

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/17/9

Title: Headquarters, Australian and New
Zealand Army Corps Mounted
Divisional Artillery

December 1916



AWM4-13/17/9

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

| Place | Date | Hour | Reference | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------------------|------------------|------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| | | | SINAI 125000 | | |
| | | | BARDAWIL EL ARISH - EL KOSSAIMA Stab. | | |
| | DECEMBER. | | | | |
| TILUL 4 th | 4 th | | | Ayshire Bty. 18 pr section Am. Col. arrived by march route from ABD. | OK |
| MAZAR | 5 th | | | TILUL and joined | OK |
| | | | | Remainder of Div. Artillery. | |
| ABD | 6 th | | | B. Bty HAC arrived by march route from ROMANI under orders of Desert Column | OK |
| JALMANA | 7 th | 1145 | | ABD. | OK |
| MAZAR. | 20 th | | | B. Bty HAC placed under orders of B.G.C. 5 th Md Bde. | |
| | | | | Immers Bty and 3 rd BAC marched to BIRGYMPIE. Somerset and de Lacey Batteries | } RA. Augue Orders No 16.17 attached |
| BIRGYMPIE | | | | to VALLEY wells. Last two were then ordered to march on with NZMR Bde to BIRGYMPIE | |
| | | | | and arrived there about 1800. Ayshire Battery remained at MAZAR | OK |
| | | | | News of Turkish evacuation of ELARISH being confirmed Batteries and DAC | |
| | | | | bivouacked at BIRGYMPIE. | |
| ELARISH. | 21 st | 1600 | | Batteries as above and DAC arrived via BITTIA where they watered. Bivouacked | |
| | | | | immediately north of the Town. | |
| | 22 nd | | | Immers Bty ordered to rendezvous with 1 st Bde 3 rd Bde NZMR Bde - ICC at 28 th | |
| | | | | telegraph pole on line to BIR LAHFAN. Later, information having come in of a fair | |
| | | | | force of Turks at EL MAGDHARBA Somerset Battery and half the DAC added | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|------------------|-------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | <u>DECEMBER</u> | | | |
| | 22 nd | (continued) | Both batteries with 1 st div's weapons found by DAC and Leicester Bty. For remainder of these operations see report attached. | ab |
| EL ARISH. | 24 th | 0400 | Both batteries and DAC returned and bivouacked. Horses had been 36 hours without water but were in good condition. The grazing in WADI EL ARISH was good. | ab |
| " | 26 th | 1000 | G.O.C. desert Column addressed Batteries. | ab |

Atthamber. L...
P... Angae into div

12-6

Cuzco Mtd Div' RA

Copy No 8

Order No 16Reference 1 BARBOSA
125000 EL ANCHA

Dec. 19 1916

1. Moves (a) Inverness, Sonarut & descent to Daltines will march tomorrow under battery arrangements to Kilo 128 on the hills at I in GURFAN-EL-GIMAL (the plan will be notified when battery arrangements are known) Time of start to be notified to HQRA.
- (b) No 3 BAC and 18-pi sections Nos 1 and 4 BACS with 1st line wagons will march under arrangements to be made by CC DAC as above.
- (c) No 2 BAC SAA section is handed over to J.C.C.
- (d) SAA section Nos 1 and 4 BACS stay with them by 20.
- (e) No orders have yet been received for B. Bty, HAC or Argentine Bty, RHA. Their portion of the DAC will, except as detailed in (c) remain at present DAC HQ under Capt SMITH HAC.
2. Ration and forage. Units will march with ———
Unexpended portion of days ration on men and horses.
Mule Ration on first line animals.
Emergency ration to be carried under battery arrangements.
1st line forage as filed.
3. Location HQRA will be at Kilo 128 tomorrow night.

Copy No 1 B HAC
2 Hys
3 Inverness
4 Sonarut
5 Descent
6 DAC
7 DHQ
7 file at 1916.

Atkinson
Cuzco
JCH

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APPENDIX

Angzac Mtd Divⁿ RA
Order No 17

Copy No. 10

Reference \perp BARDAWIL
125000 ELARISH

20 Dec 1916

1. — Angzac RA order No 16 is cancelled.

2. Moves (a) 13th Bty HAC with their BAC complete will place themselves under the orders of 5th Mtd Bde at Kilo 123 this evening before 16.30. 5th Mtd Bde will make all arrangements for unsons ration etc. OC should see that they are underlined by 5th Mtd Bde as the 13th Bty HAC is no longer under Angzac Mtd Div.
- (b) ~~13th Bty HAC~~ will be completed with ~~unsons~~ ~~ration~~ ~~etc~~ battery arrangements to BIRGYMPIE (I in GHURFAN EL GHAL) A guide from Field Squadron RE will meet them at RTO's hut Kilo 128 at 14.00. Regimental Reserve SAA will accompany BAC to GYMPIE Camels for BAC and SAA reserve have been ordered to reach MAZAR from MALHA before 11.00.
- (c) Leicester & Somerset Batteries with 18pr section of their BAC's march under battery arrangements to N.Z. valley with the mts are in the valley remaining from the railway accident near Kilo 120 to GERERAT. They will traverse there with the NZMR Bde.
- (d) SAA section No 2 BAC is handed over to I.C.C.
- (e) SAA sections No's 1 and 4 BAC's will be with their Brigades tonight. Tomorrow No 1 BAC SAA section will march with NZMR Bde. Half No 4 BAC SAA section will accompany NZMR Bde. Further orders will be issued for the other half.
- (f) 1st line wagons will accompany 18pr section of BAC's
- (g) Ayrshire Bty RHA will remain in its present camp and be joined there by the 18pr section of No 2 BAC.

no longer under Angzac Mtd Div
13th Bty HAC
No 3 BAC complete will march under

3. Rations & Forage

- On leaving MAZAR units must be rationed up to Thursday night and should carry: —
- (i) On man and horse Wednesdays ration.
 - (ii) On Nth line camels Thursdays ration for man & horse.
 - (iii) Under battery arrangements Emergency Ration (for man).
 - (iv) 1st line Fautasses feed.
- N.B. The Mobile Ration will not be drawn till tonight.

4. Location

HQRA and HQ DAC will be at Kilo 128 tonight.

12.8

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5. RE stores Details left at Mazar by units must simplify and return all sandbags, less the necessary ones taken on by units, to Angae RE store (Fd. Sq. de RE Mazar. A full return should be made as there can be no further issue ~~except~~ from those returned.

6. Ammunition Officers or NCOs of any parts of the DAC will report to CRA at DHQ by 1700 daily the amount of ammunition (18pr & SAA) issued by them since 1700 the day before. Batteries will report by the same time the amount of 18pr Ammunition expended.

7. Details All details of batteries and stores will be left under OC. Angae Battery. In the event of the latter moving out they will be left in charge of an officer or NCO appointed by him.

Issued at Obou.

- Copy No 1 "B" HAC
- 2 Ayr
- 3 Inverness
- 4 Somerset
- 5 de Carter
- 6 DAC
- 7 DHQ
- 8 5th Mt d B de
- 9 } File
- 10 }

[Signature]
 Capt RA
 CRA Angae Mazar

12.3

on the R.H.A. A.S.N.Z. Intd. Divn.

December 23rd 1916.

- Time Reference $\frac{1}{125,000}$. EL ARISH and KOSSAIMA sheets.
0100. The Inverness-shire Battery with three first line wagons from Divn Ammun. Coln, and Somerset Battery with four first line wagons found by Leicestershire Battery, marching in rear of the leading Bde, left the rendezvous South of EL ARISH.
- One complete section of the Divn Ammun. Coln left Camp and marched to BIR LAHFAN, with an escort found by Leicestershire Battery.
0600. The Column halted, C.R.A. accompanied G.O.C. in his reconnaissance.
- 0830 Operation orders received. These were slightly modified by Gen. Clayton's force pushing on to intercept the enemy, reported by aeroplane to be retiring. The batteries then cooperated.
- 0950 Inverness-shire Bty came into action behind a ridge about three miles due North of EL MAGDABA, against positions of two enemy guns indicated by the dust of discharge, about six hundred yards due East of "white horses".
- 1000 Somerset Bty moved into action in a position further East with a view to being more favourably placed should reported enemy retreat materialise. They opened fire on parties seen moving North of the white horses, they also engaged the guns above mentioned. At this time they were silenced, but all through the action they fired spasmodically, having, as reported by aeroplane, changed their position, confirming our observation.

2.
12.4

APPENDIX

Time

1000

The Inverness Bty was fired on a ridge about half a mile west of the white houses, from which fire appeared to be directed on D.C.C. Meanwhile the Somerset Bty fired on parties south of white houses as asked for by Brig Gen Royston.

1230

Inverness Bty fired on ridges where enemy movement had been noticed, east of white houses. Targets were very indistinct, partly owing to mirage effect as at four o'clock in the afternoon a much clearer idea of the position was possible than there was during the heat of the day. Also the enemy position ^{was} particularly well suited to concealment of ~~these~~ works. It apparently comprised several indefinite parallel ridges. An F.O.O. was sent out, but, owing to the fact that the ground in front of the position was dead flat, ~~he~~ got no better view than that from the original observation station, he was able however from information gathered from officers conducting the attack to give useful help. Owing to the nature of the battle which was essentially a quickly carried out Cavalry attack, it was impossible to have close cooperation between the attacking parties and the Batteries. Valuable assistance was however rendered by the R.F.C., especially by one officer who rode up to the CRA's position and drew a sketch of the enemy position. To emphasize the difficulty of observation he was unable to recognize positions on the ground

12.5

that he had seen clearly from the air.

He ascended quickly and dropped a smoke ball over their main redoubt.

1400.

At this time, as the Somerset Bty were not in a better position to observe, they were brought up on the right of the Drummers-shire Bty, with a view to closer cooperation.

1500.

A team was seen coming up about a half mile east of the white houses the gun came into view, fire was brought to bear and a direct hit obtained.

1520

Both batteries stopped firing.

1700.

Both batteries started back for EL ARISH under escort 1 Squadron. 1st ALH. Regt. and reached there about 2400.

I consider the fact that these batteries, after a long and trying march mostly by night returned with their teams undisturbed and with only one mule slightly galled, reflects the greatest credit on the previous training and consistent trouble taken by all ranks in these batteries.

Casualties. Nil.

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Ammunition expended. | Drummers-shire Bty. | 490 |
| | Somerset Bty. | 108 |
| | Total | <u>606</u> |

J. F. Laycock

Col.

C.R.A. & 13. Inf. Div.

24/12/16.