

AWM4

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

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/5/34

Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

April 1918



AWM4-35/5/34

WAR DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	APRIL			
AIN ES SIR	I		<p>Regt. stood to arms at 0315 and was detailed to form the rear guard of the column. in the withdrawal to the JORDAN valley. 2nd Sqdn. withdrawn from DH. HAMAR RUMJ AMIESH (142.b.4) at 0330. At 0345 the 2nd Sqdn formed a line of resistance from 142.R.26.a. to AMMAN ROAD (142.T.2.c.) 9th Sqdn formed 2nd line of resistance on hill in 142.T.7.b. 6th Sqdn in reserve. At 0730 the enemy were advancing in force from WADI in 142.R & T. 2nd Sqdn opened fire at 0745. At 0745 9th Sqdn were withdrawn owing to the difficult track to their horses. At 0800 2nd Sqdn. (less 1 Off & 8 men) withdrew and took up a position alongside the road in 142.T.7.b. to cover the withdrawal of 1 Off (2/Lt Sutherland) & 8 men from No 1 Position. All natives were stopped from passing towards AMMAN until the final withdrawal at 0805. At 0805 the 2nd Sqdn withdrew from No 1 & 2 positions and moved at a trot through the village. As the 2nd Sqdn. reached the WADI which joins the WADI SIR in 142.S.18.a. the Circassians opened fire from both sides of WADI SIR. 2 troops 6th Sqdn (2/Lts Evans & M'Kay) were immediately sent along WADI in 142.S.17.a. Remaining 2 troops 6th Sqdn. & 2 troops 9th were put into WADI in 142.S.23.b. A line was then formed from 142.S.26.a. central to 142.S.28.c. central. and a steady fire kept up while 6th Sqdn. & 2 troops 9th withdrew along the hills on each side of the WADI SIR. All horses were then sent back to 127.X.c. As the 6th Sqdn. & 2 troops 9th Sqdn withdrew they were put into a firing line from Hill 1620 (127.N.30.c) to WADI SIR in 127.V.6.b. At 127.V.6 the NZMR Bde. M.G. Sqdn. (Capt Hinman) rendered valuable assistance and although the Turks had reinforced the Circassians their advance was checked until all wounded had been evacuated. At 1030 2 troops from AMR were sent to 142 a.2.b. to protect the right flank and the 181 Bde. occupied HILL 2100 (127.n.29.c.) and HILL 1500 127.V.11.b. At 1215 Regt withdrew to rendezvous at 127.V.6.c. central. At 1230 the Regt. moved to Bde. rendezvous at 127.V.5. central where horses were fed and all ranks had luncheon. Casualties:- Killed. Lt. A. Hall. 2/Lt D. Paterson & 30 O/Ranks. Wounded:- Major C.R. Spragg. Major C.L. Somerville and 7 O/Ranks.</p> <p>At 1415 The Regt. moved off in the main body of the Bde. and marched to SHUNET NIMRIM. On arrival at SHUNET NIMRIM horses were watered in the WADI NIMRIM and the Regt. bivouaced at 127.P.26.b.</p>	<p>REF MAP AMMAN L/63360</p>
		2.	Regt moved off at 0645 and marched via GHORANIYEH Bridge to bivouac at 113.L.2.7.a. Major C.L. Somerville died of wounds at 2nd/4th London Field Ambulance.	
JORDAN VALLEY		3.	Regt. in bivouac. Enemy air raid at 0610 No casualties.	

Sheet 18

A. MacIntyre Captain
Adjutant W.M.R. Regiment.

WAR DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date Hour	Summary of events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	APRIL		
JORDAN VALLEY	4	Regt. stood to arms at 0500	PALESTINE I/63 360 Sheet--18
	5.	Regt. in bivouac. Capt MacIntyre from hospital. Lts Holland Simpson & 2/Lt Lodge from school of Instruction KEL AB. 12 O/Rs from Details RICHON. 8 Remounts marched in. 2/Lt Ricketts relinquishes the appointment of acting Adjutant.	
	6.	The Regt. stood to arms at 0400. The following Posts relieved CMR posts at 1730:- MANDESI FORD 1 Officer (Lt Holland) & 1 Troop. YEHUD FORD-1 Sgt & 8 men. MAKHADET HATLAH-1 Sergt & 8 men.	
JERICHO	7.	The Regt. stood to arms at 0400. Duty Regt. At 1730 Posts at MANDESI-MAKHADET HAJLA- & YEHUD fords relieved by Auckland Mounted Rifles.	
	8.	Regt. supplied 2 Officers & 35 O/Rs for work in the GHORANIYEH Defences. At 1400 the Regt. paraded dismounted with the Bde. for presentation of Football Cup to A.M.R. by Lieut-General Sir, H. Chauvel.	
	9.	The Regt. supplied 2 Officers & 40 O/Rs for 8 hours work in GHORANIYEH defences. Major A.F. Batchelor in charge of work. At 1730 the Regt. relieved the C.M.R. on the following posts MANDESI FORD. 1 Troop (Lt Simpson). YEHUD FORD-1 Sgt & 8 men MAKHADET HAJLA-1 Sgt & 8 men.	
	10.	The Regt. stood to arms at 0400. Duty Regt. At 1730 Posts at MANDESI-YEHUD & MAKHADET HAJLA Fords relieved by A.M.R.	
	11.	The enemy attacked the GHORANIYEH Bridgehead which was held by the A.L.H. Bde. The Regt. supplied 2 Officers & 20 O/Rs for work of 8 hours on the GHORANIYEH Defences. At 0630 the Regt. stood to prepared to move out at short notice. Regt off saddled at 1200.	
	12.	At 0400 the Regt. stood to arms and was prepared to move out at short notice. The Regt. supplied the following posts relieving the C.M.R.- MANDESI 1 troop 9th Sqdn (Lt Simpson) Yehud-1 troop 9th Sqdn. (Lt Ebbitt)- MAKHADET HAJLAH-1 troop 9th Sqdn (Lt Chambers) HENU 1 troop 2nd Sqdn. (2/Lt K. Sutherland).	
	13.	The Regt stood to arms at 0400 and stood down at 0540. The Regt. detailed 1 Officer (Lt Holland) & 27 O/Rs which left bivouac at 0715 to bury enemy dead in front of GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. The following were awarded the Military Medal by the Corps Commander for Gallant conduct in the field. 11/1863 L/C. K.S. Summerhayes. 2nd Sqdn. 11/972 L/c G. Bartells 9th Sqdn. Capt E.G. Williams MC. to detachment at RICHON LE ZION. 2 Hotchkiss Guns lost at WADI SIR replaced.	

WAR CDIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JERICHO	April 14.	The Regt. stood to arms at 0400. At 0600 the Regt. supplied 2 Officers & 40 O/Rs for work on the GHORANIYEH DEFENCES for 8 hours.	PALESTINE I/63 360 Sheet--18
	15.	The Regt. stood to arms at 0400. At 0600 the Regt supplied 2 Officers & 30 O/Rs for 8 hours work on GHORANIYEH Defences. The Regt also supplied 4 posts each of 1 troop at the following Fords relieving C.M.R. at 1730. MANDESI-1 troop 2nd Sqdn (Lt Moore) YEHUD-1 troop 2nd Sqdn (Lt Sutherland). MAKHADET HAJLAH-1 troop 6th Sqdn (Lt Evans) HENU--1 troop 6th Sqdn. (Lt Holland), 1 Officer & 20 O/Rs marched in from details RICHON LE ZION (Lt MOORE) 24 Remounts taken on Strength.	
	16.	The Regt. stood to arms at 0400. 2nd Sqdn detailed a guard of 1 N.C.O. & 6 men over fresh water at TEL EL SULTAN out of duty one week. 1 Troop 2nd Sqdn. (Lt James) on detachment ANZAC Divn H/qrs for duty returned to duty.	
113.L.27.a.	17.	Regt. stood to arms at 0400. The Regt supplied 2 Officers & 30 O/Rs for 8 hours work on GHORANIYEH Defences, also a working party of 1 Sgt & 15 men on ammunition dump near JERICHO. The following decorations were awarded for gallantry during the AMMAN fighting:- Lt. E.R. Blach 9th Sqdn. M.C. No 43786 Tpr H.D. Lynam 9th Sqdn. Military Cross.	
	18.	Regt stood to arms at 0400. At 1600 the Regt. relieved posts from the C.M.R. on the following Fords. MANDESI 1 troop 6th Sqdn (Lt Holland). YEHUD 1 troop 6th Sqdn (2/Lt M'Kay). HAJLAH-1 troop 6th Sqdn. Sgt Mothes. - HENU 1 troop 6th Sqdn. 2/Lt Lodge. Post at HENU FORD also supplied a Night Standing Patrol at 128.A.2. At 1930 the Regt. (less 6th Sqdn.) moved out with the Bde to make a demonstration against the enemy holding SHUNET NIMRIM. At 1000 the Regt (less 6th Sqdn) bivouacked 1 mile EAST of GHORANIYEH.	
	19.	At 0400 the Regt stood to arms. During the day the Regt remained in same area ready to move at short notice. At 1700 orders were received from the Bde. for 1 Sqdn. to form Outpost Sqdn. from No 5 Road exclusive on the NORTH to No 3 Road exclusive on the SOUTH. At 1730 9th Sqd. (Lt E.R. Blach) moved out and at 1915 took up position with 1 Sqdn. 2nd L.H. Bde. & 1 Sqdn. 1st L.H. Bde. on its right and left respectively. At 2130 under instructions from the Bde. the Regt. (less 6th & 9th Sqdns) moved back to old bivouac in 113.L.27.a. arriving in bivouac at 2330. Lt. W. Ricketts DCM to detachment Royal Air Force, JUNCTION STATION for instructions in aeroplane contact patrols.	
	20.	At 0400 9th Sqdn. on outpost duty Sentry Daylight Patrols in direction of SHUNET NIMRIM. Patrol under Lt. Simpson approached within 800 yds WEST of SHUNET NIMRIM and found it occupied by enemy. At 0500 9th Sqdn. relieved by 1st ALH Bde. and returned to bivouac at 113.L.27.a. At mid-day Posts at MANDESI. YEHUD. HAJLAH. & HENU Fords held by 6th Sqdn. relieved by posts	

WARV DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

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	April		
JERICHO 113.L.27.a.	20	from Auckland M.R. (2/Lt H.B. Bennett & 1 O/R marched in from Training Regt. MOASCAR. 19 O/Rs on detachment from 6th Sqdn. for construction of Ghoraniyeh Bridge returned to duty.	PALESTINE 1/63360 Sheet--18 ES SALT
	21. X	At 1000 the Regt. formed up with the Bde. for Devine Service. At the conclusion of the Service ribbons were presented to the undermentioned by Major General Sir. E.W.C. Chaytor KCMG. GOC. A & N.Z. Mtd Divn. who had been awarded decorations for gallantry in the recent fighting. MC. Lt E.R. Black. MM.11/1863 L/c K.S. Summerhayes. MM.11/890 Sgt T.H. Hulton. MM.11/251 Sgt. Fitzgerald. MM.11/972 L/c G. Bartells. MM.43786 Ppr. H.D. Lynam. The Regt. supplied 2 Officers & 40 O/Rs for 8 hours work on the GHORANIYEH Defences.	
	22. X	At 1100 the Regt. relieved Posts from C.M.R. on the following Fords:- MANDESI-1 troop 9th Sqdn (Sgt M. Donnell) YEHUD-1 troop 9th Sqdn. (2/Lt Ebbitt). HAJLAH-1 troop 9th Sqdn. (Lt. Simpson). HENU-1 troop 9th Sqdn (Lt. Chambers). 1 Officer (2/Lt Hooker) & 24 O/Rs from Detachment RICHON LE ZION. 7 Remounts taken on strength. Lt. I.B. Cruickshank to be Captain dated. 2.4.18. Lieut. E.I. Fossett appointed Quartermaster to N.Z. Training Units & Depots in EGYPT to date. 27.3.18 & to be seconded. 2/Lt W.J. Hollis to be Lieut and remain seconded whilst on duty in N.Z. dated 27.3.18. 2/Lt R. Sutherland to be Lieut dated 27/3/18. 2/Lt S.M. James to be Lieut dated 2/4/18.	
H3.L.27.a.	23.	Regt. stood to arms at 0400. At 1000 Regt moved to new bivouac under the hills at 113. M.4.a. At 1100 posts supplied by 9th Sqdn. on MANDESI. YEHUD. HAJLAH. & HENU Fords relieved by A.M.R. 2/Lt W. Ricketts from detachment Royal Air Force JUNCTION STATION.	
113.M/4.a.	24	The Regiment remained in bivouac.	
	25.	At 1100 the Regt. supplied the following posts relieving C.M.R.- MANDESI-1 troop 2nd Sqdn. (Lt. Moore) YEHUD-1 troop 2nd Sqdn (Sgt Sangster). HAJLAH-1 troop 2nd Sqdn. (Sgt C.H. Tate) HENU-1 troop 2nd Sqdn (2/Lt Ricketts). To Imperial School of Instruction ZEITOUN Cavalry Course. Lieut. M.S. Chambers. Hotchkiss Gun Course. EL ARISH.- 2/Lt Hooker & 1 O/R. N.C.Os General Course ZEITOUN.- 1 O/R.	
	26.	Regt. stood to arms at 0400. At 1100 Posts on MANDESI. YEHUD. HAJLAH. & HENU Fords relieved By A.M.R. Major C.R. Spragg & 1 O/R marched in from Training Regt., MOASCAR.	
	27.	The Regiment remained in bivouac. Effective Strength;- Officers O/Ranks Horses Guns 17 382 503 12	

A. MacIntyre Captain
Adjutant. W.M.R. Regiment.

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JERICHO 113.M.4.a.	28	The Regt. relieved C.M.R. on the following Posts at 1100. HENU-1 troop 6th Sqdn (2/Lt S.N.Hodge) YEHUD 1 troop 6th Sqdn. (Lt.A.Holland). Troop holding Post at HENU Ford detailed a Night Standing Post at 128.A.2.b.-Lt.A.Sutherland & 3 O/R marched out to MOASCAS to take up duties in the Training Cadre.	PALESTINE I/63 360 Sheet--18
	29.	At 0830 Working Party of 2 Officers & 76 O/Rs left bivouac for work on approaches to GHORANIYEH Bridge. At 1100 Posts at YEHUD & HENU Fords relieved by A.M.R. At 1600 1 troop 9th Sqdn. (Lt Simpson) moved out as escort to ANZAC B.A.C. Camel Conyoy. At 1700 pending the Regt. moving out for operations All tents and heavy gear was stacked in a Regtl Dump under guard. At 2400 the Regt moved out with the Bde. to take part in the operations EAST of the JORDAN.	
EAST OF JORDAN R.I.c.	30.	At 0315 The Regt. crossed the JORDAN at GHORANIYEH and came under the orders of the B.G.C. 180th Infy. Bde. The Regt. moved through the wire to RIC and 9th Sqdn (Major Spragg) pushing forward took up a position R.2. central-R 8 to protect the Right Flank of 180 Inf Bde. At 0900 the Regt came under orders of the B.G.C. NZMR Bde. and the 9th Sqdn. (Major Spragg) withdrew its observation Posts and the Regt. remained in reserve to the Bde. At 1900 the Regt. again came under the orders of the B.G.C. 180th Infantry Brigade and the 9th Squadron again took up and held the line R 2 central R28. At 2230 the 6th Squadron relieved the 9th Sqdn. which withdrew to R.i.c. and became Regimental Reserve.	ES SALT Composite 1/63360
		Effective Strength:-	
		Officers 16	Others/Ranks 385
		Horses 521	Guns 12

A. MacIntyre Captain
Adjutant. W.M.R. Regiment