

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/3/31

**Title:** Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment

April 1918



AWM4-35/3/31

WAR DIARY.

CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES.

Place	Date Hour.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
JORDAN VALLEY	April 4th	Watered and grazed horses in WADI KELT. Lieut-Colonel Findlay rejoined from furlough in England and resumed command of the Regiment.	G.T.H.R.
"	5th	Supplied working party of 1 N.C.O. and 14 men for work on Bridge over the JORDAN to Bivouac at GHORANIYEH and work in 8 hours shifts until completion of duty. Captain Jebson, Lieut Johnston, 2nd Lieut Gray rejoined from detachment School of Instruction. 15 O.R's reinforcements and 9 remounts marched from Divisional detach. Richon.	
	1530	Supplied posts as follows for 24 hours duty MANDESI ford 1 Troop under an officer. YEHUD ford 8 men under a Sgt HAJLA ford 8 men under a Sgt.	G.T.H.R.
	6th 0400	Stood to Supplied picquet of 3 O.R's on GHORANIYEH Bridge. Major Murchison departed to Anzac Memorial Committee Meeting at DEIRAN Lieut Pigon and 2 O.R's departed to Training Cadre MOASCAR.	G.T.H.R.
	1730	Posts relieved by W.M.R.  (Sgd) G.T.H. Reid, Lieut, for Adjutant. 13/4/18 C.M.R.	

Ref. Map  
ERINA  
1" to 1 Mile.

WAR DIARY.

CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
JORDAN VALLEY	April 7th	1000	Brigade Church Parade. 12 officers and 131 O.R's on parade Colonel Findlay rode to DEAD SEA	G.T.H.R.
"	8th	1400	Brigade paraded and Lieut-Gen Chanve addressed men and presented the Divisional Football Cup to A.M.R. 14 officers and 116 O.R's on parade.	
		1400	Found working party of 2 officers and 35 O.R's for work on GHORANIYEH defenses. Major Gorton in charge of Brigade Working Party.	
		1730	Supplied posts as detailed on the 5th instant.	G.T.H.R.
	9th	0400	Stood to	
		1730	Posts relieved by W.M.R.	G.T.H.R.
	10th	0600	Sent Working Party of 2 officers and 40 O.R's to GHORANIYEH defenses. Watered and grazed in WADI NUBIAME  2nd Lieut Whiting and 1 o.r. departed to 14th Squadron R.F.C. at JUNCTION STN for instruction in aeroplane co-operation	

REF MAP ERINA 1" to 1 MILE

(Sgd) G.T.H. Reid, Lieut,

Adjutant,

CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES.

WAR DIARY.

CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.	
JORDAN VALLEY	11th	0630	Stood to. Turks reported developing an attack against I.C.C. 1st L.H. Bde.		
		0600	Supplied 2 Officers and 20 O.R's for work on GHORANIYEH defences - Major Hurst in charge of Brigade working party.		
			Lieut. Young with one half timber went to Jerusalem for Mess Stores		
			Turks attacked GHORANIYEH bridge head throughout the morning but were repulsed with heavy loss.		
		1230	Stood down		
		1730	Found posts each of 1 troop under an officer at MANDESI HAJLA YEHUD and EL HEMU fords.		
		2000	Sent 2 sections to HAJLA ford to patrol WEST bank of the Jordan in both directions. Major Murchison and 1 O.R. returned from Desert Corps Headquarters DEIRAN. G.T.H.R.		
		12th	0400	Stood to.	
			0900	Saddled up ready to move on short notice.	
			1200	Stood down.	
	20 O.R's reinforcements marched in from MOASCAR. G.T.H.R. Lieut Young returned from Jerusalem.				
			(Sgd) G.T.H. Reid, Lieut.		
			ADJUTANT.		
			CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES.		

REF MAP ERINA 1" to 1 Mile.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1918.				
JERICHO PLAIN	13th April.		0400 Stood to Arms. Working party of two officers and 40 other ranks on GHORANIYEH Defences. 20 other ranks buried enemy dead in front of bridge head. Watered and fed in WADI NUBIAME. Details of Regtl Transport - 3 other ranks and one horse marched in from RICHON.	
"	14th	"	0400 Stood to Arms. 0600 Working party of 2 officers and 40 other ranks on GHORANIYEH Defences. Major Murchison took charge of Brigade working party. 1000 Brigade Church Parade 11 officers 123 other ranks. Captain Anderson, 24 other ranks and 20 remounts marched in. 1730 Found posts of one troop each under an officer at MANESI, YEHUD, HAJLA, and EL HENU Fords. HAJLA post sent in one Turkish prisoner (Deserter).	
"	15th	"	0400 Stood to Arms. Lieut N.A. Whiting returned from R.F.C. Junction Station. Preparations made for inspection by C-in-C, who did not arrive. 1730 Posts relieved by W.M.R.	
"	16th	"	0400 Stood to Arms. Working party of two officers and 30 other ranks on GHORANIYEH Defences. Lieut D. Deans departed to JERUSALEM for reinforcements.	
"	17th	"	0400 Stood to Arms. Major Acton-Adams, D.S.O. departed to School of Instruction, ZEITOUN. 58 other ranks reinforcements marched in. 1730 relieved A.M.R. posts at Fords. Lieut Doherty awarded M.C. and Sergt Robertson the D.C.M for AMMAN operations. Major Gorton 2 other officers and 30 other ranks worked on GHORANIYEH Defences. Working party of one N.C.O. and 15 other ranks on Ammunition Dump at JERICHO.	
"	18th	"	0400 Stood to Arms. 1600 Posts relieved by W.M.R. 1945 Regiment paraded 23 Officers 397 other ranks, 460 Horses and moved to EAST bank of JORDAN, 2120 bivouaced in Bridgehead	
GHORANIYEH Bridgehead.	19th	"	0430 moved out from Bridgehead along No.3 Road onto flat and then towards HILL 810. 8th Sqdn in advance. 1st L.H. Brigade on left, 2nd L.H. Brigade on right. 0600 Shelled fairly continuously by at least three batteries till 0900. Batteries located on foothills behind SHUNET NIMRIN. Patrols reached to within 1000 yards of foothills. 1830 began to withdraw, 2100 finally withdraw and returned to former bivouac area west of JORDAN. Casualties 2 horses wounded.	

Reference Map ERIHA  
1 inch to 1 mile.

WAR DIARY.

CANTERBURY MOUNTED RIFLES.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
JERICHO PLAIN	20th	April.	Remained in bivouac. G.T.H.R.	
"	21st	"	0600 Working Party of 2 Officers and 40 other ranks on GHORANIYEH Defences. 1100 Relieved A.M.R. Posts at Fords. Major Murchison departed to RICHON on Canteen business. G.T.H.R. Limbers departed to RICHON for Regimental Dump.	Reference Map ERHA 1" to 1 mile.
"	22nd	"	0430 Stood to Arms. 1100 Posts relieved by W.M.R. G.T.H.R.	
"	23rd	"	1020 Moved camp to KH KAKUN 1 mile South-West of JERICHO G.T.H.R.	
KH KAKUN	24th	"	1100 relieved A.M.R. Posts at Fords. Lieut Murchison M.C. departed to JERUSALEM to sit on Military Court. G.T.H.R.	
"	25th	"	0400 Stood to Arms. 3 officers and 5 other ranks departed to School of Instruction. ZEITOUN. 1100 Posts relieved by W.M.R.	
"	26th	"	Major Acton-Adams, D.S.O. returned on cancellation of School. 1 Sergt and 6 men departed to JERUSALEM to escort beer.	
"	27th	"	1100 found posts at YEHUD, HAJLA, and EL HENU Fords. 1230 found Bridge-building party of 7 other ranks. 2nd Lt Murray departed to Training Cadre MOASCAR.	
"	28th	"	0430 Stood to Arms. 0700 post at HAJLA withdrawn, other posts relieved at 1100. Captain Jebson and 3 other ranks departed for Training Cadre, MOASCAR. Found working party 1 Sergt 14 men for HAJLA Ford. G.T.H.R.	ES SALT Composite 1" to 1 mile.
"	29th	"	0600 found working party of 2 officers and 76 other ranks for GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. 2400 Regiment paraded 21 officers 389 other ranks, 482 horses - left in dump 1 officer 28 other ranks, 43 horses 5 mules. G.T.H.R.	
EAST OF JORDAN	30th	"	0330 bivouaced 1 mile South-East of GHORANIYEH. Brigade in reserve. 0850 the Regiment advanced on foothills South of HILL- 810, held up at 127 R3 Central by shell, rifle and machine gun fire. 10th Sqn in Advance. Heavily shelled throughout the morning and at intervals during the afternoon Casualties 3 O.R. killed 11 wounded 6 wounded remaining with Unit, 20 horses killed 25 wounded and evacuated and many others slightly wounded. 1930 Withdraw to former bivouac area inside Bridgehead. Watered in WADI NIMRIN. Lieut Knubley evacuated injured through his horse being shot and falling. (SGD)G.T.H.R.	