

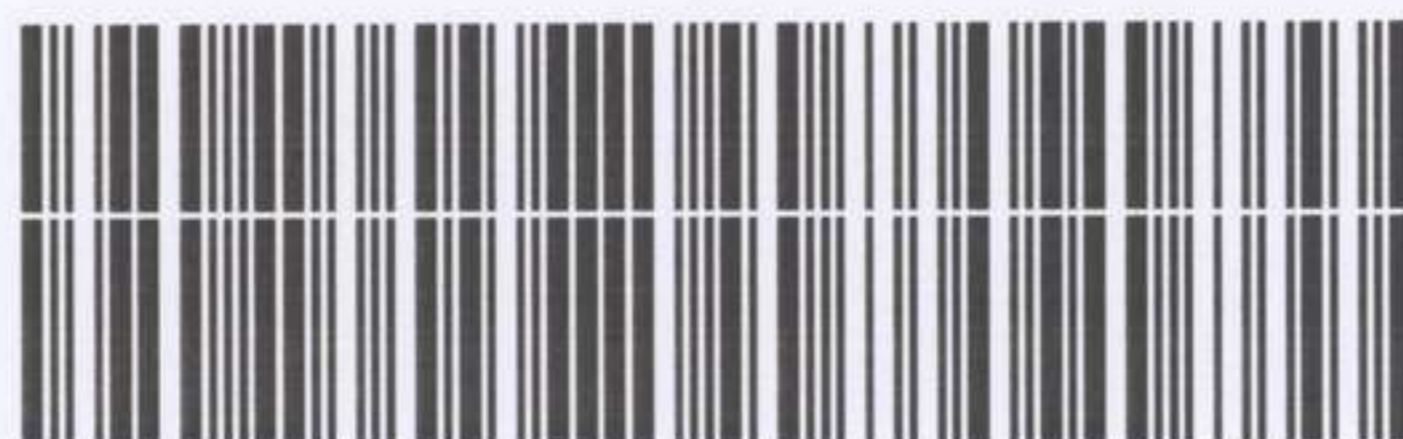
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/26/1

Title: New Zealand Mounted Field
Ambulance

March - July 1915



AWM4-35/26/1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

N.Z. Mtd Field Ambce.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | 1915 | | | |
| | Week ending March 6th | | Reported that Medical Equipment ordered from England has arrived. If so medical equipment of Unit quite good. During the week Unit supplied by D.A.D.M.S. with equipment to contend with the extreme shock of cho (?cholera) and for purifying water. Informed that the N.Z.E.F. will leave EGYPT very soon for the front. Unit still a very inefficient in the field on account of lack of equipment, the following being some of the most important items not yet received. Men's personal equipment. Mess tins and 32 water bottles never yet issued. Uniforms nearly worn out. Transport lessened in value very considerably on account of no harness for water carts. Difficult to understand why these two sets of harness cannot be procured. Wagons sometimes get broken and out of repair on trek. No spares of any kind issued issued the chief of which are poles 4, wheels 4, swingletrees 12, pins lynch 18. Transport very helpless without these. No horse blankets; no neck straps; no portable forge. | |
| | Week ending March 13th | 9th | Complete medical equipment arrived from England. Medical equipment very good except stretchers most of which are not service pattern and very clumsy having no traverses. Men returned from E.A.H. | |
| | March 10th | | For the first time since Aug 16th had total Unit out with wagons, and then only 9 wagons instead of 18. Unable to pack wagons because they are nearly being repaired or painted. No harness for water carts, consequently still unable to move them. Other deficiencies in connection with transport render unit very useless if asked to move. | |
| | March 13th | | Inspected by Col Manders acting A.D.M.S. and gave him list of deficiencies and showed him how men's uniforms are just only able to be worn. Have been given to understand that A.S.C. attached are no longer to be A.S.C. attached but are to be part of the Unit. This must cause a great deal of dissatisfaction and trouble. A.S.C. are to be armed. | |
| | March 15th | | Attended Mounted Bde Field Day with A Section. Left B Section in Camp to practice loading transport. Wrote to Brigadier asking for instruction in signalling for two men per section. Received no reply. | |
| | March 17th | | Kit inspection by A.D.M.S. showed men to have surplus underclothing which will have to be left behind. Asked A.D.M.S. whether A.S.C. could remain attached instead of becoming apart of the Unit. A.D.M.S. quite agreed that it would be the best arrangement. Good work done during the week including tent pitching and loading transport. | |
| | March 20th | | Troops inspected by and marched past High Commissioner for Egypt. Work of the week carried out according to programme submitted to A.D.M.S. After receiving many complaints approached A.D.M.S. with Col Begg re the incapability of the M.O. operating at E.A.H. and suggested that he be replaced by a N.Z. surgeon. A.D.M.S. did not consider it advisable to take senior N.Z. M.O'S from regiments or field ambulances but promised to go into the matter. | |
| | March 27th to 29th | | Unit inspected and by and marched past General Sir Ian Hamilton together with remainder of N.Z.&A Division. | |

4328

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

N.Z. MTD FIELD AMBULANCE

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date 1915 | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|----------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | March 31st | | Practice in collecting wounded with the Mounted Rifle Bde doind attack. Drill dismounted, 36 wounded per Regiment attended to. Men learnt importance of adjusting slings properly when carrying men long distances on stretchers. Work of the week in accordance with programme submitted to and approved by A.D.M.S. carried out satisfactorily. Kit inspection on April 3rd very satisfactory except that shortage in mess tins 127, and uniforms showed that the men are still not able to go on active service without being very considerably handicapped. Shortage in uniforms is trousers 99 pairs, breeches 86pairs, tunics 98. There are other important shortages in equipment, but the above are the most important. | |
| | Week ending Apl 10th | | Nothing of importance to note. Programme of work for the week, approved by the A.D.M.S. carried out satisfactorily. Weekly return of A.F.B. 213. to be sent to A.A.G. General Headquarters 3rd Echelon, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force Alexandria. | |
| | Week ending April 16th | | Took over the duties of the S.M.O.N.Z.E.F. and told off all Medical Officers and Dentists left at the Base to different duties. Weather of the week not very trying to troops on horses. Work of Unit satisfactory. Received notice to give up stretchers sent to me by D.A.D.M.S. who had evidently forgotten that they were intended for Alexandria. If I had to move to-morrow I would be 24 stretchers short. These I have requisitioned for ever since I have been in Egypt, and eventually got the first order to get them 8 days ago. | |
| | 17th to 24th 1st May | | Usual week's programme of work carried out satisfactorily. On May 1st under instructions from D.M.S. Egypt I took over charge of Australian Convalescent xxxx Camp Abbassia, and the A.S.C. and the Remount Depot adjoining. Capt Widdowson E.A. to sleep in the Camp. Sent 17 reinforcements to the N.Z.F.A. at the Dardanelles. Usual training carried out satisfactorily. | |
| | 7th 8th | | Received orders to take Unit to Alexandria with Mounted Brigade. Ready to entrain at 9 pm. Left Officers' horses behind, and 3 spare draught horses. Taking 3 light horses for transport, Sergeants and farrier Sergeant. | |
| | 9th | | Arrived at Alexandria at 5.30 am. Whole Unit with transport and equipment complete embarked on Troopship Kingstonian, B 15 and left port early next morning, Anchored off Point Ellis saxi night of Thursday 13th. May 14th anchored off Gaba Tepe midday. Ordered to tranship to Galeka next morning with medical equipment. Horses and wagons and transport personnel to return to Alexandri | |
| | 15th | | Order to tranship to Galeka cancelled. Sailed to Lemnos Island. Transhipped to Galeka later in the day. Left Capt Milne and batman on B 15 in charge of transport and Pte Griffiths sick | |
| | 17th | | Returned to Gaba Tepe in Galeka A.14. | |
| | 18th | | Arrived in Galeka at Imbros Island at 7 am. Unit doing fatigues. | |
| | 19th | | Arrived at Gaba Tepe 9.30 am. Captain Fairchild Dental Officer and batman went ashore. Unit assisted in attending wounded brought on board during morning, afternoon xxxx evening, and early morn of May 20th. Lieut Logan of A2M.R. Died on Board 4.45am shot through the head. | |

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

N.Z. MTD FIELD AMBCE.

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| Place | Date 1915 | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|--------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | May | | | |
| | 21st | | Sailed in evening for Imbros Island. Whole Unit still occupied in assisting Australian Light Horse Field Ambulance to treat the 547 wounded on board. | |
| | 24th | | Left troopship Galeka for shore, Mudros with complete medical equipment. Men carried equipment to place allotted to us close to shore by Col Jones. D.A.D.M.S. lent two bell tents and dixies to Australian No 1 Field Ambulance. Men bivouacked. Fatigue parties sent every day to Aust Stationary Hospital, and bathing parade every day. Paid the men. | |
| | 28th | | Received orders 8.30 am to have all medical equipment on lighter and men paraded on wharf at 2pm | |
| | 30th | | Order carried out leaving Camp very much cleaner than we found it. Were taken from wharf 3 hours later to mine sweeper F.S. 1. Left same night for Gaba Tepe. | |
| | 31st | | Arrived Gaba Tepe 2.30 am. Four hours later whole Unit and equipment taken to the landing stage on the beach. Reported arrival to A.D.M.S. N.Z. & A. Division, and to D.A.D.M.S. ANZAC. Neither of these expected us and sent us straight back to the mine sweeper F.S.1. At 10.30 am Admiralty signalled submarine sighted in neighbourhood. Weight anchor and kept moving in a circle until darkness set in. Nine torpedo destroyers steaming round ships in anchorage. Anchored until 3 am Bullets from shore occasionally hitting the ship in different parts. Nobody hit although ship full of wounded from shore. Was informed that orders to remain in closer to shore were to save Admiralty pinnace about 1/4 mile steam. Semmed an unnecessary risk to expose the already wounded to apart from my own Unit. | |
| | June | | | |
| | 1st | | Left Gaba Tepe 3 am, arrived Lemnos 8.45 am. Taken to shore 6.30 pm. Manhandled medical equipment back to original Camp. | |
| | 2nd | | Received orders 8 am to parade on Pier with total equipment and Unit at 12.45 am. Orders carried out. Taken 1/2 hour later to H.M.S. Ivernia an empty ship prepared to receive over 1600 wounded. Made slight alterations in ship and preparations to receive wounded. | |
| | 5th | | Took on board 1266 wounded, some very severe some slight, including 3 R.A.M.C. Lieuts attached to me for duty, and men did excellent work until late at night. Cannot speak too highly of assistance given by Captain and ships company. | |
| | 6th | | Whole Unit kept very busy all day with wounded, ship's company giving every assistance. Under instructions from D.D.M.S. LEMNOS I had paraded at the gangway 120 of the sick and slightly wounded at 2 pm as a lighter was to take them off at that time. At 5 pm I signalled to say that the men had not been taken off. The Captain under orders sailed at 7 pm for Malta. When under way a lighter approached for the wounded and sick but it was then too late to remove them as the Captain said he must obey his orders, which were to sail at 7 pm. As ship was not registered as a Hospital Ship no Red Cross flag was flown. Had we been submarined the majority of the 1266 could have done little to help themselves. Before the wounded came on board every man knew his exact position on | |

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| Place | Date 1915 | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
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| | June 6th | | <p>the ship and his special duty. Captain Simpson as Orderly Officer received great assistance from the Chief Steward, Mr Clitheroe, in organising the feeding of the wounded. All soon received food or drink of some sort, many as soon as they got on board, but as the 1266 came on board during the space of a few hours it was impossible to feed them all immediately. I cannot speak too highly of the voluntary assistance given untiringly by the ship's company from the Captain downwards and of the excellent work put in by my Officers and men at high pressure until all the wounded were landed at Malta by 3 pm on the day they arrived at Malta June 9th. I never heard a complaint of any kind. Three deaths occurred. The following points came under my notice as being of interest</p> <p>(1) I had a wooden cot made for lowering stretchers over the side of the vessel in the naval way of the thickest and heaviest timber available. The weight steadies the cot in its transit and prevents it swinging and bumping the side of the vessel, as I have seen lighter cots do. It was made big enough to take two stretchers, or one with two attendant orderlies if required, or four less seriously wounded in a sitting or lying position.</p> <p>(2) One man lost his arm through the abuse of the tourniquet in the field. Only one I am afraid of several during the war. The tourniquet was not required and had not been removed. There is a most unfortunate tendency amongst men learning "First Aid" to apply a tourniquet when there is no need of</p> <p>(3) Many wounds were bandaged much too tightly, and gave rise to a considerable amount of unnecessary pain. I think this is largely due to the fact that the First Field Dressing is applied with a roll of bandage in each hand which tends to a tighter pull being taken on the bandage than when one hand only is used. The septic condition which prevails amongst wounds caused swelling and gives pain by tightening the bandage, undoubtedly, but I refer particularly to wounds that were not septic and from which there was no possible fear of bleeding:</p> | |
| | 12th | | Still quartered in Garrison Artillery Barracks. | |
| | 14th | | Whole Unit employed unloading wounded. Captain Simpson the Officer in charge of the men was complimented on the way the men carried out their work. Lt Col Cumming A.D.M.S. spoke very highly of the men to me also. | |
| | 15th | | Made enquiries at Headquarters as to our returning to LEMNOS. Was informed that the Admiralty would send us to ALEXANDRIA when the opportunity occurred. | |
| | 16th | | Wrote asking if a Hospital Ship would be available for us for a short time as I felt we could do no work at ALEXANDRIA, or be landed at GABA TEPE for some considerable time. Six Nurses joined Garrison Artillery Mess Ricaroli Fort. | |
| | 18th | | One Officer and 30 men doing duty at Floriana Hospital. | |
| | 23rd | | Unit embarked with Maori Contingent and convalescent wounded details on transport Massilia E.O. 216. Very justifiable complaints during whole voyage from all troops of deficiency in quantity and quality of food. Reported to O.U. troops that sandwiches were being sold to troops during the voyage | |

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N.Z. MTD FIELD AMBCE.

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|-------|--------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | June 23rd | | when the issue of bread and meat was always short. Reported on voyage in writing to A.D.M.S. Base who came on board to make enquiries about rations and accommodation for troops. Reported arrival at ALEXANDRIA on June 26th to A.D.M.S. Base. | |
| | 27th | | Left wharf 7 pm anchored in harbour. Went ashore and left a note for A.Q.M.G. asking him to deal with Pte Andrews left behind. Pte Andrews was warned not to to leave the ship, and previously warned that if he committed any serious crime again I would take steps to have him returned to N.Z. as an undesirable. In my note asked A.Q.M.G. to take this action for me. Unit marched to Church. | |
| | 28th | | Left at 5.30 am for LEMNOS. | |
| July | 1st | | Arrived at LEMNOS. | |
| | 2nd | | Transferred with whole Unit, less three R.A.M.C. Lieyts attached to ALNWICK CASTLE, and told to prepare to take wounded. Was told that ship was empty but found 1500 troops on board. Could make no preparations. Satisfied myself that there is plenty of good food and blankets on board but no mattresses or equivalent for wounded to lie on. | |
| | 3rd | | Last of troops disembarked at 7 pm/. Had ship nearly ready to receive wounded before "Lights Out" | |
| | 4th | | Took on 348 wounded and sailed for ALEXANDRIA. Landed them on July 7th. Each case dressed every day and before landing at 10 am. | |
| | 9th | | Transferred to MINNEWASKA. Pte Andrews rejoined Unit having been sentenced to 21 days' detention in ALAXANDRIA for missing the boat. Sergeants' quarters on the boat very unsatisfactory. Arranged for Sergeants to be allowed to sleep on Officers' promenade deck. | |
| | 10th | | Left ALEXANDRIA. Arrived MUDROS July 12th and reported D.D.M.S. Aragon. | |
| | 13th | | Captain Milne and batman rejoined the Unit. | |
| | 14th | | Unit landed at LEMNOS and pitched Hospital tent and men bivouacked, dug latrines and grease trap for cooks. | |
| | 17th | | Camp fatigues and fatigues in connection with other camp well which had to be emptied. | |
| | 16th | | Whole Unit inoculated for Cholera. | |
| | 17th | | Route march with midday ration. | |
| | 19th | | No 15/115 Pte Johnson A.S.N. discharged from Hospital on LEMNOS reported to me. I retained him and attached him to the Unit. He used to belong to the Unit was transferred to Headquarters Staff and then to N.Z. Field Ambce at ANZAC. Capt Abbott supernumerary Medical Officer, and No 3/410 Pte Hawke A.R., and No 3/418 Pte Jenkins A.G. reinforcements also rejoined the Unit. | |
| | 23rd | | Whole of the Unit had second inoculation for Cholera. B Section Major Newton, Captain Hercus, Capt Simpson and 35 other ranks left without medical equipment for ANZAC. | |
| | 24th | Kj | Major Purches. returned to duty at ANZAC. | |
| | Week ending | | Usual duties in connection with the sick and fatigues and route marching. Prepared all boxes for easy transport by reducing them is size and having rope handles put on each. Ptes Hawkes | |
| | 31st | | Jenkins and Johnson went to ANZAC | |

Sgd C. Ernest Thomas Lt Col.

War Diary

B SECTION N.Z. MOUNTED FIELD AMBULANCE.
from July 23rd to July 31st 1915.

July 23rd

Following instructions received from the D.D.M.S. LEMNOS the personnel of this section embarked on the fleet sweeper HYTHE and proceeded to ANZAC COVE. The personnel consisted of 3 Officers and 35 other ranks.

Tent Subdivision.

Bearer Subdivision

3/112A Major Newton C.T.H.
3/113A Capt Hercus C.E.

Sergeants

3/115 A Beauchamp H.R.H.
3/117A Goodrich G.
3/116A Hegan L.
3/114A Warwood C.A.

Nurses 3/88A Golding H.L.
3/83A Davies R.M.

Privates

3/391 Couch G.B.
3/424 Millar G.L.
3/105A Smith J.G.

Packstorekeeper

3/110A Corp Cook J.E.
Clerk

3/107a Corp Allardyce A.R.

Cooks

3/111A Corp Bennett A.C.
3/101A Pte Green F.A.

Washerman

3/122A Cowan S.H.

3/445 Capt Simpson G.C.
3/91A Bugler Hartigan T.F.

3/108A Corp Cavill A.H.C.

3/109A Corp Freeme G.

3/160A Pte Flintoff R.W.

3/89A Pte Horwell W.W.

3/94A Pte Willis T.S.

3/434 Pte Oates W.L.

3/102A Pte Bennin A.E.

3/427 Pte McCutcheon H.

3/97A Pte Kirby P.

3/455 Pte Topham A.H.

3/98A Pte Wallace D.G.

3/96A Pte Macdonald J.

3/430 Pte Escourt W.H.

3/432 Pte McNab L.M.

3/466 Pte Nelson T.H.

3/95A Pte Williams W.A.

3/90A Pte Thompson W.G.

3/397 Pte Eaves J.B.

3/85A Pte Read C.H.

3/106A Pte Shrimpton H.R.

July 24th.

Reached ANZAC COVE at 1 am. and disembarked without incident. Joined the N.Z. Field Ambulance under Lt Col Begg at WALKER'S RIDGE.

July 27th

Since arrival the Unit has been engaged in the evacuation of wounded and general fatigues. To day 3/96A Pte Macdonald was sent to LEMNOS sick.

July 29th

Under orders from the A.D.M.S. a Hospital for diarrhoea patients capable of accommodating 40 cases was opened at WALKER'S RIDGE and the Tent Subdivision of the Unit was placed in charge of it. 26 patients were admitted.

July 31st

3 Privates arrived from LEMNOS and by order of the A.D.M.S. are attached to this Section until the arrival of Lt Col Thomas with Section A.

Total number in Hospital 37.

C.T. Hand Newton

Major N.Z.M.C.

O.C. B Section Mtd Field Ambce.