

AWM4

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

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/5/11 Part 2

Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

May 1916 [duplicate]



AWM4-35/5/11PART2

671

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES
ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

RECEIVED
CENTRAL RE

23 JUN. 1916

D.A.G., 3rd. Ebn.

HILL 70

MAY 1st to 3rd.35 MINUTES
(Before BREAKFAST)

Continuation of BAYONET FIGHTING, after 3rd of MONTH the thirty five minutes was split up, fifteen minutes was devoted to BAYONET FIGHTING + the remaining twenty for MAP READING + COMPASS BEARINGS etc.

1st

(6th Squadron supplied morning PATROLS + 2nd Squadron afternoon PATROLS)
L^T HERRICK returned from TRAINING REGIMENT + was taken on strength of REGIMENT dated 1:5:16 + posted temp^{ly} in command of 6th Sqd.

4th

(Regiment proceeded on a WELL RECONNAISSANCE. *on the W*)
Reveille at 0345 leaving 0500
Proceeded along E.L. DUEIDAR ROAD then to BIR GHARIF EL DUKAN to water horses + from there in an ^{direction} SOUTHERLY to HILL 331.
From HILL 331 6th SQUADRON proceeded to BIR EL JEFFEIR + report on the WELL there
9th SQD. reported on WELLS at BIR GHARIF EL DUKAN.

One TROOP of 2nd Sqd. to WELL at KHAR WAKHOREIR and one to WELL at HOD AMO SIMARA.

Left HILL 331 for HILL 70 at 1430 arriving CAMP at 1730.

Communications from all PATROLS to REGIMENTAL H.Q. was maintained by SIGNAL, and from REGIMENT to BDE. H.Q.

5th8th6th

2nd + 6th SQUADRONS found PATROLS.
Cleaning of Saddlery.
L^T MARCHANT to HOSPITAL
PIONEERS under L^T HOLLAND proceeded

+
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to WELL at KHAR VIA KHUREIR and from there to WELL at HOD AMU SIMAN
Both WELLS were repaired & reported on

7th. REGIMENT less 9th proceeded to ROMANI leaving HILL 70 at 1000 arriving ROMANI about 1600. The LIGHT HORSE were on a special reconnaissance to BIR EL ABD.

2nd SQD. found all OUTPOSTS & sleeping PICQUETS within SECTOR allotted to the Regiment.

8th. 6th SQADRON accompanied by all the SIGNALERS less those of 2nd SQD moved out at 0400 to HILL 110.

From here two PATROLS were sent out one in a Northerly direction to INUNDATION with orders to report on same and another in a NORTH EASTERLY direction.

Touch was maintained with the AUCKLAND PATROL on POINT 117 & with the AUSTRALIANS in an EASTERLY direction.

The SQADRON left HILL 110 at 1600, watered on way through ROMANI arriving ANZAC SIDING 2100. Leaving here in time to reach CAMP at HILL 70 at 0830 on morning of 9th.

Remainder of REGIMENT left ROMANI 1415 arriving HILL 70 2000 night of 8th

9th. 9th SQADRON found all guards & Patrols from 7th to 9th both dates inclusive. PIONEER PARTY left for BIR ET

MALER

10th.

BAYONET FIGHTING & COMPAN work before breakfast for 35 minutes.

11th.

~~2nd + 6th PATROLS~~

1 TROOP of 6th proceeded to DIV. H.P.

for DUTY

11th.

2nd + 6th PATROLS

PIONEER PARTY proceeded to BIR ET MALER.

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to prepare WELL at that place for REGIMENT on arrival.

Orders for REGIMENT to move to BIRET MALER. TENTS struck at 1900.
L^T MARCHANT from HOSPITAL.

12th

Regiment moved out to BIR ET MALER at 0500

BAGGAGE staked at end of lines ready for CAMEL TRANSPORT, but owing to owing to shortage of CAMELS + special TRAIN not running only absolutely necessary Baggage was taken

One TROOP left behind to clean up CAMP + follow on the same day.

ESCORT of INCO + 8 men detailed as CAMEL ESCORT.

Arrived at BIRET MALER 1000 + bivouaced some 3/4 mile SOUTH of that place.

13th

Preparing Camp + improving WELLS

REVEILLE at 0300, saddle up to stand to in FULL DRESS MARCHING ORDER at 0345. This order to take place daily.

14th

Being Regiment for duty had to find
OUTPOST LINE NO1 PICQUET Two TROOPS (3 POSTS) } 6th Sqd
NO2 " " " " }

INLYING PICQUET consisting of Two TROOPS 9th

Two OBSERVATION POSTS of INCO + 6 MEN
also Two MEN as INLYING PATROL to tour CAMP on 3/4 MILE radius, relief to go out every two hours.

Major WHYTE temp. detached as BRIGADE MAJOR to 2nd A.L.H. BDE.

15th

C.M.R. moved out to HO'DED DABABIS.

BIRET MALER

16th

One TROOP of 2nd SQD. proceeded to HILL 102 leaving CAMP at 0300, arriving at 0600. From here they sent out PATROLS in a NORTH + NORTHEASTERLY direction to reconnoitre SOUTHERN SIDE of SABKHET el BARDAWILL + to communicate with CANTERBURY MTD RIFLES at HOD ed DABABIS.

This TROOP could not obtain touch with C.M.R. so sent out PATROL who came in touch with C.M.R. ^{at 0900} and arranged with them for word to sent through ^{by signaller} when they moved. Signallers got in touch with C.M.R. Signallers at 1000.

Drinking water ran out at 1130 the heat at this time was very hard on horses and men.

PATROLS collected by 1100 five WOMEN seven CHILDREN + two MEN, but SAND CART used for at 0845 did not arrive until 1500.

In the mean time Canterbury had left without Signalling to that effect. Lt PIERCE finding could not gain touch with them sent out PATROL, who reported seeing them leave about 1300.

Due to the shortage of WATER two men were sent to WELL at HOD ed DABABIS to fill some of the TROOPS water bottles. When they had been at WELL a short time they were fired on by what was apparently a small TURKISH PATROL and had to gallop to get clear. One of their horses became done, but a C.M.R. PACK HORSE found loose was made use of so they joined up with C.M.R. returning ^{CAMP} ~~to~~ following morning.

Remainder of TROOP left HILL 102 about 1500, one SECTION went as ESCORT to SAND CART + handed it + the BEDOUINS over to the AUSTRALIANS at ROMANI, arriving CAMP the TROOP arriving 1900.

Men + horses were in a very exhausted state on arrival in CAMP.

16th

Another TROOP of 2nd SQD. escorted
M^{rs} FIELD AMBULANCE to QATIA leaving BIRETMALE
at 0400, arriving back to Camp at 2400.

- 9th SQD. found OUTPOSTS
- 2nd " " ALARM POSTS
- 6th " " OBSERVATION POSTS

17th

PIONEER PARTY under L^t HOLLAND proceeded
to DGH RATINA for WELL DIGGING, but the heat
prevented the BRIGADE from making projected
mov~~es~~ and L^t HOLLAND was recalled leaving

18th

DGH RATINA at 0300 ^{on 18th} WELL was not completed.

Party returned to CAMP at arriving 0500

18th

REGIMENT less two MACHINEGUNS
ordered to proceed to QATIA at 2000.

The 7th ^{Regt.} ALH. BDE. supported the
REGIMENT

The WELLINGTON REGIMENT arrived
QATIA at 2145. watered at a WELL there. 6th
SQD. supplied OUTPOSTS & the two M.G. were
placed in good defensive positions

Remainder of Regiment bivouaced
for the night feeding up immediately after
watering.

In the mean time communication
by telephone had been established H. Q. M. R.
BDE notified of our ~~arrival~~ arrival at QATIA

At 2400 information from BDE
that 2000 CAMELS were moving in direct
of BIRELABD and to try and obtain ^{trails} with
same by means of OFFICERS PATROL

CAMEL TRANSPORT with SUPPLIES
for the following day arrived at 2445.

SCREEN moved out through
OUTPOSTS at 0325.

MAIN BODY moved at 0330.

Arrived OGH RATINA 0530. OBSERVATION POSTS
posted + SCREEN withdrawn.

OFFICERS PATROL under Lt GRANT sent
out at 0600 to high point some $3\frac{1}{2}$ N.E. of OGH RATINA with order
to try + obtain touch with ENEMY PATROLS + watch all
movements, and rejoin MAIN BODY, ~~at~~ at 0930.

Telephone + Heliographic communica-
tion established with 7th Regt. A.L.H. who arrived at
QATIA 0450. Telephone communication ^{direct} was also
gained, H.Q. N.2 M.R BDE at BIR + MALER +
Div. H.Q. at HILL 40

Horses watered + fed.

At 0815 OFFICERS PATROL reported
all clear, but at 0821 a further message came
through of 12 CAMELS some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles E of
his position. MESSAGE also added atmosphere
very hazy making it difficult to observe.

Nothing further eventuating OBSERVATION
POSTS ~~with~~ ordered to withdraw to OGH RATINA.

PATROL arrived back at 0940.

MAIN BODY moved out from
OGH RATINA at 0950. REARGUARD at 1000.

Regiment reached QATIA 1135 and
watered and fed remaining here until 1600.

Moving again at 1600 arriving CAMP at BIR +
MALER 1745

Communication maintained
with BDE throughout.

19th

9th SQD. supplied two PATROLS
of 14 CO + six men. One going in a SOUTHERLY
direction to BIR + DHABA + Northern PATROL to
HILL 110

OUTPOSTS - 2nd SQD.

ALARM POST - 9th "

OBSERVATION POST - 6th "

From this date until further
orders ^{all} work to be done, other than absolutely
necessary, between hours 0400 + 1000 and 1600 + 2100.

20th

(REGIMENT paraded for bathing) at 0945. Moving out to the COAST some four miles SOUTH of MAHAMADIAH. Signal communication was established with BDE at BIR ET MALER. Leaving at 1430 arrived CAMP at 1545.

L^T CRUICKSHANK ^{+ TROOP} returned from DIVISIONAL DUTY at HILL 40.

21st

Marched in L^T O'DOWD P.J. + 20 MEN from TRAINING REGIMENT.

22nd

OUTPOST LINE = 6th SQD

ALARM POST = 9th

OBSERVATION POSTS = 2nd

PATROL to BIR ED DHABA INCO + 6 MEN was supplied by 2nd SQD

One man per SQD. detailed to go through further course of INSTRUCTION in SIGNALLING + TELEPHONE WORK with Regimental SIGNALLING OFFICER.

23rd

BATHING PARADE cancelled owing to no word from LIGHT HORSE on RECONNAISSANCE.

24th

OUTPOST LINE = 2nd SQD.

ALARM POST = 6th

PATROL INCO + 6 MEN

6th SQD

OBSERVATION POSTS = 6th

9th SQD proceeded to QATIA at 0500 arriving there at 0730. From here they sent a TROOP to HODD HAMASAH.

This TROOP left QATIA at 0730 with orders to search the country between QATIA and HAMASAH very thoroughly & not to hurry the reconnaissance. They arrived in HAMASAH at 0930 & immediately put out observation POSTS. While in occupation of the HOD they searched

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MAY

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it was thoroughly and found twelve Yeomanry TENTS + a quantity of other Equipment, evidently buried by the TURKS.

The PATROL left HAMISAH at 1345 arriving back at QATIA 1445.

The SQUADRON left QATIA for CAMP at BIR et MALER 1545 arriving 1730.

PIONEERS under L^T HOLLAND proceeded to BIR RABA at 0500 arriving there at 0700. A LIMBER with all necessary material aboard accompanied the party.

An old WELL, with good water in, was found and cleaned out from a depth of twelve feet to fifteen feet.

Another WELL was also begun on + dug to a depth of some eight feet when WATER was found. Party ^{then} returned to CAMP at ~~the~~.

Marched in from TRAINING REGT. 1 Sest. 34 O/R.

25th PIONEERS left CAMP to complete WELL at BIR RABA at 0400 ^{on 28th} WELL lowered to eleven feet + IRON FRAME put in to support. This gave a depth of three feet of good WATER. PARTY returned to CAMP ~~at~~ arriving 1000.

26th Marched in from Temp duty at DIV. H.Q. L^T LEVEN.

27 th	OBSERVATION POSTS	6 th SQD.
	INLYING PATROL	" "
	PATROL (SOUTHERN)	" "
	OBSERVATION	" "
	OUTPOST LINE	9 th "
	ALARM POST	2 nd "

Two TROOPS of 2nd SQD. escorted the PERSONNEL from MOUNTAIN ^{SEY} BAITO to MAHAMADIA for BATHING PARADE on 27th.

28th

(Bathing Parade on 28th)
L^T MARCHANT to Hospital.

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29th

Orders were received during the morning that the BRIGADE was to move out at 2200 on 29th.

The Intentions were to

(a) Surprise such of the ENEMY as were at BIR SALMANA and HOD SALMANA at dawn.

(b) To destroy all enemy material in the vicinity.

Wellington REGIMENT ordered to find Advance Guard, of one SQUADRON. SQUADRON to be in position by 2200.

Remainder of REGIMENT paraded at 2145 and moved off at 2155 to take up a position in rear of WIRELESS SECTION.

Order of march H.Q. 2nd SQD. 9th SQD. MGS, TRANSPORT half Limber half

PIONEER LIMBER accompanied REGIMENT + went with the TRANSPORT. PIONEER LIMBER loaded with necessary ^{material for well diggers}. One day's FULL RATION was carried + three horse feeds, one in nosebag + two strapped on top of overcoat in front of saddle.

Owing to the fact that FORCE went slightly off track + the gun later on in night becoming held up in sand arrived at DEBABIS some two hours late, time of arrival 0630.

30th

The WELLINGTON REGT. went ahead of FORCE from OGH RATINA, the remainder following on some hour + half later.

bivouaced here for the remainder of DAYLIGHT moving out again at 2100.

Order of march H.Q. 2nd, 6th MGS were Brigaded. 9th SQD. found two TROOPS for LEFT FLANK GUARD and two for REAR GUARD. \$

DESTINATION.

BIR el ABD thence to HOD EL SALMANA and BIR EL SALMANA to complete RECONNAISSANCE.

30th.

About one mile and half from BIR el ABD. the COLUMN was shortened by AUCKLAND REGT. moving in a S.E. direction to cut off communications in that direction and to move NORTH again to SALMANA + work in ~~between~~ ^{between} #1 E of the H.O.D.S. CANTERBURY REGT. less one S QD moved in NORTHERLY direction to attack SALMANA from the NORTH + to engage any of the enemy who we might drive out of BIR el ABD.

After giving the Flanking movements time to develop, remainder of FORCE moved on with remaining CANTERBURY S QD as advance guard. Shortening of COLUMN allowed us to withdraw one TROOP from LEFT FLANK GUARD.

31ST.

No opposition met with by MAIN BODY, but the forces working from the NORTH + SOUTH routed a small FORCE of the ENEMY camped at SALMANA. Killing 15 + wounded two.

At 0730 REGIMENT, GOAT + FIELD AMBULANCES ordered to return to BIR el ABD as soon as possible + water + feed HORSES. Left halting place at 0810 arriving BIR el ABD about 0915. ADVANCE GUARD ^{of the TROOPS} found by 2nd S QD. they also threw out one TROOP on either FLANK. Two TROOPS of 6th S QD. found REAR GUARD.

Remainder of BDE. caught up at BIR el ABD but less BDE H.Q. moved on immediately owing to WATERING taking so much time.

Moved again from ^{BIR EL ABD} ~~here~~ at 1230 for DE BABIS, with orders to carry out a sweeping movement + to gather in any BEDOUIN goats etc. 2nd S QD. searched ground for two MILES S. of TELEGRAPH LINE + 9th S QD. for two MILES N. of LINE at the same time they had to find sufficient protection to either FLANK. Two TROOPS of 6th

31st Sqd. acted as a REARGUARD + two as an ESCORT to the AY^R'S HIRE BATTERY GUN, with orders to proceed with them to KHIRBAG + thence to ROMANCI + join up with REGIMENT there.

This left the MAINBODY with HQ. all TRANSPORT, GUN + FIELD AMBULANCE. Arrived at DEBAGIS 1345. Here fed up again + called in SCREEN + REARGUARD moving off again for DGH RATINA at 1550 arriving at 1715. Remained until 1930 in order to feed up again + water.

The REGIMENT moved out from DGH RATINA at 1930 for CAMP at BIR + MALER arriving at 2345.

The HORSES stood the ^{whole} journey exceedingly well.

	State	
Officers	of Ranks	Horses
24	517	589

W. Updell

E - Colonel Commandant
Wellington Mounted Rifles

BIR + MALER
31:5:16