

= Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment =

The Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment was a mounted infantry regiment from New Zealand raised , in August 1914 , for service during the First World War . It was assigned to the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade , part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force .

The regiment was established with twenty @-@ six officers , 523 other ranks and 600 horses . It was formed from three squadrons belonging to pre war Territorial Force regiments : the 3rd (Auckland) Mounted Rifles , the 4th (Waikato) Mounted Rifles and the 11th (North Auckland) Mounted Rifles . It included a small headquarters and , until 1916 , a Maxim machine @-@ gun section . During the war , the Maxim guns were withdrawn but the regiment 's fire @-@ power increased until each squadron had four Hotchkiss machine @-@ guns , one per troop , by the end of the war .

As mounted infantry , the regiment rode into battle on their horses but were expected to dismount and fight on foot . The regiment fought predominantly against the forces of the Ottoman Turkish Empire . Their first engagement was in the Gallipoli Campaign between May and December 1915 , during which they participated in the largest battle of that theatre at Chunuk Bair and the fighting for Hill 60 . Evacuated to Egypt , the regiment took part in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign from 1916 to 1918 . Their early battles included Romani , Gaza and Beersheba . Later in the war , they were part of the force that occupied the Jordan Valley and took part in the raids on Amman and Es Salt . Their final wartime operation was in connection with the capture of the Turkish Fourth Army . During the four years of war , the regiment sustained 334 dead from all causes and 555 wounded , several of those more than once . After the war , the regiment played a minor role in the Egyptian Revolution of 1919 before it was disbanded in June 1919 .

= = History = =

= = = Formation = = =

The Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment was raised in August 1914 , at the start of the First World War , from the region around Auckland on the North Island of New Zealand . The regiment was commanded by Lieutenant @-@ Colonel Charles Ernest Randolph Mackesy , and comprised a headquarters , a machine @-@ gun section and three squadrons formed from Territorial Force regiments . The New Zealand Territorial Force included a compulsory training system and New Zealand 's four military districts were required to supply a mounted regiment for the New Zealand Expeditionary Force . To meet that obligation , each of the Territorial Force regiments provided a squadron , which kept its own regimental badges and traditions . The squadrons for the Auckland Mounted Rifles came from the 3rd (Auckland) Mounted Rifles , the 4th (Waikato) Mounted Rifles and the 11th (North Auckland) Mounted Rifles .

Upon its establishment , the regiment comprised twenty @-@ six officers and 523 other ranks , who were mounted on 528 riding horses , seventy @-@ four draught horses and six pack horses . Each squadron of 158 men had a field headquarters and four troops . Although the regiment used horses , they were not cavalry but mounted infantry , and were expected to ride to the battlefield , dismount and fight as traditional infantry . The regiment was assigned to the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade , serving alongside two other mounted infantry regiments ? the Wellington Mounted Rifles and the Canterbury Mounted Rifles .

= = = Embarkation = = =

What remained of August and most of September was taken up with training , until the regiment received embarkation orders and set sail from Auckland on 23 September . The unescorted transport ships returned to the same harbour the next morning , believing two German cruisers , were in the area . The troops disembarked and it was not until 11 October that they sailed again .

This time they reached Wellington on 14 October . Two days later , now part of a large convoy of transport ships , four warships and 9 @, @ 000 men , they sailed again for an " unknown destination " . Stopping at Hobart , the New Zealand convoy waited until 1 November to be joined by an Australian contingent , then thirty @-@ eight ships set sail , heading north . With only brief halts to re @-@ coal at Colombo on 15 November and Aden on 24 November , the convoy entered the Suez Canal on 1 December . Four days later , the regiment disembarked at Alexandria . They entrained for Cairo and established their camp on the edge of the desert , in the suburb of Zeitoun . In the following months , the regiment practised their horsemanship , conducted small arms and bayonet training , and learned to construct trenches .

= = Gallipoli = =

In May 1915 , the regiment , with the rest of the brigade , was warned to prepare to embark for the Gallipoli Campaign , serving in a dismounted role as part of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) . A rear party remained behind to look after the horses while twenty @-@ six officers and 482 other ranks boarded the transport ships . On 12 May they landed at ANZAC Cove and the next day took over from the Royal Naval Brigade in the front line . The regiment was responsible for the section of the front known as " Walker 's Top " and " The Nek " , opposite what was possibly the strongest Turkish position , only fifty yards (46 m) away .

They defeated their first Turkish attack on 18 / 19 May , when their position was subjected to small arms fire from midnight until 03 : 00 . Then the Turkish troops assaulted " Walker 's Top " and " Quinn 's Post " . The attack lasted an hour , and cost the regiment twenty @-@ two dead and twenty @-@ seven wounded , but they held the position . On 22 May they were relieved by the 9th Light Horse Regiment , and moved to the rear . In June the regiment repeatedly moved between front and rear area positions , and was not involved in a major battle . With Mackesy ill , Major Frank Chapman arrived from Egypt on 25 May to assume command of the regiment . He was followed five days later by one officer and 107 other ranks as reinforcements . He was followed , five days later , by one officer and 107 other ranks of reinforcements . The situation remained the same in July , and another two officers and ten men arrived to replace casualties .

August saw the regiment involved in the largest engagement of the campaign , at Chunuk Bair . After successfully capturing a Turkish position at " Old No.3 Post " on 6 August , they fought off several counter @-@ attacks , until 9 August , with a strength of only sixty @-@ six men from the 310 who started the battle , they were withdrawn to a rear area . Their casualties were fifty @-@ seven dead , 144 wounded and twenty @-@ seven missing in action . On 23 August those survivors with the Wellington Mounted Rifles returned to the front line and four days later took part in the fighting around Hill 60 . Their assault began at 17 : 00 and the regiment , with the Canterbury Mounted Rifles , captured the Turkish front line . The Wellington Mounted Rifles and Otago Mounted Rifles , following up , passed beyond the regiment to capture the Turkish reserve line . All four regiments suffered heavy casualties and had to fight off several counter @-@ attacks . On 29 August the regiment was relieved and moved to a safer area ; their casualties during the battle amounted to thirty @-@ eight dead , and sixty @-@ five wounded .

Early in September the regiment , now five officers and eighty @-@ three men , were moved back into the front line at " Cheshire Ridge " . They were relieved on 12 September and left Gallipoli the next day for the rest camp on the island of Lemnos , where they were joined by three officers and 216 other ranks as reinforcements on 5 October . Three days later , James Neil McCarroll assumed command of the regiment on temporary promotion to lieutenant @-@ colonel , while Mackesy was temporarily commander of the brigade . On 10 November the regiment , now ten officers and 286 other ranks , returned to Gallipoli , to prepare defences at " Waterfall Gully " . Three days later , another sixty @-@ six reinforcements arrived and moved into the front line at " Gloucester Hill " . On 14 December the regiment left for Lemnos again . They remained on the island until 22 December , when they sailed for Egypt . Disembarking four days later , they returned to their previous camp at Zeitoun . Mackesy returned to command the regiment on 27 December .

= = Sinai = =

The regiment spent its first month back in Egypt training . Then , once more back up to full establishment , it moved forward to defend the Suez Canal in the area of the Great Bitter Lake . At the same time , it also lost some of its veterans , including those who were wounded and convalescing in England , when several men were transferred to the infantry and artillery on the Western Front .

In March the regiment , still part of the brigade , was assigned to the newly formed ANZAC Mounted Division . Then on 23 April the regiment was ordered to move into the Sinai Desert to counter a Turkish attack against the British yeomanry at Katia . The following week the whole brigade relieved the 2nd Light Horse Brigade at Romani . The defeated Turkish troops had withdrawn east around twenty @-@ five miles (40 km) to Salmana and the brigade was ordered to attack those positions . On 30 May the Auckland Mounted Rifles moved in advance of the brigade , circling around to get into a position to the south @-@ south @-@ east of Salmana . By 04 : 45 the regiment was ready and the attack started . They galloped towards the Turkish position on a mound , defended by around 200 ? 300 men . Reaching the base of the mound , they dismounted and charged uphill with bayonets fixed . The defenders withdrew , pursued by the 3rd Squadron until Turkish reinforcements appeared and the squadron rejoined the regiment . Turkish casualties in the assault are unknown , but the regiment had only one man wounded .

The regiment now lost its Maxim machine @-@ gun section ; the guns were withdrawn to help form the brigade Machine @-@ Gun Squadron . They were replaced with three Lewis guns , one per squadron . The loss of the section reduced the regiment 's establishment to twenty @-@ four officers and 499 other ranks .

= = = Romani = = =

At the end of July , the 3rd Squadron was sent to patrol twenty miles (32 km) to the south near the Nagid well , observing the left flank of a Turkish force crossing the Sinai . On 1 August patrols from the 11th Squadron were sent east of Dueidar , to the En Nuss and Nagid wells , as a defence force and to expand the wells to support a brigade . On 3 August the rest of the regiment moved to Dueidar . At that time , a Turkish force occupied Mount Royston at Romani . As a result , the regiment was ordered to rejoin the brigade , and by 11 : 30 they were observing around 2 @,@ 000 Turkish troops on Mount Royston . For the next thirty minutes the regiment was bombed by Turkish artillery , when a brigade attack was ordered . The 3rd Squadron , supported by Lewis guns from the machine @-@ gun sections , was positioned in the centre of the line between the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and a British yeomanry regiment . The advance forced the Turkish outposts to withdraw . By 16 : 45 , using the cover available , the regiment drew close enough to charge the Turkish defences , capturing 250 prisoners and a field hospital . All together the brigade took 1 @,@ 000 prisoners and a mountain artillery battery . The regiment 's casualties were two dead and six wounded .

Early the next day the NZMRB moved towards Katia , with the intention of attacking a Turkish gun emplacement . The brigade positioned itself between the 2nd Light Horse Brigade on the left and the 3rd Light Horse Brigade on the right . Taking the lead , the regiment advanced close enough by 14 : 30 to charge the position on horseback , then dismounted and continued the attack on foot , all in the face of heavy rifle and machine @-@ gun fire . No progress was made and they spent the rest of the day returning fire from cover . The engagement cost the regiment one dead and six wounded .

That night the regiment bivouacked at Katib Gannit and returned to the site of the battle the next day , 6 August , but the Turkish army had withdrawn eastwards . The brigade was ordered to advance until contact was regained with the Turkish force , which they located around 12 : 00 , to the east of Oghratina . The regiment remained in contact all day , without suffering any casualties . They also located a telephone wire that the withdrawing Turks had failed to disconnect , enabling them to monitor the German and Turkish command issuing orders .

== Abd ==

The next day the brigade became the division reserve , so the regiment had a day of rest . On the following day , 8 August , they advanced again . By then , Oghratina was unoccupied . Later that day reconnaissance patrols located the Turkish force around two miles (3 @. @ 2 km) west of the well at Abd .

After halting overnight , the regiment led the NZMRB at 04 : 30 to attack the Turkish position . By 05 : 15 the regiment made contact with the Turkish outposts and advanced on foot towards the main Turkish defences , under covering fire from the Royal Horse Artillery (RHA) . The regiment had the 3rd Squadron on the left , and two troops of the 11th Squadron and a machine @-@ gun section on the right . Their right flank was supposed to be covered by the 3rd Light Horse Brigade , but it had failed to arrive . In consequence the regiment had to extend its lines to cover the open flank , so two troops from the 4th Squadron were sent there . Things were also not going well on the other flank . At 11 : 20 the Canterbury Mounted Rifles were forced to retire . Then , just before midday , two Turkish battalions of about 1 @, @ 100 men attacked the regiment . Still supported by the RHA , the brigade held its positions . For the next three and a half hours , the brigade was subjected to a heavy artillery bombardment . This was followed by another attack by three Turkish battalions . Holding out until 16 : 15 the regiment was then ordered to pull back . The day 's fighting cost the regiment twelve dead and twenty @-@ one wounded .

== Magdhaba ==

The next three months were spent on reconnaissance patrols and manning observation posts until 20 December , when the advance east recommenced , with the regiment forming the vanguard for the ANZAC Mounted Division . Travelling overnight , they reached El Arish by dawn , which had been evacuated by the Turkish forces .

Magdhaba , with its 2 @, @ 000 @-@ man garrison , was twenty @-@ four miles (39 km) to the south @-@ east , on the Wadi El Arish . At 10 : 30 on 22 December , the 3rd Squadron was sent along the wadi , in advance of the division , to determine whether the well at Lahfan could support the brigade . The brigade , leaving El Arish at midnight , followed the squadron . By daylight the division had surrounded Magdhaba . In the ensuing fighting , the village was captured after a bayonet charge in the late afternoon . The regiment , being held in reserve , took no part in the battle , but was afterwards left in charge of the village , clearing the dead and collecting war materials . It then returned to El Arish on Christmas Day .

== Palestine ==

== Rafa ==

On 8 January 1917 , the ANZAC Mounted Division headed out for their next objective , the police post at Rafa , thirty miles (48 km) to the east on the Egyptian @-@ Palestinian border . Reaching Sheik Zowaid at 22 : 00 , the regiment rested for three hours . At dawn the regiment surrounded the Bedouin village Shokh El Sufi , four miles (6 @. @ 4 km) south of Rafa . One of the inhabitants shot and killed one of the men . Another was knocked unconscious when hit on the head with a sword . Both of the Bedouins escaped on the troopers ' horses .

At 06 : 00 , the regiment crossed the border into Palestine . Moving out of the desert , the firmer ground made it easier for horse and wheeled transport . Forty @-@ five minutes later , the regiment was located behind a ridge line observing the Turkish defences , which consisted of trenches and redoubts , with a good field of fire to their front . At 09 : 00 the brigade was ordered to move around to attack the position from the right flank , while covering the area north to the Mediterranean Sea . At 09 : 30 the attack started . Galloping forward for about one mile (1 @. @ 6 km) , the regiment

was subjected to Turkish artillery fire . When they got within two miles (3 @. @ 2 km) from the Turkish lines , they dismounted and advanced on foot . The regiment advanced with the 3rd and 4th Squadrons leading and the 11th Squadron in reserve . On the right were the Canterbury Mounted Rifles , the 1st Light Horse Brigade was on the left and the Wellington Mounted Rifles were the brigade reserve . At midday , the complete brigade attacked the Green Knoll redoubt . The 3rd Squadron , unable to make any progress , held its position while the 11th Squadron moved around to the right of the 4th Squadron . By 15 : 00 the 3rd Squadron was able to move forward again and at 16 : 00 the regiment was preparing to charge the position . Then the division received word that Turkish reinforcements were approaching . That and the loss of daylight convinced Major @-@ General Harry Chauvel , commanding the division , to order a withdrawal . However , the order never reached the brigade , which had fixed bayonets and charged the remaining 200 to 300 yards (180 to 270 m) to the Turkish trenches . They captured the first trench line , and the defenders started to surrender . Seeing what was happening , the remainder of the division returned to assist and the position was captured . The regiment 's casualties for the battle were seven dead and forty @-@ one wounded .

= = = Gaza = = =

At 02 : 30 on 26 March , the regiment set out from Dier El Belah towards Gaza . The division was to circle the town , cutting off any escape route east and provide a blocking force to stop Turkish reinforcements , while the 53rd (Welsh) Division and a brigade of the 54th (East Anglian) Division carried out a frontal assault . Positioned at the Humra mound in the east with the 4th and 11th Squadrons , the regiment was assigned to watch for Turkish reinforcement coming from Huj . The main attack was not progressing well , so the brigade , along with the rest of the division , was ordered to attack Gaza . Still watching out for Turkish reinforcements , the regiment was held in reserve . The brigade had made good progress and was inside the town when it was ordered to withdraw . Less the 4th Squadron , which was the division 's rearguard , the regiment had returned to Dier El Belah by early the next day .

On 3 April the squadrons were issued Hotchkiss machine @-@ guns , on a scale of one per troop , which replaced the regiment 's three Lewis guns . The second British attempt to take Gaza would be on 17 April , but the day before the brigade moved to Hareira , providing flank protection and preventing Turkish reinforcement from that direction . The regiment reached Shellal at 03 : 00 , where they stopped to water their horses . At dawn hostile aircraft appeared overhead , which were engaged by the 11th Squadron , forcing them to fly at a higher altitude . By 09 : 00 the regiment was positioned overlooking Hareira , Sheria , and the Gaza @-@ Beersheba rail line . Several times during the day they were machine gunned by hostile aircraft , but no casualties were sustained . That night at 22 : 00 , as ordered , they returned to Shellal .

The next day the regiment returned to their previous task of flank protection . At midday the 3rd and 11th Squadrons were located along the ridge south @-@ east of El Buggar , forcing the Turkish observation posts to retire . The day was almost a replica of the previous one and the regiment was back at Shellal at 21 : 30 . Instead of resting overnight , they moved to El Mendur , arriving there at 06 : 00 on 19 April . The division was now required to be more aggressive , to draw the Turkish forces towards them , because of the lack of progress by the force attacking Gaza . The 3rd Squadron was detailed as a guard force for the division 's artillery , accompanying them to Atawineh . The squadron moved into the front line , losing one dead and seventeen wounded by the time it withdrew at 20 : 00 . The rest of the regiment was held in reserve , having two men wounded during an aircraft attack . By the end of the day , the second attempt to take Gaza was called off , the defences being too strong for a frontal assault .

Instead of withdrawing , the British remained in a forward line of trenches and redoubts . The regiment positioned itself around Karim Abu El Hiseia , on the Wadi Ghuzze . McCarroll assumed command of the regiment again , Mackesy being appointed as the administrator of the Khan Yunus @-@ Deir and the Belah region . For the next few months patrol duty was interspersed with occupying the front line and training .

= = = Beersheba = = =

At 17 : 00 on 25 October the regiment , located around twenty miles (32 km) from Beersheba , started to moved forward . Its first objective , fifteen miles (24 km) south @-@ east at Esani , was reached at 01 : 00 on 26 October . Here they rested for two days before setting out again , travelling another fifteen miles (24 km) to Asluj to the south of Beersheba . Waiting until the next night at 18 : 00 , they started north to attack Beersheba , the first ten miles (16 km) along a metalled road . Then they followed the Wadi Imshash for the next ten miles (16 km) , stopping at 02 : 00 while the Canterbury Mounted Rifles reconnoitred a suspected Turkish post . The night march started again an hour later . By daylight the brigade was positioned three miles (4 @.@ 8 km) to four miles (6 @.@ 4 km) south of the Beersheba @-@ Bir Arara Road , to the south @-@ east of the one thousand feet (300 m) high Saba hill , with the regiment being the brigade reserve .

At 09 : 00 the regiment and the Somerset Battery RHA were ordered to attack Saba , to the east of Beersheba , positioned between the Canterbury Mounted Rifles on their right and the 3rd Light Horse Regiment on their left . The 11th Squadron , leading , advanced up a wadi under machine @-@ gun fire , but there was plenty of cover for the men and horses . The squadron dismounted one hundred yards (91 m) from the Turkish front line and continued on foot . The 3rd and 4th Squadrons meanwhile had rode to within eight hundred yards (730 m) to the north , then dismounted to continue on foot . Advancing by troops , covered by their machine @-@ guns , good progress was made . At 14 : 10 the regiment was ordered to assault the position . Thirty minutes later , a hill four hundred yards (370 m) east of Saba was taken with sixty prisoners and three machine @-@ guns . A short while later , Saba itself was captured with 132 prisoners and four machine @-@ guns . However , the regiment had six dead and twenty @-@ two wounded , including a squadron leader .

The regiment remained , consolidating Saba until 2 November while the brigade 's other regiment and the 4th Squadron were fighting a Turkish cavalry force . On 4 November the brigade moved to Wadi El Sultan . The next day the 4th Squadron was tasked to support the Canterbury Mounted Rifles , advancing against a Turkish position eight hundred yards (730 m) away . The Turks counter @-@ attacked the Canterbury Mounted Rifles , so the 3rd Squadron was moved forward to support them and the attack was defeated . The regiment lost one man dead and four wounded during the day 's fighting . While the rest of the brigade retired to the west , the regiment remained at the front manning observation posts until 11 November , when they were relieved by the British Westminster Dragoons .

= = = Ayun Kara = = =

The regiment left Beersheba to rejoin the brigade , then had to move sixty miles (97 km) across the front to the British left flank . Travelling through the night , at 07 : 30 they had reached Jemmaleh , where they rested for two hours . Continuing their advance , they reached Hesya at 13 : 30 , Bureir at 14 : 30 , then finally Hamama , where they established a rest camp . The march was difficult for men and horses , with virtually no food or water . The horses were taken to the sea to drink . Their supplies finally caught up with the regiment and that night they moved again to a new camp two miles (3 @.@ 2 km) north of Sukereir . The next day the regiment rejoined the brigade , outside the village of Ayun Kara .

At 11 : 00 on 14 November the Canterbury Mounted Rifles , the brigade vanguard , encountered Turkish observation posts . The brigade ordered an attack on the main Turkish defences . The regiment was positioned to cover the left flank . Advancing by troops they came under machine @-@ gun fire . The 3rd Squadron was dispatched to occupy the high ground on the regiment 's right while the other squadrons took cover . Then a force of Turkish cavalry appeared to their left . McCarroll sent the 11th Squadron to check on their dispositions and numbers . However , the squadron encountered heavy rifle and machine @-@ gun fire and could not move forward . To assist them , two troops from the 4th Squadron , were ordered to charge on horseback . The two

troops captured the position and continued forward , occupying the high ground on the left in front of the Wellington Mounted Rifles . The 3rd Squadron , in reserve , provided covering fire as the 11th Squadron moved forward alongside the 4th on their left . Covered by the 4th Squadron , the 11th Squadron moved forward . At 14 : 15 the advance troops of the 11th Squadron located , in an orange grove , a Turkish concentration of troops that counter @-@ attacked the regiment . McCarroll , who had kept up with his forward line of troops , ordered the rest of the regiment , including headquarters troops , to move up in support of the 11th Squadron . The 3rd Squadron galloped forward , dismounting just behind the front line , and engaged the Turkish attack with enfilade fire , forcing the Turks to retire .

At 14 : 45 , covered by an artillery barrage and machine @-@ gun fire , the Turkish troops counter @-@ attacked again . The regiment 's machine gunners returned fire and for a short time the battle became a machine @-@ gun engagement . During this time the Wellington Mounted Rifles , to the right , had occupied a prominent hill , but were under heavy fire . To support them , the 3rd Squadron sent two troops to engage their opponents , which they caught in the bottom of a valley , with enfilade fire . Then in front of the regiment a fresh Turkish battalion was sent to assault them . In some places , the Turkish force got close enough to throw hand grenades into the regiment 's defences . These killed or wounded all those defending a small hill , which was then occupied by the Turkish troops , bringing indirect fire onto the rest of the regiment 's positions , which by now were becoming untenable . At first , messengers sent to the 4th Squadron asking for assistance failed to get through . Eventually the squadron received the message and charged across the open ground , recapturing the hill . This brought the rest of the Turkish line into range of the squadron 's guns . Confronted by the new threat , the Turkish troops retired back to their starting point . McCarroll was ordering a regiment attack on the orange grove when he was wounded in the neck and shoulder , forcing Major Henry Whitehorn to assume temporary command of the regiment . By then it was getting dark and the only Turkish offensive action was an artillery bombardment . Instead of attacking , the regiment spent the rest of the day evacuating the wounded and strengthening their lines . Their casualties during the battle were fifteen dead and seventy @-@ four wounded . The next morning it was discovered that Ayun Kara had been evacuated by the Turkish troops .

= = = River Auja = = =

On 15 November the brigade moved forward again to Rishon LeZion village five miles (8 @.@ 0 km) south of the port of Jaffa . The next day the regiment moved forward alone and established a line of observation posts between Beit Dejan and Safiriyeh , just under four miles (6 @.@ 4 km) from Jaffa . Reconnaissance patrols discovered that Jaffa was not occupied by any Turkish forces , so the 3rd Squadron and the Canterbury Mounted Rifles moved in to provide a garrison , while the rest of the regiment and the Wellington Mounted Rifles returned to Ayun Kara . The regiment moved further north on 18 November and over the next few days carried out a reconnaissance of the River Auja .

On 27 November the brigade secured a bridgehead over the river . To help defend the crossing , the 3rd and 11th Squadrons dug in on the northern bank . The next day , at 14 : 45 , the squadrons were attacked and by 17 : 45 , first the horse holders and the regiment 's mounts were sent back across the river . The squadrons were forced to retire to the lines of the supporting infantry . By 20 : 00 the entire British position was under threat and had to withdraw back across to the south of the river . The regiment 's casualties were one dead , one missing and nineteen wounded , including Whitehorn . Command of the regiment temporarily passed to Major Duncan Munro .

After the battle at the River Auja , the brigade camped to the south @-@ east of Sarona , out of range of the Turkish artillery . The regiment , having only sixteen officers and 375 other ranks left effective , spent the time building up it strength in men and horses . In the last month the regiment had lost twenty @-@ seven dead and eighty @-@ eight wounded , sixty @-@ one had to be evacuated to the rear as they were ill and two men were missing .

Whitehorn returned on 16 December to resume temporary command of the regiment . Two days later the regiment returned to Jaffa and came under command of the 52nd (Lowland) Division .

Then on 20 December the Lowland Division assaulted the River Auja and the regiment patrolled north of the river , supporting the division until 25 December , when they rejoined the NZMRB .

= = Jordan valley = =

= = = Jericho = = =

McCarroll , recovered from his wounds , resumed command of the regiment on 15 January 1918 . It was still understrength , with only twenty @-@ two officers and 486 other ranks .

In February the ANZAC Mounted Division was ordered to cross over to the British right flank , to conduct operations in the Jordan Valley by first capturing Jericho . By 19 February the regiment was east of Bethlehem and at 09 : 30 started toward Jericho along what was described as " little more than a goat track " . At times the track was so steep that the men had to dismount and lead their horses by hand . After stopping overnight , the regiment set out again as the vanguard at 04 : 30 , moving in single file . Soon afterwards , Turkish guns opened fire on them from two hills , Kaneitera and Kalimun , which could dominate their approach . Upon reaching the valley bottom , the regiment spread out to provide a more difficult target . Moving forward under Turkish artillery and machine @-@ gun fire , the regiment galloped from cover to cover by troops . This continued until around midday when the 11th Squadron got close enough to assault a Turkish position on the right of the valley . At the same time , the 3rd and 4th Squadrons were advancing in the centre and to the left . Elsewhere the Australian light horse brigades and British infantry were having similar problems . Eventually the British secured a position that allowed them to bring fire onto the Turkish defences in front of the regiment , forcing them to retire further up the Kalimun hill . The regiment 's horse holders brought the mounts forward and the regiment charged the position on horseback . The Turkish forces retired , but kept the hill now occupied by the regiment under an artillery barrage .

The next day there was no trace of any Turkish forces and the advance continued . At times , this was again only possible by moving in single file , leaving the brigade spread along five miles (8 @. @ 0 km) of tracks . At 09 : 00 the regiment moved out of the hills and into the Jordan Valley , just north of the Dead Sea and south of Jericho , about eight miles (13 km) from the River Jordan . The time it had taken the NZMRB to negotiate the track allowed the Turkish forces to retire to the east bank of the river by a pontoon bridge at Goraniyeh . While the Australians captured Jericho , the regiment established a camp in the valley under the Mount of Temptation , north of Jericho . The brigade was then made responsible for guarding the river from the Dead Sea to the Ghoraniyeh bridge . However , on 22 February the rest of the NZMRB returned to Ayun Kara , leaving the regiment in the valley under command of the 60th (London) Division , tasked to carry out mounted patrols of the river .

= = = Amman raid = = =

The regiment was next involved in a raid on the village of Amman to the east of the River Jordan . The force assembled for the operation comprised the ANZAC Mounted Division , the 60th (London) Division and the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade . Reconnaissance patrols had discovered that the river was not fordable and they would have to construct bridges to get across . Three viable sites had been selected at Makhadet (which means ford) , Hajlah three miles (4 @. @ 8 km) north of the Dead Sea , and Ghoraniyeh . Two crossings were to be constructed . At Hajlah , pontoon bridge made from steel would be assembled for the mounted troops . The second crossing point , at Ghoraniyeh where there was already a damaged pontoon bridge , would have three bridges for the 60th Division : a normal pontoon bridge , a barrel bridge , and an infantry bridge .

At midnight on 21 March , the infantry tried to cross at Ghoraniyeh , however the river was flowing too fast for their swimmers to get across . At Hajlah they had more success and a raft was constructed to ferry men and materials across . By dawn the Turkish had discovered them crossing and were engaging the crossing infantry with machine @-@ gun fire . Engineers had finished the

pontoon bridge by 08 : 10 and more troops were crossing , but their exploitation was restricted to around five hundred yards (460 m) from the river line as they were confronted by strong Turkish defences .

At 05 : 00 on 23 March the regiment , the first mounted force , began to cross the river . They were passing beyond the infantry forward troops by 07 : 30 . Two troops from the 11th Squadron were dispatched to the east and another north @-@ east . One troop , twenty men , encountered a force of sixty Turkish cavalry and charged them , armed only with rifles and bayonets . The troop killed twenty cavalymen and captured seven , in exchange for the death of one man , the troop leader who had ordered the charge . The troop sent north had forced a machine @-@ gun post covering the river to withdraw , but the gun and its crew were later captured by men from the 4th Squadron . While this move had been progressing , the troop of the 11th Squadron had been sent north from the crossing . At the same time the 3rd and 4th Squadrons galloped north to take the Turkish defenders at Ghoraniyeh from the rear . At 09 : 00 the leading troops , without loss , captured the first Turkish outpost with seventeen prisoners . One troop of the 3rd Squadron dismounted and captured two machine @-@ gun posts overlooking the crossing , which allowed the rest of the squadron to drive off the remaining defenders . While the 3rd Squadron concentrated on the crossing the 4th Squadron was ordered to gallop and capture the village of Shunet Nimrin , but were unable to approach the village when confronted by heavy artillery fire . The day 's battle cost the regiment one dead and two wounded . By that night the bridge at Ghoraniyeh was completed and the remainder of the ANZAC Mounted Division were crossing at Hajlah .

The next morning , when the NZMRB had crossed the river , McCarroll was given command of the vanguard , comprising the regiment , a squadron from the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and the Hong Kong and Singapore Mountain Artillery Battery . Progress was slow along the steep tracks and they had to camp in the hills that night at an altitude between 2 @, @ 000 to 3 @, @ 000 feet (610 to 910 m) . During the night it started to rain , making travelling along the small tracks even harder at daylight . Because the rest of the division was having even worse problems than the brigade , they stopped at the village of Ain es Sir . During the day , they captured seven Germans and eighty @-@ eight Turkish troops . Another problem for the regiment was the lack of supplies ; their rations were stuck somewhere behind them on the track . The remainder of the division arrived during the day and the raid on Amman was planned for the next day , 27 March .

At 08 : 00 the NZMRB set out heading south @-@ east , the plan called for them to assault Amman from the south . The vanguard was provided by the regiment with the 4th Squadron leading . When they got within three miles (4 @. @ 8 km) of the village , they came under a Turkish artillery barrage . At 12 : 00 when the regiment was 1 @, @ 500 yards (1 @, @ 400 m) from the rail line , which would be their right flank position , they turned north . Then a Turkish train arrived along the tracks from the south . The regiment 's machine @-@ gunners opened fire of it , and they were just about to charge when it continued on into Amman . By now Turkish artillery and machine @-@ gun fire was proving effective and the regiment was unable to make any progress . Hill 3039 , in front of the 3rd Squadron , was well defended with numerous machine @-@ guns , so the 4th Squadron were sent forward to support the assault . While 11th Squadron moved right , to the higher ground , to give covering fire . At 18 : 00 Turkish troops mounted a counter @-@ attack against the Canterbury Mounted Rifles on the regiment 's left , but the regiment held the position . By nightfall no further progress was made and the division decided to hold onto what territory they had occupied and wait for assistance from 60th Division . The day 's fighting had cost the regiment eighteen casualties . They still had not received any supplies and the rations they carried were exhausted .

That night , 27 / 28 March , the Turkish forces in Amman were reinforced , which again prevented the regiment from advancing . When two infantry battalions and an artillery battery arrived at 11 : 30 plans were made for another assault at 13 : 00 . But still faced with heavy artillery and machine @-@ gun fire , by 16 : 00 the regiment had only managed to advance five hundred yards (460 m) onto the lower slopes of Hill 3039 . The position there was untenable and the regiment was forced to withdraw to a better location that night .

The next day , 29 March , the division consolidated their positions , planning to resume the assault on 30 March . McCarroll was given command of the assault . Position " A " was their main objective .

The approach route would be along a ridge line between " B " and " C , " which were to be neutralised by two troops in case the Turkish tried to intervene in the attack . Once " A " was captured , it was believed " B " and " C " would surrender .

The regiment and a battalion from the Imperial Camel Corps would attack point " A " . The Canterbury Mounted Rifles would support the attack on the regiment 's left . At 01 : 45 the regiment moved forward , dismounted and managed to get close enough to the first objective to charge home without being seen , capturing the first trench , five machine @-@ guns and twenty @-@ three prisoners . The regiment continued on , capturing the position . At daybreak Turkish troops were able to bring enfilade fire from point " B " against the regiment 's positions . So 4th Squadron , with 3rd Squadron providing covering fire , mounted an attack and captured that position . At 09 : 30 Turkish troops were seen gathered on the north @-@ east side of the hill . McCarroll asked for artillery support to break up their troops , but there was none available . The mountain battery , at the time , only had four rounds left . The Turkish forces attacked and managed to close on the regiment 's defences before they were stopped by rifle and machine @-@ gun fire .

With no further progress being made anywhere , and the arrival of more Turkish reinforcements , a withdrawal back across the River Jordan was ordered that night . Plans were made for the wounded to leave first , then the fighting troops falling back in turn . McCarroll gave each unit exact times they were to retire , so they still presented a continuous line as they moved back . They withdrew without attracting the attention of the Turkish troops and at 04 : 00 the regiment arrived back at Ain es Sir . The brigade was designated as the force rearguard . At 16 : 00 a large Turkish force was reported by the Canterbury Mounted Rifles to be approaching from the north , so the regiment was sent to help . The Turkish force had come to within 1 @,@ 000 yards (910 m) of the New Zealand lines , but did not attack . The next day , 1 April , the withdrawal continued and several times Turkish troops were sighted following . They eventually reached Nimrin in the Jordan Valley at 20 : 00 that night . The regiment 's exact casualties are not documented , but the NZMRB lost thirty @-@ eight dead , 122 wounded and had thirteen men reported missing during the raid .

= = = Es Salt raid = = =

The regiment spent most of April on patrol and guard duties to the west of the River Jordan . The Rugby football team were presented , by Lieutenant @-@ General Harry Chauvel , commanding the Desert Mounted Corps , with the division 's cup for being the champion team . The second raid across the Jordan on Es Salt began on 29 April , with the brigade initially being held in reserve . The operation had similar problems as the first raid , and on 30 April the brigade was moved forward . The Wellington Mounted Rifles and Canterbury Mounted Rifles were ordered to support the assault by the infantry at Nimrin , while the regiment remained in reserve . At 09 : 30 the 4th Squadron was sent forward to support the Canterbury Mounted Rifles , but a Turkish artillery barrage , by at least four batteries , landed to their front , preventing them going forward . The artillery fire increased and the rest of the regiment had to retire to put the horses out of harm 's way . Without making further progress that day , the regiment returned to the Ghoraniyeh bridgehead for the night . More Turkish reinforcements arrived overnight and opposition to any British advance was increasing . Eventually the regiment was ordered to gallop forward to the front line , deploying to cover two miles (3 @.@ 2 km) along the track from Es Salt . One of the first things they observed was a party of RHA artillerymen going back without their guns , which they had been forced to abandon . The 3rd and 4th Squadrons began digging trenches , as the regiment had to hold a position covering the only way back for the 4th Light Horse Brigade , to their front . On 2 May the Australians were ordered to withdraw , reaching the regiment 's position the next day . That night the regiment withdrew to a ford at Auja , where engineers were constructing a pontoon bridge . The regiment remained there alone the next day while the rest of the NZMRB returned to their previous camp near Jericho . The regiment was relieved the next day and rejoined the brigade .

= = = Summer 1918 = = =

The regiment remained in the western foothills of the Jordan Valley , based at Talat Ed Dumm , until the end of May , then moved to El Khudr , beside Bethlehem , where some men were granted leave in Port Said , and Jerusalem . In June the regiment returned to the valley , based at the Wadi Abeid , carrying out patrols and enhancing defences . At the start of July , they moved again , this time to Ain Ed Duk , relieving the Wellington Mounted Rifles . On 18 July the 1st Light Horse Brigade , to the regiment 's left , was attacked by a large force of Germans . Turkish troops supporting that attack also attempted to break the regiment 's line , but they were fought off . Relieved a few days later , the regiment returned to Bethlehem . Casualties during the month were all down to malaria , or other diseases , 170 men being evacuated to hospital . In August they returned to duties in the valley at Jericho , and another 109 men were evacuated to hospital during the month .

= = Chaytor 's Force = =

In September , Chaytor , commanding the ANZAC Mounted Division , was given command of a mixed mounted and infantry force to carry out a deception plan in the Jordan Valley . The regiment helped by constructing dummy camps with dummy horse lines and increased their patrolling , with the objective of discovering the Turkish strength and positions . The rest of the army was aligned to their left flank and on 19 September started the last attack major attack of the campaign . With the Turkish forces retiring to counter the attack in the west , by 21 September the NZMRB was ordered forward , reinforced by two battalions of the British West Indies Regiment , their own Ayrshire Battery RHA and the 29th Indian Mountain Battery .

= = = Damieh = = =

That night , 21 September , the regiment left its base at Musallabeh and headed north up the Jordan Valley . The 4th Squadron , leading , covered the first ten miles (16 km) , reaching Kh Fusail and then Tel Es Ed Dhiab , with no opposition . They encountered a Turkish defence line at the Mafid Jozeleh bridge , which was captured along with twenty prisoners and two machine @-@ guns . That night the infantry were left guarding the bridge , while the NZMRB continued advancing north to secure an important bridge at Damieh , cutting the Nablus road .

At midnight the regiment , supported by a section of the brigade machine @-@ gun squadron , set out again , leading the brigade along the Jericho @-@ Beisan road . The 3rd Squadron was sent ahead , after a force of Turkish troops believed to be withdrawing along the road in front of them , and to capture the Damieh bridge . The 11th Squadron remained on the road as a blocking force while the 4th Squadron headed to El Makhruk to the north @-@ east . The 11th Squadron captured a Turkish convoy that came along the road , while the 3rd Squadron caught up with the force in front of them , capturing several prisoners . They also discovered a Turkish cavalry picket line and forced them down from the hills onto the low ground along the river towards the Damieh bridge . The 3rd Squadron , holding the high ground , was counter @-@ attacked by infantry supported by artillery . Part of the squadron was forced to retire to a better defensive position . As reinforcements were observed arriving for the Turkish force , a regiment attack was ordered and reinforcements of their own requested . Support came from a squadron of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles and a West Indies infantry company . The regiment was around five hundred yards (460 m) from the bridge , almost surrounding the Turkish position there . McCarroll planned the assault , with six troops and a machine @-@ gun on the left to provide fire support . Then from left to right , less one troop in reserve , the rest of the regiment positioned itself from left to right , followed by the West Indies company , then the Canterbury Mounted Rifles squadron on the right . The attack began , supported by machine @-@ gun and artillery fire . The Turkish line was pierced and they started to withdraw across the bridge pursued by the regiment . The bridge was secured intact , along with 350 prisoners and seven machine @-@ guns . The regiment had four dead and one wounded . One of the West Indies soldiers was also wounded . The regiment now settled in , defending the bridge while the Canterbury Mounted Rifles squadron crossed and started clearing the far bank .

== Es Salt again ==

The next day the brigade crossed the bridge and at midday continued east towards Es Salt . By 17 : 00 the regiment was camped to the west of the town . They entered the unoccupied Es Salt on the following day , watered their horses , then continued east towards Amman as the vanguard . Passing abandoned wagons , dead men and animals , they had caught up with the Turkish rearguard by 12 : 00 , but had to stop at the village of Suweileh to water their horses and wait for the rest of the brigade to catch up with them . That night a selected group of 100 men , commanded by Major John Herrold , were sent out twelve miles (19 km) across country to damage the Hedjaz rail line south of Amman . Each of the three squadrons provided an officer and thirty @-@ three men . Their only tools were two picks , two shovels , and four spanners . The force was divided into three : one to tackle the rails and the other two to provide protection . When they found the rail line , they followed it for about two miles (3 @.@ 2 km) . Hearing sounds of digging , they dismounted , continuing on foot until they located a group of Turks digging trenches . Part of their objective was to remain undetected , so they withdrew , leaving the Turkish force alone . They eventually located the section of track they were looking for . However , the road alongside the tracks was full of Turkish traffic . Establishing a base four hundred yards (370 m) from the track , the rail group now crept forward to attack the tracks . Their work was first interrupted when an armoured train with trucks full of soldiers came along the rails . They were next disturbed by a mounted patrol , which passed by without observing them . They eventually removed two rails , making the tracks unusable . The group then returned to their horses and returned to the regiment at dawn . That day the value of their efforts was seen when a train was wrecked where they had broken the rails . For his command of the operation Herrold was invested as a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order .

== Amman again ==

On 25 September , the same day the railway group returned , the brigade set out at 06 : 00 for Amman . Approaching from the north , they would be supported during the assault by the 2nd Light Horse Brigade . At 10 : 30 the regiment , with a machine @-@ gun section and an artillery section , was ordered to move forward to the left of the Canterbury Mounted Rifles . The Turkish defenders were in redoubts surrounded by barbed wire . McCarroll sent a squadron to attack from the west , which came under Turkish machine @-@ gun fire . Covered by the artillery the squadron was gradually able to advance . At 15 : 30 the reserve squadron galloped forward , dismounted and came under machine @-@ gun fire . The regiment and Canterbury Mounted Rifles pushed forward . The 4th Squadron succeeded in reaching a double redoubt , but just as they were about to charge , sixty of the defenders surrendered and others withdrew along the Wadi Amman . By now the Canterbury Mounted Rifles had galloped into the town and out the other side , capturing the Turkish defences there from the rear . The battle was over and the brigade captured 1 @,@ 734 prisoners , twenty @-@ seven machine @-@ guns , five artillery pieces , 298 horses and other military supplies . That night the regiment camped in the Wadi Amman .

Several days later the NZMRB was moved to the south to support the 2nd Light Horse Brigade at Ziza . The light @-@ horsemen had taken the surrender of a large Turkish force , part of the Turkish Fourth Army , then had to defend them from the Arab tribesmen . When the brigade arrived the Australian and Turkish troops , who were still armed , were holding a perimeter facing the Arab force . The brigade 's appearance resolved the situation and the Turkish troops surrendered .

== Post war ==

In October 1918 , the regiment 's part in the war now over ; they returned to the Jordan Valley . However many men were now struck down with malaria . In the next few days those who were able returned to Richon @-@ le @-@ Zion , where they established their camp . By November the regiment had eleven officers and 331 other ranks in hospital ; twenty @-@ two of those died of the disease . Only two men from the regiment had not been infected in any way .

The regiment remained at Richon until 18 December , carrying out military training and playing sports . Then they moved back to Rafa , where a school was established . It was discovered that before the war one of the regiment 's troopers had been a schools inspector , so he was immediately promoted to major , taking charge of lessons .

While waiting for repatriation to New Zealand the regiment played a minor role in the 1919 Egyptian Revolution , which was a Nationalist uprising in the Nile Delta region . The regiment were reissued its equipment and sent to support the authorities , as martial law had been declared . The uprising soon ended without any major incidents . One incident the regiment had to deal with was a request from an Egyptian woman for an officer to grant her a divorce . On 22 June the regiment moved to the Demobilisation Camp at Ismailia on the Suez Canal . They boarded the transport HMT Ulimaroa and sail for New Zealand . On 30 June the regiment ceased to exist as such . Five weeks later , on 8 August , the Ulimaroa arrived at Auckland .

= = = Casualties = = =

During its service , 334 men of the regiment died from all causes , either killed in action , died of wounds or disease , and two were lost at sea . Almost two thirds of those , 202 men , were killed during the seven months they fought in the Gallipoli Campaign , while 130 died during the two years of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign . There were also 555 men wounded ; 53 of those were unfortunate enough to have been wounded twice . The Gallipoli Campaign accounted for over half of the total number of wounded at 316 men ; 22 of them were wounded twice . Then in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign , there were another 239 men wounded , with 31 of those again wounded twice .

Many of the Gallipoli dead have no known grave . The Commonwealth War Graves Commission Chunuk Bair Cemetery , constructed on the site where the Turks buried Allied war dead after the evacuation , has 632 graves . Only ten of the men there have been identified . At the nearby Hill 60 Cemetery , which has another 788 graves , only seventy @-@ six of the dead were identified .

= = = Honours = = =

Several men of the regiment were recognised for their service by the British Empire awards system . The two commanding officers , Mackesy and McCarroll , were invested as Companions of the Order of St Michael and St George , and as Companions of the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) . McCarroll also received a bar for the DSO to signify a second award . While Mackesy was also invested as a Commander of the Order of the British Empire . Two other men also received a DSO both majors , Herrold for the raid on the rail line at Amman and Ralph Wyman at Gallipoli . There were two civilian awards , of an Officer of the Order of the British Empire and a Member of the Order of the British Empire . The Military Cross was awarded to eight officers ; two men received bars for a second award . The other ranks were awarded six Distinguished Conduct Medals , and sixteen Military Medals . There were also twenty @-@ six men Mentioned in Dispatches for all ranks .