

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/5/17 Part 1

**Title:** Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

November 1916



AWM4-35/5/17PART1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOSEFIG.	1916. Nov. 1.		<p><u>Observation Posts, 6th. Outposts 2nd. Maj Batchelar</u> temporarily took over command of the Regt vice Capt. Sommerville J.A. temp. i/c 2nd. Sqn. 31/10/16.</p> <p><u>Capt. Sommerville J.A.</u> having relinquished temporary command of Regt. appointed Temp i/c of 2nd. Squadron dated 31/10/16. <u>Capt. Sommerville C.L.</u> having marched in from Training Regt. is appointed 2nd. i/c of 6th. Sqn. 1/11/16. <u>Capt. Scott J.O.</u> having marched in from School of Instruction resumes temporary command of 9th. Sqn. dated 31/10/16.</p> <p><u>Lieut. Grant N.G.</u> relinquishes temp. command of 9th. Sqn. and (is appointed) resumes Temp. 2nd. i/c of 9th. Sqn. <u>Lieut. Herrick A.D.</u> relinquishes temporary command of 6th. Sqn. and resumes command of Lewis Gun Section 31/10/16.</p> <p><u>2nd. Lieut. Foley</u> relinquished temporary command of 2nd. Sqn. 30/10/16.</p> <p>2. <u>Observation Posts 9th. Sqn. Outposts 6th. Sqn. Camel Escort of 1 Sgt. &amp; 12 men to report to Supply Depot 9th. Sqn. Major C.R. Spragg</u> marched in assumed temporary command of W.M.R. Regt. and resumes command of <del>W.M.R. Regt.</del> W.M.R. Regt. dated 1/11/16.</p> <p><u>Major Batchelar A.F.</u> relinquishes command of Regt. and resumes command of 6th. Sqad. dated 1/11/16.</p>	



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MOSEIFIG.	1916. Nov. 6.		<u>Maj. Spragg C.R.</u> relinquished command of Regt. and resumes command of 9th. Sqn. <u>2nd. Sqn.</u> relieved Canterbury at Hill 157 leaving camp 0800.	
	7.		<u>Observation Posts</u> 9th. Sqn. <u>Outposts</u> 6th. Sqn. <u>Maj. J.H. White D.S.O.</u> appointed Temp. Lt. Col. while in command of Regt.	
	8.		<u>Observation Posts</u> 6th. Sqn. <u>Outposts</u> 9th. Sqn.	
	9.		<u>Observation Posts</u> 9th. Sqn. <u>Outposts</u> 6th. Sqn.	
	10.		<u>Observation Posts</u> 6th. Sqn. <u>Outposts</u> 9th. Sqn. <u>Orders out</u> for move to Mazar on 11th. From Major Regt (less 1 Sqn. & 1 troop) to proceed to Mustagidda. Squadron to go to Arnussi and the troop to Zobalia. Orders postponed. <u>Hon. Maj. A.H. Wilkie</u> to be Capt.	
	11.		<u>Observation Posts</u> 9th. Sqn. <u>Outposts</u> 6th. Sqn. <u>Maj. C.R. Spragg</u> to be Temp. 2nd. i/c Regt. vice <u>Maj. J.H. White D.S.O.</u> 2nd. A.L.H. Bgde. dated 27th. July 1916.	

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MOSEIFIG.	1916. Nov. 11.		<p><u>Capt. J.A. Sommerville</u> to be Temp. Major vice Major C.R. Spragg appointed Temp. 2nd. i/c of Regt. dated 22nd. Sept. 1916.</p> <p><u>Lieut. N.G. Grant</u> to be Temp. Capt. vice Capt. J.A. Sommerville, appointed Temp. Major dated 22nd. Sept. 1916.</p> <p><u>Major J.A. Armstrong</u> marched in from Hospital and resumed command of 2nd. Sqn.</p>	
		12	<p><u>Observation Posts</u> 6th. Sqn.      <u>Outposts</u> 2nd. Sqn.      <u>Camel Escort</u> 9th. Sqn.</p> <p><u>Maj. Sommerville J.A.</u> relinquishes Temp. command of 2nd. Sqn. and assumes Temp. command of 9th. Sqn.      <u>Capt. Grant N.G.</u> relinquishes Temp. 2nd. i/c 9th. Sqn. and is detached as Temp. 2nd. i/c of 2nd. Sqn.</p> <p><u>Orders out</u> to move on 13th. at 0700. 9th. Sqn. and part of Field troop proceed to Mustagidda at 0800 on 12th. Object to develop water supply at Mustagidda, Arnussi and Zobalia.</p>	
		13.	<p><u>Regiment</u> (less 1 sqn) moved to starting point 0650 and moved off with Bgde. at 0700. Arrived Mazar 1130 watered and fed up immediately.</p> <p>From Mazar 6th. Sqn. went to Arnussi and 1 troop 2nd. Sqn. to Zobalia.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1916, Nov. 13.		<p>Regiment arrived Mustagidda just on 1400 and pitched camp. Water supply at Mustagidda and Arnussi good, but not so good at Zobalia. Horses drank freely both at Mustagidda and Arnussi, but horses at Zobalia had to be taken to Arnussi for watering. All posts in place by 1600. Visual communication obtained Mustagidda - Zobalia and Mustagidda Zobalia via Mazar obtained by nightfall. Communication by telephone to Mazar also laid. Obtained touch with Camel Corps, north of Mustagidda on Bir el Mazar - El Arish road, and arranged for patroling of ground between them and us by day and by night. O.C. 6th. Sgan. at Arnussi to arrange for necessary patroling of ground between Arnussi and Zobalia by day and night. Zobalia Post arranged for the patroling of the country between them and Canterbury Sgan. at Malha by day and night.</p> <p><u>Outposts at Mustagidda</u> 2nd. Sgan. detailed outposts and necessary patrols to the north and north east by day and night.</p> <p>9th. Sgan. detailed outposts and necessary <del>outposts</del> patrols to the south, south east, and west by day and night. Patrols to be sent out twice during the night time and place to be varied.</p> <p>Posts as above to be found as above by Squadrons/naned.</p>	

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MUSTAGIDDA.	1916. Nov. 13.		<p>One observation post by day to the north found by 2nd. Sqn. Posts at Arnussi and Zobalia to send in "all clear" reports as early as possible in morning, at 1150 and 1750. Reg. Hqrs. rendering them in their turn to Bgde. Hqrs. Lewis Gun Officer to arrange for an Enemy Air Craft Alarm post daily. Orders received for a patrol of an officer and three sections to reconnoitre Bir el Gererat on 14th. inst. Object to reconnoitre tracks leading from Bir el Gererat to the North, to the East, and to the South. Patrol under Lieut. Levion left Arnussi at 0645 and arrived back in camp at 1205. Tracks of Bedouins and camels, all fresh, were seen leading in an Easterly direction. Tracks to the north were all old. Tracks in a south westerly direction were of horses and appeared to have circled round Bir el Gererat within about a mile, strength of party about 1 section.</p>	

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MUSTAGIDDA.	1916. Nov. 14.		Settling down in Camp.	
		15.	At 2115 Arnussi Post rang up that they could hear firing east of their Camp. The outpost reported having heard two bursts of firing about 2 miles away and had seen the flashes. Everything was quiet during remainder of night.	
		16.	An Officers patrol under Lieut Cruickshank went out to try and discover for what reason the firing had occurred and where. Patrol travelled east for about three miles and then north for 1/2 mile, when they came across some Camel tracks, these were followed 1/2 mile and found to lead toward Arnussi. At this point they appear to have been parked. The riders then seemed to have divided themselves into two parties and occupied ridges about eighty yards apart and fired some sixty rounds from these positions. About this number of empty cartridge cases were found here. No reason could be given for firing in this way. From tracks it was estimated there were about twenty five camels. Our party, after searching these positions travelled South and came across two camel tracks and one bare-footed printing going towards Arnussi until about 700 yds.	



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MUSTAGIDDA.	1916 Nov. 16.		<p>distance from HOD, when the camels appear to have been left. Two bare-footed men moved towards the camp to within about 500 yds. From here they crawled to within about 300 yds. Tracks then proceeded in a round about way back to the camels which moved away in an easterly direction.</p> <p>Brigade wired requiring a report on a WELL on a bearing 75° from Bir-el-Malhat four miles distance.</p> <p>Zobalia sent out a patrol and located a stone well N.E. of Zobalia, which from bearings was the one referred to by Brigade. Water found to be brackish and horses would not drink much. Direction of well approximately about E Bir-el-Zobalia. Bearing of 165° from Mustagidda, 76° from Bir-el Malha.</p> <p>Lieut. Harding M.A. relinquished appointment of Acting Staff Officer on Bgde. Hqrs.</p> <p>Capt. Allard, Intelligence Officer 42nd. Div. attached to Regt.</p>	
	17.		<p>Troop at Zobalia relieved by another troop from 2nd. Sqn. Marched in Lt. M.A. Harding from Bgde. Hqrs.</p>	

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MUSTAGIDDA.	1916. Nov. 18.		Usual routine.	
	19.		Usual routine.	
	20.		9th. Sqn. relieved 6th. Sqn. at Arnussi. 6th. Sqn. took over 9th. Sqn. ground at MUSTAGIDDA.	
	21.		Usual routine.	
	22.		Usual routine. Marched in 45 O/R, 45 Riding and 10 packs.	
	23.		Usual routine.	
	24.		Orders out for Bgde. to move to new Bivouac at Mustagidda.	
	25.		<p>Moved to Bivouac under Unit arrangements. All units to be clear of lines by 0830. Squadron at Arnussi and Troop at Zobalia to move on 26th. and rejoin Regt.</p> <p><u>Marched Out</u> 1 N.C.O. Cavalry School, 1 MAN, Lewis Gun Course, Beth at Zeitoun.</p> <p><u>Outpost Line.</u> Two troops one from 2nd. Sqn. and <del>one</del> from 6th. Sqn.</p>	
	26.		<p>Marched In. Arnussi Post. 9th. Sqn.</p> <p>Zobalia Post. 1 Troop 6th. Sqn.</p>	

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MUSTAGIDDA.	1916. Nov. 26.		<p>One troop from 6th. Sqn. under Lieut. Bird patrolled to Gererat. From here a patrol of 1 N.C.O. and 6 men proceeded to Hill 133 reported to Officer in charge I.C.C. Post there and returned to troop at Gererat. Patrol then returned to Bivouac. Outpost Line 2nd. Sqn. &amp; 6th. Sqn.</p>	
	27.		<p>Outpost Line divided into two Areas viz :-            No. 1 Sector } Both requiring 1 troop each, with A.M.R. on our right            No. 2 Sector } and C.M.R. on our left flank.            Found by 2nd. &amp; 9th.</p>	
	28		<p>Outpost Line 6th. &amp; 9th.</p>	
	29.		<p>The following patrols were found when ever duty Regt:-            (A) To a point (Hill) 133 with orders to connect with camel patrol there. Strength of patrol 1 N.C.O. and 6 men.            (B) To Arnussi and connect with 1st. A.L.H. Bgde. 1 N.C.O. and 4 men.            (C) To Bir el Gererat and remain out all day leaving camp at 0530 and returning by 1730. Strength of patrol 1 Troop under an officer.</p> <p>Patrols found by 9th. Sqn. today,            All Patrols returned safely. <u>Outposts</u> 6th. &amp; 9th. Sqans. <u>Camel Escort</u> (1 N.C.O. &amp; 120/R) to report to Supply Depot - 2nd. Sqn.</p>	

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MUSTAGIDDA.	1916. Nov. 30.		<p>Outposts 2nd. &amp; 9th. Sqdns.</p> <hr/> <p>Strength for month ending 30th. Nov. 1916.</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;"></th> <th style="width: 15%;">Officers.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">O/Ranks.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Riding.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Pack.</th> <th style="width: 15%;">Draught.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Effective.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">22.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">430</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Details.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">33</td> <td style="text-align: center;">481</td> <td style="text-align: center;">-</td> <td style="text-align: center;">21 - 23.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Attached.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schl. of Instr. } Division } Port Said etc. }</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">16.</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: right;"><u>TOTALS.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>25.</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>483.</u></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Officers.	O/Ranks.	Riding.	Pack.	Draught.	Effective.	22.	430				Details.	1.	33	481	-	21 - 23.	Attached.	2.	4				Schl. of Instr. } Division } Port Said etc. }		16.				<u>TOTALS.</u>	<u>25.</u>	<u>483.</u>				
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