

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

New Zealand Units

**Item number:** 35/26/30

**Title:** New Zealand Mounted Field  
Ambulance

December 1917



AWM4-35/26/30



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

N.Z.MTD FIELD AMBULANCE

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place                                     | Date          | Hour | Summary of Events and Information   | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---|---------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
|   | December 1917 |      |   |                                      |
|   | 1st to 31st   |      | The N.Z.M.R. Brigade did not take part in any important operations, so that the work of the Ambulance was chiefly the routine care of the sick. The sick rate of the Brigade has been fairly high and so also the percentage of evacuations as 1 in the first place reserve space had to be kept in case of casualties, 11 in the latter part of the month owing to limited <del>xxxx</del> accommodation and severity of climatic conditions only the very lightest cases could be held. The prevailing diseases were- Enteritis, Tonsillitis, Pyrexia cases and septic sores. |                                      |
| JAFFA                                     | 1st           |      | Lt/Col C.T.H. NEWTON departed for EGYPT to await embarkation for FRANCE. Major A.M. TROTTER temporarily in command. Evacuations to Anzac Receiving Station by motor ambulances. Road beyond YASVR under shell fire, and traffic held up for a few hours. M.F.A. still in building of Jewish College in JAFFA (Suburb of TEL ABIB)   |                                      |
|   | 4th           |      | Brigade relieved. I.C.C. Brigade in line YEHUDIEH to point 165 (Ref Palestine) 1"= 1 Mile Sheet X111. Tent subdivision remained in School buildings. Bearer and transport division accompanied the Brigade and established near IBN IBRAK. Evacuations by motor ambulance at SELMEH, and thence to tent subdivision. The only practicable road is via SELMEH owing to winding and branching of NSHR EL BARIDEH. One light ambulance arrived from BELAH to replace one sand cart. Found to be of very heavy draught of the soft ground.  |                                      |
|   | 6th           |      | Cold and rainy. Tent sent out to Bearer and Transport Division, to shelter cases pending evacuation to tent subdivision.  |                                      |
|   | 7th           |      | Very cold and wet. Bearer and transport division in a sea of mud, and road impossible for motor transport. Sick from the trenches with temperatures of 96' Fah, frequently going up to 104' and 105' after being put into dry blankets, no cases of pneumonia however. 22 cases were taken over from detachment of 2nd L.H.F.A. in adjacent building.   |                                      |
|   | 9th           |      | Still cold and rainy.   |                                      |
|   | 10th          |      | Brigade relieved after dusk and marched (less one Regt) to bivouac area in KHURBET SURAFEND. Bearer and transport division rejoined the tent subdivision in JAFFA leaving 2 sand carts with each Regt. Patients remaining (23) handed over to 2nd Lowland F.A.  |                                      |
| KHURBET SURAFEND                          | 11th          | 0900 | Marched out of JAFFA and joined the Brigade at KHURBET SURAFEND. arriving about 1300. One light ambulance waggon drawn from 1st L.H.F.A. at AYUN KARA. Immobile Section rejoined from Anzac Receiving Station at RAMLEH. Equipment chiefly medical stores, comforts and tents. No medical equipment, so that Section not available to act independently,  |                                      |
| Signed Major M. TROTTER<br>C.O.N.Z.M.F.A. |               |      |   |                                      |



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|------------------------------|--------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| KHURBET<br>SURAFEND<br>ESDUD | December     | 1917 |  |                                      |
|                              | 13th         | 1000 | Moved with the Brigade (less two Regts) to bivouac area on edge of sand dunes South of WADI SUKEREIR. One Regt at JAFFA and one at BEIT DEJAN, attached to 52nd Divn and 54th Divn respectively, two sand carts with each. Near ESDUD & Road very soft after recent rains, and going very heavy for limbers, G.S.waggon and light ambulance waggon. Horses had to be borrowed to get the G.S.waggon through, they being fairly heavily loaded. |                                      |
|                              | 14th         |      | Three sand carts left for BEER SINEID to be handed in, two light ambulances to be drawn in place of them. Evacuations to Yeomanry Divisional Receiving Station at JULIS  |                                      |
|                              | 14th to 19th |      | Immobile Section (B Subdivision) being brought up to Mobile establishment with medical, surgical, and dispensary panniers and reserve dressings, medical comforts. Non-essential material sent back to dump, at BELAH, while cook's gear and necessary medical and surgical equipment was brought up. A and B tent subdivisions then put on weekly roster of duty.   |                                      |
|                              | 22nd         |      | 2 more light ambulances received from 2nd L.H.F.A. in exchange for two sand carts. This now leaves 6 sand carts and 6 light ambulance waggon with the transport. Rainy spell on again. Road to JULIS was impossible for motor ambulances.  |                                      |
|                              | 25th         |      | Christmas day. Cold, windy and rainy.  |                                      |
|                              | 26th         |      | Weather clearing again. 2 G.S.waggon sent off to BELAH to bring up E.P.tents and tent linings etc, for hospital use. Single lined tents do not keep the rain out.  |                                      |
|                              | 28th         |      | Motor ambulances sent to workshop at JUNCTION STATION for inspection and probable replacement.   |                                      |
|                              | 30th         |      | Disinfection of Brigade by Disinfection Train at ESDUD railway Station.  |                                      |
|                              | 31st         |      | B tent subdivision moved to near ESDUD village and established Anzac Receiving Station. Evacuations to MEJDIL by motor ambulance and empty trains.   |                                      |

Signed A.M.Trotter Major  
C.O.N.Z.M.F.A.