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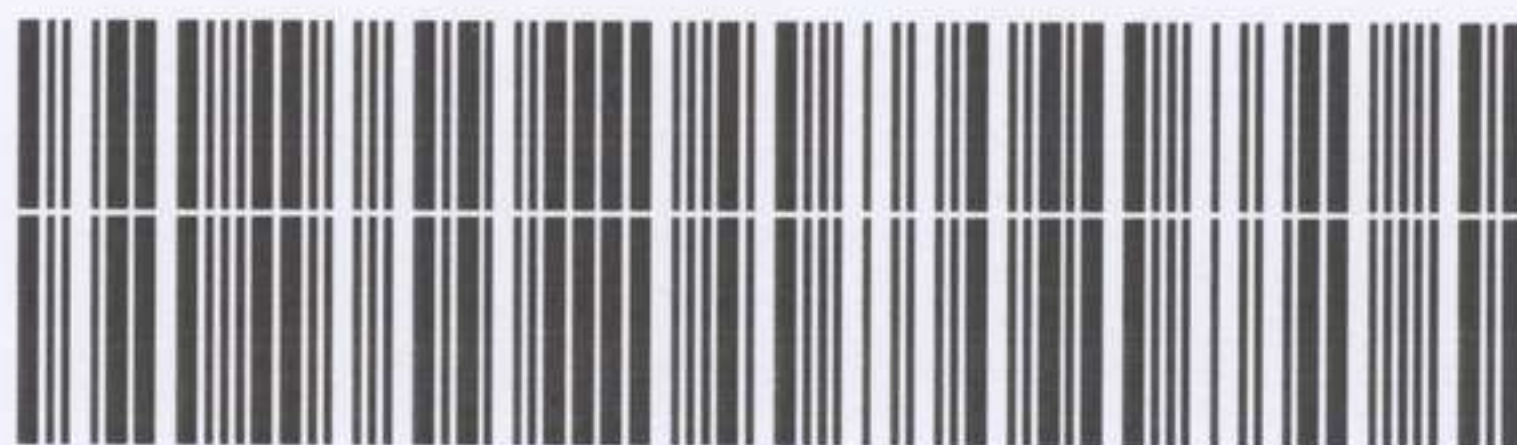
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

New Zealand Units

Item number: 35/26/34

Title: New Zealand Mounted Field
Ambulance

April 1918



AWM4-35/26/34

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

New Zealand Mtd. Field Ambulance.
 Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence (Mobile Section)
 Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.
 and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
 will be prepared in manuscript.

or for APRIL.1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Sheet. 1.

 (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	April 1918.			
AIN ES SIR	1	Dawn	Ambulance with N.Z.M..R Bde retired down the WADI SIR. As soon as last patrol had got through the village AIN ES SIR fire was opened out from the rear, apparently by band of Circassians and Turkish Soldiers. Casualties 8 Wounded and 8 Killed or missing. 3/1160 Pte Edwards E.E.H. N.Z.M.F.A. attached for duty with Regiment W.M.R. as Rearguard. was wounded in Abdomen (Penetrating)	Map Ref AMMAN.
	2	0700	Brigade marched out to SHUNET NIMRIN about 2400 and bivouacked for night. Brigade marched out and crossed the River Jordan bivouacking on Western side of JORDAN VALLEY near WADY KELT about one mile from JERICHO.	Map Ref. PALESTINE Sheet. <u>XVQ11</u>
JERICHO.	3		Day spent in getting camp in order, pitching tents Etc. Weather Hot.	
"	4		Routine of Camp Hospital established and slight cases treated therein.	
"	5-9		Routine work. Weather very hot. Flies troublesome.	
"	10 to 15th.		Board of Enquiry held by order of the A.D.M.S. A & N.Z. Mtd. Division to enquire into the loss of medical equipment during the recent operations. Board consisted of Major A.M. Trotter, Capt. H.M. Hay, and R.C. Brewster M.C.	
"	16		Capt. Young W.H. left for 27th. General Hospital Cairo.	
"	17		Routine work as usual. Weather very hot.	
"	18		Ambulance marched out with N.Z.M.R. Bde and crossed the River JORDAN at GHORANIYEH and took up position inside Bridgehead near WADI NIMRIN.	
GHORANIYEH.	19		Sent out one Motor Ambulance and one sand cart to be stationed near Brigade Headquarters about 1/2 Mile behind Canterbury M.A. Hqrs.	

New Zealand Mtd. Field Ambulance.

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Sheet. 2.

WAR DIARY for April 1918.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JERICHO.	19	20.30	Marched out across R. JORDAN back to bivouac area in WADY KELT.	
	20		Routine as Usual Major Trotter A.M. rejoined from Anzac Receiving Station	
	21	1000	Church Parade Routine Weather very Hot.	
	22		Routine .	
	23		Unit left Bivouac area and be -camped on a site on foothills W. of JERICHO about $\frac{3}{4}$ Mile S of ROMAN ROAD (Sh. XV111 113 K 27 c)	
113	24			
K 27 c	25		Routine Weather cooler Flies less troublesome.	
n. XV111.	26			
	28		routine as Usual. Preparations for coming Operations.	
	29		Capt. Boyd J.R. evacuated Sick.	
	30	0030	Unit marched out with N.Z.M.R. Bde for Operations E of JORDAN	
		0400	Crossed R. JORDAN and took up position under protection of cliffs near river.	
		0900	Ambulance moved on to position 127 R 17 a Central (Es Salt map) Capt. Hay sent ahead about 1 mile ahead in rear of Brigade H.Q.	
		1930	Returned to Site near river and bivouacked for the night.	

R.H. Walton, Lt. Colonel.

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or for APRIL. 1918.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<u>APRIL.</u>		<u>NARRATIVE OF WORK OF AMBULANCE DURING APRIL 1918.</u>	
	3rd. to 18th.		<p>During the period April 3 -18th. after the AMMAN operation the unit was stationed about 1 Mile S.E. of JERICHO, and carried out the usual routine work of a stationary Camp - A small Hospital was established and mild cases treated here.</p> <p>The most prevalent complaint dealt with was Diarrhoea- A good deal of this was apparently due to the contamination of food by flies. A few cases presented clinical symptoms of Dysentery- Pyrexia was the cause of a good many evacuations.</p>	
	18th. to 20th.		<p>During the period 19-20 April the N.Z.M.R. Brigade was engaged in minor operations in the shape of a demonstration against the Turkish Forces stationed near SHUNET NIMRIN, and suffered no casualties. This unit took up a position in the rear near No.3 Road and did not move therefrom.</p>	
	20th. to 29th.		<p>Routine was carried out. A good many cases of Diarrhoea and Pyrexia were evacuated.</p>	
	30th.		<p>Unit moved out across RIVER JORDAN for operations against ES SALT.</p> <p><u>SANITATION. Latrines</u> The trench system was used during the earlier part of the month, as units had not brought forward their bucket and pails.</p> <p><u>FLIES.</u> became troublesome and were breeding freely in the shallow latrine trenches. After the 20rd. when the Brigade moved out to the foothills Sh.XVIII 113 K 27 C flies were not nearly so plentiful- Units also got forward their sanitary material and native personnel.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

N. Z. MTD. FIELD AMBULANCE.

or for APRIL. 1918.

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(Mobile section.)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADY SIR	1st.		Wounded Admitted (Retiring from AMMAN) 1 Officer 7 Other Ranks.	
	3rd.		do (Aeroplane Bombing 8 Other Ranks (A.M.R.))	
JERICHO PLAIN	30th.		do C.M.R. 11 O/R : A.M.R. 4 O/R.	
			Total Sick. Admissions during month 208	
			Prevailing diseases.	
			Enteritis 54	
			Pyrexia (NYD) 27	
			Pleurisy 10	
			Dentally Unfit 10	

R.H. Walton, Lt Colonel.
O.C. N.Z.M.F.A.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

B Section B.Z.W.F.A.

Acting as Anzac Receiving Station.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHUNET NIMRIN	1/4/18		The Anzac Receiving Station remained at SHUNET NIMRIN on April 1st. and on April 2nd.	

Narrative of work of New Zealand Mounted Field Ambulance during Operations in neighbourhood of AMMAN, 24 th. March to 2nd. April 1918.

The New Zealand Mounted Brigade, prior to crossing the JORDAN River rendezvoised at KASR HAJLA (Monastery) about midnight 23/3/18 (Ref. Map Palestine Sheet.) XV0000 113. No. 10 a 5. 2.)

The New Zealand Mtd. Field Ambulance consisted of following personnel:-

Officers	5	(Including 1 Dental.)	Transport.	
Other Ranks (Amb)	38		Horses	67
A.S.C.	26		Mules	7
Signallers	4		Donkeys	20
Natives (with Camels)	70		Camels	79 including
				20 Sitting Cacolet
				14 Lying

Vehicles. (Transport)

6 Lt. Ambulances
4 Sand Carts.

Before rendezvoising 6 L. Ambulances 6 with Personnel & Horses reported to D.A.D.M.S. $\frac{1}{4}$ Mile West of JERICHO.

Medical Stores and Equipment carried.

No. 1 F.S. Pannier.

Tents.) One Operating & 5 Bell

No. 1 F.M. Pannier

Nos. 3, 4, 5 G.S. Pannier.

Orderly Room Tables and Mallet.

Extra Dressing Box

Reserve " "

Extras 1 Case Biscuits

80 Blankets

Stove, 14 Dixies, Tea & Sugar.

1 " Milk

1 " Chicken.

1 Medical Comfort Pannier.

3 Tins of Kerosene. 1 Tin S.V.M.

Water Test Box. Shell Dressings,

Flag Pole, Pegs, Splints, Carbide, Sandbags. Spade, Axe, Candles.

8 stretchers 18 Fantasies for Water.

At 0400. 24/3/18 Ambulance crossed River JORDAN at MAKHADET HAJLA Pontoon Bridge, going as far as the neighbourhood of TELEIL MUSLIM (Sh. AMMAN, 1:

63.360. 127. R 20) staying there a few hours. N.Z.M.R. Bde then concentrated assisted to take the line. EL HAUD - TEL EL MUSTA near SHUNET NUMRIN, in conjunction with 60th. Division. N.Z.M.R. Bde then concentrated at SHUNET

NIMRIN moved up No. 4 Road to neighbourhood of AIN EL JERIA and Bivouacked for the night. The night was a very wet one. Next morning the route was found im-

practicable for Sandcarts, which were sent back to report to

rest of Transport. The 25 th. was spent in Treking up No. 4

Road to AIN ES SIR.

The Brigade bivouacked for the night 1 Mile East of AIN ES SIR
During the day the Camel transport had the utmost difficulty in negotiating portions of the track and had to bivouac for the night some miles from AIN ES SIR It arrived at Brigade 26/3/18.

27/3/18 Bearer Divisions of N.Z.M.F.A. marched out to a point 142 Y 15 a (Near Wadi AMMAN) and there established a post. On the way thither the Brigade was shelled by a Light Gun. No casualties. Weather better but going in some places very heavy.

Tent Subdivision which had been left at AIN ES SIR came forward and we were directed to establish near Divisional Headquarters. at Y 2 C Capt. Hay, BOYD, and RYAN being sent back to join them. Wounded admitted during the day. 11: Sick, 7.

28/3/18. Weather Cold and Wet. N.Z.M.R. Bde attacking. Most of slightly wounded came out on their horses. Wounded admitted 12 : Sick, 1.

29/3/18. Operations continued. Wounded (N.Z.) 7 Sick, 2.

30/3/18. At 0200 the N.Z.M.R. Bde made an attack on Hill 3039 S.E. of AMMAN, taking a portion of the position. They were subject to Heavy Shelling during the 30th, and sustained a good many casualties. In anticipation of the attack an ample supply of Gaclets had been got up to N.Z.M.F.A. Bearer Post at Y 15 A and these were able till midday to cope with Casualties. After this however the supply fell off and the casualties began to accumulate in R.A.P. on Right Sector. Eventually most of these had to be brought out on Horses. When Camels became available they were in most cases too late as all cases had been evacuated from the forward area by about 2300.

31/3/18. N.Z.M.F.A. returned from its forward position at 0100 and joined up with Tent Sub Division near AIN ES SIR All wounded from Dressing Station here were clear before dawn. Bearer and Tent Sub Division then rejoined N.Z.M.R. Bde. near AIN ES SIR Ambulance remained in this bivouac till midnight. Weather cold and showery. Equipment and Camels and Tent Sub Section left at 1400 for SHUNET NIMRIN down No.4 Road. Wounded passed through during the day. 2.

1/4/18. Just after dawn N.Z.M.R. Bde. with Ambulance commenced retirement down WADI SIR through AIN ES SIR. As soon as the last patrol had got through the village, fire was opened from the rear on the Brigade apparently by a band of Turkish soldiers and Circassians. The Casualties were 8 Wounded and 8 (?) Killed. Brigade bivouacked near SHUNET NIMRIN

2/4/18. N.Z.M.R. Bde. marched out at 0700 and crossed River JORDAN bivouacing on Western Side of Jordan Valley.

Page 3.

Notes on Different points in connection with the work of the New Zealand Mounted Field Ambulance during above operations:-

1. Personnel & Manner in which conveyed. Personnel consisted of 5 Officers and 38 Other Ranks (Medical Corps) and 1 Farrier (A.S.C.) during the Actual Operations - 4 Signallers were attached previously and accompanied the bearers during the operations.

Officers, bearer sub divisions, signallers, and Farrier were Mounted on Horses. Tent Sub division were mounted on Donkeys.

2. Equipment was conveyed on Camels. This on the whole was satisfactory except that on rough roads in wet weather frequent falls resulted in damage to Equipment. The Equipment was on the whole sufficient - We were a little short of Wool but fortunately a supply of tow had been obtained at TALAT ED DUMM and this proved most useful. None of the equipment taken was superfluous.

3. The chief difficulty encountered during the advance was the delay on arrival of tent subdivision and equipment. The Tent Sub was mounted on Donkeys and kept with the Camels which carried the equipment. Thus during the wet weather we were out of touch with them.

4. Bearer at WADI AMMAN. One bearer each with D.H.Q. and B.H.Q. to act as messenger. Bearers acted as escort to wounded sent back to Dressing Station from Bearer Post. Bearers acted as guides to Camels going forward to Brigade.

Tent Sub Division at Dressing Station at Y 2 C with all equipment Guides to Divisional Collecting Station at BKT UMM AMUD were supplied by Camel Ambulance.

5. One bearer at B.H.Q. Telephone and Signal communication with B.H.Q. and thence on to Regimental M.O.'s.

6. Mounted bearers went out with Camels to Regiments and back with patients to our dressing station. There was no advantage in stationing bearers with R.M.O.'s as these were away in front of B.H.Q. which kept us informed of regimental movements, long before a message could have been brought by mounted orderlies from the bearers who in addition could not be spared for the purpose.

7. Means of evacuation of Wounded.

(1) Firing line to R.A.P. Walking cases walked. Lying cases were brought in on a stretcher.

(2) R.A.P. to Dressing Stations. Lying cases in lying cacalets sitting cases in many instances rode on Horseback right through and others came into bearer post at WADI AMMAN and were there transferred to sitting cacalets. The very light and slightly wounded in some cases walked through to dressing station at AIN ES SIR. Just before withdrawal some lying cases were brought part of the way on stretchers.

(3) Dressing Station to Divl. Collecting Station. By Cacalet and in the last stages by horse and donkey. A few cases (Slight) walked along other cases carried on horseback. Distance of R.A.P.'s from firing line. C.M.R. as first about 1000 yards on 30th. March M.O. came 800 yards from firing line Location on Map Y 11 6. 0- 5.

(4) A.M.R. 26/3/18 - 29/3/18. R.A.P. was at 142 H 4 6 9 9 (Amman) On 30/3/18 it was at 142 Y 29 6 in the Waddi. When the firing line was ultimately fixed the distance between this and the R.A.P. was 900. Country rough & under Machine Gun Fire and shell fire.

W.M.R. No R.A.P. was established at first. Map ref. of R.A.P. on 30/3/18 was 142 Y 20 6 7 8 (Map Amman) Distance between R.A.P. and firing line 1500 yards to 1700 yds. Country rough and stony and exposed to fire.

8. Shelter at R.A.P.'s in some cases none. All the R.A.P.'s eventually were established in caves. Patients were kept warm by blankets and great coats left behind by fighting troops. Hot drinks given in some cases. Food practically nil.

Dressing Stations. Tents and bivouacs were used for shelters All patients got a hot drink and food. The supply of Blankets was sufficient though some of these were wet.

Shock. This was combatted by morphia and warmth at R.A.P.'s The nature of treatment was that usual at R.A.P.'s

8. Contd. Shock. Wounded were dressed Splints applied were necessary and haemorrhage controlled where possible.

At Dressing Stations. Morphine, warmth and hot drinks. Hot water bottles and in some cases the mens water bottles filled with hot water were used to apply warmth to patients. The application of Thomas splints was found to be very beneficial in fractures of the femur.

9. R.A.P.'s. After the chief attack first patient arrived at 0300 at A.M.R. and at 0400 at C.M.R.
At 0800 the R.A.P.'s of W.M.R. and A.M.R. became congested
At 1600 the number awaiting evacuation was 20.

At Dressing Station. Time of arrival of first patient-1830.
27/3/18 Largest number remaining in at one time - 100.
Period of Congestion. 1600 March 30.-0200 March 31st.
Time of commencement of evacuation 0100 March 28th.
" " Completion " " 0230 March 31st.

10. General Condition of Patients while in R.A.P.'s.

In the severer cases there was obviously such that the sooner some of them had operative treatment the better chance they had. The less severe cases and walking cases were comfortable.

Dressing Station. On the whole the patients were comfortable
The severer cases were in need of operative interference. Most of the cases felt the effect of camel carriage especially the abdominal and chest cases. The effect of the carriage of severely wounded on horses was to restart haemorrhage and to minimise their chance of recovery.

11. At R.A.P.'s and Dressing Station I consider that the Equipment was on the whole adequate for the requirements. At the Dressing Station Wool was a little short and arm splints were all used up. Splints were improvised however.

12. Distribution of Camels Transport for the various stages. At first all the Camels were with Bearer sections at Wadi AMMAN. up to the morning of the 30/3/18 these proved adequate. On 29/3/18 all Lying Cacalets were sent to dressing station. On 30/3/18 all sitting Cacalets were sent to Dressing Station On 29/3/18 and 30/3/18 a Cacalet Camel was kept continually at A.M.R. R.A.P. On the night of the 29th. and 30th. March, 4 Lying Cacalets were sent out before midnight to be stationed at B.H.Q. N.Z.M.R.Bde., 4 more after midnight On the morning of the 30th March Camels made the journey from R.A.P.'s to Dressing Station at Y 2 C and then on to Divl. Coll. Station.

13. Withdrawal. N.Z.M.F.A. advanced post withdrew with Brigade at 0100 31/3/18 The Tent SubDivision withdrew at dawn the same morning. The Casualties sustained on the retirement down the Wadi ES SIR on the 1/4/18 were handed over to the 2/6 London Field Ambulance 127 V 11 C our Cacalet Camels having gone on previously.

R.H. Walton,
Lieut. Colnel.
N.Z.M.C.

O.C.
N.Z.M.F.A.

10/4/18.