

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/20/6

Title: Headquarters, Australian Mounted
Divisional Train

December 1917



AWM4-25/20/6

War Diary
December 1914.

- DEC 1917

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.)

E15/1

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|--------------------------------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Dec | 1 st | | Continuing advance of troops - Train moved up from KHIRBET. DEIRAN for RAMLEH which place was reached at 1400 & bivouac made close to Supply Depot for night. | |
| | 2 nd | | The ground allotted for Train was found to be in a very unsanitary condition and in the opinion of the M.O. was not a good spot from health point of view. At 0115 enemy machines flew over camp site and dropped bombs - visits were paid by enemy machines at frequent intervals during the full moon from 0115 to 0415. No damage was done, although enemy resorted to machine gunning from a low altitude. | |
| | 3 rd / 4 th | | Train moved to new camp site, in olive grove one mile west of RAMLEH - The spot was an ideal one affording protection from weather to both men and animals. During this period train delivered supplies daily to Division in the RAMLEH area. | |

DEC 1917

To.

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(A8004) Wt. W1771/M2 31 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

E15/2

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|--|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Dec | 10 th | | Train was moved to new camp site near D. HQ at SURAFEND. This place was found to be distinctly inferior to last camping place, - being on low swampy ground & being further from refilling point. | |
| | 13 th | | Headquarters Train was bombed to-day - an enemy machine dropping two bombs - fortunately with no damage. | |
| | 15 th | | Train moved out with Supplies for Division to EKRON where a bivouac was made near that village. | |
| | 18 th | | The S.S.O. was detached to Div's Headquarters in connection with Supply work of the Division. Train moved to new camp site near village of KATRAH. Nos 37 & 38 boys camped near their respective Brigades at YEBNA. | |
| | 20 th / 21 st | | Rain fell on both these days - the black soil making very heavy going & hard work for animals. | |
| | 22 nd | | G.O.C. Desert Mounted Corps inspected No 36 Coy at YEBNA. | |
| | 23 rd | | G.O.C. Desert Mtd Corps inspected No 36 Coy at KATRAH. | J.V. |

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

E 15/3

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|-------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | 24/31 | | <p>Supplies were now being drawn from new Railhead at ESPUD. This place although only eight miles distant was taking all day for the journey - on account of the heavy black soil - which was very sticky after the heavy rains which fell during past week.</p> <p>Train was assisted most of this period on alternate days by camel Transport. This was very necessary owing to the very heavy roads, & to the condition of the animals, which was not very good, mainly, owing to the fact, that insufficient solid food was not supplied, & to the state of the roads which are practically impassable in certain areas.</p> <p>Animals are beginning to feel the strain of the heavy work of the past two months & are greatly in need of a spell.</p> | |

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- DEC 1917

J.

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

E 15/4

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|--|---|
| | | | <p>During the period under review 23 wagons with animals & drivers were detached to LATRUN, for the purpose of supplying troops in the front line. Rations were carried daily, to near the firing in the JUDEAN HILLS by these vehicles - as the roads were very steep & rough & animals had been shod for soft ground only, this told very heavily on them but on no occasion was an injury to the troops incurred. The hills were steep & consequently the necessity of good brake blocks & spares was quickly realized.</p> | |
| | | | | <p>Whitty Brett to O/C Austrian Train</p> |

DEC 1917

WAR DIARY

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(Erase heading not required.)

E/5/1

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|--------------------------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dec | 1 st | | Continuing advance of troops - Train moved up from KHIRBET. DELRAN for RAMLEH which place was reached at 1400 & bivouac made close to Supply Depot for night. | |
| | 2 nd | | The ground allotted for Train was found to be in a very unsuitable condition and the opinion of the M.O. was that a good spot for headquarters was not a good spot for headquarters. | |
| | 2 nd | | At 0115 enemy machines flew over camp site and dropped bombs & rockets were fired by enemy machines at frequent intervals during the first moon from 0115 to 0415. No damage was done, although enemy resorted to machine gunning from a low altitude. | |
| | 3 rd / 4 th | | Train moved to new camp site in olive grove one mile west of RAMLEH - The spot was an ideal one affording protection from weather to both men and animals. | |
| | 3 rd / 4 th | | During this period train delivered supplies daily to Division in the RAMLEH area. | |

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(A5004) WL W3771/M2 31 730,000 5/17 Sch 52 Form C.2118/14

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WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

E15/2

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Dun | 10 th | | Train was moved to new camp site near D. HQ at SURAFEND. This place was found to be distinctly inferior to last camping place - being in low swampy ground, & being further from preferable point. | |
| | 13 th | | Headquarters Train was bombed to-day - an enemy machine dropping two bombs - fortunately with no damage. | |
| | 15 th | | Train moved out with supplies to Division to EKRON where a bivouac was made near that village. | |
| | 18 th | | The S.S.O. was detached to Div's Headquarters in connection with supply work of the Division. Train moved to new camp site near village of KATRAH. | |
| | 20/21 | | No 37 & 38 Coys emptied near their respective Brigades at YEBNH. | |
| | 22 nd | | Rains fell on both these days - the black soil making very heavy going & hard work for animals. | |
| | 22 nd | | G.O.C. Dunt Mounted Coys inspected No 37 Coy at YEBNH. | |
| | 23 rd | | G.O.C. Dunt Mounted Coys inspected No 36 Coy at KATRAH. | |

- DEC 1917

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(A304) Wk. W4221/M2 34 230,000 3/17 Sch. 52 Form C2118/1

J.S.

WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

E 15/3

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|-------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <p>Supplies were now being drawn from new Railhead at ESPUD. This place although only eight miles distant was taking all day for the journey - on account of the heavy black soil - which was very sticky after the heavy rains which fell during past week.</p> <p>Train was assisted most of this period on alternate days by beam Transport. This was very necessary owing to the very heavy roads, & to the condition of the animals, which was not very good mainly owing to the fact that insufficient solid food was not supplied & to the state of the roads which are practically impassable in certain areas.</p> <p>Animals are beginning to feel the strain of the heavy work of the past two months & are greatly in need of a spec.</p> | |
| | 24/31 | | | |

DEC 1917

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2113.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

E 15/4

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | | <p>During the period under review 23 wagons with animals & drivers were detached to LAT RVN for the purpose of supplying troops in the front line. Rations were carried daily to near the firing line in the SUDEAN HILLS by these vehicles as the roads were very steep & rough & animals had been used for soft ground only. There were very heavy losses but on no occasion was an issue to the troops missed. The hills were steep & consequently the necessity of food trolleys blocks & spades was quickly realized.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">To hit by 1st to O/C Australia Train</p> | |

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WAR DIARY

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Loc. 1 | | | <p>Continuing advance of troops. Train moved up from Kh Deivan for Ramleh which place was reached at 1400, a bivouac made close to supply depot for night.</p> <p>The ground allotted for train was found to be a very unsanitary condition and in the opinion of M.O. was not a good spot from health point of view.</p> | |
| 2 | | | <p>At 0115 enemy machines flew over camp site and dropped bombs. visits were paid by the enemy machines at frequent intervals during the full moon from 0115 to 0415. No damage was done although enemy resorted to machine gunning from a low altitude.</p> <p>Train moved to new camp site, in Olive groves one mile west of Ramleh. The spot was an ideal one, affording protection from weather, to both men and animals.</p> | |
| 3/14 | | | <p>During this period, train delivered supplies daily to division in Ramleh area.</p> | |
| 10 | | | <p>Train was moved to new camp site near B.A.Q. at Surafend. This place was found to be distinctly inferior to last camping place being further from refilling point.</p> | |
| 13 | | | <p>Hqrs. train was bombed to day. An enemy machine dropping two bombs, fortunately with no damage.</p> | |
| 15 | | | <p>Train moved out with supplies for division to Ebron where a bivouac was made near that village.</p> | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-------|-------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Lecc. | 18 | | The S. S. O. was detached to Lecc. Hdqrs. in connection with supply work of the Division. Train moved to new camp site near village of Katrah. Nos 37 and 38 boys camped near their respective Brigades at Yebnah. | |
| | 20/21 | | Rain fell on both these days, the black soil making very heavy going and hard work for animals. | |
| | 22 | | G. O. L. Desert Mounted Corps inspected No 37 boy at Yebnah. | |
| | 23 | | G. O. L. Desert Mounted Corps inspected No 36 boy at Katrah. | |
| | 24/31 | | Supplies were now being drawn from new Railhead at Isdud. This place although only eight miles distant, was taking all day for the journey ^{journey} on account of the heavy black soil, which was very sticky after the heavy rains which fell during the past week. | |
| | 24/31 | | Train was assisted most of this period on alternate days by camel transport. This was very necessary owing to the very heavy roads and to the condition of the animals, which was not very good, mainly, owing to the fact that insufficient solid food was not supplied, and to the state of the roads, which are practically impassable in certain areas. | |
| | 24/31 | | Animals are beginning to feel the strain of the heavy work of the past two months, and are greatly in need of a spell. | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|-----------|--------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Continued | 24/31. | | <p>During the period under review, 23 Wagons with animals and drivers, were detached to Latsum for the purpose of supplying troops in the front line.</p> <p>Rations were carried daily, to near the firing line in the Judean hills, by these vehicles, as the roads were very steep and rough, and animals had been shod for soft ground, only this told very heavily on them, but on no occasion was an issue to troops missed. The hills were steep, and consequently the necessity of good brakeblocks, and spars was quickly realized.</p> | |
| | | | <p>(sgm) J. Whitty Lt + Adj. for O/C. Asst. Lt. Div. Train.</p> | |