

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

Light Horse

Item number: 10/14/9

Title: 9th Australian Light Horse
Regiment

September 1915

Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Col W. GRANT
 C/O 9th L. T. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 17. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|----------------------|--|---|
| 2/9/15 | SAZLI - BEIT-DERS | Constructing road up gully from Brigade Head quarters to CARTERBURY SLOPE. | |
| 3/9/15 | CANTERBURY SLOPE | Took over trenches on RHODODENDRON hill from Colonel YOUNG of the AUCKLAND Infantry. Strength 125 of 9 th L. T. Regt and 175 of 5 th Bn. SUFFOLKS total 300 of all ranks. The outer line of defence has a frontage of 420 yards exclusive of a new trench to be dug which will increase the frontage to 530 yards. These trenches face | W.G. |

C.11066.

Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Colonel W. GRANT
 C/6 9th L. H. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 18 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| 3/9/15 | RHODODENDRON | <p>generally towards the S.E. There is also an inner line of defence facing the N.E. This line is to be held if the position at the APEX on the slope of CHONOK BAIR is forced by the Turks. The 6 machine guns of the Brigade are in position on the hill. Lieut RAGLESS + 21 others are holding the position on TABLE TOP as a detached post to the right rear of the RHODODENDRON hill. Water + rations have to be carried up the hill from the valley, also all</p> | <p>Sketch attached.</p> <p>W.G.</p> |

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Colonel W. GRANT
 C/O 9th L.H. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 19 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-----------------|--|---|
| 4/9/15 | RHODODENDRON .. | <p>the stores. Two reliefs of 30 each digging new trench at night on the right of the position.</p> <p>Distributed SOPPOLES amongst the Light Horse so as to teach the former their duties in the trenches & also how to manage things generally. They seem a helpless lot & need a lot of instruction.</p> <p>Headquarters shelled with shrapnel in the afternoon, but no damage done. Higher up the hill one N.Z machine gunner killed and</p> | <p> </p> <p>W.G.</p> |

C.11056.

Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Colonel W. GRANT
 C/O 9th L.H. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 20 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-----------------|--|---|
| 4/9/15 | RHODODENDRON | one N.Z. + two 8 th L.H. Machine gunners wounded. Two men hit with bullets - Total wounded 6. Digging new trench at night time Lieut RAGLESS + 8 men withdrawn from TABLE TOP hill leaving 12 men there including one sergeant. A + N.Z. divisional orders state that I am appointed to command the 9 th Light Horse Regt from the 29 th Aug. | |
| 5/9/15 | " | Digging new trench, + cleaning up the trenches + bivouacs which were left in an insanitary condition by New Zealanders | W.S. |

C.11056.

Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Colonel W. GRANT
 C/O 9th L. B. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 21 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-------------------|---|---|
| 6/9/15 | RHODODENDRON HILL | Collected 50 rifles + bayonets left on hill by New Zealanders. All quiet on the front except shots from snipers + a few straggled shells burst on the top of hill. Our men are using the periscope rifles + have kept down the fire of the enemy's snipers. | |
| 7/9/15 | " 0050 | Mountain Battery gun, carried up on mules, open fire on the APEX. Gun removed after firing 12 rounds. The trench in front of APEX is held by N.Z. Infy Bde under Lieut-Colonel | W.G. |

C.11056.

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut - Col W. GRANT
C/O 9th L. H. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 22 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-------------------|---|---|
| 7/9/15 | RHODODENDRON HILL | Lieut - Colonel BRAITHWAITE. | APEX is point 80. K. 1 on |
| 8/9/15 | .. | 2 nd Lieut G. Macdonald + 18 other ranks of 9 th L. H. Regt returned from hill 60 + were placed in the trenches. One of the SUFFOLKS hit in the thigh whilst gathering firewood. Major-General Sir A. J. GODLEY inspected trenches. | KURUJA DERE map GALLIPOLI 1/20000 |
| 9/9/15 | .. | The following Officers of the 9 th . (Capt FOLLITT. (Med. off.) Lieut CHARTER, TENDER, DEAN, Williams , Phyllis + DARLEY (R.M.)) Total 6 and 97 other ranks marched in this morning. SUFFOLKS | |

C.11056.

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Confidential War diary of Lt. Col. W. Grant
Co 9th L.H. Regt.

| Date: | Place and Time. | 23 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|------------------------------|--|---|
| 9/9/15 | 1030 CANTERBURY SLOPES | Infantry marched out 2 officers 167 of Ranks. Total 169. | |
| 10/9/15 | | One Officer, Lt WILLIAMS and 20 other Ranks marched in at 1030. | |
| | | Sergt A.E. MATTHEWS of D Squadron promoted to the rank of 2 nd Lieut. to date from 8/9/15 (A+N.Z. Divisional Order) | |
| 10/9/15 | .. | Hill shelled with strasnel for 35 minutes from the direction of W hill. About 50 shells fell but no damage done & no one hit. | N.G. |

C.11056.

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Colonel W. GRANT
C/O 9th L. B. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 24 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 11/9/15 | RHODOBENDRON | Recommended 2 nd Lieut, Dean DEAN PENDER + WILLIAMS for promotion to rank of Lieutenant. | |
| 12/9/15 | " | 25 men of the NORFOLK Regt arrived for instruction in trench warfare. a supply of boots arrived + were issued to the men, also an issue of caps. Warm clothing is needed now as the weather is getting cold. | |
| 13/9/15 | " | Light shower of rain in the early morning. No shelter for the troops at present - no iron or timber available. One Machine gunner hit in the | W.G. |

C.11066.

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Col W. GRANT
c/o 9th L. B. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 25 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|---|---|
| 13/9/15 | RHODODEMON | Shoulder by dropping bullet. | |
| 14/9/15 | " | Top trenches shelled with strafuel from direction of ABDEL RAKMAN | |
| 15/9/15 | " | Digging new trench at night from present fire trench to Bluff overlooking the gully. | |
| 15/9/15 | " | Again shelled with strafuel. 1 man died of wound + another badly injured. Both hit in stomach. Two others also wounded. | |
| 16/9/15 | " | 21 strafuel shells burst over top trenches in the afternoon. | W.G. |

C.11066.

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Col W. GRANT
C/O 9th L.T.B. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 26 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 16/9/15 | RHODODENDRON. | Sig. Sergt RICHARDS killed by a bullet from SNIPERS RIDGE whilst standing near the Field ambulance | |
| 17/9/15 | " | 25 Reinforcements arrived from EGYPT for A+B Squadrons. | |
| 18/9/15 | " | NORFOLK detachment left to re-join their unit. | |
| | | The 7 th Infy Bde under Colonel BURSTON now occupies the APEX position on our left, having relieved the New Zealand Bde. Turks opened fire along the whole line at 16.30 + maintained it for 45 minutes | W.S. |

C.11056.

511 G

Confidential War Diary of Lieut - Col W. GRANT
C/6 9th L. H. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 27 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|---|---|
| 18/9/15 | RHODODENDRON | This was replied to by all our guns + also the warships. | |
| 25/9/15 | " 2200 | No 595 Sergeant WILSON, W of "D" Squadron (late 11 th L.H. Regt) went out alone into the ravine in front of FISHERS S.A.P. to watch for a Turk patrol that passes down the bed of the creek. He waited for an hour + heard a patrol approaching along the bed of the creek. Just then he heard a noise on one side + got up from the ground. He saw two Turks, one | W.G. |

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Confidential War Diary of Lieut - Col W. GRANT
 C/O 9th L. H. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 28 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 25/9/15 | RHODODENDRON | <p>of whom fired + shot him in the leg. The Turks rushed at him + he shot one through the body who fell across the rifle of his companion. Sgt WILSON then bayoneted the other one. The patrol in the bed of the creek of about 6 men had approached by this time, so Sgt WILSON threw 2 bombs (percussion) amongst them + four men were seen to fall. He then made his way back towards FISHERS SAP</p> | <p>W.G.</p> |

C.11056.

21/2
6

5/3/15
A

Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Col W. GRANT
C/O 9th L. W. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 29 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|---|---|
| 25/9/15 | RHODODENDRON | <p>& whistled to his companions who were about 150 yards away. Pts BELCHER & TOMPKINS of C^o Sqd^m went out & helped SERGT WILSON back into the trench. I examined these men next morning & they both stated that they heard two rifle shots & then three or four minutes afterwards two bombs explode. They heard men calling out & groaning afterwards. These men brought me WILSON'S rif bayonet which was covered with</p> | |

C.11056.

5/11/15

Confidential War Diary of Lieut-Col W. GRANT
C/O 9th L.T.B. Regt

| Date. | Place and Time. | 30 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|----------------------|---|---|
| 25/9/15 | RHODODENDRON 2200 | blood to the hilt. These men were from a different Squadron to WILSON + were strangers to him so there is no suggestion of any statement of theirs being made to bolster up his report to his Troop officer Lieut BRYANT. From what is known of Sergt WILSON's character I believe his statement to be genuine + have sent on a report to the Brigadier commending his bravery. | NS. |

C.11056.

S. 15 G

Confidential War Diary of Lieut - Col W. GRANT
C/O 9th Light Horse Regt

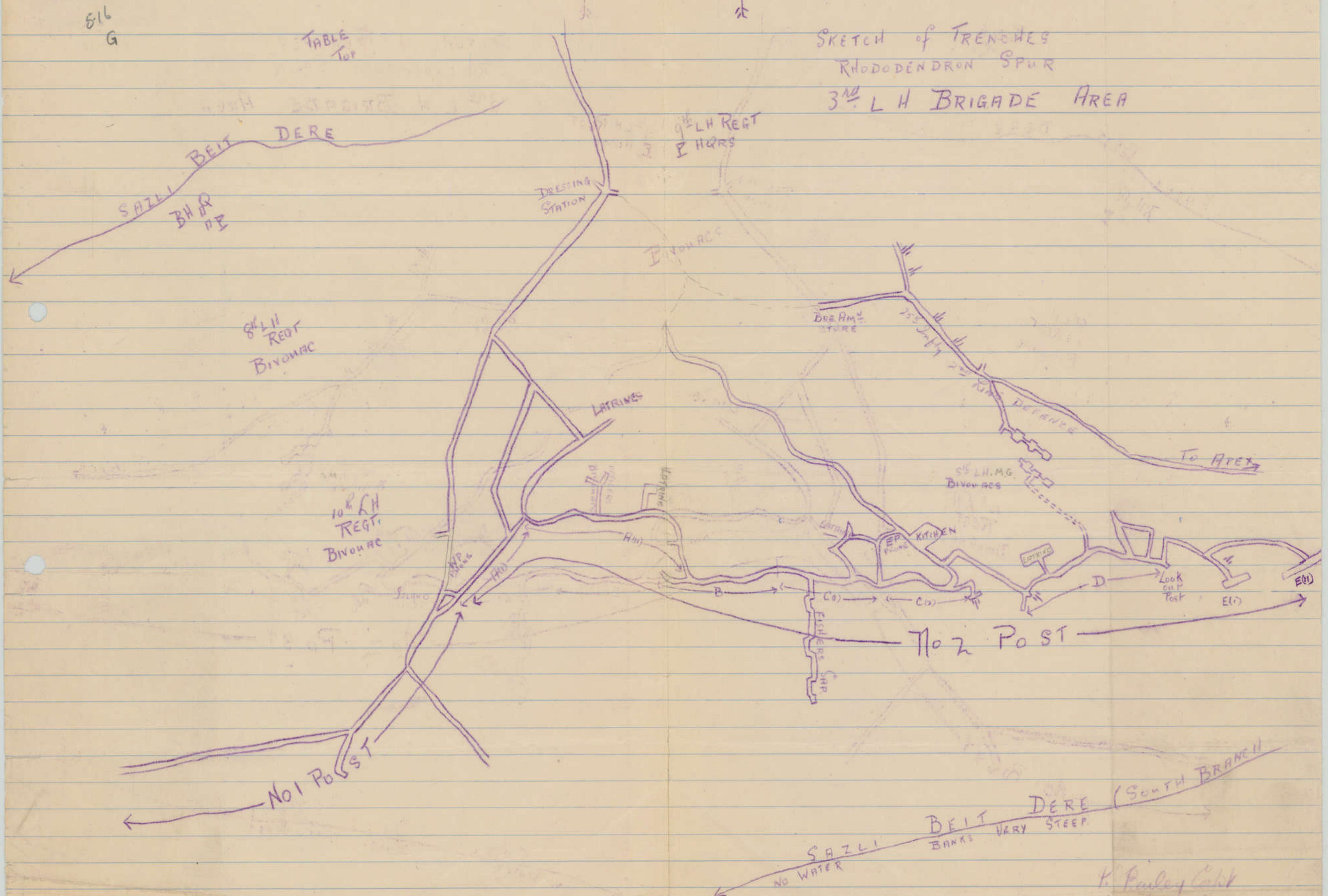
| Date. | Place and Time. | 31 | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 30/9/15 | RHODODENDRON | <p>General BIRDWOOD inspected part of the trenches.</p> <p>The whole hill has been searched with shrapnel fire every day for the past last five days, especially over the bivouacs. One shell wounded five men at Regimental Headquarters. Started to dig terraces for Headquarters & men to camp on.</p> <p>Twenty men sick in lines; besides an average of three men per day evacuated through sickness.</p> | W.G. |

C.11066.

15



SKETCH of TRENCHES
RHODODENDRON SPUR
3RD LH BRIGADE AREA



516 G

TABLE Top

SAZLI BELT DERE
BHQ DE

DRESSING STATION

9TH LH REGT
E HQRS

8TH LH
REGT
BIVOUAC

LATRINES

10TH LH
REGT
BIVOUAC

DRE AM
STORE

5TH LH MG
BIVOUAC

No 2 Post

Look
out
Post

No 1 Post

SAZLI BELT DERE (SOUTH BRANCH)
BANKS VERY STEEP
NO WATER

K. Parley Capt
Adjutant LH Regt

SNIPERS
Nest

BATTLESHIP RIDGE

Scale 40 yds = 1 Inch

17 19
Regt. H'Qrs 9th Regt.

1355

4/9/15.

From ADJUTANT 9th Regt.
To o/c ALL Posts.

RHODODENDRON POSITION.

A report is required from all Posts every two hours. A telephone has been installed at old No 3 post connecting with Regt. H'Qrs but if this is not available a messenger is to be sent in.

Anything relating to the post is to be notified:-

- (A) Casualties (B) Enemies movements.
 - (C) Snipers work (D) Outposts report, etc.
 - (E) Have been fired on, or Have not been
 - (F) " " shelled " " " " " " etc
- and so on.

This information is required at Brigade H'Qrs so the posts will send it so as to reach Regt H'Qrs at the even hours - that is 12, 14, 16, 18, etc. Day & night.

H Bailey, Capt
Adjutant 9th Regt.

P.S.

All officers are to report to o/c at Regt H'Qrs at 1515 today with notebooks. HBA

to be rendered every 4 hours in
Brigade Orders of 4/9/15. Officers advised
personally by o/c
Have been rendered by o/c Post

18 20

Regt. H'Qrs 9th Regt.
1800 4/9/15.

Orders for No 1 Standing PATROL.

You will take up the position previously occupied by the AUCKLAND Infantry Patrol. A Guide will lead you to the position. 24 hours water & rations to be taken.

Patrol to leave at 1930 daily. A party from the 1st Light Horse Regt will be working at night between CAMEL HUMP and DESTROYER HILL. You will fire at snipers on SNIPERS RIDGE if opportunity offers. If anything important is seen, like the movement of troops you will send a message back to the No 2 Post. (Lt. BRYANT). In the case of an attack you will send early information & also fall back on the trenches. You will be relieved at 2000 tomorrow.

P. J. Bailey Capt
Adjutant 9th Regt 3rd LN Bde

Regt. H'Qrs. 9th Regt.

1830

4/9/15.

Orders for No 2 & No 3 PATROLS.

You will patrol the ground previously patrolled by the AUCKLAND Infantry patrols. A guide will lead you to the positions & point out their extent to you. PATROL will leave at 1930 daily, & return at 0400. You will report to your officer on returning. A party from the 1st Light Horse Regt will be working at night between CAMEL HUMP & DESTROYER etc. You will patrol the alley and give timely notice to the working parties of any approach of the Turks. In the case of an attack you will fall back to the trenches.

P. Bailey Capt.
Adjutant 9th LH Regt

Regl. H'Qrs 9th Regt.
1830 - Sept 5th 1915.

orders for No 293 Patrols.

You will patrol the ground previously controlled by the AUCKLAND INFANTRY Patrols. A Guide will lead you to the position & point out their extent to you. Patrol will leave at 1930 daily & return at 0400. You will report to your officer, Lieut Ragless, on returning. A party from the 1st Light Horse Regt has been working each night between CAMEL Hump & DESTROYER HILL. We have not been advised if this party will work tonight so you will use your discretion. Our working parties will be out till dawn. You will patrol the Valley & give timely warning to our working parties of any approach of the Turks. In the case of an attack you will fall back to the Trenches

By Bailey Capt
Adj 9th LH Regt

Regt H'ons 9th Div
Sept 7th 1915.

Orders for No 2 & No 3 Patrol.

You will patrol the ground previously
patrolled by the HUCKLEBUND INFANTRY
patrols. A Guide will lead you
to the position & point out its
extent to you. Patrols will
leave at 1930 & return at 0400.
You will report to your officer in
charge of No 1 Post on returning.
Our supporting parties will
be out till 0400.

You will patrol the valley
with kindly warning to
our parties of any
approach of the Gerns
In the case of an attack
you will fall back on
the trenches.

J. Bailey Capt
Adj 9th Div

9th L. H. Regt Hdqrs

23
27/9/15. 39

PATROLS will be sent out by the 28th BATT^y to patrol the Gully between the APEX and our left at E(2) Section 9 to gain touch with our left. This patrol from the 28th will go out at even hours from 2000 onwards.

A PATROL of 3 men will be furnished by D Squadron to patrol this ground alternately with the 28th BATT^y patrol.

Our patrol will leave the rear of E(1) post at 2100 2300 0100 0300 and 0500. Lieut SHEARER will

superwise the leaving & returning of this patrol and see that the men individually understand their instructions.

They will go to the nearest trenches held by the 28th and report. Then they will report back.

W. Grant Lieut-Col
C/o 9th L. H. Regt