

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

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/5/24 Part 2

Title: Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

June 1917 [duplicate]



AWM4-35/5/24PART2

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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 |
|------------|----------------------------------|------|---|--|
| EL FUKHARI | 1917 June 12 th | | <p>Regiment pitched in bivouac. of Remounts taken on strength. 2 men & 2 horses detached to D Field Troop.</p> <p>2 Till 1230 the regiment remained in bivouac when it marched to the N.Z. Ordnance at KHAN YUNUS and exchanged Mk III rifles using Mk VI ammunition for High Velocity rifles using Mk VII ammunition. The Regt returned to camp at 1600, having effected the exchange. Lieut G. Wallason left for Imperial School of Instruction, Cairo for officers course Topography, also 2 of Ranks for Hatcher's Gun course and 2 of Ranks Advanced Telephone course.</p> <p>The following promotions and appointments were published in Part II orders. Capt Ad Wilder to be Major, vice Major (Timby Lieut Col) Lt Spagg seconded to date 26/4/17. Capt Lieut G. St Beamish to be captain, vice Capt Ad Wilder promoted to date 26/4/17 to remain seconded. Lieut (Timby Capt) J. G. Grant to be captain vice Lieut Beamish promoted & seconded to date 26/4/17. Lieut Ad Herrick to be Timby captain whilst 2/4 of a squadron to go to Hospital, 1 of R. from Staff, 1 of R.</p> | <p>RAFA 1/125000</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A. H. ...</p> |

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Wellington Abgunter
Rifles Regt

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|-------------------------------|------|---|--|
| EL-FUKHARI | 1917 31 st June | | <p>The Regt moved out at 0730 and marched to KHAN YUNUS where all the men's blankets and clothes were fumigated under arrangements made with the DIV. Sanitary Secty. The Regt returned to camp again at 1145.</p> <p>During the afternoon an inspection of High Velocity rifles was made under Squadron arrangements, which the Regt Armorer Sgt attended in order that defects may be detected. On completion of the inspection it was found that the rifles were in good order.</p> <p>To Hospital 3. of Ranks.</p> <p>Regiment remained in hevanac. Preparations were made to start training classes for bombing and Hotchkiss gun being formed. 96460 rounds of Mk VI ammunition was exchanged for 100,000 rounds Mk VII ammunition.</p> <p>4 of Ranks detached Police duties transferred to ANZAC PROVOST CORPS</p> <p>Class for instruction of 50 of Ranks in bombing carried out from 0800 to 0900, also classes for Hotchkiss guns between 0800 to 0900.</p> <p>MacLachlan of Lt. Adj. Wellington M.O.</p> | <p>RAFA 1/125000</p> <p>AM</p> <p>AM</p> <p>AM</p> |
| | 4 th July | | | |
| | 5 th July | | | |

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Wellington Mta Rifles

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|---------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| EL FUKHARI | 1917 June 5th | | <p>In order to facilitate the Bde moving out at short notice in case of an attack by the enemy, at 1335 the Regiment formed up and moved with the Bde to the rendezvous of the ANZAC Mta Div in case of attack at a point 1 1/2 miles SOUTH EAST of 320. The Bde formed up in columns of Regt masses at this point and then returned to camp.</p> <p>47,930 rounds of Mk VI ammunition was exchanged for 52,000 rounds of Mk VII from the DAC.</p> <p>3 Remnants taken on strengths.</p> <p>3 of Ranks to Hospital</p> | <p>RAFA 1/125000</p> |
| | 6th | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and carried out training in bombing Statchkes Guns and Gas.</p> <p>1 of Ranks to Hospital.</p> <p>1 of Ranks from Hospital</p> | |
| | 7th | | <p>The Regiment carried out training in bombing Statchkes Guns and Gas.</p> <p>1 of Ranks from Anzac Signal Squadron</p> | |

W. Macdonald
Adjutant Wellington Mta Rifles

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Wellington Mounted Rifles Regt.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|---------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| EL FOKHAR | 1917 June 9th | | <p>The regiment prepared to move bivouacs on to the beach by TEL EL MARAKEB. All baggage was stacked on the end of the lines ready to be moved by the transport at 0700. (Besides moving bivouacs the regiment had to fire a course on the range.) The 9th Squadron (Major Wilder MC) commenced firing at 0545 & fired the following course: 5 rounds grouping at 100 yards and 5 rounds application at 300. This Squadron finished at 0930, had breakfast, cleaned lines and moved off independently to new bivouacs watering horses en route at ABASAN EL KEBIR. The 6th Squadron (Major Batchelar) commenced firing at 0930, fired the same course & finished at 1330 & moved independently to new bivouacs. 2nd Squadron (Captain Skene) commenced at 1330 & finished at 1700 & fired the same course, ^{also} moving into new bivouacs independently, arriving there at 1900.</p> <p>The Regiment used the high velocity rifles for the first time with American ammunition. It was found that the ammunition was regular and consistent but at the 300 yards it was necessary to raise the sights from 50 to 150 yards. Report on courses fired: Grouping 100 yards 284 fired, 163 qualified failed 121. None fired a second course. application 300 yards 277 fired average 84.</p> | <p>RAFA 1/125000</p> |

W. B. Skene Lt Col

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Mellington Mounted Rifles Regt.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------------|---------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ELFOKHARA | 1917 June 8th | | 20 Hospital 2 of Ranks. | RAFA 4/125000. |
| TELEL MARAKEB | 9th | | Regiment remained in bivouac. The men took advantage of being near the sea and indulged in bathing. 4 Other Ranks marched in from Akhri Hobna. bairo | |
| | 10 | | Party of 8 men left bivouac at 0700 to report to Lieutenant at 1200 for duty at the DAM. Lieut. W. Williams awarded the Military Cross | |
| | 10 | | Regiment remained in bivouac. Voluntary church services were held at 0730 and 1830. 2 men marched out to hospital. | |
| | 11th | | Regiment remained in bivouac. 2 Squadrons paraded to the M.F. Mounted Field ambulance for Dental Inspection as follows: 2 troops 2 nabagan 0930 2 " " " 1100 2 " " " 1330 2 " " " 1500 | |
| | | | 20 Hospital 2 of Ranks From Hospital 2 of Ranks | |

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*W. Williams 2/Lieut
Mellington Mounted Rifles*

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| TEL EL MARAH | 1917 June 12 th | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac. 2 troops of the Squadron paraded to 1st Mounted Field Ambulance at 0930 for dental inspection, followed by 2 troops from the same Squadron at 1100.</p> <p>During the afternoon the Statchers guns were fixed on a miniature range constructed on the beach to test the Mk VII ammunition and regulate the gas pressure. It was found that the Mk VII ammunition worked most satisfactorily.</p> <p>Lieut G. J. Purce marched out to Hospital from detachment at Bqre Hqs.</p> <p>Major J. M. Whyte D.S.O. marched in.</p> <p>2 of Hospital, 1 of Rank, marched in. 11 of Ranks</p> | RAFA 1/25000 |
| | 13 th | | <p>The Regiment carried out training. At 0600 the 6th Squadron commenced firing on the range, doing thorough gauging practice 5 rounds at 100 Yards. 118 All ranks fired & 118 All ranks qualified. From 0815 to 0945 17 bombers from the 9th Sqdn. were instructed in true throwing.</p> <p>Major J. M. Whyte D.S.O. promoted Lieut Col as from 22/4/17 and took over the command of the Regiment as from 12/6/17.</p> <p>Major G. Dick relinquished the temporary rank of Lieut Col & resumes appointment as 2nd in command of the Regiment as from 12/6/17.</p> <p>Captain J. Scott marched out to the 1st M.B. Training Coy, Morocco to go on the Training cadre.</p> <p>2 of Lieut, A. Simpson, 1 of Rank, marched out to Statchers Gun Class at the School of Instruction.</p> <p>2 of Lieut, P. Cotton and C. MacEntyne promoted Lieutenants date 5/4/17.</p> | |

C. MacEntyne Lieut
Adm Wellington M.B. Rtd

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Wellington Mounted Rifles Regt

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------------|----------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| TEL EL MARAKEB | 1917 June 14th | | <p>The Regiment continued to carry out training. The 9th Squadron proceeded to the range & commenced firing (grouping practice) 5 rounds at 100 yards at 0700. 123 all ranks firing & 123 qualifying. The Stacks guns also grouped (single shots) with the Stacks guns. 19 of Ranks firing, 13 qualifying & 6 not qualifying.</p> <p>17 bombers from 2nd Squadron were instructed in live throwing. From 1315 to 1405 Lt Col Wilson & 3 other Ranks marched in from School of Instruction.</p> | RAFA 1/125,000 |
| | 15th | | <p>From 0930 to 1000 the 17 bombers from 6th Squadron were instructed in live throwing. The afternoon was devoted to cleaning saddles and gear.</p> <p>3 officers transferred to ANZAC PROVOST CORPS. 1 of R marched out to hospital and 1 of R marched in from Training Regt.</p> | |
| | 16th | | <p>at 1025 the Regiment and camp were inspected by the G.O.C. DESERT COLUMN.</p> <p>The Regiment fell in each man in front of and facing his horse. The G.O.C. DESERT COLUMN (Lieut Gen. Bannard) accompanied by G.O.C. ANZITO DIV (Major Gen. Chaytor) & G.O.C. NZMA Bn (Brig Gen. Pollock) rode around the lines and inspected the men, gear and horses. The inspection was completed about 1105.</p> <p>The turnout of the men was very good, and all ranks had made a good effort in cleaning their blankets and leather.</p> <p>The three days emergency rations having been abolished, the horses used for approach are now to be used as rations.</p> <p>Marched out to Hospital 1 of R.</p> | |

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Wellington Mounted Rifles Regiment

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------------|----------------------|------|---|--|
| TEL EL MARAKES | 1917 June 17th | | <p>The 2nd Squadron commenced firing grouping practice 5 rounds 100 yards at 0800.</p> <p>From 0800 to 1200, the 6th & 9th Squadrons bombards practised throwing with live bombs.</p> <p>In view of the Regiment moving to a new bivouac in the vicinity of EL FUKHARI, baggage was moved and dumped on the SOUTH edge of the sand hills and a guard put over it.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W/6</i></p> | <p>RAFA 1/12500.</p> |
| | 18th | | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Hospital, N Rank</i></p> <p>The Regiment ^{W/6} Brigade moved to a new bivouac at KAZAR. At 0600 the Regiment formed up and joined the Bde which marched by a route EAST of ANZAC DIV N/R at ABASAN EL KEBIR. The horses were watered en route at ABASAN EL KEBIR, the regiment reached the new bivouac at KAZAR at 1000 and settled down and erected sunshelters. During the afternoon all baggage was brought across from the dump, on the SOUTH side of the sand hills.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W/6</i></p> | <p>KAZA-SHELLAL 1/40,000</p> |
| KAZAR | 19th | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac. All baggage not removed from the dump the previous day was brought across. At 1130 the 406 NZMR Bde (Brig Lt. MELDRUM CNE DSO) rode round and inspected the lines.</p> <p>Marched out to Hospital, N Rank. Marched in, N Rank. Capt. Grant returned to duty from detachment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W/6</i></p> | <p style="text-align: right;"><i>W/6</i></p> |

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Wellingborough Mounted Rifles Regt

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|----------------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| KAZAR | 1917 July 20 th | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and continued training. One class per Squadron instructed by Staff Sergeant. Two gas helmet inspections held under Squadron arrangements. Keynote fighting of half an hour's duration was captured by the Regiment under Squadron arrangements.</p> <p>At 1400 all officers and other ranks who had not previously gone through gas remembrance parade at Base Headquarters. ^{arrived} Progressed through same.</p> <p>Marched in from Training Regt. 20 of Ranks To Hospital: From Hospital 4</p> | KAZA-SPECIAL 1/100,000 |
| | 21 st | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and continued training. Marched out to Hosp. 1 of Ranks from Training Regt 21 of Ranks</p> | L/b |
| | 22 nd | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and continued training. One troop from 9th B Coy under Lieut Black proceeded to DIV CAMP to relieve troops of 2nd Lt B Co. Tour of duty 14 days. The issue of 2 lbs extra grain for draughts over 16 hands was authorised.</p> <p>Marched in from Attention compound MOASCAR 1 of Ranks</p> | L/b |

W. MacLachlan Lieut
Adjutant

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Wellington M.R. Regt

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|----------------------|------|--|--|
| KAZAR | 1917 June 23rd | | <p>3 classes of 20 of Ranks each for instruction in the handling of carrier pigeons were held as follows.</p> <p>1st Class 2nd Lt. 0930 2nd " 6th " 1030 3rd " 9th " 1130.</p> <p>Strength Marched in 1 of R. Marched out to Hospital 4 of Ranks</p> <p>24th</p> <p>The Regiment carried out musketry on the range, firing rounds application at 300 yards. Owing to the mirage caused by the heat the light was bad and consequently the shooting was of a very low standard.</p> <p>The 2nd Lt. commenced firing at 0500. He fired 106. Average score 8.4.</p> <p>6th Lt. commenced at 0900. He fired 101. Average score 7.7.</p> <p>9th Lt. commenced at 1200. He fired 78. Average score 10.3.</p> <p>The Stickers quois also carried out practice on the range during the afternoon.</p> <p>The Regt used the High Velocity rifles recently issued with M.R. VII ammunition. At the 300 yards it was found necessary to raise the sights from 150 to 200 yards for the majority of the rifles to obtain satisfactory shooting.</p> <p>Marched in 2/21 M.R. 16 of Ranks. To Hospital 5 of Ranks.</p> <p>2/21 M.R. 3 of Ranks marched in from School of Instruction Camp.</p> | <p>KAZA-SHELLAL 1/40000</p> <p>20th</p> <p>at Hospital any 11/11/17 11</p> |

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Williamford M.A. King

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|----------------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| KAZAR | 1917 June 25 th | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and continued training in bayonet fighting. 60 shells were drawn from Bar & proceedings taken to constructing them. These shells are supposed to hold three men and are constructed by matting twisted wire a bit 10 ft by 7 ft by 5 deep although they are unsuitable for wounded men who walk in sections by pass in hospital. The exact number in the shelter, the sections appear to be 20000.</p> <p>To Hospital. Major & 8 Batchelor & 3 of Rank. From Hospital 2 of Rank</p> | <p>GAZA-SHELLAL 1/40000</p> |
| | 26 th | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and continued training and the erection of the shelter.</p> <p>To Hospital 2 of Rank</p> | <p>At</p> |
| | 27 th | | <p>Regiment remained in bivouac. Work continued the erection of sandshelters. From 1000 to 1130 the Regimental Signallers practised in the use of the helio. 6 Remnants taken on strength.</p> <p>To Hospital. 2 other Ranks</p> | <p>At</p> |
| | 28 th | | <p>The Regt was duty regiment and remained in bivouac and continued in the construction of shelters shelters. The Regt Signallers practised with the helio from 1030 to 1200.</p> <p>Marched in from Training base MOASOAR 3 other Ranks.</p> <p>Marched out to Training base MOASOAR 4 of Rank. To Hospital 1 of Rank</p> | <p>At</p> |

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Wellington Mounted Rifles Regt

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|--------------------|------|---|---|
| KAZAR | 1917 June 29 | | <p>The Regiment remained in bivouac and completed the construction of shelters. Half an hour's training, ^{in bayonet fighting} under squadron arrangements was held during the afternoon.</p> <p>Regimental Signallers continued in the practical use of the helio.</p> <p>Marched in from Hospital 20 other Ranks</p> | GAZA-SHELLAL 1/40,000 |
| | 30. | | <p>The Regiment fire application practice 5 rounds at 300 yards on the range. 1st Bn commenced firing at 0500. No fired 101. Average 10.</p> <p>9th Coy commenced firing at 0900. No fired 79. Average 13.</p> <p>2nd Coy commenced firing at 1400. No fired 95. Average 10.</p> <p>The Hotchkiss rifles also fired on the Machine Gun Range at _____ yards.</p> <p>The Regt fired under practically the same conditions as on the 24th and on the whole the shooting showed a decided improvement.</p> <p>Marched out to the school of Instruction barracks. Signalling course.</p> <p>Lowest Staff 20 Ranks. Officers General Class 24 Ranks and</p> <p>Hotchkiss Gun 30 Ranks</p> <p>Marched in from Hospital 20 Ranks</p> <p>Strength 30/6/1917. Officers 23. Other Ranks 479. Horses 537.</p> <p>The month was devoted to training (resting)</p> | <p>SPB</p> <p>SPB</p> <p>Lowest Staff</p> <p>12</p> |