



WAR DIARY

1st BATTALION

BRITISH WEST INDIES REGIMENT

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To

The West India Committee.

Sir, the Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers & Men of the 1st British West Indies Regiment, ~
desire to place on record our deep appreciation of the good
work done by the Committee on behalf of all ranks
of the Regiment whilst on Active Service overseas ~
and to tender our best thanks to individual members
of the Committee for the kindly interest and ~
sympathy shown to us during this period, and we
ask you to accept the War Diary of the Regiment
as a token of our gratitude.

Charles Hill

L^T COLONEL.

OFFICER COMMAND^{ING} 1ST BRITISH WEST INDIES REG^T

For and on behalf of the Officers, ~
Warrant Officers, Non Commissioned
Officers and Men of the 1st British
West Indies Regiment.

Egypt. Sinai. Palestine. Syria.



WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Royal Warrant

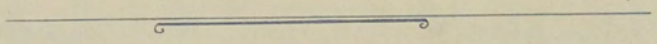
The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

1880

The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

Volume I.

1915.



The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

The Duke of Devonshire Regiment

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Royal Warrant

The British West Indies Regiment

War Office

6th Decr 1915.

George. R. I.

Whereas We have approved of the formation of a Corps from contingents of the inhabitants of the West Indian Islands to be entitled "The British West Indies Regiment"

Our Will and Our Pleasure is that The British West Indies Regiment shall be deemed to be a Corps for the purpose of the Army Act.

Given at Our Court at St. James, this 3rd day of November, 1915 in the sixth year of Our Reign

By His Majesty's Command.

(Signed) Kitchener.

Authority for the formation of the Regiment
Extract from London Gazette. War Office dated
26th October 1915.

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to approve of the formation of a Corps from contingents of the Inhabitants of the West India Islands to be entitled the British West Indies Regiment

— 121 —

Overseas

— 1047 —

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Volume 1 8
8.9.10

Lieut Craig and 120 men embarked at Georgetown.
British Guiana on S.S. Palankia on August 21st 1915
and disembarked on 5th September 1915 at Plymouth
and proceeded to No 4 Camp, Seaford on same date.

Seaford. Eng.
Aug 21st 1915

Major A. Mc Culloch, Capt. A. E. Harragin
E. B. Connell, H. J. Cavenagh, 2^d Lt U. H. Gooden-
christholm, A. S. Lawson, L. R. Wheeler, R. P. Johnston
J. F. Thomson, E. V. Bynoe, E. R. Lickfold, and Surg
Capt Clarke embarked at Trinidad on S.S. Verdala
on 18th September 1915 together with 481 rank & file.

Sept: 5th

Lt. J. H. Irving and 2^d Lt P. E. F. Crossall & 150
other ranks embarked at Georgetown, Dem. Sunday
19th Sept. 1915. Transhipped Trinidad on 21/9/15 to
S.S. Magdalena.

" 18th

" 19th

Major F. J. L. Golding Lt D. J. Kerr & Surgt W. S.
Mitchell embarked on S.S. Verdala at Grenada on
19. 9. 15 together with 201 other ranks.

" "

Capt. W. H. S. Thorne Lt. S. Challener & 2^d Lt
E. K. Walcott and 110 rank and file embarked
S.S. Verdala at Barbados on 20th September 1915.

" 20th

Colonel. A. E. Barchard assumed command
of the Batt^y on this date. Authority W. O Letter
86932. 11 (ms. U) R/P 29. 9. 15.

Oct 1st

Lt. A. P. J. Hilbert, Princess Charlotte of Wales
(Royal Berkshire Regt) joined for duty on this
date pending appointment as Adjt. (Appnt^d Adjt
on 1/10/15) Extract from London Gazette 3/11/15

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WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Seaford. Eng.
Oct 1st

Lt + 2nd Lieut Mr Gillfillan from the 14th Bⁿ L^{ieut} was appointed 2nd Lieut to the Bⁿ on this date.

Authority W. O. D. m. L. 2 (306)

Oct 4th

Drafts that embarked on 18th 19th & 20th Sept^r disembarked from S. S. Verdala on this date & proceeded to Seaford the same day.

5th

The Bⁿ was organized as follows:-

- "A" British Guiana contingents
- "B" Trinidad contingents.
- "C" Trinidad & St Vincent contingents.
- "D" Grenada & Barbados contingents.

6th

Drafts that embarked on 19. 9. 15 disembarked from S. S. Magdalena on this date at Plymouth and proceeded to Seaford the same date.

15th

The Regiment was inspected by Brig. Genl F. R. G. Carleton, Director of Organization on this date

19th

Following extract from London Gazette of this date is published. "British West Indies Regt. Col. A. E. Barchard, from half pay list to Command a Battalion. 1st Oct: 1915.

20th

Ten men were returned to the West Indies on this date as medically unfit & undesirable.

20th

Pte Pessano died at Surrey Home Seaford on this date from pneumonia.

21st

Major General E. F. Dickeson Inspector General of Infantry inspected the Regiment on this date.

22nd

Messrs Cox & Co was appointed Reg^t Agents

Authority W. O. Letter 48/gn. No/3564 (AccsLB)
 30 Other Ranks embarked at Georgetown, B.S.
 on 16th October 1915 on S.S. Balantia tranship-
 ped at Port of Spain Trinidad on 18th Oct 1915
 to R. M.S. Danube. Landed at Plymouth
 30th Oct^r 1915 & joined the Regiment at Seaford
 2/11/15.

29 Other Ranks embarked at Bridgetown (on S.S.
 Danube) Barbados on 19/10/15. Landed at Plymouth
 on 30/10/15 & joined the Battⁿ on 2/11/15. These drafts
 formed one platoon of "E" Res. Coy on arrival.

40 Rank and file under command of Major E. H.
 Golding and Capt H. J. Cavenagh proceeded to London
 on this date to represent the Bⁿ at the Lord Mayor's Show
 No 343. Pte. W. Phillips died suddenly on this date
 from Pneumonia.

2nd Lt A. J. K. Fergusson & 100 Other Ranks embarked
 at St Lucia on R. M.S. Berbice on 2nd Oct 1915.

2nd Lt. Ashppard and 32 men embarked at St
 Kitts on R. M. S. Berbice on 1st Oct^r 1915.

Capt J. Tough and 34 Other Ranks embarked at
 Antigua on 1st Oct^r on R. M.S. Berbice.

8 men embarked at Montserrat on Oct 1st.

32 men from Dominica embarked Oct 1st.

These Drafts disembarked at Plymouth on Nov: 7 &
 joined at Seaford the same day. They formed "E" Res
 Coy together with previous drafts already referred to.
 Capt. S. V. G. Gane from 15th Bⁿ Rifle Bde joined

Seaford. Eng.

Nov: 2nd 1915

9th

15th

Seaford. Eng.
1915. Nov^r 15th

the B^d for duty this day and took over command of "C" company.

19th

Capt G. W. R. Jenkins from 8th (S) Bⁿ R. D. Fusiliers joined the B^d for duty from this date.

Pte No. 1. Romney of "E" Res Coy died at Surrey Home Seaford from pneumonia on this date.

21st

No 572 of Corp. Brown was killed accidentally by a cycle accident on this date.

19th

Genl. Sir L. Keendle G. in C. Central Force inspected the Regiment on this date. The following report was made by him & published in Bde + B^d Orders: -

B. W. I. Regt.

The G. O. C of C. F. + C. G. greatly appreciates the smart & soldierlike appearance of the men of the Regt. and noticed when spoken to, gave evidence of having been well trained in the preliminary work.

23rd

Temp. Capt G. W. R. Jenkins from the R. D. Fus. to be Temp Capt D/O 12th Nov^r but with seniority from 12th December 1914 London Gazette Nov^r 23rd 1915.

25th

Lt. C. H. Furness with 128 other ranks embarked at Belize, B. Honduras on 14/11/15 on H. M. S. Verdala, touched at Kingston, Jamaica, on the 7th & sailed the following day with the following Officers (Local Rank) majors. W. D. Neish and F. L. Roper Capts. L. Stuart Campbell & E. S. Orrett. Lieut. A. J. K. Ferguson, W. R. C. Kerr, A. C. Ripley, J. S. Cox, C. F. Morgan, C. J. Farquharson, W. L. Thomas, J. E. Brown, R. C. Rutley.

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11 - 12.

Surg Capt A. G. Murphy and 725 Rank & files, from the colony of Jamaica and 29 men from the Bahamas, they disembarked at Plymouth on 25th Nov: 1915 & joined the Regiment at Seaford same day.

Lt. A. P. J. Herbert. P. C. of W (Royal Berkshire Regt) attached to be Capt R/O 27/9/15. London Gazette 2nd Dec: 1915: - B. W. Indies Regt. Temp. Capt V. G. F. Gane from the Rifle Bde (The Prince Consorts Own) to be Temp Capt R/O 12/11/15 with seniority from 28/10/15. London Gazette 25/11/15.

Seaford. Eng.
Nov: 25th.

Capt H. C. V. Porter from 2nd Bn. West India Regt joined the Bn for duty this day.

A draft of 10 men from St Lucia & 5 men from St. Vincent embarked on R. M. S. Barima on the 13th Nov: 1915. These were joined on the 14th Nov: by 51 men from Grenada & disembarked at Port of Spain, Trinidad on 15th Nov: 1915. A further draft of 30 men from British Guiana embarked on 13th Nov: 1915 on R. M. S. Balantia & transhipped to R. M. S. Magdalena on Nov: 17th 1915. Capt E. W. Kerr & Lt. W. H. Bell (local rank) with 100 other ranks from Trinidad, 10 men from St Lucia, 5 from St. Vincent and 51 from Grenada (above referred to) embarked at Port of Spain, Trinidad on R. M. S. Magdalena

Dec: 1. st.

7th.

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12.

Seaford. Eng.

1915. Dec: 7th

4th

8th

on 17/11/15, sailed same day, touched at Barbados.
on 18/11/15 sailed 19th with Lt. E. K. C. Weatherhead
and 54 other ranks from Barbados, who embarked
from Bridgetown on the 18th arriving at Plymouth
3rd Dec: 1915 and joined the Regt at Seaford on Dec: 4th.

From Secretary of State for the colonies.

Downing Street. 8/12/15.

" Dear Col. Barchard,

On the eve of the departure of
" the British West Indies Regt to serve abroad, I
" desire as Secretary of State for the colonies, to
" express to you and through you to the Officers,
" N.C.O.s and Men of your Regiment my
" warmest good wishes for your and their welfare
" and success in the tasks that lie before them.
" I only regret that circumstances prevent me
" personally delivering the message to them.

The British West Indies Regt.
" represents all the West Indian colonies each
" of which has furnished its contingents. These
" colonies have had an important place in
" the struggle of the past. I feel confident that
" all ranks of the Regiment will remember
" that they come from a part of the Empire
" which has witnessed many signal triumphs
" of British Arms, and I am sure that when
" ever they are called upon, they will show
" themselves worthy of the great traditions of

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12.

Seaford. Eng.

Dec: 8th 1915

" the Uniform they wear.

" Please assure them that I shall not fail
" to follow their doings with the greatest sympathy
" and interest in whatever sphere of the present
" struggle they may be called upon to play their
" part.

" I must leave it to you to choose the time
" and method of giving this message to the Regt
" I hope you will be able to insure its reaching
" all ranks shortly before they sail.

" I wish you all God-speed and a
" happy return to your homes when the war
" is over

Believe me, yours sincerely,
(Egd) A Bonar Law.

From Colonel A.E. Barchard.

Commanding the British West Indies Regt.
North Camp, Seaford.

14th December 1915.

" Dear Mr. Bonar Law,

" On behalf of myself,
" Officers, N.C.Os & men of the B. W. Indies Regt
" I desire to thank you for your letter of the
" 8th inst and for the good wishes for our
" welfare and success conveyed therein. Your
" message will, I know, be very highly
" appreciated, and will be an incentive for
" all ranks to do their best to uphold the

14th.

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12.

Seaford. Eng

Dec: 14th

"traditions of the British Army to which they are
"so proud to belong.

"It is our great regret that circumstances
"have prevented you from coming to see us before
"our departure. I think you may rest assured
"that the men of the British West Indies Regt
"are prepared to play their part in whatever
"sphere they may be called upon to do so. From
"what I have seen of these men I can honestly
"say that they display a patriotism and loyalty
"to their King and country equal to that shown
"by any subject of the British Empire.

"I intend to read your message to the
"men on parade prior to departure and to
"have a printed copy distributed to every Officer
"N. C. O and man.

Believe me yours sincerely,

(Sgd) A. E. Barchard.

Colonel.

Comm^dg 1st Bn.

British West Indies Regt.

" 15th.

Lt + 2nd Lt H. C. Crowder from No 8 (T.F)

Artillery Training School joined the Batt: for
duty this day.

" 16th

Capt G. J. L. Golding, Reserve of Officers, to be Capt
in the 1st Bn. B. W. I. Regt with effect from 19th
September 1915 (Authority W. O. Letter 119984/1 M.S.K)

" 17th

The following extract from the London Gazette

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Seaford. Eng.

December 17thDecember 17th 1915.

The undermentioned Temp. Capts to be
Temp Majors:- Griffiths W. R. Jenkins R/d. 14/11/15
Vincent. G. F. Sane. R/d 15/11/15

The Commanding Officer expresses to
all ranks his best wishes for Christmas
and the best of luck and success for the New Year

The Chairman & Directors of the Royal
Mail Steam Packet Co have kindly presented
a gift of chocolate to the men of the Regt
and to all ranks of the B. W. Indies Regt their
best wishes for the season.

The following message received from
His Majesty The King to all ranks.

" Another Christmas finds all the
" resources of the Empire still engaged in war
" and I desire to convey on my own behalf
" and on behalf of the Queen a heartfelt
" Christmas Greeting and our Good wishes for
" the New Year to all, who on land and sea
" are upholding the Honour of the British name

" In the Officers and men of my Navy
" on whom the security of the Empire
" depends, I repose in common with all
" my subjects a trust that is absolute. On
" the Officers and men of my Armies whether
" now in France, in the East, and in other
" fields I rely with equal faith, confident that

" 24th" 25th

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Seaford. Eng.

Dec: 25th

"their devotion, their valour, and their self
 "sacrifice will, under God's guidance, lead to
 "victory and an honourable peace. There are
 "many of their comrades now, alas, in Hospital
 "and to those brave men also I desire, with the
 "Queen, to express our deep gratitude and earnest
 "prayers for their recovery.

"Officers + Men of the Navy and Army.
 "another year is drawing to a close as it began,
 "in toil, bloodshed and suffering, but I rejoice to
 "know that the goal to which you are striving
 "draws nearer into sight

May God Bless you and all your undertakings

December 27th
 Lt + 2nd M^{rs} J. Gilfillan proceeded to Milford
 on Sea for duty at the Indian Depot and is accordingly
 struck of strength of the Regt from this date.

" 30th
 2nd Lt. H. C. Whitelegg from the 10th Res Bⁿ Border
 Regiment was transferred to the Bⁿ and taken on
 the strength this date inclusive.

Auth^y (W. O. Letter 2/59926 (M.S. R/d 10/12/15))

2nd Lt C. C. Paul from 11th Res Bⁿ Loyal North
 Lancs Regt was transferred to the Regiment
 and taken on the strength from this date
 inclusive.

Auth^y (W. O. Letter 57472 2/M.S. R/d 18/12/15.)

Temp. Capt W. J. Bensly from Dorsetshire
 Regiment to be Temp Capt R/d 31/12/15 but with
 Seniority from 23/4/15. London Gazette 25. 27 Jan 16.

Volume 2
1916

[Faint, illegible handwriting in the background, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

Volume 2.

1916.

1

Seaford. Eng.
Jan 1st 1916

Lieut Col B. F. Faunce, West African Regt having reported for duty is taken on the strength of the Regiment from this date inclusive.

Capt W. J. Bently from 7th Bⁿ Dorsetshire Regt having reported for duty is taken on the strength of the Regiment from this date inclusive.

" 5th "

Lt + Adjt L. H. Finney from 1st West India Regt (attach^d 3rd Lancs Fus.) having joined for duty on 4th inst is taken on the strength of the Regt accordingly.

" 6th "

Extract from London Gazette 17th December 1915 Appt of 2nd Lt A. J. Campbell Robertson 18th Hussars having joined the Regt for duty on 5th January is taken on strength accordingly.

The following extract from General Orders is published for information.

1st (Sec) Bⁿ British West Indies Regt.

To be Temp Capts dated 6th January 1916.

Temp Lieut R. J. Craig.

" " A. E. Harragin.

" " H. J. Cavenagh.

" " W. H. S. Thorne.

To be Temp Lieuts - D/2 6/1/16.

Temp 2nd Lieut D. L. Johnson.

" " H. C. Whitelegg.

" " C. C. Paul.

" 10th "

"E" "F" "G" and "H" boys were formed into the 2nd Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt under the command of.

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Volume 2.
1. 2.

Lt Col. B. F. Faunce

2nd Lieut D. L. Johnson from the M. G. Training Corps having joined the Regiment for duty transferred from 12th January is taken on the strength accordingly

The 1st Battⁿ with "I" Rec Coy and 1½ Coy 2nd Bⁿ under command of Colonel A. E. Barchard. 39 Officers and 1559 other ranks embarked at Seaford Sussex to proceed overseas on the evening of 20th January 1916 arriving at Plymouth on morning of 21st

The Battⁿ and Coops embarked on H.M.S. Marathon and sailed from Plymouth at 11.30 am on Friday 21st inst.

Passed Gibraltar at 10 p.m. on Jan. 26. 1916.

H.M.S. Marathon arrived at Valletta Harbour Malta at 6 am. Saturday 29th Jan'y & sailed for Egypt on the 1st Feb'y 1916.

Arriving at Alexandria Harbour at 3 pm. on Friday 4th February. Docked at 5 pm.

Disembarkation completed on the afternoon of February 5th marched to "El. Mekis" west of Alexandria and formed bivouac on the ground west of Convalescent House Depot and along the shore of Lake Mesout.

15th Jan'y 1916

20th " "

21st " "

26th " "

29th " "

1st Feb.

Alexandria Egypt

4th " "

5th " "

2.3.

mex. Egypt.

1916 February 6th

camp laid out and improved.

8th

The Bⁿ was inspected by Brig. Genl. R. F. Boyle C. B. commanding Troops Alexandria Dist.

20th

The Regt was inspected by Genl. Sir John Maxwell K. C. B., K. C. M. G., C. V. O., D. S. O.

commandg the Army in Egypt.

22nd

The Regt moved from East Camp (mex) to ground vacated by South African Highlanders and 1st Gⁿ Bⁿ Royal Irish Regt along shore of Salt Lake + mex Quarries, inside Barrier and Rifle Ranges.

26th

Temp. 2/lt W. H. Eccles R. F. to be Temp 2/lt Dec^r 20th with seniority Feb. 26th 1915.

27th

Temp Capt W. J. Bensley from the Dorsetshire Regt to be Temp. Capt R/d 31.12.15 with seniority from 23.4.15 (Ex from Lond. Gazette 27/1/15)

Temp 2lt Donald L. Johnson from the Oxford & Bucks L. I. to be Temp 2/lt R/d 12/1/16 but with seniority from 12/5/15 (Ex Lond Gazette 25 of Jan 15-1916)

March 19th

From 19/3/16 the Mediterranean Exp. Force and the Force in Egypt becomes known as the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

22nd

The Regiment was transferred from the Army in Egypt to the Mediterranean Exp. Force as from 19th instant inclusive.

28th

Major W. B. Neish to be Surg. Capt.

Extract London Gazette 9/3/16 B. W. I. Regt.

The Battⁿ was inspected by Major Genl.

(Temp Lt Genl) E. A. Altham C.B., C.M.G., G.O.C
Lines of communication.

MEX. EGYPT.

Colonel A.E. Baychard commanding 1st Bn.
took over the duties of Camp Commandant
Mex Camp, vice Lt Col. J. H. Fatham, C.A. I.F.

3rd April.

Major W.D. Nash (B. W. I. Cont.) to be
Temp Major from Nov. 8th to Jan 20th inclusive
Extract London Gazette 26/2/16

The Rev. Pierre J. Egan A. C. Dept
Anglican Chaplain to the Regt died in Hospital
this day. He was gazetted Temp. Army
Chaplain Dept July 1915 and was educated
at Trinity College Dublin.

5th April.

The Batta was inspected on 11/4/16 by
Lt Genl Sir Archibald Murray K. C. B., C.V.O.,
K. C. M. G., C in C. Egyptian Exped. Force.

11th

The Batta beginning with "A" Coy
commenced firing a modified musketry
course on this date.

25th

Lt. H. P. Jones 4th Welsh Regt having
joined the Batta for duty this day as
Regt. Transport Officer was taken on the

12th May.

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5. 6

MEX, EGYPT.

1910 May 12th" 11th

strength accordingly

The undermentioned Officers from the General list having joined the Battⁿ for duty on the 11th inst is taken on the strength and posted to boys as shown:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 2 nd Lt F. A. S. Lansdown. | " B " boy |
| 2 nd Lt F. G. Pearson. | " C " boy |
| 2 nd Lt G. R. Porter. | " I " Res. |

June 9th

The Bⁿ entrained at Gabbari in two trains at 2100 and 2300.

"I" Reserve boy was split up and four Service boys were made up to strength therefrom. Details of medically unfit &c from Service boys together with remainder of "I" Res boy were transferred to the Base Depot which was formed from details of 1st 2nd and 3rd Battⁿ at Mex Camp on this date under command of Capt W. S. Thorne

STAGE CAMP.
FERRY POST

" 10th

The Battⁿ detained at Moascar on the morning of the 10th inst and after unloading baggage and transport and having breakfast proceeded by march route to Stage Camp via Somalia and Ferry Post. On arrival at Stage Camp the Bⁿ went under barwas next to the 2nd Bⁿ and continued its training.

STAGE CAMP.
FERRY POST.14th June 1916

The Battⁿ was inspected by Brig. Genl W. J. C. Butler, comm^{dg} "B" Sub-section, No 2 Section Defences Suez Canal at Stage Camp. Ismailia

The Rev^d J. Baghot de la Bere joined the Bⁿ this day as C. of C. Chaplain to the Regiment.

16th " "

"D" Coy was attached 2/4th Royal West Kent Regt for instruction in trench duties.

The Bⁿ transferred its camp from East to west side of the main road through Stage Camp.

19th " "

The Battⁿ was re-armed with I. K. L. E. Rifles sighted for MK VI Ammunition.

25th " "

A Draft of 1 Officer (2/Lt Hermes Bell) and 50 Other ranks arrived from Base Depot to join the Bⁿ for duty.

A Draft of 5 Other ranks arrived from Base Depot to join the Battⁿ for duty.

30th " "

The Battⁿ encamped under canvas continued training and work on defences at Ferry Post, Ismailia

24th July

The Bⁿ less details struck camp and embarked at Moascar and proceeded to El Ferdan where it debarked and proceeded to Reduit Camp where it encamped and took over duties and post defences from the 42nd Divⁿ

EL FERDAN.

ARMY ORDERS. - July, 1916.

ARMY ORDERS .

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Army Orders Nos. 200 to 218 have been published during the month of June, 1916.

Published on the 6th June, 1916.

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1. - DEATH OF LORD KITCHENER.

A.O. 200.
1916.

MESSAGE FROM HIS MAJESTY THE KING TO THE TROOPS.

By His Majesty's Commands the following Order has been issued to the Army :-

The King has learnt with profound regret of the disaster by which the Secretary of State for War has lost his life, while proceeding on a special mission to the Emperor of Russia.

Field-Marshal Lord Kitchener gave forty-five years of distinguished service to the State, and it is largely due to his administrative genius and unwearying energy that the country has been able to create and place in the field the Armies which are today upholding the traditional glories of our Empire.

Lord Kitchener will be mourned by the Army as a great soldier who, under of unexampled difficulty, rendered supreme and devoted service both to the Army and the State.

11. - DEATH OF LORD KITCHENER. - ORDERS FOR MOURNING.

A.O. 201.
1916.

His Majesty the King commands that officers of the Army shall wear mourning with their uniforms on the melancholy occasion of the death of the late Field Marshal Right Honourable H. H. Earl Kitchener of Khartoum, K.G., K.P., G.C.B., O.M., G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., Colonel Commandant Royal Engineers, Colonel Irish Guards, Secretary of State for War, for a period of one week commencing 7th day of June, 1916.

Officers are to wear crape on the left arm of the uniform and of the greatcoat.

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7.8.

EL. FERDAN.

1916 July 25th

A Draft of 10 Officers, 1 Chaplain R.C. and 301 Other ranks embarked at Moascar and proceeded by train to Suez to embark for Bombay British East Africa to join the 2nd Bn. W.I. Regt.

" 26th

The following extract from List of Appointments Commissions and Rewards No 173 of July 26th appears

To be Temp. Lieut. to complete establishment
 B/s 1/6/16 Temp 2/Lt A.S. Lawson.

" " W.H. Gooden. Chusholm.

" " P.E.F. Gressall.

Augt. 1st

The Battⁿ, encamped under canvas, continued training and work on defences at Reduit camp where it encamped & took over duties.

" 20th

Colonel A.E. Barchard proceeded to take over command of 2nd Bn. B. W. I. Regt and was struck off the strength of the Bn. accordingly.

Lt. Colonel C. Wood Hill from 3rd Bn. B. W. I. Regt joined the Bn. for duty took over command and was taken on the strength of the Bn. accordingly.

Lt and 2nd Lt H. C. Crowden was invalided to England and was struck off the strength accordingly.

Surgeon Capt W.D. Neish proceeded to England

on three months sick leave.

EL FERDAN.
20th Aug 1916

The Bⁿ encamped under canvas continued training and work on defences at El Ferdan.

1st Sept^r

Capt + Adyt A. P. J. Hibbert was admitted to Hospital

5th "

Lt H. P. Jones proceeded on 5 weeks furlough to England.

6th "

The Battⁿ struck camp and entrenching proceeded to KANTARA where it detrained and marched to a camp on the East Bank of the Canal about 2 miles inland and bivouaced about 2030

KANTARA.

The Bⁿ under canvas continued training.

15th "

Lt H. Flint R.A.M.C. joined the Bⁿ for duty and was taken on the strength

18th "

The Battⁿ struck camp and moved by 2 barges to BALLAH where it disembarked.

21st "

The Bⁿ encamped in Huts continued training

BALLAH.

Lt H. Flint left to take up duties elsewhere and was struck off the strength.

The Bⁿ took over duties from 1 Ayrshire Yeomanry.

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill took over command of BALLAH subsection vice Lt. Col. J. K. Boswell. Ayr. Ye.

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9. 10.

BALLAH.

1916 Sept. 30th.

The following appointments were made during the month:-

| | | |
|--------------------|--|------|
| Lt. A. S. Lawson | to be Act ^d Adjt vice Capt Herbert to Hosp. | 6% |
| Lt. C. C. Paul | " " Reg ^t Bombing Officer | 5% |
| Lt. V. H. Chisholm | " " m. G. Off ^r & Asst Adjt. | 6% |
| 2/Lt E. S. Pearson | " " Signalling Officer. | 6% |
| 2/Lt G. B. Porter | Act ^d Reg ^t Transport Officer | } 7% |
| | vice Lieut Jones on leave | |

The following is a list of Officers in command of Units in the Area:-

Brigadier General Herbert Frith C.B. comm^d 125th Div.
(5th, 6th, 7th & 8th Lance Fusiliers & comm^d Sect Defences

(No 3 Sect)

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Lt. Col R. L. Lees. D.S.O. | 6th L. F. |
| Major Marshall. | 7th L. F. |
| Lt Col J. H. Dugon | 213 Bde. R. F.A. |
| Lt Col. H. Lowles. | 211 Bde R. F.A. |
| Lt Col. J. D. Boswell. | Ayrshire Yeomanry. |
| Lt Col. H. L. Davies. | 8th L. F. |
| Major. R. Preston. | "B" Batty. H.A. 6. |
| Capt. J. M. Smith. | Bde Major 125 Bde. |
| Capt J. A. D. Murdoch, 1/4 Apr Yeo, Post comm ^d | BALLAH. |

October.

The Bⁿ encamped under canvas continued training

BALLAH.

A Draft consisting of Lieut E.K. Weatherhead and 92 other ranks from 5th (Res) Bn B.W.I. Regt. joined the Bn for duty, was taken on the strength and posted to Coy.

4th October 1916.

2/Lt. E.K. Weatherhead was promoted Temp Lieut R/d 1st Oct 1916.

10th " "

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt. V.J. Mangot and 84 other ranks from 5th Res Bn B.W.I. Regt. joined the Bn for duty was taken on strength and posted to boys.

16th " "

The Machine Gun Section completed a course of individual and field firing with satisfactory results and returned to Post 104.

21st " "

A Draft consisting of 61 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn B.W.I. Regt joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to boys.

22nd " "

Capt. F.L. Roper was in command of this draft.

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill handed over command of BALLAH Subsection to Lt Col. H. Fowler O.C. 211 Bde R. F. A. returned from leave

23rd " "

Capt J. Baghot - de - la - Beye left the Bn on completion of his engagement and was struck off the strength accordingly

26 Acting Sergeants and 21 Corporals were confirmed in their ranks

24th " "

The Regimental Flag was hoisted.

25th " "

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10.11

BALLAH.

1916 October 25th

A Gift of Socks from the Ladies of BARBADOS was presented by the commanding Officer to the men of the Battⁿ.

Capt F. L. Roper returned to 5th Res Bⁿ B. W. I. R.

A Gift of Tobacco and cigarettes from the LEEWARD ISLANDS and BARBADOS was presented to the Bⁿ by the commanding Officer.

" 31st

Admission to Hospital:-

Major G. W. R. Jenkins 11/10/16

Rd Sgt Maj. E. Addicott. 27/10/16

Nov^r 2nd

The following promotions were sanctioned by G.-in.-C. Egypt.

To be Temp. Major:- Capt. F. J. L. Golding.

The following Temp Lieuts to be Temp Capt.

Lieut. G. C. Paul - Lieut. A. S. Lawson.

The following Temp 2nd Lieuts to be Temp Lieuts.

2/Lt J. J. Irving. 2/Lt G. Challenger.

" L. R. Wheeler. " G. B. Porter.

with seniority to date as from the 26th July 1916

DUEIDAR.

The Bⁿ moved from BALLAH to DUEIDAR.

Marched from BALLAH to KANTARA and there by light rail to GILBAH. Marched from GILBAH to DUEIDAR leaving "A" and "C" boys at HILL 70 under the command of Major. F. J. L. Golding.

HILL 70.

The Transport travelled by road right through.

Lt. Col. G. Wood Hill took over command of
DUEIDAR sub-section from Major R. M.
Barker 6th Lancashire Fusiliers.

The following is a list of Officers
commanding Units in the Area.

Major Genl. Sir William Douglas KCMG, CB, DSO.

Commanding No 3 Section Canal Defences
Brig. Genl. H. D. Watson C.M.G. C.I.E. M.V.O.

Commanding Northern Canal Section.
Brig. Genl. G. de L. Ryrie C.M.G.

Commanding 5th Australian L.H. Bde.
Brig. Genl. E. A. Wiggins.

Commanding 5th Mounted Bde.
Lt. Col. L. G. Wilson. C.M.G. Comm^{dg} 5th A. L. H.

Lt. Col. A. H. D. Lloyd. M.V.O. Admin. Com. KANTARA.

Lt. Col. R. M. Yorke. Comm^{dg} 1/1 R. Scots Huss^{rs}

Capt. E. H. Thompson. 1/8 Manchester Regt. Sub Com^d

CANTERBURY HILL.

No 3 Section Major Genl. Sir Wm Douglas KCMG, CB, DSO.

Southern Canal Sect. Major Genl. J. W. Hare.

East Force Major Genl. Sir G. M. Dobell KCB, CMG, DSO.

Desert Column Major Genl. Sir Wm Douglas KCMG, CB, DSO.

Northern Canal Sect. Brig. Genl. H. D. Watson. CMG, C.I.E., M.V.O.

Ballah Sub Section. (Ballah, Bally Bunion,
Kantara E + W, Hill 40) Lt. Col. J. H. L. Poe. 2nd BWR

Dueidar Sub Section (Hill 70, Dueidar
Canterbury Hill) Lt. Col. G. Wood Hill. 1st BWR

A Draft consisting of Lieut R. H. Fink 13.

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11.

DUEIDAR.

1916 Nov^r 13th

1st Lt J. Regt Capt Redwood b.7. and 33 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt joined the Battⁿ was taken on the strength and posted to boys

19th

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt Puckerin & Reed with 47 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt was taken on the strength and posted to boys.

20th

"C" boy with Capt A. E. Harragin returned to Headquarters from HILL 70.

22nd

Capt H. P. Jones reported his return from leave of absence.

25th

Lieut A. F. Cook R.A.M.C. joined the Bn for duty.

Capt. W. J. Bensly was admitted to 31st General Hospital, Port Said.

A Draft detailed as under embarked for SUEZ to embark for BASRA, MESOPOTAMIA to join B. W. I. Cont^l already there: -

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------------|--------------------|
| 1st B.W.I.R. | 90 | Other Rks. | |
| 2nd B.W.I.R. | 92 | " " | |
| 5 th (Res) B.W.I.R. | 150 | " " | + 4 Officers viz:- |

Capt Jeffreys, Lt Hulse, Lt Schofield, Lt Schofield.

The following appointments were made during the month:-

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| Maj G. J. L. Golding | appt ^d Sub-Commander | HILL 70 | 11 ¹⁶ / ₁₀₀ |
| Capt A. S. Lawson | " Post Adjutant | DUEIDAR (SS) | 11 ¹⁶ / ₁₀₀ |
| Lt + 2 nd Mr. Willis | " Post Quarterm ^{tr} | do | 15 ¹¹ / ₁₀₀ |

Lt. Col. G. Wood Hill took over command of
DUEIDAR sub-section from Major R. M.
Barker 6th Lancashire Fusiliers.

The following is a list of Officers
commanding Units in the Area.

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Brig Genl. H. D. Watson C.M.G. C.I.E. M.V.O.

Commanding Northern Canal Section.
Brig Genl. G. de L. Ryrie C.M.G.

Commanding 5th Australian L.H. Bde.
Brig Genl E. A. Wiggins.

Commanding 5th Mounted Bde.
Lt Col L. G. Wilson. C.M.G. Comm^{dg} 5th A. L. H.
Lt Col. A. H. D. Lloyd. M.V.O. Admin. Com. KANTARA.
Lt Col. R. M. Yorke. Comm^{dg} 1/1 R. Scots Huss^{rs}
Capt E. H. Thompson. 1/8 Manchester Regt Sub Com^d

CANTERBURY HILL.

No 3 Section Major Genl Sir Wm Douglas KCMG, CB, DSO.

Southern Canal Sect. Major Genl. J. W. Hare.

East Force Major Genl. Sir G. M. Dobell KCB, CMG, DSO.

Desert Column Major Genl Sir Wm Douglas KCMG, CB, DSO.

Northern Canal Sect. Brig Genl. H. D. Watson C.M.G. C.I.E. M.V.O.

Ballah Sub Section. (Ballah, Bally Bunion,
Kantara E & W, Hill 40) Lt Col. J. H. L. Poe. 2nd BWR

Dueidar Sub Section (Hill 70, Dueidar
Canterbury Hill) Lt Col G. Wood Hill. 1st BWR

A Draft consisting of Lieut R. H. Fink 13. "

DUEIDAR
11th Nov 1916.

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11.

DUEIDAR.

1916 Nov. 13th

1st Lt. J. Regt Capt Redwood b.7. and 33 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn. B. W. I. Regt joined the Battⁿ was taken on the strength and posted to boys

19th

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt^s Puckerin & Reed with 47 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn. B. W. I. Regt was taken on the strength and posted to boys.

20th

"C" boy with Capt A. G. Harragin returned to Headquarters from HILL 70.

22nd

Capt H. P. Jones reported his return from leave of absence.

25th

Lieut A. F. Cook R.A.M.C. joined the Bn for duty.

Capt. W. J. Bensly was admitted to 31st General Hospital, Port Said.

A Draft detailed as under embarked for SUEZ to embark for BASRA, MESOPOTAMIA to join B. W. I. Cont^{nt} already there:-

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|------------|----------------------|
| 1st B.W.I.R. | 90 | Other Rks. | |
| 2nd B.W.I.R. | 92 | " | " |
| 5 th (Res) B.W.I.R. | 150 | " | " + 4 Officers viz:- |

Capt Jeffreys, Lt. Hulse, Lt Schofield, Lt Schofield.

The following appointments were made during the month:-

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Maj G. J. L. Golding | appt ^d Sub-Commander HILL 70 | 11 ¹⁶ / ₁₆ |
| Capt A. S. Lawson | " Post Adjutant DUEIDAR (SS) | 11 ¹⁶ / ₁₆ |
| Lt + 2 nd Mr. Willis | " Post Quarterm ^{tr} | do 15 ¹¹ / ₁₆ |

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DUEIDAR.

25th Nov: 1916

Capt R. J. Craig apptd sub commander HILL 70

vice major G. J. L. Golding returned to DUEIDAR 26th/₁₆

Capt R. H. L. Fink apptd post Adjutant DUEIDAR (SUB SECT)

vice Capt A. S. Lawson to duty 29/11/16

Major Golding apptd second in command of the Bⁿ

vice Major Jenkins to Hospital 12/11/16

Capt W. J. Peadar appointed O. C. "R" Coy as from 12th/₁₆" A. S. Lawson " and in comd "B" Coy. 18th/₁₆Lt R. H. L. Fink " Acting Adj. 18th/₁₆

Results of a conference held at CAIRO
at General Head Quarters Savoy Hotel at
which Lt Col C. Wood Hill attended.

(1) The conference met at S. H. Q. at 1000 on the
20th November 1916 and discussed the Exploitation
of the "British West Indies" and further
developments of the British West Indies Regt.

Present: Major General Lynden Bell C. G. S.
Major General Adye D. A. G. Major General
Campbell D. M. G. and Lt. Colonel C. Wood Hill.

Private letter to General Adye and
memorandum of suggestions discussed by
conference; and also a letter which had just
been received from War Office re raising of
two further Battalions; training existing
Battalions during the winter in Egypt, and
sending six Battalions to France in the
Spring for the handling of Heavy Siege Gun
Ammunition.

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DUEIDAR.

1916 Nov^r

Conference favourable to the exploitation of the British West Indies; also agrees in principle that West Indians should be employed in a climate where they may work to the best advantage.

(2) Letters to be drafted to the War Office pointing this out; also Chief of General Staff will write privately on the matter to Genl. Robertson.

1st and 2nd Battns to be moved forward and allowed to take a more active part in proceedings in Egypt. Conference state that they have noted the good work done by these two Battalions. They are universally spoken well of and in sympathy with any movement for getting fair play with the West Indians.

Quartermaster General very anxious to form Mechanical Section out of the British West Indian Troops in Egypt but it was pointed out that if this were done two good Battalions would be mutilated, losing some of their good men.

It was finally decided to send a few selected men to be tested and to be returned to their Regt.

Lt Col. Wood Hill principally emphasized to the Conference that utilizing the 3rd and 4th Battns more or less as labour Battalions was doing untold harm to recruiting throughout the West Indies; also that considerable dissatisfaction exists amongst the 1st and 2nd Battns, that they have completed a period of training and

11. 12.

DUEIDAR

Nov^r 1916

their work chiefly consists of Guards and fatigues Garrison Duties etc in the vicinity of the Canal.

The Conference fully realizes that if the West Indies should be exploited, further contingents raised and the resources of the Islands tapped so far as Mechanical Engineers etc are concerned it is absolutely essential for the War Office to drop the idea that the role of these men should be simply to carry ammunition and do the general work of Labour Battalions.

(3) Letters from G. H. 2 to be written to the various Governors in the West Indies expressing favourable report of the Commander-in-Chief Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Lieut U. H. Gooden-Whisholm proceeded to ABOUKIR for a course of Instruction at the R.F.C.

1st Dec^r 1916

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt G. G. Cooke and 18 Other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn British West Indies Regt joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

4th "

Major V. G. T. Gane joined the Bn for duty

6th "

Lieut C. A. Reed admitted to 26th Stat. Hosp.

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12.

DUEIDAR.

1916 Dec^r 7th

Capt W. J. Bendly discharged from 31st General Hospital PORT SAID and rejoined the Battⁿ.

" 8th

Lt L. R. Wheeler and one Platoon of "C" Coy proceeded to HILL 70 to form a permanent Garrison for TURK TOP

" 10th

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill handed over the Command of DUEIDAR sub section to Lt Col. the Hon. G. G. Wilson D.S.O. East Riding Yorkshire

" 12th

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill appointed Post Commandant DUEIDAR POST

Lt R. H. Fink to continue as Post Adjutant

DUEIDAR POST.

" 15th

Major V. G. F. Gane appointed Post Comm^{dt} HILL 70

Lt A. A. Hearn joined for duty from RAMC.

Lt G. H. Irving appointed Post Comm^{dt} PELUSIUM.

A Draft consisting of 9 other ranks under Capt F. J. Roper 5th (Res) Battⁿ B. W. I. Regt joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

" 19th

Capt F. J. Roper 5th B. W. I. Regt returned to the 5th B. W. I. Regt.

Major V. G. F. Gane returned to the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt pending appointment as Officer in Charge Records British West Indies Regt.

The following promotion sanctioned by G-in-C in Egypt. - Dr Arthur Ambrose Hearne to be Surgeon Lieutenant with pay and allowances as for Lieutenant R.A.M.C. Dated 1st Nov: 1916

DUEIDAR.
19th Dec 1916

Major G. W. R. Jenkins transferred to 2nd Battⁿ B. W. I. Regt & struck off the strength as from 23/11/16

Lt. Draft of 18 other ranks under Lt W Niven 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt from the 5th B. W. I. R joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

20th Dec 1916

Lt W Niven returned to 5th B. W. I. Regt.

Lt A. Findlay took RANC proceeded to the up duty with DESERT COLUMN and struck off strength

25th

A draft consisting of one Officer and 69 Other Ranks from the 5th Res Battⁿ B. W. I. R joined the Bⁿ for duty & was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

Appointment: Lieut R. H. L. Fink 1st B. W. I. Regt appointed Adjutant 1st B. W. I. Regt vice Capt H. P. J. Hubbert Royal Berks Regt to date as from the 13th Nov 1916

Regimental Sports held in conjunction with 1st East Riding Yeomanry also a rifle meeting and a concert at the Y.M.C.A.

3 Officers and 11 other ranks proceeded to ZEITOUN for courses of Instruction under Capt L. Paul.

30th

20 Other Ranks proceeded to Royal Flying Corps ABOUKIR to undergo trade test.

31st

The following POST Appointments were made during the month.

Lt Col. L. Wood Hill appointed Post Comm^{dt}

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DUEIDAR.

1916 Dec: 31st

| DUEIDAR POST | | 12/12/16 |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Majr G. F. Gane | appointed Post Comm ^{dt} | HILL 70 12/12/16 |
| Lt. F. H. Inwing | " " " | PELUSILIM 15/12/16 |
| Capt R. J. Craig | " " " | HILL 70 20/12/16 |

(vice major Gane to duty out of Sub Sect:)

Lieut R. H. L. Fink 1st West India Regt.
appointed Adjutant vice Capt A. P. Hibbert Royal
Berkshire Regt to date from 12/11/16

Volume 2

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12.

SPECIAL GENERAL ROUTINE ORDER
 By General Sir A. J. MURRAY, K.C.B., K.C.M.G.,
 C.V.O., D.S.O.
 Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary
 Force.

General Headquarters,
 Egyptian Expeditionary Force.
 24th December, 1916.

 Christmas and New Year Messages from His
 Majesty, THE KING.

The Commander-in-Chief has much pleasure in
 publishing the following messages from His Majesty
 the King :-

No. 1 :-

" I send you, my sailors and soldiers, hearty good
 wishes for Christmas and the New Year. My grateful
 thoughts are ever with you for victories gained, for
 hardship endured, and for your unfailing cheeriness.
 Another Christmas has come round, and we are still at
 war, but the Empire, confident in you, remains determind
 ed to win. May God bless and protect you."

No. 2 :-

" At this Christmas tide the Queen and I are think-
 ing more than ever of the sick and wounded among my
 sailors and soldiers. From our hearts we wish them
 strength to bear their sufferings, speedy restoration
 to health, a peaceful Christmas and many happy years to
 come. "

JOHN ADYE, Major-
 General,
 Deputy Adjutant-General, E.E.F.

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Volume 3

1917.

Volume 3

1.

DUEIDAR.

1917 Jan'y 1.

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"C" Company under Capt A. E. Harragin relieved "A" Coy at HILL 70. The latter returned to HEADQUARTERS at DUEIDAR.

Appointed sub commander HILL 70 - Capt A. E. Harragin vice Capt R. J. Craig to HEADQUARTERS.

" 2nd A Draft comprising of 2nd Lt W. Hind and 15 other Ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn British West Indies Regt joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

" 8th The Bn moved by march route to ROMANI. bivouacking the night at PELUSIUM and proceeded

" 9th to ROMANI on the morning of the 9th.

Defences Eastern Sector ROMANI taken over by 1st B. W. I. Regt from 1st Swallow Rifles Capt A. Hughes in command.

" 7th Two platoons "B" Coy consisting of 2nd Lt F. A. S. Lansdowne and 2nd Lt G. F. Cook and 80 other ranks moved to MOHAMDIYA by rail & took over from 1/1 Alway Regt

" 10th A Draft consisting of 2/Lt Clarke 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R and 30 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

" 12th 2/Lt Clarke returned to 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R.

" 13th Capt R. J. Craig, Lt. E. K. C. Weatherhead and two platoons formed escort to prisoners of war passing through after the successful action at RAFA on 11th inst.

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1.

ROMANI.

16th January 1917.

MOHAMEDIA.

The remaining two Platoons of "B" Coy under Capt H. J. L. Cavenagh moved to MOHAMEDIA.

Capt W. J. Bently promoted Temporary Major as from 23rd vice Major S. W. R. Jenkins transferred (Authority W. O. Telegram No 20933 D/d 25th.)

A Draft consisting of 20 other ranks under Capt McKeown 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R. joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

The Defences ROMANI were inspected by G.O.C. EAST FORCE Major General Sir C. M. Robell KCB, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Brig. Genl. H. R. Watson CMG, C.I.E., M.V.O., commanding NORTHERN CANAL SECTION.

A Draft of 4 other ranks under Sgt Julien from 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt joined the Bⁿ for duty was taken on the strength & posted to Companies.

Capt. McKeown returned to 5th (Res) B. W. I. Regt.

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill appointed President of the Fire Committee for ROMANI CAMP.

Lt. G. B. Porter proceeded to Imperial School of Instruction ZEITOUN for a course in Lewis Gun.

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill took over command of ROMANI Sub-Section from Brig. Genl. F. A. B. Fryer.

Trench IV taken over by 1st Bn B. W. I. Regt and to be included in EASTERN SECTOR DEFENCES.

The following POST Appointments were made during the month:- Lt Col. C. Wood Hill

20th21st24th26th28th31st

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1-2
ROMANI.1917 Jan'y 31

appointed President of Fire Committee for
ROMANI CAMP and also appointed O.C. DEF^{ns} ROMANI

1917 Feb. 2nd.

A Draft of 2/Lt R. S. M. Clarke, C.S. Cousins
J. G. Masters and W. G. Griffith and 7 other
ranks from 5th (Res) Bⁿ F. W. I. Regt joined the
Bⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and
posted to companies.

Conference of Officers commanding
Units called by Lt Col. G. Wood Hill held in the
lines of the B. W. I. Regt to discuss system of
Defences ROMANI

Present:-

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Lt Col. G. Wood Hill | Commanding | ROMANI Defences |
| Lt R. H. Fink | Adj Staff Officer | |
| Lt Col. Monson Bell | 1/2 County of London Yeomanry | |
| Capt G. K. Bell | R.E. 555 Coy (AT) R. E. | |
| Capt Trowan | 91st Batty. R. G. A. | |
| Major H. A. Pollock | 52nd Div. Depot B ⁿ (CC NORTH "SECT") | |
| Capt G. B. Hampson | 53rd " " " (" SOUTH "SECT") | |
| Major S. J. L. Golding | 1st B ⁿ B. W. I. Regt (" EAST "SECT") | |
| 2/Lt F. C. Parkes | 52nd Div. Details A. S. C. | |
| " Hodgson | " " Ammunition Column | |
| Lt Col. Young | R. A. M. B. 1/3rd Lowland Field Ambulance | |
| 2/Lt Rushton | R. E. Water Supply Officer. | |
| Lt. A. J. Olliphant | Egyptian Labour Corps. | |

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Somme 3.

2.

ROMANI.

3rd Feby 1917

Major. G. J. L. Golding appointed C. C. EASTERN
SECTOR Defences ROMANI.

A Draft consisting of C. S. M. Padley 5th
Res Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt from the 5th B. W. I. R joined
the Bⁿ for duty was taken on the strength
and posted to companies

5th "

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill appointed C. C. Troops
ROMANI Sub-Sector.

7th "

C. S. M. Padley 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt
returned to Hd Qrs 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt.

A Draft consisting of 11 Other Ranks
from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt under Sgt
Clavmont (5th B. W. I. R) joined the Bⁿ for
duty was taken on the strength and posted
to companies

10th "

New establishment for the Bⁿ to be
reorganised as a Labour Bⁿ received. To be
organised as shell carriers to heavy Batteries
in France.

17th "

Lieut G. B. Porter returned from Lewis Gun
course Zestour. Passed 1st class Instructor.

18th "

"B" Coy relieved by Headquarters and two
bays 2nd Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt at MOHAMDIYA. "B" Coy
under Capt Cavanagh returned to Bn HQRS

19th "

The Eastern Sector ROMANI Defences handed
over to C. C. 54th Divⁿ Depot Battr.

A Draft consisting of twelve other ranks
from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt under Sgt Mason

20th "

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2.

ROMANI.

1917 Feb. 20th

5th Res Bn B. W. I. Regt joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies

" 20

" 22nd

Sgt Mason 5th B. W. I. R. proceeded to Alexandria to rejoin his Batta at Headquarters.

" 24th

C. S. M. Penfold left the Batta to rejoin his Unit at the Egyptian Base Depot MUSTAPHA and was accordingly struck off the strength.

Sgt Shergold left the Batta to rejoin his unit at 5th Div Base Batta ROMANI and was accordingly struck off the strength.

Lt. G. B. Porter, 2/Lt M. J. Pungwell and 6/10th with 10 other ranks left the Batta for courses of Instruction ZEITOUN.

" 25th

A Draft consisting of 9 other ranks from 5th Res (Bn) B. W. I. Regt under Sgt Lake 5th B. W. I. R. joined the Batta for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

Capt E. S. M. Evans C.F. joined the Batta for duty vice Capt Redwood C.F. and was accordingly taken on the strength.

" 26th

Eastern Sector ROMANI Defences consisting of POSTS Nos 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 taken over from the 5th Div Divisional Depot Bn.

Sgt Lake 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R. returned to HQ GRS 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt Alexandria.

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3

ROMANI

2nd March 1916.

No 1299 Sgt J. H. Abrahams left the Bⁿ to report to Head-quarters ALEXANDRIA District for passage to UNITED KINGDOM pending receipt of a commission.

7 other ranks under Sgt Mitchell "D" boy proceeded to ALEXANDRIA to undergo a trade test as motor Transport Drivers.

A Draft consisting of 6 other ranks from the 5th B. W. I. R. under Sgt Lake joined the Bⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

2 Other Ranks proceeded to ZEITOUN to undergo courses of instruction in Bayonet Fighting

2 Lewis Guns taken over from the 54th Div. Depot Bⁿ and MOHAMEDIA Base respectively.

The Bⁿ relieved at ROMANI by the 2nd Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt less 2 boys. The Bⁿ moved by route march to KHIRBA via RHABA Baggage by train.

The Bⁿ moved by march route to BIR-EL-ABD

5 Officers - 2nd Lieut G. F. Cooke, G. S. Cousins, D. J. M. Clarke, J. G. S. Masters and W. S. Griffiths and two Staff Sergeants proceeded to ALEXANDRIA to report to 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt. - Reduction of Establishment contained in W. O. Letter 121/8655 (A.C.2) Rd 2/11/16 also 2/Lt Lepingwell and W. Hind at present at ZEITOUN.

2/Lt M. A. Puckeun appointed W. S. O. MAADAN

14th "

16th "

17th "

18th "

KHIRBA

19th "

BIR-EL-ABD

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3.
BIR. EL. ABD
1917 March 14

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill took over the command of troops BIR-EL-ABD sub-section vice Brig. Genl. G. B. Cox C. B. to Hospital.

17. A Draft of 17 Other Ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt under Sgt Edwards 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R. joined the Batta for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

18. Lt S. B. Porter joined the Batta for duty from School of Instruction Zeitoun.

Capt G. G. Paul embarked at PORT SAID en route for England on 5 weeks leave. Authority A.L./4060/5755 R/d 9.2.17 G.H.Q

22. Lt R. L. Johnson left for Machine Gun Base Depot ALEXANDRIA pending passage to United Kingdom for Transfer to Machine Gun Corps.

The Batta proceeded by march route to Tilul baggage by train.

TILUL. " 23. The Bn proceeded by March Route to MAZAR leaving 1 M.C.O and 10 men as water Guard TILUL.

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill took over command of troops MAZAR sub-section from Major H. Campbell S.S.O. 4th Swallow Rifles.

"A" Coy proceeded to BARDAWIL en route for EL ARISH. "B" Coy proceeded to BARDAWIL en route for KILO 143

24. "A" Coy arrived EL ARISH.

"B" Coy arrived KILO 143. Lt weatherhead

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3.

appointed post commandant BARDAWIL.

MAZAR
24th March 1917.

A party of 1 Sergeant and 10 other ranks proceeded to MAADAN to take over water Guard Duties

11 other ranks left for ALEXANDRIA for Blacksmith Trade Test at the G.C.C. Base.

25th " "

2/Lt B. G. Davis and H. G. Gates from EAST KEPT REGT joined the Bⁿ for duty.

28th " "

A Draft consisting of 20 Other Ranks from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt under 2/Lt G. J. Cooke 5th B. W. I. R. joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies

30th " "

2/Lt G. G. Cooke returned to Head Quarters 5th Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt.

Headquarters & "C" Coy proceeded to BARDAWIL en route for EL ARISH.

MAZAR

BARDAWIL

HEAD QUARTERS & "C" company arrived at EL ARISH.

31st " "

ELARISH

"D" Coy proceeded to BARDAWIL en route for EL ARISH

11 Other Ranks rejoined the Bⁿ from ALEXANDRIA after undergoing trade tests as Blacksmiths.

"D" Coy arrived at EL ARISH.

1st April 1917

Headquarters of "B" Coy less 2 Platoons

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4.

EL ARISH

1917 April 1st

arrived at EL ARISH from KILO 143.

" 2nd.

HEAD QUARTERS less 1 Company proceeded to SHEIKH ZOWAIDE

"B" Coy. less 2 Platoons proceeded to EL BURI

EL BURI. " 3rd.

HEAD QUARTERS less one company proceeded from EL BURI to SHEIKH ZOWAIDE

SHEIKH ZOWAID.

Col. G. Wood Hill took over command of SHEIKH ZOWAIDE subsection vice Major Hughes with Swallow Rifles

2 Lewis Guns taken over by the Battⁿ as Post Machine Guns.4 Telegraphists from HILL 70 rejoined the Battⁿ for duty

" 6th.

4 Telegraphists proceeded to ISMALIA for duty with Signal Coy. R.E. (Auth. R.A.S. GHQ a.o./2263).

One Platoon "B" Coy rejoined its own HEAD QUARTERS at EL BURI from KILO 143.

" 7th

An Enemy Aircraft flew over the camp at 0930. Fire was opened by Regimental & No 1 Armoured Train Anti aircraft machine Guns. After observing the 1st Australian L.H. Brigade moving out, it turned and moved off in a westerly direction passing over RAFA. Fire was observed from Anti-Aircraft Guns at RAFA.

" 8th

An Enemy Aircraft flew over our camp from a westerly direction. Fire opened by Reg^t and No 1 Armoured Train anti-aircraft machine Guns. EL ARISH and MAZAR were bombed.

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Zohure 3
4.

SHEIKH ZOWAID.

8th April 1917.

A Draft consisting of 13 Other Ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn. B. W. I. Regt joined the Battⁿ for duty under Sgt Ainsley 5th B. W. I. R.

Sgt Ainsley returned to ALEXANDRIA.

An Enemy Aircraft appeared over the camp from a westerly direction. Fire was opened by Regimental and No 1 Armoured Train Anti Aircraft Machine Guns. Flying very high it proceeded to RAFA which was bombed.

10th

"B" Coy less one Platoon arrived from EL BURJ

11th

RAFA Bombed by enemy Aircraft which later proceeded over the camp moving towards EL ARISH. Fire was opened by Regimental and No 1 Armoured Train Anti aircraft machine Guns EL ARISH bombed.

12th

RAFA bombed by a number of Enemy Aircraft about 0900 Anti aircraft observed. They returned in an Easternly direction. Anti aircraft fire observed at RAFA about 1700.

13th

Copy of War Office Telegram AM 1729 Cipher R/d 28/3/17 and 31933 Cipher A.G.1 R/d 31/3/17 establishment received. The Battⁿ returns to its former establishment of S.O. 2 R/d 9.12.15

The following Officers rejoined the Battⁿ from 5th (Res) Battⁿ B. W. I. Regt on reverting to former establishment S.O. 2 R/d 9/12/15 Authority W.O. Telegram 31933 Cipher A.G.1 R/d 31/3/17 2nd Lt. W. J. Levingwell, G. G. Cooke, W. Hind

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MFC/10119 (R.1)

SUBJECT:- Establishment - B.W.I. Regts.

Headquarters,
Eastern Force.

The enclosed copy of War Office telegrams A.M.1729 cipher, dated 28/3/17, and 31933 cipher AG1, dated 31/3/17, together with copy of my MFC/10119 (R.1) of to-day's date to D.A.G, G.H.Q. are sent to you for your information. It would therefore appear that the 1st and 2nd Battalions, B.W.I. Regt will return to their former Establishment S.D.2 dated 9/12/15, and the 5th (Res) Bn., B.W.I. Regt will also revert to its former Establishment. Under these circumstances all surplus personnel despatched to the 5th (Res) Bn. from the 1st and 2nd Battalions, B.W.I. Regts should be returned to their respective units. It should be noted, however, that no further reinforcements for France will be found by the 5th (Res) Bn., B.W.I. Regt..

(Sgd) Lieut-Colonel
A.A.G., 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q.,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Alexandria,
8/4/17.

Copy to :- 1st, 2nd & 5th B.W.I. Regts.

Zohure 3

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4

SHEIKH ZOWAID.

1917 April 13th

D. I. M. Clarke, G. J. Cousins and W. S. Griffiths were taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

No 221 Pte. W. Smart reported missing from Kilo 194 as from the 11th inst.

" 16th

Drafts consisting of 3 privs and 15 other ranks from the 5th B. W. I. Regt joined the Battalion were taken on strength and posted to companies.

Drafts conducted by Lt Hedog Jones 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R.

" 17th

Lt Hedog Jones 5th (Res) Bn proceeded to rejoin his unit.

" 18th

The body of No 221 Pte. W. Smart "A" Coy brought in by party of Sinai Police.

" 19th

A party consisting of Surg. Lt. A. A. Hearn and 4 other ranks proceeded to EL ARISH as Escort to Bedouin prisoners concerned in the killing of No 221 Pte. W. Smart.

The following officers joined the Bn for duty from 5th (Res) Bn were taken on the strength and posted to Companies: - 2/Lts. J. H. Mangot W. Mwen 2/Lts L. B. Allen L. V. Patterson + C. H. C. Masters.

" 26th

"B" Coy less one Platoon proceeded to Kilo 207

" 27th

An Enemy aircraft flew over the camp from a westerly direction. Fire was opened by the Regt and A. I. anti-aircraft machine guns.

5 other ranks proceeded to report to C. R. E. ALEXANDRIA for a Special Trade Test with a view of transfer to R. E.

3 other ranks proceeded to R. F. C. Depot.

Alexandria for trade test.

28th April 1917.

The strength of the Batten stood at 35 Officers and 909 Other ranks making 5 officers overstrength and 104 other ranks under strength. "B" Coy less one platoon proceeded from RAFA to KHAN YUHSI.

1st May 1917.

Extracts from London Gazette Supplement D/d 30/3/17 received as follows:- Capt G. J. L. Golding (Res of Officers, Hon Capt in the Army) to be Temporary Major 26th.

The undermentioned Temp. Lieuts to be Temp. Capts:- 26th C. C. Paul, A. S. Lawson.

The undermentioned Temp. 2nd Lt's to be Temp. Lieuts:- 26th G. J. Irving, L. R. Wheeler, G. Challenor and G. B. L. Porter from General List.

Lt J. H. Irving returned to duty from Hospital.

5th

Two Officers and 9 other ranks proceeded to ZEITOUN on courses of Instructions.

(1100) An Enemy Aircraft flew over our camp from a westerly direction. Fire was not opened.

8 other Ranks returned from Trade Test ABOUKIR.

2 parties of 20 Other Ranks each under

6th. " "

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5.

SHEIKH ZOWAID

1917 May 6th

2nd/Lt Pearson & Lt Porter respectively proceeded to Kilos 194 & 179 to construct small strong points covering the Railway sidings.

10th.

Capt G. B. Paul returned to the Bn for duty from leave to the United Kingdom.

Letters No A. 2/223/13 R/2 8.5.17 from Lt Col. Defences re provision of suitable personnel from 1/B.W.I.R. for Armoured Train received.

Reply sent that Batta is understrength but personnel could be provided.

14th.

The Commandant School of Cookery ISMA'IA visited the Batta on a tour of inspection.

EL BURJ.

An Enemy aeroplane flew over EL BURJ from an Easterly direction, about a 1000 feet up. Fire was opened up by the Lewis Gun section of the Detachment, which was replied to by the Aeroplane. After 5 bursts the plane rocked slightly and swerved out of its course & flew off due South, descending all the while until it was lost to view behind the Sandhills. A party was sent out to reconnoitre but after marching a considerable distance nothing was seen of it.

15th.

"D" Coy began a short course of Musketry at 100 yards range.

2/Lt M. A. Puckerin rejoined the Batta for duty having vacated the appointment of Camp Commandant MAADAN.

16th.

Lt G. K. G. Leatherhead rejoined the Batta.

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SHEIKH ZOWAID.

16th May 1917.

for duty having vacated the appointment of Camp Commandant BARDWIL.

An enemy Aircraft flying very high appeared over the camp from the East. Fire was opened by the Regimental Machine Gun (anti-aircraft)

The Bn was relieved by the Patala Infantry at SHEIKH ZOWAIDE and EL BURJ.

18th " "

Transport proceeded to DEIR EL BELAH at 0530 by march route.

The Batta less 3 Platoons "B" Coy at KHAN YUNIS 12 Orderlies at Headquarters Palestine L of 6 Defences and 4 Signallers SHEIKH ZOWAIDE entrained at 1730 and arrived at DEIR EL BELAH 2300 where they came immediately under the command of Eastern Force.

19th " "

35 Other Ranks under Lt. R. Wheeler and 2 Lt. M. J. Lepinwell proceeded to EL ARISH to form personnel of Pom Pom, M.G's and Infantry guard to No III Armoured Train.

"B" Coy less one platoon proceeded by march route to DEIR EL BELAH at 1800 being relieved by 1/4th D. G. L. S. at KHAN YUNIS.

KHAN YUNIS.

The Batta having detrained moved to their Camp in the large HOD just N.W of the Village.

20th " "

No 5640 Pte. S. G. Sealey "A" Coy drowned

DEIR EL BELAH.

1917 May 20th while bathing in the Sea in a gallant attempt to save the life of a comrade.

" 21st Lieut Col. G. Wood Hill appointed Administrative Commandant DEIR EL BELAH. and took over the duties from Major Hood 14th D. C. I.

The Body of 5640 Pte G. G. Sealey "D" Coy found on the beach

A Party of 100 other ranks of "D" Coy employed in constructing Dig. Cuts for Head Quarters EASTERN FORCE on the cliffs overlooking the Beach. This party to be employed until work is completed.

" 22nd No 5640 Pte. G. G. Sealey buried.

" 23rd "D" Coy moved camp to new site in small orchard South of Beach Landing Parkes camp.

7 Other ranks additional personnel for No III Armoured Train proceeded to EL ARISH.

Letter received from Recruiting Officer No B.R. 1408 R/d 21⁵/₇ stating no B. W. I. Regt other ranks can be transferred to the R. F. C.

" 24 The Batta less one company moved to their new camp along the cliffs on the Sea Shore N. E. of the Beach Landing Parkes Camp and proceeded to dig Dig Cuts.

50 Other Ranks were employed until further orders to assist "D" Coy in digging Dig Cuts for Head Quarters EASTERN FORCE. This party found by "A" Coy.

" 25th 15 Other ranks proceeded to RAFA to form

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5.

DEIR EL BELAH.
25th May 1917.

personnel for Rest camp for Invalided Soldiers.

32 other Ranks proceeded to take over duties as guard over Prisoners of War camp at DEIR EL BELAH relieving 53rd Division.

11 Other ranks proceeded to take over duties of 53rd Div. Details at PICCADILLY CIRCUS

7 Other Ranks rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from Palestine L of C References consequent upon reduction of this personnel. D.A.A. 2 M.S. Palestine L of C. References reports "Their conduct & work has been exceedingly satisfactory whilst attached here"

100 Other Ranks "A" boy and 50 Other Ranks "B" boy received similar parties of "D" & "A" boys working on Bug Out for Head Quarters EASTERN FORCE. 26th May 1916

"D" boy moved from old camp and rejoined Battⁿ Headquarters at New camp

2/Lt. W.S. Griffith proceeded to ISMALIA to report to General Palin as to his suitability for INDIAN ARMY

2/Lts. G. H. Maingot and H. J. Gates proceeded to ABBASSIA Head Quarters R.F.C for interview with a view of joining the R.F.C.

4 Other Ranks proceeded to KHAN YUNIS to form camp for inspector of French Contingent

11 Other Ranks rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from Imperial School of Instruction

27th May 1917.

No. AQ/223/13.
8th May, 1917.

H. Q.,

Sheikh Zowaid.

The question of the provision of personnel for Armoured Trains from L. of C. Troops is under consideration.

Will you therefore, please report whether the 1st B.W.I. Regt., could provide suitable personnel for this employment, as detailed below :-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Subalterns | 2 |
| Pom-Pom Gunners, or suitable men for training as such | 24 |
| Machine Gunners | 24 |
| Infantry Crew | 77. |

2. An early reply is requested.

(sgd) E. WOOLNOUGH, Captain,
D.A.A. & Q.M.G., L. of C.
Defences.

ROUTINE ORDERS

By

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR P.W.CHETWODE, Bt., C.B., D.S.O.;
Commanding EASTERN FORCE, E. E. F.

Headquarters, EASTERN FORCE, E.E.F.
Monday, 28th May, 1917.

178. - ACT OF GALLANTRY.

In placing on record the death of No 5640 Private G.S. Sealy, 1st Battalion, British West Indies Regiment, the G.O.C. wishes to express his appreciation of the gallant conduct which unfortunately led Private Sealy losing his life on May 20th.

Observing a comrade in difficulty whilst bathing, in the sea Private Sealy gallantly swam out to his assistance but was over-come by the strength of the current and drowned in the attempt. His comrade was eventually saved.

x x x x x x

(sgd) F. GASCOIGNE, Brigdr.-General,
D.A. and Q.M.G.,
EASTERN FORCE, E.E.F.

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DEIR EL BELAH.

1st June 1917

A party of 100 Other ranks of "D" Coy and 50 Other Ranks "A" Coy employed on construction of Dig Outs for EASTERN FORCE.

"B" + "C" Coy found working parties for construction of Dig Outs as on 1st instant. Only 100 men being found.

A party consisting of Capt R. J. Craig Lieut J. H. Irving + E.K.C. Weatherhead + 2/Lts W. Hinds D. S. M. Clarke and L. C. Atken and 42 Other Ranks "A" Coy and 2/Lt B. G. Davis and 51 Other Ranks "C" Coy under Capt R. J. Craig proceeded by march route to DORSET HOUSE about 1½ miles EAST of crossing 18 WADI GHUZZE and attached to 96 Heavy Group R.G.A for the purpose of buying cables from observation posts and laterally between Batteries.

A party of one Sergeant + 18 Other Ranks took over water Duties DEIR EL BELAH from 53rd Div.

| | | |
|--|-----|---|
| "B" + "D" Coy found working parties as on 1st inst | 4th | " |
| "C" + "D" " " " " " " " " | 5th | " |
| "B" + "D" " " " " " " " " | 6th | " |
| "B" + "C" " " " " " " " " | 7th | " |
| 2/Lt. W.S. Griffith repaired the Battr for duty. | 8th | " |

A. Guard of Honour to General Bailloud Commanding the French Troops in Palestine consisting of Capt A. E. Harragin, Lt. G. Challenger 2/Lt and 100 Other Ranks paraded

Wohmre 3.
6.

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DEIR EL BELAH.

1917. June 8th at EASTERN FORCE Head Quarters

" 9th No 9299 Sgt Gowers died at 2130.
"B" + "R" boys found working parties as on 1st inst.

" 11th A Draft consisting of 2/Lt J.C. Masters and 63 Other Ranks from 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to Companies
"C" + "D" boys found working parties as on 1st instant

" 12th "B" + "C" " " " " " " " "

" 13th "B" + "R" " " " " " " " " "

3 Officers and 100 Other Ranks proceeded to R.F.C Ground to form fatigue parties for move of 79th Squadron R.F.C

" 14th Head Quarters E.F working parties "D" Coy + Officers ⁵⁰ 35 other rks
R.F.C. working parties "C" Coy 1 Officer 35 other ranks }
ditto "R" " 1 " 35 " " }

" 15th Head Quarters working party "B" Coy 1 Officer 50 other ranks
R.F.C. ditto " " "D" " 1 " 35 " "
" " " " "C" " 1 " 35 " "

" 16th Head Quarters " " "C" " 1 " 50 " "
R.F.C. " " "C" " 1 " 50 " "

" 18th Head Quarters " " "B" " 1 " 50 " "

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt W.I. Wetton + 2/Lt L.V. Henriques and 4 other ranks from 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt joined the Bn for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

" 19th No 291 Ptes. Alexander died in 5th Ch. C.C.I.

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Somme 3.

6. 7.

DEIR EL BELAH.

from G. S. wound received. (not in action).

Extract from Eastern Force routine Orders No 207 @/d 19/6/17 reference Act of Gallantry no 772 Pte A. G. Babb.

2/Lt C. S. Cousins and 24 other ranks proceeded to Prisoners of War compound to strengthen guard.

Two Drafts of 50 Other Ranks under 2/Lt Anderson and McFarlane joined the Battr for duty from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt were taken on the strength and posted to Coys.

"A" Coy whilst buying wires for Heavy Artillery at QUEENS HILL were shelled off their work. There were no casualties except 2 other ranks slightly wounded.

A Draft consisting of 14 Other Ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt under 2/Lt Hahn 5th B. W. I. R joined the Battr for duty was taken on strength and posted to Coys.

Reserve of last 6 months covering period January 1917 to June 1917.

(a) Owing to the lack of Brigade organization the Bn experienced great difficulty in the matter of Transport whilst on the Lines of communication, being a single Unit it is only

19th June 1917

25th

DORSET HOUSE

26th

July 1917.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

SPECIAL ORDER.
BY

General Sir A. J. Murray, G.C.M.G; K.C.B. C.V.O. DS.O.
Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

E. E? F.
28th June 1917.

On handing over my command to General Sir Edmund Allenby I wish to express to all ranks of the Staff Departments, and all troops in the Field and in Garrison my deep gratitude for the loyal services they have rendered during the eighteen months we have been engaged in expelling the TURKS from Sinai and the SENUSSI from Egypts Western Provinces.

It is a record that we may well be proud of, and it has been carried out under conditions of great hardship owing to heat and water difficulties.

To the British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, and West Indian and Egyptian troops serving under my command I say good-bye and God-speed.

A. J. MURRAY? General,
Commandr:in:Chief.

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7.
DEIR EL BELAH

July 1917.
Organization.

provided with 1st line Transport which was practically useless on the heavy Sands of the SINAI DESERT. Unlike other formations it had no Camel Transport and all movements of Baggage along the line had to be carried out by rail. During the greater part of this period the Bn. carried their Tents with them which greatly added to the weight and bulk of baggage.

There was another disadvantage to this method of Transport. Owing to the heavy nature of the Sand it was found impossible to carry the Bn's reserve Ammunition in the First line Transport. This was carried by rail with all the other Baggage. Therefore whilst on the march, the Bn. had to rely solely on the Ammunition carried actually on the Soldier (120 rounds per man). Water carts and Field Kitchens owing to their great weight had also to be transported by train; but no great discomfort was experienced owing to the plentiful supply of good water from the pipe lines and wells all along the line of route.

Education.

(b) During this period many Officers NCO's and men were sent to the Imperial School of Instruction ZEITOUN for courses of Machine Gun, Signalling and Advanced Telephone course, Lewis Gun, Bombing, Stokes Gun and General course. Men were also sent to the School of Cookery

July 1917.

ISMALIA. The results were good and the instructions in the special courses were helpful. The General course, both Officers and N.C.Os, gives a fair ground to work on, but the subjects are too numerous and the course too short, (3 weeks) for any really satisfactory results to be obtained. Such subjects as Musketry and Topography are, too large for such a short course. It would be better if only the rudiments of Topography - Setting a map; reading it, and the compass and simple instruction in Musketry given in the General course and two new courses opened for Topography and Musketry, where more detailed instruction could be given.

(c) During the Batt^{rs} stay at ROMANI where there were few garrison duties to perform the B^{ty} carried out a programme of Coy + Batt^{rs} training. There were also a number of practically untrained drafts who were formed into a separate company to undergo training. All companies and the draft company went through a short course of Musketry. Later on great difficulty was found to carry on adequate training owing to the fact that the Batt^{rs} was continually finding small detachments and posts all along the line, besides railway night patrols post guards and duties and outpost duties.

Training

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7.
DEIR EL BELAH.July 1917Defences

(d) At SHEIKH ZOWAIDE the Battⁿ constructed 4 small all round redoubts covering the Railway Station and Pumping Station. These were small Hexagonal works revetted with timber and necessary Dug Outs constructed for storage of water and ammunition. The whole was surrounded with a ten ft deep wire fence with an outer apron, in the shape of a Star. Each Redoubt was constructed to hold one Platoon.

1917 July 1st.

The Strength of the Battⁿ stood at 37 Officers including the medical Officer and Chaplain and 968 other ranks making 6 Officers over strength and 48 other ranks under strength.

2/Lt. C. S. Cousins was detached from the Battⁿ to organise and open an Enquiry Office at the Station so that all drafts and small parties of soldiers returning from Hospital could report there and arrangements be made for forwarding them on to their respective Units.

" 9th.

Lt. G. B. L. Porter 2/Lt. P. J. Davies and the Battⁿ machine Gun Section - 32 other ranks, proceeded to MARINE VIEW to be attached to 162 m. G. Coy 162 BDE 54th DIVⁿ for a period of intensive training and also to gain more experience in tactical handling.

" 10th

Two N.C. Os proceeded to Belah for an Armourers Course at the workshop under the I.C.M.

" 12th.

A party of 5 other ranks proceeded to 155

12th July 1917.

Bde Bombing School to undergo a refresher course in Bombing.

6 Officers and 184 other ranks "A" boy and 16 Other Ranks "C" boy under capt R. J. Craig proceeded by rail to GAMLI where they came under orders of Chief Engineer DESERT COLUMN. Their task was to lay Decanville railways under the supervision of R.E. They were subsequently employed sorting the material and receiving instructions in the laying of the lines.

Two parties of 9 other ranks each proceeded to UMJERRAR to the 156 + 157 Bde Bombing Schools for a Refresher course.

A party of 9 other ranks proceeded to 155 Bde Grenade School for a refresher course in Bombing.

A party of Bombers rejoined the Batt: from 155 Bde Grenade School.

A party of 2 Officers and 100 other ranks of "D" boy returned from UMJERRAR having completed the Kite Balloon Emplacement and Dig Outs for the crew. There would have been a great saving of both time and labour if the party had been given, in the first instance, allotted tasks.

A party of 10 other ranks, Blacksmiths, proceeded to join "A" boy at GAMLI, for instructions in laying of Decanville Railways

13th " "

14th " "

17th " "

19th " "

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7.

DEIR EL BELAH.

1917 July 19th

" 20/21st

SNIPERS SPUR.

Lt + 2nd Mr. F. Willis admitted to 66th B. I.S.

The Machine Gun Detachment, attached to 162nd M. G. Coy. took part in a raid carried out by the 1/5th Bedford Regt on UMBRELLA HILL on the night of 20/21st

The object of the raid was to :-

- (a) Reduce Enemy man power.
- (b) Capture or Destroy enemy material.

UMBRELLA HILL forms an Enemy advanced work 500^x in front of his main line of defences and 550^x distant from our own lines. The work is entirely on sand and consists of a Fire Trench, following the crests of the hills, with a trench at the foot of the rear slopes off which short passages lead to dug-outs burrowed into the rear slopes and with numerous communication trenches to the fire trench. Two communication trenches lead back to the main position and a sunken road on South East appears to be used also. On the north and South the trenches are protected by a line of barbed wire entanglements 3 to 4 yards broad and 4 feet high and on West by Knife rests.

Assaulting troops :- 1/5th Bedford Regt

Detachment :- 1484 Coy. R.E.

Bearer Sub Divⁿ 2/1. E.A. Field Ambulance

The whole under the command of Lt. Col. G. W. Brighton C.M.G. 1/5th Bedford Regt.

The Artillery were to prepare 3 gaps

July 1917.

in Enemy wire in front of Front trench by 1800 on 20th.

The 162 m. G. Coy including the m. G. Section 1st B. W. I. R. were to form a box barrage round the area to be raided and the task allotted to the 1st B. W. I. R. Section was the right flank barrage into the enemys main line trenches near the CAIRO - GAZA ROAD. This entailed a large amount of careful preparation and hard work, building emplacements in the front line, moving up gun stores, ammunition etc. During the night the m. Gs fired from 2105 to 2150 at a rate of 50 rounds per minute approximately, and during this period the Section was heavily shelled with both High Explosive and Shrapnell but fortunately no casualties were suffered. The Section was withdrawn to MARINE VIEW at about 0200. From the outset the Turks directed a severe fire chiefly from 5.9 Guns on the Reserve Battr Hd Qrs and communication trenches in rear, maintaining it with violence till 2300 and thereafter with less intensity till 0200. The raiding party encountered little opposition as the Turks were thoroughly demoralized by our accurate bombardment but thick smoke and dust from shells much hampered the raiders' movements. The full

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DEIR EL BELAH.

July. 1917.

programme was carried through and the entire work raided and wrecked, except the extreme right corner. 1 Turkish Officer and 110 other ranks definitely counted dead and seventeen prisoners. one machine Gun one French Mortar and a number of rifles brought back.

The Officer Comm^d 102 M. G. Coy reports:-

The men worked exceedingly well, displaying the qualifications necessary for a M. G. Section viz:-
A keen interest in their work; cheerfulness and energy, coolness under shell fire, and an intelligent application of what was required of them, and the ability to carry it out. In addition although they were only issued with Vickers Guns a few days before the raid, their immediate action was excellent and they were able to keep their guns in action in a severe test.

" 21st.

A Draft consisting of 2 Lt. J. P. Mangot and 59 other ranks from the 5th (R) Bn. B. W. I. R joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

" 22nd.

Two parties of 9 other ranks each proceeded to UMJERRAR to 156 and 157 Pde Grenade School for refresher courses.

" 25th

A Draft consisting of Lt. F. A. Lansdowne and 46 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn. B. W. I. R joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

27th July 1917.

27th 28th "

SNIPERS SPUR.

A party of one Officer and 155 other ranks proceeded to 155 Bde Grenade School for refresher course.

The machine Gun Section attached to 162 M. G. Coy took part in another raid on UMBRELLA HILL carried out by 1/5th Bedford Regt.

Arrangements as on previous occasion.

Assaulting troops:- Detachment 1/5th Bedford Regt

" 484 Coy. R.E

Bearer sub divⁿ 2/1st E.A. Fld. Amb.

under command of Lt Col. E. W. Brighton C.M.G.

1/5th Bedford Regt.

The raid was comparatively small and confined to a relatively small front.

Early in the action the Turks opened a Heavy H.E. fire from 5.9 Guns on the same place behind our lines as they did on the previous occasion but no one was there.

Turks brought up reserves and counter attacked our raiders after they had entered his works. A sharp fight with bombs and bayonets ensued. No prisoners were taken. A shrapnel barrage was placed in front of our trenches to cut off return of assaulting troops, this was avoided by working round the flanks.

Maj General G. S. Hare Commandg 54th Divⁿ reports:-

The 1st B. W. I. Regt M. G. Section have taken part in the M. G. barrage in the last

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1.

COPY of wire addressed to Captain-General and Governor-Chief JAMAICA, dated 9-8-17

From :- Sir Edmund Allenby, C-in-Chief Eypforce.

To :- Captain General and Governor-in-Chief JAMAICA.

1440 9-8-17.

" I have great pleasure in informing you of the gallant conduct of the Machine Gun Section of the 1st British West Indies Regiment during two successful raids on the Turkish Trenches. All ranks behaved with great gallantry under heavy rifle and shell fire and contributed in no small measure to the success of the operations." ends.

2.

Handed in at G.H.Q. at 1817

To Lt-Colonel Wood Hill, Commanding 1st British West Indies Regiment.
13-8-17.

"The following telegram has been received from the Captain-General and Governor -in- Chief JAMAICA, by General Sir Edmund Allenby in reply to his cable of the 9th inst; It has afforded me great pleasure to receive your telegram of the 10th August regarding the gallant conduct of the machine gun section 1st British West Indies Regt: for which thank you. I have caused your telegram to be published in press and to be repeated to Governors BAHAMAS and BRITISH HONDURAS. I am sure news of gallant conduct of section will be received with pleasure throughout WEST INDIES. Please convey my congratulations to all ranks. MANNING. ends.

From :- G.H.Q.

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DEIR EL BELAH.

July 1917.

two raids on UMBRELLA HILL and both the Brigadier and the O. C. M. G. Coy. with whom they have been working are full of their praises. They were under a heavy shell fire on both occasions and behaved splendidly.

" 28

2 Officers and 4 Other ranks proceeded to Imperial School of Instruction ZEITOUN. to attend courses.

" 29.

1 Officer and 9 other ranks proceeded to UMJERRAR for Grenade courses with 156 Bde Grenade School

" 31.

At the end of the month the Battⁿ strength stood at 37 Officers and 1016 other ranks making 6 officers and 3 other ranks overstrength.

1917 Aug 2nd

The Battⁿ paraded as strong as possible on the hard ground at 1700 to be inspected by Lt General Sir P. W. Chetwode KCMG., C.B., DSO, Commanding EASTERN FORCE to presented the military medal to No 18 Lance Corporal. I. W. Alexander of the Machine Gun Section.

After an Inspection of the Battⁿ Brig. Genl. Gascoigne read out to the Battⁿ the following extract of the action for which Lt Cpl Alexander had been awarded the military

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8.

DEIR EL BELAH.

July 1917.

medal. "For exceptional coolness and devotion to duty on night of 20/21st July 1917 when working a machine Gun in the front line in a position that was heavily shelled by High Explosives and Shrapnel. L/C. Alexander kept his gun in action and fired for 45 minutes to maintain a flank m.g. Barrage. During this period his gun was hit by rifle fire.

Again on the night of 27/28 July 1917 L/C. Alexander kept his gun going for 30 minutes although exposed to a heavy shell, rifle and m.g. fire. The flash blind and screw was knocked down but L/C Alexander remained perfectly cool and kept his gun working effectively. His work throughout merits the highest praise.

Lieut Philip Chetwoode said in a short speech that he was very glad of the opportunity to inspect the Battⁿ and to present the Military medal to L/C. Alexander. The Battⁿ during their stay in Egypt had earned a good name for smartness and soldierly qualities and it was very gratifying to see that the very first time the m.g. Section went into action they had done so well. The Brig. General commanding the 162 Brigade and all those who had come

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1917 Aug 2.

in contact with the machine Gun Section had spoken in the highest terms of them. He reminded the Battⁿ that the V. C and M. M were the only two Decorations which was solely given for acts of gallantry in the field.

The ribbon of the medal was then pinned on the breast of Lance Corporal Alexander.

The Battⁿ then marched past in fours.

A Draft consisting of 42 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt conducted by Lt Perkins 5th B. W. I. R. joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

Extract from Supplement to London Gazette
10th 6th July 1917:-

Mentioned in General Murray's Despatches
10th 15/3/17 (British West Indian Regt) Major
(Temp. Lieut Col. G. Wood Hill.

9th

6 Officers and 200 Other ranks "A" Coy rejoined the Battⁿ from CAMLI. This party had been employed on collecting material and in constructing Decanville Light Railway

No 3123 Pte. G. Bruce "A" Coy died at 2nd 4th London Field Ambulance.

12th

At mid-day on this date EASTERN FORCE ceased to exist and the Battⁿ was transferred as "Army Troops" to XXI Army Corps under the command of Lt General C. I. Dulfir C.V.O.

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8

DEIR EL BELAH.

14th Aug. 1917.

15th " "

16th " "

18th " "

21st " "

23rd " "

26th " "

28th " "

31st " "

Lt F. A. J. Lansdowne died in Camp.
No 1514 Pte. J. Rojas died from Gun shot
wound received. (not in action)

Lt Marion R. Arml. reported to the Battrn
for duty vice Surg Lt. A. A. Hearne to Hospital

16 other ranks rejoined the Battrn for duty
from Rest Camp RAFA.

Surg Lt Hearne rejoined the Battrn from Hosp.

A Craft consisting of Lt G. G. Garrett and
23 Other Ranks joined the Battrn for duty from
5th (Res) Bde B. W. I. Regt were taken on the
strength and posted to Companies.

8 Platoons consisting of 11 Officers and
419 other ranks proceeded to MANSURA RIDGE
and were attached to 1/6th Highland L. I 157
Bde. 52nd Div for instruction in trench
warfare. Two Platoons were attached to each
 Coy H. L. I and were allotted their respective
sectors in the line. They automatically took
their turns of duty in patrols construction
parties etc.

Lt Marion R. Arml. was evacuated to
the 66th C. C. S.

The strength of the Battrn stood at
37 Officers and 1102 other ranks.

Between 27th July and the end of
August 22 Officers and 184 other ranks
were treated regimentally for sand fly fever

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DEIR EL BELAH

31st Aug. 1917.

All troops surrounding the Lake Area have suffered considerably in this respect. The fever takes the form of a very sharp attack with a high temperature lasting for about 3 days. It leaves the patient very weak and the period of convalescence is about 7 days.

During the month companies carried out field training and musketry.

72 other ranks completed bombing courses during the month at the 155, 156, 157 Brigade Grenade School.

1917 Sept. 1st.

The strength of the Battⁿ stood at 37 officers and 1102 other ranks.

" " 2nd

A party of 20 Other ranks proceeded to MANSURA Locality front line trenches for training in patrol work.

" " 6th

A draft of 10 Other Ranks joined the Bⁿ for duty from 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. R were taken on the strength and posted to companies.

All employment and duties handed over to Detachment 2nd B. W. I. R in the DEIR EL BELAH area.

Lt Col Woodhill handed over the duties of Commandant DEIR EL BELAH to Major

DEIR EL BELAH.

F. Woolnough Commanding Detachment
2nd B. W. I. Regt BELAH.

6th Sept 1917

Capt J. F. Jaffe' R.A.M.C. joined the Battⁿ
for temporary duties in the absence of Surg:
Lt A. A. Hearne to Hospital.

7th " "

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill proceeded to RAFA
(with 5 other ranks) to take over command
of 20th Indian Infantry Brigade vice Brig:
General H. K. Watson C.M.G., C.I.E., M.V.O to
command COMPOSITE FORCE

8th " "

The Battalion less 8 Platoons occupied
trenches in MANSURA RIDGE Locality proceeded
to R. 34. B. EL BURJALIYE.

EL BURJALIYE.

A Regimental Dump was formed at
DEIR EL BELAH and a party of 2 Officers &
35 other ranks left behind of men suffering
from fever and unable to march

Capt. A. L. Lawson rejoined the Battⁿ
from Leave of Absence to the United Kingdom.

14th " "

4 Platoons from "C" + "D" Coy relieved
4 Platoons "A" + "B" Coy in the front line
trenches at MANSURA Locality 4 Platoons
"A" + "B" Coy returned to Battⁿ Hd Qrs EL BURJALIYE

16th " "

Capt J. Jaffe' R.A.M.C. handed over his
duties to Surg Lt. A. A. Hearne and proceeded to
146th Field Ambulance.

"C" + "D" moved from Front line
trenches MANSURA RIDGE and joined the Battⁿ

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1917 Sept 25.

at EL BURJALIYE

The Battⁿ moved to SHEIKH ABBAS right Sub-Sector and took over the Trenches from 123rd Outram Rifles in the DUMBELL HILL Locality. The move was completed by 2030.

" " 29th
DUMBELL HILL

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill on being relieved by Brig^{ad} General Watson from the temporary Command of the 20th Indian Infantry Brigade took over Command of the Battⁿ from Major S. J. L. Golding

" " 30th

The Strength of the Battⁿ stood at 34 Officers and 1015 Other Ranks.

Hospital During the month 6 Officers and 76 other ranks were evacuated sick, most of the cases being Pyrexia. of this number 4 Officers and 24 other ranks rejoined the Battⁿ. The health of the Battⁿ improved greatly on arrival at EL BURJALIYE

School of Instruction.

5 N.C.O's and 40 men attended Bombing Courses during the month at the 155, 156 + 157 Brigade Grenade Course Schools.

The following courses were attended during the month:-

El Arish Branch School. - Bombing, Lewis Gun and Snipers courses. - 3 Officers & 4 other rks.

Zeitoun. Topography. N.C.O's General Advanced Topography and Telephony, Machine

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DUMBELL HILL.

30th Sept 1917.

Sun. Tickers Lewis Gun & musketry and Range finding courses. 4 Officers and 16 other ranks.

Tel el Kebir Central Gas School 1 Officer + 3 other ranks.

Training & work. During the month 8 Platoons of the Battrⁿ at a time were attached to the following regiments respectively holding the front line trenches at MANSURA RIDGE for training in trench warfare and patrol work. The Platoons took their turns in turn of Duty and patrol work. They were shelled daily but suffered no casualties:-

1/6 Highland Light Infantry.

1/4 Kings' Own Scottish Borderers.

2/3 Gurkhas.

From the 9th to the 26th inclusive 8 Platoons at EL BURJALIYE were employed on burying and laying pipe line from DORSET HOUSE to HAPPY VALLEY also on ramping roads.

Command. From the 8th to the 26th inclusive the Battrⁿ was attached to the 52nd and 75th Divisions respectively of the XXI corps for tactical and administrative purposes.

On taking over the Front line in the DUMBELL HILL Locality the Battrⁿ came under the 20th Indian Infantry Brigade of the

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DUMBELL HILL.
PALESTINE.

1917 Sept 30.

COMPOSITE FORCE of which it formed a part.
(See Composite Force order no 1 R/d 11 9/7.)

FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

" Oct. 1st.

The strength of the Battⁿ stood at 34 Officers and 1015 other ranks.

On reorganisation of COMPOSITE FORCE the Bⁿ was withdrawn from the 20th Indian Inf. Bde and came directly under the orders of COMPOSITE FORCE.

" " 3rd

3 Other ranks proceeded to COMPOSITE FORCE for duties as Clerk, Sanitary duty, and Groom.

" " 11th

Capt. A. E. Harragin rejoined the Bⁿ for duty from Hospital.

" " 12th

Corpl. Gopaul proceeded to the 20th I. I. Bde as Bombing Instructor

" " 13th

The Battⁿ was re-equipped with MK III & IV rifles sighted for MK VII Ammunition

" " 14th

2/Lt. A. B. McFarlane rejoined the Bⁿ for duty from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt was taken on the strength and posted to "A" Coy.

2/Lt. G. S. Cousins was transferred from "B" Coy to "C" Coy.

Capt Lavenagh 2/Lt. Wetton, Aitken and 20 other ranks rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from Imperial School of Instruction ZEITOUN. Major W. J. Bensch rejoined the Battⁿ from Heliopolis Senior Officers School of Instruction Lt. W. Niven and F. G. Pearson proceeded on 7

DUMBELL HILL.

Oct

14th Sept 1917

days leave of absence from School of Instruction
to CAIRO

2/Lts J. C. S. Masters and D. S. M. Clark
proceeded to ABOUKIR for an interview at Middle
East Bde R.F.C. H.Q. with a view of joining the R.F.C.

17th " "

Lt M. A. Puckerin and 4 other ranks re-
joined the Battⁿ from I. S. of I. ZEITOUN.

Brig Genl. H. D. Watson C.M.G. C.I.E. M.V.O. made
a tour of inspection of the front line trenches.

Lt Genl. E. L. Bullfin C.V.O. C.B. Comm^d 9 XXI
Army Corps accompanied by Brig Genl. E. F.
Humphreys D.S.O. made a tour of inspection
of the front line trenches.

18th " "

Lt. I. G. Cooke and 2/Lt W. S. Griffiths and
105 other ranks joined the Battⁿ as a Draft
from the 5th (Res) Bn. B. W. I. Regt were taken on
the strength and posted to companies.

2nd/Lts J. C. S. Masters & D. S. M. Clark
returned from Middle East Bde R.F.C. ABOUKIR.

Lt M. A. Puckerin proceeded to MENDUR to
undergo a short course of instruction in Artillery
co-operation with the 9th Battery Mountain
Artillery Bde.

Lt. W. Raven rejoined the Battⁿ from Hosp.

22nd " "

Brig Genl. H. D. Watson C.M.G. C.I.E. M.V.O.
made a tour of inspection of the front line
trenches

26th " "

The Battⁿ was equipped and issued

DUMBELL HILL.

1917. Oct 26th

with Box Respirators, on P.H. Gas Helmet being withdrawn and returned to Ordnance.

The Rev^d Capt Cornish C. F. Wesleyan Chaplain to COMPOSITE FORCE joined the Battr and was attached to "D" Coy.

" " 28th.

The Rev^d Capt Wheeler C. F. C of S Chaplain to COMPOSITE FORCE joined the Battr and was attached to "D" Coy.

Mt Lt G. J. Cousins appointed Gas Officer to COMPOSITE FORCE

The strength of the Battr stood at 36 officers and 1064 other ranks.

The Battr contributed £68. 8.0 for "Our Day" British Red Cross Fund and was forwarded to Head Quarters Composite Force.

Operations and Intelligence.

The front line position in the DUMBELL HILL Locality consists of a series of wired redoubts facing S. EAST and opposite to the Turkish works of BAGDAD SYSTEM and ATAWINEH REDOUBT. Our position is enfiladed from the NORTH by the enemy works surrounding TANK REDOUBT. The Guns are as shewn and consists of:-

- (a) 1st Bn. B. W. I. Regt.
- (b) "Y" 75 Heavy French mortar Battery (4 guns)
- (c) 1st Bn. B. W. I. Regt Light Stoke T. m Battery (4 guns)
- (d) 2nd " " " " m. G. Section (4 guns)
- (e) 9th Mountain Artillery Brigade.

DUMBELL HILL.

October 1917.

Running across the front of the position from N. to S. runs a large WADI - The WADI SIHAN - with a large branch WADI running E from TWO TREE FARM to ATAWINEH REDOUBT. There is also a large branch WADI running up to our position at MESREFE from WELL HOUSE which forms a covered approach to our position.

The WADI SIHAN was denied to the enemy by our picquets posted at WELL HOUSE, WELL FARM TWO TREE FARM, WADI ATAWINEH and VALE OF DEAD HORSE were continually patrolled. Patrols working in conjunction with 20th I. I. Bde and Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade.

Prisoners were brought in on the following dates:- (I) One at TWO TREE FARM 7/10/17. He belonged to 10th Coy 3rd Bⁿ 59th Regt at ATAWINEH REDOUBT

(II) One at WELL FARM 16/10/17 he belonged to 2nd Bⁿ 19th Regt 54th Divⁿ situated near TANK REDOUBT.

(III) Two at WELL HOUSE 27/10/17.

The following information was obtained of the Enemy:- The 1st and 2nd Bⁿ 59th Regt were holding the ATAWINEH REDOUBT Section with the 7th Regt in the HAIRPIN Section on the 7th inst. Relief was carried out about the 16th inst and the following regiments were identified in the line:- HAIRPIN REDOUBT

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DUMBELL HILL.

1917 October.

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1st Bⁿ: 76th Regt and 3rd Bⁿ: 76th Regt. ATAWINEH
 REDOUBT 3rd Bⁿ: 58th Regt BAGDAD SYSTEM 1st and 2nd
 58th Regt. At this time the 19th Regt 54th Div.
 was located in the neighbourhood of TANK REDOUBT with
 the 105th Regt in the BAGDAD SYSTEM.

Battns appear to remain in the front lines for a
 period of 15 days. At nights the Battns man the
 1st 2nd 3rd and 4th lines of Trenches but by day
 only Sentry posts are in position. The trenches are
 manned $\frac{1}{2}$ hour after sundown and men march
 back to their bivouac area at dawn. 50% of the
 Garrison are awake at nights while the remainder
 rests in the trenches in dugouts roofed with corrugated
 iron and with earth on top. Each battalion is
 armed with 16 machine Guns and with Gas in
 iron tubes 6' long brought up in the last fortnight
 in cans and placed in holes made for them in
 all 3 or 4 lines of trenches under the parapet or
 parados below the ledge of the trench. Specially
 trained men in Gas have been brought up from
 various Regiments. Each Battⁿ is trained in the
 use of Gas masks and one per man is issued.
 There is plenty of food, meat bread and water
 the latter being good and stored in tanks behind
 the front lines.

The Artillery in this Sector is composed mainly
 of 15 pounders and 5.9 howitzers.

A reconnoissance patrol under Capt + Adjt

October 1917.

R. H. Zink was sent out on the 9th inst to make of field sketch of "NO MANS LAND" to include WADI ATAWINEH, its northern Branch and the WADI SIHAN as far as its junction with WADI TANK, also to ascertain if small enemy works thrown out in front of ATAWINEH REDOUBT and other works covering GAZA - BEERSHEBA ROAD were occupied by day by the enemy. The patrol worked to within 400 yds of their objectives which were found to be occupied by the enemy. The patrol withdrew on the approach of a hostile cavalry patrol. Much construction work was being carried out on small enemy works thrown well forward covering their main line of defence from ATAWINEH REDOUBT to TANK RIDGE.

The field sketch was completed and forwarded to COMPOSITE FORCE HD QRS.

On the 28th the regimental transport was shelled at the Refilling point at MENOUR & lost one mule.

On the 31st the DUMBELL HILL locality was heavily shelled by the enemy at 0530. Casualties 2 Killed and 2 wounded. Most of the fire appeared to come from the direction of TANK REDOUBT.

Schools of Instruction:-

The following were the results from Schools of Instruction.

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DUMBELL HILL.

1917 October.

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| COURSE. | RANK & NAME | QUALIFICATION | MARKS % |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Lewis Gun | Lt. W. Ruven | Qualified Instruct ^r | |
| Sniping | Lt. J. G. Pearson. | 1st class " | 88% |
| | No 1003 Corp. S. Wells. | " " " | 83% |
| | 1307. Pte H. Attale. | " " " | 88% |
| French Warfare. | 2/Lt. J. C. Aitken. | " " " | 95% |
| Bombing | 985 Sgt R. E. Taylor | Distinguished | 99% |
| | 367 Lt. R. Harris. | 1st class Inst ^r | 95% |
| Gas house | 2nd Lt. C. P. Cousins | Qualified. | |
| | 964 Corp ^r Robertson | Distinguished | |
| | 380 ^a Sgt W. Jacobs. | 1st class | |
| | 82 Corp ^t D'OConnell. | do | |
| Lewis Gun | Lt M. A. Puckeurin | Distinguished | |
| (Zetoun) | 46 Sgt Chan | Qualified | |
| | 498 Sgt Shurland | Distinguished | |
| | 905 ^a Sgt A. Fa Touche | Qualified | |

Promotions. The following promotions appeared in G.R.O. during the month:-

Temp 2/Lt V. J. Maingot to be Temp Lieut. vice Lt. W. H. Gooden. Chusholm transferred Dated 9th 7/17.
 Temp 2/Lt. G. S. Cooke to be Temp Lieut vice Temp Lt. J. A. S. Lansdowne (General List) died. D/2 14th 7/17.
 Temp 2/Lt M. A. Puckeurin to be Temp. Lieut vice Temp Lt L. R. Wheeler struck off. D/2 14th 7/17.

The health of the Bⁿ was good during

DUMBELL HILL.

October 1917.

the month. There were several cases of dysentery and a number of both Officers & Men suffering from Septic sores.

A party of two Officers and 38 other ranks of the 2nd Bn. B. W. I. Regt machine Gun Section were attached to the Battⁿ for duty.

The strength of the Battⁿ stood at 36 Officers and 1064 other ranks, making 5 Officers and 51 other ranks over strength.

A party of 23 other ranks proceeded to DORSET HOUSE for duty with the W.S.O 75th Divⁿ. Major W. J. Bensly proceeded to Field Ambulance suffering from appendicitis.

No 546 Sgt Adams accidentally wounded when out on patrol

Capt G. C. Paul and Lt. G. C. Challenor evacuated to 121 Indian Field Ambulance.

The Battⁿ proceeded to SHEIKH ABBAS right & left subsectors taking over from The Outram Rifles and 1/4 Duke of Cornwall's L.I. respectively who proceeded forward with their Divⁿ. the 75th on the evacuation by the enemy of the line BEER SHEBA to TANK REDOUBT.

Lt. V. J. Mangot evacuated to Field Amb.

The Battⁿ proceeded to SHARTA on concentration of COMPOSITE FORCE at that place.

2nd Nov^r 1917.4th " "6th " "8th " "

FRONT LINE TRENCHES.

SHEIKH ABBAS.

PALESTINE.

10th " "

SHARTA. PALESTINE.

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11.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

SHARHA. PALESTINE

1917. Nov 11

The Battr less Details at COMPOSITE FORCE and party left in charge of B's Dump proceeded to SINEID 7 miles N. of GAZA.

The Battr ceased to come under orders of COMPOSITE FORCE on that Force reverting to lines of Communication and came directly under the orders of XXI Army Corps, to whom they were to act as Corps Troops.

2/Lt Cousins + Henriques ceased to perform the duties of Gas Officer + Salvage Officer respectively to COMPOSITE FORCE

22 camels and 11 native Drivers were attached to the Battr for duty from the XXI Army Corps Troop Train.

23 Other ranks rejoined the Battr for duty from W.S.O. 75th Div: DORSET HOUSE and 3 other ranks from S.M.O. COMPOSITE FORCE on that formation ceasing to exist

2/Lt J.C. Masters and one Platoon "C" Coy proceeded for guard duties at MEJDEL

Lt G. B. Porter + one platoon "C" Coy proceeded for Guard duties over captured war material at HUS, SIMSIN, NEJED + TUMRAH.

Capt A. E. Haragin with 116 other ranks proceeded to HUS to strengthen the Platoon already there.

2/Lt S. S. Sarnett and one platoon "C" Coy proceeded to YEBNA for duty.

" " 14th

DEIR SENEID.
PALESTINE.

" " 15th

DEIR SINEID
PALESTINE

16th Nov 1917

"A" Coy under Capt Craig (6 Officers and 185 other ranks) proceeded to SUAFIR-ES-SHARKIYEH for duty with Hd Bn XXI Army Corps

Capt Wheeler C.F. was evacuated sick to EA 7th Amb. 17th " "

Report received from 15th Gen Hosp Alexandria that NO 9052 Pte P. Hill "C" Coy diagnosed wounded (Shell shock) Authority NO 19/231 R/S 10/17.

2/Lt. W. Wren and 1 Platoon "B" Coy proceeded to YEBNEH.

2/Lt J.C.S. Masters and 1 Platoon rejoined Bn Hd Bn from MEJDEL

Capt A. E. Haragiri and party "C" Coy at HUI rejoined the Bn for duty, leaving a party of 8 other ranks as garrison over captured stores at HUI.

The Bn less one company and two platoons 19th " " proceeded to JUNCTION STATION en route for KHUREYEL ENAB and halted the following night at SUAFIR-ES-SHARKIYEH.

The Bn proceeded to EYUB a small village about 2 miles E of LATRON at the entrance of the passes on the main JAFFA - JERUSALEM ROAD

Instructions were received verbally on the road for XXI to proceed with all speed to EL-ENAB, therefore an advance party of Lt. Col. C. Wood-Hill, Capt + Adjt R. H. Fink Capt Cornish b. 7 and 52 Other Ranks moved forward arriving at EL-ENAB at 2300 hours.

21st
~~20th~~ " "JUNCTION.
STATION.

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EYUB PALESTINE.

1917 Nov^r 22nd.

The Battⁿ proceeded up the pass to EL-ENAB arriving there at 1130 hrs.

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill appointed Protective Command^r JERUSALEM and special parties from the 52nd 54th 75th Div^s and the 1st B. W. I. Regt. formed to proceed into JERUSALEM to guard the Holy Places as soon as it fell.

No 1340 Pte Carter "C" Coy wounded accidentally whilst driving off Bedouins from Battⁿ Dump.

21st. A.P. McFarlane evacuated to Fld Amb.

" " 23/24

The Battⁿ constructed a rough mountain road from EL ENAB to BIDDU VILLAGE to enable 75th Div^s Artillery to come into action at BIDDU in the attack on NEBI SAMWIL and EL GIB

" " 25th

KHUREYET-EL-ENAB. PALESTINE.

On the relief of the 52nd Div^s and 75th Div^s of the XXI Army Corps by the 53rd + 60th Div^s of the XX Army Corps the Battⁿ moved from EL ENAB to LATRÔN.

" " 26th

LATRÔN

A draft consisting of 50 other ranks and conducted by Lt. Clarke (5th B.W.I.R.) joined the Battⁿ for duty and was posted to companies.

" " 27th

"A" Coy under Capt R. J. Craig rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from SUAFIR-ES-SHARKIYEH.

" " 28th

The Battⁿ proceeded to RAMLEH to act as corps troops to XXI Army Corps.

" " 29th

RAMLEH.

One warrant Officer and one N.C.O. joined the Battⁿ for duty as relief to the Regt. Sgt Major and to Sgt Maj. Neal.

RAMLEH, PALESTINE

Nov^r 1917.Intelligence & Operations.

By the 29th October all preparations had been completed for the forthcoming attack on the GAZA BEER SHEBA LINE. The composite Force holding the line DUMBELL HILL - UM RIUL, thus filling the gap between the XX and XXI Army Corps, were to advance the line they held towards ATAWINEH REDOUBT with a view to induce the enemy to believe that an attack may be expected on that Section. The operations were to cover a period of 6 days and be carried out in three bounds, the line eventually being established from EL MUNKEILEH across the WADI BAHÄ & SIHAN to BEN LOMAND in the SHEIKH ABBAS sub sector. In order to facilitate construction work an R.E. Dump was formed concealed in the WADI SIHAN & WELL HOUSE which was protected Day & Night by our Picquets. Towards the end of October and the beginning of Nov^r there was much activity in patrol work in "NO MANS LAND" and patrol encounters.

On the 31st Oct heavy fire was heard in the direction of BEER SHEBA and large clouds of dust seen rising behind ATAWINEH REDOUBT along the GAZA - SHERIA Road. Our bombardment of the enemy works grew daily in intensity until it reached a climax on the 2nd Nov^r when UMBRELLA HILL and the Enemy line between that place and the Sea at SHEIKH HASSAN was successfully assaulted and held.

On the morning of 1st Nov^r a wire was received

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RAMLEH
PALESTINE.November 1917.

from the 6 in 6 that an attack on TEL-EL-VEMMI affecting SHARTA & DUMBELL HILL Sectors was to be expected and prepared for on the night of the 1/2nd inst. The G.O.C. COMPOSITE FORCE having effected his object of punning and holding a large force of the Enemy in his immediate front, it was thought inadvisable to push forward our line as originally intended and the project was abandoned. Throughout this period - from 1st to 8th Nov: - the line occupied by the Batt: at DUMBELL HILL was heavily shelled by the enemy and were especially harassed by a Battery of Light Guns thrown out by the enemy well forward of their position in the BAGDAD SYSTEM.

On the nights of the 4th 5th & 6th inst, the enemy under cover of hurricane bombardments made several demonstrations against the SHEIKH ABBAS Sector immediately to our left but were driven back on each occasion.

On the Evening of 5th Nov: 1917 large bodies of our troops were seen debouching from the Hills surrounding SHELLAL and moving towards HEIREIRA. Throughout the 6th a heavy cannonade was heard from the direction of HEIREIRA and the bursting of shells on the ridges behind ATAWINEH REDOUBT. By nightfall it was reported that both HEIREIRA and TEL-EL-SHERIA was in our hands and that GAZA itself was being evacuated by hostile troops. Despite these facts, some Turks still held out in the ATAWINEH position and a Squadron from the Imperial Service Cavalry under Lt. Kelly with 2 Platoons 1/B.W.I.R in support were sent out to occupy TWO TREE FARM

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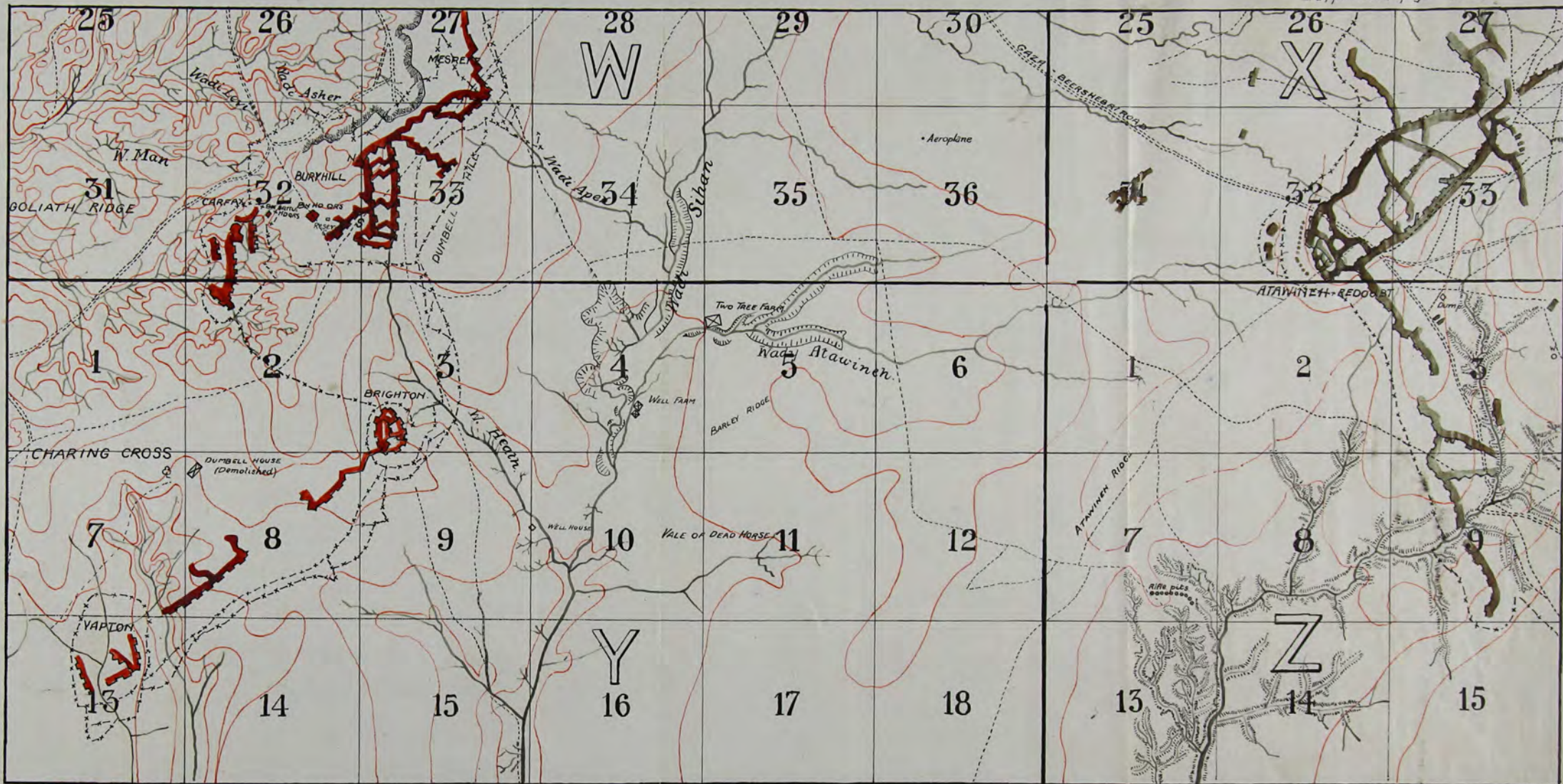
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RAMLEH. PALESTINE.

1917. November.

and from there make a reconnaissance in force of the ATAWINEH position. The two Platoons B.W.I. Regt were left in position at TWO TREE FARM, while the Cavalry moved up the WADI ATAWINEH and at the head of the WADI they dismounted and opened out into skirmishing order. About 1130 when only 600 yards from the enemy wire they came under heavy shell fire and were enfiladed by enemy guns behind TANK REDOUBT. At the same time the Enemy with 3 Machine Guns leaving his works, attacked the Cavalry with superior forces who withdrew to TWO TREE FARM pursued by the enemy. It was at this time that Lieut Kelly I.S.C was killed by a bursting shell. At 1200 hours TWO TREE FARM was visited by Lt Col. G. Wood Hill & Capt & Adjt R.H. Fink. The Cavalry were coming in to TWO TREE FARM and there was a certain amount of confusion and consternation at this point owing to the fact that the orders issued to the C.O. Cavalry had not been passed on to his subordinate commanders. A B.W.I. Stretcher party went out and brought in the body of Lt Kelly, and the Cavalry were ordered to withdraw to ASAFERIYEH covered by 2 Platoons B.W.I. Regt. At this time TWO TREE FARM came under a heavy shell fire from the direction of TANK REDOUBT and a heavy barrage was put down along the WADI SIHAN the only exit from TWO TREE FARM position. Taking up successive positions the 2 Platoons B.W.I. R. withdrew through the barrage fire along the WADI SIHAN to



BRITISH POSITION OCCUPIED BY 1ST B.W.I. REGT.

| | | |
|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| MESREFE | W. 27 Y. 33 | 2 PLATOONS A Coy. |
| BURYHILL N. | W. 33 | DITTO |
| DO S | W. 35 | B. COMPANY |
| COY IN RESERVE | W. 32 | D. COMPANY |
| CARFAX | W. 32 | 1 PLATOON C Coy |
| BRIGHTON | Y. 3 | DITTO |
| YAPTON | Y. 13 | 2 DITTO |
| CARFAX | W. 32 | BN. HD QRS. |

DUMBELL HILL AND ATAWINEH REDOUBT.

(DEFENDED LOCALITIES) GAZA OPERATIONS.

NOVEMBER, 1917.

ENEMY POSITION OCCUPIED BY TURKISH ARMY.

*Rich. Dink Capt
1st West India Regt
attached 1st B. W. I. Regt.*

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RAMLEH. PAL.

1917 November

WELL FARM which was already occupied by 1 Platoon 1st B w 2. Regt. All ranks behaved well under trying circumstances. After the withdrawal from TWO TREE FARM the enemy retired to his own works.

At 2300 hrs 2 Platoons under 2/Lt Clarke & Garrett the Signal Section under 2/Lt C.H.C. Masters, the whole under the command of Capt & Adj R.H. Fink proceeded out to TWO TREE FARM and then on to ATAWINEH REDOUBT with the object of ascertaining whether it was still occupied by the Enemy and if possible to cut the wire and get in. A Telephone line was laid from the advanced picquets of the 20th. I. I. Bde at ASAFERIYEH to TWO TREE FARM. Owing to the delay in laying this cable it was decided to establish a Signal station at a point about 800 yards E of Two TREE FARM with a sufficient escort for protection, the main patrol then moved up the WADI ATAWINEH. The advanced works were found unoccupied, there was a slight loss of direction and the patrol missing ATAWINEH REDOUBT struck the GAZA BEER SHEBA ROAD between ATAWINEH and BAGDAD REDOUBTS. No wire was seen or enemy met with. All appeared to be quiet. It was getting light and it was decided to return to TWO TREE FARM and report to HD QRS COMPOSITE FORCE which was done at 0530. A second Patrol was then sent out under 2/Lt S. Garrett who approached to ATAWINEH REDOUBT under cover of the mist. It was found unoccupied. The trenches were left clean with large quantities of S.A.A. and Grenades

Nov^r 1917.

stored in the dug outs. One platoon of the Patoil under 2/Lt Clarke occupied the REDOUBT at 0730. The remainder returned to Bⁿ H^d Q^r, leaving the signal section to lay the lines to the occupied REDOUBT.

On the night of the 8th the Battrn moved to SHEIKH ABBAS taking over from the Outram Rifles and the 1/4th B. C. L. I. The Battrn moved in rapid succession to SHARTA and DEIR SENEID 7 miles N. of GAZA, whilst here they came under the Orders of XXI Army Corps as Corps Troops. The COMPOSITE FORCE reverting to DEFENCES Lines of Comm^o.

Small parties were formed as detachments at HUI, SIMSIN, MEJDEL, SUAFIR-ES-SHARKIYEH and YEBNA guarding captured guns, enemy stores etc, and clearing up the battlefield at DEIR-SENEID. There were many of the dead from 52nd DIVⁿ lying about & these were buried. It was noticed that most of the dead were slightly wounded and had been bayoneted by the enemy after the first attack had been repulsed by them.

On the 19th Orders were received to move to KHURAYET-EL-ENAB with all possible haste. The Battrn moved by forced marches, the advanced parties arriving at ENAB at 2300 on the 21st. While there they were employed in the construction of a rough road to the village of BIDDU to enable the artillery to take up position

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Headquarters,
75th Division.
24th November, 1917.

Dear Wood Hill,

I saw General Palin this morning. I told him that, without your assistance, we could not possibly have got the guns up last night, and he told me to thank you personally, and to say how very much he appreciated your kindness, and that he hoped that you would let your men know that their labours had enabled us to use our guns today.

Many thanks. I called to see you but you were out.

Yours sincerely,

R.S. Macalpine Leny.

Lieut-Colonel, WOOD HILL,
Commanding,
1st British West Indies Rgt.

RAMLEH.

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at that place. For this work they received the thanks of G.O.C 75th Divⁿ.

Lt Colonel. G. Wood Hill was detached from the Bⁿ and appointed provisional Commandant JERUSALEM to move in as soon as it had fallen. For this purpose representatives from the 52nd 54th and 74th Divⁿ were collected to guard the Holy Places.

On the 25th the XXI Corps was relieved by the XX Corps under Genl. Chetwode and the Battⁿ and Representative Details proceeded to LATRÔN

Throughout the pursuit the Battⁿ moved with the minimum of transport and kit, only having their summer clothing and carrying one Blanket. All winter clothing and great coats were lying at Ordnance at Rail-head and owing to lack of transport these were found impossible to bring up. The weather changed from great heat, which was experienced on in the operations, to rain cold & privations right up in the mountains. After the heavy rains the road leading to JUNCTION STATION became very broken up and ankle deep with mud. Throughout the operations, with the scantiest clothing, long marches without water, and the privations up in the mountains of JUDEA, all ranks carried out their duties well and with great cheerfulness.

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RAMLEH

1st December 1917.

The strength of Battrn stood at 29 Off^s + 994 of rks. Lt Huw and 1 Platoon rejoined the Bⁿ from YEBNA.

"A" + "D" boys 8 Off^s + 419 of rks under the command of Major G. J. Golding proceeded to JUNCTION STATION on those two companies reverting to 1st of C. Defence Troops.

JUNCTION
STATION.

RAMLEH TOWN and the surrounding orchards were bombed and machine gunned during the night by hostile aircraft. No 6296 Pte C. Johnson "C" Coy was wounded.

2nd. " "

The following were awarded the Military Medal for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field

3rd " "

Dated 1/12/17:- No 368 Pte. G. A. Hyndman

2434 " F. Pullar.

1531 L/C. V. E. Johns.

Capt A. S. Lawson evacuated sick to Hospital.

5th " "

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill appointed Command^r RAMLEH.

6th " "

No 203408 G. S. M. H. Hollison 21st Rifle Bde

joined the Bⁿ for duty and posted to "D" Coy.

Lt V. J. Maingot joined the Bⁿ from the 5th B.W.I.R.

9th " "

The Bⁿ moved into Billets in RAMLEH TOWN.

A draft consisting of 2 Officers and 41 other ranks joined the Battrn for duty from the 5th B.W.I.R were taken on the strength + posted to Coy.

Capt + Adjt R. H. J. Fink 1st W. I. Regt att^{chd} 1. B.W.I.R awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. D/1st 8/12/17.

No 772 Pte G. B. Babb awarded the Royal Humane Society's Medal and certificate for saving a drowning man at RAFA 16/11/17.

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RAMLEH.

1917 Dec^r 10th

Capt Wheeler C.F. ceased to be attached to the Bⁿ on being posted to the 66th C. C. S.

JERUSALEM Captured 9¹²/₁₇.

Capt J. Wilkinson joined the Bⁿ for duty as C of C Chap^{ln}

No 203408 C.S.M. Hollison 21st Rifle Bde

" " 15th

proceeded to rejoin his Unit at KANTARA.

" " 18th

Capt A.S. Lawson rejoined the Bⁿ from Hospital.

" " 20th

Capt J. Wilkinson C.F. proceeded to H. Q.R^s Imperial Camel Corps Bde for duty and was accordingly struck off the strength.

9191 Pte. J. A. Mitchell shot by order of Field General Court Martial

" " 22nd

Capt C. C. Paul rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. R.

" " 23rd

Major G. J. L. Golding appointed A.P.M. SUEZ BASE and proceeded there to take up his duties. He was accordingly struck off the strength.

21st V.P. Andrade and 34 Other Ranks joined the Battⁿ for duty from the 5th Res Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt were taken on the strength and posted to boys.

" " 25th

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill handed over the duties of Commandant RAMLEH to Col. F. Fergusson C.M.C. on that being handed over to Palestine Lines of Communications.

A Draft consisting of Capt A. M. Watson and 40 other ranks joined the Battⁿ for duty were taken on the strength and posted to boys.

Christmas and New Year Greetings were

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RAMLEH.

received from Their Majesties the King and Queen and read out to the Battⁿ at dinners.

25th Dec: 1917

No 208957 Coy Sgt Major A. King and No 20250 C. 2 M L Pownell both of the 1st (Garr) Bⁿ Sherwood Foresters proceeded to rejoin their Units at KANTARA

26th " "

The Battⁿ HQ QRS and "B" & "C" boys on leaving XXI Army Corps and reverting to References P. L of C proceeded to join "A" & "D" Corp at JUNCTION STATION

JUNCTION
STATION.

2 Camel Drivers and 5 Animals wounded in accidental explosion of a Turkish Bomb found in the lines.

29th . .

Surg. Capt A. A. Hearne promoted Captain w. O. Letter No 121/4/1602/AMD.1. R/d 22nd 17.

Early in December heavy rains fell and the Battalion suffered greatly from the want of winter clothing, bivouac sheets and a second blanket. All these stores had been left behind at railhead when the advance began owing to lack of Transport of the COMPOSITE FORCE

General.

Later when all transport was being used for bringing up food and ammunition for the XXI Corps and owing to the bad state of the road it was found impossible to bring up clothing etc until the end of the month.

The men suffered a good deal from the cold & 92 were admitted to Hospital in the

RAMLEH

1917.

December.

month mostly suffering from Bronchial affections. For this reason it was decided on the 9th of the month to move into Bilets in RAMLEH TOWN.

All guards and picquets in the Town were found by the Battⁿ: also a detachment of one platoon and one section of 2 machine Guns under 2/Lt B. b. Davis over the XXI Corps Supply Dump.

In the first week of the month when the moon was up RAMLEH and the surrounding camps were nightly visited by enemy aircraft and both bombed and machine gunned. The Battⁿ was fortunate in having only one casualty owing to the fact that the bivouac area was hidden in an Olive Grove.

The following Officers, NCO's and men were awarded the military cross and military medals respectively: - Capt + Adjt R. H. Fink 1st West India Regt attached to 1/B. W. I. R. - military cross.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty on 7/11/17 at
"TWO TREE FARM, GAZA, Defended Locality, PALESTINE.
"when two Platoons of the Battⁿ: were covering the
"withdrawal of a Squadron of Imperial Service
"Cavalry and on the death of the Squadron
"Commander, he took command, reorganised
"and succeeded to withdraw successfully the whole
"party under heavy shell fire without loss. He
"showed high qualities of skill and leadership".

No 2331 Lance Corporal V. E. Johns. 1st B. W. I. R.

December.

military medal "For conspicuous gallantry and
 " devotion to duty on 7th at TWO TREE FARM, GAZA,
 " Defended Locality PALESTINE. He laid a telephone
 " line from DUMBELL HILL to TWO TREE FARM where
 " he had established a telephone station remaining
 " with the advanced troops covering the with-
 " drawal of a squadron of the Imperial Service
 " Cavalry. Under heavy shell fire he remained
 " on duty at his post in a particularly exposed
 " position in the WADI and throughout the
 " operations maintained telephonic communication
 " with the BATT^N HD QRS."

No 368 Pte C. A. Hydman 1st B. W. I. R.

military medal "For gallantry and devotion
 " to duty on 7/11/17 at TWO TREE FARM, GAZA, Defended
 " Locality PALESTINE, when his company was
 " covering the withdrawal of a Squadron of Imperial
 " Service Cavalry from TWO TREE FARM, under heavy
 " shell fire he repeatedly volunteered to run
 " messages from the Officer conducting the withdrawal
 " to the advanced parties. He showed a fine example
 " of courage and devotion to duty to those around
 " him in trying circumstances."

No 2434 Pte. F. Pullar 1st B. W. I. R. Military

medal "For gallantry and devotion to duty
 " on 7/11/17 at TWO TREE FARM, DUMBELL HILL, GAZA.
 " Defended Locality PALESTINE whilst acting as a
 " scout in patrol work in NO MAN'S LAND" on

RAMLEH.

1917
December

"the night of the 7th/8th November 1917 when the
" main patrol to ATAWINEH REDOUBT had failed
" to reach its objectives he volunteered to go out
" and brought in valuable information as to the
" enemy's movements"

On the reverting to L of C. Defence Troops
at the end of the month and leaving the XXI
corps the following letter was received from

H.Q. XXI Corps:-

File No B.A. 3/204

" Lt Col. G. Wood Hill.

Commandg 1st Bn B.W.I. Regt.

" I am directed by the Corps Commander
" to express his great regret at parting with the
" Bn under your command, which since the
" formation of the XXI Corps, has been attached
" to it as the Corps Infantry Battn.

" During the operations of the last two months
" it has shown an excellent spirit and the duties
" assigned to it has been carried out very much
" to the Corps Commander's satisfaction.

" The soldierly bearing and smart turn out
" of the Bn has been maintained under the most
" trying circumstances, and the fact that this
" applies also to detachments away from your
" supervision is most creditable to all ranks.

" In addition to commanding your Battn
" you have carried out the duties of Administrative
" Commandant at BELAH and RAMLEH with much

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12.

1917.
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"ability and your services have been appreciated

"The corps commander wishes you and
"all ranks of the 1st British West Indies Regt
"good luck and should circumstances permit,
"would welcome back the return of the Battⁿ
"to the XXI Corps

"He desires that the Battⁿ may be
"made acquainted with the terms of this
"memorandum"

(Sgd) V. St. S. Armstrong,
Brigadier General,

27/12/17.

B.A. + 2.M.G. XXI Corps

to which the following reply was forwarded

B.A. + 2.M.G.

XXI Corps.

C.W/385/8.

"will you please convey to the Corps
"Commander on behalf of all ranks of the 1st
"B.W.I. Regt our most sincere thanks for your
"very kind letter d/d 27th 12/17.

"We are all, indeed, most extremely
"grateful and it has been a privilege to have
"been associated with the XXI Corps where we
"received so much kindness and we earnestly
"look forward to joining up again.

"Your letter arrived on the 3rd inst,
"at a time when we are all particularly
"distressed at the prospects of leaving once more
"to go into the Desert and find Detachments

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JUNCTION STATION.

1917

December.

" at ROMANI, ABD and MAZAR with Head Quarters

" at EL ARISH

" May every success and good luck attend the

" XXI Corps in future operations.

(Sgd) G. Wood Hill. Lt. Colonel.

Command 1st British West Indies Regt."

JUNCTION STATION

5th January 1918.

The 1st Battalion of the 1st British West Indies Regiment was attached to the 21st Division, 1st Army, and was engaged in the operations in the Sinai Peninsula and Palestine. The Battalion was commanded by Lt. Colonel G. Wood Hill.

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SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
15th December, 1917.

With the capture of JERUSALEM another phase of the operations of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force has been victoriously concluded.

The Commander-in-Chief desires to thank all ranks of all the units and services in the Force for the magnificent work which has been accomplished.

In forty days many strong positions have been captured and the Force has advanced some 60 miles on a 30 miles.

The skill, gallantry and determination of all ranks have led to this result.

1. The approach marches of the Desert Mounted Corps and the XXth Corps (10th, 53rd, 60th and 74th Divisions), followed by the dashing attacks of the 60th and 74th Divisions and the rapid turning movement of the Desert Mounted Corps, ending in the fine charge of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade, resulted in the capture of BEERSHEBA with many prisoners and guns.

2. The stubborn resistance of the 53rd Division, units of the Desert Mounted Corps and Imperial Camel Brigade in the difficult country north-east of BEERSHEBA enabled the preparations of the XX Corps to be completed without interference, and enabled the Commander-in-Chief to carry out his plan without diverting more than the intended number of troops to protect the right flank, despite the many and strong attacks of the enemy.

3. The attack of the XX Corps (10th, 60th and 74th Divisions), prepared with great skill by the Corps and Divisional Commanders and carried out with such dash and courage by the troops, resulted in the turning of the Turkish left flank and in an advance to a depth of nine miles through an entrenched position defended by strong forces.

4. The artillery attack of the XXIst Corps and of the ships of the Royal Navy, skilfully arranged and carried out with great accuracy, caused heavy loss to the enemy in the GAZA sector of his defences. The success of this bombardment was due to the loyal co-operation of the Rear-Admiral, S.N.O. Egypt and Red Sea, and officers of the Royal Navy, the careful preparations of plans by the Rear-Admiral and the G.O.C. 21st Corps, and the good shooting of the Royal Navy and of the heavy, siege and field artillery of the 21st Corps.

5. The two attacks on the strong defences of GAZA carried out by the 52nd and 54th Divisions were each completely successful, thanks to the skill with which they were thought out and prepared by the G.O.C. 21st Corps, the Divisional Commanders, and the Brigade Commanders, and the great gallantry displayed by the troops who carried out these attacks.

6. The second attack resulted in the evacuation of GAZA by the enemy and the turning of his right flank. The 52nd and 75th Divisions at once began a pursuit which carried them to within a few miles from JERUSA-

119.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY, CONT'D.

JERUSALEM.

7. This pursuit, carried out by the Desert Mounted Corps and these two Divisions of the XXI Corps, first over the sandhills of the coast, then over the plains of Palestine and the foothills, and finally in the rocky mountains of JUDEA, required from all Commanders rapid decisions and powers to adapt their tactics to varying conditions of ground. The troops were called upon to carry out very long marches in great heat without water, to make attacks on stubborn rearguards without time for reconnaissances, and finally to suffer cold and privation in the mountains.

In the great operations Commanders carried out their plans with boldness and determination and the troops of all Arms and Services responded with the devotion and gallantry beyond praise.

8. The final operations of the XXth Corps which resulted in the surrender of JERUSALEM were a fitting climax to the efforts of all ranks.

The attack skilfully prepared by the G.O.C. XXth Corps and carried out with precision, endurance and gallantry by the troops of the 53rd, 60th, and 74th Divisions, over country of extreme difficulty, in wet weather, showed skill in leading and gallantry and determination of a very high order.

9. Throughout the operations the Royal Flying Corps have rendered valuable assistance to all Arms and have obtained complete mastery of the air. The information obtained from contact and reconnaissance patrols has at all times enabled Commanders to keep in close touch with the situation. In the pursuit, they have inflicted severe loss on the enemy; and their Artillery co-operation has contributed in no small measure to our victory.

10. The organisation in the rear of the fighting forces enabled these forces to be supplied throughout. All supply and ammunition services and Engineer Services were called upon for great exertions. The response everywhere showed great devotion and high military spirits.

The thorough organisation of the Lines of Communication and the energy and skill with which all the Services adapted themselves to varying conditions of the operations, ensured the constant mobility of the fighting troops.

12. The Commander-in-Chief appreciates the admirable conduct of all the transport services and particularly the endurance and loyal service of the Camel Transport Corps.

13. The skill and energy by which the Signal Service was maintained under all conditions reflects the greatest credit on all concerned.

14. The Medical Service was able to adapt itself to all the difficulties of the situation, with the result that the evacuation of the wounded and sick was carried out with the least possible hardship or discomfort.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY CONT'D.

15. The Veterinary Service worked well throughout the wastage in animals was consequently small considering the distances traversed.

16. The Ordnance Service never failed to meet all demands.

17. The work of the Egyptian Labour Corps has been of the greatest value in contributing to the rapid advance of the troops and in overcoming the difficulties of the Communications.

18. The Commander-in-Chief desires that his thanks and appreciation of their services be conveyed to all officers and men of the Force which he has the honour to Command.

(Sgd) G.F. Dawnay, B.G.G.S.

for Major-General.
Chief of The General Staff.
Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

1918

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1.
JUNCTION STATION.
PALESTINE.
1918.

January 1st.

The death of 6910 P. Kimberbatch was reported by 75th
C.B.I.

" 4th

2/Lt. J. Burslem "D" Coy proceeded to no 3 School of
Military Aeronautics for instruction. Authority G.H.Q.
no A.A 10959 R/d 1/1/18.

" 5th

2/Lt. J. S. Masters "C" Coy was admitted to hospital
A party of 7 other ranks proceeded to BRIDGE HEAD
for duty with the Engineer 40 ways and works
JERUSALEM Line Light Railway. Authority P.L. of C.
Defences P.C. 609 R/d 2/1/18.

"B" boy proceeded from RAMLEH to YEBNA by
march route having handed over their duties to
2nd Div. cyclist boy. The Battⁿ less "B" boy proceeded
to ESDUD via SHARKIYEH - ES-GHARBIYEH by march route.

" 6th

GHARBIYEH.
PALESTINE.

The Battⁿ less "B" boy proceeded to ESDUD by
march route across country in very heavy weather.
the Transport having to be abandoned in the road
it being impossible to move it in the ankle
deep mud.

YEBNA.
PALESTINE

ESDUD " 7th.

"B" boy proceeded to MEJDEL by march route.
No 1391 Pte. J. Fisher "C" Coy died Pneumonia

" " 8th

The Battⁿ less "B" boy entrained for EL ARISH
at 1100 arriving at 2100.

MEJDEL.

"B" boy Entrained for ELARISH at 1200
arriving there 2200.

" 9th

EL-ARISH.
SINAI.

No 134 Pte. Am. Harper "D" boy died Pneumonia.
4 Other Ranks rejoined the Battⁿ for duty
from P.L. of C Defences on change of formation.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

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1.
EL ARISH

1918

9th January

4 Lt D. S. M. blank "A" boy proceeded to No 3 School of military aeronautics for course in Aviation Authy G.H.Q. A.D. 11137 D/d 5¹/₈.

No 6898 Pte Benn "C" boy Died malaria

10th "

Major W. J. Benschly rejoined the Battrn from the 5th (Res) Bn: B. W. I. Regt and assumed duties of 2nd in Command vice Major G. J. L. Golding to A. P. M. SUEZ BASE

15th "

Lt G. Challenger rejoined the Battrn for duty from the 5th (Res) Battrn B. W. I. Regt

1343 Pte. J. Charles "C" boy Died Pneumonia.

16. "

No 6750 Pte. J. Forde "A" boy proceeded on trade test at 644th M. I. boy A. S. C. ALEXANDRIA Authority 3rd Echelon G.H.Q. No M.F.C. 21933/12/A3 D/d 8/1/18.

No 6964 Pte. G. Lloyd "D" boy proceeded for Trade Test - Fitter - to A.O.D KANTARA Authority 3rd Echelon No M.F.C. / 21933/9/A3 D/d 9¹/₈.

19th "

No 6715 Pte F. R. Millington "D" boy proceeded R.F.C Base Depot ABOUKIR for Trade Test - Fitter Authority 3rd Echelon No M.F.C. / 203725/7/A3 D/d 14¹/₈.

One other rank rejoined the Battrn for duty from Trade Test.

23rd "

No 4883 Pte. J. N. Jordan "B" boy died Pneumonia

24th "

.. 749 " C. A. Wright "C" " " "

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt L. V. G. Henriques + 97 other ranks from the 5th (Res) Bn: B. W. I. Regt joined the Battrn for duty were

EL ARISH.

1918 January 24th

taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

9 Natives + 21 Camels C.F.C. XXI Corps Troop
Train proceeded to NO 2 Camel Depot RAFA.

" " 26th

The Rev^d Capt Thomas C.F. joined the Bⁿ for C of E
duties.

" " 31st

Lt E. K. C. Weatherhead joined the Battⁿ for duty
from the 5th Res Bⁿ B. W. I. R.

Capt G. P. Devenish Kings Own L. Regt joined
the Battⁿ for duty from the 2/21st London Regt
was taken on the strength and posted to "C" Coy

Capt. Am. Watson "D" Coy proceeded to 5th (Res)
Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt and was struck off the strength
accordingly. Authority 3rd Echelon C.H.Q. No M.F.C./0884
(R.I.) D/d 19/1/18.

The strength of the Bⁿ stood at 36 Officers
and 1068 other ranks making 4 Officers and
55 other ranks over establishment.

Appointments:-

(a) Major W. J. Bensly to be 2nd in Command of
the Battⁿ vice Major G. J. L. Golding appointed
A.P.M. SUEZ BASE.

(b) Capt C. C. Paul to be C. C. "D" Coy vice Major
W. J. Bensly to be second in Command of Battⁿ.

The following Officers served with the
Battalion during the recent operations on the
GAZA and JERUSALEM Fronts covering the period
October 1917 to January 1918:-

Lt Col. C. Wood. Hill 1st W. I. Regt attached 1st B. W. I. Regt.

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1.

EL ARISH.

1918

January.

- Major. G. J. L. Golding Capt and Res. of Officers and
Local forces. Windward Islands.
- Major. W. J. Bensly 1/7th Dorset Regt transf'd 1/BWIR.
- Capt R. J. Craig 4 Sub Inspector British Guiana Constab^{ly}
- Capt A. E. Harragin Inspector Trinidad Constab^{ly}
- " H. J. Cavanagh Dist " " "
- " C. C. Paul Loyal N. Lancs Regt transf'd 1/BWIR 29¹²/₇₅
- " A. S. Lowson Trinidad Civil Service & Local Forces.
- " F. H. Irving Dist Inspector. British Guiana Constabulary.
- Lt. G. Challenor. Local Forces. Barbados
- " G. B. L. Porter M.G. 1/5 Canterbury Rifles N.Z.E.F. att 1/BWIR 7⁵/₁₀
- " W. Nixon Local Forces. Jamaica
- " E. H. C. Weatherhead. Local Forces. Barbados.
- " F. G. Pearson. Intelligence Officer. Royal East Kent
Yeomanry. attached 1/BWIR Regt 7⁵/₁₀
- " V. J. Mangot Local Forces Trinidad.
- " G. G. Cooke Jamaica. Artists Rifles O.F.C.
- " M. A. Puckey Local Forces, Barbados
- 2/1st W. Hind Local Forces. Jamaica
- " L. P. J. Mangot Trinidad, Artists Rifles O.F.C.
- " G. S. Cousins Local Forces Jamaica
- " R. L. M. Clarke " " "
- " W. S. Weston " " "
- " J. C. S. Masters " " "
- " C. H. C. Masters " " " (C.C. Signals)
- " W. G. Griffith " " "
- " L. V. Patterson " " "
- " R. C. Aitken " " "

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1.

1918
January.

2 Lt L. V. C. Henriques Local Forces. Jamaica.
 " A. B. McFarlane " " British Guiana.
 " B. C. Davies Royal East Kent Yeos: attach'd 1/BWIR.
 " G. S. Sarnett 1/3rd Bedford Regt attach'd 1/BWIR.
 Capt + Adjt R. H. Fink M.C. 1st West India Regt att 1/BWIR.
 Surg Capt. A. A. Hearne. Local Forces. Jamaica.
 Lt + 2nd Mr. F. W. Willis 11th London Regt att: 1/BWIR.
 Rev: Capt H. R. Cairns. C. F. Trinidad + Barbados.
 No 4661 of R. S. Major E. Addicott 2nd Royal Berks Regt
 attached 1/BWIR
 No 7768 of R. 2nd Mr. Hemlock. 3rd Lincoln Regt att: 1/BWIR.

On the 5th inst the march route to ESDUD via GHARBIYEH to entrain for EL ARISH. "B" Coy which had been off at RAMLEH to hand over their duties to 52nd Division cyclist Coy. marched out of RAMLEH on the same date to MEJDEL via YEBNA a march of 30 miles in wretched weather. Great difficulty was experienced owing to lack of transport, the breakdown of the light Turkish Railway and the bad state of the road. All baggage which could not be carried by the 1st Line Transport was packed on a truck at the JUNCTION RAILWAY STATION which was to be forwarded as soon as the railway was reopened. Officers were sent on in advance to collect the Battⁿ Dump at SENEID & BELAH and to take them on to EL ARISH. Throughout the month bad weather was experienced, high winds and heavy rains and sleet and hail. In consequence the whole of the plains of JUDAEA were turned into a

1918
January

mixture of mud and water. The Sketch of journey carried out between GHARBIYEH and ESDUD was completed in bitterly cold weather and torrential rains. There is no road from GHARBIYEH to ESDUD but a narrow track which the heavy rains had almost obliterated and covered with water and mud which made marching an entirely heavy and arduous task many of the men sinking over their waists in mud and water. On arrival at ESDUD it was found that the Railway Station and supplies were in the middle of a large sheet of water. The Battⁿ moved to a Camping site on the Sand Dunes to the North of the Railway Statⁿ.

The Transport after completing $\frac{3}{4}$ of their journey over the sodden plough lands stuck deep over the axles in mud and had to be abandoned until the following morning together with all the bivouacs, rations and spare blankets. In consequence the Battⁿ lay out during the night under very heavy rains without any shelter or covering whatever. The entrained from ESDUD for EL ARISH on the morning of the 8th. During the month one Officer and 92 other ranks were admitted to Hospital of which 7 died from effects of exposure.

On arrival at EL ARISH Lt Col. C. Wood Hill took over the command of the EL ARISH Area T "B" Coy were struck off all duties for training

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1918
January.

They completed a modified musketry course of 50 rounds and obtained an average of 80.3.

February 2nd

One other rank rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from Trade Test R.F.C Base Depot ABOUKIR.

" 9th

63 Other Ranks proceeded to join No III Armoured Train for duty on the Battⁿ taking over the personnel of the Train (Authy P.L. of C No LCA 2520/ R/4 2/8)

6322 Pte J. McKenzie "C" Coy Died Pneumonia.

Four Other ranks rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from 266th Railway Coy. R.E where they had been employed on construction work at Bridgehead JERUSALEM line.

No 1487 Pte. W. Nash proceeded to School of Field Cookery ISMALIA for course of Instruction.

" 11th

6 other Ranks rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from No 3 Armoured Train

" 12th

2 other ranks proceeded to No III Armoured Train for duty.

" 13th

1 Other Rank rejoined the Battⁿ from 266th Rly R.E.
2/Lt. L.P.J. Mangot granted 4 weeks leave of absence in the colony of Trinidad. (Authy D.A.G. GHQ. No A.B. 12392/ D^d 11/2/18.

" 14th

No 6964 Pte. D. Lloyd "D" Coy rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from Trade Test and graded as a 4th Class fitter

" 19th

Capt H. C. Thomas C.F. proceeded to HQ QRS R.A.

Australian Mounted Division for duty.

Capt. J. Reid Davies C.F. joined the Batta for duty as C of C. Chaplain.

Capt H.R. Cornish C.F. proceeded to SUEZ for embarkation to MESOPOTAMIA for duty there as Wesleyan Chaplain.

Capt J. G. Barrow C.F. joined the Batta for duty as Wesleyan Chaplain

R. Q. M. S. Hemstock and C. S. Maj Neal granted commissions as 2nd Lieut in the Regular Army to date from 23.2.18. R. Q. M. S. Hemstock posted to the Lincoln Regt and attached for duty 2/5 Hampshire Regt. C. S. Maj Neal posted to Dorset Regt and attached for duty to 24th Dorset Regt.

2nd Lt L. C. Aitken "A" Coy proceeded to NO III Armour Train for duty (Authority P.L. of C No L.C.A. 2820 Q^d 4 2/8).

One Other rank rejoined the Batta for duty from School of Field Cookery. ISMAILIA.

General:-

Brigadier General E. W. Broadbent C.M.G. D.S.O., inspected the Batta on the 3rd February.

Training:-

"C" Coy completed the following modified musketry course obtaining a Coy Average of 85.4.

(over)

1918.
19 February

21st "

23rd "

24th "

25th "

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2.

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February 1918.

Sniper Training

| PRACTICE NO. | PRACTICE | TARGET. | RANGE YDS. | NO. OF ROUNDS | POSITION. |
|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|--|
| 1 | Grouping | 3rd class Elem. Bull | 100 | 5 | Lying with arm on rifle rested. |
| 2. | do | do | " | " | Lying. |
| 3 | Application | 2nd class Figure Target | 200 | 5 | Lying. |
| 4 | Snap Shoot ^s | do | " | " | Sitting or Kneeling. 6" for each shot. bayonet fixed |
| 5 | Standing | do | " | " | Standing. |
| 6 | Application | do | " | " | Lying taking cover behind Sand-bags or stones and firing round them with side of rifle only rested. |
| 7 | Rapid | do | " | 10 | Lying. Rifle to be loaded and 4 rds in the magazine before the target appears loading from the pouch by 5 rds afterwards one minute allowed. |
| 8. | Snap Shoot ^s | do | " | 5 | Lying taking cover behind stones or sandbags and firing over them. Exposure 4" |
| 9. | Application | 2 nd Cl. E. Bull | 400 | 5 | Lying. Taking cover as in 6. |
| TOTAL. | | | | 50 | ROUNDS |

15 Rounds to be used for individual + collective Field Practices.

The health of the Battalion greatly improved during the month, however there were a large number

of cases of scabies. 53 Other ranks were admitted to Hospital of which 23 were discharged during the month

Honours & awards:-

The following Officers n.c.o.s + men's names appeared in the London Gazette as having received honours and awards.

Temp. Lt. G. B. L. Porter Awarded the Military Cross in New Years honours list published in Supplement to London Gazette D^a 1st January 1918.

| | |
|--|---|
| Temp Lt G. B. L. Porter | } mentioned in despatches from General Sir Edmund Allenby D ^a 16/1/18 and published in Supp: London Gazette Dated 16/1/18. |
| No 47 Sgt R. B. Craig | |
| " 4661 CSM (4R.S.M.) E. Addicott Royal Berks R att ^o | |

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Maj (D. Lt Col) G. Wood Hill | } mentioned in despatches from Genl Sir E. Allenby D ^a 16/1/18 and published in Supp: London Gazette 16/18. |
| 258. C. 2 M.S. Wishart | |
| 874 " E. C. Hughes | |
| 836 Pte. B. Forde | |

Lt G. Challenor proceeded on 3 weeks leave to the United Kingdom.

Pte Curranit proceeded to R.F.C. Base Depot ABOUKIR and transferred to that Unit.

2/Lts H. Hemstock and S. H. Neal proceeded to LUDD to join their Unit, the 2/5th Hants Regt +

1918
February

EL ARISH. SINAI.

1st March 1918

2nd " "

5th

Zohmre 4

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

EL ARISH.

1918

March 5th 24th Coyet Regt respectively to which they were attached.

" 11th No 760 Pte K. B. Andrews died of Typhus Fever.

13th 100 other ranks under the command of Capt Owenish formed by the Battⁿ Detachment at BELAH formed a Guard of Honour to H. R. H The Duke of Connaught.

" 15th No 6664 Pte J. Dove died Pneumonia.

" 18th Pte Delfsch rejoined the Battⁿ from School of Field Cookery ISMALIA 63%.

" 25th 21st L.V.C. Henriques and 2 other ranks proceeded to No III Armoured Train to complete establishment.

" 30th 2 other ranks proceeded to ZEITOUH for courses of Instruction.

At the beginning of the month the strength stood at 36 officers and 1024 other ranks.

The following completed a modified musketry course:-

"D" Coy Average 95.2.

M.G. Section " " 104.6

Signal " " 107.6

Hospital There were one Officer and 51 other ranks admitted to Hospital during the month and 12 other ranks discharged.

The health of the Battⁿ was good during the month.

The Battalion was distributed over a long length of the Lines of Communication stretching from ROMANI to DEIR-EL-BELAH. The following is the strength distribution of the Battalion throughout this period:-

ROMANI 1 Platoon "D" Coy.

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3. 4.

EL ARISH.

1918 March

ABD 1 Platoon "D" Coy

MAZAR 1 Platoon "D" Coy.

EL ARISH

BELAH.

Lt. G. W. Lambert Official Artist to the A.I.F. visited the Battaⁿ and remained with them for a few days whilst executing work at EL ARISH.

ELARISH.

One Other Rank rejoined the Battaⁿ for duty from No III Armoured Train.

1st April 1918

4 Other Ranks proceeded to (X) Aircraft Depot ABASSIA for trade test.

4th " "

2 other ranks proceeded to R.O.D. RE. KANTARA for trade test.

7th " "

Detachments at MAZAR, ABD & ROMANI found by "A" Coy were relieved by similar detachments from "D" Coy.

10th " "

4 other Ranks proceeded to No III Armoured Train for duty to complete establishment.

11th " "

3 other ranks proceeded to R.E. Base ALEXANDRIA for trade test.

4 other ranks rejoined the Battaⁿ for duty from Trade Test (X) Aircraft Depot Abassia

Capt Barrow. C.F. proceeded to CAIRO to attend Wesleyan Conference and returned on 20th inst.

16th " "

A draft consisting of 2/1st Metarlane &

21st " "

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4

EL ARISH

1918. April 21st 7 other ranks joined the Battⁿ from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt were taken on the strength and posted to companies.

26th Lt. G. B. L. Porter M.C. and 3 other ranks proceeded to ZEITOUN for courses of Instruction.

2 Lt Cousins and 2 other ranks proceeded to EL ARISH School of Instructions.

On the 18th of the month the two boys forming the detachment at BELAH on being relieved by the 2nd Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt proceeded to RAFA by march route where they relieved HQ QRS and 2 boys of the 2nd B. W. I. Regt.

The Battⁿ then held a continuous line from RAFA to ROMANI The detachments were disposed as follows:

| | | |
|--------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| RAFA | "B+C" boys | under Major A. S. Havragin |
| MAZAR | 1 Platoon "D" boy | " 2 Lt. W. S. Griffiths. |
| ABD | " " " | Capt Irving. |
| ROMANI | " " " | Lt. Puckering. |

The health of the Bⁿ was good 1 Officer + 22 other ranks were admitted to Hospital during the period.

A large consignment of wristlet watches and pocket books was received from British Guiana as a Gift to the men of that colony serving with the Battⁿ. These were distributed on parade.

"A" boy completed a modified musketry course obtaining a company Average of 94.7

The Strength of the Battⁿ at the end of the month stood at 31 Officers and 933 other ranks making one Officer and 80 other ranks under strength.

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Wohme 4

5.

EL ARISH.

The Strength of the Battⁿ stood at 31 Officers and 933 other ranks at the beginning of the month.

1st May 1918

One other rank rejoined the Battⁿ for duty from R.O.D. R.E KANTARA Trade test.

2nd " "

Capt G. P. Devenish proceeded to CAIRO to be attached to G. S. (2) Dept 2nd Echelon. Authy 3rd Echelon NOM.F.C/R 69016 D/d 7/5/18.

7th " "

Lt G. B. L. Porter M.C. proceeded to report to C.O.C ALEXANDRIA District preparatory to proceeding to the United Kingdom on transfer to the New Zealand Forces (Authority W.O. Letter 72079 AG HA D/d 1/5/18 and D.A.G. 1st Echelon No A1/12529 D/d 3/5/18.)

8th " "

Pte Denny proceeded to ISMALIA to Cookery Course 9011 Pte A Taylor "E" Coy Died in 26th Stationery Hospital KANTARA from Pneumonia.

9th " "

10th " "

Lt Luckton and No 250 Corp. Francois proceeded to RAFA to undergo a Gas course.

11th " "

2 Other Ranks from No III Armoured Train rejoined the Battⁿ for duty.

1164 Corp. Cameron "A" Coy proceeded to No III Armoured Train for duty.

12th " "

11447 Pte W. Jones "D" Coy retained at R.O.D. RE KANTARA for further instruction (Authority M.F.C. 32344/A3 D/d 5.5.18.

3 Other Ranks proceeded to No III Armoured train for duty.

13th " "

1470 Corp. J. Lucas proceeded to RAF ABBASSIA for Trade Test - Fitter.

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5.
EL ARISH.1918 May 17th.

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill handed over the command of EL ARISH area to Major Goldthorpe Staff Officer of the AREA and The Battalion including the detachments at ROMANI, ABD, MAZAR and RAFA proceeded by rail to LUDD, PALESTINE

LUDD PALESTINE

" " 19th

Capt Cavanagh and Lt. W. Muen "B" Coy proceeded to No II Infantry Base Depot KANTARA for passage to the United Kingdom on 3 weeks leave of absence (Authy.

XXI Corps wire No A.Q. 3508 R/d 19/5/18.

Capt A.S. Lawson appointed to command "B" Coy vice Capt Cavanagh on leave.

FEJJA $\frac{1}{40000}$ P. 36 C.

KULEH. PALESTINE

" " 22nd

HD QRS and the Bⁿ proceeded by march Route to KULEH (1/40,000 FEJJA P. 36 CENTRAL) under the direct orders of XXI Corps and attached to 54th Divⁿ

2/Lt H.C. Cousins and 2 Other Ranks rejoined the Battalion from the Branch School of Instruction EL ARISH

No 758 Pte. D. Alexander and 940 Pte. H. Olway reported missing without leave.

2/Lt Wetton and Corporal Francois rejoined the Battⁿ from the Central Gas School. RAFA.

" " 23rd

3 other ranks proceeded to R.O.D. R.E. KANTARA for Trade Test

" " 25th

Lt. F.G. Pearson and 3 other ranks proceeded to El Arish for Courses of Instruction at the Branch School under provisional establishment G.S. 873.

12 natives and 32 camels joined the Battⁿ

for duty from XXI Corps Troop Train "H" Coy C.T.C. 25th May 1918.

Lt G. B. L. Porter and Capt C. P. Devenish Capt Cavenagh Lt. Whiven and 2 other ranks (the latter attached to XX Army Corps) struck off the effective strength of the Battr.

Lt E. R. Lewis 1st Essex Regt and 13 other ranks from 163 Infantry Bde joined the Battr for duty as instructors in Lewis Gun and were attached to "10" Coy for all purposes

27th " "

One other rank rejoined the Battr for duty from School of Cookery ISMALIA.

28th " "

Lt Hall and Sgt Jacobs 1st Essex Regt from the Divisional Platoon Leaders School joined the Battr for duty as Bomb and Rifle Grenadier Instructors and were attached to "K" Coy for all purposes.

4 Other Ranks from Divisional Platoon Leaders School joined the Battr for duty as instructors in Bayonet Fighting and were attached to "A" Coy for all purposes.

4 Lewis Guns taken on the strength of the Battr on loan from the I. C. M. JAFFA.

No 862 L/C. Haynes ceased to be attached to No III Armoured Train in rejoining the Unit from Hospital.

29th " "

A Draft consisting of 29 other ranks from the 5 (Res) B: B. W. I. R. joined the Battr for duty were taken on the strength and

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5.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

KULEH. PAL.

1918. May 29th posted to companies.

30

2/Lt Wetton proceeded on Course of Instruction to ZEITOUN pending transfer to Machine Gun Coy

One C.T.C. Native camel Driver evacuated to Hoop.

31.

The Strength of the Battaⁿ stood at 40 Officers and 987 other ranks.

One b.I.C. Camel Driver joined the Bⁿ for duty from XXI Corps Troop Train.

One other rank rejoined the Battaⁿ from Trade Post KANTARA.

General.

In accordance with instructions from G.H.Q. the Battaⁿ moved to LUDD on the 14th inst. Preparatory to moving out of the PALESTINE Lines of Communication and coming under the direct orders of G.O.C. XXI Army Corps, On the 19th instant the Battaⁿ was attached to the 54th Divⁿ under Major General. G.W. Hare. C.B. for intensive training preparatory to moving into the line and proceeded to bivouac area KULEH.

Equipment ~ and ~ Establishment

It was decided that the Battaⁿ would be equipped under Mobilization Store Table G 1098/238 with the exception that in addition to the 16 Lewis Guns it would retain its 4 Vickers Guns held under its previous Mobilization Store Table G 1098/110.

At the time the Battaⁿ was equipped with Transport under War Office Establishment - a West Indian Battalion in Egypt 699/16 10/12 30/8/17. and it was decided that the Battaⁿ should be re equipped in the matter of Transport under

provisional establishment No G.S. 873 which allows in addition 45 Camels for the purposes of carrying water and blankets.

The following were the results obtained by Officers and other ranks undergoing Courses at Schools of Instruction.

May 1918.

Training

French warfare class, Eleventh Course, Branch Sch: EL ARISH.

| RANK & NAME | TRENCH WARFARE | BOMBING | | RESULT. |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------|-----------|---------------|
| | | % | THROW-ING | |
| 2/Lt H.C. Cousins * | 71 | 144 | Good | Failed |
| 803 Sgt. J. Carbery. | 97 | 99 | Good | Distinguished |
| 822 L/C. S. F. De Pradines | 96 | 96 | v. Good | Passed |

* worked hard, but seemed quite unable to grasp the subject.

Imperial School of Instruction ZEITOUN 38th NCO^s Course.

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| No 174 Sgt J.A. Maclean. | 2nd class |
| " 214 L/Sgt G.P. Roberts. | do |
| " 929 Corp. G. Miller. | do. |

B

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Branch Gas School. RAFA. | 12th Course |
| 2nd Lt W. J. Wetton | 1st class. |
| NO 350 Corp Francois. | Distinguished. |

On the 20th of the month the Battr went into intensive training. The programme was progressive and devoted to the training of the platoon in the following subjects:-- Section Drill, Extended Order Drill, Artillery formation,

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1918 May.

Attack formations, the training of runners observers and scouts, musketry embodying Fire Control and Discipline, Description and Recognition of Targets, Visual Training and Judging of Distance. Night work. 2 Officers and 22 other ranks from Batts of the 161, 162 and 163 Brigades were attached to the Battⁿ as Instructors in Lewis Gun work, bombing, rifle grenades, Bayonet fighting, rapid wiring, intensive Digging and Sangar construction. Classes were formed and training carried on throughout the month. The hours for work were as under 0500 to 0700 - 0900 to 1200 - 1400 to 1600 - 1800 to 1900 making 8 hours work per day. The health of the Battⁿ was fair during the month. There were 59 admissions to hospital and 10 discharged from hospital during the month. Fever cases appeared more frequently.

KULEH. PALESTINE

1918 June 1st

No 2441 Corp. Johns and 2434 Pte Pullar rejoined the Battⁿ from No III Armoured Train

" " 4th

No 6966 Pte Hewis "D" boy passed Trade Test as fitter at R.O.D., R.E.

No 662 Lt Corp (Asst Lang) died whilst attached to No III Armoured Train

5 camel Drivers C.F.C. and 13 heavy burden camels joined the Battⁿ from C.F.C. XXI Corp's Troop Train

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KULEH. PALESTINE.

5th June 1918.

16 Lewis Guns for S. O. O. LUDO were drawn at WILHELMA and brought into the establishment of the Battⁿ.

The following number of Battⁿ Signallers were attached to Brigades as under for instructional duties in office work

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 3 other ranks to H. Q. Signals 162 Bde | } 54th Div ⁿ |
| 3 " " " " " 163 " | |

1447 Pte W. Jones passed a Trade Test as "Freeman" at R.O.D. R.E. KANTARA.

6th " "

8 other ranks 4 Lewis Guns & 8 Mules proceeded to rejoin the 16th Essex Regt 161 Bde.

7th " "

4 other ranks 2 Lewis Guns and 4 mules joined the Battⁿ from 10th London Regt 162 Bde.

4 other ranks 2 Lewis Guns and 4 mules joined the Battⁿ from 15th Bedford Regt

The above details from the 10th London Regt and 15th Bedford Regt were to replace the instructional staff from the 161 Bde rejoining their Unit

3 C.F.C. drivers XXI Corps Troop Train proceeded to rejoin XXI Corps Troop Train they were replaced by 3 Drivers from that Unit.

8th " "

One other rank absent from duty rejoined the Battⁿ.

9th " "

3 C.F.C. drivers joined the Battⁿ from XXI Corps Train and 3 proceeded to rejoin that Unit.

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KULEH PALESTINE.

1918 June 10th.

2/Lt. G. G. Garrett, Bedford Regt, proceeded to the 7th (MERUT) Division to take up the duties of Divisional Gas Officer (Authy. D.A.G. 1st Echelon No A.A. 18391 R/S^d 7/6/18)

" " 12th.

4 Other Ranks Bayonet Fighting Instructors returned to 54th Division Platoon Leaders School on the re-opening of that schools

" " 13th.

4 Lewis Guns held on loan returned to I.O.M

JAFFA.

11 C. I. B. drivers proceeded to XXI Corps Troop Train and 17 Drivers joined the Bⁿ for duty.

No 90. Pte Fontanelle "D" Coy proceeded to No III Armoured Train for duty.

" " 14th.

No 72 Pte de Barros "A" Coy passed Trade Test as Electrician R.O.D. RE. KANTARA.

" " 15th.

Lt. S. Challenor rejoined the Battaⁿ for duty from Furlough.

" " 16th.

The Undermentioned officers + warrant officer proceeded to the 54th Divisional Platoon Leaders School at YAHUDIEH for a course of Instruction

Lt. P. L. Aldridge Rifle Brigade Attached

Lt. V. J. Mangot

Lt. G. G. Cooke

" W. Hind.

" W. G. Griffith

" C. S. Cousins.

" H. C. Cousins

" R. S. Roulston (Worcester Regt attached)

" V. R. Andrade.

No 15795 Coy Sgt Major W. C. Mills 8th D.C.I. attach^d

" " 18th.

Lt. J. G. Pearson and 3 other ranks rejoined the Battaⁿ for Duty from the Branch School of Instruction.

EL ARISH.

A Draft consisting of 4 Lt Col A Reeves 2nd Royal Fusiliers attached B. W. I. R. and 30 other ranks from 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. R. joined the Battalion for duty were taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

Capt J. H. Irving and 3 other ranks proceeded to School of Instruction EL ARISH for courses of instruction.

Two parties of instructors each consisting of 4 other ranks 2 Lewis Guns and 4 mules returned to their Units the 10th London Regt and 1/5th Bedford Regt respectively.

Eight other ranks 4 Lewis Guns and 8 mules from 1/4th Norfolk Regt were attached to the Battalion in relief of above parties

6 Other ranks signallers attached to HQ OR Signals 162 and 163 Brigades respectively rejoined the BATTⁿ for duty

In accordance with 54th Division N^o 65. 153/12 O/A 20/6/18 "A" and "B" Coy and machine Gun Section under the command of Capt R. J. Craig proceeded to FEVIA at two o'clock at 0.9.A. The Detachment were to be employed in tactical schemes working in conjunction with 54th Divisional Platoon Leaders School.

8 other ranks 4 Lewis Guns and 8 mules returned to 1/4th Norfolk Regt

KULEH PALESTINE

18th June 191819th " "20th " "21st " "21st " "22nd " "23rd " "

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KULEH. PALESTINE.

1918 June 23rd

24 Battalion Signallers proceeded as under to units in the front line for instructional purposes

(a) 12 other ranks to Left Section.

(b) 12 other ranks to Right Section.

" " 24th

On relief of the 54th Division in the front line by 3rd (LAHORE) Divⁿ the following parties of instructors returned to their Units as hereunder:-

1/8 Hampshire Regt 4 other ranks.

1/5 Suffolk Regt. 4 " "

1/4 Essex Regt 4 " "

1/5 Essex Regt 2 " "

1/6 Essex Regt 1 Officer 2 other ranks.

1/7 Essex Regt 1 " 1 " "

No 9199 Pte. E. H. Phillips joined the Batta for duty on reposting from the 2nd Bⁿ B.W.I. R and posted to "C" Coy.

4 Field bookers drawn from C.O.O. LUDD and taken on the strength of the Batta

On the handing over of the 54th Divisional Platoon Leaders School to the 3rd (LAHORE) Division the following returned to the Batta for duty.

(a) 8 Officers 1 w.o. who proceeded to D.P.L.S. on 16th inst.

(4) "A" + "B" boys + m.s. Section who proceeded to FEWA on 22nd

" " 26th

253. Sgt Veacock proceeded to No III Armoured Train for duty (Authy 3rd Echelon M.F.C./20225/1/R.I.

to^d 30/6/18)

" " 27th

The Batta came under the orders of 3rd (LAHORE) Division as from 1000 hours

KULEH PALESTINE

28th June 1918

Major A. E. Hanagin proceeded to HELIOPOLIS for course of instruction at Senior Officers School.

1 Lt G. G. Cooke evacuated sick to Field Ambulance diagnosed "FEVER"

14 Other ranks rejoined the Battⁿ from No III Armoured Train.

2 Other ranks proceeded to XXI Corps Details Camp at Kilo 300 for duty.

14 other ranks proceeded on local leave to EGYPT

The strength of the Battⁿ stood at 31 Officers and 988 other ranks.

The Battalion continued intensive training. Hours of work 0500-0700, 0830-1130, 1600-1900. The Training was still confined to Platoons. Attack formations, co-operations of the Sections in their own weapons when working as a platoon. Small platoon schemes and night work.

Musketry - Triangle of error - snapshooting 4" - Rapid Fire 15 rounds 1 minute - Rapid Loading 6 chargers in 45" - rapid setting of sights and Trigger Pressing - Fire Control and Fire Discipline Description and Recognition of targets - Visual training - Judging Distance.

There were also carried out daily cross country runs and marches

The MEZEIREH 400' range was also allotted to the Battⁿ, and each company went through

29th " "

30th " "

Training

Somme 4.
C.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

1918 June

a field firing scheme. A 30⁺ yards range was also constructed close to the hwoaac area near KULEH VILLAGE

The following special classes were organized:-

- i. Grenade classes Under Lt Hall '7th Essex Regt
Dumny and Live Grenade throwing and the training of bombing teams in trench work.
- ii. Patrols Under Lt Hall '7th Essex Regt.
- iii. Lewis Gun classes under Lt Lewis '6th Essex Regt and Lt. M. A. Puckerin '1/B.W.I.R.
- iv. Bayonet Fighting under Staff Sgt Machaughton and staff from 54th R. P. I. S.
- v. Rapid wiring, intensive digging and Targar Construction under L/C Clarke M.M. R.E. & staff.
- vi. Tripers & Observers under Lt Pearson '1/B.W.I.R.
- vii. Junior N.C.Os class under the Adjutant.

Subjects instructed in:-

- (a) musketry
- (b) Patrols
- (c) Platoon Organization.
- (d) Description + Recognition of Targets.
- (e) Fire control + Discipline
- (f) Map reading + compass work.
- (g) writing reports and messages.
- (h) wiring and intensive digging
- (j) Bayonet Fighting (k) Bombing.
- (l) Duties of N.C.Os in the Trenches.
- (m) Judging Distances.

This Junior N.C.Os. class was purely to turn out Instructors and to teach these N.C.Os how to instruct.

Machine Gun Section. The Machine Gun Section carried out the classification practices PART II

June 1918.

TABLE C. at 400' on the MEZEIREH Range. The following practises were carried out:- Ranging Application, Traversing. At other times they carried out the usual practise and training.

Signallers The company Signallers class carried on from the previous month.

The Battalion Signallers were inspected and tested by the Officer 4c Signals 161 Infantry Bde.

Report Attached. As a result of that report 6 signallers were attached to 162 & 163 Infantry Bde Signals for training in Office work.

24 Signallers were also attached to front line units for experience in work in the trenches.

Courses of Instruction The undermentioned Officer and other ranks completed Courses at the Branch School of Instruction EL ARISH.

(a)

3rd Platoon Officers Course.

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Lieut F. G. Pearson. | 94% | Passed. |
|----------------------|-----|---------|

Remarks:- Very good Platoon Commander.

Excellent at Sketching.

(b)

12th Trench Warfare Course

| NO. RANK | NAME | TRENCH WARFARE % | BOMBING | | RESULT. |
|----------|---|------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| | | | % | TROWING | |
| 293852 | Sgt S. Z. Croft "C. Coy (210 Middlesex Regt and 2 ^d) | 90% | 97 | GOOD | PASSED |
| 2435 | Sgt S. S. Best. "A Coy. | 97 | 95 | V. FAIR | PASSED |
| 1479 | Corp. C. R. Marquet "B Co | 84 | 95 | V. GOOD | PASSED |

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6.7.

EquipmentJune 1918.

During the month the Battⁿ was equipped with Box Respirators as it was considered likely that the Enemy might use Gas Shells and it was known that the Enemy had recently been equipped with gas masks.

Inspections

During the month the Battⁿ was visited by Lieut General Sir E. S. Bulfin K.C.B., C.V.O. Com^d XXI Corps
 Maj. General Sir Vere B. Fane K.C.I.E. C.B. Temporarily
 Com^d XXI Army Corps in Lt. General Sir. E. S.
 Bulfin's absence on leave.

Maj General S. W. Hare C.B. Com^d 54th Divⁿ
 Brig General H. S. Salt R.S.O. RA. B.G.S. XXI Army Corps.
 Brig General Orpen Palmer. R.S.O. Commanding
 161 Bgde 54th Division.

The corps commander expressed a wish that the Battalion should carry out cross country runs with marches up to 15 miles and thorough musketry training. He stated that he was glad to have the Battalion again under him and that they would be given an opportunity to show what they could do. If they did well they would go down in his Diary.

1918 July 1.

R. J. M. Addicott + Sgt Hillard granted furlough of 3 weeks to United Kingdom, - proceeded to CAMP A CABBARY (Auchy XXI Corps NO BL. 3⁷²¹/₆₈₈ d. 30^{6/8})

Lt. O. H. Reeves evacuated sick to Hospital - diagnosed "mumps" 2nd July 1918.

22 Signallers rejoined the Bⁿ from Pde Signals for duty. 5th " "

Lt. C. H. C. Masters, 21st R. P. Roulston and 5 other ranks proceeded to LEITOUN School of Instruction and 2 other ranks to ALEXANDRIA for courses of instruction. 6th " "

Epidemic of INFLUENZA broke out in the Battⁿ. Capt. G. C. Paul proceeded on 14 days local leave to EGYPT. 7th " "

Rev. J. Reid Davies C.F. granted 3 weeks leave to United Kingdom, proceeded to No 1 Infantry Base Depot for embarkation orders (Authy XLI Corps no B.L. 1/422 d/5.7.18)

Lt. G. G. Cooke "B" boy rejoined the Battⁿ from Field Ambulance for duty.

Surgeon Capt. A. A. Stearne proceeded to 41st Indian General Hospital for duty.

Capt. C. M. Moffatt M.C. RAMC. joined the Bⁿ for duty.

A Draft consisting of Lt. G. C. Kennedy Lemster Regt attach^d B. W. I. R. and 24 other ranks from 5th B. W. I. Regt joined the Battⁿ was taken on strength and posted to Coy. 13th " "

Rev. J. D. Wagon I.C. 7 joined the Bⁿ for duty. 15th " "

Lt. G. G. Cooke and W. Hind evacuated sick to Hospital diagnosed MALARIA. 16th " "

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7.
KULEH PALESTINE

1918. July 16th.

5 Other ranks proceeded to No III Armoured Train for duty.

1 Other rank rejoined the Battⁿ from No III Armoured Train for duty.

940 Pte. H. Otway proceeded to GABBARY MILITARY PRISON to complete sentence (authy 17573 R/d 10/7/18)

" " 17th

A Craft consisting of 2/Lt J. R. Philips "D" Coy and 18 other ranks from 5th Bn. I. Regt joined the Battalion, was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

" " 19th

Capt H. Cavanagh and Lt W. Newen rejoined the Battⁿ from Leave to United Kingdom for duty.

2/Lt R. P. Roulston evacuated sick to Hospital from School of Instruction. LEITOUN.

" " 21st

1074 Pte. J. Richards granted 4 weeks leave to JAMAICA proceeded to Camp "A" GABBARY to await embarkation (Authy B.L. 3/778 d/19.7.18.

" " 22nd

Pte H. Headley "C" Coy died at 123rd I. C. 3 A. from Bronchial Pneumonia.

" " 23rd

A Craft consisting of 20 other ranks from 5th (R) Bn. B. W. I. R. conducted by Sgt Archer, West India Regiment - joined the Battⁿ for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

" " 23rd

Capt C. C. Paul rejoined the Bⁿ for duty from local leave

" " 25th

2/Lt Boyd and MacFarlane proceeded to EL ARISH for course of instruction.

183 Pte Norton rejoined the Battalion for duty from Signals, SINAI, L. of C.

" " 26th

Lt Col. C. Wood Hill. R. S. O. and Capt R. H. Fink

26th July 191831st " "Training

proceeded on 10 days Local leave to EGYPT

The Strength of the Battⁿ stood at 31 Officers and 1010 other ranks.

Intensive training was continued on the lines of the previous month, with the exception that Route marches were lengthened were lengthened up to 10 miles and there was more night work added to the programme. Battalion and company schemes were also introduced. The Battalion was also put through a factory matory Gas chamber to test Box Respirators.

On the 6th of the month an epidemic of Spanish Influenza broke out in the Battalion. The same disease also attacked the 2nd Battⁿ a week earlier while at SURAFEND who were reported to have 500 cases. There was no contact between the 1st and 2nd Battⁿ during that period or previous to it. The 5th (Res) Bⁿ at MEX EGYPT had a similar outbreak 3 weeks previously and were placed in isolation. While in isolation a party of one N.C.O and 2 other ranks of the Battⁿ proceeded to the 5th Res Bⁿ and were allowed to return to the Battalion. On their return they immediately contracted high fever and a wire was forwarded to the 5th (Res) Bⁿ asking whether they were in isolation Reply received "Yes Influenza" The progress of the disease was very rapid and the Battⁿ

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Somme 4.

July 1918.

was immediately placed in isolation. A Battⁿ Hospital was opened under orders of D.P.M.S 75th Divⁿ: to cope with the rush of cases.

The following were admitted to:-

- (a) Field Ambulance 4 officers 52 other ranks
 (b) B.W.I. Camp. Hosp. 212 other ranks (17 of which were admitted to Fld Amb.

The following were discharged from Fld Amb. C.C.S. and General Hospital during the month:-

One Officer 24 Other ranks.

On the 5th inst the Battalion came under the orders of 75th Division and were attached to the 232 Bde and accompany them into the Front Line on the 12th inst. Owing to the outbreak of influenza this move had to be cancelled and shortly after the Battⁿ reverted to the 54th Divⁿ.

The following Officers and N.C.Os underwent courses at the Branch ^(a) School of Instruction EL ARISH.

13th Lewis Gun Course

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Capt J. H. Irving. | Qualified Instructor |
| 2560 Sgt W. S. Russell. | Qualified Instructor |

(b)

12th Bⁿ Scouts Course.

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------|-----|------------|
| No 2434 | Lt Corp. F. Pillar | 88% | 1st class |
| 6656 | " P. Cretau. | 80% | 1st class. |

At the end of the month the strength of the Battⁿ stood at 29 Officers (including M.O. and 2 Chaplains)

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July 1918.

and 992 Other ranks.

Honours and awards.

Major (Temp Lt Col) G. Wood Hill W. I. R. awarded D.S.O.
London Gazette 3/6/18.

Major (Temp Lt Col) G. Wood Hill (Mentioned in Genl.
Capt R. J. Craig. } Sir E. Allenby's despatches
D^o 3rd 1918 and published
London Gazette 14th 1918.

KULEH. PALESTINE.

Augt.
1st July 1918

At the beginning of the month the strength of
the Battⁿ stood at 31 Officers and 1010 other ranks
Lt. C.H.C. Masters evacuated to Hospital diagnosed
"Fever".

Capt J. H. Irving evacuated to Hospital "Sprained
Ankle"

3rd " "

Lt Col. G. Wood Hill D.S.O and Capt R. H. Sink M.C.
returned from leave of absence in EGYPT.

In accordance with 54th Divⁿ letter N^o G.S. 153/16
the Battⁿ proceeded by march route from buoiac
area at 1930 hours to SURAFEND. On arrival the
Battⁿ came under the orders of Inspector P.L. of C
who arranged further marches to JERUSALEM. On
arrival at JERUSALEM the Bⁿ was to come under
the orders of G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps.

4th " "

The Battⁿ moved by march route at 1800
hours from SURAFEND to LATRÔN under instructions

SURAFEND

5th " "

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August
1918 ~~July~~ 5th

" " 6th

LATRÔN

" " 7th

KURYET-EL-ENAB.

" " 8th

JERUSALEM.

" " 9th

KILO 3.

" " 11th

TELAT-ED-DUMM.

P. LofC no LCM. 806 29/1/18.

The Battrⁿ moved by march route at 1700 hours from LATRÔN to KURYET-EL-ENAB

The Battalion moved by march route at 1700 hours from KURYET-EL-ENAB to JERUSALEM when it came under the orders of G.O.C. Desert M. Corps.

Lt. W. Hind and draft of 10 other ranks joined the Battrⁿ for duty from 5th (Res) Bn. B.W.I. Regt. They reported to DESCORPS Reinforcement Camp and proceeded to JERICHO by motor lorry.

The Battrⁿ proceeded by march route to KILO 3 passing the DAMASCUS GATE at 1700 arrived KILO 3 at 1800 hours and halted clear of the road to allow 2nd Australian L.H. Bde to pass en route for SOLOMON'S POOL BETHLEHEM.

The Battrⁿ resumed march at 0200 hours proceeding to TELAT-ED-DUMM arriving there at 0545 hours 10th 18.

2 Lt. V. R. Andrade proceeded to Jewish Recruits Camp ZEITOUN for duty.

The Battrⁿ resumed march at 0400 hours by Old Roman R^d (Northern), Vehicles proceeding by New Road (Southern) for JERICHO. On arrival the Battrⁿ came under the orders of G.O.C. Austⁿ Mounted Divⁿ. The Battrⁿ bivouaced during the day in the WADI NUEIAMAH about 4 miles N. of JERICHO. At 1730 hours the march route was resumed to a bivouac area in the Reserve

area of No III Sub-sector where the Abut came under the orders of G.O.C. 3rd Austl. L.H. Bde.

At 1900 hours the Battr. moved into the line relieving posts held by the 8th, 9th, and 10th Light Horse Regts. in "F" and "C" Sections and second line of No III Sub-sector of Left Sector.

Hd Qrs "B" and "C" boy moved in taking over from the 10th A.L.H. Regt.

"D" boy moved into the line taking over from the 8th A.L.H. Regt in "F" sector.

No 9265 Pte J. Florias "A" boy died at 34th C.C.I. JERUSALEM. - Dysentery.

"A" boy moved into the line relieving the 9th A.L.H. in the second line

No 6746 Pte A Squires } wounded by shell fire.
" 6763 " J. Wallace }

On completion of move the Battalion was distributed as in attached Appendix I Sketch map Appendix II. The 3rd A.L.H. machine Gun Squadron shell being left in the line

Defence Scheme of Left Sector attached appendix III And alarm orders No III Sub-sector appendix IV and Defence Scheme No III S.S. appendix V

A Draft consisting of 2/Lt. Burslem and 30 other ranks joined the Battr for duty from the 5th (Res) B² B. W. I. Regt was taken on the strength and posted to Companies

JORDAN VALLEY.

11th August

12th

MADBAY.

13th " "

Y. 23. A. 19.

14th " "

15th " "

20th

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GENERAL ROUTINE ORDER. NO @@ 447.
BY

General Sir Edmund Allenby G.C.M.G. K.C.B.

G.H.Q. E.E.F.

10th August 1918.

4320 - ACT OF GALLANTRY.

The Commander in Chief desires to record the gallantry shown by Lieutenant V. J. MAINGOT, British West Indies Regt: under the following circumstances:-

While Lieutenant Maingot was instructing a squad in throwing live grenades on 2nd July 1918 a member of his squad dropped on the ground a bomb from which the pin had been withdrawn. Lieutenant Maingot observed that the bomb was about to explode and he at once stamped on it with his heel, succeeded in breaking it, so that only the detonator exploded.

By his courage and presence of mind, Lieutenant Maingot probably saved several lives.

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8.

JORDAN VALLEY.

Y. 23. A. 19.

1918. Augt 20th.

The attached G.R.O No 4320 D/d 10/8/18 Act of Gallantry Lieut. V. J. Mangot was published. App^x VI

" " 23rd

A Draft consisting of 50 other ranks joined the Battⁿ for duty from the 5th (Res) Bⁿ B. W. I. Regt was taken on the strength and posted to Coy.

Capt. H. P. Jones (Authy Res Corps No L 4443 D/d 23/8/18) and Pte Leedee (authy G.H.Q. EEF No B 14903 D/d 11/8/18) proceeded to KANTARA for embarkation orders for leave of absence to United Kingdom and British West Indies respectively

Pte. G. T. Gibson proceeded to R.O.D. RE KANTARA for trade test as "Fitter".

" " 25th

No 921 L/C. Mapp C.H. "B" boy killed accidentally by grenade.

1355 Pte. F. Clovis "B" boy wounded - ditto -

" " 27th

1st A. L. H. Bgde relieved 3rd A. L. H. Bde in NO II Subsector. The Battⁿ therefore came under the orders of G.O.C. 1st A. L. H. Bgde. Anzac Mounted Division

No 2442 Pte. J. Howard proceeded from 19th General Hospital to camp "A" GABBARI for embarkation orders to B. W. Indies. Leave of absence having been granted (Authy G.H.Q. EEF No B 14903 D/d 11/8/18)

1413 Pte. J. Harper evacuated wounded (S.I.)

" " 31st

The strength of the Bⁿ stood at 29 Officers and 974 other ranks, this includes 1 M.O. and 2 Chaplains.

General. The long marches carried out

August 1918.

during the night, between KULEH and JERICO in full pack and in mountainous country was a severe test, whilst the extreme heat and dust of the JORDAN VALLEY made marching both arduous and tiring in the extreme.

Transport Early in the month 4 G.S. wagons from the XXI corps Troop Train were handed over to the Battr. and formed their 2nd Line Transport. These on arrival at JERICO were handed over to the Australian Divisional Supplies and were employed in bringing rations up to the repelling point.

On moving one L.G.S. wagon for the 4 Vickers Guns and teams for 2 water carts and 4 Field Kitchens were supplied by the 75th Divisional Train. These on arrival at our destination returned to their own HD QRS. Permission was granted by the XXI corps to retain the 45 heavy burden camels, but on the 25th inst they were returned and replaced by 44 light burden camels from the 235 Brigade camel Transport.

Operations During the month VAUX, MUSALLABEH MASKERAH, the BLUFF, ABU TELLUL RIGHT BN HD QRS. and the approaches to the post were spasmodically shelled by the enemy. Standing patrols went out nightly from VSYE and MASKERAH and picqueted the WADI MEKUR-ED-DHIB

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August 1918

and the marsh Land in front of "Maskerah". These patrols consisted of combined Australian & West Indian personnel.

During the month 3 Deserters gave themselves up and 4 prisoners were taken. The former belonged to the following formations 58th Regt 143rd Regt and 163rd Regt, the four prisoners were all from the 3rd Bn 58th Regt.

Interrogation summary attached Appendix VII. It is interesting to note that the 1st 2nd and 3rd Bns of the 58th Regiment held the BAGHDAD SYSTEM and ATAWINEH Redoubts opposite the line the Battⁿ held at DUMBELL HILL in the GAZA Operations.

Hospital - The following were evacuated sick during the month 2 Officers and 147 Other Ranks of which 1 Officer and 17 other ranks were discharged during the month. The Posts of MUSSALLABEH and MASKERAH overlook the swampy ground to the North and the 3rd A. L. H. Brigade suffered heavily in casualties from malignant malaria. On the Battⁿ moving in strict orders were issued as to both the use of mosquito curtains and mosquito gloves and those on duty out in front during the night were provided with mosquito repellent cream. During the month there were no casualties from malarial fever.

Inspections during the month the following General Officers visited and inspected the lines:-

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Lt. General Sir H.G. Chauvel K.C.B. K.C.M.G.

Commanding Desert Mounted Corps.

Major General Hodgson

Commanding Australian Mounted Div.

Major General Chaytor.

Commanding Anzac Mounted Div.

Brig. General C.A.C. Godwin. D.S.O.

B.G.S. Desert Mounted Corps

Brig. General L.G. Wilson. C.M.G.

Commanding 3rd A.L.H. Bde.

Brig. General Cox C.F. C.M.S. D.S.O. V.D.

Commanding 1st A.L.H. Bde.

Honours & Awards.

No 982 Sgt. O. Taylor "D" Coy awarded Royal
Humane Society's Bronze medal & certificate
10/9 3/10/17.

Reference map B.6/b.6. 140000 Jordan Valley

The results of the 40th rec. Co's General course
Leitoun were as follows:-

No 565 Lt. Sgt. Bennett - Passed.

" 1373 Corp. Daniels - Passed.

No 504 Pte Libe. H. reported to the Battr
for duty on reporting from the 2nd B. W. I Regt.
was taken on the strength and posted to "B" Coy

1 Other rank ~~reported~~ evacuated to Hospital
"wounded".

August.1st Sept^r 1918.

ABUTELLUL -
MUSSELABEH
SECTOR Y23.A.19.

3rd8th

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Appendix I

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Commanding Officer
1st Battn., B. W. INDIES REGIMENT.

The following is the suggested distributio
of your Battalion as garrison of No 3 Subsector :-

- (a) "F" SECTION, MUSALLABEH - 2 Platoons, "D" Coy.
Garrison one VANCE 1 Section - "D" "
Company VYSE 1 Platoon (less 1 section)
plus 2 M.Gs, 3rd M.G.Squadrn
Section Reserve)
& H.Q. at VYSE) 1 Platoon, "D" Coy.
- (b) "G" SECTION, VALE 2 Sections "B" Coy.,
VIEW 2 Sections (plus 2 M.Gs,
3rd M.G.Squadrn.)
Garrison one VAUX 1 Platoon "B" Coy
Company ZOO 2 Sections "B" "
ZEISS 2 Sections (plus 2 M.Gs
3rd M.G.Squadrn.)
ZERUM 2 Sections "B" Coy.
Section Reserve)
& H.Q. at rear of) 2 Sections "B" Coy.
VAUX
- (c) SECOND LINE MASKERAH 1 Platoon "A" Coy. (plus
2 M.Gs., 3rd M.G.S.)
Garrison One BLUFF 2 Sections "A" Coy.
Company
ABU TELLUL :-
Right No 1. 2 M.Gs, 3rd M.G.S.
Right No 2 2 Sections "A" Coy.
Left No 2 2 Sections "A" "
Left No 4 1 Platoon (plus a M.Gs)
Right No 4 Reserve & H.Q. 2 Sections
- (d) BATTALION
RESERVE.
One Company "C" Coy.

sgd. W.M. ANDERSON, Major,
Brigade Major, 3rd A.L. Bgde.

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Appendix III

SECRET. DEFENCE SCHEME - LEFT SECTOR.

The Scheme of Defence for this Sector up to a date to be notified later will be as follows :-

| <u>1. TROOPS AVAILABLE</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---|-----------------|
| ANZAC MOUNTED DIVISION | H. 34. a. (B6) |
| 1st L.H.Bde | Y.29.a.7.4. |
| 2nd L.H.Bde | J.5.b.8.2. |
| N.Z.M.R. Bde | H.17.c.2.4. |
| 1st & 2nd B.W.Indian Battns. | Y.23.a.2.9. |
| 38th Royal Fusiliers | Z.18.c.7.7. |
| 18th Bde.R.H.A.(less 2 batteries in right sector) | J.8.c.central |
| 11th Mountain Battery | Y.17.a.2.3. |
| C/267 Battery | Y.17.d.3.0. |
| One 75 mm gun | Z.28.c.central |
| Section 60 pdms | Z.27.b.4.0. |
| 6th T.M.Battery | Z.5.a.5.5. |

2. GENERAL LINE OF DEFENCE.

- (a) Right bank of MELIAHAH from Z.18 to Y.33.b.with post on left bank.(SAFE POST) at Z.18.b. thence to MASKERAH and thence MUSALLABEH-VYSE,VALE,VIEW,VAUX, ZOO,ZEISS,ZERUM.
- (b) All posts are wired in all round and a reserve of water and rations kept in each.

3. ACTION IN CASE OF ATTACK ON THIS LINE.

If the enemy penetrates between, or captures any post, all posts will continue to hold on, and, the enemy be immediately counter-attacked with the reserves at hand.

Commanders of Subsectors will have plans for local counter-attacks worked out as soon as they take over, and will have these practised. It is particularly important to see what time will elapse before the counter-attack can take place on any area penetrated by the enemy.

4. OTHER LINES OF DEFENCE.

Behind the general line of defence other lines have been made as follows :-

- (a) A line of strong points, which run as follows :-
 - WINGDOVE Z.21.d.7.7.
 - SANDELY Z.15.c.o.o.
 - TURTLE Z.14.b.5.9.
 - THE BLUFF) Y.5.b.& d.
 - ABU TELLUL) Y.11.a. & c. and Y.10.d.& c.

(i) The first three are redoubts wired in all round for all round defence. None are yet completely dug except TURTLE which is garrisoned by 1 Officer and 20 men at night with a Lewis Gun. Water and rations are in the post.

- (ii) THE BLUFF AND ABU TELLUL are subdivided into:-
 - The BLUFF,
 - ABU TELLUL RIGHT
 - ABU TELLUL LEFT.

These are dug completely and wired. They are held all times by garrisons from the B.W.I.Battn.

(b) Behind this line runs a line of strong points along the AUJAH on to MADBEH and thence along the line of the "W" Posts - WASP, WOOD, WILD, WANE, WART, WAX. This is known as the MADBEH SYSTEM.

This

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Appendix III
(Contd)

DEFENCE SCHEME - Page 2.

4. OTHER LINES OF DEFENCE cont'd.

(b) contd. This is a series of posts all of which (except TENANT and UGLY, which are not completely wired) are dug and wired for all round defence.

From POUND as far as WASP POST none of these are occupied and garrisons will only be put in by Order of the Division.

The remaining posts WOOD, WILD, WANE, WART, WAX are held by 2 Coys. 2nd Battln., B.W.I. Regt.

(c) A series of lines have been chosen in rear and are called :-

- (a) The QUARRIE SWITH
- (b) The "H" LINE,
- (c) The JERICHO LINE,
- (d) The MOUNTAIN LINE.

These have been already described in our G/26/54 of 9th July, 1918. The lines have been picked by Desert Mounted Corps and marked, but, are not yet dug.

5. DIVISIONAL RESERVE.

The Divisional Reserve for the Sector is one Mounted Brigade and 2nd Battalion, B.W.I. Regt. (less 2 Coys. holding "W" Posts) which are located as follows:-

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| H.Q. Mtd. Bde. | H. 17.c. 2.4. |
| One Regt | K.4.b.2.7. |
| One Regt. | H.23.c.5.5. |
| One Regt | H.33.a.4.2. |
| M.G. Sqn. | K.4.a.7.3. |
| Hq. 2/B.W.I.R. | Y.21.d.10.5. |

6. POSSIBLE ACTION BY ENEMY.

The points ^h where the enemy might attack are the following:-

(a) Through the gap between SAFE POST and the Northern defences of the AUJAH Bridgehead by moving troops through the rough ground along the JORDAN.

(b) To attack the line of the MELIALAH POSTS from the north

(c) To push in through the gap between the MELIALAH POSTS and MESKERAH

(d) An attack from the west on the line of the 'V' Posts to capture ABU TELLUL

(e) To move down the foot-hills west of VAUX POST to get round our flank.

As soon as it is decided in which direction the Mounted Divisional Brigade will be required to act, it will be moved by the Division to a position of assembly which will be in the case of (a) (b) or (c) about H.17.a. and in the case of (d) and (e) about H.14.a

sgd. J. GILBERT BROWNE, Lieut.-Colonel,
General Staff,

A. & N.Z. Mounted Division.

28th August, 1918.

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Appendix V

EXTRACTS from DEFENCE SCHEME - No 3 Subsector
Left Sector, DESERTMOUNTED CORPS FRONT.

Refce. Maps JERICHO B6/C6, 1:40,000.

4 inches to 1 mile,

1. No 3 Subsector BOUNDARIES.

Right Boundary.

113.X.13 Central - 113.X.31 Central - 113.Y.18.d.2.o.

Left Boundary.

TEL EL MUSATTEREH - along W.ABU HAIYAT -113.Y.14.d.46
-113.H.4.b.o.5. - 113.H.10.d.5.o.

2. Troops at disposal of G.O.C. No 3 Subsector.

1st A.L.H. Brigade

The Left Group Artillery under command of Lieut.-
Colonel the Honourable R.M. PRESTON, D.S.O. is in
support of No 3 Sub-sector and comprises -

11th Mountain Battery

H.K. & S. Mountain Battery

Notts Battery

B/H.A.C. Battery

C/301 Battery.

3. DIVISION of No 3 Sub-sector.

No 3 Subsector is subdivided into "F" and "G" Section
and is held by 2 Regiments and 8 Machine Guns in the
line with 1 Regiment and 4 M.Gs in Brigade Reserve.

"F" Section.

Right Boundary

Right Boundary of No 3 Sub-sector

Left Boundary

BAGHEL T - 113.Y.4.a.6.10. - 113.Y.5.c.5.o. - MADRBEH

"G" Section (

Right Boundary.

Left Boundary of "F" Section

Left Boundary.

Left Boundary of No 3 Subsector.

4. Troops in "F" and "G" sections.

See Distribution on Appendix 1.

6. General Scheme of Defence.

(a) The main line of defence, including EL MASKERAH
EL MUSALLABEH, VYSE, VALE, VIEW, VAUX, ZOO and ZEISS
posts form a strong line, the front of every post
being swept by M.G. fire and Hotchkiss rifle fire and
each post in a position to support the posts on its
flanks.

The position is wired from EL MASKERAH (incl.) to
ZEISS Post (incl.) with double apron entanglement,
with the exception of a gap between VAUX and ZOO posts
which is being completed.

(b) "F" SECTION, which includes MASKERAH, MUSALLABEH,
and VYSE Posts commands the plain to the east and
north. These posts are strongly equipped with
grenades, any attack on these positions if pushed home
would develop into a bombing fight.

(c) "G" Section. which includes VALE, VIEW, VAUX
ZOO and ZEISS posts commands the broken ground to-
wards the North and West sweeping with M.G. and Hotch-
kiss Rifle fire the western side of MUSSALABEH and all
wadis running from the high ground on the West.

East.

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Appendix V
(Contd)

6. (c) Each post is sited to command with fire and boom any concentration of enemy in the Wadi beds.

(d) The whole position is a strong one, but if an attack were made on the whole front support troops would be required to reinforce the firing line owing to weakness in numbers on each post, if the attack were local they will be used as local counter attack troops.

(e) Regimental Reserves will be used as Counter attack troops should the enemy break through any portion of the front line.

(f) The Brigade Reserve Regiment is situated with its horses in a central position in Squares 113.Y.22.d. and 23.c. and can be used in any direction.

(g) The 4 Reserve M.Gs are in a central position at Square 113.Y.16.d. and can be used quickly to reinforce the front line or take up prepared positions on ABU TELLUL RIDGE or THE BLUFF.

7. Centres of Resistance.

A second line designed to hold one regiment is being constructed on ABU TELLUL Ridge and THE BLUFF.

(a) THE BLUFF is being prepared to hold 1 Squadron in 4 troop works, which will be numbered THE BLUFF 1, 2, 3, 4.

(b) The ABU TELLUL posts are being prepared to hold 2 squadrons as follows :-

1 Troop in each 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.

These posts have been designed to support one another with fire and are being wired leaving wide gaps to permit of movement of troops should a withdrawal from the front line be ordered.

8. The S.O.S. Signal for artillery is 1 green and 2 red Very Lights fired from the post where artillery support is required.

9. Communications - Plan of communications within the area attached.

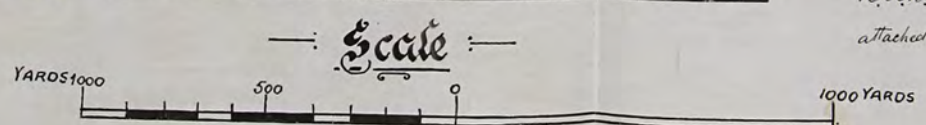
Sgd. E. CHISHOLM, Major, Bde. Major,
1st A. L. H. Brigade.



DEFENDED LOCALITIES. JORDAN VALLEY SECTOR. SEPT. 1918.

- █ BRITISH POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY 1ST BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.
- █ ENEMY POSITIONS OCCUPIED BY TURKISH ARMY.

Edw. Pink Capt
1st West India Regt
attached 1st B. W. I. R.



1918. Sept: 10th

A Draft consisting of 4 Lt W. B. Falkner and 41 Other Ranks joined the Batt: for duty from the 5th Res Bn B. W. I. R. was taken on the strength and posted to companies

" " 11th

Lt Hawkins 3rd K. O. I. B. and Lt J. A. Inglis 3rd Bn Black Watch joined the Batt: for duty from the 5th B. W. I. R. was taken on the strength and posted to corps. - "D" and "B" respectively.

(Authy M.F.C. / 1457 / R.1 / 2946 dt'd 4/9/18)

Five other ranks embarked on H.M.S. Assaye for invaliding to the West Indies and were struck off the strength and rolls of the Batt: accordingly no 5280 Pte P. Pitts reclassified at the 34th C.C. Hospital JERUSALEM and marked B.I. Disability Flat feet.

The following other ranks were boarded at "M" Special Hospital ABBASSIA and awaiting passage to the West Indies Invalided out of the service. no 656. Pte H. Kirby. Insanity due to Epilepsy
3590 " F. Deans. Delusional Insanity.

Lt L. P. J. Mangot proceeded from 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt to no 3 School of Military Aeronautics for course of Instruction.

" " 12th

A Draft consisting of Capt Am. Watson and 20 other ranks joined the Batt: from the 5th (Res) Bn B. W. I. Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to corps. (Authy M.F.C. / 1457 / R.1 / 2974 dt'd 31/8/18)

JORDAN VALLEY.

13th Sept 1918.

Capt. J. D. Blicke 6th (Garr) Bⁿ: Royal Welsh Fusiliers and 2nd Lt. J. W. Witham joined the Bⁿ: for duty were taken on the strength and posted to "C" & "B" boys respectively.

No 6725 Pte. L. Perkins "A" boy proceeded to No 11 Light Railway Coy.

16th " "

The Commander-in-Chief Maj General Sir Edmund Allenby inspected the Officers of the 1st and 2nd Batts B. W. I. Regt at Head Quarters of the 1st. B. W. I. Regt.

2Lt. V. Farrelly 1st Garr Bⁿ: Royal Irish Regt joined the Battⁿ: for duty and was posted to "C" Company.

17th " "

One other rank evacuated wounded.

One other rank evacuated wounded.

18th " "

Eight other ranks evacuated wounded from GRANT RIDGE and BAGHALLAT.

20th " "

One other rank wounded remaining at duty.

No 46 Sgt. A. T. Chan "A" 6th: Killed in action on the ROMAN ROAD between GRANT RIDGE and BAGHALLAT. He was buried at the foot of MUSSELLABEH.

Three other ranks evacuated wounded

21st " "

The Battalion moved out of their trenches at 2100 and concentrated at FUSAIL together with the New Zealand Mounted Brigade at 2400. Orders were then received to push on with all speed to JISR-EL-DAMIEH

FUSAIL.

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1918. Sept 22nd
JISR-ED-DAMIEH

Arrived at L. 25 A 94 JISR-ED-DAMIEH at 0500 moved into action at 0600 in attack on the Damieh BRIDGEHEAD. At 1100 broke into the DAMIEH BRIDGEHEAD Defences in a charge inflicting about 200 casualties in killed on the enemy, capturing 110 prisoners including 8 Officers and 8 Machine Guns and 6 automatic light guns. Casualties one other rank remaining at duty.

" " 23rd.

Moved from L. 25 A 94 to the DAMIEH BRIDGE arriving there at 0900. The New Zealand M.R. Bgde completed concentration at about 1000 hours and the mounted troops proceeded immediately across the JORDAN RIVER to ES SALT. The Battⁿ followed later leaving at 2000 hours.

" " 24th.
ES SALT.

Arrived ES SALT which had already fallen into the hands of the Mounted Troops at 1600 hrs.

" " 25th.
SOWEILLEH.

Left ES SALT at 0330 arriving SOWEILLEH at 0900 hours

" " 26th.
AMMAN

(OUTER DEFENCES)

Left SOWEILLEH at 0130 arriving AMMAN after Defences at 0730.

AMMAN

(Railway Station)

Left AMMAN Outer Defences at 1330 hours arriving AMMAN Railway Station at 1700 hours

Operations

Early in the month it became very evident that a general advance would take place shortly. The Desert Mounted Corps moved to the Coastal Sector leaving the following behind to man the Defences in the JORDAN VALLEY:-

September 1918.

The Anzac Mounted Division.

20th Indian Infantry Brigade

1st + 2nd Batts British West Indies Regt

38th and 39th Royal Fusiliers and

Artillery attached.

On the 2nd inst instructions were issued to erect all available tentage in the back areas and dummy camps and horse lines were erected. In the meantime preparations went on methodically in the front line. Large water tanks were erected in the front line at MUSSELLABEH MASKERAH and THE BLUFF while a Dump of 200 8 gallon Jannatts was formed in the WADI South of MUSSELLABEH. The force now defending the JORDAN VALLEY Line was Designated as CHAYTORS FORCE under the Command of Maj. General Sir. E.W.C. Chaytor K.C.M.G. C.B. During this period of preparation the greatest secrecy was maintained with regard to any intended future operations. About Commanders were not even allowed to communicate any intended plans to their subordinates until the day before operations commenced.

On the 4th inst orders were received that Active patrolling of "no mans Land" was to be carried out from VYSE, VANCE MUSSELLABEH, MASKERAH and BLUFF posts right

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September

up to the enemy's works on GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT (See Appendix II^a) This was carried out and patrols pushed out nightly beyond GRANT HILL to BAGHALLAT completely dominating "NO MANS LAND". Day patrols also went out working round the rear of GRANT HILL to BAGHALLAT. On the 5th inst Capt R. H. Zink and Lt. F. G. Pearson went out and executed a close panoramic sketch of GRANT RIDGE and again on the 7th Capt R. H. Zink went out and working round to the rear of GRANT RIDGE completed a panoramic sketch of BAGHALLAT (Appendix III) and a field sketch of the enemy works on GRANT RIDGE and BAGHALLAT (Appendix IV^a). Altho' tired on he completed the work and returned without incident.

Between the 14th and 17th inst the enemy vacated his positions on GRANT RIDGE but re-occupied them on the night of the 18th inst.

For the purpose of future operations the Batta less one company and a proportion of 1st and 2nd line Transport and barrel Transport was organized to form a mobile column and attached to the new Zealand M.R. Bde.

All ranks were equipped as light as possible i.e. Fighting Order with spare shirt socks &c rolled in the blanket and carried attached to the belt at the back. Each man carried 2 Mills Grenades with the exception of the Rifle Grenade Section.

which carried 2 Rifle Grenades in their haversacks. All reserve water was carried in Fanatis on camel transport and in one water cart. "D" Coy the Machine Gunners, who were now manning twelve guns in the line and a proportion of signallers and transport were to remain behind to form small garrisons for the ABUTELLUL and "V" and "Z" Group POSTS (See Appendix II Vol IV s.) and on the mobile column moving out they were to further garrison MUSSELLABAH and the BLUFF. "D" Coy and Details Headquarters were to be at the old Battalion Headquarters WADI AUJA where the Battalion Dump and Spare Kits had been formed.

On the night of the 18th/19th Headquarters "A" "B" and "C" Coy concentrated in the area behind the BLUFF - MASKERAH - MUSSELLABEH line with Head Quarters at the BLUFF whilst "D" Coy took over the garrisons of ABUTELLUL and the "V" and "Z" Group POSTS as arranged.

Throughout the period 1st to the 17th inst the constructional work on the 2nd line ABUTELLUL was continued under Major W. J. Benoly.

Throughout the night of the 18th inst heavy cannonading rifle and machine gun fire was heard in the mountains west of MUSSELLABEH opposite the lines held by

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the 53rd Division of the XXI Army Corps and early on the morning of the 19th shells were seen bursting on the ridges where the 53rd Divⁿ had advanced. However, towards 1100 hours the firing died down and the red signal flare denoting that the 53rd Division had attained all its objectives was not observed. About 1200 hours the 2nd Battaⁿ British West Indies Regt. holding the line to the left of the Battalion. were seen to move out of the "W" Posts WADI AUVA. and under heavy shell, rifle and machine gun fire made a strong demonstration against the enemy's positions on BAKR RIDGE and CHALK RIDGE. They worked within 600 yards of the enemy's position and then withdrew at nightfall.

Active patrolling was carried out through the night of the 19th/20th and at 0500 on the 20th inst it was reported that GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT had been vacated by the enemy although they were still holding the line of the WADI MEHALLET opposite the 38th Bⁿ Royal Fusiliers. Two platoons "B" Coy immediately moved out and occupied both GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT at 0600 hours. As concentrations of enemy cavalry were seen at FUSAIL and it was feared that there might be a counter attack orders were received to re-inforce the troops already on

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September.

GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT. Accordingly an hour later "A" Coy under Capt R. J. Craig moved out from MASKERAH. As soon as they cleared the wire they came under a heavy shell fire from the direction of RED HILL and FUSAIL. They moved up in artillery formation into position and passed through a barrage put down between GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT with slight casualties. It was here that North Sgt A. V. Shaw was killed. It was intended to withdraw the two platoons of "B" Coy as soon as "A" Coy had taken over the works as both works were too congested with troops. However this operation could not be carried out until nightfall owing to the heavy shell fire. Their casualties, however, considering all things were very light. Great difficulties were experienced in getting ammunition and water out to the farthest positions a matter of 3500 yards owing to the heavy shell fire. Patrols moved out from BAGHALLAT to GAULS FACE and BAKRWADI but no signs of the enemy were seen.

At About 1100 hours on the same day both BAKR RIDGE and CHALK RIDGE were occupied by the 2nd Bn British West Indies Regt on our left thus straightening out the salient between Muscelateh and the Mountains to the west

On the evening of the 20th gaps were cut in the wire at MASKERAH to allow traffic

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through along the Roman Road and the road itself cleared and repaired.

At about 2100 hours on the night of 20th/21st the Wellington Mounted Rifles rode through the lines making for FUSAIL and TALAT AMAAH and by 1000 hours on the 21st instant they had made good the foothills FUSAIL and TALAT AMAAH.

On the morning of the 21st patrols still reported small enemy parties holding their works along the wadi MELLAHET opposite the 38th B^{co} Royal Fusiliers.

At 1600 hours orders were received for the Battalion less one company to concentrate at midnight, night of 21st/22nd at FUSAIL with the New Zealand Mounted Brigade. "D" Coy immediately took over the garrisons of MASKERAH, MUSSELLABEH, GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT and the remainder of the Battalion moved out at 2100 hours.

On arrival at FUSAIL at about 0130 on the 22nd instant urgent orders were received to push forward as fast as possible along the ROMAN ROAD towards JISR-ED-DAMIEH, as they would be wanted early in the morning in the fight which was to take place. The whole of the 1st and 2nd line Transport and Brigade Train were left at FUSAIL, where the advanced refelling point was formed. Owing to this further forced march of 8 miles to cover, it was decided to leave the men's blankets

and Kits with the 1st line transport. It was imperative that this march should be carried out as rapidly as possible and that the Battalion should reach DAMIEH before daylight as they were carrying out a flank march across the enemy's front EAST of the JORDAN and the road was under observation and fire from the enemy's guns EAST of the RIVER. About 0300 rifle and machine gun fire was heard in the foothills WEST of the JORDAN and from the direction of DAMIEH. The Battalion arrived in the vicinity of DAMIEH at 0500 having accomplished a forced march of $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles and with no water except that carried in each man's water bottle. There was no water to be obtained on arrival. After an hour's rest "C" Company under Major A. E. Havaquin moved into action deploying on the right of the AUCKLAND MTD RIFLES who were held up opposite the DAMIEH BRIDGEHEAD. At about 1050 hours together with the Auckland Mounted Rifles, they broke into the bridgehead defences in a bayonet charge and occupied the heights overlooking the bridge over the JORDAN RIVER. Small parties pushed on down to the RIVER under rifle and machine gun fire, bayonetting the gunners and garrisons of the bombing posts left behind by the enemy and made good the crossing. The fire of the 4 Lewis

Guns were brought to bear on the bridge, killing parties of the enemy attempting to cross and preventing the remainder from getting away. In this operation they captured 110 prisoners including 8 Officers, also 8 machine guns and 6 automatic rifles and a number of horses and pack mules. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and it is estimated that about 200 were buried around the bridgehead alone. Our casualties were light being only one other rank wounded. This is attributed to the charge being in the nature of a surprise. The firing line had been formed and was held up about 600 yards from the enemy works and at that time his fire was accurate and well directed. From this point the charge was made in two bounds, no time being given to the enemy to steady himself or to reorganize and get his machine guns away. It was very evident that the enemy had been taken by surprise and his fire became very wild and inaccurate, most of it passing overhead. ✕

The Auckland Mounted Rifles took up the pursuit whilst "C" company withdrew to the heights WEST of the RIVER to consolidate the position won. At about 1830 hours this company was relieved at the bridgehead by the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and "B" Coy moved out and took up an outpost position from the DAMIEH BRIDGEHEAD to JELL ABEID facing South.

On moving out from MUSSELLABEH each man carried on him an emergency ration and an iron ration, whilst two days ration and fodder followed in the 2nd Line Transport. These latter had been left at the Refueling point at FUSAIL 8½ miles in rear. Owing to the scarcity of water and the general situation permission was requested to bring up the Transport, with the men blankets and 2 days rations together with the camel convoy carrying reserve water. This however could not be carried out owing to the fact that the enemy had crossed the JORDAN at JOZELLEH and was counter attacking in the direction of FUSAIL, thereby attempting to cut our communications 8 miles in rear. The 1st Australian Light Horse Brigade and the 2nd B. W. I. Regiment were detailed to deal with this party and had driven them back across the river by 1930. hours.

Early in the morning of the 23rd the Battalion concentrated together with the New Zealand Mounted Brigade at JISR ED DAMIEH preparatory to moving forward EAST of JORDAN to ES SALT. Owing to the mountain track being unfit for wheeled traffick the 1st + 2nd line Transport and the Camel Convoy with reserve water had to proceed via GORRHANIYA - NIMRIN ROAD. The journey therefore had again to be made in a

waterless mountain country without either blankets or reserve water other than what they carried in their waterbottles. The Transport and camel convoys did not come up with the Bⁿ until the 30th inst.

Before leaving JISR - ED - DAMIEH one days rations were issued to all ranks to replace the emergency ration which had been taken into use. They left the bidgehead at 2200 hours on the night of 23/24. The track up the mountain sides is extremely steep and rough climbing up to 4000 feet above sea level and in places it was only with the greatest difficulty that the Lewis Gun pack animals were urged forward. In the dark there was a slight loss of direction and the Battalion arrived at KAHR HODA 4 miles North of ES SALT at about noon on the 24th instant. having climbed up 4000 feet and covered a distance of about 15 miles ES SALT had already fallen to the Anzac Mounted Division and the remnants of the enemy forces were fleeing NORTH in disorganized and scattered groups. On topping the crest the advanced Guard were bombed and sniped at by small parties of the enemy. These were eventually rounded up and 30 prisoners forwarded to the New Zealand Mounted Brigade Headquarters. About 1400 hours the march was resumed to ES SALT which was reached at 1600 hours. Without either blankets or greatcoats the men suffered a good deal from the cold in the mountains and also from fatigue

and thirst, having no water except that which they carried in their waterbottles until they arrived at ES SALT which was reached at 1600 hrs

After a short rest on the night of the 24/26 orders were received to push on with all haste to SUWEILLEH in order to take part in the operations for the capture of AMMAN. The Battalion left ES SALT at 0330 on the morning of the 25th arriving at SUWEILLEH at 0900 hours having covered a distance of 12½ miles and left at 0130 on the night of the 25th/26th for AMMAN over Defences a further march of 7½ miles arriving at their destination at 0730 on the morning of the 26th.

After a halt of 6 hours the march was resumed to AMMAN RAILWAY STATION where they arrived at 1700 hours. Here they mounted guards over the rolling stock and dumps of captured guns and war material.

Throughout the operations covering the period 21st to 26th instant the Battalion suffered considerably from exposure to the cold nights up in the mountains and from lack of water. Having neither great coats or blankets, the latter together with the water camel convoy having been directed along the NIMRIN MOTOR ROAD and did not catch up with the Batt^y until the 30th instant. After a period of 6 weeks holding a fever infested part of the front line in

Heads of
the Battalion.

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the JORDAN VALLEY, a large number of both officers and other ranks contracted fever and were evacuated to Field Ambulance on the line of march. Much of this fever was brought out by the exposure to the cold. The Company left behind occupying the MASKERAH, MUSSELLABEH GRANT HILL and BAGHALLAT posts which are infested by mosquitos also suffered heavy casualties from fever

| | | |
|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Casualties | KILLED IN ACTION | WOUNDED |
| | 1 other rank | 16 other ranks. |

Evacuated Sick:-

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| 8 Officers | 293 other ranks. |
|------------|------------------|

Courses of instruction

no 565 L/Sgt A. S. Bennett "C" Coy N. C. Co's General course 1st class Instructor.

Remarks. A very good and capable NCO.

no 1373 Corp. S. Daniel "C" Coy NCO's General Course. Passed.

Remarks Very Keen and hard working. weak on paper.

Platoon Officers course Et Aush

2nd Lt. A. B. Macfarlane "A" Coy 84% Passed.

" J. Boyd. "C" " 90% "

The following messages and telegrams were received during operations:-

"Go 1st Bn British West Indies Regt

"NOEM. 70. 20th Sept 1918.

"G. O. C. CHAYTORS FORCE and G.O.C. New Zealand

"Mounted Brigade wish to congratulate all ranks of

"the 1st and 2nd Battalions B.W.I on their performance
"of yesterday and today and their steadiness under
"fire. From N.Z.M.R. BRIGADE.

"To Colonel Wood Hill 1st B.W.I. Rgt.

"No B.M. 115. 22nd Sept. 1918.

"Please congratulate all ranks on their splendid
"behaviour and staunch work in today's operations.

From N.Z.M.R. BRIGADE.

To 1st Bn. B.W.I. Regt

No A.Q. 173. 28. Sept.

"Congratulatory message from C in C begins: - I
"desire to convey to all ranks and all arms of
"the Force under my command my admiration
"and thanks for their great deeds of the past week
"and my appreciation of their gallantry and
"determination which have resulted in the total
"destruction of the VII and VIII Turkish Armies
"opposed to us. Such a complete victory has
"seldom been known in all the history of war.

"From ADVANCED CHAYTORS FORCE"

From Major General E. W. G. Chaytor K.C.M.G. C.B.

Commanding Anzac Mounted Division.

12th October 1918.

"Dear Colonel,

Many thanks for the B.W.I. Calendar

"which is an interesting souvenir. I regret that your
"Battalion has left my Command but I hope to be
"able to see both it and the 2nd Battalion at an
"early date to thank them for the very good work
"they did both when holding the trenches in the
"JORDAN VALLEY and during the subsequent operations
"Outside my own division there are no troops I
"would sooner have with me than the B.W.I. who
"have won the highest opinions of all who have
"been with them during our operations here.

"Yours sincerely
"E. W. C. Chaytor."

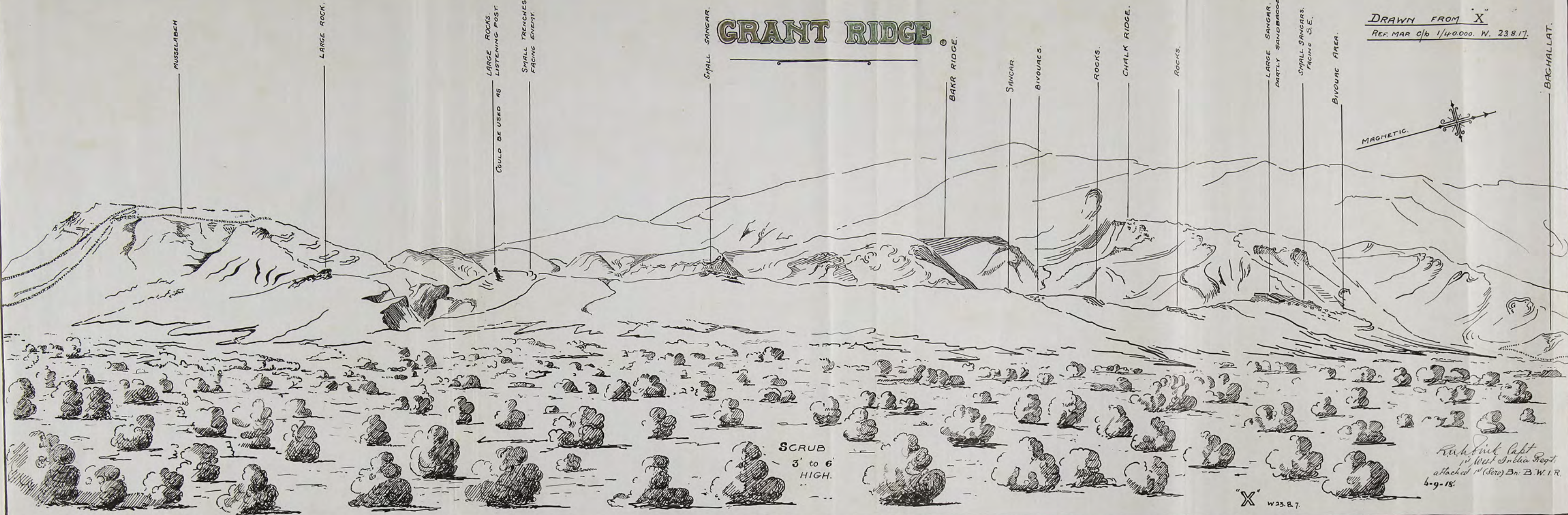
From. The Secretary
West India Contingent Committee
To:- Colonel Wood Hill.
1st British West Indies Regt.

"Please convey the heartiest congratulations of
"the West Indian Contingent Committee to all
"ranks of the 1st and 2nd Battalions British
"West Indian Regt.

"Aspinall"

GRANT RIDGE

DRAWN FROM "X"
REF. MAP O/b 1/40000. W. 23817.



MUSSELABEH

LARGE ROCK.

LARGE ROCKS.
LISTENING POST.
SMALL TRENCHES.
FACING ENEMY.

SMALL SANGAR.

COULD BE USED AS

BARR RIDGE.

SANGAR.

BIVOUACS.

ROCKS.

CHALK RIDGE.

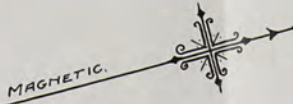
ROCKS.

LARGE SANGAR.
PARTLY SANDBAGGED.

SMALL SANGARS.
FACING S.E.

BIVOUAC AREA.

BAG-HALLAT.

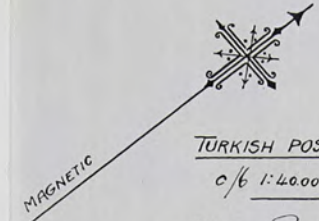
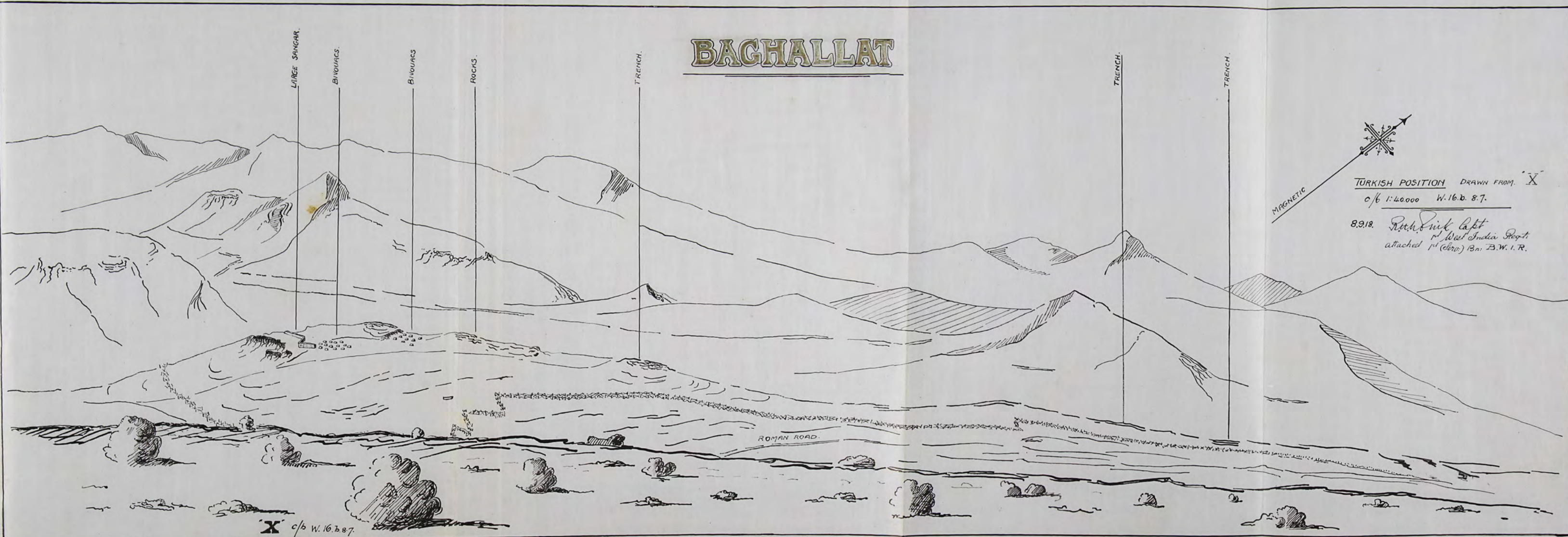


SCRUB
3' to 6'
HIGH.

R. H. Pink Capt
1st West India Regt.
attached 1st (Ser.) Bn. B.W.I.R.
6-9-18.

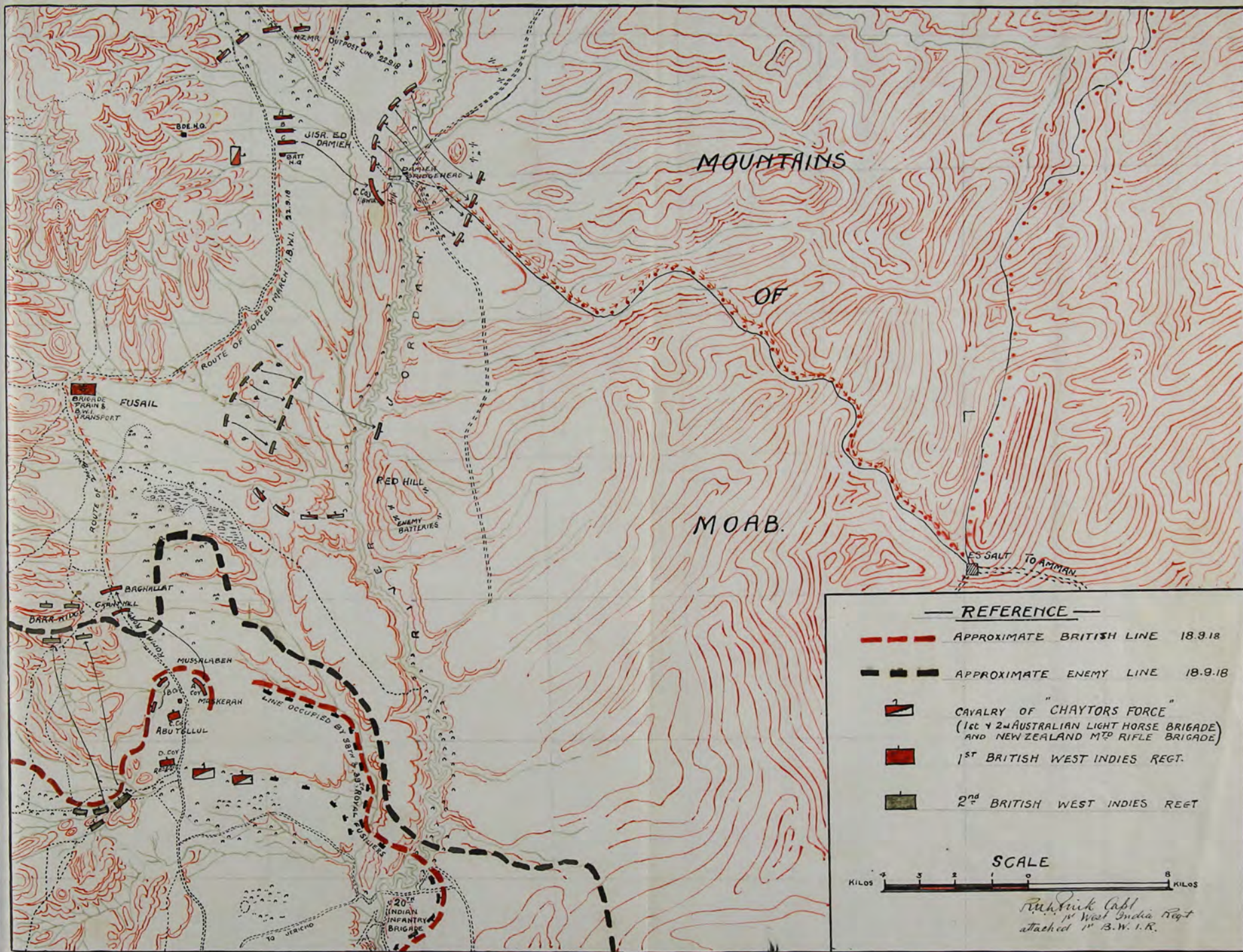
"X" W23.87.

BAGHALLAT



TURKISH POSITION DRAWN FROM 'X'
 c/b 1:40,000 W.16.b. 8.7.
 8.9.18. *Ritchie* Capt
 West India Regt.
 attached 1st (clerk) Bn. B.W.I.R.

'X' c/b W.16.b.8.7.



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Amman
Palestine
Oct 3rd

The Battalion, less "D" Company detachment at No 2 Sector JORDON VALLEY DEFENCES, left AMMAN for AIN AHMAR and arrived at 1200 hours.

Ain Ahmar
Oct 4th

Capt. D. Moffatt M.C. R.A.M.C was evacuated to hospital - malaria.

The Battalion left AIN AHMAR for ES SALT at 0830 arriving at 1200 hours.

The Rev. Capt. J. H. Watson J.C.F. was evacuated to Hospital.

Es-Salt
Oct 5th

The Battalion left ES-SALT for NIMRIN at 0730 arriving at 1500 hours.

Capt. H. P. Jones on leave in the United Kingdom was granted an extension of three weeks leave.

No 5536 Pte W. Gunte "B" Company died at the 76th C.C. Hospital from Malaria M.F.

Nimrin
Oct 6th

The Battalion left NIMRIN for JERICHO at 0730 arriving at 1600 hours.

Major W. J. Bensly was evacuated to Hospital.

Major A. E. Harragin assumed duties of second in Command vice Major W. J. Bensly.

Jericho
Oct. 7th

"D" Company and detachment left behind at No 2 Sector JORDON VALLEY DEFENCES rejoined the Battalion.

Oct 8th

A draft consisting of 29 other ranks

From the 5th Res. Bn. British West Indies Regt. joined the Battalion for duty was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

A draft consisting of 50 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Res. Battalion British West Indies Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

Capt. A. L. Pyrah Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry joined the Battalion for duty and was posted to "D" Company.

Lieut M. A. Puckerin and Lt. & Qr. Mr. were evacuated to Hospital - Malaria.

Lt. P. L. Aldridge appointed as Quarter Master vice Lt. & Qr. Mr. J. W. Willis to Hospital.

No 634 Pte J. Brown joined the Battalion and was posted to it from the 2/10th Middlesex Regt.

The Battalion left JERICHO at 1600 hours for TALAT-ED-DUMM escorting 1400 prisoners of war to JERUSALEM, arriving at TALAT-ED-DUMM at 2000 hours.

The Battalion with prisoners of war left TALAT-ED-DUMM at 0830 hours arriving at "Kilo: 7" at 0830 hours.

The Battalion with prisoners of war left

Talat-Ed-Dumm
Oct: 9th

"Kilo: 7"
Oct 10.

"Kilo 7" at 0830 and arrived at JERUSALEM at 1330 hours, handing over the 1400 prisoners of war to the Commandant Prisoners of War Camp.

Capt. J. W. King 1st Garrison Bn. Essex Regt. joined the Battalion for duty and was posted to "A" Company.

No 4661 R. S. M. Addicott rejoined the Battalion from leave of absence to the United Kingdom

A draft consisting of 50 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Res. Bn. British West Indies Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

2nd Lts. A. E. Thorne and R. E. Ritter from the 1st Garrison Battalions Worcester and Kings Liverpool Regts. respectively, joined the Battalion for duty and were posted to "B" Company.

No 6966 Pte H. Lewis proceeded to R.O.D.R.E. KANTARA for duty.

A draft consisting of Capt. Curryer, 6th Garrison Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers, Lts. Campbell and G. Cooke and 2nd Lt. E. G. M. Newton 1st Garrison Bn. Royal Welsh Fusiliers and 249 other ranks from the 5th Res. Bn. British West Indies Regt. joined the Battalion for duty, were taken on the strength and posted to coys:

2nd Lt. Sonnereau rejoined the Battalion for duty from JERICHO.

Jerusalem
Oct. 11th

" 12th

No 200338 Sergeant Drummer Hillard rejoined the Battalion for duty from leave of absence to the United Kingdom

The Battalion entrained at 0800 hours for RAMALLA arriving there at mid-day, the transport and Lewis Guns proceeding by road.

A draft consisting of 3 officers and 165 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Res. Bn. British West Indies Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

The Rev. Capt. J. G. Barrow A.C.D. F.C.F. left the Battalion to take up at SOLLUM, WESTERN DESERT, EGYPT.

The Rev. Capt. W. D. Stonlake A.C.D. joined the Battalion for duty vice the Rev. J. G. Barrow to SOLLUM.

Under authority from 3rd Echelon G.H.Q. 29 other ranks were reposted to the 2nd Bn. British West Indies Regt. and proceeded to unit this day.

2nd Lieut. J. I. Johnston was attached to the 5th Res. Bn. British West Indies Regt. whilst undergoing medical treatment - Malaria tr. 1.

The strength of the Battalion stood at 37 officers and 871 other ranks at the beginning of

Jerusalem
Oct: 17th

Ramallah
Oct: 22nd

" 26th

" 29th

" 30th

Health of the
Battalion

Health of the
Battalion

the month and at 23 officers and 767 other ranks at the end of the month.

After their long period in the front line trenches in the JORDON VALLEY, where Malaria Fever was extremely prevalent and the exposure to cold in the mountains in the subsequent operations, a large percentage of both officers and other ranks were evacuated to hospital. Just previous to the operations large drafts of both officers and other ranks brought the Battalion up to about 10% over strength.

On the 30th of September 1918 the strength of the Battalion stood at 35 officers and 1157 other ranks, and on returning to JERUSALEM on the 10th of October 1918, the strength of the Battalion stood at 8 officers and 311 other ranks, having suffered a wastage in casualties from all causes during the operations 77% of its effectives in officers and 73% of its effectives in other ranks.

The following number of officers and other ranks were admitted to hospital.

Officers

Other Ranks.

23

693

Discharged from hospital 3 other ranks.

Deaths.

Dysentery 5

Malaria Fever 24

Pneumonia 13

42. other ranks.

Training

The following were the results of officers and other ranks in Courses of Instruction during the month.

3rd Platoon Commanders Course.

Lieut. E. K. C. Weatherhead. Good.

Lieut. J. R. Phillips. "

N. C. O.'s General Course.

No 888 L/Sgt. Johnson Failed.

Signal Course.

No 526 L/Cpl. Adams. Failed.

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RAMALLA.

1st November 1918

Five other ranks were reported to the 2nd Bn. British West Indies Regt. and were struck off the strength accordingly.

A G. H. Q. Memorandum was received to the effect that hostilities between the Allies and Turkey had ceased from noon (Local Time) on Thursday 31st October 1918.

The Terms of the Armistice were as follows:—

Article I. The Dardanelles and the Bosphorus are to be open to the Allies.

" II. The minefields to be removed with the help of the Turkish Navy.

" III. The Allied prisoners of War to be

2nd

"

KAMALLA.

2nd November 1918.

- " released immediately.
- Article IV " The Turkish Army to be demobilised.
- " V " All warships to be handed over to the Allies.
- " VI " The free use of all Turkish Ports and Ancharages by the Allies.
- " VII " The Allied occupation of the Taurus Tunnels.
- " VIII " The prohibition of destruction of any Military, Naval or Commercial material.
- " IX " The surrender of all garrisons in:-
 Hijazy of Asia.
 Yemen.
 Mesopotamia.
 Syria.
- " X " The withdrawal of all troops in Sicily except those to keep order.
- " XI " All German and Austrian troops to be evacuated from Turkish territory at once.
- " XII " Wireless telegraphy and cable stations to be controlled by the Allies, Turkish Government messages excepted.
- " XIII " Facilities to be given for the purchase of coal, oil, fuel and naval material from Turkish sources after requirements of the Country have been met.

RAMALLA.

2nd November 1918.

"None of the above material to be exported.

Article. xiv "Allied Control Officers to be garrisoned on all railways including such portion of TRANS-CAUCASUS railways now under Turkish control, which must be placed at the free and complete disposal of the Allied Authorities, and no consideration being given to needs of population. This clause to include Allied occupation of BATUM. Turkey will raise no objection to the occupation of BAKU by the Allies.

" xv "The surrender of all garrisons in HEJAZ, ASIR, YEMEN, SYRIA and MESOPOTAMIA to the nearest Allied Commander, and the withdrawal of all troops from SILICIA with the exception of those necessary to maintain order as will be determined under clause x.

" xvi "The surrender of all Turkish officers in TRIPOLITANIA and CYRENACIA to the nearest garrison. (Italian). Turkey guarantees to stop supplies and communication to those officers if they do not obey the order of surrender.

" xvii "The surrender of all posts and

KAMALLA
27 November 1918.

"occupation in TRIPOLITANIA and CYRENACIA including MISURATA to nearest allied garrison.

Article XVIII "All Germans and Austrians, naval, military and civilian to be evacuated within one month from Turkish Dominion. Those in remote districts as soon after as possible.

" XIX "Compliance with such orders as may be conveyed for disposal of the equipment, arms and ammunition, including transport of that portion of the Turkish Army which under Article IV is demobilised.

" XX "All Allied Representatives to be attached to Turkish Ministry of Supplies in order to safeguard all allied interests. This representative to be furnished with all necessary for this purpose.

" XXI "Turkish prisoners to be kept at the disposal of the Allied Powers. The release of Turkish civilian prisoners and prisoners over military age to be considered.

" XXII "Obligation on the part of Turkey to cease all relations with CENTRAL-POWERS.

" XXIII "In case of disorder in the 6 Armenian Vilayets, the Allies reserve the right to occupy any part of these.

RAMALLA

2nd November 1918.

Article xxiv. "Hostilities between the Allies and Turkey shall cease from NOON (Local time) on THURSDAY, 31st October 1918.

G.S. (O), G.H.Q. E.E.F.

2/11/1918.

A draft consisting of 31 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Res. Bn. B. Co. 1. Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to Coy.

3rd "

A draft consisting of Capt. H. V. L. Cavenaugh, Staff. Mr. A. Puckerin and 37 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Res. Bn. B. W. 1. Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to Coys.

7th "

No 898 Pte. O. R. C. Lawrie was classified B2 at the 7th General Hospital.

9th "

News was received that Germany and Austria had accepted the Allied terms and had signed an armistice that day.

11th "

A draft consisting of 119. o/s. joined the Battln. for duty from the 5th Res. Bn. B.W. 1. Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to companies.

14th "

No 13442 Sgt. G. F. Croft 'C' Coy. was transferred from the 2nd to 10th Middlesex Regt. and posted to the 1st 1/4th Essex Regt. with effect from 3/8/18. but to remain attached to the British West Indies Regt.

Lieut. G. H. Williams, The West African Regiment

19th "

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RAMALLA.

19th November 1918

joined the Battalion for duty and was posted to "C" Company.

Major W. J. Bensley rejoined the Battalion for duty from hospital, and resumed the duties of 2nd in command vice Major A. E. Larragiu to Company duty.

A draft consisting of Lieuts. D. A. Reeves, W. Lind and B. C. Davis and 90 other ranks joined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Reg. Bn. B. W. I. Regt. was taken on the strength and posted to Companies.

21st

"

Lieut. & Qr. Mtr. J. W. Willis rejoined the Battalion for duty from the 5th Reg. Bn. B. W. I. Regt. and resumed duty as Quarter master vice Lieut. F. L. Aldridge returned to Coy. duty.

25th

"

The 1st & 2nd Battalions of the Regiment were inspected by Maj. Gen. Sir E. W. C. Chaytor K.C.M.G., C.B., A.D.C. Commanding the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division.

28th

"

The Battalion left RAMALLA at 0830 hours and marched to JERUSALEM arriving there at 1300 hours.

JERUSALEM.

30th November 1918.

The Battalion entrained at Jerusalem at 0730 hours for TUL KERAM arriving there at 1430 hours, the transport proceeded by march route.

November 1918.

Health.

The strength of the Battalion at the beginning of the month stood at 23 officers and 786 other ranks, and at the end of the month 31 officers and 1171 other ranks. Large drafts brought the Battalion slightly over strength. Most of these drafts consisted of personnel recently returned from German East Africa. Many of them had suffered a good deal from Malaria fever whilst in East Africa and from this cause there was still a large number of men admitted to hospital.

Admitted to Hospital 95 ors.

Discharged from " " "

Mentioned in General Allenby's dispatches of April 1918. London Gazette of 3/10/18.

No 357 Sgt. S. J. Griffiths.

" 894 " J. M. Knight.

Honours
and
Awards

The following immediate awards for the operations in the Jordan Valley were published. List of Appointments G. R. O. No 394 d/d 10th December 1918.

Military Cross.

1. Tempy: Capt. Robert John Craig.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in the field, at Baghatlat, Jordan Valley, Palestine.

On the morning of the 20th September 1918 when

Honours
and
Awards.

Military Cross.

occupying that place, this officer took his company through an artillery barrage fire in a most efficient manner, and it was due to his leadership that the casualties of his company were so few. He and his company were exposed to heavy shell fire throughout the day and night."

2. Tempy; Major A. E. Harragin.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. At Danieh Bridgehead, Jordan Valley, Palestine on the 22nd September 1918 this officer was in command of the company which took part in the successful combined operations with the Auckland Mounted Rifles.

He handled his company with great judgment and his company took over 100 prisoners and 3 machine guns and was responsible for about 50 killed and wounded of the enemy.

Distinguished Conduct Medal.

1. No 503 Lance Cpl: Richard Turpin.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 20th September 1918 at Baghattat, Jordan Valley Palestine, when one company of the Battalion had occupied that place, under heavy shell fire, he ran a signal wire from Musselabeh to Baghattat a matter of 2½ miles

under heavy shell fire. In the morning on two occasions he went out alone under heavy fire and repaired the wire which had been cut by enemy artillery fire. On returning to Battalion headquarters in the afternoon he volunteered to go out and repair the wire under similar circumstances."

No 6357 Pte Leszkiah Scott

2

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. On the 20th September 1918, at Baghattat, Jordan Valley Palestine, when one company of the Battalion had occupied that place under heavy shell fire, this private volunteered to carry a message from Baghattat to Grant Ridge. He crossed the 400 yards of open ground under heavy shell fire and delivered his message. On his return he went on his own to give assistance to Sergeant Chan who had been hit, but this h. c. o. was already dead."

No 1454 Sgt. William Edward Juberin.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. At Damieh Bridgehead, Jordan Valley Palestine on the 22nd September 1918. This h. c. o. in the absence of his officer commanded his platoon with the utmost efficiency in the attack on the bridgehead. His platoon led the

attack with great dash and after the successful assault, he reorganised the platoon and led them with great gallantry into the broken ground overlooking the river which was still occupied by the enemy, capturing 2 machine guns and a number of prisoners. The success of his platoon was greatly due to his personal efforts and he showed high powers of command and leadership."

Military Medal.

No 594 Private George Dick.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. At Damieh, Jordan Valley Palestine on the 22nd September 1918. During the attack on the bridgehead this private was one of a party of Lewis Gunners who were working their way forward of the line. Observing an enemy machine gun within close range, he rushed forward single handed under heavy fire, bayonetting two of the enemy gun team and capturing the gun."

No 9192 Pte Albert Marquet.

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. At Damieh, Jordan Valley Palestine on the 22nd September 1918."

During the attack on the bridgehead this private noticing an enemy bombing post, which was holding up the attack, he single handed worked round their flank and bombed them out, killing 6 of the enemy grenade party, wounding two and taking two as prisoners."

No 661 Lance. Corp. McCallin Lahan

"For gallantry and devotion to duty in action. At Daniels Bridgehead, Jordan Valley Palestine on the 22nd September 1918. This N.C.O. was in charge of 4 Lewis Guns and greatly assisted his company during the attack, by taking up a forward position on the flank and bringing a heavy fire to bear on the enemy. After the attack had been successful, of his own accord, he took his guns forward to the high ground overlooking the bridge and brought a heavy fire to bear on the bridge itself, killing a number of the enemy who were crossing at the time; by this action he prevented the enemy from escaping and enabled his company to capture over 100 prisoners and 3 machine guns. He showed great resource and handled his guns

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with extreme efficiency."

Inspection.

Both the 1st and 2nd Battalions were inspected on the 22nd inst. by Maj. Gen. Sir E. W. G. Chaytor K.C.M.G., C.B. A.D.C. Commanding the Australian and New-Zealand Mounted Division.

The two Battalions were drawn up in mass forming three sides of a square and were addressed as follows by Maj. General Chaytor:—

"Lt. Colonel Wood List, Lt. Colonel Poë, officers, N. O. & men of the 1st and 2nd Battalions British West Indies Regiment. I have come up here today to thank you for the good work you did during the recent operations. I was very proud to have two such Battalions under my command, and I was very pleased indeed to reply to the questions of the Commander-in-Chief and many other senior officers from General Headquarters and tell them how well both Battalions had done.

Your work in the trenches was not very exciting, but very well done. You showed great keenness in reconnaissance. I saw both battalions in the operations

against Chalk Ridge, Barker Ridge and the positions in front of Masselabeh, and your conduct left nothing to be desired. And all through every report I have had has been most favourable. Indeed all the troops of my division report that they like to fight along with you, in fact, could never wish for anybody better.

I know it must have been a great disappointment to you not to have been able to get up in time for the fight at AMMAN itself, but your presence in the neighbourhood had a very decisive effect on the operations there. One Battalion was ordered to guard the flank the other was called upon to do what might be called a phenomenal march trying to be up in time, and the knowledge that that Battalion was coming up and coming up well enabled me to push all my men into the fight and that made all the difference in taking the place that afternoon instead of after dark - possibly not till the next day.

The war is over now, so it might be kind in a way, to hope that you come in for no more fighting.

"Well again I must thank you heartily; most heartily, for the assistance you were to me during the operations down in the Tordon Valley. I wish you all good luck, health and a safe return to your own country. I thank you."

General Chaffor then pinned on the ribbons of the decorations on those officers, N. C. O. and men who had received immediate awards for the operations in the Tordon Valley.

The narrative of the Anzac Mounted Division in the operations in the Tordon Valley was received. (Appendix I)

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE.

Sept, 16th 1918

The Force consisted of the following units :-

- ANZAC Mtd. Division (less 1 Sqdn. with Descorps)
- A/263 Battery R.F.A.,
- 10th Indian Mtn. Bty. Bde.,
- 96)
- 102) Sections A.A. Guns,
- 103)
- 195 Heavy Battery,
- 2 Sections captured Turk 75 m.m.,
- 1 Section captured Turk 5.9.,
- 1st Battln. British West Indies Regiment,
- 2nd Battln. British West Indies Regiment,
- 38th Battn. Royal Fusiliers,
- 39th Battn. Royal Fusiliers,
- 20th Indian Infantry Bde.,
- 36th Machine Gun Squadron,
- 35th A. T. Coy., R.E.

It was first necessary to organize the Infantry so that a Mobile Force might be ready to accompany the Mounted Troops in the event of a move forward, and, garrisons be left in the defences.

In accordance with instructions from G.H.Q. no forward move was to be made for the present by this Force; but, a careful watch to be kept on the enemy and active patrolling all along the line by day and night; and, if the enemy dropped back from any forward position this was to be occupied at once.

The position the enemy occupied was as follows:-

His SOUTHERN or Left Flank, bodies of Cavalry watched the tracks leading to MADEBA; the line of the foot-hills running to the North of NIMRIN were strongly entrenched, and, advanced posts on KARSAID; TEL ER RAME and KABR MUJAHID which were entrenched and wired, and difficult to approach through the scrub which gave opportunity for enemy ambushes. From a Point 2,000 yards North of SHUNET NIMRIN a line of redoubts and trenches ran across the JORDON facing south and meeting the river 1,000 yards South of UMM ESH SHERT FORD. This line was being hurriedly wired. In rear of this line was RED HILL which was entrenched, and which was the chief Artillery Observation Point against our line.

The entrenched line continued in a N.W. direction on the Northern side of the MANKATTAT EL MELLAHA and consisted of a series of single redoubts which were all wired in and had a field of fire over absolutely open ground. The line then ran in a series of trenches and redoubts towards BAKR RIDGE which was entrenched but not wired. A strong advanced position of well built sangar and wired in was held at BAGHALAT, with a small advanced post on GRANT HILL. Posts in advance of the BAKR RIDGE were held at TEL EL MUSERTERAH, TEL ER RISHEH and usually at TEL EL TRUNY. The enemy as a rule was very unenterprising. No trench raids were made, and it was rarely that he had parties beyond his entrenched positions. For this reason it was difficult to keep a close watch and make sure that he was not reducing his numbers without incurring some loss, but owing to the large number of deserters, information of his movement was gained.

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONTD.

- Sept 17 th 1918 During the night of Sept 17th and 18th close patrolling of the enemy's position was carried out, and at night-fall on the 17th a demonstration was made from the bridge head by a Regiment of the 2nd A.L. Brigade, and by the 1st L.H. Brigade from their camp at TEL ES SULTAN towards JORDAN.
- Sept 18th On the morning of September 18th the enemy opened fire with a long range heavy gun and shelled D.H.Q. Later they turned on to JERICHO.
During the night Sept. 18th/19th patrols kept touch with the enemy closely reconnoitring GRANT HILL, BAGHALAT and the trenches facing the WADY MELLAHA. Heavy rifle and Machine Gun fire was encountered, and, the enemy put down an artillery barrage S.E. of BAGHALAT, on the ROMAN ROAD East of GRANT HILL, and opened on the ground immediately South of their trenches along the MANKADAT EL MELLAHA.
- Sept 19th 0545 At 0545 the long range gun from SHUNET NIMRIN again shelled JERICHO and the 2nd L.H. Brigade patrols encountered enemy Cavalry near TEL ER RAME moving East.
- 0610 At 0610 the 2nd British West Indies Regiment found BAKR RIDGE held, but TEL ER RISHEH and TEL EL MUSETTERAH were found to be clear.
- 0830 At 0830 the 2nd L.H. Brigade found TEL ER RAME occupied and the enemy also in position on the WADY EL ADEIME covering the track to MAAIN. The enemy also held HASR MUJAHID and TEL EL KEEREIN and some movement was going on East of TEL EL SHAGHUR.
- 1148 Movement was also reported about SHUNET NIMRIN. At 1148 enemy guns from RED HILL SHELLED THE MELLAHA TRENCHES.
- 1330 At 1330 the 160th Brigade who had made progress along the hills asked if they could help by bringing fire from a Mountain Battery. Reply was sent giving BAKR and CHALK RIDGES and trenches N.W. of BAGHALAT.
- 1525 At 1525 the 2nd British West Indies Regiment took the Ridge South of BAKR RIDGE. They were heavily shelled here; but dug in and held the position, while our guns shelled BAKR RIDGE.
- 1710 at 1710 2 Regiments, 2nd L.H. Brigade pushed forward towards KABR MUJAHID and SHUNET NIMRIN. About midnight bursts of rifle and Machine Gun Fire was heard North up the JORDAN VALLEY and Red and White lights were seen.
- Sept 20th
- 0450 At 0450 the 2nd British West Indies Regiment occupied BAKR RIDGE and began pushing on to take CHALK RIDGE where the enemy could be seen leaving in small parties. Hospital in KH.FUSAIL had gone.
- 0610 Patrols to BAGHALAT during the night were fired on; but, about 0610 the 1st. British West Indies Regiment pushed out and occupied GRANT HILL and BAGHALAT and consolidated them. The 38th Bn. R. F. found the enemy still holding strongly the trenches North of MELLAHA and were met by Machine Gun and Rifle fire.
- The enemy also put up lights and an Artillery Barrage was put down. The 2nd L.H. Brigade found enemy holding on KABR MUJAHID and in NIMRIN; patrols towards NIMRIN and DESBASI were heavily shelled especially by guns from about EL HAUD. The enemy also held positions in the foothills N. and E. of KABR MUJAHID from which they fired on patrols and parties attempting to get round that place. They continued to hold this position all day

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONTD.

- Sept 20th 0915 At 0915 the 2nd British West Indies Regiment captured CHALK RIDGE. N.Z. Patrols pushing out N. and N.W. from BAGHALAT came under shell fire and found enemy holding KH. FUSIAL.
- 1120 The enemy began to concentrate just South of KH. FUSAIL possibly with a view to counter attack.
- 1600 At 1610 the long range gun from W. NIMRIN again shelled JERICHO.
- 1900 At 1900 orders were sent to N.Z. Brigade to push out towards TEL SHEDH BHIB and endeavour to occupy it.
- Sept 21st 0515 The 38th R.F. found enemy still holding the trenches opposite MELLAHA. Patrols from AUJAH BRIDGEHEAD found enemy also holding the line South of RED HILL. The Auckland Mounted Rifles occupied KH. FUSAIL and TEL ES EDH DHIB and pushed patrols up the road running N.W. and in the direction of JISR ED DAMIEH KAFID 0805 JOZELEH. TALAAT AMRAH was occupied at 0805. Enemy still held on in the broken ground along the JORDAN and were located finally holding a strong position along the line METELLED DHIBER MERELEH blocking a further advance on JISR ED DAMIEH. TEL ER RAME was found still occupied by the enemy, and considerable movement about KABR MUJAHID and the foothills strongly held. The enemy also continued to hold the trenches along THE MANKATTAT EL MELLAHA. There appeared to be no guns West of Jordan, and a great deal of movement eastwards from behind RED HILL. During the day the enemy shelled MADBEH AREA and JERICHO with the long range gun from NIMRIN and with 77.m.m., GHORANIYEH BRIDGEHEAD, and parties of the 2nd L.H. Brigade moving towards NIMRIN or KABR MUJAHID.
- 1615 At 1615 the enemy opened fire on EL MASKERAH. A report came from the Auckland Mounted Rifles that they seemed to be leaving MAFIDJOZELEH and patrols were investigating.
- 1825 At 1825 orders were issued from N.Z.M.R. Brigade to move on KH. FUSAIL at once with mobile portions of the 1st and 2nd British West Indies Regiment, 29th Indian Mtn. Bty. and Ayrshire Bty., all to be under Genrl. MELDRUM. The line EL MASKERAH, EL MUSALLABEH, GRANT HILL and BAGHALAT to be held. The C.R.E. to push guns forward into MELLAHA to deal with enemy guns on RED HILL. The 38th R.F. to continue pressure on the tracks along the MANKATTAT EL MELLAHA especially those covering UMM ESH SHERT FORD. The 1st. L.H. Brigade were to ordered to MADBEH in place of the N.Z.M.R. Brigade. As soon as General MELDRUM had concentrated his force at KH. FUSAIL he was to attack JISR ED DAMIEH.
- Sept 22nd 0300 At 0300 the 38th R.F. found enemy weakening in the trenches on the MANKATTAT EL MELLAHA, and pushed in and occupied trenches overlooking UMM ESH SHERT FORD. 2 Coys., 39th R.F. were brought into the MELLAHA POSTS vacated by the 38th R.F. The 38th R.F. pushed on and took UMM ESH SHERT at 0535, and continued their advance up the MANKATTAT EL MELLAHA. At the same hour the 2nd L.H. Brigade occupied TEL EL RAME, and pushed on to KABR MUJAHID where they encountered enemy.
- 0535 By 0700 the N.Z.M.R. Brigade took EL MAKHRUK and ABD EL KADIR with 600 prisoners and the Commander of the 53rd Division. JISR ED DAMIEH was still strongly held and the enemy began to concentrate about MAFID JOZEDEH and threaten the flank of Genl. MELDRUM'S Force.
- 0700

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONT'D.

- 219.
- sept 22nd 0700 Therefore 1st. L.H. Brigade with Inverness Bty. were ordered to KH.FUSAIL to deal with any attack on Genrl. MELDRUM, and to clear the West bank of the JORDAN. One Regiment 2nd L.H. Brigade was ordered up to MADBEH.
- 1050 At 1050 the N.Z.M.R. Bde and the 1st British West Indies Regiment captured the Bridgehead at JISR ED DAMIEH. Both N.Z.M.R and B.W.I. charged the party holding the Bridge under cover of Machine Gun fire and some hand to hand fighting occurred. A Bridgehead was gradually established but the enemy covered the exits of the Eastern Bank with Machine Guns.
- 1500 From 1500 on this day the 38th and 39th Btns. R. F. were put together under Lt.-Col. PATTERSON, DSO., and called 'PATTERSON'S COLUMN'. The 1st L.H. Brigade and the 2nd B.W.I. continued to press the enemy back on MAFID JOELEH encountering considerable resistance in the MELLAHUT UMM AFFIN. For this operation the 2nd B.W.I. Rgt. was placed under Genl. COX'S Orders.
- 1810 At 1810 the enemy held the following line : TEL EL SHAGHUR-KABR MUJAHID-SHUNET NIMRIN-RED HILL - position on the West bank covering MAFIDJOZELEH - position on the East bank facing JISR ED DAMIEH. 20 Officers and 77 ors. had been captured by the 2nd B.W.I. and the total captures for the day were 33 Officers 685 ors., 4 M.G., 4 Automatic Rifles and many wagons, horses and stores.
- 2335 By 2335 it was known that the enemy was retiring and orders were issued to press him and inflict as much damage as possible next day 2nd L.H. Bde. on KABR MUJAHID and TEL ER RAME sending on sqdn. on NIMRIN, mobile part of 20th Indn. I. Bde. to be directed on SHUNET NIMRIN. PATTERSON'S COLUMN to concentrate in AUJAH BRIDGEHAED and follow 20th Indn. I. Bde., 1st L.H. Bde to press enemy across JORDAN opposite MAFID JOZ-ELEH and back into the foothills. Genrl. MELDRUM to have one Battln. B.W.I. and one squadron to hold JISR ED DAMIEH, and followed by the other Battalion to press the enemy back into the foothills and follow him moving on ES SALT by the JISR DAMIEH TRACK. C.R.A. to have all heavy artillery to open on NIMRIN if held. All wheels to move by the NIMRIN ROAD.
- Sept 23rd 0445 At 0445 the 2nd L.H. Bde. secured KABR MUJAHID and pushed on at once up the tracks leading to AIN ES SIR The 3rd L.H. Brigade and 2nd B.W.I. took MAFID JOZEHEH at 0550 and found the Bridge destroyed. All ground West of JORDAN was cleared of the enemy. The N.Z.M.R. Bde. pushed over JISR ED DAMIEH and advanced into the foothills, pushing patrols E. and N.
- 0910 The 1st L.H. Bde. crossed the JORDAN by UMM ESH SHERT FORD and moved up the ARSENIYAT TRACK. D.H.Q. moved to GHORANIYEH at 1425.
- 1425
- 1815 At 1815 the 20th Indn. I. Bde. were in SHUNET NIMRIN with a Squadron 2nd L.H. Bde. in front. The 2nd L.H. Bde. were in visual communication with D.H.Q. from the hills to the South of the NIMRIN ROAD having encountered slight resistance. No communication was got with 1st. L.H. Bde. owing to their wireless pack falling over a precipice. At 1900 the N.Z.M.R. Bde. took ES SALT. The only opposition was from a body of enemy holding a wired in position with Machine Guns across the JISR ED DAMIEH TRACK. The Canterbury Mounted Rifles out-flanked and rushed this post. From the time they left JISR ED DAMIEH the captures of the Brigade up to and including the taking of ES SALT were 312 prisoners 2 M.Gs., 2 - 4.2 guns and 1 - 77 m.m.
- 1900

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONT'D.

- Sept. 23rd 1900 PATTERSON'S COLUMN (Less 38th R.F. who were completely exhausted by their heavy work in the JORDAN among the Clay Hills) were on the march to NIMRIN. The Squadron 2nd L.H. Bde. pushed up to the NIMRIN-SALR ROAD to locate any damage done to it. Instructions were received from G.H.Q. during the night to harass the enemy and cut off his retreat North from AMMAN. The JISR ED DAMIEH Detachment was to remain. The Force was to gain touch with the Arab Army.
- Sept. 24th 0245 At 0245 Squadron 2nd L.H. Bde. reported road blown up about 6 miles ahead. 20th Indn. I. Bde. were ordered at once to send working party with picks and shovels up the road to repair. Orders were left to PATTERSON'S COLUMN for 38th R.F. to hold NIMRIN while 39th followed as rearguard to the Force.
- 0700 N.Z.M.R. Bde. pushed reconnaissances out E. and N. of ES SALT and met opposition about 0700 at SUWEILEH. The 2nd L.H. Bde. met opposition at MAIN ES SIR being fired on by 77m.m. guns. By 0850 the road was repaired, and
- 0850 the 20th Indn. I. Bde. continued their march taking over ES SALT from N.Z.M.R. Bde. who marched to SUWEILEH followed by 1st. L.H. Bde. The 2nd. L.H. Bde. reached AIN AMAR later in the day. By the evening the Force (less 38th R.F. at NIMRIN and the JISR ED DAMIEH Detachment) was concentrated about ES SALT with Mounted Troops about SUWEILEH. Orders were issued for the N.Z.M.R. Bde. and the 2nd L.H. Bde. to move at 0000 on AMMAN, the next day, the 1st L.H. Bde. following at 0631. The 1st B.W.I. to march to SUWEILEH and be there by 0700. If the enemy were found holding AMMAN lightly, attack to be pressed in, but, if strongly the troops holding outlying trenches were to be driven in and the place shelled and retreat Northwards was to be cut off; but, assault deferred until the Infantry should arrive. A request was sent for AMMAN to be bombed.
- Sept. 25th During the night the railway was cut near KALAAT EZ ZERKA STATION by a party of Auckland Mounted Rifles.
- 0600 The Mounted Troops advanced on AMMAN at 0600, N.Z.M.R. Bde. from N.W. with their right on the main ES SALT-AMMAN Road, the 2nd L.H. Bde. from the West. The 1st. L.H. Bde. followed keeping watch on the Country to the North. D.H.Q. were established on Hill 3040 at 0745.
- 0745 At 0830 N.Z.M.R. Bde. found enemy holding ridge N.W. of AMMAN about 200 strong. There was also some movement on Hill 3039. The enemy opened fire with 2 batteries of small guns and there was considerable amount of Machine Gun Fire. On the right the 2nd L.H. Bde. captured 105 prisoners with 4 Machine Guns.
- 0830 At 1000 one regiment of 1st L.H. Bde. was sent to the Northern flank of N.Z.M.R. Bde. and to be under Genl. MELDRUM.
- 1000 At 1110 N.Z.M.R. Bde reported that Canterbury Mtd. Rifles were ready to gallop part of the defences opposite to them, but they were brought up by a steep cliff, the only way being between two hills held by Machine Guns. The G.O.C. now ordered the attack to be pressed in, Mountain Guns with each Brigade being ordered up to assist.
- 1110 At 1430 another Regiment 1st L.H. Bde. was ordered to General MELDRUM'S Left.
- 1430 By 1517 the enemy's resistance was collapsing, the Canterbury Mtd. Rifles captured the Citadel, 2nd L.H. Bde. crossed the WADY AMMAN and pushed up to 3039. On the Northern Flank the 1st. L.H. Rgt. caught several enemy guns trying to get away and by 1630 the place was taken. The 20th Indian Infantry Brigade were ordered to leave a Battalion at SUWEILEH and march to AMMAN, handing ES
- 1517
- 1630

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONT'D.

- Sept. 25th 1630 SALT to the 39th R.F. 18th R.H.A. Bde, and 1st. B.W.I. were also ordered to AMMAN. The 1st L.H. Bde. took up a position near the station with the N.Z.M.R. Bde. just South of it. The 2nd. L.H. Bde. bivouacked on the Western slopes of 3039. Owing to the report of the Advance of the Southern Force of Turks, the 2nd Bde., L.H., were ordered to push down South and blow up the railway line as far South as possible. The reason of this was as follows:- The Turkish Force unless it chose to try and get to the JORDAN VALLEY which was improbable would have to take the DARB EL HAJ and pass East of AMMAN or attack that place. Which ever course the Turkish Commander took it was to our advantage to make his march as long as possible and increase his water difficulties. If he chose the DARB EL HAJ the nearest water from KASTAL excluding AMMAN was at the WADY EL HAMMAN. Orders were sent to the 1st L.H. Bde. to push towards WADY EL HAMMAN and KALAAT EZ ZERKA to clear up the situation there. In case the enemy should attempt to move by the JORDAN VALLEY the troops at SHUNET NIMRIN, ES SALT and SUWELIAH were ordered to strongly entrench these places, and the 2nd L.H. Bde. to closely watch the country between the Railway inclusive to NAAUR, keeping a strong detachment at AIN ES SIR.
- Sept. 26th The 1st L.H. Bde. reconnoitered WADY EL HAMMAN and after a short action captured 105 prisoners and 1 gun at KALAAT EZ ZERKA. Enemy both cavalry and infantry, were seen and reported to be moving South.
- Sept. 27th 0700 The 1st L.H. Bde. moved to WADY HAMMAN at 0700. The 3rd L.H. Rgt was already at that place and engaged the enemy North of the Wady with Aeroplane co-operation. The troops were directed by the Aeroplane to where the enemy were, the Aeroplane then came down and machine gunned the Turks as the troops attacked with the result that 300 prisoners and 2 M.Gs. were captured. A reconnoitring party was sent through KH. ESXSAMRA to MAFRAK.
- 0830 At 0830 the 2nd. L.H. Bde. met Turks South of LEBAN STATION. From a prisoner taken here it was known that the MAAN garrison were with the Force moving on KASTAL and they were put by the prisoner at 4,000. The patrol to ER RUMMAN found no enemy there. By this evening the 1st L.H. Bde. held the water at WADY EL HAMMAN with a Regiment at KALAAT EZ ZERKA. The N.Z.M.R. Brigade were also ordered to have a detachment east of AMMAN, keeping watch on the DARB EL HAJ. The reconnaissance to MAFRAK found no water there and native reports gave none between that place and DERRA except 2 small springs.
- Sept. 28th 0655 At 0655 the Southern Turkish Force was located at KASTAL with 3 trains in the station. At 1515 a message was dropped on the Force by Aeroplane calling on the Commander to surrender, pointing out that all possible water he could reach North of KASTAL was held by us, and promising that unless he did surrender our Aeroplanes would be over next day to bomb his force. 1st L.H. Bde. found 10 Officers and 70 ers. sick in KH. ES SAMRA. These were sent in. PATTERSON'S COLUMN ceased to exist from 1515 today.
- Sept. 29th No answer was received in reply to the message calling on the Turks to surrender by 0845, and arrangements were made to bomb them in the afternoon. At 1145 however negotiations were opened with the 5th L.H. Regiment who were across the Railway South of LEBAN. The situation was very difficult owing to the large numbers of Arabs who surrounded the Turkish position intent on looting.

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONT'D.

Sept. 29th

Any sign of a White Flag was likely to precipitate matters, and the 2nd L.H. Bde were despatched to KASTAL leaving at 1350. By dark two small collisions occurred owing to the Arabs pressing in on the Turks. On the Arrival of the Brigade a cordon was put round the Turks and the Arabs were told that any attempt to rush in on the Turks would be met by force. Even after our troops were out the Arabs attempted to get at the Hospital and had to be driven off. The Turkish Commander KAAIMAKAN ALI BEY WHAHABY was brought by car to D.H.Q.

Sept. 30th

The N.Z.M.R. Bde relieved the 2nd L.H. Bde at KASTAL and took up a line of posts round the Turkish Force. The Arabs gradually drew off, and the Turks who were able to march into AMMAN. Large numbers of sick had to be left for the time being and were brought in later.

The numbers of captures at KASTAL were as follows:-

| | | |
|------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Prisoners | - | 4,062 (excluding 502 sick) |
| Guns | | 12 |
| Machine Guns | | 35 |
| Automatic Rifles | | 2 |

The total captures of CHAYTOR'S FORCE from the beginning of operations to September 30th were as follows:-

Prisoners 10,322 (including sick)
A large number of Arabs and local inhabitants were serving with the Turks deserted and are now in this district having returned to their homes.

Guns:-

| | | | | |
|----------|-----|---------------|----|----------|
| 5.9 guns | 1, | 77 m.m. | 32 | |
| 5.9 How | 3, | 75 m.m. | 6 | |
| A.A. | 1, | 3" | 2 | |
| 10 c.m. | 10, | 13 pr. H.A.C. | 2 | Total 57 |

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Machine Guns | 132 |
| Automatic Rifles | 13 |
| Hotchkiss Rifles | 1 |
| Lewis Guns | 1 |

147

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|--|
| Wireless Sets | 2, | Railway Engines | 11, | |
| R'Way Trucks & Cars | 106, | Vehicles | 142. | |

Immense quantities of shell, S.A.A., and other material. A large number of Motor Lorries were abandoned by the enemy after being rendered useless.

OUR CASUALTIES :- Killed 3 Offrs. 24 Ors.,
Wounded 10 " 95 "
Missing - " 7 "

Total 13/126

Of the wounded Officers two subsequently died of wounds.

I wish to draw attention in these operations to the way in which all ranks of the Force worked to keep a careful watch on the enemy, so that any attempt of his withdrawal could not escape notice. Particularly noticeable was the steadiness of the 1st and 2nd Battlms., British West Indies Regiment under fire, and, their dash when called on to attack particularly at JISR ED DAMIEH, and their extremely good marching powers up the steep hills to ES SALT thence to AMMAN. The 38th Bn. Royal Fusiliers did also very good work in pressing the enemy continually along the MANKATTAT EL MELLAHA, and,

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NARRATIVE OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE CONTD.

the way in which advantage was taken of weakening his line to seize the trenches overlooking UMM EST SHERT. Another noticeable point was the rapid march of the N.Z.M.R. Brigade to ES SALT and, on that march the way in which the Canterbury Mounted Rifles quickly dealt with the party of Turks opposing them on the JISR ED DAMIEH TRACK on September 23rd.

The attack on AMMAN was pressed in as soon as it was found that the enemy's defences were weakening. The method of defence by nests of Machine Guns made progress difficult and it was only by galloping to points of vantage and bringing fire to bear on the flanks of such nests that the opposition was finally broken down.

Finally I should like to draw attention to the fact that the Divisional Staff were called upon to move and administer a Force of very considerable size, which in the case of the 1st and 2nd B.W.I. and the 38th and 39th Royal Fusiliers, single Battalions had to be dealt with as these Battalions were not Brigaded. A mobile organization had to be devised at short notice to enable the Infantry to move if called on. In addition to carrying out the Staff work necessary to this Force in the field that a large area of country in the JORDAN VALLEY and a long line of Communication back to JERUSALEM had to be attended to.

E.W.C. CHAYTOR, Major-General,
COMMANDING CHAYTOR'S FORCE.

6th October, 1918.

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LIST OF HONOURS AND AWARDS - Officers

Lt.-Col. C. WOOD HILL, D.S.O.

1st W.I.R. attd. 1/B.W.I. Regt.

1. MENTIONED in Genl. Sir Archibald Murray's Despatches dated 18/3/1917, and published in Supplement London Gazette, d/6-7-1917.
2. MENTIONED in Genl. Sir E.H.H. Allenby's Despatches dated 16/1/1918, and published in Supplement London Gazette, d/16-1-1918.
3. MENTIONED in Genl. Sir E.H.H. Allenby's Despatches dated 3/4/1918, and published in Supplement London Gazette, d/14-6-1918.
4. Awarded the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER, dated 3/6/1918, published in Supplement London Gazette, d/3-6-1918.

Major W.J. BENSLEY, D.S.O., 1st B.W. Indies Regiment.

1. D.S.O. Awarded the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER, published in Gen. Sir E.H.H. Allenby's Despatches dated 2/11/18 and in London Gazette, dated 11/1/19.

Captain R.H.L. FINK, M.C.

1st W.I.R. attd. 1/B.W.I. Regt.

1. M.C. Awarded the Military Cross, dated 8/12/17 and published in London Gazette dated 4-3-1918. Immediate Award.

Major G.J.L. GOLDING, 1st B. W. Indies Regiment.

1. MENTIONED in Genl. Sir E.H.H. Allenby's Despatches dated 16/1/1918, and published in London Gazette on 16-1-1918.

Lieut. G.E.L. PORTER, M.C., 1st B.W. Indies Regiment

1. MENTIONED in Genl. Sir Archibald Murray's Despatches dated 28/6/1917, published in London Gazette dated 12-1-1918.
2. M.C. Awarded the MILITARY CROSS, dated 1/1/1918 published London Gazette 1-1-1918.

Captain R.J. CRAIG, 1st B.W. Indies Regiment.

1. MENTIONED in Genl. Sir E.H.H. Allenby's Despatches d/3/4/1918 and published London Gazette dated 14-6-1918.
2. M.C. Awarded the Military Cross, dated 19/10/1918. Immediate award. Auty. A.M.S., E.E.F., No 16861, dated 19/10/1918. Reference Chaytor's Force No R.A. 87, dated 24/10/1918.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

LIST OF HONOURS AND AWARDS - Other Ranks.

No 18, L/Cpl. T.N.ALEXANDER, 1st B.W.Indies Regiment

1. M.M. Awarded the MILITARY MEDAL, d/1/2/1917 and published London Gazette dated 18-10-1917. Immediate Award.

No

368, Pte C.A.HYNDMAN, M.M., 1st B.W.Indies Regiment,

1. M.M. Awarded the MILITARY MEDAL, d/1/12/1917, and published London Gazette dated 2-4-1918. Immediate Award.

No. 2434, Pte F. PULLAR, M.M., 1st B.W.Indies Regiment.

1. M.M. Awarded the MILITARY MEDAL, d/1/12/1917, and published London Gazette dated 2-4-1918. Immediate Award.

No 2442, Lce.Cpl. V.E.JOHNS, M.M., 1st B.W.Indies Regiment.

1. M.M. Awarded the MILITARY MEDAL, d/1/12/1917, and published London Gazette dated 2-4-1918. Immediate Award.

No 982, Sgt. L.O.TAYLOR, 1st B.W.Indies Regiment.

- 1.R.H.S. Awarded the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S Bronze Medal and Certificate dated 3rd October, 1917, for saving a man from drowning at DEIR - el - BELAH.

No. 772, Pte St C. BABB, 1st B.W.Indies Regiment.

- 1.R.H.S. Awarded the ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY'S Bronze Medal and Certificate dated 12-6-1917, for gallantry in attempting to save a man from drowning at RAFA. Authy. W.O.Letter No. 2971/A.G.10., dated 2-11-1917. (Refce.G.H.Q. E.E.F. No. B 25050, dated 29-11-1917.

No 4661, A/RSM (CSM) E. ADDICOTT, 3rd Royl.Berks., attd
1/B.W.Indies Regiment.

- MENTIONED. Mentioned in Genl.Sir Archibald Murray's Despatches dated 28/6/1917 and published London Gazette dated 12-1-1918.

No 47, Sergt. F.E.CRAIG, 1st B.W.Indies Regiment,

- MENTIONED. Mentioned in Genl.Sir Archibald Murray's Despatches dated 28/6/1917 and published London Gazette dated 12-1-1918.

No. 874, CQMS. E.E.HUGHES, 1st B.W.Indies Regiment.

- MENTIONED. Mentioned in Genl. Sir E.H.H.Allenby's Despatches dated 16/1/1918, published London Gazette dated 16-1-1918.

No 258, CQMS. S.G. WISHART, 1st B.W.Indies Regiment.

- MENTIONED. Mentioned in Genl.Sir E.H.H.Allenby's Despatches dated 16/1/1918, published London Gazette dated 16-1-1918.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

- Page 2 -

LIST OF HONOURS AND AWARDS

- Other ranks.

No. 836, Private B. FORD, 1st B.W. Indies Regiment.

MENTIONED Mentioned in Genl. Sir E.H.H. ALLENBY's
Despatches dated 16/1/1918, published
in London Gazette, dated 16-1-1918.

No. 503, L/Cpl. Richard TURPIN, 1st B.W. Indies Regiment

D.C.I. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal
for gallantry and devotion to duty
in action. 19-10-1918.
Authy. A.M.S., E.E.F., No. M.S.16861,
dated 19/10/1918. reference Chaytor's
Force No. R.A.87, d/24/10/18.

No. 6357, Pte H. SCOTT, 1st B. W. Indies Regiment.

D.C.M. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal
for gallantry and devotion to duty in
action. 19/10/1918.
Authy. A.M.S., E.E.F., No. M.S.16861,
dated 19-10-18. Reference Chaytor's
Force No. R.A.87, dated 24-10-18.

No. 1454, Sgt. W.E. JULIEN, 1st B. W. Indies Regiment.

D.C.M. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal
for gallantry and Devotion to duty in
action. 19/10/18.
Authority. A.M.S., E.E.F. No. M.S.16861,
dated 19-10-18. Reference Chaytor's
Force No. R.A. 87, dated 24-10-18.

No. 594, Pte G. DIEK, 1st B. W. Indies Regiment.

M.M. Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry
and devotion to duty in action. 19/10/18
Authy. A.M.S., E.E.F., No. 16861, dated
19-10-18. Refce. Chaytor's Force No.
R.A.87, dated 24-10-18.

No. 9192, Pte A. MARQUES, 1st B. W. Indies Regiment.

M.M. Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry
and devbtion to duty in action. 19-10-18.
Authority, A.M.S., E.E.F., No. 16861, d/d
19-10-18. Refce. Chaytor's Force No. R.A
87, dated 24-10-18.

No. 661, L/Cpl. (A/Cpl.) McC. LEEKAM, 1st B.W. Indies Regt.

M.M. Awarded the Military Medal for gallantry
and devotion to duty in action, 19-10-18.
Authority A.M.S., E.E.F., No. 16861, dat
19-10-18, refce. Chaytor's Force No. R.A
87, dated 24-10-18.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Roll of Officers Who have served in the
Battalion since its formation.

Lieut.-Colonels.

Lieut. Colonel A. E. Barchard The West India Regt.
" " C. Wood-Hill D.S.O. " " "

Majors.

Major G. W. R. Jenkins. Royal Dublin Fusiliers
" V. G. T. Gane. Rifle Brigade.
" G. F. L. Golding. St. Lucia.
" W. J. Bensly. D.S.O. Dorset Regiment.
" W. H. G. Thorne Barbados.
" A. E. A. Harragin D.S.O. Trinidad.

Captains.

Captain. H. C. V. Porter The West India Regt.
" R. J. Craig M.C. British Guiana.
" H. J. S. Cavenaugh Trinidad.
" G. P. Devenish 2/21st London Regt.
" H. P. Jones 1/4th Welsh Regt.
" C. C. Paul Malaya States.
" A. J. Lawson Trinidad
" P. E. F. Crossall. M.C. British Guiana
" J. H. Irving. " "
" R. P. Johnstone Trinidad.
" H. Melh Gooden-Chisholm " "
" W. H. Eccles " "
" A. M. McCulloch " "
" A. M. Watson Jamaica.
" G. G. Garnett D.C.M. Bedfordshire Regt.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Captains.

| | | |
|---------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Captain | J. D. Blick | Royal Welsh Fusiliers. |
| " | A. L. Pyrah | King's Own Yorkshire Light |
| " | J. W. King | The Essex Regt. [Infantry. |
| " | A. K. Curryer | Royal Welsh Fusiliers. |
| " | P. L. Aldridge | Rifle Brigade. |

Lieutenants.

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lieutenant | L. R. Wheeler | Trinidad. |
| " | D. L. Johnson | Barbados. |
| " | G. Challenor | " |
| " | G. B. Porter M.C. | Canterbury Rifles N.Z.A.C. |
| " | J. A. S. Lansdown | General List. |
| " | F. G. Pearson | East Kent Intd. Rifles. |
| " | A. P. Thomson | Trinidad. |
| " | E. K. C. Weatherhead | Barbados. |
| " | E. V. Bynoe | Trinidad. |
| " | Whitelegg | Border Regt. |
| " | E. R. Lickfold | Trinidad |
| " | A. J. Campbell-Robertson | 15 th Hussars. |
| " | D. J. Kerr | Grenada. |
| " | W. Hermas-Bell | Trinidad. |
| " | E. K. Walcott M.C. | Trinidad. |
| " | E. B. Connell | Border Regt. |
| " | V. F. Manigot | Trinidad. |
| " | W. Huen | Jamaica |
| " | M. A. Puckerin | Barbados. |
| " | J. H. Manigot M.C. | Trinidad. |
| " | G. G. Cooke | Jamaica. |
| " | W. Hind | " |

WAR DIARY, 1st BR. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Lieutenants.

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lieutenant | C. S. Cousins | Jamaica |
| " | W. S. Wetton | " |
| " | C. H. C. Masters | " |
| " | J. C. S. Masters | " |
| " | W. G. Griffiths | " |
| " | L. V. Patterson | " |
| " | L. C. Aitken | " |
| " | H. C. Cousins | " |
| " | M. J. Lepingwell | " |
| " | L. V. Henriques | " |
| " | D. S. McI Clarke | " |
| " | J. P. L. Mainiot | Trinidad. |
| " | J. H. Campbell | Jamaica. |
| " | J. J. Johnston | Trinidad |
| " | J. R. Phillips | Barbados. |
| " | A. B. Mac Lartane | British Guiana. |
| " | J. A. Inglis | Black Watch |
| " | A. J. S. M. F. Hawkins | King's Own Scottish Borders. |
| " | D. A. Reeves | Royal Fusiliers. |
| " | G. H. Williams | West African Regt. |
| " | J. Burslem | Trinidad. |
| ^{2nd} Lieutenant | J. H. Gato | The Buffs. |
| " | B. C. Davis | The East Kent Regt. |
| " | V. R. Andrade | Jamaica |
| " | J. Boyd | Trinidad. |
| " | K. E. Ritter | The Worcestershire Regt. |
| " | A. E. Thorne | " |

^{2nd} Lieutenants.

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 2nd Lieutenants. | Lieutenant | V. Farrelly | The Royal Irish |
| | " | R. P. Roulston | The Gloucestershire Regt. |
| | " | J. W. Witham | Shrewsbury Forests. |
| | " | N. C. Tomnerau | The Essex Regt. |
| Adjutants. | Captain | A. P. J. Hibbert | The Royal Berkshire Regt. |
| | " | R. H. L. Tink M.C. | The West India Regt. |
| Quartermasters. | Lieut. & Qr. Mr. | Giffillan. | |
| | " | H. B. Crowden. | |
| | Capt " | J. W. Willis. | " London Regt. |
| Medical Officers. | Surgeon-Captain | W. D. Heisk | Jamaica. |
| | " | W. S. Mitchell | Grenada. |
| | " | A. A. Hearne | Jamaica. |
| | Captain | J. Taffei | Royal Army Medical Corps |
| | " | D. Moffatt M.C. | " " " |
| | Lieutenant | A. F. Cooke | " " " |
| Chaplains. | " | H. L. Flint | " " " |
| | Rev. Captain | J. de la Bire | |
| | " | Carey. | Trinidad. |
| | " | J. Purice-Egan | |
| | " | F. J. Redwood. | |
| | " | E. G. M. Evans. | |
| | " | Whaler. | |
| | " | F. Cornish | Trinidad. |
| | " | Davies | |
| " | J. H. Watson. | | |

WAR DIARY, 1st Bn. BRITISH WEST INDIES REGT.

Chaplains.

Rev: Captain Thomas
 J. G. Barrow
 J. D. Ottenlake

H. S. M.

R. S. M. E. Addicott D. C. M. Royal Berkshire Regt.

Ends.

Copy.

30th December 1918.

Sir,

We beg to invite your attention to a question concerning Military Pay, which, judging by the numerous complaints which the West Indian Contingent Committee has received, is giving rise to very great dissatisfaction in all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment.

2. It would appear that though the British West Indies Regiment is regarded as an Imperial Unit, its Non-Commissioned Officers and men, while receiving the benefit of the accelerated grant of proficiency pay and relief from Hospital stoppages, are not permitted to enjoy the increase of pay granted to other Imperial Units, under Army Order 1 of 1918.

3. It was stated by Mr. Forster in the House of Commons on November 14th, that the order above referred to, applied only to Regiments with their Depots in the United Kingdom, but we would respectfully point out that it has been specially extended to "Soldiers of the South African Overseas Contingent", and we do not understand why a differentiation against the British West Indies Regiment should be made.

The Right Honourable Walter Long, M.P., etc., etc.,
Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Colonial Office.

(2)

4. Many of these men from the West Indies gave up lucrative appointments to come over to serve their King and Country, and numerous complaints have been received as to the inadequacy of the present Separation Allowances in view of the great increase in the cost of living in the British West Indies.

5. We are informed that the many hundreds of coloured men who enlisted in the United States, and have been posted to English Line Regiments are in receipt of the increased pay, and we cannot refrain from stating that in our opinion, this differentiation will have a serious effect on public opinion in the British West Indian Colonies when the West Indian Contingent is demobilized.

6. Our attention has further been called to cases in which West Indians have been transferred from English Line Regiments to the British West Indies Regiment, thereby incurring a reduction of pay and of Separation Allowances, which appears to us to be most inequitable.

7. We beg therefore, to express the hope, that you, Sir, will kindly bring these representations before the War Cabinet, with whom, we understand, the decision in the matter rests, and will recommend that the privileges as to pay under Army Order 1 of 1918

(3)

May be extended to the British West Indies Regiment.

We have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient servants,

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Everard im Thurn | Chairman, late Governor of Fiji, and formerly in the British Guiana Service. |
| F.M. Hodgson | Deputy Chairman and late Governor of Barbados and British Guiana. |
| Edward Ward | Hon: Treasurer. |
| R. Rutherford | Hon: Treasurer. |
| Sydney Olivier | Hon: Treasurer and late Governor of Jamaica. |
| H.F. Previt  | Hon: Treasurer. |
| George R. Le Hunte | Late Governor of Trinidad and Tobago. |
| J. Hayes-Sadler | Late Governor of the Windward Islands. |
| Francis Fleming | Late Governor of the Leeward Islands. |
| W. Grey Wilson | Late Governor of the Bahamas. |
| N.B. Llewelyn | Late Governor of the Windward Islands |
| Joseph Rippon | Chairman, Bermuda Contingent Committee. |
| William Goode | |
| Edward Davson | |
| C.B. Hamilton | |
| William Gillespie | |
| Geo. Moody Stuart | |
| Algernon E. Aspinall. | Hon: Secretary. |

Copy.

15th January 1919.

My Lord,

We had the honour to address to your Lordship's predecessor, on December 30th last, a letter signed by seven late Governors of British West Indian Colonies and others well acquainted with the British West Indies and their people, a copy of which is enclosed, calling attention to a grievance under which the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment are suffering owing to their not being permitted to enjoy the increase of pay granted to other Imperial Units under Army Order 1 of 1918.

2. To this letter the West Indian Contingent Committee is hoping to receive a favourable reply.

3. Meanwhile the Committee has been greatly concerned to learn that, though demobilisation is at hand, no arrangements appear to have been made for the granting of War Gratuities and other privileges accorded to the Imperial Army, to all ranks of the British West Indies Regiment.

4. The Committee trusts that it may have been misinformed in this matter, as from the experience of its members of the British West Indies, it is convinced that any differentiation against the British West Indies Regiment in

The Right Honourable Viscount Milner, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.,
Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W. 1.

(2)

this respect, would have a most serious effect in those Colonies, besides being a manifest injustice to the Non-Commissioned Officers and men themselves, whose feeling regarding the question of pay, is, it is satisfied, intense.

5. The Committee wishes us to emphasize the fact that many of the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment gave up lucrative and responsible appointments to serve their King and Country in spite of the fact that their services were at first refused, and that it considers that in their dissatisfaction at being treated differently from men in Imperial Units, many of whom are not volunteers, they have a legitimate grievance.

6. In conclusion, the Committee wishes us to express the earnest hope that if it is indeed a fact that no arrangements have been made for the gratuities to be paid to the Non-Commissioned Officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment on demobilisation, your Lordship will immediately take the matter up with the Army Council as well as the question of pay, and that you will recommend that these matters may receive early and favourable consideration.

We have the honour to be, My Lord,

Your Lordship's most humble servants,

Everard im Thurn

Chairman.

Algernon E. Aspinall

Hon: Secretary.

Communications on this subject
should be addressed to—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,
COLONIAL OFFICE,
LONDON, S.W.1,

and the following Number quoted. 10950/1919.

RECEIVED
3 MAR 1919
ANSWERED
FILE

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

DOWNING STREET,

10th March, 1919.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 15th January (4406) and previous correspondence, I am directed by Viscount Milner to inform you that it has been decided by the Army Council that Warrant Officers, Non-commissioned officers and men of the British West Indies Regiment should be granted the full terms of Army Order 1 of 1918 with effect as from the 29th September 1917 and also War Gratuity at the rates and under the conditions laid down in Army Order 17 of 1919.

2. The General Officers Commanding Egypt and Italy have been informed accordingly by the War Office.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

G. G. G. G.

THE SECRETARY,

WEST INDIAN CONTINGENT COMMITTEE.

