

**AWM4**

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/16/10

**Title:** Signal Troop, New Zealand  
Engineers and Signal Troop, New  
Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade

August 1916



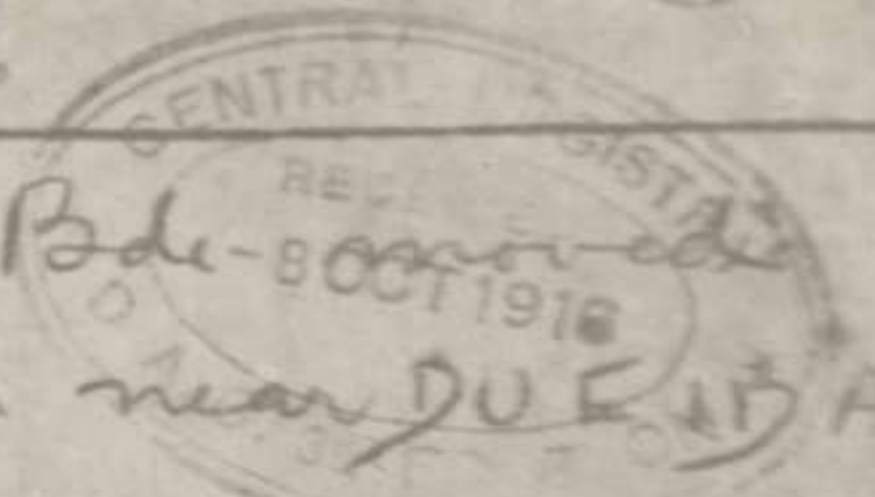
AWM4-35/16/10

War Diary - Signal Troop NZMR Bde

August 1916

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August 4 Information received of attack on ROMANI & ETMALEK. Bde - ~~ordered~~ out towards DUEIDAR at 0730. On coming in to line when near DUEIDAR were advised of Turkish position and bde was diverted to CANTERBURY HILL. 5th LH & Arm R at DUEIDAR were advised & ordered to join up. On arrival in vicinity of CANTERBURY HILL got in touch with it and Anzac Divl Hqs by visual, this com being maintained throughout the action on that day.



5. Proceeded to BIREN NUSS where we met 3rd ALH Bde - NZMR proceeded along telegraph line towards QATIA line had been much damaged by enemy land had some trouble repairing it. Fortunately there was some Turkish cable lying about which was used. Went into action at 1400 with 3rd Bde on night, and 1st & 2nd LH on left. Got com with 1st Bde, but could not raise 3rd LH although I sent DR to point out our position. Their signallers apparently were understrength & could not give us attention. Maintained telephone com to rear.

(2)

6/11 QATIA evacuated we followed up & found DGHARATINA held. Patrols were sent forward to keep touch with enemy. Repaired line from QATIA (now divl hq) to our hq. On tapping line found we were in cone with enemy hqs - they had apparently neglected to cut the line. German & Turkish interpreters manned the telephone and a good deal of interesting information was obtained.

7/11 Same as 6/11

8/11 DGHARATINA evacuated - bde proceeded to DEBABIS - patrols sent out enemy in force at BIREL ABD. Out of touch with 3rd LH Bde eventually had to send all messages by wireless.

9/11 Attached BIREL ABD 3rd LH on south NZMR on front, 1st & 2nd LH north visual cone maintained with all bdes & visual & telephone with divl hqs.

10/11 Nothing of interest

12/11 ABD evacuated. 3rd LH NZMR and 5th MIA Bde advanced to SALMANA finding enemy rearguard there. One regt left at ABD during night remainder of bde returning to DEBABIS. Telephone cone maintained.

Aug 14. Bde moved to HOY AMARA. Regts distributed as follows. HOY AMARA  
 bde hqrs 2 regts & attached units. HOY ELHISHA 1 sqdn HOY BADA 1 sqdn.  
 BIR EL ABD hqrs of regt & one sqdn. Diagram of line attached.  
 Ground lines suffer a great deal from traffic especially camels.  
 camels habitually follow the route of the lines to their destination  
 which would be alright if they did not walk on the line. I  
 have been compelled to pole all lines wherever the camels go.  
 This was done with Turkish airline poles. Recovered a quantity  
 of Turkish cable and used it for duplicating our lines.

- 21 Nothing to report. Reconnaissance ELGALSS & GANADIL were  
 carried out - visual line maintained between GALSS & AMARA  
 direct & GANADIL & AMARA

Robert G  
 Lt Signal Troop  
 NZMVR Bde





(2) 203+

Aug 6: (QATIA evacuated) we followed up & found DGH RATINA held. Patrols were sent forward to keep touch with enemy. (Repaired line from QATIA (now divl hq) to our hq. On tapping line found we were in cone with enemy hqs - they had apparently neglected to cut the line. German & Turkish interpreters manned the telephone and a good deal of interesting information was obtained.

7 Same as lth

8 (DGH RATINA evacuated) bde proceeded to DEBABIS - patrols sent out enemy in force at BIREL ABD. (Out of touch with 3rd LH Bde eventually had to send all messages by wireless.

9 (Attached BIREL ABD) 3rd LH on south NZMR on front, 1st & 2nd LH north (visual cone maintained with all bdes & visual & telephone with divl hqs.

10/11 Nothing of interest

12 (ABD evacuated) 3rd LH NZMR and 5th Mtd Bde advanced to SALMANA finding enemy rearguard there. One regt left at ABD during night remainder of bde returning to DEBABIS (telephone cone maintained)

Aug 14

Bde moved to HOD AMARA. Regts distributed as follows. HOD AMARA  
 bde hqrs 2 regts & attached units. HOD ELHISHA 1 sqdn HOD BADA 1 sqdn.  
 BIR EL ABD hqrs of regt & one sqdn. Diagram of line attached.  
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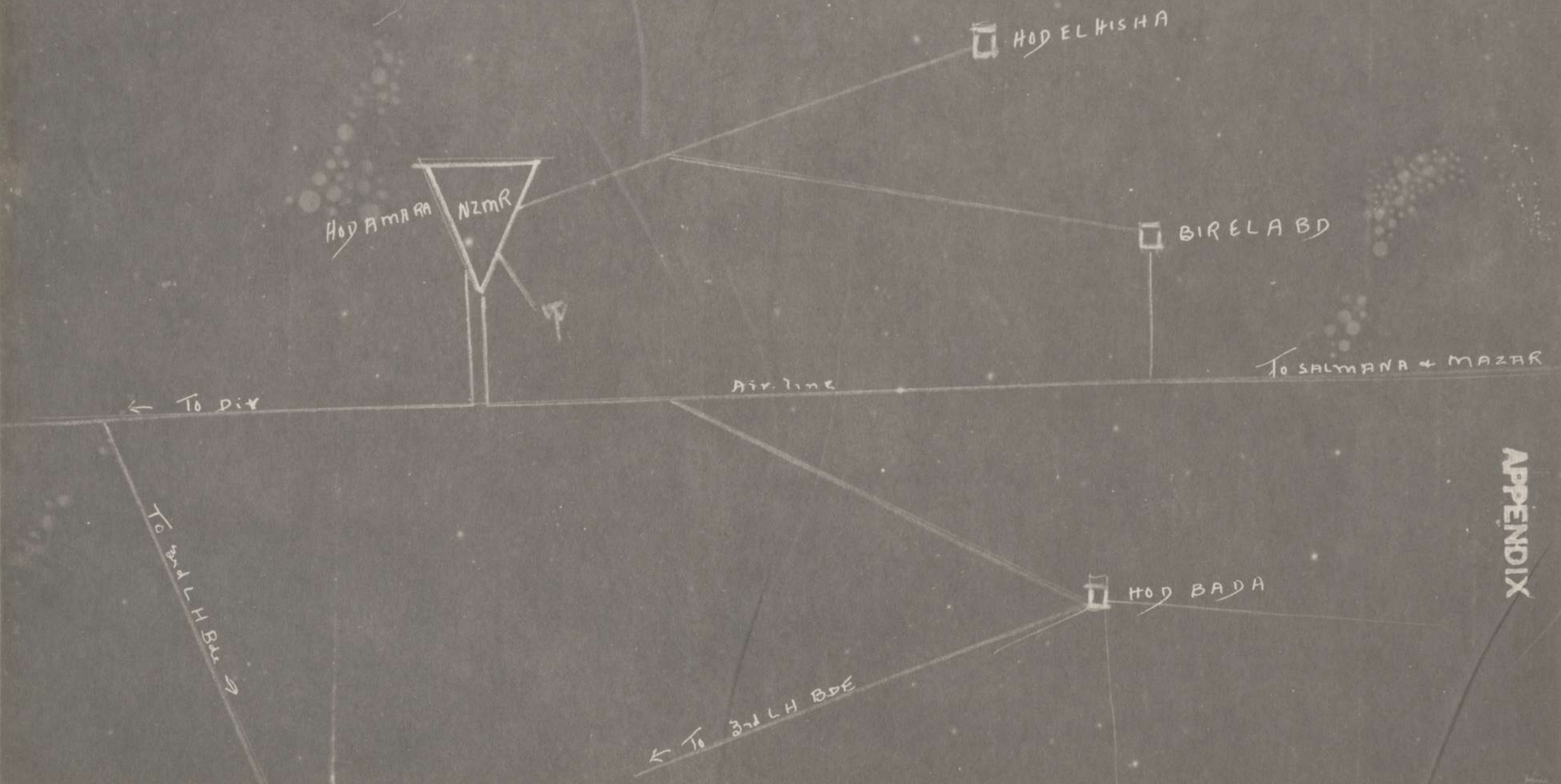
- 31 Nothing to report. (Reconnaissance to ELGALSS & GANADIL were  
 carried out - visual com maintained between GALSS & AMARA  
 direct & GANADIL & AMARA)

Robert H  
 Lt Signal Troop  
 INZM R Bde



SIGNAL COMMUNICATIONS  
NZMR BDE  
HOD AMARA  
AUG - SEPT 1916

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APPENDIX