

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

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/26/21

Title: New Zealand Mounted Field
Ambulance

March 1917



AWM4-35/26/21

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Place	Date 1917	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HEIKH ZAWAD	March 3	0600.	Transport and Bearer Division of the NZ M.F.A. accompanied the NZ.M.R. on a reconnaissance of the country E and SE of KARM. ISN. MUSLEM. Returned to camp. 1900.	NZMR. Op. order NO. 14.
"	7	0615.	NZMR. Brigade carried out reconnaissance of KHAN YUNUS; no enemy encountered. Bearer and Transport Division accompanied the Brigade.	NZMR Op. order NO. 15.
ABU SHUNNAR	10.	1200.	The Ambulance moved with the Brigade to ABU SHUNNAR. Travelling along the beach the march was completed in 2 hours. Camp established.	NZMR Op. order NO. 17.
"	11.	0730.	Bearer and Transport Division accompanied the Brigade on a reconnaissance of the WADI EL GHUZZE.	Op. order NO. 18.
"	11	---	Capt. R. L. WITHERS. departed on duty to England.	
"	18	0100	Reconnaissance by Brigade, a portion of which travelled by the coast route to DEIR EL BELAH and endeavored unsuccessfully to envelop a Turkish patrol. The rest of the Brigade proceeded to a point 1/2 mile N of the second bn in Um EL KELAB, and were accompanied by the Bearer and Transport Division less a portion detailed to accompany the Beach party.	NZMR Op. order NO. 19.
"	20	---	Capt. J. OVEITCH. NZMC. posted to strength.	
"	25	0230	Left ABU SHUNNAR with Mobile Section less Tent Subdivision [i.e. Transport and Bearer Division] and accompanied the NZMR Brigade by coast route to DEIR EL BELAH which was reached at 0630. Brigade and Ambulance halted here for the day, save for a reconnoitering party which went on to the WADI GHUZZE.	
EL BELAH	26	0230	Bearer and Transport Division left with Brigade and marched to the WADI GHUZZE which was crossed without difficulty at 0630. The Brigade then pushed on to EL HUMRA via TEL EL	RAFA Map.

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On the march	1917 March 26		<p>AHHER, arriving at the former place, at 1030. Remained there till 1445, and then rapidly proceeded in direction of el HASRAH. For two or three miles the Brigade and Ambulance passed over open country within easy range of the Turkish Artillery but small advantage was taken by the enemy of their opportunity. Discriminating the Brigade was soon in action and the ambulance waggon were hidden under a bluff close to Bede. At 1445, one being sent with back regiment as it went into action. Very satisfactory communication was kept up with the RMO's by means of the ambulance messengers and casualties were collected within a few minutes of their reaching the Regimental Aid posts. The enemy being slowly driven back the wagon "path" was pushed up as near as possible, communications with messengers never being obtainable. When dark fell the fighting slackened and consisted mainly of desultory sniping. At about 1900 received order from Brigade to withdraw to a concentration point about 1 mile away but as several carts were still out, no order was given until these had returned or else acknowledgment received from RMO that the site of the concentration was known. The total casualties collected totalled 6 officers and 28 other ranks, several of which were serious cases. The transport accommodation was only just sufficient to transport the loads. Arriving at the concentration point, an endeavour was made to feed all the wounded and to dress the most urgent cases. A messenger message was sent to the ADMS asking when the wounded were to be cleared to.</p>	<p>Map SYRIA JERUSALEM 1-250,000.</p> <p>Verbal order G.O.C. NZM R B</p> <p>Verbal order ADMS.</p>

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GAZA. EL BELAH.	26 27	2250	<p>Received a verbal reply within 20 minutes that the whole Decers Column was retiring to EL BELAH and that cars were to be transported there. All wounded having been collected, the Ambulance left for Belah with the NZHR Lks and after a rough journey arrived there at 0730. Wounded were evacuated to the 1st WELSH. FIELD. AMBULANCE. 1 ambulance had to be abandoned during the return journey.</p> <p><u>Movements of Tank Division of Mobile Section</u></p>	Map Syria JERUSALEM
BELAH HILLSID	26 27	0230	<p>Moved off with the Camel Convoy and moved to WADI GHUZZE at 0930. Remained there till 1230. Then moved towards GAZA to BEIT HANON, with enemy in close proximity on the flanks. Ordered by DADMS to retire to Hill 310 which was reached at 0100. Arrived there at 0600 and then returned to EL BELAH in 2 trucks approaching the WADI.</p>	
BELAH.	29 27 30		<p>Received 9 Hqs NZHFA. 29/3/17. Camels to be placed on previous force for Ambulance work.</p> <p>Capt R.C. BREWSTER attached to Canterbury MM Rifle in RHO vice Capt MONSEN transferred with 27.3.17.</p> <p>Capt O.J. Reid taken for strength of MFA.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices											
ELAH	March 1917		<p>Summary of cases treated by N 2. Mtd Field Ambulance during March.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Removed</td> <td>6</td> <td rowspan="5">} These figures include 6 officers + 26 other ranks wounded.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admitted</td> <td>118</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Discharged</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Evacuated</td> <td>92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Remaining</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table> <p><u>Water Supply</u>. Throughout the recent operations the greatest care was taken by the Ambulance to ensure that the water supply for the Brigade was carefully chlorinated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"> <i>C. Sanderson</i> Lt Col. N 2 MFA. </p>	Removed	6	} These figures include 6 officers + 26 other ranks wounded.	Admitted	118	Discharged	30	Evacuated	92	Remaining	2	
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