

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/17/6

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

September 1916



AWM4-13/17/6

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.

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Reference SINAI 125000 KATIA & BARDANIL sheets	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	SEPTEMBER				
HOD EL	1 st 10 th			No incident.	Att
HOD EL AMARA	11 th			Section of SOMERSET Battery relieved by INVERNESS Bty complete.	Att
"	13 th			AYRSHIRE Bty arrived by march route from ROMANI.	Att
	14 th 15 th 19 th			BIR EL MAZAR operations of which separate report is attached.	Att Operations Orders 89, 10 attached
	20 th			AYRSHIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE and SOMERSET Btys at ROMANI. Inverness Bty one section at ROMANI, one at HOD EL AMARA with 3 rd ALH Bde.	
				*Mounted Division Ammunition column Nos 1 and 4 subsections ROMANI, No 2 at HOD EL FATIR with 2 nd ALH Bde. No 3 at HOD EL AMARA with 3 rd ALH Bde.	Att
HOD EL AMARA	24 th			Section INVERNESS Bty relieved by section LEICESTERSHIRE Bty.	
ROMANI	28 th			No 1 subsection *M.D.A.C. (SAA part only) to HILL 70 with 1 st ALH Bde.	
"	29 th			No 2 " " arrived with 2 nd ALH Bde from HOD EL HASSANEIYA on latter being relieved by 5 th Mounted Bde with its own Am ⁿ Column (H.A.C.)	Att

W. W. Walshe
CRA

9-5

Augas Alta Pio

RA order No 9.

15.9.1916.

Tonight

1. Orders for the march have been issued for 3rd ALH Bde. to 1000 yards from the front of BIR SALMANA.
2. Move. Batteries will be ready to move from BIRSHIMANA tomorrow by 17.45. Detail's orders will be issued later.
3. Cover. During tomorrow 16th at SALMANA all trucks and horses will be kept under cover and out of sight from aeroplanes as much as possible. Guns will be also hidden and scattered. But kept sufficiently close to be quickly assembled when necessary.
4. Cooperation. All units of L.H. Bdes. & Cavalry corps have been given red flags to wave and show their positions to the artillery. B.C.'s and lookout men will keep a careful look out for these as soon as it is light on the 17th especially for the detached force on our right.
5. Whe Off's are carrying about 2 miles extra telephone wire per battery.
6. Latrines. At Salmana B.C.'s will ensure that latrines are marked out and only these places used as such.
7. Ammunition. It is notified for information that 600 rounds extra shrapnel will be available at RAIL HEAD.

Alhambra J. J. J.
J. J. J.

Angas Mtd. Rd. RA Order No 10.

1. Information No further reliable information.
2. Force / composition. Add to last para. 3A. 2nd Bde. 3 of 12/4/11. 1 section. HONG KONG SNAKES Mountain unit. Reg.
3. Rendezvous The Rendezvous for the force is E of HOD SAKHANA 3 1/2 miles along the telegraph line from the [2] under BIR SAKHANA.
4. Move The RA will form up in column of Route, Inverness Bty leading, with the head 500' E of their present position, and south of the telegraph line, ready to move at 17.15. The NZMR Bde M.G Sq^{de} will march to the rendezvous immediately in front of the head of Inverness Bty and in rear of RA HQ. Escort 1 Sq^{de} 2nd ALH Bde. Capt CLOWES will guide this column to rendezvous.

Order of March of Main Column

DHQ.
Div Sq^{de} Sq^{de}.
Details Field Sq^{de}.
2nd ALH Bde
NZMR M.G Sq^{de}.
HQ RA.
Inverness Bty
Anglian Bty
Escort 1 Sq^{de} 2nd ALH Bde
3rd ALH Bde.
Amals + medical Personnel 3rd ALH Bde
2nd 3rd ALH Bde panels.

The rendezvous at 15.00.

(b) The main column Bty - section 1st Bty will move parallel to telegraph line and about 300 yards through the sand dunes.

6. The main column will halt at a point near HILL 157. From this point 3rd ALH Bde will move off under special instruction to attack MAZAR from the South at 04.45. Remainder of column will move on at 01.30. will attack BIR EL MAZAR from the West at 04.45.

7. Intercommunication Capt CLOWES will be detached with 3rd ALH Bde for purposes of intercommunication.

8. Reports on march to RAHQ.

W. Hambleton

Copies at 1530

1. Jyr
2. Somerset
3. RAHQ.

APPENDIX

REPORT ON WORK OF R.H.A. BATTERIES WITH ANZAC MOUNTED DIV.
DURING THE RECONNAISSANCE TO HAZAR BETWEEN 14th & 19th SEPT. 1916.

Ref:- SINAI. Map. 1
125000.
KATIA and BAHAWIL shut.

UNITS ENGAGED.

The Batteries employed were the Ayrshire and the Inverness-shire, with their (2nd & 3rd) L.H.Bde. Amtn. Columns and also that of the Leicestershire Battery (1st L.H.Bde.)

PRELIMINARY MOVES.

On Monday 11th September, the Inverness Battery marched out from ROMANI to HOD EL AMARA relieving there one section of the Somerset Battery which came back to ROMANI.

On Wednesday, 13th September, the AYRSHIRE Bty. marched out to AMARA.

On Saturday, 15th September, both batteries and R.A.H.Q. marched with 3rd L.H.Bde. to SALMANA where they arrived at 5. a.m. and remained for the day.

The three Bde. Amtn. Columns (1st, 2nd & 3rd) assembled at BIR EL ABD by 6. a.m. on the 15th Sept.

THE MARCH.

The Batteries marched at 5.15 p.m. for the 1st Rendezvous, 4½ miles E. of SALMANA on the telegraph line reaching there, without incident about 1900. Here the 2nd L.H.Bde. joined the troops from SALMANA, the whole forming the main Column for the advance on HAZAR.

At 2030 the main Column moved off Eastwards over good ground for the first 5 miles, the batteries keeping up easily with the L.H. Later the going became rough sand dunes covered with scrub, and the guns found difficulty in keeping their place in the Column. A steep and narrow defile was passed about 12 miles E. of SALMANA, when hard, level ground was again found, about 12 midnight, after the moon had risen.

DEPLOYMENT.

Near here was the "2nd Rendezvous", whence Gen. ROYSTON'S Column of 3rd L.H.Bde. moved off S. Eastwards to meet a Battalion and 2 Mountain Guns of the Camel Corps and attack HAZAR at 0600 from S. and S.E. in conjunction with them. He had orders to withdraw if he encountered severe resistance, without getting seriously involved.

With this Column was sent an Artillery Officer to endeavour to communicate targets and to facilitate co-operation with the main Column. He carried a helio and got touch with Div. Hd. Qrs. about 0700, but was unable to do more than indicate his own position.

INTERCOMMUNICATION.

All troops of the L.H.Bdes. also carried small red flags to wave, so as to mark progress and to show their positions to the Artillery in rear.

ACTION.

At 0230 the main Column moved on 3 miles to W. end of SARKHET EL MUSTABIG, where it arrived at 0400. Here the road opened out on to a hard flat plain apparently about 1 mile wide N. and S., and 2 miles E. and W.

0400.

ACTION (CONTINUED).

The Guide, a Sergt of Sinai Police, said that MAZAR was close and that this SARKHET would be under M.G. fire from redoubts in daylight.

0450. Two Artillery Officers were sent out to look for likely positions for the guns but little could be done until dawn appeared. However, one position was chosen and the AYRSHIRE battery was brought into action at 0450 (before it was light enough to shoot) in a position whence it could have shelled MAZAR, had it been where it was supposed to be. But when it became light the range was found to be too great.

0500. At 0500 the Guide pointed out to me from the hill where D.H.Q. was being established what he said was the tomb at MAZAR. This was in a E. S. E. direction and at a distance of about 4 miles. In the dim light I thought I made out a camp near the tomb and therefore took the INVERNESS Battery about 1½ miles S.E. to a place which looked like a position from which the camp could be shelled.

0530. I recalled the AYRSHIRE Battery to a position of readiness near D.H.Q. and set out myself to reconnoitre the new position for the INVERNESS Bty.

At 0530 the INVERNESS Bty was in action facing the supposed position of MAZAR, but there was absolutely no target then visible, although the light had improved. There was also no sound of firing from that direction and only one or two desultory rifle shots from the East.

After some consideration, it appeared to me to be certain that the Guide had been wrong and that the position of MAZAR was really considerably further to the North East.

0615. I therefore galloped back to D.H.Q., ordering the Battery to follow. I found that D.H.Q. had moved and left no word to say where they had gone to, but their telephone wire guided me and both batteries to their new position which was reached about 0615.

A message had just come in from 5th L.H. describing "a good Artillery target", so two S.Os were despatched to reconnoitre positions near the Caravan track to N.E.

It was now quite evident that the position of MAZAR was as shown on the map and that the A.A. guns, which had now begun to fire, were near a conspicuous hospital which could be seen to the N.E.

I therefore took the two batteries straight off in that direction and brought them into action ½ mile S. of the Caravan track against series of trenches facing N.W. and S.W., and full of Turks, near the Tomb ABU GILBAN.

0730. The AYRSHIRE Bty. opened fire about 0730 at 3250 yards range, and the INVERNESS about 0725 at 4000 yds. range.

Rifle fire was coming from the trenches apparently against Gen. Royston's Column to their S., and some of the trenches were taken partly in enfilade by the shells which certainly were effective in subduing the rifle fire.

Whenever pauses took place in the shelling, movement was visible in the trenches and rifle fire broke out again, but it was invariably stopped by bursts of shrapnel.

APPENDIX

ACTION. (CONTINUED)

We could however, see no signs of Gen. Royston's men and so it was difficult to co-operate with success. The light was such that the red flags could not be seen anywhere till about 0700, and never with the detached Column. The early morning sun shone directly over the enemy's position into our eyes and it was impossible to make out anything at any distance to the East before 0700.

A.A.GUN TARGET.
0800

Lt. Col. Wilson of 5th L.H. pointed out by their flashes the positions of ~~the~~ two A.A. guns on to which the AYRSHIRE Bty turned fire about 0800 at the short range of 2800 yards, but no information could be obtained as to the result of this fire. The A.A.Guns at first returned the fire of the battery but only two of their shells came anywhere near it and they did no damage.

After firing about 30 rounds at these guns, and when the A.A. guns had ceased firing, the AYRSHIRES again fired on the trenches near the Tomb, in co-operation with the INVERNESS Bty.

WITHDRAWAL.
1200.

About 12 noon orders were received from Gen. Chauvel to withdraw the guns, which was done by alternate batteries, the 5th L.H. Regt. covering their retirement from the left.

The retirement took place without trouble and undisturbed by any hostile fire and at 1230 the return march to SALMANA started from the MUSTABIG Lake with the rest of the Division.

RETURN MARCH.

About 1500 a halt was made to water at a point 9 miles E. of SALMANA. There was however great difficulty in getting water at all there, and though the horses and men of the AYRSHIRE Bty. and the INVERNESS men got some, it was found impossible to water the horses of the latter battery.

Both Batteries reached SALMANA about 1945 on 17th September and HOD AMARA on 18th by 1800.

The INVERNESS Bty horses were without water from 1700 on 16th to 2030 on 17th, during which time both batteries did not less than 40 miles. So the horses were rather exhausted, but they have already improved and considering everything did their work extraordinarily well and with very few casualties.

The Ayrshire Battery lost 1 horse died and 1 missing, and expended 111 shrapnel shells.

The Inverness Battery lost 4 horses died and 2 missing, and expended 156 shrapnel shells.

The three Bde. Amtn. Cols. moved with the 1st L.H. Bde. and the water convoy to a point 9 miles East of SALMANA on the night of 16th and remained there until the return of the Column on the afternoon of 17th.

Romani
20.9.16

W. W. Walsh C.R.A.

C.R.A. A & NZ Mounted Div.