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1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

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Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

May 1918



AWM4-35/5/35

WAR DIARY

1915

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May		
127 Ric.	1	<p>The Regt. was under the orders of the B.G.C. 180 Inf Bde. At 0345 The Regt. stood to arms, All clear. At 0820 the 766th Sqn (Major Batchelor) sent out two patrols each of one section one in the direction of 127 R.5.a and one in the direction of DIRS MESH BUR. At 0930 patrols returned both driven in by heavy rifle fire and M.G. fire on approaching within one mile of the foothills. At 1300 to cooperate with the 2/17th LONDON Battn. the 2nd Sqn. (Capt Cotton) and 2 M.G. took up a position in P 33.a. getting into touch with the 2/17th London Battn. on their left and 6th Sqn on their right. At 1930 the 6th Sqn. was relieved by the 9th Sqn. (Major Spragg) and the 2nd Sqn withdrew leaving one troop under Lt James to take up a Post. in P.33.a. to prevent enemy working between 9th Sqn. holding 127.R.2. central and R.S. and the Infantry. 2nd Sqn. less one troop withdrew to WADI in R.I.d central. Major Wilkie to hospital with sprained ankle. Strength:- 15 Off-314 O/Ranks-406 Horses-11 H.Guns.</p>	ES SALT Composite 1/63360
		<p>2. 0345 The Regt stood to arms, all clear. At 0430 O/C 9th Sqn sent a patrol of one section in the direction of DIRS MESH BUR. Patrol driven in on reaching within 1000 yards by rifle and M.G. Fire. At 0445 O/C/2nd Sqn. detailed one troop under Lt Moore to take up a day observation Post in 127 R.15.c. to watch the approaches from EL KEFREAN. At 0770 horses of 9th Sqn. shelled by light gun from the direction of EL HELALI. About 30 H.E. shells being fired. Casualties:- 1 O/R & 1 horse slightly wounded. During the day the Regt. held an observation line P 33.a. R.2.central-R.8.R 15.c. At 1900 Observation Post under Lt Moore withdrew to Regt H/Qrs at 127.Ric. 6th Sqn. relieved 9th Sqn. holding line R.2.central-R.8. and one troop 2nd Sqn (2/Lt Ricketts DCM) relieved troop 2nd Sqn. (Lt James) in P.33.a. Lt R.E. Black to hospital sick.</p>	
		<p>3. At 0345 Regt. stood to arms. All clear. At 0430 O/C 6th Sqn. sent out two patrols one in the direction of DIRS MESH BUR and one in the direction of 127.R.5. Both patrols came under heavy rifle & M.G. fire on approaching foothills. At 0430 one troop 2nd Sqn. Lt Moore took up day Post in 127.R.15.c. and sent out patrol of 1 Section in the direction of EL KEFRAN. Patrol approached within 1000 yards of EL KEFREIN and reported no movement. During the day the Regt held an observation line P.33.a.-R.2 central R.8.R.15.c. Excepting for small parties of pack animals moving NORTH and SOUTH along track no movement observed. At 1530 troop 9th Sqn. (Lt Simpson) detached on Camel Ammunition Convoy Escort rejoined Regt. At 1900 Day Post in R.15.c. withdrew to R.ic and established night standing Post of 2 Sections in R.i d O.2. 9th Sqn. (Major Spragg) relieved 6th Sqn. holding line R.2.central-R.8. and one troop 2nd Sqn (Lt James) relieved post of one troop 2nd Sqn (Lt Ricketts) in P.33.a. 15 Reinforcements joined Regt from Training Regiment., MOASCAR.</p>	

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.
	May			
127 Ric.	4		<p>At 0345 The Regt stood to arms. At 0415 one troop 2nd Sqdn. (Lt Moore) took up Day Observation post in R.15.c. and sent a small patrol of 1 Section in direction of EL KEFREIN. Patrol observed no movement in the vicinity of EL KEFREIN. At 0415 O.C. 9th Sqdn. sent 2 patrols each of one Section, one in the direction of EL HADUD and one in the direction of CAVES (R5c). Both patrols came under rifle and M.G. fire on approaching within 1 mile of the foothills. During the day the Regt. held an observation line P33a-R2 central-R8-R15c. Slight movement of pack animals moving NORTH and SOUTH along track in 127 U 22. At 1900 Day Observation Post (Lt Moore) at R15c. withdrew to Ric. 6th Sqdn. relieved 9th Sqdn. holding line R2 central-R8 also 1 troop 2nd Sqdn. relieved troop under Lt Ricketts in P 33a. At 1930 orders were received from 180 Inf Bde. that at 1200 the 180 Bde. were withdrawing within the wire at GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. and that at this hour the Regt. would come under the orders of the B.G.C. 181 Inf Bde. who were holding the GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. At 2100 the Regt came under the orders of 181 INF Bde. and was attached to the Imperial Service Cavalry Bde. Under orders were received from the I.S. WAV Bde. that the withdrawal would commence at 2100 and that the Regt. would form a cavalry screen outside GHORANIYEH Bridgehead, taking up the line Q 12 b. to O 30. a. Dispositions were made and the line held as follows:- Right Sector. Q. 12. b. - Q. C. b. 1. 8. 6th Sqdn. (Major Batchelor) & 2 m.g. Centre Sector O 36. b. 18. (Excl) - O 36. b. 1. 8. 2nd Sqdn. (Capt Cotton) and 2 M. Guns. Left Sector. O 36. b. 18. (excl) WADI NIMRIM 9th Sqdn. (Major Spragg) and 2 M. Guns. At 0945 9th Sqdn. which was in reserve & 2 M.G. took up a position. and at 1015 2nd Sqdn. & 6th withdrew in conjunction with 180 INF Bde. and at 1130 took up position and the above line was established. touch being established with MYSORE LANCERS on the left & the HYBERABAD LANCERS on the right. At 2200 Regt H/Qrs was established in 127 Q 5. central touch being maintained by telephone with H/Qrs I.S. CAV Bde. at 127 O. 33. b.</p>	ES SALT COMPOSITE 1/63360
127 Q/5 Central				
GHORANIYEH BRIDGEHEAD	5.		<p>0430 All clear. O.C. Sqdn sent a patrol of 1 troop towards foothills MAKKAR ED DERBASI. At 0500 under orders were received from I.S. Cav Bde. the Regt withdrew within the wire at GHORANIYEH Bridgehead. At 0600 withdrawal was complete and the Regt took up bivouac within the BRIDGEHEAD. At 0710 patrol under Lt Simpson returned patrol advanced within 1/4 mile of MAKKAR ED DERBASI and observed no movement. At 1600 our Artillery registered on the approaches outside the wire. At 1745 registration being finished patrol of 9th Sqdn. (Lieut Simpson) took up position in O 36. b. Strength:- 15 Off. 350 O/Rs 443 Horses-12 H. Guns.</p>	

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
	MAY		ES SALT
GHORANIYEH BRIDGEHEAD	4	0400 All clear. At 1000 patrol from 9th Sqdn. (Lt Simpson) relieved by 1 troop 6th Sqdn. under Lt Bennett. 1454 patrol withdrawn within wire of Bridgehead to allow our Artillery to register. Patrol reported all clear, slight movement observed in MAKKAR ED BERBASI. At 1900 patrol under (2/Lt Bennett) took up night standing position in vicinity of O.36.b. Marched in from N.Z. Training Regt., MOASCAR Capt. I?B. Cruichshank, 2/Lt R.H. Perrett & 17 Other ranks. 11 Remounts taken on strength.	Composite 1/63360
	7.	0430 All clear. At 1000 1 troop 2nd Sqdn. (2/Lt Moore) relieved patrol under 2/Lt Bennett. At 1545 patrol withdrew to within wire at BRIDGEHEAD to allow Artillery observation. At 1900 the following positions were taken up by posts detailed: by O.C. 2nd Sqdn. to watch approaches along No 5 & 3 Roads. No 5 Road O 36.b. 1 troop under Lt. Moore. No 3 Road. 127.R.7.c. 2 Sections 2nd Sqdn. Strength:-17 Off.-375 O/Rs-467 Horses-12 H.Guns.	
	8	0430 All clear. At 0415 the following patrols left bivouac. No 1-1 troop 9th Sqdn. (2/Lt Ebbitt) to reconnoitre along No 3 Road in direction of EL KEFREIN and EL HADUD. No 2 patrol of 1 troop (2/Lt Perrett) 9th Sqdn. to patrol in the direction of TEL ELLET EL BEID. At 0500 Night Standing Patrols watching the approaches along No 5 & No 3 roads withdrew to bivouac. No 1 patrol came under fire at 1500 yds range on approaching ELHADUD. No 2 patrol reached TELEILAT EL BEID and observed no enemy movement. At 1315 two deserters who gave themselves up in 127.R.26 sent in by No 1 Patrol. At 1830 NO 1 patrol withdrew and took up a night standing Post in vicinity of 126.O.36.b. & No 2 patrol withdrew to bivouac leaving apicquet of 2 sections & 1 Sgt in vicinity of 127.R 7 c bs to watch the approaches along No 5 & 3 roads.	
	9	0415 All clear. At 0415 the following patrols left bivouac No 1 one troop 2nd Sqdn. (Lt James) to patrol along No 3 road in the direction of EL KEFREIN & ELHADUD. No 2 patrol One Sqdn. 2nd Sqdn. (Lt Moore) to patrol in the direction of TELEILAT EL BEID. At 0500 Night Standing Patrols watching approaches No 5 & 3 Roads returned to bivouac. The MYSORE & HYDERABAD LANCERS were to carry out a minor operation during the night 9/10th and at 1000 the Regt. took over patrolling carried out by these Regts. as follows. MYSORE LANCERS 1 Troop 2nd Sqdn. under Lt Ricketts to patrol along the NORTH of the WADI NIMRIM. One troop (Sgt Tate) 2nd Sqdn. to patrol along No 6 Road towards ARSENIYET. HYBERABAD LANCERS--One troop 9th Sqdn. to patrol in the direction of SALHAD KABR SAID (Lt Simpson) 1 Troop 9th Sqdn. (Sgt Donovan) to patrol along EASTBANK of JORDAN to the DEAD SEA, also in the direction of 127 T 27. Situation 1500 DEAD SEA to SALHA all clear. Slight movement around DIRS MESH BUR and SHUNET NIMRIM, considerable movement EL HAUD. No 6 road all clear. At 1700 patrols returned within wire to allow Artillery Registration 4 deserters brought in who gave themselves up in the WADI NIMRIM. At 1900 the following Night Standing Posts were taken up. No 1. 1 troop 9th Sqdn. (Sgt Donovan) at 127 Q a to watch the approaches to No 3 road.	

WAR DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
	MAY		
GHORANI YEH BRIDGEHEAD	9	No 2 1 Troop 2nd Sqdn. (Lt James) in 127.0.36.b. to watch approaches to No 5 road. No 3.1 Troop 2nd Sqdn. (2/Lt Ricketts) in 0.28.b. with picquet of 2 Sections to watch No 6 road.	ES SALT Composite 1/63360
	10	0415 All clear. At 0415 the following patrols left bivouac. No 1.1 Troop 9th Sqdn. (Lt Ebbitt) to patrol towards the DEAD SEA and 127.T.27. 2.1 Troop 9th Sqdn (2/Lt Perrett) to patrol towards KABR SAID and SALHA. No 3. 1 Troop 6th Sqdn. (Lt Holland) to patrol in the direction of TELEILAT EL BEID). No 4.1 Troop 6th Sqdn (2/Lt Bennett) to patrol towards EL KEFREIN & EL HADUD. No 5. 1 Troop 6th Sqdn (2/Lt M'Kay) to patrol along NORTH BANK of WADI NIMRIM. No 6.1 Troop 6th Sqdn. (2/Lt LODGE) to patrol along No 6 Road towards ARSANIYET. At 0530 Night Standing Patrols withdrew to bivouac. At 1515 the six patrols withdrew within Bridgehead to allow Artillery Registration. Situation 1515. All clear DEAD SEA-W. EL ADEIME-W. EL JORFE. Continuous movement of pack animals and small parties cavalry moving along foothills between WADI ABU TURRA. Posts of 1 Sqdn enemy cavalry in 127.P.7.d. and 1 Platoon Infantry 127.P.10.a. 9 deserters gave themselves up during the day. At 1930 the following Night Patrols as detailed in diary of 9th took up their positions:- No 1.1 Troop 9th Sqdn (Lt Ebbitt) No 2.-1 Troop 6th Sqdn. (Lt Holland) No 3.-1 Troop 6th Sqdn. (2/Lt M'Kay).	
	11.	0415 All clear. At 0500 No 1 Night Standing Patrol was relieved by the HYBERABAD LANCERS, and Nos 2 & 3 Posts by the MYSORE LANCERS. At 0600 the JODHPOR LANCERS having marched in and came under the orders of IMP. SERVICE CAV. BDE. the Regt moved out and rejoined the N.Z.M.R. Bde. in the old bivouac at 113.M.4.a.-55 Reinforcements from N.Z. Training Regt.	PALESTINE 1/63360 Sheet--18
	12	The Regiment remained in bivouac.	
	13	The Regiment remained in bivouac. A Rifle inspection was held under Squadron arrangements, and the day was devoted to the care of gear and saddlery.	
	14	The Regiment rested in bivouac. Marched in from N.Z. Training Regt. MOASCAR. Capt. W. J. Hardham VC. Lieut. E. R. Black MC. and 1 Other Rank. From Detachment RICHON LE ZION. Capt. E. G. Williams MC.	
	15	The Regiment remained in bivouac.	

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
	May		
113 M.4.a. 113.K.31.d.	16	The Regiment remained in bivouac. At 1930 the Regt. moved with the Bde to a new bivouac area. 1900 the regt. settled down in bivouac at 113.K.31.d. 15 O/Rs to Desert Mounted Corps Rest Camp PORT SAID.	PALESTINE 1/63 360 Sheet 18
	17	The Regiment remained in bivouac and cleaned up area which was in an unsanitary condition. Horses were watered in the WADI KELT in 113.D.36.c.	
	18	Regiment remained in bivouac. 2/Lt W. Ricketts DCM & 14 O/Rs marched out to DESERT MOUNTED CORPS Rest Camp PORT SAID. Lt. G.E. Jago & 27 O/Rs Reinforcements from N.Z. Training Regt. MOASCAR.	
	19	The Regiment remained in bivouac. SSM (Temp RSM) W.E.S. Morgan relinquishes the Temp appointment of R.S.M. on marching out to Desert Mounted Corps Rest Camp PORT SAID. Major Batchelor & 15 O/Rs to Desert Mounted Corps Rest Camp PORT SAID. 2/Lt N.R. Jamieson & 19 O/Rs Reinforcements marched in from MOASCAR. Major C?R? Spragg to MOASCAR Dental Treatment.	
	20	The Regiment remained in bivouac. 14 O/Rs to Des Corps Rest Camp PORT SAID. 18 O/Rs Reinforcements from Training Regiment, MOASCAR.	
	21	The Regiment remained in bivouac. 18 Reinforcements marched in from Training Regt. MOASCAR.	
	22	The Regt remained in bivouac. 16 O/Rs Reinforcements marched in from Training Regt., MOASCAR.	
	23	Regiment remained in bivouac. 8 Remounts taken on strength. Lt. C.B. Easter from Detachment. ANZAC Divisional Details.	
	24.	The Regiment remained in bivouac.	
	25.	The Regiment remained in bivouac, 2/Lt N.R. Jamieson & F.J.G. Moore & 5 O/Rs to ANZAC School of Instruction. BETHLEHEM. 17 O/Rs Reinforcements from N.Z. Training Regt. 10 Remounts taken on strength.	
	26.	The Regiment remained in bivouac. 2/Lt B.G. Hooker & 1 O/R from School of Instruction EL ARISH (H. Gun)	
	27.	The Regt. remained in bivouac. Lt. M.S. Chambers & 1 O/R from Cavalry Course School of Instruction ZIETOUN. 3 Reinforcements taken on strength.	

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

WAR DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES REGIMENT

Place 4444	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	May		
113 K.31d	28	The Regiment remained in bivouac. 2 O/Rs Reinforcements marched in from Training Regt MOASCAR.	PALESTINE 1/63 360 Sheet--18
	29.	The Regiment remained in bivouac area and prepared to move to a new bivouac. At 1930 the Regt. moved with the Bde. and marched to new site along the JERICHO-HEBRON ROAD.	
100.p.14.b.	30.	At 0600 the Regt arrived in bivouac at 100.P.14.b. On coming into bivouac horses were watered at a well in P.9/b/. During day the Regt settled down in bivouac. As the water in well P.9.b. gave out the horses were not watered in the evening.	PALESTINE 1/63 360 Sheet 21
	31.	The Regt. remained in bivouac. In the morning Horses were with difficulty watered at the well in P.9.b. At 1600 the 2nd Sqdn supplied a guard of 2 N.C.Os & 12 men which relieved guard in the supply Dump supplied by 1st L.H.Bde. In the evening horses were watered in a new cistern. From 1800-1900 horses were allowed to graze. 24 O/Rs Reinforcements marched in from N.Z. Training Regt. MOASCAR. Lieut A.L. Simpson and 1 O/R to Imperial School of Instruction, ZEITOUN.	
		Effective Strength:-	20 Officers 482 O/Ranks 547 Horses 12 H.Guns.
		Detached	3 " 30 " 21 "
		N.Z.M.C.	1 " 2 "
		Armourere	1
		24	516 568 12

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