at 0630 - Kept moved out of Bivouac at 0630 & connected up with Bde. O/C 10th Sqd formed the advance Guard to the Division. Moved on in direction of EL ARISH - arriving in WADI at 1200 & then halted.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ARISH	JAN 10	1200	After Marching the Bde proceeded to Bivouac MASAID. arriving at our Bivouac at 1430 - Rest of Day devoted to settling down & pitching tents etc.	
MASAID	" 11		Camps Routine carried out. ~~Hqrs~~ C/o visited the Wounded at EL ARISH	
	" 12		Parade at Bde HQs at 1000 address by G.O.C Dunsterville Congratulated on the Splendid work done by 1st Bde. 2 Hostile Planes came over during afternoon - Lt Skama detached to Flying Corps	
	13		Nice Day. Lt Melville proceeded to Training Regt - Capt Eaton appointed to 2nd Command 8th Sqd - vice Major Bruce wounded - Lt Mathias 8th Sq to 1st Sqd as 2nd Command. 2nd Lt Wilson as 2nd Command 15th Sqd - 2 Major Foster departed to M.E.A.	
	14		Church Service held at 1000 - quiet day. nothing to report	
	15		C.M.R duty Regt. - 8th Sqn detailed Capt Day. The 10th Sqd furnished the aeroplane observation posts. Major Hurst detailed as Assistant Q. Master Engineer at Bde HQs. ~~Lt Melville transferred to Training Regt on Training Cadre~~	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
NASAID	JAN	16	Major Hurst D.S.O. Major Winchcombe & 2 troops from 1st Sqd detailed to proceed E. of EL ARISH on reconnaissance -	
		17	O/C 8th Sqd detail a Subaltern to attend Court-of Enquiry at H.M.R Sanction given for Leave to Cairo at the rate of 5%. 1 Troop from 8th Sqd proceeded to SHAKAL & ABU.TIOR for reconnaissance and report on the Country.	
		18	C.M.R duty Regiment. Supplied duties as Detailed in orders. Major Trotter dispatched to M.F.H & CAPT MONSON reported for duty.	
		19	Nothing to report. Major Acton Adams gave lecture on Compass Work and Stars. Received 23 Remforcements. also Quarter of Horses. Lt Gardner & Lt Baker reported for Duty.	
		20	Camp Routine Carried out. Lt Livingston returned from on Detachment on Bde.	
		21	Church Parade held at 1400. H.M.R Band in attendance. Lt Jetson reported from Moascar - Appointed T/O Master. C.M.R Duty. Regiment	

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MASAID	JAN	22	Squadrons devoted the morning on instruction of Musketry (ammuny & Snapping) Recvd 21 Reinforcements.	
		23	The Regt paraded at 0900 & proceeded to Camp ont Reconnaissance practice The 1st & 2nd Sqd took up Position near MASAID and the 1st & 8th Sqd's under Major Hunt. carried out the Reconnaissance. returned to Camps at 1200. In afternoon party detailed for Instruction in 18 Pr Gun Course at M.G. Sqd, also Lecture by Sqn Leaders to N.C.O.s on Map reading & Compass Work, Field Sketching & the proper Carrying out of their Administrative duties.	
		24	C.M.R. Duty Regt. Musketry carried out throughout the day Semaphore Class for Officers & N.C.O held during afternoon.	
		25	The Regiment paraded at 0930 & Carried out an Attack practice in the direction of THAMILA returned to Camps at 1430 - Talk on work done during morning at 1500.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASHID	JAN	26	Regiment paraded at 0930 and carried out a Reconnaissance practice in the vicinity of ZARA & Hill 120 - Ref Map ÉLARISH. Returned to Camp at 1400. Lectures during afternoon. 2 Hostile planes came over at 1500. Record advice that Lt Mathias & Lt Johnston awarded Military Crosses.	
		27	6 O.R. Duty Regiment. The following Officers proceeded to Zeitoun to attend. Course of Instruction. Major Cadie Adams. Capt Gibbon Lieuts Taylor, Bann, D Westenra & S.M. Mathias & Sergt-Major Bruce also proceeded to report at School Instruction to attend Cadet-Course. ~~Marked~~ - Sergt Lange, Corp Grange & S.Q.M.S Humphries marched out to Training Regt.	
		28	Church Parade held at 1400 on Beach - Leave for NCO & Men to Cairo Cancelled - leave to p/Said Otherwise Rations & Food -	
		29	The Regt paraded for Disinfestation at Anzac Sanitary Section	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MASAID	JAN	30	C & M R's daily Regt. Musketry carried out during the Day.	
		31	General Cleaning up of Saddlery Etc and Instruction on Musketry and Manual Exercises Carried out	

G. L. Gibbs Lt
ADJUTANT
CANTERBURY REGT. RIFLES

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