

AWM4

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

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/5/12 Part 2

Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

June 1916 [duplicate]



AWM4-35/5/12PART2

672
 RECEIVED
 2 SEP 1916
 D.A.G. 3rd ECHELON

Wellington Mounted Rifles
 Division

ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION

JUNE 1st
 from
 camp

(HOSTILE AIRCRAFT bombed the 1st BDE L.H. at ROMANI) our MACHINE GUN specially placed for AIRCRAFT opened fire at long RANGE. CRAFT went away after some 10 min.

2nd Special PATROL of one SQD. found by 9th SQD.

SQADRON left CAMP at 0400 arriving QATIA 0630. From here they sent out a PATROL to HAMISA consisting of a TROOP. PATROL remained at HAMISA until 1330 when they returned to QUATIA arriving 1445.

SQADRON left for CAMP at 1545 arriving 1730 and reported all clear.

SOUTHERN PATROL of 1 NCO + 6 MEN 9th SQD.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| OBSERVATION POSTS | } 9 th SQD. |
| INLYING PATROL | |
| OUTPOSTS | 2 nd SQD |
| ALARM POST | 6 th " |

2nd L^{ieut} GREY, E. G. to HOSPITAL

3rd 2nd L^{ieut} O'DOWD, P. J. transferred to WELLINGTON
 I.N.E. REGT. dated 27/5/16.

4th OPERATION ORDERS for a special Reconnaissance to BIR el ABD received 4:6:16. Special Orders ^{leading to} ~~was~~ drafted by O/C Wellington Mounted Rifles as follows.

It is the intention of the O/C FORCE to make a reconnaissance of BIR el ABD with the following objects.

- (a). To ascertain strength of enemy FORCES in and around BIR el ABD.
- (b). To destroy enemy STORES found in the vicinity, and all NATIVE COMPOUNDS.

RECONNAISSANCE took place JUNE 5th + 6th 1916.

Regiment paraded at 1350 and moved into place immediately in rear of CANTERBURY at 1355.

O/c 9th S.Q.D. detailed one TROOP as RIGHT FLANK GUARD, LEFT FLANK GUARD + one as REAR GUARD.

6th S.Q.D. found one TROOP as ESCORT to CAMEL TRANSPORT leaving camp at 1200 with orders to escort them to OGH RATINA and remain with them until further orders.

6th S.Q.D. also found one TROOP as ESCORT to MOUNTED FIELD AMBULANCE to OGH RATINA + remain with AMBULANCE until further orders.

Two Machine GUNS were left in camp as Anti-AIR CRAFT GUNS.

FORCE arrived at OGH RATINA at ~~1830~~ 1830 and bivouacked for the night. The water for HORSES becoming short it was well into the middle of night before finishing. Fed the 6th HORSES again at 0200.

One TROOP of 9th S.Q.D. detailed as connecting files between REGIMENT in advance and MAIN BODY.

Advance Regiment moved off at 0200 and MAIN BODY at 0315.

FORCE moved to a point about one mile EAST of DEBABIS and halted until word was received from Advance Guard 'all clear' at 0630. FORCE then returned to OGH RATINA to water and feed up, but owing to shortage of water proceeded independently to BIR ER RABAH where Regiment watered and fed. Water for HORSES short again there, so 9th S.Q.D. + M.G.S. remained behind to finish watering + follow on HQ, 2nd + 6th (less 1 TROOP) left ER RABAH at 1400 arriving at CAMP BIR et MALER 1630. Other TROOP of 6th S.Q.D. acted as ESCORT to MOUNTED FIELD AMBULANCE and arrived back ~~1400~~ 1400.

9th. SQD., & MACHINE GUN arrived CAMP at 1715.

Returned from Hospital Maj. SPRAGG.

7th. Orders received for one extra TROOP for
OUT POST LINE in future.

8th.	OUT POST LINE	6th SQD.1 Troop 9th.
	ALARM POST	2nd. "
	OBSERVATION POSTS	2nd. "
	INLYING PICQUET	2nd. "
	SOUTHERN PATROL	2nd "

9th. Owing to AUCKLAND being short of two TROOPS O/C
2nd. SQD., found ALARM POST of two TROOPS.

10th. Orders to find OUTPOSTS, ALARM POSTS etc., cancelled.
REGIMENT ordered to move out at 1145 to OGHRAITINA and remain
there until all clear reported by AUSTRALIAN FORCE, who had
gone out previously on RECONNAISSANCE to BIR BAYUD & back
through BIR el ABD.

BRIGADE less C.M.R., who had already gone out with
the A.L.H., left BIRET MALER at 1145. WELLINGTON REGT. de-
tailed 9th SQD., under Lt. GRANT as ADVANCE GUARD. Arrived
OGHRATINA.

11th. At 0345 BIVOUCED immediately REGIMENT found pro-
tection to the FRONT & AUCKLAND on FLANKS, water and fed up.
Word came through "all clear" & BDE., moved off for
CAMP at BIRET MALER at 1310 arriving CAMP at 1715.

HOSTILE AIRCRAFT flew over us on way back but did
not attack us in any way, although they fired on our camp
with a MACHINE GUN when passing over some 20 minutes before.
No damage was done anywhere, Lt. NORTH left in camp in command
of camp Details.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	12 th		<p>REGIMENT found special PATROL to QATIA sending one TROOP to HAMISAH. Owing to some misunderstanding the ALH also sent a SQD on this PATROL. D/C 2nd Sqd. ordered to return at 1130, but owing camels being sighted SQD remained out until satisfied that what the camels were. They were found to be under escort of the YEOMANRY. SQD returned to CAMP arriving 1900.</p>	
	13 th		<p>OUT POSTS } 9th SQD and 1 TROOP } 6th ALARM POST 6th OBSERVATION POSTS 2nd INLYING PATROL 2nd SOUTHERN PATROL 6th</p>	
			<p>At 0745 a message came from BDE to say that an ENEMY AIR CRAFT flying in a WESTERLY direction.</p>	

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	14 th .		<p>PIONEER PARTY proceeded to ABO HAMRA for WELL DIGGING. Party left BDE. H.Q. at 0640 under Lt. HOLLAND arriving ABO HAMRA at 0740. Found water to be very Brackish. Arrived back in CAMP 1800.</p>	
	15 th .		<p>REGIMENT, less three TROOPS, paraded at 0400 & proceeded with BDE to QATIA. Order of MARCH H.O.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">2nd Sqd 6th Troop 9th Troop MSG (TWO)</p> <p>9th Sqd. found RIGHT FLANK GUARD of one TROOP + LEFT FLANK GUARD of one TROOP, also 1 TROOP as REAR GUARD.</p> <p>O/c 9th. detailed INCO + four men to ^{LOW LINE TRANSPORT} ECCURT, CAMELS to QATIA.</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">QATIA</p> <p>Arrived at 0600 + bivouaced there for the day. FLANK + REAR GUARDS found necessary DAY POSTS to flank + Rear.</p> <p>O/c 2nd Sqd. detailed one TROOP for OUTPOST DUTY to take up position at 01.00, withdrawing at 0500.</p>	

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	16 th		<p>O/C 9th Sqd. furnished two TROOPS for PATROL DUTY, leaving QATIA at 0400.</p> <p>One TROOP proceeded to HOD SAQIA, and the other to BIR el HAMISAH. Established observation POSTS at these places withdrawing at 1120 to QATIA.</p> <p>O/C 9th detailed one TROOP to find all day POSTS and to be in position by 04³⁰.</p> <p>REGIMENT ordered to leave QATIA at 1215 for BIR el MALER, arriving camp 1400.</p> <p>Remainder of BDE. proceeded to CAMP BIR el MALER at 1400. O/C 9th detailed advance GUARD.</p> <p>9th SQD. returned CAMP by 1600.</p> <p>OUT POSTS - 6th SQD. + 4 TROOP of 2nd SQD.</p> <p>ALARM POST - Two TROOPS 2nd.</p> <p>Returned from HOSPITAL. L^{ieut} Grey</p> <p>PIONEERS proceeded to ABUHAMRA at 0500 ^{for well digging} arriving back in camp at 1800 on each day. This was BRIGADE WORK.</p>	<p><u>9th Sqd.</u></p>
	17 th 18 th			

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	19 th		<p>DOTPOSTS - 2nd S QD. + 1 TROOP 9th</p> <p>ALARM POST. - 9th S QD</p> <p>QATI PATROL - 6th</p> <p>SOUTHERN " - 9th</p> <p>OBSERVATION POSTS } 6th</p> <p>IN LYING PICQUET }</p>	
	20 th		<p>PIONEERS from 8th + 9th S QDS. proceeded to BDE H.Q. under Sgt. M. IVOR + reported for duty to LT MARTIN AMR. at 0400. The whole party proceeded to DGH RATINA cleaned out the WELLS and returned Camp arriving at 1430 21.6.16.</p>	

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	21		<p>Took part in a RECONNAISSANCE carried out by the AUSTRALIANS who reconnoitred HOD EL GEILA, HOD UM EL DHAUANIN and HOD EL MUEHALFAT.</p> <p>REGIMENT has five TROOPS left BIR ET MALER at 0500 with protection to front, and flanks & forward by TROOP from 9th Sqd. 6th Sqd. two sections in REAR.</p> <p>Section of the MOUNTED FIELD AMBULANCE accompanied Regt. to QATIA.</p> <p>Remaining three TROOPS of 9th Sqd. left CAMP at 0900 moved out to QATIA, from here one TROOP went to HILL 246, one to SAGIA and the other HOD EL HAMISAH with orders to make good the country to the South & South East of QATIA. O/C 9th sent one officer to report to ^{POINT} where PARTY working on RAILWAY had reached.</p> <p>O/C 6th Sqd. detailed one TROOP to remain in CAMP with orders to ESCORT CAMEL TRAIN, with SUPPLIES to DQRATINA, if required.</p> <p>Also one TROOP to escort Camel Convoy, proceeding with ALH to DQRATINA reporting to their Brigade (ALH) at ROMANI with TROOPS.</p> <p>REGIMENT arrived QATIA 0700. Necessary posts put out immediately, and two machine Guns set up for HOSTILE AIRCRAFT.</p>	

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	21		<p>Remainder of REGIMENT arrived QATIA 0700 and bivouaced here pending further orders, remaining TROOP of 9th Sqd finding necessary POSTS. Two Machine guns set up as Anti-Air Craft Guns.</p> <p>Immediate Communication obtained with 1st ALH. Brigade ^{at QH RATINA} N.Z.M.R. BDE and ANZAC MTD DIV at ROMANI.</p> <p>PATROLS reported all clear. These PATROLS returned to QATIA each day at by 1730.</p> <p>O/c 6th Sqd. detailed two TROOPS to find night DOORPOSTS and O/c 2nd detailed one TROOP to act as INLYING PICQUET and find two posts.</p> <p>Wire from ANZAC MTD. DIV. to keep sharp lookout for missing AIR PILOT + OBSERVER from missing AEROPLANE.</p>	
	22		<p>O/c 2nd Sqd. detailed three TROOPS to find PATROLS and one TROOP for DAY POSTS.</p>	

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	22		<p>D/C. 9th SQD. detailed two TROOPS to take up OUT POST positions and one TROOP to act as INLYING PICQUET. These TROOPS to be in position by 1800.</p> <p>Two MACHINE GUNS took up positions as for previous night.</p>	
	23 rd		<p>PATROLS: One TROOP 6th to BIR el HAMISAH and one to POINT 245 9th HODESAGIA.</p> <p>D/C 9th SQD. detailed 1 TROOP to find DAY POSTS. Received wire at 0750 ^{from ANZAC Mth DIV.} reporting having located AEROPLANE, and that 1st H. BDE REGIMENT FORCE, losing ENGINE with it were going to withdraw to DGHARATINA.</p> <p>Wire from ANZAC Mth DIV. to return CAMP.</p> <p>PATROLS ordered to withdraw immediately. REGIMENT left QATIA at 1530 arriving CAMP 1715</p>	

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	24 th		<p>OUT POSTS = 2 SQD + 1 TROOP 6th SqD. ALARM POST = Two TROOPS 9th SqD. OBSERVATION POSTS } INLYING PATROL } = 6th SqD.</p>	
	25 th		<p>Marched out Capt. MILNE D.S. (N.Z.M.C.) " " " " Wood G.H. (N.Z.M.C.)</p>	
	26 th		<p>9th SqD. found QATIA PATROL. On reaching QATIA one TROOP was sent to HAMISAH. SqD. returned CAMP by 1730. One OFFICER was sent to report to RAILWAY ENGINEER OFFICER at the present point reached by working party.</p>	
	27 th		<p>OUT POSTS = 6th INLYING PICQUET = 2nd SqD. OBSERVATION POSTS = 9th SqD.</p>	
	28 th		<p>Free</p>	

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	29 th		<p>Orders were received on morning of 29th JUNE for a special RECONNAISSANCE to BIR el ABD with the following objects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) To surprise any enemy posts at dawn(b) To find out any traces of recent occupation <p>Troops who took part in Reconnaissance were 2nd LH. BDE (less 5th & 10th LH Regts) and Wellington Mounted Rifles.</p> <p>The actual attack on BIR el ABD at dawn was carried out by Wellington Regiment and one Squadron of 6th LH Regt, who acted as a separate force under the Command of Col. MELDRUM.</p> <p>Col. MELDRUM'S FORCE left starting point (100 yds N of main Camp) at 0230 and proceeded to OGHRAHINA by way of ER RABAH.</p> <p>2nd SqD (WMR) provided Flank and Rear Guards. 1st LH SqD provided Rear Guard.</p> <p>Arrived OGHRAHINA 0800 and bivouacked here for the day.</p> <p>9th SqD found all necessary DAY POSTS.</p> <p>From here 1 SqD. of 6th ALH moved independently of WMR.</p>	

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	30 th		<p>with orders to attack BIR el ABD in conjunction with us from the NORTH at dawn. Regiment left DGHRAFINA at 2200 arriving HOD de BABIS just on 2400. Moved on again at 2420 arrived EL BIRDIEH at 0115. Leaving here at 0130 they arrived at UMM ZAGLIA at 0200.</p> <p>6th Sqd. moved on from here to a point 1 1/4 EAST of BIR el ABD arriving there at 0250. Their orders were to approach ABD from this point at 0325 and attack in conjunction with LH. Sqd. advancing from NORTH and remainder of Regt. who advanced from the SOUTH.</p> <p>Remainder of Regiment left ZAGHLIYA at 0330 and timed themselves to arrive at BIREL ABD in time to launch attack at dawn. 2nd Sqd. dismounted on this side of BIREL ABD and moved forward in 9th Sqd. being kept in reserve. The attack was timed exactly but there was no sign of any enemy.</p> <p>The Remainder of the Brigade had in the meantime moved up from the WEST along the road so that if any of the Enemy would have been seen for certain had they been in vicinity.</p>	

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	30 th		<p>On finding no Enemy in BIR EL ABD Col. MELDROM sent two TROOPS of 9th SQD. to reconnoitre to the EAST towards SALMANA with orders not to go more than 1 2 miles. They sighted several Camel Patrols near SALMANA but finding nothing of importance withdrew after patrolling for about two miles distance arriving back to BIR EL ABD at 0500.</p> <p>Regiment left BIR EL ABD at 0500 and marched to DGH RATINA. Remained here to water and feed up. Leaving again shortly after 1600 arriving back to Camp at BIR ET MALER 1930.</p>							
			<p>Strength Month ending 31.6.18</p> <table data-bbox="1600 1380 2004 1582"> <tr> <td>OFFICERS</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER RANKS</td> <td>481</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HORSES</td> <td>556</td> </tr> </table>	OFFICERS	25	OTHER RANKS	481	HORSES	556	
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				<p>W. Meldrum Comd. Coy.</p>						