

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/5/22 Part 1

**Title:** Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

April 1917



AWM4-35/5/22PART1

# WAR DIARY

Army Form G. 2118

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title Pages will be prepared in manuscript.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR. EL. BELAH.	1.4.1917 April 1st		Usual routine	US. RAFA
	" 2nd	12.00	Regt. marched out with Brigade to form outpost line from HILL 320 to 320. G.P.Z. EL. TAIRE. C.M.R. left sector W.M.R. centre and A.M.R. Right sector. 2nd Squadron with 2 MAXIM guns and 1 Lewis held left sector 6th Squadron with 2 " " held centre sector 9th Squadron with 2 Lewis guns held right sector. All posts in the position were entrenched	Sketch N.H.36 E-II 2/2 a.g. Supt from 2 M.R. Regt 2.4.1917
	3rd	05.00	Reconnoitring Patrol sent out in direction of TELEU. JEMMI and reported all clear at 0600. after which 2 day observation posts were established; and squadrons spent the morning in deepening and extending these trenches.	US.
		15.30	Regt. relieved by Regt. from Imperial Division, and returned to camp at DEIR. EL. BELAH. 2nd Lewis guns (3 in number) and all equipment pertaining thereto were returned to Ordnance Stores at KHAN. YUNUS.	US.

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DEIR el BELAH	April	4 <sup>th</sup>	Usual routine. Horses exercised 12 Hotchkiss <del>with</del> guns with equipment complete. were issued to the Regt. 4 per Squadron.	UB.
		5 <sup>th</sup>	Regt. exercising horses. 1 officer and 1 N.C.O per Squadron to attend lecture on gas at Div. Headquarters.	UB.
		6 <sup>th</sup>	Regiment exercising horses.	UB.
		7 <sup>th</sup>	Regiment exercising horses usual routine	UB.
		8 <sup>th</sup>	Regiment paraded for Divise Service at 0930. Paraded again mounted at 1155 joined up with Brigade and marched out to form an outpost line on the same ground and with the same dispositions as on the 2.4.1917. Capt. J. B. Hine having marched in from N.Z.M.R. Training Regt. Moresau is appointed 2 <sup>nd</sup> i/c command of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Squadron. 8.4.1917. Capt. J. O. Scott. marched in from Hospital. 8.4.1917. Capt. J. O. Scott. and Lieut. P. J. North marched out to N.Z.M.R. Training Regt. Moresau. 8.4.1917.	UB.

War Diary

DEIR-EL-BELAH

April 9th 1917

0500

Reconnoitering patrol sent out in direction of TEL-EL-JEMMI and reported all clear at 0800 after which two day observation posts were established and squadrons spent the morning in improving their trenches

1300

Regt relieved by Regt from Imperial Field Division and marched back to camp at DEIR-EL-BELAH

10th

Regt. departed at 0730 and reported to R.E. at EL-DENEITA at 0800 proceeded to WADI crossing at TEL-EL-JEMMI and here divided the Regt into two working parties for the purpose of improving the roads across the WADIS at JEMMI and EL-MANSUR at 1300 work was stopped on the roads and the Regt occupied with erecting canvas tanks at WADI GHUZZA to hold the water which was being brought out by camels - Regt formed up at 1610 and marched back to camp

11th

Duty Regt. a Picquet of 2 officers & 81 O/R to Administrative Commandant DEIR-EL-BELAH at 1000 for 24 hours leave a duty Mess for indication in fact will hold at 1000 and 1400 Major C.R. SPRAGG to take command of 9th Squadron (Battalion) Marched in from Hospital Lt Col. A.D. HERRICK 10th 1917 Marched in from N.2.M.R. leaving Regt marching out from on strength 23 O/R 10th/1917

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DEIR. EL BELAH	April 1917		Horses exercised. Gas helmet drill carried out. No 1217 Temp. Sgt. John Powell has been awarded the following decoration Croix de guerre. G.R.O. No. 279. Ser No 2721. of 30. 3. 1917.	EW.
		13 <sup>15</sup>	Horses exercised. Classes of instruction in Gas at 1000 and 1400 were held. Marched out to Hospital 2 O/R.	EW.
		14 <sup>15</sup>	Duty Regt. Horses exercised. Inspection of saddlery by 1/c Squadron. Instructional classes in Gas at 1000 and 1400 were held. Class of instruction for Hutchins gunners. Marched in from Training Regt. MO2 SCAT. 3. O/R. 18. 4. 1917. Marched out to School of Instruction Cairo 2. O/R.	EW.
		15 <sup>15</sup> 1000	Church Parade. Received orders to be ready to move.	EW.

# War Diary

RAFA  
1/125000

DEIR-EL-BELAH

April 16th

Preparing to shift camp. Blivonac left standing until the afternoon.

1630

all baggage & accessories removed to Brigade Headquarters Dump

1800

Regt. fell in & joined up with brigade at 1810. at Eastern End of BELAH Lagoon. Order of march: C.M.R. W.M.R. A.M.R. M.G.S.

1830

Brigade moved off & marched to SHELLAL via BEIR SELA - arrived SHELLAL 0.600

April 17 0615

Trained horses in WADI GHUZZE & SHELLAL camp moved on to Eastern Side of WADI & relieved C.M.R. as covering troops to ANZAC DIVISION.

0830

Moved out as advanced guard along the RAFA BEERSHEBA Road with the 2nd Squadron moving on both sides of the road and 9th Squadron on their left taking up a position of about 2 1/2 miles with the 1st Squadron in reserve. We came in contact with enemy cavalry along 500 contour who retired without offering much resistance. Our advance continued the advance to point 550 BEIR ABUTAH

BEERSHEBA  
1/125000

War Diary

682

April 17<sup>th</sup>

and put out observation posts shield the ground until 1830  
troops of C.M.R. holding ground on our right + 25<sup>th</sup>  
Mounted Brigade on our left.

1830 acted as rear guard to Brigade stationed to WADI GHUZZE  
at SHELLAL + bivouacked for the night.

18<sup>th</sup> 1000 Moved out as Reserve Regt to Brigade + moved out  
in direction of point 500 DEIT ABU TAHA with one  
troop as left flank guard + troops as right flank  
guard joined to SHELLAL at 1830. Arrived there 2000

Watered off + moved out with Brigade at 2300 in  
direction of point 280 SOUTH EAST of TEL-EL-JEMMI

19<sup>th</sup> arrived at point 280 S.E. of TEL-EL-JEMMI at 0600.  
Enemy aeroplane bombed Brigade. C.M.R. only  
Regt. affected by bombs.

0730 Received order to report to B.G.C. 5<sup>th</sup> Mtd Brigade to  
attack SAUSAGE RIDGE. Squad ration moved  
off without watering at 1015. Reported at ANZAC MTD

Divn on way received order to act independently.  
under D.H.Q. but to report to 5<sup>th</sup> Mtd Brigade HQ.

to ascertain position. Left 1100. Moved to WEST END  
OF SAUSAGE RIDGE. Reconnoitred position with  
O/Lt INVERNESS BATTERY

Ut.

33.

RRFA  
4125000

BEARSHEAD  
4126000

33.

6

# War Diary

1082

April 19th 1130

Attacked along ridge supported by Inverness Battery. Front  
Line 9th Squadron on right 6th Squadron on left. In  
reserve 2nd Squadron.

1230

Had progressed half way along ridge against considerable  
opposition - steadily increasing from Redoubt on EAST END  
of ridge. Two guns of Ayrshire Battery then came up  
+ one Battery of LEICESTERS.

1315

Between 1200 & 1300 about 600 Turks reinforced Redoubt  
Position reported 15 D.H.R. reinforcements asked for in  
order to take the Ridge

1400

Received order from N.Z.M.R. Brigade that DESERT  
COLUMN did not wish attack pressed as reinforcements  
were not available

1430

Turks pressed forward in WADI on left of CAUSAGE Ridge  
& the WARWICKS Regt. (5th New Zealand Brigade) retired from WADI  
maintained artillery fire on WADI and on Redoubt to  
East position

1500

2nd Squadron pushed in. remaining Machine Guns  
owing to increasing pressure by enemy

1515

about 300 or 400 Turks advanced on right front  
all guns were directed on Redoubt & right front to  
prevent enemy coming to attack

CM



# War Diary

April 19<sup>th</sup>

1530 Two Squadrons of Triplicents were called for but they  
 1535 Right of line stood for 300 metres apart.  
 1545 Reported situation to D.H.Q. - all guns kept firing on enemy  
 positions by 16th Coverts attack on night flank was  
 driven back with heavy loss & front line readjusted.  
 1645 Success Battery recalled to 1<sup>st</sup> A.L.H. Brigade  
 1800 Received order to retire at dusk in conjunction with  
 Mountain Brigade. Redoubt heavily shelled &  
 mantled by high H.E. and Strapped.  
 1830 Received amended order not to retire until 1945 is  
 enable 5<sup>th</sup> Sub Brigade to evacuate wounded.  
 1845 The 8<sup>th</sup> guns withdrawn  
 2020 Front line withdrawn - Mounted & moved off 2<sup>nd</sup> Squad  
 Rearguard. 3<sup>rd</sup> Auckland Squadron left flank guard

BEERRABA  
 12/2000

Casualties  
 Killed  
 Died of Wounds  
 Wounded

April 20<sup>th</sup>

0100 Bivouacked TEL-EL-JEMMI after waiting  
 1040 Rejoined Brigade & moved out after morning ration to the  
 point 270 WEST of GOZ EL SLEIS - Retired until 1600  
 1130 Moved out to take up outpost line at point 360 EAST  
 of WELI-SHEIKH NURAN - W.M.R. on left, C.M.R.  
 A.M.R. on right. 6<sup>th</sup> Squadron occupied Redoubt  
 on Hill 360. 9<sup>th</sup> Squadron had bivouacking post 600  
 yards on left of point 360  
 1800 Retired here at SHELLAW morning

RAFA  
 12/2000

ST.

# War Diary

682 +

April 21<sup>st</sup> 1000 w  
 Maintained bases at ABU EL HEBIA Crossing. Received at 1900  
 by 5<sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt. (2<sup>nd</sup> A.L.H. Bde). Moved back to ABASAN  
 EL KEBIR joining Brigade there at 1900 + bivouacked  
 for the night.

22 1100 w  
 Received orders to move to point 310 to take up outpost  
 line moved out.

1130 w  
 moved out and halted at ABU SITTA en route. anad  
 point 310 at 1700 + formed reserve Regt to Brigade RAFA 1/125000

23 w  
 Patrols under 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of Regt moved  
 out in direction of KHIRBIT ERK point 380 + 300 3000000 1/125000  
 Patrol to 380 unable to reach its destination  
 owing to presence of enemy ordered to KHIR BIT  
 ERK. Patrols commenced to withdraw at 1600  
 maintained bases en route at ABU EL HEBIA Crossing  
 and arrived at Bivouac at point 310 at 1800  
 Remainder of Regt bivouacking along post on  
 West side of WADI GHUZZE about 500 yards N RAFA 1/125000  
 of point 310 w

24 w  
 Lt Col. W MELDRUM took over temporary command  
 of N.Z.M.A. Brigade dated 23/4/17  
 Major B DICK took over temporary command of W.M.A. Regt. w

War Diary

April 24th

Patrols of 2 troops to KHIRBIT SIHAN Patrol of one troop in direction of SAUSAGE Ridge SOUTH of B. WADI EL BAHHA - Patrol of one troop to KHIRBIT ERK moved out at 0600 returned to Bivouac at 1400 according to orders. Remainder of Regt continued with work of entrenching post 600 yards NORTH of point 310

25th

Patrols work same as for 24th April etc.

26th

Patrols same as for 24th & 25th April

1800

Regiment moved back one mile WEST of point 310 bivouacked for the night etc.

27

Patrols same as on 24th April  
Remainder of Regiment working on trenches between point 330 inclusive to 310

Lieut C. B. EASTHER to be Temp. A.D.C. to the G.O.C. 2nd M.A. Brigade & date 23/4/1917 etc.

RAFA  
1/12/1917

War Diary

April 28<sup>th</sup>

One hundred men from Regt working on trenches <sup>Intention</sup> 330 and 310

1700

Regt moved on + took up support line 310, 330 + 310 with the 2nd Squadron on right, 6th centre, 9th left. Each Squadron putting out two posts.

29<sup>th</sup>

A.M.R. Regt on sent night. C.M.R. in reserve. Received at 1330 (by Battalion from 7<sup>th</sup> Div<sup>n</sup> Division) joined up with Brigade + moved to position quarter of mile WEST of TEL-EL-FARA and bivouacked for the night.

Major C.R. SPRAGG appointed Temp. Lt. Col. and received to take command of 2 M.R. Training Regt, MOASCAR to date from 26/4/1917

30<sup>th</sup>

Walled houses: Regiment resting

Strength of Regt officers 20 @ Ranks 462 Horses 566

Charles Wright  
W.M.T. Regt