

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

Supplies & Transport

**Item number:** 25/20/3 Part 2

**Title:** Headquarters, Australian Mounted  
Divisional Train

August 1917 Duplicate



AWM4-25/20/3PART2



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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Australian Mounted Div's Train.</u></p> <p><u>Formation.</u>                      sanction having been given by the War Office for the formation of a Mounted Divisional Train. This was taken in hand at Australian &amp; New Zealand Training Depot at Moascar.                      Authority for formation W/O. 36572 cipher S.D.2 d/a 22-6-17.</p> <p><u>Designation</u> Australian Mounted Divisional Train.</p> <p><u>Officer Commanding.</u> Major H. A. Maunders of Anzac Divl A.I.C. was appointed O/C to date from 1. 8. 17 &amp; proceeded to Moascar Training Camp in connection with formation.                      The Train when complete will consist of a Headquarters and four companies. (See append No 1.                      The white personnel being obtained from various Australian Units in Egypt - viz Light Horse Regiments C.I.C. Camel Battalion &amp; A.I.C.</p>	



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<u>Animals</u>			<p>A considerable number being old A.I.C. men who were transferred to various Units on disbanding of Brigade Train with Light Horse Brigades in Egypt.</p> <p>Advice being received that teams of <del>four</del> four light mules were being provided, it was pointed out from past experience that four light mules would be totally inadequate to draw a fair load on roads such as are existing in Southern Palestine &amp; a request was made for five mule teams and extra wagons for supplies, or extra wagons with four mules to each wagon - the five mule team being preferred.</p> <p>22.8.17. Major H. H. Maunders returned to camp from Moascar.</p> <p>23.8.17. The No 1 Coy arrived at Khan Yunus at 0430. unloaded and proceeded to allotted area at Abasan El Kebir at 1030, watering on the way at Divisional Water Troughs at KAZAR.</p> <p>24.8.17. No 2 Coy arrived at 0530 unloaded &amp; proceeded to Abasan El Kebir, watering enroute at Divisional Troughs at KAZAR. The Syllabus of Training having met with approval of G.O.C. of Division and A.D.C. Desert Mtd Corps, was immediately published and put into action.</p>	<p>See app. NO II Jan</p>



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			In compiling Syllabus of Training due regard was given to the fact that the time allowed to complete training viz; 5 Sept was very short.	
27. 8.	17		Youbashi Ibrahim Effendi Saleh of the Egyptian Army reported for duty (Interpreter)	
28. 8.	17		Captain. H. Thomson A.H.M.C. reported for duty as Medical Officer.	
29. 8.	17		<u>Inspection.</u> An inspection of both Companies under the OC. Major H. I. Maunders was made by G.O.C. Division who expressed himself as being pleased with the general condition of shules, harness and wagons & the efficiency of the train as a whole on such a short time after formation. It was however regretted that long reins were not available for this parade - the native driver except in a very few cases is a very poor horseman and is inclined to pull the animal about and the results obtained are not the same riding position as driving from the box in a train of this kind.	

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<u>General.</u>			<p>Memorandum marked III was received from Col Elliot A. D. S. I. Desert Column under whom many of the personnel of the Divisional Train have served.</p> <p>The following are the names of officers on the Headquarters of Australian Mounted Divisional Train.</p> <p>O.C. Major. H. A. Saunders  G.O. Captain. F. P. Howel. Price  Adjutant 2 Lieut J. Whitty  M.C. Captain G. H. Thompson. (A.I.M.C.)  V.O. Captain R. A. Hardie (A.I.V.C.)  Interpreter Yatabashi Ibrahim Effendi Saleh.</p> <p>The G.O. Adjutant reported for duty with C/O at the beginning of the month.</p>	

Jan



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			<p>Mentioned in Despatches Despatch of C. in C. in Egypt up to 28.2.17 which included operations culminating in the occupation of El Arish &amp; the battles of Maghdaba &amp; Rafa. Major H. F. Maund. Lt Major R. F. Gibson (A.I.F. List 200. dated 6.7.17)</p> <p>H. Alexander Major of Aus <sup>1st</sup> Div. Trans</p>	



Appendix I  
 Mounted Rifle Troop  
 1917

	British Empire					Australia					Total		
	Off. Ser.	Privates	Private Sergeants	Artillery	Other	Officers	Private Sergeants	Private	Artillery	Other	Privates	Private Sergeants	Private
Transport Detach.	2												
Headquarters	2	*			2						3		
Headquarters Coy	2	1	4	8	51	66	2	6	48	60	9	26	
10 23 & 4 Cos (E9CH). Total	2	1	4	8	44	50	2	6	46	58	7	26	
Supply Detach.	1										2		
Headquarters	2		2		9	13					2		
Headquarters Coy Nos 2, 3 & 4 Cos (E9CH) Total	2		2		9	13					2		
Attached Headquarters	1				4	3	1			1	2	1	3
Total Train excluding att'd	19	4	24	32	219	277	8	16	24	154	49	54	7
Total Mounted including att'd	20	4	24	32	223	280	8	16	24	155	51	55	7

(a) 1 A.C.C. + 3 men attached to the transport train.

*John*



To. oc. bay  
 Australian Civil Train

It is essential that the animals of this Train are fit for work by the 5 Lt & bay Commanders & Transport officers will bear in my mind that this is the primary consideration for the present.

With this object in view the following system of Training will be adapted forthwith:-

1. Reveille at 0500.
2. Wagons to move off at 0600; half an hour will be spent in wagon drill (A.L.C. Training Part 1 Chap 5. Lect 54-69) & the boys will then trek until 0730. All of the boys & Transport Officers to be on this parade.
3. From 0900 until 1000 bay Commanders will supervise instruction in care and fitting of harness and Saddlery & on alternate days foot-drill & rifle exercise.  
 During this hour saddlers will look over the harness, wheelers the vehicles & forriers will attend to the animals. These artificers will report to Transport Officers, all correct or otherwise at 1000, & this officer will ensure that everything which requires attention is done forthwith.
4. At 1030, watering parade which must always be in charge of an officer.
5. On each Monday, Wednesday, & Friday & Sunday wagons will trek leaving camp at 1200 with a nosebag full and one meal on the man, returning

J. A. M.



to camp at 1630. Opportunity will be taken during this trek to point out landmarks and generally to teach the men the country, <sup>over</sup> which they will be working.

6. Watering Parade Next S.

7. On each Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday nights Ofc boys will lecture the N.C.Os on:

Discipline & Military Law

Map reading

Night Operations

Military Hygiene.

& other subjects which they consider necessary & generally will endeavour to fit N.C.Os for a higher position.

During the morning parade (i.e. between 0600 & 0730, and 0900 & 1000) on each Sunday & Wednesday all drivers will be put on to thoroughly cleaning & dubbing the harness and saddlery & attending to the vehicles. In this connection it is absolutely essential that the harness is kept in a serviceable & clean condition & that wheels & the undercarriage of the wagons are thoroughly greased. Ofc boys will be held personally responsible that this is carried out & they should give the matter their earnest attention.

During the time the wagons are out, strict attention will be paid by all officers & N.C.Os. to march discipline & it should be impressed upon the men that saluting punctiliously is one of the outward signs of a well disciplined boy and they should be taught the correct method of saluting from wagons.

Discipline will at all times be



## APPENDIX II

maintained on the march and in camp and where it is necessary on the part of a Co. Train to point out such things as loose gear lying around, untidiness, slackness in sanitary arrangements, that orders are not carried out etc, it is a sure sign that discipline in the Coy is lax.

The Co. looks to Coy Commanders particularly & to all officers generally to see that these orders are carried out & it is the duty of Coy Commanders when in doubt, to refer to this office where every assistance will be given.

25. 8. 17

Sgd H J Mander Major  
ofc Aus Div's Train  
Ham



The Supply Situation generally during  
the month was very good - The following  
Remarks in connection with the force  
troops issued are made:



11

The supply of ~~forage~~ during the month was good with the following exceptions.

Lubben. Scarce and at times unobtainable, but larger supplies expected shortly

Indian Hay. Very plentiful during early part of month but complaints were received that it was valueless as fodder, the animals trampling it underfoot, and not eating it.

Canadian Hay. During latter part of August this was issued in lieu of some Lubben and Sherapaille. Good quality ~~and~~ animals ate it but not up to the standard of Dice's a good supply of which was kept up.

Sherapaille and straw } Both very scarce, and only obtainable in small quantities every third or fourth day.

Constant communication kept up with A.D.S. I. repressure the shortage of forage, as complaints were numerous from units, that the horses were falling away for want of a larger bulk ration.

Fresh Veg's. Very scarce, and onions had to be taken on occasion in lieu. ~~was~~ Marrows and pumpkins the main issue, the former being very poor quality.



11A

Heads

Passed through a very bad stage after reaching the keeps in a very mouldy condition. This being reported to the A.D.S. 7. Desert news corps he stated that it was due to some bad flour, and a few days after the quality improved.

Best trouble is experienced owing to the broken state of bread received, caused through the constant handling.

A.D.S. 7 has been written to asking if anything can be done to alleviate the trouble.

Frequent Weak } In most cases arrived in a very good condition, but that from South Africa was found hard to keep in a good state and had to be cooked immediately on issue otherwise it went putrid within a few hours after removal from the refrigerating trucks.

Two days Special Emergency Ration was issued to the Division to be held for use on lengthy operations.



13th August, 1917.

My dear STANSFIELD and BEAUMONT,

As you are aware, I am about to leave you for duty elsewhere, but I feel that I must say these few words of au revoir before going.

The Imperial L. of C. Supply Personnel, the A.S.C. personnel of the old A.&N.Z. Mounted Division, and myself, have now been <sup>thrown</sup> together for many months, and we can flatter ourselves that all round good-will, attention to work, and efficient harmony have largely contributed towards the success of the old Desert Column. I think in years to come we shall look back with pride and affection to our trek across the desert. We have been a potent example of the unity of the British Commonwealth. We have all come together from various sources, and with various ideas, and by our common aim and purpose we welded the Army Service Corps of the old Desert Column into a harmonious whole, and I have to thank you two as the principal agents in so doing, and wish you also to convey my thanks to such fellows as:-

MAUNDER  
LOVERIDGE  
WILLIAMSON  
MUCKLOW  
DUNNINGHAM  
SMART  
SCOTT  
FLACK.

I am really sorry to sever my direct association with the old Desert Column.

Sincerely Yours.

(Sgd) W.C. Elliott.