

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/60/18

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters ANZAC  
Mounted Division

August 1917



AWM4-1/60/18

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 120

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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General Staff  
A. N. 2 MTD Div.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA. <del>WSD</del>	1/4/17	1900	Work of laying and burying a cable line from EASTERN edge of WADI GHUZZE as far as KARM commenced, and cable laid and buried for distance of 3600 yds by 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde - Covering party being provided by Regt of NZMR Bde, who also carried out a night reconnaissance of the WADI IMLEIH while work was being done.	Appendix 149
<del>WSD</del>	2/8/17	1900	Work of laying and burying cable line completed as far as KARM by 1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde, covered by Regt of NZMR Bde. This cable was tested and found in good order by 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde while carrying out reconnaissance to Kh. SUFI, which place was found quiet and no sign of the Bedouins who were reported to be camped at that place. Advanced troops of 5 <sup>th</sup> L.H. were fired on from trench on ridge NE of 790. & just WEST of railway line.	
<del>WSD</del>	3/8/17	1430	Conference of Brigade Commanders with G.O.C. Angac Div. at DHQ to discuss suggested amendments to Part VII establishment.	
<del>WSD</del>	4/8/17	0800	"C" Sqdn 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Regt carried out minor operation in vicinity of Abu EL RIGAL - Enemy <sup>cavalry</sup> outpost observed at 0800 and 3 were captured the remainder escaping.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA  <del>NEW</del>	4/8/17	0800 1000  1730	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde returned to Camp -</p> <p>The C.M.R. Regt. took over GHABI XY + 2 Works from 1<sup>st</sup> L.H. Regt. who rejoined the 1<sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde in their bivouac area. - For minor enterprises this week, the Northern area is allotted to the 1<sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde, the Central area to the 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde, and the Southern area to the 1<sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde - Day Patrols and night standing patrols to be found by 2<sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde.</p> <p>"C" Sqn 3<sup>rd</sup> Regt. reported - were sending in 26 Bedouins, 9 camels and 3 donkeys captured near In'alaga - 3 other Bedouins had already been sent in with the Turkish prisoners - all these Bedouins were unarmed and apparently farmers.</p> <p>"C" Sqn stayed out again during night of 4/5<sup>th</sup> but met with no success in the morning as enemy patrol did not come on - The Squadron thereupon returned to Camp.</p> <p>Patrol to GOZ-EL-BASAL found enemy in KHASIF and endeavoured to work round them - Enemy however retired to ridge beyond EL BUGGAR. - One deserter from 47<sup>th</sup> Regt. gave himself up to this patrol.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL FARA	6/8/17	1200	7 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt. with 2 m. guns and 2 guns R.H.A. left Camp and moved on pt. 720 from which point a reconnaissance was carried out towards IRGEIG.	
		1645	Our artillery opened fire on enemy post on hill 820. - Regt. moved back to Camp at dusk.	
	7/8/17	1900	2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Regt. moved out towards W. IMLEIH and in the morning cleared the WADI of enemy troops from Kh. ERK to pt. 410. The 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Regt. remained in position all day without event except some enemy intermittent shelling and at 1830 commenced to retire leaving the	
		1830	troop of NZM R Bde who were covering party carrying out night-reconnaissance of SANA REDOUBT. Auckland Mtd Rifles carried out reconnaissance of water area near ESAVI. One enemy cavalry captured in vicinity of RASHID BEK.	
	8/8/17		3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Regt. occupied WADI IMLEIH from Kh. ERK to 410 - Enemy shelled patrol of 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde EAST of 510, wounding one o.r.	
		1200	6 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Rgt left to carry out reconnaissance of IRGEIG - Owing to enemy Squadron occupying hill 720 and 810. The reconnaissance was not pushed on with. Meanwhile the No. 7 Light Car Patrol worked round the enemy to the SOUTH and on their retiring pursued them for a considerable distance towards IRGEIG, killing 3 men and 2 horses.	
		1830	3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Regt returned to Camp leaving out-party from NZM R Bde carrying out reconnaissance of SANA REDOUBT.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA <u>WAD</u>	9/8/17	1200	Order No 97 issued to units regarding formations of Army Corps - Memoranda (2) No G 66/66 issued - and order for Sqdn. 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde acting as escort to 91 <sup>st</sup> Heavy Bty. on night of raid to meet it outside wire at SHELLAL CROSSING at 1930 - Order issued for change over of areas on 11 <sup>th</sup> inst.	appen. 150
<u>WAD</u>	10/8/17	1200	6 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse left WADI GHUZZE and carried out reconnaissance of Country in vicinity of IRGEIG. Regt. commenced to withdraw at 1800	
<u>WAD</u>	11/8/17	0900	5 <sup>th</sup> Light Horse Regiment took over GHABI X Y + 2 works from the Canterbury Mtd Rifles, who rejoined their Bde in their bivouac area. The day outposts and night standing patrols for coming week to be done by 1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde, and the areas for minor enterprises allotted as follows: Northern NZMR Bde, Central 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde, Southern 1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde.	
			Order No 98 issued to units relating to move of Division to Blach on 18 <sup>th</sup>	appen. 151
			Order No 99 issued to units relating to operation against IRGEIG on night 13/14 <sup>th</sup> August	appen 152
	2000		NZMR Bde concentrated on EAST bank of WADI GHUZZE and marched to their objective, one Sqdn CMR taking up position (at Kh. ERK, one Sqdn W.M.R. at pt 410 and one Sqdn A.M.R. at pt 520. Each Sqdn was in position 500 yds SOUTH of its objective at 2220, moved to its objective dismounted and occupied same at 2335	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA	11/8/17	2300	The Sunset Battery were in position on EAST bank of WADI GHUZZE at 2300 ready to move forward if required, but this necessity did not arise	
New		2335	Kh Erk having been occupied by C.M.R. Regt, the Chain of posts (2 men each) were pushed out to link up with mounted orderlies of 52 <sup>nd</sup> Div. Cavalry at a pt. 300 yds S.W. of Magam Tomb - These posts came under fire from enemy machine gun concealed somewhere NORTH of ERK and two men were wounded. An attempt was made to locate and deal with this post but enemy retired, and by this time the attack on Sana Redoubt was over and the troops were retiring. NZMR Bde arrived back in Camp at 0430 - Casualties 2.0.2. wounded. 1 horse killed	
New	11/8/17	1930	A. Sqdn 7 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Rgt. reported at 1930 at Shellal Crossing on EAST bank of WADI GHUZZE as escort for 91 <sup>st</sup> Heavy Battery R.G.A. These guns fired during the attack on Sana Redoubt from point near GOZ-EL-GELEIB, and were escorted back to Camp by the Sqdn. after the retirement - no casualties	
New	12/8/17	1530 2100	1 <sup>st</sup> LHBde left on reconnaissance of country S. and S.W. of Beersheba - on arrival at ESANI at 1825, horses were watered and the Brigade bivouacked on SOUTHERN side of WADI until 2100, when Bde (less 2 <sup>nd</sup> LH Regt) proceeded to WADI RHAZALI and bivouacked	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL PARA	13/8/17	0330  0300	At daylight 1 <sup>st</sup> LHA Bde established H.Q. at pt. 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles North of L in SHEIHILI. The 1 <sup>st</sup> LHA Regt pushed forward to BIR IBN TURKIA, and established RHQ at point 1040 at 0300 - One Sqn was despatched to pt 1160 G. EL NA'AM and one Sqn to pt 1269 G. ITWAIL EL SEMIN. Officers patrols were sent out from both these points - Enemy works located on pt 1210 RAS GHANNAM and through word RUWEIHI (1/125000 map) Enemy Battery located at pt 1070 - fired 53 77 mpm shells during the day causing following casualties - 1 o.r. Killed 3 o.r. wounded - 2 Bedouin women killed. 25 Bedouin prisoners were brought in by 1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Rgt.	
		1220 1530	Brigade commenced to withdraw, reaching ESANI at 1530 - 2 <sup>nd</sup> LHA Regt. which had reached ESANI at 1430 was pushed on to take over GHABI Works from 5 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt.	
		1630 1940	1 <sup>st</sup> LHA Bde left ESANI and returned to bivouac area at 1940	
			Amendment to Order No 99 issued to Units	Appendix 153
		1940	Division with 18 <sup>th</sup> RHA (less 1 Bty) formed up on EAST bank of WADI GHIZZE. Moved off at 2000 to carry out operation at IRGEIG. report of operation attached.	Appendix 154
	14/8/17	1900	Order No 100 issued for reconnaissance, on 16 <sup>th</sup> August. Reconnaissance of MAGAM, SANA and WADI SHERIA carried out by 1 Sqn of W.M.R.	Appendix 155

WTD

WTD

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA	15/8/17	1500	1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde left bivouac and marched to ESANI arriving 1905 - and bivouacked for the night -	
	16/8/17	0800	To cover reconnaissance by C in C, the 2 <sup>nd</sup> L.H. Bde made good by 0800 the line 330 (EL DAMMATHA) 510, 630, 730, 810 without serious opposition. Desert Black 6 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt, wounded (some died) by enemy snipers firing at long range - The NZMR Bde by same time had made good the line 810 (exclusive) 820 to TAWEL EL HABARI to 840 - coming under enemy rifle fire from patrols which were pushed back - our casualties 2 o. r. wounded.	
		0240	The 1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde had made good the line 1040 - 970, 960 by same hour -	
		0611	Divisional Headquarters left WADI GHUZZE at 0240 and marched to RASHID BEK in heavy fog - D.H.Q. opened at RASHID BEK at 0611.	
		0800	The 6 <sup>th</sup> Mtd Bde (Yeomanry Div) accompanied D.H.Q. as Reserve Bde. At 0800 "all clear" was sent to Desert Mtd Corps at GAMLI, and C in C <del>passed</del> Rashid Bek by motor at 0945 and proceeded to IBN SAID, where horses were waiting.	
		1537	The order for withdrawal were issued to Brigades at 1537, the 1 <sup>st</sup> L.H. Bde having been previously withdrawn to ESANI.	
		2100	The whole of the Division back in bivouac by 2100 with exception of 7 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt who carried out enterprise towards IRGEIG. An attempt was made by this Regt + party of Field Troop to lay a bomb on railway line	

NW



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA <i>Notes</i>	16/8/17		near IRGEIG - The raiding party left 770 on foot and after two hours march reached the railway line - After about 20 minutes work on railway they were attacked by an enemy patrol of 1 NCO + 5 men - The NCO + 2 of the men were killed and 3 men brought in - Our casualties 1 NCO killed. Owing to the noise the whole of the Turks in the vicinity were aroused and the work of laying the bomb was therefore not completed.	
<i>Notes</i>	17/8/17	0600	The 7 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Regt were back in camp by 0600. Reconnaissance of ground in vicinity of SANA and MAGAM carried out by NZMR Bde on night of 17/18 <sup>th</sup> August, the objective being to round up two Bedouin camps reported in those areas. No trace of camps found and no enemy troops were seen - Reconnoitering party were back in camp by 0615 on 18 <sup>th</sup> August.	
<i>Notes</i>	18/8/17	0615 1200 1230	The whole of the A + NZ Mtd Div. were relieved by Yeomanry Division in the port line, and marched under Brigade arrangements to sites on the beach SOUTH from TEL EL MARAKEB. - DHQ closed at TEL EL FARA at 1230 and opened at MARAKEB at same hour - During the time the Division was in the port line various minor enterprises against the enemy were carried out as per attached list. - In all 32 Turks were brought in	Appendix 156

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL-EL FARA	18/8/17		<p>(Captures and deserters) during this period - In addition, enemy casualties were 1 officer + 15 O. 2 killed and 12 O. 2 wounded. These figures do not include casualties observed from our rifle and battery fire but not definitely counted.</p> <p>In addition to above 107 Bedouins were captured and brought in, some of whom were carrying arms, and in all 5 Bedouins were killed in action during the period of operations.</p>	
TEL-EL MARAKEB	19/8/17 -23/8/17 24/8/17		<p>Division in camp on bank <del>at</del> South of TEL EL MARAKEB. It has been decided that no training will be done during the first week here. Rifle ranges have been selected and schemes for musketry training prepared.</p> <p>G.O.C. and GSO1 proceeded on a reconnaissance to ITWEIL EL SEMIN, south of BEERSHEBA. Brigade commanders also carried out this reconnaissance, which had been arranged by Desert Corps the area being made good by German Mounted Division and two brigades Australian Mounted Division.</p>	

W. G. Shepherd Major  
 G.S. A & NZ  
 Mid Div.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL MARRAKEB	25/8/17		Nothing to report	
	26/8/17		Nothing to report	
	27/8/17		Musketry courses started. G.O.C. inspected 1 <sup>st</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde. Railway construction parties reported for training to O.C. Railway construction, BELAH.	
	28/8/17		Lecture on tactical employment of Machine Guns given at D. H. Q. by corps M. G. officer.	
	29/8/17		Divisional Commander inspected 2 <sup>nd</sup> ALH Brigade	
	30/8/17		" " " " 18 <sup>th</sup> Bde R.M.A.	
	30/8/17		Divisional Commander (Brig. General Pyrie temporarily commanding in absence of Major-General Chaytor on leave) inspected N. 2. M. R. Bde. As a result of the inspections of Brigades, it was noticed that the Hotchkiss Gun packhorse was liable to run back on the gun side. It is considered that widening the front arch of the saddle and readjusting the position of the gun will remedy this.	

W. G. Lieutenant Major  
General Staff  
A & N. 2. Mtd Div

720

War Diary

Appendix 149

SECRET

Time programme for a raid to be carried out

by the Imperial Camel Brigade on 1 day.

ZERO hour will be notified later.



Reference 1:130000  
and 1:40000

1. PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS.

- (a) At ZERO less 5 hours the raiders will leave ABU BAKR.
- At ZERO less 2 hours 30 minutes they will reach WADI SHUBA.
- At ZERO less 2 hours 15 minutes they will reach WADI HILJ.
- At ZERO less 1 1/2 hours the raiders will reach a point 800 yards NORTH of MADAN, where the camels will be left and Headquarters established, at this hour the I.C. Bde will be in telephonic communication with HERRER the line being laid by the I.C. Bde.
- At ZERO less 1 1/4 hours the raiders leave their camels.
- At ZERO less 3/4 hour the raiders reach position of deployment.
- At ZERO less 1/2 hour they leave position of deployment.
- At ZERO hour the first wave crosses the trenches.

(b) During this period -

The 5th Division will occupy the line WADI ASWINA (inclusive) EARLY RIDGE, Point 266, to WADI BUA (inclusive) with 3 battalions. One 18-pdr. battery and one 4.5" Howitzer battery of the 5th Division will move into a wire W.S.B.d. to engage ASWINA Redoubt and to cover retirement of their Infantry.

The Infantry line will be continued southwards by the 5th Divisional Cavalry which will maintain touch with the I.C. Brigade N.E. 800 yards North of the Trench at MADAN.

The troop of 5th Divisional Cavalry attached to I.C. Brigade will occupy the Trench and protect the right flank.

(c) One battery of 60-pdrs. with an escort of one squadron of Anzac Mounted Division will take up the position already selected near WADI SHUBA ready to open on HERRER.

(d) By arrangement with Eastforce and the 5th Division the following guns will take part in the bombardment -

<u>On ASWINA Redoubt</u>	<u>On the HERRER Redoubt.</u>
1 battery 60-pdrs.	1 battery 60-pdrs.
1 section 6" Hows.	1 section 6" Hows.
1 battery 18-pdrs.	
1 battery 4.5" Hows.	
	<u>On HERRER TRENCH.</u>
	1 battery 60-pdrs.

(e) If during the advance up to the position of deployment it is obvious to the C.O.C. Camel Brigade that his advance has been detected and warning given he will use his discretion as to whether he postpones the enterprise until some more suitable occasion or carries it through.

Should he decide on the former course he will at once inform 5th Division by wire or telephone who will pass on the information priority to the Anzac Mounted Division, Desert Column and the Heavy Artillery.

2. IN THE FUTURE.

(a) The S.C.C. Bde will take up position near Hill 330 (GENERAL REFERENCE 1:40000) ready to assist the Imperial Camel Bde if necessary. No troops of this Bde will be East of the WADI SHUBA before 1930.

(b) They will have parties detailed to take notice against the enemy posts at 412, 413 and 520. These parties will move out

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sufficiently near the WADI to act quickly; but, they must not approach the WADI or give any indication of their presence before ZERO hour.

(c) The H.E.H.M. Bde will also detail 20 orderlies. These orderlies must be kept back at Hill 330 until the time for action arrives. They must be men who know the ground well between Hill 330, HUK and HADAN. Their role will be to establish a chain of posts of 2 men each between the H.E. & S. battery 1000 yards due south of the Tomb at HADAN via HUK and H.E.H.M. Bde at Hill 330. These posts will be <sup>500</sup> yards apart and will be for passing information along the line to or from the Imperial Camel Brigade.

(d) All ranks of the H.E.H.M. Bde will wear white armbands on both arms and a white pyramid sewn on the back. These are being procured by Divl. H. Rs.

(e) The G.I. Signal Squadron will have cable communication established between the H.E.H.M. Bde and Divl. H. Rs.

(f) The 2nd L.H. Bde will provide the Squadron as escort to the 60-pdrs battery firing from near GOS EL GELIB. Details as to hour of start will be issued later.

3. TIME OF SCHEDULE OF THE RAID.

(a) At ZERO plus 5 minutes The bombardment of ATAWIN and HADIN Redoubts and of HERRIA will commence. Rate of fire 1 round per gun every two minutes for 60-pdrs. and 6" and 1 round per minute for field guns and howitzers.

The party detailed as described in para 2(b) will rush HUK. The orderlies will be sent out at once and will establish the chain described in para 2(c).

The parties detailed to deal with posts at 410 and 550 will also close at the same hour on these posts disposing of any enemy who may be holding them.

At ZERO plus 1/4 hour The raiders will leave the redoubt.

At ZERO plus 1 hour The raiders will pass the position of deployment, the bombardment will be reduced to one round per gun every 4 minutes for 60-pdrs. and 6" hows. and to one round every 2 minutes for 18-pdrs. and 4.5" hows. and the 3rd Division will commence their withdrawal.

At ZERO plus 1 1/2 hours The raiders will reach led oxen and start for TEL EL JAMI.

At this hour the bombardment ceases, the H.E.H.M. Bde. returns to its bivouac and the 60-pdrs. fall back from GOS EL GELIB.

*J. G. Pitt Rivers*

Lieut. Colonel,  
General Staff,

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN DIV.

2nd August 1917.

To  
H.E.H.M. Bde  
2nd L.H. Bde  
Signal Squadron.

1st L.H. Bde )  
C.M. G. )  
C.M. G. ) FOR INFORMATION.  
I.C. Brigade )  
Desert Column. )

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Appendix 150

Copy No. . . . 13

SECRET.

DIVISIONAL ORDER NO. 97.

- by -  
Major-General E.W.C. CHAYTOR C.B., C.M.G., T.D., A.D.C.,  
Commanding A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.

In the field,  
8th August 1917.

1. Under authority from General Headquarters, E.E.F., the divisions at present forming part of the Eastern Force will be organised as from 2nd August 1917, into two Corps and a Mounted Corps, as under :-

- (a) 20th Corps:-
- 53rd Division
- 60th Division
- 74th Division

- (b) 21st Corps:-
- 52nd Division
- 54th Division
- 75th Division

- (c) Desert Mounted Corps:-
- Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division.
- Australian Mounted Division.
- Yeomanry Mounted Division.

2. For the present 60th Division will remain attached to Desert Column and 53rd Division will remain in its present area.  
The present channels of communication will be maintained up to 1200 on 12th August 1917.

3. Units at present forming part of Force Troops, Eastern Force will be provisionally re-allotted as under :-

Desert Mounted Corps Troops -

- Mounted Troops -
- 7th Mounted Brigade (on arrival).
- Imperial Camel Brigade.
- Machine Gun Corps -
- Nos. 11 and 12 Light Armoured Motor Batteries.
- Nos. 1 and 7 Light Ford Car Patrols.
- Signal Service -
- No. 21 Airline Section
- HH, KK, AIF, Cable Section.
- Camel Transport Corps -
- A, C, L, Companies.

4. General Headquarters, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, will be established at Kilometre 207 on the KANTARA - DEIR EL BELAH Railway at 1200 on August 12th, 1917 at which time the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief will assume direct command of the troops now composing the Eastern Force.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Lieut. Colonel,  
General Staff,

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVN.

Issued at 1800.

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Copy No. 1. 1st L.H.Bde. | 8. A.D.M.S.        |
| 2. 2nd L.H.Bde.          | 9. A.D.V.S.        |
| 3. N.Z.M.R.Bde.          | 10. Desert Column. |
| 4. 18th R.H.A.Bde.       | 11. "A"            |
| 5. Field Sqdn.           | 12. File.          |
| 6. Signal Sqdn.          | 13. War Diary.     |
| 7. Divl. A.S.C.          | 14. G.O.C.         |

DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 98

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- by -

Major-General E.W.C. CHAYTOR, C.B., C.M.G., T.D., A.D.C.,  
Commanding A. & N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION.

Reference Map - 1/125,000.

11th August 1917.

1. INFORMATION.

The following moves will take place on 18th August 1917.

- (a) The Yeomanry Division will relieve the ANZAC Mounted Division as Forward Mounted Division, sending forward the necessary officers and other ranks in accordance with para 2 of 'Standing Orders for the Relief of Formations in the Line' prior to the movement of the Division.
- (b) The Australian Mounted Division will move up to FUKARI area and replace Yeomanry Division in Support.
- (c) The ANZAC Mounted Division will, on relief, proceed to MARAKEB, and be in Reserve.

2. MOVES.

As regards para 1 (a), relief will be completed and units will march out in accordance with attached March Tables.

3. On moving into new area, each Brigade will take over the bivouac sites vacated by its predecessor. See March Table.
4. The relief of the ANZAC Mounted Division will not be begun before the morning "All Clear" wire is received; and will be completed by 1300.
5. Two cars of the L.A.M. Battery and No. 7 Light Car Patrol will, on completion of the relief, come under the command of the G.O.C., Yeomanry Division. Representative will report to Divn Hdqrs Yeomanry Division after 1300, August 18th.
6. Unnecessary concentration of troops when on the move must be avoided in view of possible attack by hostile aircraft.
7. The G.O.C., ANZAC Mounted Division will remain in command of the Outpost Line until relief is complete. The day patrols of 1st L.H. Brigade will be relieved during the morning of 18/8/17, and will then march to MARAKEB under Brigade arrangements. The Regiment of the 2nd L.H. Brigade at CHABI Works will be relieved at 1000, and will obtain a certificate from the incoming unit to the effect that the Works have been handed over complete, and will rejoin Brigade at WELI SHEIKH NURAN Crossing at 1100.
8. G.S.O. 3 will arrange to hand over all Maps and Plans to incoming troops.
9. C.R.E. will likewise arrange to hand over R.E. material.
10. O.C., Divisional Signal Squadron will arrange to hand over all existing telegraph and telephone wires and cables, and necessary adjustment being made with O.C., Yeomanry Divisional Signal Squadron.
11. 2 orderlies 2nd L.H. Brigade and 2 orderlies N.Z.M.R. Brigade at WELI SHEIKH NURAN, attached to Signal Station there will, on relief by 2 orderlies 8th Mtd Brigade and 2 orderlies 6th Mtd Brigade respectively, rejoin their Brigade.
12. Arrangements as to S.A.A. of the Pde Ammunition Columns will be made by the C.R.A. in conjunction with the C.R.A., Australian Mounted Division. S.A.A. of the Regimental Reserve will accompany Regiments, and will be dumped at the transport park KHAN YUNJE under Brigade arrangements.
13. The usual priority message will be forwarded on completion of each relief.

(over)

14. Orders ANZAC Mounted Division at 3,500 yards due West of FARA will close at 1200 and open at MARAKEB at the same hour.
15. Orders concerning handing over stores to incoming units, and instructions regarding transport will be issued later.
16. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*H. H. H. H. H.*

Lieut.-Colonel,  
General Staff.

Issued at 2000.

- |         |                    |                             |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Copy No | 1 1st L.H. Brigade | 11 No 7 Light Car Patrol.   |
|         | 2 2nd L.H. Brigade | 12 Desert Column.           |
|         | 3 N.Z.M.R. Brigade | 13 Australian Mtd Division. |
|         | 4 G.H.A.           | 14 Yeomanry Division.       |
|         | 5 Field Squadron   | 15 60th Division.           |
|         | 6 Signal Squadron  | 16 "A".                     |
|         | 7 Divl A.S.G.      | 17 D.A.D.A.P.S.             |
|         | 8 A.D.M.S.         | 18 File                     |
|         | 9 A.D.V.S.         | 19 War Diary.               |
|         | 10 L.A.M. Battery. | 20 G.O.C.                   |



Reference Map  
1/125,000.

MARCH TABLE. ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION.

Issued with Divisional Order 98.

720

Unit.	Relief.	Due to arrive MARAKEB.	Route.	Remarks.
<p>1st L.H.Bde. Group.</p> <p>H.Qrs. 1st Bde. Mach. Co. Sd. 1st L.H. Regt. 1st L.H. F.A. 2nd L.H. Regt. 3rd L.H. Regt. 1st Sig. Troop.</p>	<p>By 22nd Mtd. Brigade. To be completed by 1000.</p>	<p>1500 take over Camp of 5th Mtd. Brigade.</p>	<p>Cross Railway at WELI SHEIK NURAN - Pass NORTH of Yeomanry Divisional Camp at ABASAN EL KEBIR. Cross KHAN YUNUS - BELAH Railway at crossing <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> mile NORTH of KHAN YUNUS.</p>	<p>Brigade will march at 0930. Patrols will be relieved by 1200 and will march under Bde. arrangements.</p>
<p>2nd L.H.Bde. Group.</p> <p>H.Qrs. 2nd Sig. Troop. 5th L.H. Regt. 2nd Mach. Co. Sdn. 6th L.H. Regt. 2nd L.H. F.A. 7th L.H. Regt.</p>	<p>By 8th Mtd. Brigade. To be completed by 1100. Relief of Regt. at GHABI to be completed at 1000.</p>	<p>1600 take over camp of 3rd L.H. Bde.</p>	<p>Cross Railway at WELI SHEIK NURAN - Pass NORTH of Yeomanry Divisional Camp at ABASAN EL KEBIR. Cross KHAN YUNUS - BELAH Railway at KHAN YUNUS Station and along Tractor Track from the old Gateway, KHAN YUNUS.</p>	<p>Brigade will march at 1030. Regiment at GHABI Works will march direct to WELI SHEIK NURAN on relief and join Brigade there.</p>
<p>N.Z.M.R. Bde. Group.</p> <p>H.Qrs. N.Z.M.R. Sig. Troop. A.M.R. N.Z.M.R. Mach. Co. Sdn. C.M.R. N.Z.M.R. F.Amb. W.M.R.</p>	<p>By 6th Mtd. Brigade. To be completed by 1130.</p>	<p>1630 take over camp of 4th L.H. Brigade.</p>	<p>Cross Railway at WELI SHEIK NURAN - Pass NORTH of Yeomanry Divisional Camp at ABASAN EL KEBIR. Cross RAFA - KHAN YUNUS Railway about 1 mile SOUTH of KHAN YUNUS and proceed due WEST to bivouac.</p>	<p>Brigade will march at 1100.</p>

Note. 18th R.H.A. Bde will march under order of C.R.A., having due regard to above timetable. The Batteries moving into the Artillery bivouac area on arrival.

The Signal Squadron and Field Squadron will march under orders of their respective Commanders and will take over the corresponding units bivouacs at MARAKEB.

APPENDIX 157 16

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# MARAKERS Camp

APPENDIX. 151

17

SEA

5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>th</sup> Bde  
 (to be taken over  
 by 1<sup>st</sup> LH Bde)

Crossing  
 for  
 1<sup>st</sup> LH Bde

3<sup>rd</sup> LH Bde  
 (to be taken over  
 by 2<sup>nd</sup> LH Bde)

RHA Bde  
 (to be taken over  
 by 18<sup>th</sup> BHA Bde)

Crossing to  
 2<sup>nd</sup> LH Bde  
 RHA  
 DHP

DHP

KHAN  
 YUNUS

4<sup>th</sup> M<sup>th</sup> Bde  
 (to be taken over  
 by NZ M R Bde)

Crossing  
 for NZ M R  
 Bde

Not drawn to Scale

720  
SECRET.Append 152.  
DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 99.

Copy No. 19.

- by -

Major-General E.W.C. CHAYTOR, C.B., C.M.G., T.D., A.D.C.,  
Commanding A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.  
- - - - -

Reference map 1/125,000

11th August 1917.

1. INTENTION AND INFORMATION.

A raid will be carried out on the enemy post at IRGEIG on the night August 13th/14th with the object of -

- (a) Destroying the enemy's post there.
- (b) Damaging his railway.

Reconnaissances up to the evening of August 10th have gained the following information.

That there is a small redoubt garrisoned by 150 men on point 650 (c.5) A small trench lies due EAST of this redoubt across the railway. Another very small trench is situated just NORTH of the ABU in BIR ABU IRGEIG. There is a 5 arched viaduct and station buildings about half a mile NORTH EAST of 650.

2. TROOPS FOR ENTERPRISE.

The troops detailed for the enterprise are the-

- 2nd L.H. Bde.
- 2 troops Field Squadron.

All details as to the arrangements for the actual carrying out of the raid and times are given in the 2nd L.H. Bde orders. The Bde will not begin to pass EAST of the wire EAST of the WADI GHUZZE before 1930 and will have completed the operation and be back WEST of the line 810 - 730 before daylight.

3. Covering Troops.

(a) The N.Z.M.R. Bde will act as covering troops to the 2nd L.H. Bde and will detail -

One Regiment to occupy the line TAWAIL EL HARBARI - 820 - 790 to guard the raiding party against any interruption from the direction of BELRSHEBA.

A detachment to occupy 730 - 630 EL GIRHEIR - 550 - 510.

These two detachments will not approach the Turkish posts or put them on the alert before the attack begins. As soon however as it starts they will make such diversion as they can against the enemy opposite to them.

The H.Qrs., N.Z.M.R. Bde and remainder of the Bde will be with Divisional H.Qrs.

- (b) The night standing patrols opposite SHELLAL to HISEIA will be ordered to move forward to the lines B of GOZ EL GELEIB - E E of EL DAMMATH.
- (c) Two Batteries R.H.A. will be held ready EAST of the WADI GHUZZE but inside the line at TEL EL FARA.
- (d) The 1st L.H. Bde will send one Regiment to relieve the Regiment 2nd L.H. Bde holding the GHABI works in time to allow them to join their Bde at the place of assembly  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile EAST of the redoubt line at UM URGAN.

4. WHEELS.

No wheels except Sandcarts will accompany the force.

5. MOVES.

Divisional Headquarters, Signal Squadron and the N.Z.M.R. Bde will be formed up ready to march off on the EAST bank of the FARA crossing just outside the wire at 1930. D.H.Q., and Signal Squadron being just on the SOUTH side and the N.Z.M.R. Bde just NORTH of the main FARA - BELRSHEBA Road. The march will begin at 1930, the N.Z.M.R. Bde finding protection on the march.

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5. MOVES contd.

D.H.Q., and the Signal Squadron will march at the head of the N.Z.M.R.Bde. As soon as KARM is reached the N.Z.M.R.Bde will send off the detachments mentioned in para 3 (a).

6. DISTINCTIVE MARKS.

Each man of the 2nd L.H.Bde and N.Z.M.R.Bde will wear a white armband on his right arm. These must be collected at Bde.H.Q.s., after the operation for return to ordnance.

7. PASSWORD.

Password for the night will be given on the evening of August 13th just prior to moving off.

8. COMMUNICATIONS.

The O.C.Signal Squadron will arrange that cable communication is kept with the 2nd L.H.Bde and Divisional Headquarters.

9. WITHDRAWAL.

The B.G.C. 2nd L.H.Bde will report at once when all his Bde are back, to Divisional Headquarters, when orders for the covering Bde to withdraw will be issued.

10. TIME.

Watches will be synchronized with D.H.Q.,

(a) By the 2nd L.H.Bde by telephone before the Staff leave their bivouac to go to the place of assembly.

(b) By other Units with the Divisional Staff at the place of assembly at FARA.

11. D.H.Q.

Divisional Headquarters will be at KARM and will open there at 2200.

12. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Lieut. Colonel,  
General Staff,  
AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIV.

Issued at 2200.

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Copy No. 1. 1st L.H.Brigade. | 11. No. 7 Light Car Patrol.   |
| 2. 2nd L.H.Brigade.          | 12. Desert Mounted Corps.     |
| 3. N.Z.M.R.Brigade.          | 13. Australian Mtd. Division. |
| 4. C.R.A.                    | 14. Yecmanry Division.        |
| 5. Field Squadron.           | 15. 60th Division.            |
| 6. Signal Squadron.          | 16. 'A'                       |
| 7. Divl. A.S.C.              | 17. 52nd Division.            |
| 8. A.D.M.S.                  | 18. File.                     |
| 9. A.D.V.S.                  | ✓ 19. War Diary.              |
| 10. L.A.M.Battery.           | 20. G.O.C.                    |

720

SECRET

Diary

Appendix 153

20



The following amendments will be made to Divisional Order No. 99 of August 11th 1917.

Para 1. INTENTION AND INFORMATION.

Sub-para (b). A bomb will be placed on the Railway by the party from the Field Squadron detailed to accompany the 2nd L.H. Brigade. No destruction of railway line or buildings near will be done.

2. TROOPS FOR ENTERPRISE.

2nd L.H. Brigade.  
Small party from the Field Squadron.

3. COVERING TROOPS.

Amend para 3(c) to read as follows;- 18th R.H.A. (less 1 battery) will form part of the covering force and be with Div. H.Qrs.

4. WHEELS.

Amend para 4 to read;- No wheels except 18th R.H.A. and Sandcarts will accompany the force.

5. MOVES.

Amend to read as follows;- Divisional H.Qrs., Signal Squadron, N.Z.M.R. Bde and 18th Bde R.H.A. (less 1 battery) will be formed up ready to march off on the EAST bank of the WADI GHUZZE at the FARA crossing just outside the wire at 1930. D.H.Q., Signal Squadron and 18th Bde R.H.A. (less 1 battery) being just on the SOUTH side and N.Z.M.R. Bde on the NORTH side of the main FARA - BEERSHEBA Road. Order of march will be -

Divisional Headquarters.  
Signal Squadron.  
N.Z.M.R. Bde.  
18th Bde R/H.A. (less 1 battery).

March will begin at 1930. The N.Z.M.R. Bde will find protection on the march and will detail one squadron as escort to the guns. On arrival at GOZ EL BASAL the 18th Brigade R.H.A. (less 1 battery) will halt just WEST of that place, the C.R.A. detailing an officer to report to and remain with Divn. Hdqtrs.

As soon as KARM is reached the N.Z.M.R. Bde will send off the detachments mentioned in para 3 (a).

*[Handwritten signature]*  
Lieut. Colonel,  
General Staff,  
AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVN.

13th August 1917.

Copy to	2nd L.H. Bde.	1st L.H. Bde.
	N.Z.M.R. Bde.	Desert Mtd Corps.
	18th Brigade R/H.A.	60th Division.
	Signal Sqdn.	'A'
	<i>Hd Sqdn</i>	

720

Appendix  
154

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS.

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Report on operation on night 13th, 14th August.

A. & N.Z. Mounted Division and 18th R.H.A. Bde (less 1 battery) formed up on EAST bank of WADI GHUZZE astride the FARA-BEERSHEEA Road at 1940 - Moved off at 2000 and marched direct to KARM - D.H.Q. opened at KARM at 2130. Batteries stopping at GOZ EL BASAL.

N.Z.M.R. Bde by 0040 on 14th was in position holding line TAWEL EL HABARI - 820 - 790 - 730 - 630 EL GIRHEIR - 550 - 510.

The 2nd L.H. Bde left EAST bank of WADI at 1945 and pushed on to 770, from here the 6th and 7th Regts. pushed forward on foot towards IRGEIG but owing to distance and the necessity, (in view of possibility of coming under heavy enemy shell fire) of troops being back on WESTERN side of ridge 730 - 770 - 810 before dawn there was not time for the raiding party to reach the railway line and nothing was done - 7th L.H. Regt. forward patrol got within a few yards of the redoubt on 650 - only one sentry was on the lookout and enemy were evidently unaware of our presence.

The raiding party commenced to withdraw at 0315 and 2nd L.H. Bde reached KARM by 0600 when D.H.Q. closed down and returned to camp.

N.Z.M.R. Bde commenced withdrawing at 0615 and arrived back in bivouac at 0815.

2nd L.H. Bde reported back in bivouac at 0945.

*J. G. [Signature]*  
Lieut. Colonel,  
General Staff,

14th August 1917.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

## DIVISIONAL ORDER No. 100.

- by -

Major-General E.W.C. CHAYTOR, C.B., C.M.G., T.D., A.D.C.,  
Commanding A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.Reference 1/40,000  
1/125,000.

14th August 1917.

1. INFORMATION.

On August 16th the G.O.'s.C., Desert Mounted Corps and 20th Corps will make a reconnaissance of the area SOUTH WEST of BEERSHEBA. The party will go by motor to 940 IBN SAIID, whither horses for the party will be sent. Detailed orders as to movements will be issued later. The ANZAC Mounted Division will cover this reconnaissance. The 6th Mounted Brigade have been placed under the orders of the G.O.C., ANZAC Mounted Division for the reconnaissance and will report to Headquarters, ANZAC Mounted Division during the afternoon of August 15th and will bivouac at a camp site to be selected for them by the ANZAC Mounted Division.

2. MOVES. August 15th.

The 1st L.H. Bde will leave their bivouac area and march to ESANI and bivouac there for the night August 15th/16th.

The horses and grooms of the reconnoitring party will accompany this Brigade.

August 16th.

(a) The 1st L.H. Bde will leave ESANI and make good the line 1040 - 960 - 970 - 840 ABU YAHIA (Exclusive) by 0600 on August 16th. The country to the right flank and rear of the Bde will be carefully watched and patrolled. This Bde will have an officer who knows the country at Point 940 IBN SAIID prepared to point out the country to the reconnoitring party.

(b) The N.Z.M.R. Bde and one Battery R.H.A. will make good the line 840 (inclusive) TAWEL EL HABARI - 820 - 810 - 770 (inclusive) by 0600 on August 16th.

(c) The 2nd L.H. Bde and one battery R.H.A. will make good the line 730 (inclusive) to TWO TREE HILL (Hill 330 on the 1/40,000 GAZA-SHELLAL map) by 0600 on August 16th.

(d) Communication along the line will be from right to left.

(e) Divisional H.Qrs., Signal Squadron, Field Squadron, R.H.A. Bde (less 2 Batteries) and 6th Mounted Bde. will be formed up on the SOUTH side of the main FARA-BEERSHEBA Road, EAST of the wire on the EAST side of the WADI GHUZZE by 0230 on August 16th in the following order from the right facing SOUTH.

D.H.Q.,  
Signal Squadron.  
Field Squadron.  
6th Mounted Brigade.

Guns in rear of the 6th Mounted Bde.

The B.G.C., 6th Mounted Bde will detail an escort of one Squadron for the guns to report to the C.R.A. on arrival at the forming up place. The 6th Mounted Bde will provide local protection on the march. The above column will march to Hill 690 RASHID BEK <sup>inclusive</sup> D.H.Q. will be established by 0600 on August 16th.

The B.G.C., 6th Mounted Bde will send a representative to H.Q. ANZAC Mounted Division to report there by 1500 on August 15th.

(f) No. 12 L.A.M. Battery will leave bivouac as soon as it is light enough to move and report to the B.G.C., N.Z.M.R. Bde and act under his orders for the reconnaissance.

(g) No. 7 Light Car Patrol (less such cars as are required by reconnoitring party) will report to H.Q., ANZAC Mounted Division at RASHID BEK at 0600 on August 16th. The O.C., No. 7. Light Car Patrol will detail one car with officer as a guide to be at GAMLI station at 0815 on

2. MOVES (Contd).

August 16th prepared to guide the party to IEN SAID.

3. COMMUNICATIONS.

Communication will be at first by visual. Cable communication will be laid as soon as possible to each Brigade.

4. ALL CLEAR REPORT.

Brigades must report all clear to Divisional H.Qrs. at RASHID BEK by 0730 on August 16th.

5. SURVEY.

The Survey party will go forward with the 1st L.H.Bde on the evening of August 15th and will work within the area made good by them on the 16th August.

6. WATERING.

The C.R.E., will detail parties to accompany each Bde to assist in watering.

7. ACKNOWLEDGE.

*J.G. Pitt Rivers*  
Lieut. Colonel,  
General Staff,

Issued at 1800.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

- |         |                      |                               |
|---------|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| Copy No | 1. 1st L.H. Brigade. | 11. No.7 Light Car Patrol.    |
|         | 2. 2nd L.H. Brigade. | 12. Desert Mounted Corps.     |
|         | 3. N.Z.M.R. Brigade. | 13. Australian Mtd. Division. |
|         | 4. C.R.A.            | 14. Yeomanry Division.        |
|         | 5. Field Squadron.   | 15. 60th Division.            |
|         | 6. Signal Squadron.  | 16. "A"                       |
|         | 7. Divl. A.S.C.      | 17. File.                     |
|         | 8. A.D.M.S.          | 18. War Diary.                |
|         | 9. A.D.V.S.          | 19. G.O.C.,                   |
|         | 10. L.A.M. Battery.  | 20. 6th Mtd Bde.              |



## APPENDIX. 155

DETAILED OF RECONNOITRING PARTY'S VISIT.

1. On August 15th, the horses of the Reconnoitring Party will arrive at ANZAC Mtd Divn Hdqtrs and will be sent to report to 1st L.H.Bde and will march out with them when they leave for ESANI.
2. On August 16th, horses of the Reconnoitring party will march to 940 IBN SAIID and be there by 1000.
3. All clear reports from Brigades must be received at D.H.Q. by 0730.
4. O.C., 7th Light Car Patrol will be at GAMLI ready to guide the party out to IBN SAIID.
5. All cars must follow Corps Commanders Car.
6. At 0830 the party will leave GAMLI by car and go to IBN SAIID, where the horses will be ready.

820  
SECRET.

Appendix 156

The following Minor Enterprises have been carried out by the A. & N.Z. Mounted Division since the 4th July 1917.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Troops engaged.</u>	<u>Brigade.</u>	<u>Nature of Operation.</u>
4th July	Brigade.	1st L.H.Bde	Reconnaissance - KH IMLEIH.
8th "	Division.	ANZAC Divn.	Reconnaissance by C in C.
9/10 "	Brigade.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Drive for enemy patrols KHASIF.
11/12 "	2 sqdns.	2nd L.H.Bde.	Patrols to W.IMLEIH.
12/13 "	2 sqdns.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Drive - 630 EL GIRHEIR.
14/15 "	1 Regt.	1st L.H.Bde.	ESANI.
14/15 "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	630.
16th "	1 sqdn.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	ESANI AND KHALASSA.
16/17 "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	EL BUGGAR & KHASIF, and reconnaissance to 720 - 810 line.
17th "	1 sqdn.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance to Esani and KHALASSA.
18th "	2 sqdns.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Do. Do.
19th "	2 Regts.	1st L.H.Bde.	Drive - Country N. and S. of W.SABA converging on GOZ LAHLEILAT.
19/20 "	Division.	ANZAC Divn.) Aust. Divn.)	Turks shelled Railhead at GELEIB.
21st "	1 sqdn. 1 sqdn.	1st L.H.Bde) 2nd L.H.Bde)	Covering Survey party RASHID BEK.
22nd "	1 sqdn.	2nd L.H.Bde	Do. Do.
23rd "	Division.	ANZAC Divn.	Reconnaissance of BEERSHEBA.
23/24th "	1 Troop.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance of SANA Redoubt.
24th "	1 Regt.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance Wadis SHERIA & IMLEIH
25th "	1 Regt.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Do. Do.
25/26 "	1 Troop.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance SANA.
27th "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	KHALASSA.
26/27 "	1 Regt.	1st L.H.Bde.	Ambush - EL BUGGAR.
27/28 "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	Do. Do. and drive from ESANI
29th "	Division.	ANZAC Divn	Reconnaissance by C in C.
30th "	1 Regt.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance Wadis SHERIA & IMLEIH
30/31 "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	Reconnaissance IRGEIG.
31/1st Aug.	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	Do. Do.
1st Aug.	500 men. 1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.) N.Z.M.R.Bde.)	Laying cable to KARM. Covering party.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Troops engaged</u>	<u>Brigade.</u>	<u>Nature of operation.</u>
2nd Aug.	500 men 1 Regt.	1st L.H.Bde ) N.Z.M.R.Bde )	Laying Cable to KARM. Covering Party.
3rd "	1 sqdn.	1st L.H.Bde	Reconnaissance ABU EL RIGAL.
3rd "	1 sqdn.	N.Z.M.R.Bde	Cleared Wadi - ERK to 410.
4/5 "	1 sqdn.	1st L.H.Bde	Reconnaissance ABU EL RIGAL.
5/6 "	1 Regt.	1st L.H.Bde.	Reconnaissance Wadis IMLEIH & HANAFISH.
6th "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	Reconnaissance IRGEIG.
7th "	1 Regt.	1st L.H.Bde.	Reconnaissance W. IMLEIH.
7/8 "	1 Regt.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance ESANI & IMALAGA.
7/8 "	1 Troop.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance SANA.
8th "	1 Regt.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance ESANI KHALASSA area.
8th "	1 Regt.	1st L.H.Bde.	Do. W. IMLEIH.
8/9 "	1 Troop.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance SANA.
10th "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	Reconnaissance IRGEIG.
11/12 "	1 Brigade. 1 Sqdn.	N.Z.M.R.Bde. ) 2nd L.H.Bde. )	Supports Camel Bde. Escort to guns.
12/13 "	1 Brigade.	1st L.H.Bde.	Reconnaissance country South and S.E. of BEERSHEBA.
13/14 "	2 Brigades.	2nd L.H.Bde. ) N.Z.M.R.Bde. )	IRGEIG enterprise.
16th "	Division.		Carried out enterprise covering reconnaissance towards BEERSHEBA.
16/17 "	1 Regt.	2nd L.H.Bde.	IRGEIG enterprise.
17/18 "	2 Sqdns.	N.Z.M.R.Bde.	Reconnaissance WADI IMLEIH.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE OPERATIONS IN THE Q A T I A DISTRICT  
AGAINST THE TURKS., JULY 19th. to AUGUST 12th., 1916,  
INCLUDING THE BATTLES OF ROMANI AND BIR-EL-ABD.

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The enemy appeared in strength in the QATIA district on the evening of 19th. July, 1916. From then until the 3rd. August, he was watched and harrassed, and gradually drawn on day and night, by the 1st. and 2nd. Australian Light Horse Brigades (which included the Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment) alternately, assisted by an Ayrshire Battery.

Early on the 3rd. August, the enemy occupied QATIA within striking distance of our position at ROMANI. Having in view that the morrow, the 4th. August, was the last day BAIRAM, and that the Turks would probably attack on that day, the 1st. Australian Light Horse Brigade was left out to hold an outpost line of about three miles to cover all the entrances to the Plateau on the South West flank of the ROMANI position, which was practically unprotected by infantry posts. This outpost line had to be taken up after dark on the evening of the 3rd., and nevertheless, withstood the enemy's main attack from 12 midnight to 4 a.m. on the 4th., when the 1st. Brigade was reinforced by the 2nd., and then the two Brigades, as previously arranged, pivoting on the extreme right of the infantry position, gradually withdrew to a line which had already been decided upon, covering the right flank and rear of the ROMANI position, and also the Railway.

By this time the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade (which included the 5th. Australian Light Horse Regiment,) and the 5th. Mounted Brigade (Yeomanry) were approaching the high sand dunes West of ROMANI, and on the enemy's left flank, the right of the 2nd. Australian Light Horse Brigade joining up with the left of the Yeomanry Brigade near PELUSIUM Railway Station (about 5 miles West of ROMANI).

The 3rd. Australian Light Horse Brigade in the meantime, was advancing towards the enemy's left rear from BIR EL DUEIDAR.

About 11 a.m. the enemy's main attack, arrested by the Royal Horse Artillery of the ANZAC Mounted Division (Territorials from Inverness, Ayrshire, Somersetshire and Leicestershire), and by rifle and machine gun fire, which was contributed to considerably by the Infantry posts on the right of the ROMANI position, appeared to have exhausted itself, but held its ground, and about this time their right flank attack developed on the South East front of the ROMANI position, this was however, easily beaten back by the Infantry posts.

During the whole day the ROMANI Camp was heavily shelled by the enemy with guns of various calibre, including 8" howitzers and heavy guns and howitzers, and no less than seven aeroplanes dropped bombs on the Camp and the fighting troops.

At 5 p.m., supporting Infantry (Manchester Territorials) having got into position South East of PELUSIUM Station, the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade and the 5th. Mounted Brigade (Yeomanry) attacked the enemy's left flank from the West on the high sand dunes three miles West of ROMANI Camp, christened a few days previously MT. ROYSTON, after the Brigadier of the 2nd. Australian Light Horse Brigade. The New Zealanders and Yeomanry supported by the Manchesters made a very gallant attack on MOUNT ROYSTON; this was taken with about three hundred prisoners about 5.30 p.m. What remained, therefore, of the enemy's main attack was held up in extremely difficult country, high soft sand dunes, on two sides by three Brigades of the ANZAC Mounted Division, a Brigade of Yeomanry, with a Brigade of Manchesters supporting, and the counter attack was then launched, the Mounted troops and Infantry driving the enemy back towards QATIA until it was too dark to move. The troops then laid down for the night just where they stood.

Before dawn the advance was continued and over 2000 prisoners were taken, the enemy being driven back gradually on their prepared positions at QATIA and ABU HAMRA. These positions were

attacked by our troops later in the afternoon. ABU HAMRA was occupied by our Infantry, but the enemy managed to hold on to QATIA until night-fall when he withdrew under cover of darkness.

On the 6th., our Infantry occupied QATIA and the Mounted troops pushed on in pursuit, no serious engagement taking place until BIR-EL-AED was reached, where a pitched battle was fought between the ANZAC Mounted Division and the enemy's rear-guard of 6000 Infantry and several batteries of guns of various calibre. The 6000 Infantry in trenches supported by heavy guns proved too strong for the [redacted] rifles then available in the Mounted Division. The attempts to push the enemy back or to get round his flanks were stopped, and the enemy made several counter-attacks on our troops, the last one made about 6.30 in the evening on the centre of our line being of most determined character. It was in these attacks that the enemy suffered most heavily. The Division was withdrawn a short distance for the night, having inflicted severe casualties on the enemy and caused him to burn the bulk of his stores.

The engagement was resumed on the following day, and was continued until the 12th. instant, when the enemy evacuated their position during the night, being pursued to the extreme limit of the oasis area.

The performance of the 1st. and 2nd. L.H. Brigades on the early morning of the 4th. August was extraordinary, considering that both men and horses were worn out with watching and harrassing an advancing army for a fortnight, and the attack of the New Zealanders and Yeomanry on MOUNT ROYSTON was a very brilliant feat. The shooting of the Territorial Horse Artillery was most effective, and the gallantry and endurance of the gunners was quite equal to that of their Australasian comrades.

At BIR EL ABD on the 9th., although 39 horses of the Ayrshire Battery were killed, and though the enemy were within 200 yards of the guns, the gunners, assisted by Light Horsemen, managed to get them away and into a better position.

The coolness under fire of the Divisional and Brigade Signallers was remarkable, and the newly formed Field Squadron worked day and night digging and improving wells and making areas suitable for bivouacs which otherwise would have been impossible.

The work of the Field Ambulances and Regimental Medical Officers and Stretcher Bearers under the most trying conditions of desert warfare is beyond all praise, and the efficiency of the Army Service Corps contributed very greatly to the success of the operations, the long convoys of camels going and coming without the slightest hitch throughout.

The enemy, true to the traditions established by him in GALLIPOLI, fought like a gentleman, and prisoners have stated that any of our wounded that have fallen into his hands and the few prisoners taken are being well treated. A message was left on a notice board at OGHRAATINA, saying that Lieutenant..... of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles, was a prisoner, and was a gentleman, and was dining in their Officers' Mess.

The equipment of the enemy appears to have been perfect in every detail, and many lessons can be learnt therefrom, particularly in Hospital equipment, two complete Field Hospitals having fallen into the hands of the Mounted Division.

The Artillery road built by the enemy, presumably from EL ARISH to within a few miles of the ROMANI position, is a monument in itself to their foresight and engineering ability. It consists of two trenches each about a foot deep by 18 inches wide filled in with brushwood, with sand in the top. In exceptionally soft places, substantial planks were used instead of brushwood.

Congratulatory messages were received from His Majesty the King, from His Highness the Sultan of Egypt, from the Chief of the Imperial General Staff, from the Sirdar of the Egyptian Army, from General Birdwood, and from General Russell (Commanding the New Zealand Division in France).