

OPEN

AWM 152 [A95]

Operations Palestine.

New Zealand Mounted Rifles - Copy of letter from Lt. Col. E.W.C. Chaytor to General Godley being an account of the Operations at Rafa 9-1-17

New Zealand Inf'd Rifle Bde - Palestine - Report on Operations 19<sup>th</sup> July to 13<sup>th</sup> August 1916.

Copy of letter dated 7/1/17 from General H. Chauvel to General Birdwood in answer to a congratulatory wire from the latter (General Chauvel's letter gives a brief history of the Operations at El Aish & Magdhaba

Copy of a letter dated 10/2/17 from Gen. Chaytor to General Godley

Protest by Brigadier New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade against being called upon to relieve the 18<sup>th</sup> Aust. Light Horse Brigade of their patrol duties on the 12<sup>th</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> August, 1917.

Account of Operations of Chaytor's Force from 16/30 Sept 1918.

NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED RIFLES BRIGADE.

To the General Officer Commanding.

N.Z.E.F.  
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I have the honour to report on the recent operations as follows:-

19th July, 1916 On the 19th July 1916 the N.Z.M.R. Brigade consisting of Brigade Headquarters, Signal Troop, the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regt. (less one squadron) Canterbury Mounted Rifles Regt. (less one squadron) N.Z. Brigade M/c Gun Squadron, two squadrons Warwick Yeomanry, together with N.Z. Mounted Field Ambulance and No 2 Mobile Vet. Section, was in Camp at HILL 70 7 miles east of KANTARA, on the KANTARA-EL ARISH Caravan Route.

During an aeroplane reconnaissance about 1615 (on which I was lucky enough to be the observer) the Turks were discovered massing at SALMANA, BER JAMEIL and BIR BAYUD that is on a frontage of approximately 8 miles. On returning at 1715 this fact was at once reported and orders were received later for the Brigade to be prepared to move at short notice.

NOTE. The information I was able to obtain about the country to the north and south of the KANTARA -EL ARISH Caravan route, whilst on the aerial reconnaissance was of the greatest value to me during the subsequent operations.

20th July, 1916. Lt-General LAWRENCE, Commanding No 3 Section visited HILL 70 and 800 on the 20th instant, and

21st & July, 1916. decided to detach the Brigade from the ANZAC Mounted Division and to form the "No 3 Section Mounted Troops" placing them under my command, the compositions of the forces being as under:-

N.Z.M.R. Brigade - complete with Brigade M/c Gun Squadron just formed - (less Wgton. M.R. Regt.)  
5th Australian Light Horse Regt. at DUEIDAR.  
Royal Warwickshire Regt. (less one squadron)  
Composite regiment of Yeomanry (one squad. Gloucester and one squad. Worcester Yeomanry).  
Half M/c Gun Squadron - 5th Mounted Brigade.  
Leicester Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.  
Somerset Battery, Royal Horse Artillery.  
Field troops A.I.F. Engineers  
Camel Pack Wireless Section.

NOTE. The necessary additions to the force were made during the 20/21st insts. and General LAWRENCE's orders were that the force was to complete equipping as quickly as possible throughout, and be prepared to act under his direct orders at any moment.

22nd July, 1916. I received permission to send out a double officer's patrol, strength 2 officers and 30 other ranks, to establish themselves at BIR NAGID and from there to gain and keep touch with the Turkish left flank, which had now been established at BIR EL MAGEIBRA, one officer and 15 other ranks working alternately day and night. This was carried out patrol being found by Auckland M.R. Regt.

23rd July, 1916.

The Officers Patrol sent out on the 22nd, inst. gained touch with the enemy in the vicinity of MAGEIBRA but reported no movement of importance on his part. The force remained at HILL 70

24th July, 1916. No change in the general position.

25th July, 1916. No change in the general situation, except for the small patrols of the enemy working westward and again withdrawing. Water supply at BIR WASET examined and found to be of good quality.

but limited quantity.

I received orders from No 3 Section at 0713 to reconnoitre from DUEIDAR to BIR EN NUSS, with a view to finding the best route between these two places. This was carried out by the 5th Australian L.H. Regt. and the report was received from them and forwarded from HILL 70 to No 3 Section at 1645.

26th July, 1916. No change in general situation. I relieved the Officers Patrols at BIR NAGID from the 5th Aust. L.H. Regt and instructed the officer in charge of the relieving patrol to render a report showing the best route for Artillery from the vicinity of BIR EN NUSS to within striking distance of MAGEIBRA (approximately 4000 yds)

27th July, 1916. No change in the general situation. I sent three troops to BIR ENENUSS, together with material to develop the water supply and to sink wells from which the output would be sufficient to water one Brigade. The officer in charge of BIR NAGID Patrol reported at 1036 a good Artillery position at HILL 200, approximately 4000 yds. west-north-west of MAGEIBRA, with a route passable for Artillery up to it. On receipt of this information I immediately despatched my Artillery Staff Officer to inspect and report on the route and position.

28th July, 1916. No change in the general situation, except that enemy had moved forward and occupied HILL 200 (the proposed Artillery positions) approximately two and one fourth miles west-north-west of MAGEIBRA. My officers Patrol reported having unavoidably been in action with him at 0800 and was forced to return to BIR NAGID for fresh horses, touch being re-established at 1100.

I left HILL 20 at 0400 and made a personal reconnaissance as far as BIR EN NUSS, at the same time inspecting the exploitation of the wells at that place and found them to be very satisfactory, the supply of water being plentiful and the quality good for horses. I returned to HILL 70 at 1700.

I received orders to patrol in strength the Pipe Line and Railway Line between GILBAN SIDING and CANTERBURY HILL by day and by night. This was carried out.

29th July, 1916. Enemy's right flank reported pushed forward to HOD UMM UGBA. No change in position of enemy's left flank. Enemy reported very active along the whole line.

I relieved the officers patrol at BIR NAGID by the Canterbury M.R. The 5th Aust. L.H. Regt. Officers' Patrol shot one and captured 12 Turks during its tour of duty. All prisoners handed over to No 3 Section. One prisoner captured reported the presence of two regiments of Bedouin Camel Corps with the enemy.

30th July, 1916. No change in the general situation, but enemy reported reinforcing their whole line. ANZAC Mounted Division reported a hostile battery of Artillery near HOD ED DHABA.

31st July, 1916. No change in the general situation. Enemy reported reinforcing along their whole line. 15 bombs dropped on ROMANI at 0745 by enemy aeroplanes. Officers Patrol at BIR NAGID captured one prisoner, who was sent in to No 3 Section.

1st August, 1916. No change in the general situation. Officers Patrol at BIR NAGID captured two Turkish prisoners who gave little information and were passed on to No 3 Sect.

After consultation with G.O.C. No 3 Section it was decided to place a strong post at BIR EN NUSS for the protection of the wells, and I accordingly sent one squadron of the Auckland M.R. Regt. to carry out the work. This squadron left HILL 70 at 1600.

I left HILL 70 at 1100 with the G.O.C. 42nd Division for DUEIDAR, to carry out a personal reconnaissance which he wished to make in the direction of BIR EN NUSS, returning to HILL 70 at 1645.

I relieved the Officers Patrol at BIR NAGID by the Auck. M.R.

2nd August, 1916. No change in the general situation. The Anzac Mounted Division reported that the enemy's covering troops on the right had been slightly forced back and that our Monitor had fired into the enemy's camp at OGH RATINA. I received instructions from the G.O.C. No 3 Sect. that from 0800 on morning of the 3rd, inst. the force hitherto known as No 3 Section Mounted Troops would be broken up, the Yeomanry regiments rejoining 5th Mounted Brigade (which was being reformed) at GILBAN and the Leicestershire Battery moving to ROMANI thus leaving -

Brigade Headquarters  
Signal Troop  
Three Regiments (complete) one at DUEIDAR  
One Battery R.H.A.  
Field Ambulance  
Field Troop  
Wireless Section  
No 2 Mobile Vety Section.

which would be again designated N.Z.M.R. Brigade, and come under the orders of the G.O.C. ANZAC Mounted Division.

3rd August, 1916 I received report from my Officers Patrol at 0600 from BIR NAGID stating that the enemy were advancing in a westerly direction, and this was followed at 0700 by another message stating that the enemy exchanged direction and were advancing to the north-east of BIR NAGID.

By 0925 the enemy were reported to be holding a line approximately due north and south through QATIA, their left flank thrown forward. In view of this, I ordered my officers patrol at BIR NAGID to withdraw its base to the Squadron at BIR EN NUSS and to carry out its patrolling from there. This patrol again reported from BIR EN NUSS at 2030 that the enemy had strengthened his left flank at BIR NAGID, and that in accordance with instructions received from G.S.O. ANZAC Mounted Division direct, 1 officer and 8 men of the patrol had been ordered to BIR ABU RAML in order to connect up the right of the ANZAC Mounted Division's Outpost line (immediately north of that place) and my squadron at BIR EN NUSS.

NOTE. This post was captured by the enemy during the night, with the exception of the Sergeant, who brought in the news, which information was confirmed by a written message left by the enemy at OGH RATINA found by the Brigade on the 8th August, 1916.

I received orders from ANZAC Mounted Division to send out a regiment to reconnoitre at dawn of the 4th inst. and report the exact position of the enemy's left flank. I detailed the 5th L.H. Regt. from DUEIDAR to carry out this work with orders to leave DUEIDAR at midnight, by which hour the Auckland M.R. Regt. less 1 squadron were ordered to occupy DUEIDAR during their absence.

4th August, 1916

I received information at 0200 that the enemy were pushing forward their left flank in a north-easterly direction towards the high ground west of BIR ETMALER and, further, that the outposts of the ANZAC Mounted Division at HOD EL ENNA had been heavily engaged throughout the night and were withdrawing on BIR ETMALER.

Under instructions received from G.O.C. ANZAC Mounted Division at 0500, the Brigade less the Auckland M.R. Regt. and the 5th Aust. L.H. Regt. and No 2 Mobile Vet. Section, moved out from HILL 70 at 0700 for DUEIDAR, but when one and a half miles from that place I was diverted to CANTERBURY HILL with orders to operate against the left flank of the enemy reported in the vicinity of CANTERBURY HILL. At 1100 I reached the high ground to the S.E. of that place, having only recovered the Auck. M.R. Regt. (less 6 troops) and found the Turks about 2000 strong busily entrenching on MOUNT ROYSTON and the hills to the north.

Touch was then gained with the ANZAC Mounted Division on my left and the 5th Mounted Brigade on my right, the latter having moved across from GILBAN.

Supported on the right by the 5th Mounted Bde. (1. regt) I at once attacked and drove in the enemy's advanced posts, but was then temporarily held up owing to the greatly superior numbers of the enemy who opened a heavy fire from their Mountain Battery. The attack was carried out by two squadrons Canterbury M.R. Regt. with 1 squadron in support, on the left and 1 squad. Auck M.R. Regt. with two Troops in support on the right, with the composite regt. of Gloucester and Worcester Yeomanry on the extreme right - the whole supported by my Horse Artillery Battery.

About 1430 Col ROYSTON O.C. 2nd Aust. L.H. Bde arrived with a message from G.O.C. ANZAC Mounted Division, which stated that the 2 brigades at BIR ETMALER could not move until MOUNT ROYSTON had been taken. At 1600 the Warwick Yeomanry Regt. 5th Mounted Bde was seen approaching from the S. West and a combined attack on Mt ROYSTON was then ordered for 1645; the Bde Major N.Z.M.R. Bde going over to see the G.O.C. 5th Mounted Bde to ensure that there should be no mistake. As a preliminary to the attack, some scrubby knolls to the west of Mt ROYSTON were assaulted and taken at 1630. The Hill was finally cleared at about 1830 the 126th Infantry Bde having come up in the meantime from PELUSIUM and co-operated against the enemy's northern flank.

The attack was closely supported throughout by the fire of the Somerset Battery R.H.A. and the Bde M/c Gun Squadron, thanks to which the casualties of the N.Z.M.R. Bde were very light, being only 4 O.R. killed and 3 officers and 32 O.R. wounded. The total prisoners taken by the Bde., 5th Mounted Bde. and 126th Infantry Bde. amounted to about 1200 of the 39th and 4th regts. together with a Mountain Battery of 4 guns and a Machine gun which were found on the enemy's left. These latter being ~~handed~~ handed over to the Infantry who were asked to take charge of them.

At 1915 the Bde. moved back to PELUSIUM Siding to water, bivouac for the night and to replenish the supply of ammunition. The Amm. Column and Supply train having arrived there in good time earlier in the afternoon, under the Staff Captain.

5th August, 1916 The Bde left PELUSIUM Siding at 0530 and moved in a S. Easterly direction to BIR EN NUSS, the guns and limbers going due south until striking DUEIDAR - BIR EN NUSS Caravan route, where one section of the battery was sent into DUEIDAR, the other section with double teams proceeding along the Caravan route to BIR EN NUSS.

At 0830 the Bde arrived at Bir En Nuss where it was joined by the 5th L.H. Regt. and one squad of the A.M.R. Regt. The 3rd Aust. L.H. Bde were watering there when I arrived.

At 1030 the Bde (less the Bty R.H.A. and limbers not yet arrived) having watered moved on towards QATIA along the telegraph wire, with the 3rd A.L.H. Bde on my right flank (to work through BIR NAGID and BIR EL HAMISAH. At 1215 I reached the high ground 2 miles west of Qatia where I received instructions from ANZAC Mounted Div. to prevent the removal by the enemy of Turkish guns said to be on the S.W. end of the QATIA Oasis & further that the 1st and 2nd L.H. Bdes and the 5th Mounted Bde were to co-operate on my left and 3rd L.H. Bde on my right. I at once held a conference of Brigadiers (with the exception of the G.O.C. 3rd L.H. Bde. which had not yet come up) and having studied the position decided to attack the Oasis with the 4 Bdes at 16.15 from the S.S.E. West and N. West, a messenger being sent to G.O.C. 3rd L.H. Bde informing him of the plan of attack and instructing him to operate on my right flank from the S. West.

This attack was carried out and the Western end of the Oasis taken, when further progress became difficult owing to the enemy being in much greater strength than reported. The Order of Attack N.Z.M.R. Bde, was Auck. M.R. Regt. on the right, (the L.H. Regt. on the left, with Canty M.R. Regt. and two sections M/c Gun Squadron in support. The support however was quickly used up on the right of the A.M.R. Regt. owing to the lack of co-operation of the Bde. on that flank.

NOTE. The attack on the Oasis at 1415 was carried out at the gallop mounted for the last three-fourths of a mile, the 5th L.H. Regt. advancing with fixed bayonets.

The Turks then developed a heavy artillery fire along the whole line, and while they held our left mainly with Machine guns, brought up more troops against our right, where the 3rd Aust. L.Horse had now come up. This Brigade however withdrew at 1715 without any orders from me or intimation that he was doing so, thus exposing the right flank of my Bde. and the Turks bringing up a further fresh battalion on this flank, it was only with difficulty that the Cnty. M.R. Regt. were able to hold them in check until 1900 (nightfall) when both sides discontinued the engagement and orders were received from ANZAC Mounted Division for the Brigades to withdraw to bivouac in the region of ROMANI.

The attack was supported throughout by the Batteries attached to the 1st and 2nd L.H. Bdes and my M/c Gun Squadron and for a time by the Battery attached to the 3rd L.H. Bde until that Bde withdrew. My own guns did not come into action all day, as they only arrived within striking distance at dusk owing to the very heavy going and steep gradients encountered along the DUEIDAR/QATIA Caravan route.

The Bde moved to bivouac near KATIB GANNIT but did not reach there until 0030. Water here was very scarce, and after watering throughout the night one regt. had still to water at 0600.

The casualties of the Bde throughout the day's operations were 5 O.R. killed and 8 officers and 50 O.R. wounded.

6th August, 1916. 4 Officers Patrols from the Bde left bivouac at 0400 to reconnoitre in the vicinity of Qatia for the 42nd. and 52nd Infantry Divisions who were advancing to attack this place at dawn. The Bde, less the Cnty M.R. Regt. (which followed on after watering) moved out at 0600 in the direction of QATIA, which was found unoccupied by the enemy except for a few stragglers which our officers patrols picked up.

At 1030 the Bde again moved east to gain touch with the enemy, who was found entrenched in considerable strength across the telegraph line one and a half miles east from HOD UMM UGBA. Heavy artillery fire was opened on us from this position, and kept up till dusk, but the Bde only suffered slightly, our casualties being 9 O.R. wounded.

At 1900 the Bde withdrew to bivouac at ER RABAH having taken 3 prisoners. During the afternoon conversations were heard between enemy officers on the telegraph line, which they had omitted to cut in front of their position, the general tenor of the conversations being that the enemy generally were hopeless of success. I received orders to keep touch with the enemy throughout the night, which was done by means of officers patrols.

7th August, 1916.

The Bde left bivouac at 0400 and gained close touch with the enemy at 0530 who retired three fourths of a mile further east and again entrenched himself across the telegraph line, with his main position at OGH RATINA. A heavy artillery fire on the Bde was kept up by him throughout the day, particularly between 1700 and 1900, our Battery replying and making good shooting. The 5th Mounted Bde made a demonstration against the enemy's right flank during the afternoon which drew the enemy's shell fire for a while. This I supported as far as possible but the orders I had received were not to become seriously engaged.

The Bde withdrew at 1900 and moved into bivouac at EL RABAH, touch again being maintained throughout the night by means of officers patrols.

9th August, 1916.

The Bde left bivouac at 0400, and moved east along the telegraph line, and found the enemy having evacuated OGH RATINA, holding a strong position one and a half miles west of BIR EL ABD. Touch was maintained throughout the day, but no action took place, my orders being as yesterday not to become seriously engaged. 15 prisoners were taken and a large quantity of abandoned ammunition, forage and timber was found, together with medical stores on camels between OGH RATINA & HOD ED DEBABIS, at which latter place the Bde bivouacked, keeping touch throughout the night with the enemy by means of two officers patrols and strong advanced posts in support.

The distance covered during the day was 12 miles, the advance screen being found by the 5th L.H. Regt. who did excellent work.

The 3rd L.H. Bde advanced parallel with my Bde and some 4 to 5 miles to the south of it communication being maintained with them throughout the day.

9th August, 1916. I received instructions to move forward and to attack the enemy entrenched about BIR EL ABD along the telegraph line, and that the 1st, and 2nd L.H. Brigades would operate on my left and the 3rd L.H. Bde on my right, the 5th Mounted Bde in general reserve. Time of attack was fixed for 0630

Acting on these instructions the Bde left bivouac at 0430 and moved along the telegraph line in an easterly direction, striking the enemy's outposts 2 and a half miles west of BIR EL ABD at 0510. These were driven in.

At 0615 I had reached a position overlooking the low ground at BIR EL ABD and found the enemy strongly entrenched and holding the position in force. The General attack commenced at 0630, and a certain amount of ground was gained in my centre and on my right. The A.M.R. Regt. together with 2 Sections Bde M/c Gun Squad. Advancing south of the road with their left on the telegraph line, the Canty. M.R. Regt. together with two sections Bde M/c Gun Squad advancing north of the road with their right on the telegraph line, the 5th Aust. L.H. Regt. together with the remaining 2 sections Bde M/c Gun Squad. being in reserve. My battery having taken up a position half a mile south of the road supported the advancing regiments. Shortly after this one squadron 5th L.H. Regt. was sent to assist the Auck. M.R. Regt. on the right flank who had not yet gained touch with the 3rd L.H. Bde, and a little later the two remaining squadrons 5th L.H. Regt. were sent to strengthen the left flank, Canty M.R. Rgt. who had likewise failed to get touch with the 1st and 2nd L.H. Bdes.

Next a strong counter attack by the enemy with two battalions (which temporarily held up my advance) was driven back. A few of the enemy then surrendered and many more showed inclination to do so but at this time the enemy opened a very heavy artillery fire on my left centre which deterred them from coming in. A second counter attack under cover of this heavy fire drove our centre back half a mile, but was eventually driven off. This shell fire was kept up on my line with hardly any intermission until 1330, when it was turned more to our left.

The enemy were seen busily evacuating stores, &c and at 1200 our artillery having driven off his camels the enemy set fire to his dump.

Up to now the Brigade on either flank reported by signal that that they had been held up, and so had not joined up with my right and left flanks.

In the early afternoon the Turks sent three fresh battalions forward against my left centre, and owing to the want of support on both flanks, we were badly pressed the Canty M.R. Regt suffering heavily.

The Warwick Yeomanry Regt. was then sent up from the general reserve, together with one squadron Gloucester Yeomanry and Leicester battery R.H.A. A further regt. was also promised at this juncture by the O.C. Light Horse Bde to strengthen my left flank. This regt. however did not arrive.

I then sent the Warwick Yeomanry to support my left centre, keeping 1 squadron Gloucester regt. in reserve, The Leicester battery came into action immediately on arrival from a position adjacent to my battery. These battery did much to keep down the enemy's fire and to demoralise his counter attacks. In fact, in one case a counter attack was entirely stopped. Owing to the good shooting of the Somerset Battery.

At 1730 another attack began to develop, and as dusk was approaching at 1845, I began to fall back towards ROD ED DABABIS, eventually reaching that place at 2000. Here the Bde watered and fed and further orders were received from the G.O.C. ANZAC Mounted Division for the Bde to withdraw to OCHRATINA to bivouac for the night - the outpost line being formed by a composite regt. of Yeomanry which had been in reserve throughout the day, officers patrols remaining out to keep touch during the night.

The Bde went into bivouac at 2315, the casualties for the day having been 4 officers and 26 O.R. killed and 11 officers and 66 O.R. wounded.

NOTE. On our first attacking in the morning the enemy showed every indication of retiring and burnt two heaps of stores, but later on finding that he could hold us, and that his flanks were not threatened, he brought up fresh troops.

10th August, 1916 The Bde left OGH RATINA at 0.630 with instructions to move to HOD ED DABABIS, and from there to push forward three officers patrols to gain touch with the enemy, but not to become involved in a serious engagement. The enemy were found occupying the same ground as the previous day, 2 miles west of BIR EL ABD, and appeared busily engaged burying their dead.

The Bde bivouacked at HOD ED DABABIS at night, three fresh officers patrols being sent out to keep touch during the night; No casualties.

11th August, 1916 I received instructions to push forward one regiment at dawn to gain touch with the enemy's movements as on the previous day, but not to become seriously engaged. I detailed the 5th L.H. Regt. to carry this out. The enemy were reported still holding the same position, & busily engaged burying the dead and getting away stores, as per yesterday.

The 5th L.H. Regt withdrew to HOD ED DABABIS after dark, being replaced by officers patrols. The Bde bivouacked at DABABIS.

NOTE One of our aeroplanes during the day had a forced landing behind the lines, but the pilot though very seriously wounded and with his shoulder and jaw smashed, brought the machine down safely, and started to walk to DABABIS for assistance. In addition, the observer, shot through both lungs insisted (on an officer coming up) on making his report. When satisfied that it had been taken down and understood, he collapsed and died 2 hours later.

12th August, 1916. At 0400 I pushed forward the Canty M.R. Regt. to gain touch with the enemy, and at 0600 the O.C. reported BIR EL ABD all clear, and later that he had gained touch with the enemy's patrols 3 miles east of the place.

Enemy aircraft attacked our bivouac at HOD EL DABABIS at 0600 and dropped 6 bombs, our casualties being 3 O.R. killed 6 O.R. wounded and 10 horses killed.

At 0831 I received instructions that the 5th Mtd. Bde only left and the 3rd L.H. Bde on my right, together with the 7th L.H. Regt. had been placed under my command, and that I was to push one regt. from each Bde to occupy the high ground east of BIR EL ABD, and on the advance of the 3 Brigades the advance regts were to move forward to reconnoitre SALMANA.

The necessary orders were at once issued to the flank brigades, and they having pushed forward a regiment each in to the line already occupied by the Canty. M.R. Regt. I moved forward with the whole force at 1145 and reached the high ground east of BIR EL ABD at 1400, beyond which my orders were not to proceed. The enemy was located at SALMANA with his guns some distance further east. On the appearance of our advanced troops,

he commenced shelling them, but inflicted no casualties, and in reply the 3rd Australian L.H. Bty having detected some movement in HOD SALMANA, opened fire, but was unable to see the result, which however after inspection at a later date, proved to have been very effective.



Orders were now received for the Brigades to retire at 1900 and to bivouac at the same places as the previous night - the 5th L.H. Regt. being left at BIR EL ABD as an advanced Regt.

13th August 1916. O.C. 5th L.H. Regt. reported SALMANA all clear at 0540 .

NOTES. 1. During the fight the enemy was always in superior strength and had his guns well in rear of his position, and his supply of ammunition appeared to be unlimited.

2. On our side all ranks fought well, and units in the Bde gave each other the closest support. The keenness, spirit and dash shown by officers and men on all patrols by day and night, and the information obtained by them proved of the greatest value throughout. Our gun/M/c gun fire appeared to so demoralise the enemy infantry that they could not shoot to hit, and this, together with the excellent handling of their men and horses by officers commanding units, and the steadiness and good shooting of the men, was the reason why our casualties were so light.

3. The greatest credit is due to those of the Bde. Staff concerned for the manner in which the supply of ammunition, rations, water, forage was kept up throughout the operations thereby enabling the fighting force to carry out its task under the best conditions.

4. The support we received from the 5th Mounted Bde. was of the greatest assistance, and all ranks are loud in their praises of the way in which the Composite regt. on the 4th August fought with us.

5. The work done by the N.Z. Field Ambce was good and likewise that done by the Bde. Signal Troop, under the Bde Signalling officers, the latter being greatly handicapped by the lack of co-operation in communication on the part of the flank Brigades, in contrast to the excellent communications established and maintained within the Brigade and with Divisional Headquarters.

(Sgd) E.W.C. CHAYTOR, Brigadier-General,  
G.O.C. N.Z.M.R. Brigade.