

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

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/5/1

Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

May 1915



AWM4-35/5/1

OFFICE AT THE BARR
 Spt. ECHERON, M. E. P.
 30 AUG. 1915
 CENTRAL REGISTRY,
 No. M. F. C/

Wellington Mounted Rifles
 New Zealand Division

125 5-15

On 'Stately Castle' - Arrived off Cape Moller about
 9 am. Wet misty morning - Waited around here
 for orders then proceeded to Anzac Cove - Encount-
 -ed in torpedo boat destroyer some lighters at
 7 pm - Went into bivouacs for night in
 gully north of Plugger's Plateau - Weather
 wet and misty -

Strength	Officers	Men	Horses
	25	451	714

Anzac Cove
 12 5 15

John Whyte Dyer

Wellington Mounted Rifles
New Zealand Division

13-5-15

At 9am orders were received for Regiment to
relieve Naval Brigade on Walkers Ridge by
3pm the Regiment was in position - four
troops in firing line - four troops in support and
one Squadron in reserve. Troops worked all
night improving trenches. The stench in the
trenches was very bad owing to the number
of dead men lying unburied just outside
the trenches. Best shots in Regiment
were selected as snipers and posted in
suitable positions to watch for enemy snipers.

At dusk the enemy opened a very
heavy rifle fire but no movement was
observed. Weather - Fine.

Strength	Officers	Men	Horses
	25	451	Nil

Walkers Ridge
13-5-15

J. H. Roberts

E.S.

Wellington Mounted Rifles
NZ + A Division

14-5-15

In trenches on Walkers Ridge fresh
working day and night to improve fire trenches
Weather Fine

Strength	Officers	Men	Horses
	25	251 -	700

Walkers Ridge
14-5-15

Josephine

15

Wellington Mountain Rifle
N 2 + A Division

15-5-15

In trenches on Walker Ridge -
Squadron in reserve working to make road
suitable for Field Artillery to get on top of
Walker Ridge. No movement of troops -
Weather Fine.

	Left	Man	Hours
Strength	25	481	2 1/2
Casualties		1	
	<u>25</u>	<u>480</u>	<u>2 1/2</u>

Casualties 1 sick

Walker Ridge
15-5-15

W. Whelan

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N2 + A Division

16-5-15

In trenches on Walkers Ridge. 29th
Mountain Battery took up position on Ridge
and opened fire on enemy trenches. Enemy
shelled our trenches several times during the
day. Weather fine.

Strength	Officers	Men	Horses
	25 -	450	hail
Cannellin		3	
	25 -	447	-
Reinforcements	1	9	
	26 -	456	hail

Cannellin 1 killed 2 sick

Walkers Ridge
16-5-15

J. H. [Signature]

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Wellington Mounted Rifles

N.Z. & A. Division

17. 5. 15

In trenches on Walker Ridge - Troops
 working improving trenches and digging
 sap to connect Walker Ridge with Potts
 Hill. Enemy sniping all day
 Weather Fine.

Strength	Officers	Men	Mounts
	26 -	456	None
Casualties		1	
<u>Total</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>455</u>	<u>Nil</u>

Casualties 1 killed

Walker Ridge
17. 5. 15

J. H. ...

L.S

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. A. Division

18.5.15

In trenches on Walker's Ridge enemy shells
our position at odd times during the day
no casualties from shell fire. Troops working
improving trenches and setting towards
Poker Hill. Order received troops to stand
to arms at 3.30am and 7.30pm - Bombers
airplane seen over our position.

Information received that enemy had been
reinforced and attacks might be expected
firing line reinforced by two troops -
Weather Fine -

Strength	Officers	Men	Hours
	26 -	455	Nil

WALKERS RIDGE

18 - 5 - 15

J. A. [Signature]

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. & A. Division

19-5-15

In trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE

At daylight enemy attacked left of our front line estimated strength ca 600, enemy were broken back leaving about 100 dead in front of our trenches -

At 3 pm when all was quiet the B.C. orders 100 of the Wellington Mounted Brigade to counter attack 100 officers men of the Wellington Mounted Regiment were ordered to carry out ^{counter} attack on a Turkish trench 100 yards east of our trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE. Order to attacking party was "To take trench, destroy any machine gun found there and then return".

When attacking party started getting out of the trenches such a heavy fire was brought to bear on them that the B.C. Brigade countermanded the order. [There is little doubt that had the attack been carried out few, if any, men would have returned to our trenches.

Trenches were subjected to shrapnel fire at odd times during the day.

Weather fine.

Strength	Officers	Men	Horses
	26	455	Nil
Cornellin		5	
Tolal	26 -	450	-
Cornellin	1 killed	4 wounded	

J. H. Whelan Coy

WALKER'S RIDGE

19-5-15

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N Z & A Division

GALLIPOLI

20 5 15

In trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE. Our trenches were subjected to a good deal of shrapnel fire during the day. At 5 pm white flags appeared all along the enemy trenches and fire was ceased. Work was passed from the Australians lines, on our right, that the enemy wanted time to bury their dead. No orders were received from Headquarters re armistice, enemy came out into the open and started collecting their dead also arms and ammunition. In case of any treachery on the part of the enemy all our trenches were reinforced.

When enemy were observed to be collecting arms shots were fired at them and they then retreated to their trenches and opened a heavy rifle fire on our trenches. Snipers and reserves improving trenches all day.

Weather - Fine

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Horses
19 5 15	26 -	450	
Casualties		5	
Total	26	445	

Casualties 1 killed 4 wounded

Walker's Ridge
20 5 15

J. H. Whyte
Sgt

015

Wellington Mounted Rifles

N.Z. & A. Division

GALLIPOLI

21-5-15

In trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE

Fixing line and supports improving
 trenches all day. Reservoirs employed
 improving road up ridge. Trenches
 subjected to lot of shell fire from
 direction of Kuchuk ANAFARTA.

Weather - Fine

Strength	Officers	Other ranks	Horses
20 5 15	26	445	0
Casualties	-	8	-
Total	26	437	0

Casualties 8 wounded

WALKER'S RIDGE

J. Whiffle
Comd.

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. A. Division

22-5-15

In trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE
Firing line and supports improving trenches
reserves improving road up ridge.
Trenches shelled several times during
the day

Weather Fine.

Strength	Officers	Other ranks	Horses
22-5-15	26	437	0
Casualties		6	
	26	431	0

Casualties Wounded 5 Sick 1

WALKER'S RIDGE

J. H. White

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. - A. Division

23-5-15

In trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE

Weather - Fine

Strength	Officers	Other Rank	Horses
22515	26 -	431	-
Returned		1	-
Total	26 -	432	-

WALKER'S RIDGE

23-5-15

J. H. Whiffin

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. 4 Division

GALLIPOLI

24. 5. 15

In trenches on WALKER'S RIDGE

At 5 am orders were received that there would be an armistice with the Turks from 7.30 am until 4.30 pm for the purpose of burying the dead. A dividing line was arranged by the General Staff of both sides and sentries were posted to prevent anyone crossing the line. Burial parties of twenty men each, under a medical officer, were told off to bury our dead and carry the enemy's dead over to the dividing line. About 100 of the enemy's dead were handed over to them from front of our trenches. Collected about 150 Turkish rifles and then were handed back to the enemy (less their bolts).

At 5 pm enemy started a heavy rifle fire but made no move.

Weather. Wet and misty until 9.30 am then cleared up.

Strength	Officers	Other Rank	Stores
	26	432	-

Casualties Nil

J. H. Whyte

WALKERS RIDGE

514

Wellington Mounted Rifles
NZ + A Division

GALLIPOLI

25-5-15

During the day the Regiment was
relieved from the trenches by the 8th Australian
Light Horse Regt and went into bivouac
at SHRAPNEL GULLY No 2.

Weather - Showery

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Horses
	26 -	432	hid
Casualties		1	
	<u>26 -</u>	<u>431</u>	<u>hid</u>

Casualties 1 wounded

SHRAPNEL GULLY No 2

John Whyte Regt

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. A. Division

GALLIPOLI

26-5-15

In bivouac at SHRAPNEL GULLY No 2

Bivouac shelled several times during
the day Weather - Fine.

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Hours
	26 -	431	0
Casualties		10	
Total	26 -	421 -	0

Casualties 2 killed 6 wounded 2 sick

27-5-15

In bivouac at Shrapnel Gully No 2

Bivouac shelled several times during the day
Weather Fine -

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Hours
26 -	26 -	421 -	0
Casualties	-	3	
	26 -	418	0

Casualties 3 wounded

Johnstone
Maj

516

Wellington Mounted Rifles
NZ + A Division

GALLIPOLI

25-5-15

In bivouac at SHRAPNEL GULLY No 2

At 4pm orders were received from Brigade Headquarters that one Squadron of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles were going to attack at 9pm, a Turkish trench about 600 yds EAST of No 2 outpost and one Squadron of the Wellington Mounted Rifles were to support the attack. The attack was carried out successfully only about 20 Turks were in the trench and then retired on the approach of the Squadrons.

The Squadron, under Major Duke, were ordered to hold the captured post, dig in and hold until relieved. The post was 29-5-15 captured at 11.20pm and by daylight 3.30am the Squadron had dug themselves in, but were unable to do much work after daylight as the post was, on three sides, commanded by the enemy fire. During the day the enemy shelled with shrapnel, the position from the NORTH and SOUTH but the Squadron did not have any casualties.

At 9pm the 6th Squadron was relieved by the 9th Squadron, under Major Chamber, and the 6th Sqdn. returned to camp. At 10pm Major Chamber reported that the post was surrounded by a large body of Turks who were attacking the position. A troop of the 2nd Squadron were in support of the 9th Squadron but were unable to get on to No 3 Post. The remainder of the 2nd Squadron, under Major Embley, were sent out to relieve No 3 post but were heavily outnumbered by the Turks and were compelled to take cover and act on the defence on the Southern slopes of the ridge between No 2 + 3 posts.

Weather Fine. Strength Officer Other Rank Hours

26 415 0

Casualties 9 0 Joseph

Casualties 9 wounded 26 409 0

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N Z & A Division

GALLIPOLI

20. 5. 15

At 7 am orders were received for further reinforcements to be sent to No 3 Post, the 6th Squadron were sent to junction with the 2nd and to relieve the 9th Squadron at Post No 3. They effected the junction with the 2nd Sqdn but in spite of all efforts were unable to make headway owing to the number of Turks between them and Post No 3 and to the heavy fire that was brought to bear on them by the Turks occupying the higher ground to the East and North.

Shell fire and machine gun fire were brought to bear on the reinforcements and on Post No 3 throughout the day. The snipe from the hills in the East and North caused a number of casualties during the day. At 6 pm a message was received by the C. C. Regiment that 2 Squadrons of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles would report at the Fisherman's Hut at 8 pm for the purpose of relieving the 9th Squadron at Post No 3 and that after the relief was effected the W M R would withdraw to camp.

Arrangements were made for the withdrawal of the wounded and the evacuation of the wounded commenced shortly after dusk and continued until about 11 pm. About 11 pm the Canterbury Squadrons took over the trenches from the 9th Sqdn and the Sqdn retired to Fisherman's Hut. About midnight the 2nd and 6th Sqdns retired to the Hut and joined the 9th. In the mean time the Canterbury Squadrons, who had abandoned No 3 Post also reached the Hut. The Turks finding the trenches were abandoned followed the 2nd and 6th Squadrons and crossed

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~~the~~ ~~valley~~ ~~and~~ ~~ridge~~ the Fishermans Hut ridge into the Valley between it and No 1 Post, they were making a great noise and shouting "Allah" "Allah". A defensive position was occupied by the returning troops ~~on~~ ~~the~~ extending from Fishermans Hut Ridge to Post No. 1. ~~After~~ A brisk fire was opened on the advancing Turks who pursued their attack along the Ridge in some strength but did not continue advancing along the Valley. Reinforcements were sent along the Ridge and a heavy fire was brought to bear on the Turks on the Ridge and in the Valley, who retired Northwards about 2.30 am. At daylight a Squadron from the A.M.R. arrived and as all was then quiet they were ordered to take up ~~an~~ an outpost line between No 1 post and the back and the remainder of the troops were withdrawn to camp.

Weather - Fine -

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Horses
	26	409	0
Casualties	5	56	
	21	353	0

Casualties Officers Killed 3 | Lieut P. Emerson, Lieut Cameron & Lieut Watt. Wounded 2 | Capt W. Hardham V.C. and Lieut D. Mac Donald

| Other ranks. 14 killed - 42 wounded

J.H. Whitey Sign

Wellington Mounted Rifles
N.Z. & A. Division

GALLIPOLI

31-5-15

In bronze at SHRAPNEL GULLY No 2

Enemy shells bronze several times during the day

Weather Fine.

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Horses
-	21 -	355	0
Casualties		3	
Returned to duty		5	
<u>Total</u>	<u>21 -</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>0</u>

Casualties 1 killed 2 wounded

1-6-15

In bronze at SHRAPNEL GULLY No 2.

enemy shells bronze several times during the day.

Weather Fine.

Strength	Officers	Other Ranks	Horses
	21 -	355	0
Casualties	-	4	0
	<u>21 -</u>	<u>351</u>	<u>0</u>

Casualties 2 killed 2 wounded

J. K. Whyte
Sgt