

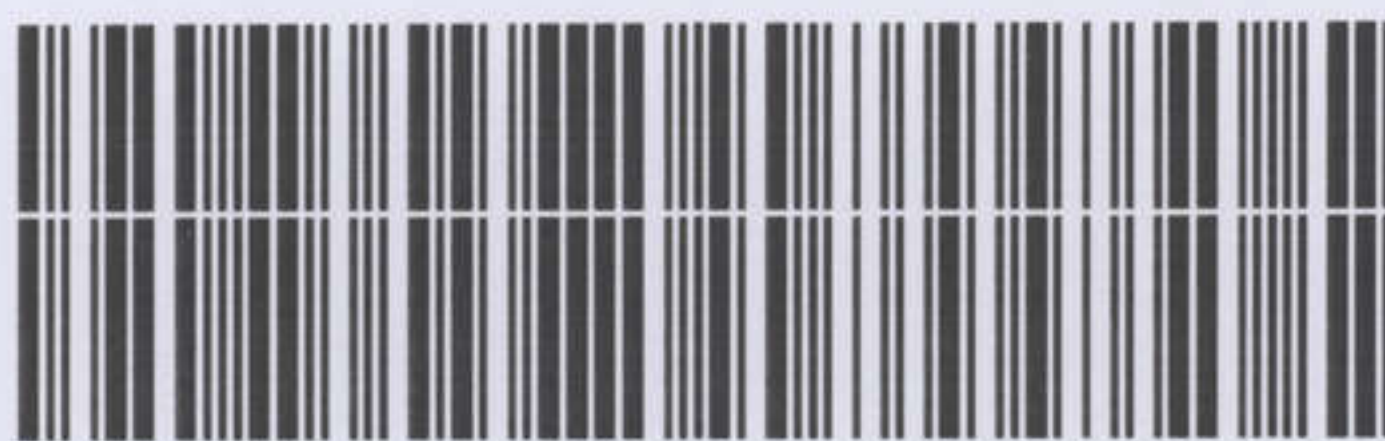
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/1/30

**Title:** Headquarters New Zealand Mounted  
Rifles Brigade

October 1917



AWM4-35/1/30

WAR DIARY

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FUKHARI	1/10/17	The Brigade was in support at FUKHARI. Regimental training continued. All ranks received instruction in Musketry, Hotchkiss Gun, Bombing, Gas Signalling, instruction for Regimental Signallers.	<u>REF. MAP</u> <u>RAFA</u> 1/125000
	2/10/17	Regimental training continued. The Brigade was put through course on the range firing through Gas and Smoke clouds.	
	3/10/17	Regimental training continued.	
	4/10/17	Regimental training continued. Brigade Staff with O.C.'s., and 2nd i/c Units attended a Staff Ride Under Divisional arrangements.	
	5/10/17	Regimental training continued. Orders were received at 1025 that the Brigade would turn out at once for surprise turn out. The Brigade moved from bivouac at 1145 and at 1200 were at position of assembly at EL MELEK.	
	6/10/17	The Brigade carried out a tactical exercise at EL MELEK.	
	7/10/17	Regimental training continued.	
	8/10/17	Regimental training continued. All Officers attended Brigade Staff Ride.	
	9/10/17	Brigade carried out tactical exercise in the vicinity of EL GUBBA.	
	10/10/17	Regimental training continued. Canterbury Mounted Rifles, Well. Mtd Rifles musketry on the range.	
	11/10/17	Regimental training continued.	
	13 /12/10/17	Regimental training continued.	
	14/10/17	Exercise with Aero Contact Patrol was carried out.	
	15/10/17	Regimental training carried out.	

(Signed) S.C. Nicholls, Major.  
Brigade Major.

WAR DIARY

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

Place	Date Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
FUKHARI	16/10/17	The Commander in Chief presented Medals to the following New Zealanders:-Captain R.P.Harper.DCM.Lieut.L.J.Armstrong,DCM.Trooper D.O'Connor.DCM.	REF.MAP RAFA 1/125000
	19 /17/10/17	Regimental Training continued.	
	20/10/17	Regimental training continued.Preliminary orders for concentration of Brigade at ASLUJ issued,Marked "A" attached.	
	21/10/17	Regimental Training continued.	
	22/10/17	The Brigade held a further practice with Contact Aeroplane.	
	23/10/17	Orders for removal of Brigade to ESANI issued."B" Attached.Regtl Training Contd.	
	24/10/17	The Brigade-strength 95 Off-1878 O/Rs-moved from FUKHARI at 1700 arriving at bivouac at ESANI at 0040.	
ESANI	25/10/17	One Sqn A.M.R.made good the line first A of KHABERIA Pt.680 KHOR EL AJRAM without opposition at 0300.1200 Box respirators were received and issued.One Sqn.C.M.R. relieved Sqn from A.M.R.on outpost line at 1700.One Sqn.C.M.R.was detailed as escort to ration convoy from ESANI to KHALASA-Sqn.left bivouac at 1600 returning at 0130.	BEERSHEBA 1/125000
	26/10/17	The W.M.R.was ordered to make line good at Pt 970.first A in Arab by 1500 to cover reconnaissance by G.O.C.,147 Infantry Brigade.Line was made good without opposition. by 1430.The Regt.commenced to withdraw at 1630 arriving in bivouac at 1830.One Sqn. A.M.R.took over the outpost line from C.M.R.,at 1700 reporting all clear.One Sqn.A.M.R. was detailed to escort ration convoy from ESANI to KHALASA,Sqn.left bivouac at 1600 returning at 0130.	

(Signed)S.C.NICHOLLS, MAJOR  
Brigade Major.

WAR DIARY

WELLINGTON MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

PLACE	DATE HOUR.	SUMMARY OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION	REMARKS AND REFERENCES TO APPENDICES.
ESANI	27/10/17	<p>Outpost Sqdn reports bursts Hotchkiss Gun Fire from Yoemanry in the vicinity of KHASIF. At 0630 further report was received that 2 Sqdns.enemy cavalry and 1 Coy.Infantry with transport were withdrawing from Hill 890 towards FARA BEERSHEBA road.At 0830 orders were received that the Brigade would saddle up and be prepared to move at once.At 0920 2. Sqdns.enemy cavalry and 1 Coy.Infantry were reported holding the line ABU YAHIA-EL HATHARI TAWELL ELHABARI.At 1145 Orders were received that the Brigade would stand down.The outpost Sqdn.was relieved by the 1st L.H.Bde.at 1900 arriving in bivouac at 2100.Orders for the attack on BEERSHEBA issued.Marked "C" Attached.Special instruction to Q.C.WMR Marked "D" Attached.</p>	<p><u>Ref 4 Map</u> BEERSHEBA</p>
KHALASA	28/10/17	<p>Brigade received orders at 1400 that the Division would move to KHALASA.The Bde left bivouac at 1700 arriving at KHALASA at 2130.</p>	
	29/10/17	<p>Brigade left bivouac at KHALASA at 1700 arriving at ASLUJ at 2130.</p>	
ASLUJ	30/10/17	<p>The Bde left bivouac at 1700 marching to KHASHIM ZANNA via GOZ EL SHEGEIB to make good TEL EL SABA and attack BEERSHEBA from the EAST.Parade State.95 Off.1763 O/Rs 1727 R.Horses,144 Packs,243 Draughts,27 Mules,35 Camels,36 Hotchkiss Guns,12 M.Guns, (Vickers)The Brigade arrived at junction N and NI roads at 0030 where a halt was made. Information having been received that GOZ EL SHEGEIB was occupied by about 80 enemy cavalry the W.M.R.was sent forward to surround and kill or capture the whole of this post allowing no one to escape.Telephone communication was established with W.M.R., and at 0300 a message was received that GOZ EL SHEGEIB had been occupied but no enemy were found in the vicinity.</p>	
	31/10/17	<p>The Brigade moved forward at 0300 C.M.R.leading.On arrival at GOZ EL SHEGEIB the Bde. moved forward the W.M.R.on left and C.M.R.on right and at 0830 had made good the line Point 1130 KHASHIM ZANNA-Point 1180.At 0910 a further advance was made on the line 1060. TEL EL SABA,A.M.R.and 4 M.Guns on the left and C.M.R.and 4 M.Guns on the right,supported by Somerset Battery.TEL EL SABA was defended by about 8 Machine Guns and 300 rifles which searched all ground to the front and flanks. At 1500 the A.M.R.carried TEL EL SABA by assault capturing unwounded 122 and 10 prisoners,4 M.Guns,a camp cooker,a large number of horses rifles and other war material.At 1500 TEL EL SABA was heavily shelled by an enemy Battery from ridge in the vicinity of Pt.1020 N.W.of SABA.At 1600 Battery from BEERSHEBA also opened fire on TEL EL SABA the shelling continuing until 1715. Two hostile aeroplanes flew over TEL EL SABA at 1730 dropping two bombs.At 1750 orders were received that the Brigade would put TEL EL SABA in a state of defence and would be responsible for holding same in case of a counter attack. CASUALTIES:- 2 Officers and 5 O/Ranks killed. 1 Off.and 25 O/Ranks wounded 6 horses killed and 10 wounded.</p>	<p>S.C.Nicholls Brigade Major N.Z.M.R.Bde.</p>

REFERENCE MAPSRAFA-BEERSHEBA--ABDA-- 1/125 000PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) An order to protect Water and Supply arrangements and to effect a concentration SOUTHWARDS, the Corps will move in accordance with the attached March table. The date of Z day will be notified verbally to all concerned.
- (2) (a) When a march is ordered to take place at night no troops will move before 1700.
- (b) The numbers against ESANI and KHALASA refer to the bivouac areas, which will be shown representatives of all units.

MOVES

- (3) The C.R.A. will detail 1 Battery to move out with the 2nd L.H. Bde. on the night Z-10/Z9. This Battery will be under the orders of the B.O.C. 2nd L.H. Bde. until Division is concentrated at ASLUJ.

SQUADRON AT DISPOSAL OF I.C.C. BRIGADE.

- (4) The B.G.C. 2nd L.H. Bde. will detail one Sqn. to be at the disposal of B.G.C. L.C. Bde. from midnight Z-10/Z9 until the latter are relieved at KHALASA, on Night Z-4/Z3. The Commander of the Sqn. detailed will report personally to the B.G.C. L.C. Bde. at the camp of the Bde. SOUTH of ABU AMR to receive instructions during the day Z-11.

TRANSPORT

- (5) Orders regarding moves of trains and camel convoys will be issued later. If no orders are issued trains will accompany formations.

RELIEFS

- (6) The completion of all reliefs and moves will be reported at once.

PROTECTION

- (7) (a) A LINE OF OBSERVATION BY DAY WILL BE MAINTAINED continuously as follows, being established gradually as troops move SOUTHWARDS. Points about 3 miles S.W. S. & E. of ASLUJ-Pt 1350-Pt 1240-UM EL GERATHI-HILL 1000, 3½ miles EAST of KHALASA-Pt 910-Pt 860 RASHID BEK-Pt 680 GOZ LAKH LEILAT-KH. KHASIF-thence as before.
- (b) THE LINE OF RESISTANCE BY DAY, in case of attack will be decided upon by local Commanders, in consultation with formations on their flank. It is only necessary to defend the bivouac areas, and not the intervening spaces.
- (c) LOCAL PROTECTION BY NIGHT, will be provided all round bivouac with standing patrols on all likely lines of hostile approach, including those leading to the Infantry bivouac at ABU GHALYUN.
- (d) DIVISION OF RESPONSIBILITY. Troops at ASLUJ, EAST of a line GOZ EL
  - (i) GELEIB S.E. of KHALASA-BIR IBN TURKIA, both inclusive.
  - (ii) TROOPS AT KHALASA AND ABU GHALYUN Thence to a line MAALAGA-ABUSHAR both inclusive.
  - (iii) TROOPS AT ESANI Thence to a line at GOZ MABRUK-EL BUGGAR both inclusive.
  - (iv) TROOPS IN FARA-SHELLEL AREA From a line GOZ MABRUK-EL BUGGAR, both inclusive, NORTHWARDS. Under orders from DESERT MOUNTED CORPS protection will be carried out as follows:-
    1. The G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division will be responsible for protection as below:-
      - (a) March of Bde. 60 Divn, from FARA to ESANI by night Z-10/Z9 by establishing posts at Pt. 690-RASHID BEK-Pt 680 GOZ LAKHLELAT-KH EL FAR-GOZ EL BASAL.
      - (b) March of caterpillars and camels convoy from GAMLI to ESANI and back by night Z 9/Z8 and Z8/Z7 by posts WEST of the route B-B2 ESANI.
      - (c) To deny the positions from which he might bring Field Artillery to railway construction parties at IMARA.
      - (d) From Z-6 to dusk on Z-4 establish permanent day observation posts on the line EL BUGGAR-20-630-550.
      - (e) A line of observation on the nights Z-5 Z-4 to include KH KHASIF and Pt 510 in front of Infantry covering railway construction.
    2. The G.O.C. Yeomanry Mounted Division will provide protection mounted detachments NORTH of the line GOZ MABRUK-EL BUGGAR from Z-3 to Z-1 day.

3. The ANZAC Mounted Divn. will extend this line of protection so as to include IBN SAIID-Hill 970 S.W. of ABU-SHAR Hill 840 S.W. of EL HATHIRA and thence to connect with outposts of the 53rd Divn, between EL BUGGAR and crossroads WEST of TAWEL EL HABARI from Z-3 to Z-2 days. On 1700 of Z-3 day the Australian Mounted Divn. will take over that part of the line lying SOUTH of the WADI SABA and the 7th Mounted Bde. that part of the line lying NORTH of the WADI SABA. After Z-2 days the Australian Mtd. Divn. and 7th Mtd Bde. will be relieved of this duty by the 20th Corps.

ORGANISATION OF COMMAND

8. The following arrangements as to organisation of command are ordered by the G.O.C. Desert Corps:-
- (a) Up to 1200 Z-5 Day the G.O.C. Australian Mtd. Divn. will be in tactical command of all troops (including Infantry) SOUTH of the line GHABI works-GOZ MABRUK-EL BUGGAR as well as his own Division NORTH of the line. He will place all troops at ESANI under the orders of the senior Brigadier there.
- (b) (i) At 1200 on Z-day G.O.C. 20th Corps will take over from G.O.C. Desert Mtd Corps tactical command of all troops including Australian Mtd Divn. in the forward area between the lines GHABI works-GOZ MABRUK-EL BUGGAR, and the present boundary between Desert Mtd Corps and 21st Corps. He will also resume command of 20th Corps troops at ESANI.
- (ii) G.O.C. ANZAC Mtd Divn. will take over from G.O.C. Australian Mtd Divn. the tactical command of all troops of Desert Mtd Divn. SOUTH of the line Ghabi works-GOZ MABRUK-EL BUGGAR all inclusive.
- (iii) Yeomanry Mtd Divn. comes under orders G.O.C. 20th Corps.
- (c) (i) AT 1700 Z-5 G.O.C. Yeomanry Mtd Divn. will take over from G.O.C. Australian Mtd Divn. the mounted protective duties NORTH of the above line inclusive.
- (ii) Responsibility for protection at ASLUJ, KHALASA, and ESANI as laid down in para passes to G.O.C. A. & N.Z. Div and Australian Mounted Divisions and 7th Brigade respectively.

ESCORTS FOR SUPPLY TRAINS

- The Brigade bivouaced SOUTH of ESANI will provide suitable Mounted
9. Escorts for the Section of the Divisional Train supplying them up to the night Z-1/Z.

DETACHMENTS

10. THE AUCKLAND MOUNTED RIFLES will supply one troop as escort to the Camel water convoy supplying the Division.
- 1st Light Horse Brigade will supply one troop as escort to "B" ECHELON. This troop will bivouac with "B" Echelon.
- The escort of one Sqdn. to the Corps Commander is being supplied by the Australian Mounted Division.
- Escorts to Cable detachments are being supplied by Australian Mounted Division, Armoured Cars and No 7 Light Car Patrol.

WATER SUPPLY & IMPROVEMENT OF TRACKS II

- (a) The B.G.C. 2nd L.H. Bde. will be responsible in conjunction with the Australian Mtd. Divn. for work at ESANI, and will provide all necessary working parties, picks and shovels as required. The B.G.C., 2nd L.H. Bde. will see that the work is carried on with the utmost vigor. the work will include:-
- (i) Crossings over the WADI AMAALAGA for tractors  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles S.E. of ESANI.
- (ii) Marking and improving tracks:- B-B1-B2 ESANI. GI-D ESANI. Z-ESANI. KHASIF-G2-RASHIDBEK-especially crossing over KHOR EL ASRAM.
- (b) For work at ASLUJ which will include (i) Placing signboards handed to the Brigade by Field Squadron round ASLUJ.
- (ii) Marking tracks as required.
- (c) The First Field Sqd, Australian Engineers, including D. Field Troop with Mechanical Transport, but, less the minimum details required for watering the A & N.Z. Mtd. Divn. in their present area, and for carrying the watering equipment, will report to the G.O.C. I.C. Bde. on the afternoon of Z-11 day.
- Night Z10/Z9 Field Sqdn accompanies I.C. Bde. to ABU GHALYUN.
- Night Z7/Z6 A portion of the Field Sqdn. will move to ASLUJ with the 2nd L.H. Bde. A. & N.Z. Div at ASLUJ.
- Morning Z-Z Whole Field Sqdn will rejoin A. & N.Z. Mtd Div at ASLUJ. Technical instructions will be issued by the Lt-Col R.E. Desert

Mtd Corps direct to R.E.Units. Daily progress reports will be rendered to him by the O.C., Field Sqdn. on detached working parties. During the whole of the operations the reconnaissance and development of water is of the greatest importance, and will be undertaken by all units in any area into which they move.

#### PUMPS & TROUGHS

12. The 20th Corps are supplying the water supplies at ESANI including Pumps and Troughs. Units making use of these must supply their own pumping parties? Water pumps and troughs will be carried by Units in accordance with orders already issued.

#### ROADS AND TRACKS

13. Mounted troops and transport must keep off all motor tracks in the area.

#### PRECAUTIONS AGAINST BOMBING

14. Precautions against bombing attacks must be taken in the concentration areas. Horses must be watered in as small detachments as possible and, no congestion must take place. Ground near the Wadis must be avoided as bivouacs. Each Regiment will detail one troop per Sqdn. and Machine Gun Sqdn., one Section, to engage hostile aircraft.

#### OVERLOADING OF TRANSPORT

15. All Units must see that Transport is not overloaded for the operations.

WATER 16. Means to draw water from deep wells other than that taken by the Field Troop must be taken by Units.

#### BREAKING OF CABLES

17. Any breaking of Cables must be reported at once. It must be carefully impressed on all ranks that anyone noticing a cable broken must report same without delay.

#### RECONNAISSANCE

18. Reconnaissance of the enemys position will be taken in hand by the 2nd L.H.Bde. directly they arrive in the concentration area. Information is urgently required as to the enemy's position of the lines RAS HABLEIN-GOZ EL SHEGEIB. Special Officers will be detailed to reconnoitre by day and night and information as under F.S.R., Sect. 96 should be gathered.

SUPPLIES 19. One and one third days rations and forage will be issued to Units two days previous to each move detailed in the attached Marches Table. No rations will be issued on the day of the move but they will be drawn immediately on arrival at their destination.

HALTS 20. During halts both by day and night all ranks including wheel transport must keep clear of the road.

21. Acknowledge.

(Sgt) S. C. NICHOLLS. MAJOR  
BRIGADE MAJOR.  
N.Z.M.R. BRIGADE.

Copies issued at 1430

Copy No	1	File
	2	A.M.R.
	3	C.M.R.
	4	W.M.R.
	5	M.G. Sqdn.
	6	Mtd Field Ambulance.
	7	Signal Troop
	8	Brigade Transport.
	9	A & N.Z. Division.
	10.	A.D.C., to G.O.C.
	11	War Diary
	12	War Diary.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS

TABLE OF MOVES AND EVENTS

DATE	CORPS HQ.& SIG. SQDN. HQ. LAM BDE. NO 7 L.C.P.	A.&.N.Z. MOUNTED DIVISION	AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION	YEOMANRY MTD. DIV.	7th MTD. BRIGADE	I.C.BDE (less 2 Coys)	INFANTRY	REMARKS
Z-10 Night Z-10/Z9	BENI-SELA - -	ABASAN(1st Bde MAREKEB) (a) (1) 2nd L.H.Bde ABASAN to ESANI No 3	FARA (d) 1 Sqdn FARA to GHALYUN	MAREKEB -	ABASAN -	S of ABU AMR	-	- (g)(m) 1 Bde 60th Div. Work begins at GHALYUN GAMLI to ESANI ESANI to GHALYUN SIKH Pnrs to IMRA R'LWAY IMARA
Night Z-9/Z8	- -	- -	1 Sqdn. GHALYUN to KHALASA No 2	-	-	(b) GHALYUN KHALASA Native Area	-	Work begins at KHALASA
Night Z-7/Z6	- -	(b) 2nd L.H.Bde ESANI to Asluj. (a) N.Z.BDE. ABASAN TO ESANI NO 3 1st L.H.Bde. MARAKEB to ABASAN.	- -	-	-	-	-	Work begins at ASLUJ.
Z-6 Night Z-5/Z4	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	-	-
Night Z-5/Z4	- -	(a) Divn (less 2 Bdes) ABASAN to ESANI NOS 2 & 4	- -	-	-	-	-	1 Bde. 53rd Divn. to IMARA  Corps Cav Regt. to GAMLI
Z-4	- -	- -	- -	-	-	-	-	G.O.C. ANZACS ASSU MES COMMAND OF ALL MOUNTED TPS S. OF GOZ MABRUK AT 1200 Z-5.



Night Z-4/Z3	-	-	(e) 1 Bde (less 1 Sqn) FARA to KHALASA No 2 to relieve I.C.Bde. by 0200 on Z-3	-	-	(h) HISEIA (after 1 Bn GAMLI) relief by Aust to ESANI Bde)	-
Z-3	(b) BENI SELA TO EASNI BY 1500	-	-	-	(g) ABASAN to ESANI No 1 (to relieve out- posts of ANZAC Divn by 1700)	-	-
Night Z-3/Z2	(c) Divn (less 1 Bde) FARA to KHALASA Nos 1 3 & 5 after relief.	(f) Divn (less 1 Bde) ESANI to ASLUJ	-	-	-	1 Bde to RASHID BEK 1 Bde to ESANI to ABU GHALYON, 60th Div (less Concentration 2 Bdes and 1 Bn) to ESANI complete Corps Cav Regt GAMLI to ESANI.	-
Z-2/Z1	-	(k) 1 Regt & 1 Sub Sec- M.Guns KHALASA to ASLUJ.	-	-	-	-	-
Z-1	(b) ESANI to ASLUJ by 1000. Rear Hq remain at ESANI	-	-	(b) Yeo Div. concentrated at SHELLAL	-	-	-

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**NOTES**

(a) Route A of F to GAMLI-B-B1-B2	(b) Route Optional
(b) Route optional to be clear of road junction E and E2 by 1930	(d) Via EL GAMLI-Route B to join I.C.W.Bde at junction of routes B1 and A at 1945
(e) Routes G1-D-E2 and E Head to cross. WADI GHUZZIE not before 1900. To be clear of SHANAG by 2200	(f) Routes B-B1-B2-C & C1-D-E2-E To be clear on both routes of EL GAMLI by 1900 and of GOZ MABRUK by 2130.
(g) Route A Orders	(h) Route C-D-G1
(k) Come under of G.O.C. Anzacs reaching ASLUJ	(l) Not to reach TEL ITWEIL before 2200.
(m) To be clear of TEL ITWEIL by 2200.	(n) To pass WEST and SOUTH of ABU SITTA

A.M.R.  
C.M.R.  
W.M.R.  
M.G. Sqn.  
Signal Troop  
Brigade Transport

Mtd Field Ambulance  
Somerset Battery  
No 2 Mobile Vet Section  
Brigade Headquarters  
File.

"B"

BM/21  
23/10/1917

SUBJECT :-

REFERENCE BRIGADE ORDER NO 34

The Brigade will move from the present bivouac area at 1715 on night Z-7/Z-6

Starting Point--Railway Crossing 400 yards WEST of AERODROME enclosure.

Order of March.:-

ADVANCED GUARD 1 Squadron C.M.R.

MAIN BODY  
Brigade Headquarters  
Signal Troop  
C.M.R. (less 1 Squadron)  
A.M.R. (less 2 troops)  
W.M.R. (less four Squadrons)  
Machine Gun Section.  
Somerset Battery  
Mounted Field Ambulance.  
No 2 Mobile Vet. Section.  
"A" Echlon.

RIGHT FLANK GUARD  
1 Troop A.M.R.  
1 Troop W.M.R.

LEFT FLANK GUARD  
1 Troop A.M.R.  
1 Troop W.M.R.

REAR GUARD 1 Troop W.M.R.

Each Unit will detail four men to march with limbers in "A" Echlon.

C.M.R. will detail one Officer to command "A" Echlon.

"B" Echlon will march in rear of column.

Wellington Mounted Rifles will detail one troop as escort to "B" Echlon.

(Signed) S.C. NICHOLLS, Major  
Brigade Major  
N.Z.M.R., Brigade.

N.Z.M.R. Brigade Order No 35

REFERENCE MAP:---BEERSHEBA 1/125000

27th October 1917

1. INFORMATION

The Army will attack on Z day with the primary object of capturing BEERSHEBA.

- (a) 21st Corps assisted by the Royal Navy will bombard the enemy's trenches at GAZA.
- (b) 20th Corps with I.C. Brigade attached will attack the enemy's trenches between the KHALASA - BEERSHEBA Road and the railway.

POSITION OF DEPLOYMENT From G in W HALGON to L in EL HATHIRA

FIRST OBJECTIVE A line running WEST of Hill 1070 - WEST of U in UM FARRATH to POINT 910 Sq. D. 6.

SECOND OBJECTIVE A line through M in AZAZIMEH first B in BEERSHEBA midway between two points 910 on the railway.

The time of the attack is uncertain but will be as early as possible after 1000.

The 60th Div. is on the right of the 20th Corps. 20th Corps Cavalry Regt. will be operating EAST of the KHALASA-BEERSHEBA road.

- (c) Yeomanry Mtd. Div. will be in G.H.Q., Reserve.
  - (d) Tasks of the Desert Mounted Corps are
    - (i) To attack BEERSHEBA from the EAST so as to envelope the enemy's left rear.
    - (ii) To seize as much of the water supply as possible in order to form a base for future operations NORTHWARDS.
- The Australian Mtd Div. (less 1 Regt), two M. Guns and 1 Section L.A.M. Battery will follow ANZAC Mtd Divn., as far as ISWAIWI road N1, where it will be concentrated by 0930 on Z day. It will send forward reconnaissances in order to be prepared for an advance either WESTWARDS on BEERSHEBA or NORTHWARDS to assist the ANZAC Mounted Division.
- The 7th Mtd Bde. will, by 0630 on Z day, establish observation posts on the line Pt 1210 - 1½ miles SOUTH of RAS GHANNAN-GOZ EL NA'AM. This Bde. will be assembled SOUTH of this line ready to act in accordance with instructions.
- One Section L.A.M. Battery Australian Mtd Divn., and one car No 7 Light Car Patrol, will reach GOZ ITWELL EL SEMIN at 0600 where they will come under the orders of the G.O.C., 7th Mounted Brigade.

2. INSTRUCTIONS

- (a) The ANZAC Mounted Division and attached Troops, will pass the starting point ASLUJ ATATION at 1800 on Z day in order of march as follows:- ADVANCED GUARD

One Regt., 2nd L.H. Brigade,  
Wellington M.R., Regiment.

MAIN BODY

2nd Light H. Brigade (less one Regt.,)  
One Battery R.H.A.  
Divisional Headquarters  
Signal Squadron  
Field Squadron  
Headquarters, R.H.A. Brigade.  
Advanced H.Q. Desert Mtd Corps (less Motors)  
N.Z.M.R. Bde., (less 1 Regt.,)  
1 Regt 2 M. Guns Australian Mtd Divn.,  
18th R.H.A. Bde., (less 1 Battery)  
1st L.H. Brigade.  
B.A.C., 1st Echlon.

Order of march for the N.Z.M.R. Brigade as follows:-

Brigade Headquarters	Forming up place for Brigade
Signal Troop	and time will be notified
Canterbury Mtd., Rifles.	Units on arrival at ASLUJ
Machine Gun Sqn.	
Auckland Mounted Rifles.	
Mounted Field Ambulance.	
"A" Echlon.	

- (ai) The Wellington Mounted Rifles Regt. with the Advanced Guard will march in rear of the Main Guard and on reaching cross roads N-N1 will march up N1 road towards GOZ EL SHEGEIB under special instructions issued to O.C. WMR.
- (aii) The Regt and 2 M.Guns Aust Mtd Divn., which accompanies the ANZAC Mtd Divn., will on reaching road W 1 mile NORTH of ISWAIWIN turn off and take up a position astride of the road about 2 miles NORTH WEST of ISWAIWIN and will be prepared to act either as advanced or left flank guard to the Australian Mtd. Divn., It will also endeavour to get into signal communication with the 7th Mtd. Bde. and locate enemy's left flank about RAS GHANNAN. On leaving N1 road it comes under orders of G.O.C. Australian Mounted Division.
- (aiii) The whole column will halt for 2½ hours at 0030 when Divisional Hqrs should be at cross roads N-N1. The 2nd L.H. Bde. and Battery R.H.A. will move sufficiently far up N road to clear cross roads.
- (b) The advanced guard of the column will be taken over by the N.Z.M.R Bde. during the march from road junction ~~XXXX~~ along N1 road. Enemy posts are reported at BIR EL ARARA and GOZ EL SHEGEIB AND ARE TO BE DEALT WITH by the 2nd L.H. Bde. & Wellington Mtd., Rifles Regt. respectively under special instructions to be issued.
- (bi) The first objective of the Divn. will be the high ground NORTH and overlooking the line BIR EL HAMMAN-BIR SALIM ABU IRGEIG-1020 EAST of BIR HASSAN. The 2nd L.H. Bde., will make good the high ground NORTH of and overlooking Pt. 1130-BIR SALIM ABU IRGEIG-1020 inclusive.
- (Bii) The second objective of the Divn., will be the line BIR EL SAKATY-TEL EL SABA. The advance in strength against this objective will begin at 0900. The 2nd L.H. Bde. will leave small detachments between BIR EL HAMMAN to BIR EL SAKATY to watch for a hostile advance from the WEST and NORTH WEST and will make good from BIR EL SAKATY inclusive to the junction of roads ¼ of a mile SOUTH WEST OF L of TEL EL SAKATY inclusive. This Bde. will hold the ground about BIR EL SAKATY and KH EL JUBBAIN and take up a position with the Bde., concentrated in the vicinity of BIR EL SAKATY ready to deal with any advance from the direction of HABRON or from the NORTH. The N.Z.M.R. Bde., will make good the line from the road junction ¾ of a mile SOUTH WEST of L in TEL EL SAKATY exclusive of TEL EL SABA inclusive.
- (biii) The 3rd objective will be point 1020, 2 miles NORTH WEST of TEL EL SABA-Point 970-MOSQUE. Orders as to the hour of this attack will be issued in order that it may be regulated with the progress of the Infantry. Orders for ~~XXXX~~ strong reconnaissances to be pushed forward towards the 3rd objective will be issued after the 2nd objective has been reached.

### 3. IMPORTANCE OF FINDING AND DEVELOPING WATER

The importance of finding and developing water is again brought to the notice of all Units.

### 4. TRANSPORT.

- (a) "b" Echelon except Ammunition Column will remain at ASLUJ and await orders.
- (b) "b" Echelon Ammn Column will leave ASLUJ at 0500 on Z day and follow the Division.
- (c) Trains will move under the direction of the D.A. and Q.M.G.

### 5. TRAFFIC

- (a) During all halts the troops will clear the road or track if on the road Troops or Transport must keep on the right hand side leaving room for the passage of Motor Cars, Staff, Gallopers and Despatch riders.
- (b) Transport which becomes blocked must clear the road for Fighting Troops.

### 6. MAPS & PAPERS

Care will be taken to ensure that no Officer or man goes forward in possession of maps or papers (except such as are essential to the conduct of operations)

which if captured would give information of value to the enemy.

7. LIGHT CAR PATROL & NO 11E.A.M.BATTERY

The above will follow the Divn .leaving ASLUJ at 0500.

8. SUPPLIES

Each man will start with 2 days rations for the man and one days ration for the horse, in addition to the special emergency ration for the horse, which will be carried in the sandbag.

In "b2 Echlon 2 days ration (emergency) for the man and 1 days emergency ration for the horse.

9. TIME

Watches will be synchronized at 1700 on Z-1 day. Representatives of Units will report at B.H.Q. for this purpose.

10. MEDICAL

Mobile Section of Field Ambulance will march from ASLUJ with their Bdes., All caolet Camels will march together in rear of Australian Division.

A Divisional Collection Station will be formed on tent ~~in~~ subdivisions of Field Ambulances at points to be decided by A?D?M.S. Evacuations will be by sand cart and camels, to the furthest point to which Light Motor Ambulances can be brought to the Australian Receiving Station at ASLUJ. thence to ANZAC receiving station at RASHID BEK by Light Motor Ambulances and thence by Heavy Motor Ambulances to Casualty Clearing Station at IMARA. When BEERSHEBA falls if circumstances permit all casualties will be collected in hospital in BEERSHEBA and evacuated by Motor Ambulances and returning Transport to IMARA.

11. VERY LIGHTS ETC An Ordnance Dump will be established at railhead probably in the neighbourhood of KARM by Z plus 3 day and Units ~~will~~ will be able to replenish their stocks of explosives, Very Lights, etc from that place after that date.

12. REPORTS

On the March to B.H.Q.

13. ACKNOWLEDGE

(Sgd) S.S. NICHOLLS Major  
Brigade Major.  
N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

Issued at 1700

Copy No 1	File	10	G.O.C.
2	A.M.R.	11	War Diary
3	C.M.R.	12	" "
4	W.M.R.	13	Somerset Battery
5	Machine Gun Section	14	Field Troop
6	Mtd Field Ambulance	15	"A" Echlon.
7	Signal Troop		
8	Brigade Transport		
9	A & N.Z. Mtd Division.		

SECRET

BM/83

O.C. WMR.  
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29/10/17

On arrival at cross roads N-N1 you will push forward along N1 road and deal with the post reported at G.EL SHEGEIB (the latest information re same will be reported to you before leaving ASLUJ OR before you leave cross roads). This will be carried out while the Division is halted for 2½ hours at cross roads N-N1.

The post will be rushed with the Bayonet and no one allowed to escape. Firing must be avoided as it is important not to alarm troops further NORTH. As soon as the post has been dealt with information will be sent back along the road to the head of the column, in the meantime the Regiment will collect and await the arrival of the Column leaving out the necessary posts for its protection to the NORTH.

On the arrival of the Column at GOZ EL SHEGEIB you will act as advance Guard to the Column for the march NORTHWARDS.

(Sgd) S.C.NICHOLLS Major  
Brigade Major  
N.Z.M.R. Brigade.

Copies for information of

A.M.R.  
C.M.R.  
W.M.R.  
M.G. Squadrom  
Mtd Field Ambulance.