

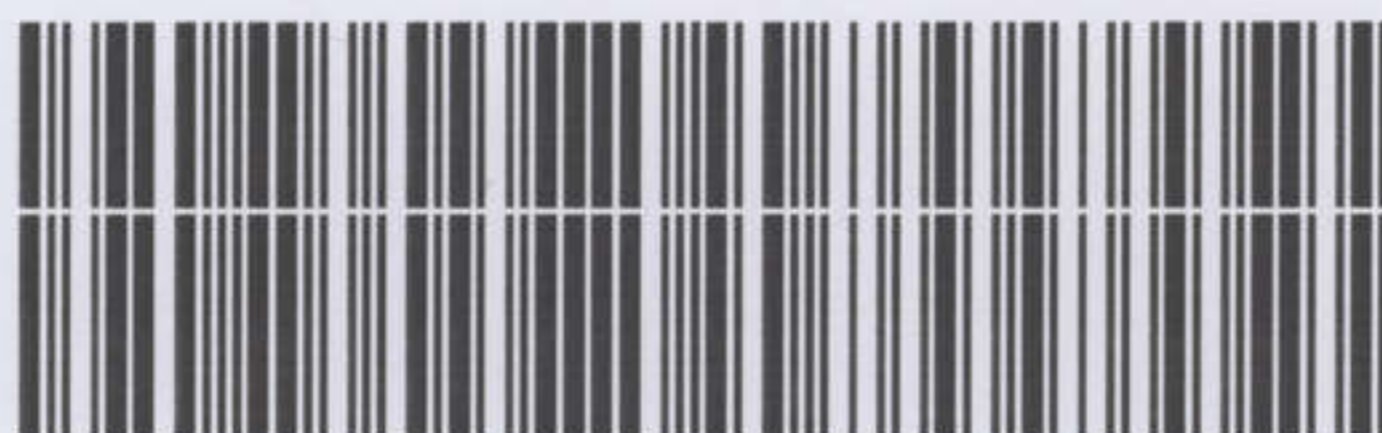
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/1/18

Title: Headquarters New Zealand Mounted
Rifles Brigade

October 1916



AWM4-35/1/18

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

624

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BIR ETMALEK	11/10/16		<p>raining was continued. Junior Officers received instruction in compass work, day and by night - Map reading etc., while the Regiments carried out Attack Practices. Machine Guns and Lewis Guns carried out firing practice daily. Lectures were delivered to Officers and N.C.O.'s. Leave was continued - practically the whole Brigade having received leave either to SIDI BISHRA or to the MAT SAID Rest Camp.</p>	
BARDAWIL	to		<p>Wellington Mounted Rifles rejoined the Bde, from KANTARA WEST, on 10th. October.</p>	
BATAIA	23/10/16		<p>The Bde sent its quota to the following courses at the Imperial School of Instructions at FEITOUN:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cavalry course officers' course N.C.O. course Machine Gun course Lewis Gun course 	
EL ARAISH.	23/10/16		<p>Base kits were brought from GEZIREH, and men drew their Winter clothing from them.</p>	
HOD EL GE'EILA			<p>The Brigade left BIR ETMALEK at 0800 and proceeded to HOD EL GE'EILA; halted mid-day at HOD EN NEGILIAT; arrived at BIR EL ABD at 1700 bivouacking there on the night of the 23rd/24th. October. Copy of Operation Orders attached.</p>	

Reference Maps:-
 1/100,000 - BATAIA
 1/125,000 - SABKHET EL BARDAWIL
 1/125,000 - EL ARAISH.

WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOD EL GE'EILA.	24/10/16		<p>The Brigade left BIR EL ABD at 0700, and arrived at HOD EL GE'EILA at 0830. Copy of Operation Orders attached.</p> <p>Distribution of the Bde, while at HOD EL GE'EILA was as follows:- Brigade Headquarters at HOD EL GE'EILA.</p> <p>Line from BIR EL GANADIL to Road 4 miles east of BIR SALMANA, with 12 miles double-back from BIR EL GANADIL was held by the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regt, with its Headquarters at BIR EL GANADIL.</p> <p>The left of the line was extended by one company of Imperial Camel Corps.</p> <p>The gap between the right of line and 5th Mounted Brigade was filled by day by an observation post in visual communication with an observation post found by the Canterbury Mounted Rifles at HOD WILLEGHA. The gap at night was filled by three troops from Canterbury Mounted Rifles at HOD WILLEGHA, and Wellington Mounted Rifles at HOD EL GE'EILA, alternately.</p> <p>The country east of BIR EL GANADIL was patrolled daily.</p>	
	26/10/16			
BIR MOSEIFIG.	27/10/16		<p>The Brigade (less one Troop of Canterbury Mounted Rifles at BIR EL GE'ESI to protect the right flank of the 52nd Division) left HOD EL GE'EILA at 0800 for BIR MOSEIFIG, reaching there at 1115. Copy of Operation Orders attached.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/10/16		<p>On arrival at BIR MOSEIFIG, one Squadron Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regt. took up a position at HILL 157. No. 1 Camel Battalion, Imperial Camel Corps furnished two posts - one on the southern shores of the SABKHET-EL-BARDAWIL, due North of BIR MOSEIFIG, the other at EL GALSS. The Auckland Mounted Rifles Regt. proceeded direct from BIR EL GANADIL to BIR EL KASSEIBRA.</p>	
			<p>Patrols. The Auckland Mounted Rifles at BIR EL KASSEIBRA pushed out patrols to BIR EL MALHA, BIR EL ZOABATIA, ARNUSSI, EL MUSTAGHDA, and the country South and South-East of BIR EL KASSEIBRA. Wells were found in each of the above mentioned places.</p>	
			<p>The gap HILL 157 - BIR EL KASSEIBRA was patrolled by the Auckland Mounted Rifles and the Canterbury Mounted Rifles Squadron at HILL 157. The Auckland Mounted Rifles Regt. brought in the following Bedouins, captured near ARNUSSI :-</p>	
			<p>8 men 21 women 20 children; - also 12 camels.</p>	
	31/10/16		<p>Patrols pushed out to BIR EL MAZAR, every other day, reported "all clear".</p>	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27/10/16 to 31/10/16 (contd.)		<p>On the 28th October Wellington Mounted Rifles made a reconnaissance to BIR EL GERERAT, to locate wells. They bivouacked at BIR EL MAZAR on the night of the 28th/29th, and reached BIR EL GERERAT at 1315 on the 29th instant. Good water was found. No sign of enemy, but Bedouins were seen who cleared off. Patrol returned to camp at BIR MOSEIFIG at 1015 on the 30th instant.</p> <p>Imperial Camel Company patrolled the road used by the German Artillery on the SABKHET EL BARDAWIL to a point due north of ABU TILUL, while the company at EL GALSS patrolled to EL GATAFA.</p> <p>An enemy aeroplane dropped bombs on the railway construction party at BARDAWIL on the 29th October, with no effect.</p> <p>Communication. Good communication has always been maintained between Divisional and Brigade Headquarters and Units of the Brigade, by telephone.</p> <p>The Camel Company at EL GALSS communicated by heliograph.</p> <p>Supplies. There has been no shortage in supplies, and, with a few exceptions, good water has been obtainable for horses.</p>	

Efficient Major
Acting Brigade Major
12th M A Brigade.

APPENDIX

SECRET.
 Copy No.

OPERATION ORDERS

by
 COLONEL G. E. R. MACKENZIE - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Reference Maps ; 1/100,000, QATIA.
 1/125,000, SABKHET EL
 BARDAWIL.

BIR ETMALER.
 21st. October 1916.

1. MOVES. The Brigade will leave BIR ETMALER at 0800 on Monday, 23rd. instant, and will proceed by march route to HOD EL GE'EILA, bivouacking at BIR EL ABD on the night of the 23rd/24th. instant.
2. ORDER OF MARCH.
 - Brigade Headquarters
 - Signal Troop
 - Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment
 - Brigade Machine Gun Squadron
 - Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regiment
 - Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment
 - N. Z. Mounted Field Ambulance
 - No. 2 Mobile Veterinary Section.
3. The head of the Main Body will be South of the N. Z. Mounted Field Ambulance flag-staff, facing East.

Advance Guards. The Auckland Mounted Rifles will furnish the Advance Guard, and the Wellington Mounted Rifles the Flank and Rear Guards.
4. ORDERLIES. Regiments will each detail one mounted orderly to report to the head of the column at 0755.
5. STATES. Marching-out states will be handed to the Brigade Major at the head of the column before the Brigade moves off.
6. AMMUNITION. 200 rounds S. A. A. per man, 3500 rounds per Machine Gun, and 3000 rounds per Lewis Gun will be carried.
7. SUPPLIES. The unconsumed portion of the day's ration, one iron ration, water bottles filled, and two feeds in the nose-bag will be carried.

On arrival at BIR EL ABD, the Brigade will draw 24 hours' supplies for consumption on the 24th. instant.
8. EQUIPMENT. Wallets, greatcoats, one sand bag and one blanket per man will be carried on the horse.

One extra blanket per man will be taken on the first line Transport.
9. FIRST LINE CAMELS. First line camels will be loaded by 0730 on Monday, and will rendezvous East of Auckland Mounted Rifle horse lines, when Units will hand over the camels to their respective escorts.

The whole of the first line camels will move off under Lieut. Harding, Acting Staff Officer, at 0800. They will bivouac at NEGILIAT on the night of the 23rd. inst. moving to HOD EL GE'EILA at 0600 the following morning.
10. CAMEL ESCORT. One N. C. O. and 6 men per Regiment, and Machine Gun Squadron, and one N. C. O. and 2 men other Units, will report to Lieut. Harding at Brigade Headquarters at 0730.
11. PUMPS AND TROUGHS. Units will take their pumps from the wells and all canvas troughs with them.
12. DETAILS. Captain T. B. Bax, Wellington Mounted Rifles, will act as Commandant of Details camped at BIR ETMALER.

All Units will leave a responsible N. C. O. in command of their details. This N. C. O. should have an

11 - Continued.

inventory of all baggage under his charge, and will be responsible for the guarding of it.

These N. C. O's, with nominal rolls, will report to the Commandant at Brigade Headquarters at 0830 on Monday, 23rd. instant.

Units will leave their lines perfectly clean, and the Commandant Details camp will be responsible that the whole of the Brigade Camp is in a clean condition, ready to hand over to the 3rd. Light Horse Brigade by 0900 on Tuesday, 24th. instant.

He will also hand over the ammunition on the Brigade dump, and the large recreation tents on charge to Regiments, the latter under arrangements with Regimental Quartermasters. He will obtain receipts and forward them to Headquarters of this Brigade.

12. LIMBERS. All limbers will accompany the Brigade, with the exception of three, which will be left behind with the Details at BIR ETMALER, as under:-

Headquarters Brigade	-	1
Auckland Mounted Rifles	-	1
Canterbury Mounted Rifles	-	1

13. TENTS. No tents will be taken.

Sgd. E. J. HULBERT, Major.

Acting Brigade Major,
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

Copies to:-

No.	1	File
	2	War Diary
	3	O/C Brigade
	4	Headquarters Staff
	5	A. M. R.
	6	C. M. R.
	7	W. M. R.
	8	M. G. Sqn.
	9	Mtd. F. Amb.
	10.	Signal Troop
	11.	No. 2 Mobile V. Sec.
	12.	A. S. C.
	13.	Field Troop
	14.	ANZAC Mounted Divn.

15. G.O.C. (Supt.)

APPENDIX

OPERATION ORDERS NO. 8

by
COLONEL C. E. R. MACKESY - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

BIR EL ABD.

23rd. October, 1916.

1. MOVES. The Brigade, less Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment, will leave BIR EL ABD at 0700 tomorrow, 24th. instant, and proceed by march route to HOD EL GE'ELAA.

Order of March. Brigade Headquarters.
Signal Troop.
Canterbury Mounted Rifles.
Wellington Mounted Rifles.
Brigade Machine Gun Squadron.
N. Z. Mounted Field Ambulance.

2. ADVANCE GUARDS. Canterbury Mounted Rifles will furnish the Advance Guards, and Wellington Mounted Rifles the Flank and Rear Guards.
3. ADVANCE REGIMENT. The Auckland Mounted Rifles will ~~furnish~~ proceed to BIR EL GANADIL and take over the posts now held by the 9th. Regiment, 3rd. Light Horse Brigade.
4. WATERING OF HORSES. With the exception of Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment, horses will not be watered tomorrow. The Field Troop will leave BIR EL ABD at 0600 and will arrange for horses to water on arrival.
5. OUTPOST LINE. The 5th. Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders are holding an Outpost Line half a mile East and North-East of the Brigade bivouac. Troops must not pass in front of this line tonight.

Sgd. E. J. HULBERT, Major.

Acting Brigade Major,
N. Z. M. R. Brigade.

Copies to -

1. O/C N.Z.M.R. Bde.
2. G.O.C. ANZAC Mtd. Divn.
3. War Diary
4. File
5. Auckland M. R.
6. Canterbury M. R.
7. Wellington M. R.
8. M. G. Sqdn.
9. Mtd. Field Ambulance

by
COLONEL G. E. R. MACKESY, - COMMANDING N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE.

Reference Map -
 1/125,000, SARKHET EL BARDAWIL.

HOD EL GE'EILA.
 26TH. October, 1916.

1. MOVES. The following moves will take place on the 27th. inst.

- (a) Headquarters Brigade, Signal Troop, W.M.R. (less one troop), C.M.R. (less one troop), M.G. Squadron, N.Z.M.F.A., and No.1 Bat. Imperial Camel Company (less two half Coys) will leave HOD EL GE'EILA at 0800, and will proceed by march route to BIR MOSEFIG.

Order of March - as above.

Starting Point - Half a mile East of Brigade Headquarters.

The W. M. R. will furnish the Advance Guards, and the C. M. R. the Flank and Rear Guards.

On arrival at BIR EL MOSEFIG, C. M. R. will detail one Squadron to take up a position at a point in the neighbourhood of HILL 157.

O.C. C. M. R. will also detail one Troop to take up a position about BIR EL GEISI to protect the right flank of the 52nd. Division.

- (b) The A.M.R. will leave BIR EL GANADIL and will proceed by march route to KASSEIRA in time to be in position by 1800.

- (c) No.1 Camel Bat. will find two posts - one on the ^{Southern} ~~Northern~~ Shores of the SARKHET EL BARDAWIL due North of BIR EL MOSEFIG: the other at EL GALSS, the latter to be half a Company.

Special instructions are issued to O.C. No.1 Camel Battn., I. C. C., and to O.C. C. M. R. Troop at BIR EL GEISI.

2. SUPPLIES. The Main Supply Depot will be at the BARDAWIL Station.

The Brigade Supply Depot will be at BIR EL MOSEFIG.

A. M. R. will draw their supplies from BIR EL MOSEFIG. C. M. R. will arrange with the Brigade Supply Officer to ration their Troop at BIR EL GEISI direct from BARDAWIL Supply Depot. C. M. R. Squadron at HILL 157 will draw their rations from BIR EL MOSEFIG.

3. FIRST LINE CAMELS. All first line camels will be loaded, ready to move off at a point 50 yards North of Brigade Headquarters, at 0800.

C. M. R. and W. M. R. will each detail an Escort of 1 N.C.O. and 8 men, and other Units two men each.

All the above will report to the Staff Captain at Brigade Headquarters at 0745.

O. C. W.M.R. will detail a Subaltern to command the escorts.

E.

All camels will be clearly labelled.

sgd. E. J. HULBERT, Major.

Acting Brigade Major.
N. Z. M. R. BRIGADE;

Copies to :-

No. 1	File
2	War Diary
3	O/C. Brigade
4	H.Q. Staff
5	ANZAC Mounted Division
6	G. O. C. N. Z. E. F.
7	A. M. R.
8	C. M. R.
9	W. M. R.
10	M. G. Squadron
11	Signals
12	M.F. Ambulance
13	No. 2 Mobile V. Section.
14	Field Troop
15	A. S. C.

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS to O/C No. 1 Battalion, Imperial Camel Companies.
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The post found by you on the Southern shores of the SARKHET EL BARDAWIL should be so placed that it can watch for any attempt on the part of the Turks or Bedouins to cross from the South side of the SARKHET EL BARDAWIL to the Promontorys stretching Northwards towards EL GALSS, across the Lake. It should not be more than half a Company.

The post at EL GALSS will watch the BARDAWIL Peninsula, Eastwards, and will patrol along the sea shore and the dry bed of the Lake towards EL GATAFA. Any advance of the enemy along the Peninsula must be opposed and warning sent at once to Brigade Headquarters and to Headquarters 52nd. Division. The strength of this post will be half a Company.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS to O/C Troop of Canterbury M. R. at BIR EL GEISI.
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You will be responsible for the watching of the gap BIR EL GEISI - HOD WILLEGHA, to protect the right flank of the 52nd. Division.

You will get into touch with the 5th. Mounted Brigade's ~~detachment~~ detachment at WILLEGHA, who will be responsible for the gap HOD WILLEGHA - BIR BAYUD. You will also get into touch with the right flank of the 52nd. Division at BIR EL GANADIL.

