

AWM4
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1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/5/33

Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

March 1918



AWM4-35/5/33

WAR DIARY

1918
WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Square V3 b 02	March 1st		<p>Regiment in bivouac. The day was devoted to care of horses and saddlery.</p> <p>Major C. Dick reported for duty and resumed 2nd in command of Regiment. Major C.R. Spragg relinquished Temporary 2nd in Command of Regiment and appointed to command 9th W.E.C. Squadron. 2nd Lieutenant S.H. Lodge to Scouts course EL. ARISH. Lieut-Colonel J.H. Whyte awarded bar to D.S.O. for good work while acting as Brigade M. to 2nd A.L.H. Brigade. Lieutenant E. Levien awarded Military Cross for conspicuous good services during period 1st March to 15th September 1917. Three Shoeing Smiths detached to RAMLEH to repair limbers. Effective Strength 21 officers, 481 O.R. 517 Horses 18 Donkeys, 12 Hotchkiss Guns.</p>	PALESTINE 1/63360 Sheet 13
	2nd		<p>G.O.C. Anzac Mounted Division inspected horses and saddlery at 1030. Captain E. MacIntyre to hospital. 2nd Lieutenant W. Ricketts appointed Acting Adjutant. Captain C.J. Pierce from N.Z.M.F.A. 2nd Lieutenant B.J. Hooker to School of Instruction, Zeitoun.</p>	
	3rd		<p>The Regiment devoted the day to disinfection of clothes. Commenced grasing horses for two hours daily.</p> <p>Effective strength 19 officers 473 O.R. 514 Horses 18 Donkeys. 12 H.G.</p>	

(Sgd) W. Ricketts, 2nd Lieutenant.

Acting Adjutant.W.M.R. Regt.

WAR DIARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
March				
Square				
V 3 b 0 2	4th		Regiment in bivouac. Horses grazed for two hours. Captain C.J. Pierce to MOASCAR on Training Cadre. 1 troop (2nd Lieut James) to Divisional Headquarters as Duty Troop. Effective Strength 19 officers 473 O.R. 515 Horses 16 Donkeys. 12 H.G.	PALESTINE 1/63360 Sheet 13.
	5th		Regiment in bivouac. Horses grazed for two hours. Effective Strength 13 officers 431 O.R. 483 Horses 16 Donkeys 12 H.G.	W.R.
	6th		Two officers (Major Spragg & Lt Hall) and 3 O.Ranks to Jerusalem for instruction in Communication with Aeroplanes. Effective Strength 17 officers 431 O.R. 482 Horses 16 Donkeys 12 H.G.	W.R.
	7th		Regiment in bivouac. S/Sgt W.M. Fitzgerald and L/Cpl Patton awarded Military Medals for good work done in operations around JERICHO between 18th and 20th February. Effective Strength 17 officers 428 O.R. 482 Horses 17 Donkeys 12 H.G.	W.R.
	8th		Regiment in bivouac. Effective Strength 17 Officers 428 O.R. 482 Horses 17 Donkeys. 12 H.G.	W.R.
	9th		2nd Lieut A Evans detailed to take charge of Brigade billeting party to proceed to TALAT-ED-DUMM. 2nd Lieutenant Ebbit proceeded to JERICHO with a view of taking any opportunity that offered to cross the JORDAN and reconnoitre the tracks EAST of the river. Lieutenant S. Fossett to hospital.	Ref Sheet 18 1/63360 W.R.

(W. Ricketts 2/ Lieutenant.

Acting Adjutant W.M.R. Regiment.

WAR DIARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
	1918			
Square V 3 b	March 10th		Regiment in bivouac. Effective strength 16 off. 416 O.R. 473 Horses 15 Donkeys. 12 H.G.	W.R. PALESTINE Sheet 13 1/63360
	11th		Effective strength 15 off. 411 O.R. 414 Horses 15 Donkeys 12 H.G.	
	12th		Lieutenant E.R. Black relinquished appointment of Temporary Divl. Gas Officer. and returned to Regiment for duty 12 donkeys handed over to N.Z.M.F.A.	
	13th		Regiment moved off at 1030 and marched with the Brigade via DEIRAN to JUNCTION STATION. Arrived destination 1515, 1 troop (2 Lt. James) remained at Div H.Q. Effective Strength 16 off, 379 O.R. 450 Horses 11 H.G.	Sheet 16
	14th		Regiment remained in bivouac at JUNCTION STATION. Weather showery	Sheet 16
	15th		Regiment in bivouac. Weather showery. Lieut M.S. Chambers rejoined Regiment from MOASCAR.	
	16th		Regiment left JUNCTION STATION at 0830 and marched to ZAKARIYA, Weather showery. Camel transport did not arrive until 2100.	Sheet 16 & 17

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WAR DIARY.

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
	1918			
	March			
MAR ELIAS	17th		Regiment left ZAKARIYA and marched with the Brigade to MAR-ELIAS. Rained continuously until 0930. Weather very cold when passing over the hills between ZAKARIYA and BETHLEHEM. Camel transport was dispersed with and supplemented by 5 G.S. Waggon of Div. Train. The men were wet and cold on arrival at destination. Arrangements were made for 250 to sleep in a MONASTERY.	PALESTINE 1/63360 Sheet 17 W.R.
	18th		Weather showery until 0830. The day was spent drying blankets and clothes. Orders were received to move out at 1700 but were afterwards cancelled for 24 hours. Effective Strength 15 officers 368 O.R. 448 Horses 11 H.G.	W.R.
	19th		Regiment in bivouac. Orders to move were cancelled until further notice	W.R.
	20th		Regiment moved off with the Brigade at 1830 and marched to TALAT-ED-DUMM	Sheet 18
	21st		Regiment arrived TALAT-ED-DUMM 0100. Horses were watered at mill in G.H.A. 2nd Lieutenant Evans returned to duty.	
	22nd		Regiment stood to arms at 0300 and were held in readiness to move out at 5 minutes notice until 0950. 2/Lieut Ebbitt returned from JERICHO	W.R.

W. Ricketts, 2/Lieut.

Acting Adjutant W.M.R. REGIMENT.

WAR DIARY.

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
	March			
JORDAN VALLEY	23rd		The Regiment moved off from TALAT-ED-DUMM at 1930 to concentrate at KASR-HAJLAH prior to crossing the JORDAN River.	PALESTINE 1/63360 Sheet 18.
	24th		The Regiment moved off with the Brigade at 0130 and crossed the JORDAN River at MAKHADET HAJLAH bridge and concentrated at 127.S.3.b. At 0600 the Regiment moved with 6th Squadron in advance to 127. Q. 11.c. Patrols were sent out in the direction of SHUNET NIMRIN and came under machine gun and shell fire in 127 P.21.d and 27 a. At 1100 6th and 9th Squadrons were pushed forward to attack MAKKAR-ED-DERBASI. 6th Squadron connected up with 181st Inf. Bde on the left and 9th connecting with C.M.R. on the right. The final attack was made at 1140 and our Troops occupied the summit at 1150. Horses were watered in WADI NIMRIN and fed while the men had lunch. At 1140 the Regiment moved off with the Brigade and marched via No 4 Road to 127.V.8.A and bivouaced for the night. 1 Officer (2/Lt Paterson) detailed for outpost duty.	Sheet AMMAN
	25th		1 troop 9th Sqdn (2 Lt. Ebbitt) stood to arms at 0400. Regiment moved off at 0950 and marched with the Bde to AIN-ES-SIRR. Halted at 1400 on road 142.T. 1b	

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WAR DIARY.

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
Jordan Valley	25th	Contd.	At 1640 2 troops under Major Somerville left to patrol MADEBA ROAD as far as No 3 road and to keep a sharp look out for 2nd A.L.H. Brigade coming along No 3 Road. Patrol returned at 2000 and reported "All Clear" and no sign of A.L.H. Brigade. At 1800 Regiment moved to 142 T B A and bivouaced for the night. Two troops under Lieutenant E.R. Black left bivouac to form a post at 142.T.8.C. 6th Squadron detached to 181 Brigade to assist in attack on ES SALT.	1/63,360 Sheet AMMAN. W.R.
	26th		Regiment stood to arms at 0430 and remained in bivouac for the day. Two troops under 2/Lieut Ebbitt relieved two Troops on MADEBA ROAD at 1800. 1 Troop under 2/Lieut Sutherland left bivouac at 1830 and marched across country and destroyed the enemys railway near ABU-ALANDA.	W.R.
	27th		Troop under 2. Lieut Sutherland returned to bivouac at 0200. Outpost line stood to arms at 0340. 2nd Sqdn to DH. HAMARRUJM AMEISH at 0830. Regiment left bivouac at 0835 and formed part of the Main Body of the Bgde and marched EAST along the AMMAN Road about a mile and then S.E. about two and a half miles and then N.E. and halted in Wadi in 142 Y. 14.A. At 1100 under instructions from B.G.C. N.Z.M.R. Bde the Regiment moved off to escort Demolition Party to POINT 3194 and guard the flank while demolition was being carried out	W.R.

(Sgd) W. Ricketts 2/Lieut,
Actng Adjutant. W.M.R.Regt.

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WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
	1918			
JORDAN VALLEY	March	27th	9th Sqdn sent to 142. H.24.c. At 1440 a train carrying troops appeared at 142.H.24.A. 9th Squadron opened fire at 1442. At 1703 the position of 9th Squadron was 142.H.24 D and J. 19.c. At 1805 instructions were received that as the demolition party was covered by I.C.C. Brigade the Regiment would co-operate at once with A.M.R. in attack on AMMAN. This order was followed by an order to report at Brigade Headquarters. The Regiment moved to 142.Y. 26 B and bivouaced for the night. An Officer's patrol (Lieutenant E.R. Black) was detailed to reconnoitre as far as possible towards AMMAN. 14 prisoners captured casualties NIL.	1/63360
		28th	Regiment in Brigade reserve at 142 Y 26 B. At 1300 an attack was made on AMMAN and the Regiment was prepared to move out at 5 minutes notice. At 1930 9th Squadron relieved right flank Squadron of C.M.R. N.W. of No 3 Road.	
		29th	Regiment stood to arms at 0430. 9th Squadron in the firing line. During the afternoon patrols were pushed forward to reconnoitre the enemys position with a view of attacking after dark. Horses were watered at WADI in 142 Y.20 A.	

(Sgd) W. Ricketts 2./Lieutenant

Acting Adjutant W.M.R. Regiment.

WAR DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
1918				
JORDAN VAL LEY	March 30th		Two troops 9th Squadron were withdrawn at 0015 and proceeded to AMR H.Q. to take part in the attack on HILL 3039. Remaining 2 troops were left to prevent the enemy coming along No 3 ROAD. 2nd Lieutenant Ebbitt took charge of the 2 troops in the attack on HILL 3039 at 0200. At 1030 1 troop was withdrawn from No 3 Road and sent to Brigade Headquarters as Brigade Reserve but were subsequently put in the firing line. Troops withdrew from the firing line after all wounded had been evacuated and the Regiment marched with the Brigade to bivouac at 142.T.8.A. Troop detailed as Brigade reserve formed part of the Rear Guard. Arrived at bivouac 0315. Casualties 4 killed, 1 missing, 8 wounded.	1/63360 Sheet AMMAN
	31st		Troop 2nd Squadron detailed as demolition party returned to Regiment for duty at 1000. Regiment in bivouac. 2nd Squadron holding post at D.H. HAMAR RUMJ-AMEISH. 6th Squadron rejoined Regiment at 2100. Horses were saddled at 1515 in readiness to move out. At 1750 the Regiment moved to WEST side of hill overlooking AIN-ES-SIRR.	

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