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1914-18 War

Provost

Item number: 3/8/12

Title: Egyptian Section, Australian Provost
Corps

July 1917



AWM4-3/8/12



CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~Duplicate.~~
~~Triplicate.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

JULY 1917. 191

(VOLUME 12.)

Signature of Officer compiling

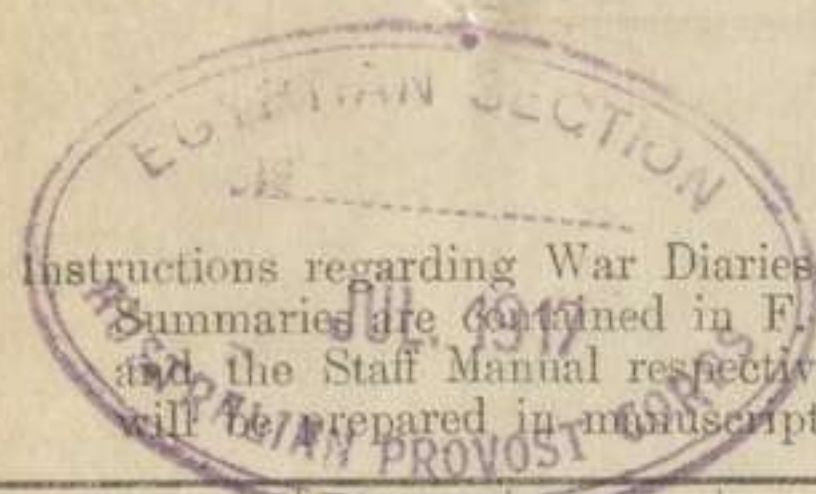
J. A. Fisher Lt Col
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. A. Fisher Lt Col
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

JUL 1917





WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

Volume 12.

Confidential.~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Page 1.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original

Place

Date

Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Cairo. July 1917. Duties in Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments as usual.

3-7-17. The C.O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps wrote to the A.P.M., D.&W.F., asking that a similar procedure be adopted with Imperial troops who are arrested by the police in Cairo whilst on leave as ~~is~~ carried out with members of the A.I.F.&N.Z.E.F., namely, that an officer be appointed to deal with these cases in Cairo, in order to obviate the necessity of police making long journeys to give evidence, when they cannot be spared from their duties in Cairo.

8-7-17. As a result of an occurrence at the Cafe Bosphore, Midan Bab-al-Hadid, The C.O. rendered a report to A.P.M., D.&W.F., recommending that the place be placed Out of Bounds to Troops. On entering the Cafe at about 1815 the previous evening the C.O. found that about 40 patients in hospital clothing were there who had obviously been served with drink, although all glasses had been upset on his approach. There was other evidence in abundance that the place was being managed in a dirty and undesirable manner, and it was subsequently placed Out of Bounds as recommended.

14-7-18. The usual escort of 1 Officer, 4 N.C.Os. and 20 other ranks was supplied at Cairo station on the occasion of entraining of invalids returning to Australia.

17-7-17. The following Establishment for the New Zealand Section of the Anzac Provost Corps in Egypt has been approved:-

| | Staff Sgts. | Sgts. | Cpls. | L/Cpls. | Total. |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| N.Z.M.R. Bgde. | 1. | 1. | 2. | 5. | 9. |
| N.Z.M.R. Base. | - | 1. | 1. | 8. | 10. |
| X Totals. | 1. | 2. | 3. | 13. | 19. |

18-7-18. The Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments were inspected by Major General Sir H.G. Chauvel, K.C.M.G. C.B., General Officer Administering A.I.F. in Egypt. He expressed great satisfaction at the turn-out of the men and the state of efficiency of the Corps generally.

21-7-17. Request was made to A.A.G. A.I.F. in Egypt that 50% of the Eastforce Detachment be granted the

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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.

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Page 2.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|------------|----------|------|---|---|
| Cairo. | 21-7-17. | | rank of Temporary Corporal, as is the case on Divisional and Brigade Headquarters. This was not approved, however. | JKB |
| | 28-7-17. | | The C.O. rendered a further report to the A.P.M. D.&W.F. re the National Hotel, to the effect that the management has now improved considerably. There are now only a very few officers staying there, and the G.O.C. A.I.F. in Egypt wishes it to be placed Out of Bounds to Officers. This was subsequently carried into effect. | JKB |
| Port Said. | 2 | | 10 Other Ranks have been transferred to Port Said. Of these, 1 N.C.O. and 6 men have been detailed for duty at Port Said Rest Camp, and the rest make up the strength of the Detachment under the A.P.M. Port Said. The duties of the Rest Camp Detachment are practically those of camp police, but they work in co-operation with the town Detachment and report any unusual occurrences to the A.P.M. | JKB |
| Gairo. | 30-7-17. | | Reference Appendix I. to volume 7 of this Diary, the following appeared in Section Order No 348 of 30-7-17.: "In all cases when A.I.F. and N.Z. Details on leave from Eastern Force are crimed in Cairo and placed under 'Open Arrest', they will be warned to appear at A.I.F. HQTRS the following morning at 1000. Charge sheets will be at A.I.F. Headquarters by 0930 daily." During the month a correspondence has been carried on between Headquarters Anzac provost Corps in England, Headquarters A.I.F. Depots in U.K., and Headquarters A.I.F. in Egypt with reference to the reduction of the Establishment of the Egyptian Section, Anzac Provost Corps. Copies of this correspondence are attached as Appendix I. to this Volume. Report on Moascar Detachment, Appendix II. Report on Anzac Mtd Division, Appendix III. Report on Mastforce Detachment, Appendix IV. | JKB - JUL 1917 App.I. App.II. App.III. App.IV. E 35/1 |



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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| | July 1917. | | Distribution State of Corps as at 8-7-17. <u>Appendix V.</u> | App.V. |
| | | | Summary of Arrests and Charges by Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments. <u>Appendix VI.</u> | App.VI. |
| | | | Cases against members of the Corps for the Month:- F.G.C.Ms. . . . 2. | <i>JP</i> |
| | | | Awards by CO? and Os.C. Detachments. 8. | |
| Heliopolis. | | | The O.C. He, liopolis Detachment reports that things have been very quiet in his area and that nothing of importance has occurred. He notices a great improvement in the behaviour of the Troops since c ertain bars have been placed "Out of Bounds". | |
| <p>-----</p> <p>=====</p> <p><i>J. H. Biddle Lt Col</i></p> <p>C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt</p> | | | | |

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Original

of war diary of egyptian section*australian provost corps.

July

APPENDIX I. TO VOLUME 12 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

JULY 1917.

Copies of correspondence regarding reduction of Establishment of EGYPTIAN SECTION of the Corps.

1. From A.I.F. Headquarters, 1st Anzac Corps. to Headquarters Anzac Mounted Division.

A.A.G., A.I.F. 21/113.

23 May 1917.

With reference to your Routine Order No 3. of 25th January 1917, containing Establishment of Anzac Provost Corps (Egyptian Section.)

This matter was referred to the C.O. Anzac Provost Corps, a copy of whose remarks are attached.

I would be glad to have for the information of the G.O.C. A.I.F. your remarks and proposals for the reduction of the Establishment, on a relative basis, to the Establishment of the Anzac Provost Corps with Divisions in France and Depots in the United Kingdom.

A/14/6.

Signed, H.D.Wynter, Major. for Lieut Col.

A.A.G.....A.I.F.

2. From C.O. Anzac Provost Corps, to Headquarters, A.I.F. Depots in the United Kingdom.

Tidworth Salisbury Plain,

6th May 1917.

Re Establishment Anzac Provost Corps, (Egyptian Section).

In the absence of some detail it would seem to me that the establishment of the Egyptian Section, Anzac Provost Corps, is altogether out of proportion.

From the table attached showing the dispositions of the Military Police, it would appear that:-

(1) HEADQUARTERS. The A.P.M. has an officer assistant. This is not so either in France or England, with the A.I.F.... either with Corps or with Headquarters of a Division (excepting perhaps, where an officer is temporarily attached as a learner). The number of Other Ranks is also 4 in excess of that laid down for an Army Corps Headquarters

(2) HELIOPOLIS. This Detachment comprises one officer and 50 Other Ranks. During the time the 2nd Australian Division was located at Heliopolis, 18 Military Police worked this town, satisfactorily with the assistance of an evening picquet.

(3) AUSTRALIAN & N.Z. & BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS. This is shown as having one officer and 40 O.Rs., or 14 in excess of War Establishments for a complete Division.

(4) MOASCAR. I understand this is now a Light Horse Training Depot only, and the police Establishment is almost equal to the Establishment for two Divisions.

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Original of war diary of Egyptian section, Australian Provost Corps.
APPENDIX I. TO VOLUME 12 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION, AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

PAGE 2.

(5). PORT SAID. During the whole time the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions were quartered in Egypt it was never found necessary to station police permanently at Port Said, nor was it so when the Australian and N.Z. Army Corps were in Egypt, after the evacuation of Gallipoli Peninsular. I personally visited Port Said several times and did not consider it necessary to station police there.

(6). CAIRO. Two officers and 100 other ranks are shown. This is nearly double the number of the London Detachment where our arrests on an average, total 250 per week.

(7). GENERAL. For France, for two Army Corps Headquarters and 5 Divisions our total police personnel is 146 as against 252 asked for in Egypt, while in the U.K., where we have probably between 50,000 and 70,000 troops scattered over a large area and in addition have to supervise the discipline of men on leave from France etc., our police total is only about 320.

The Egyptian Section shows 169 horses which appears to me to provide 3 animals for each mounted officer, while in France only two are allowed, and in this country only one. The statement as a footnote on the provisional establishment with reference to 50% of the ranks on Divisional and Brigade Headquarters being given the temporary rank of Corporal, is, I think, bad and unnecessary, and tremendously in excess of the practice of the Anzac Provost Corps in this country or in France.

Having regard for the limited number of ~~troops~~ Australian troops in Egypt, it seems to me that the Establishment for the Egyptian Section should not exceed 50 mounted men and 50 foot, or a total of 100. Up to 75 Troopers with 10% of N.C.Os. of the Detachment might be used with advantage as reinforcements in England and France if it is found that their services are no longer required in Egypt.

Sgd, J. WILLIAMS LIEUT COL?
A.P.M.....A.I.F. in U.K. and C.O. Anzac Provost Corps.

3. From D.A.A.G Anzac Mounted Division. to C.O. Egyptian Section ~~XXXX~~ Anzac ~~XXXXX~~ Provost Corps.

Forwarded for your information and your remarks in detail on each para, please.

59/86 of 15/6/17.

Sgd W.T. FARR Major,
D.A.A.G. Anzac Mtd Division.

4. From C.O. Egyptian Section Anzac Provost Corps, to Headquarters Anzac Mtd Division.

With reference to the attached letter from A.P.M.....A.I.F. in United Kingdom,

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4.

PARA 1. The Headquarters referred to in the establishment, is the Headquarters of the Mounted Section, and they might be at any place, either Cairo, Moascar or with Eastern Force, as the case may be.

The personnel of the Headquarters consists of the R.S.M., S.Q.M.S., Farrier Sergeant, and 6 troopers, (including batmen and grooms.) The R.S.M., R.Q.M.S., and Farrier Sergeant in a mounted Section such as this, are not definitely at any one place, and as it was not possible to show them so in the Provisional Establishment, they were shown at Headquarters of the Mounted ~~XXXXXX~~ Section, which is above the strength of a Light Horse Squadron at present.

The officer shewn in the Provisional Establishment as at Headquarters, Anzac Mounted Division, is the officer who was with the Field Troop mentioned in Para 2 hereof, and who was attached with his troop to various Brigades from time to time, and could not be shewn at any definite place, but is now on Eastern Force Headquarters.

The A.P.M. has no officer assistant, but when called away from the Division from time to time his place is temporarily taken.

I think a perusal of WAR ESTABLISHMENTS PART VII, GENERAL, 1916., will shew that even though the Headquarters referred to had been Army Corps, the Establishment is not 4 in excess, as apparently batmen and grooms have been overlooked.

PARA 2. The Detachment does not now consist of 1 officer and 50 O.Rs., nor has it ever been up to that strength for the past nine months, as on 24/9/16 1 officer and 30 other ranks were sent to the Anzac Mounted Division to form a Corps Field Troop, which duty they performed for over 7 months, on the instruction of the G.O.C....A.I.F. in Egypt. They were withdrawn from the Field on 13-4-17 and were taken on to Headquarters East Force for Mounted Police work, and have been performing that duty ever since. There are now only 23 of the Mounted Section and 7 of the dismounted Section at Heliopolis, the latter having been sent from Kasrel Nil to reinforce the Detachment as was found necessary.

Since we have had the Heliopolis Detachment we have never had the assistance of an evening picquet, which, in the period referred to in attached letter ante, sometimes, to 300 other ranks.

I would also point out that under the present Cairo Defence Scheme, the Heliopolis Detachment is disposed of, and allotted certain duties in connection with the Prisoners of War Camp and town of Heliopolis and district.

PARA 3. The Anzac Mounted Division Headquarters shows 1 officer (the A.P.M. of the Division) and 40 Other Ranks viz:- 10 other Ranks on Divisional Headquarters and 10 other ranks on each Brigade Headquarters, at the present time being, 1st L.H.Bgde, 2nd L.H.Bgde and N.Z.M.R. Bgde.

This is the Establishment as laid down on Pages 21 and 29 of WAR ESTABLISHMENTS PART VII, GENERAL, 1916. which is simply a reprint of the establishment that has always stood for a cavalry or Light Horse Division. They are certainly 14 in excess of an Infantry Division, whose establishment is only 1 officer and 25 O.Rs. vide Pages 24 and 25 of the aforementioned book.

PARA 4. I would point out that I have at present the Anzac Field Punishment Compound, properly established, with

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cells and all the necessary paraphernalia for carrying on a Prison in the Field, as laid down.

I would like to mention that the establishment at present of my Moascar Detachment is not one officer and 30 other ranks, but is simply 1 officer and 39 other ranks disposed as follows:- 1 St/ Sgt and 9 other ranks being the Compound Staff, and the remaining 29 other ranks being used for police work in the Training Centre and the town of Ismailia; which latter town at present has a large number of Australian and N.Z. Troops (the Camel Corps) on the outskirts, resting at Ferry Post.

The Anzac Field Punishment Compound at Moascar, has been frequently visited by the Provost Marshal who has expressed himself as extremely gratified at the good work being done there, and advised all A.P.Ms. to make a visit there to see how efficiently the place is being run as a Compound. Until the Anzac Compound was started Field Punishment was not carried out in any way satisfactorily, but since my recommendation, that an Anzac Compound be established, has been carried into effect, it is now carried out on the lines laid down for prisons in the Field.

When the Moascar Detachment was taken over by me, it consisted of one officer and 50 other ranks and that number was found necessary at the time. The Training Centre has not been reduced in its personnel since, but we are arranging and carrying out the work with one officer and 39 other ranks for the Training Centre and Ismailia.

PARA 5. During the time that the 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions were in Egypt, it was never found necessary to station Anzac Provost Corps at Port Said, as at that time none of the A.I.F. proceeded there on leave, but when the Training Centre was transferred to Moascar, and the Anzac Mounted Division formed up, and operated in the Sinai Peninsula, a large percentage of other ranks proceeded to Port Said on leave and they still do so, and the Imperial authorities requested that 10 other ranks be sent to strengthen the Imperial police at Port Said. This was done, but at the present time I have only 6 other ranks at Port Said. I personally visit Port Said frequently, and I consider that until Australian and New Zealand Details discontinue going to Port Said on leave, it would be inadvisable to withdraw the 6 other ranks I have there at present.

PARA 6. The Cairo Detachment has not been up to strength since the Headquarters of the Corps proceeded overseas on the 3-8-16.

The fact is overlooked, I think, that in Egypt no assistance can be looked for, ~~xxx~~ as in London, from the Civil Police.

The Cairo Detachment is at present strength 2 officers and 80 other ranks made up of 66 other ranks Dismounted Section, and 14 other ranks Mounted Section.

The Mounted men are those who have been evacuated to hospital from the Anzac Mounted Division, and discharged here, others taking their places in the Division and Palestine Lines of Communication from Cairo.

I have at present only 66 dismounted men here and quite a large number of duties are provided other than actual police work, viz:- three Guards, 1. Telephone Depot, 2. Sack Depot. 3 Headquarters Garage; and also provide conducting parties to Moascar for all A.I.F. and N.Z. patients returning from hospital. This was found necessary, as patients sent down without escorts, frequently alighted from the train en route and absented them

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selves for considerable periods, but this has now ceased. The Training Centre were not able to provide the escorts as it interfered with the training. Escorts have also to be provided for prisoners returning to their Units in the Anzac and Imperial Mounted Divisions, where it is not practicable to obtain escorts from.

PARA 7. I would point out that we do not confine ourselves to Anzac Details, but that we work in conjunction with the Imperial Police, and it is and was impressed on me by the G.O.C....D.&W.F. that this was the case.

The Cairo Detachment was lent to the General Officer Commanding D.&W.F., who considered it necessary to have them.

With reference to the horses

The Establishment asked for was 169, but I have never been up to strength, and at present I have ~~xxxxxxx~~ only 122 animals, located as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Heliopolis | 22. |
| Moascar. | 12. |
| Anzac Mtd Div. | 34. |
| Imperial " | 20. |
| Eastforce. | 23. |
| P.L.of C. | 10. |
| Kasr el Nil. | 1. |
| Total. | 122. |

With reference to 50% Temporary Ranks.

It has always been granted Divisional Headquarters and Light Horse Brigades. The G.O.C. AIF in Egypt, approved of this when the Divisional Police were taken on the strength of the Anzac Provost Corps on the 21st November 1916.

I do not consider it bad or unnecessary, as it is an incentive for men to do their best, and further - more, if they are carrying out the duties of a N.C.O., they should be entitled to draw the extra pay of rank as a mounted N.C.O.

It can hardly be said that we have a limited number of troops in Egypt, as at present the figures stand at approximately 18,000 A.I.F. and N.Z.E.F. Details all told, apart from the immense number of Imperial troops in Egypt.

The establishment of 50 Mounted and 50 Dismounted men suggested for Egypt is out of the question, and unthinkable in my opinion, and work could never be carried out under these conditions.

GENERAL. From a general perusal of the letter attached, it appears that certain facts have been overlooked, notably that the present increased strength of the Egyptian Section is due to A.I.F. Order No 264, a reference to which is contained in A.I.F. in Egypt Order No 2. Dated 24-11-16., which reads:-

"With reference to A.I.F. Order No 264, all N2C2 Os. and men borne on the Establishment of Military

"Mounted Police of Brigades and attached to Divisional Headquarters and Training Depots and Camps, will be transferred to Anzac Provost Police Corps, with their present rank whilst so employed. New Zealand personnel will not be transferred, but will be attached for duty. All Commanding Officers concerned will arrange for the necessary transfer documents to be prepared and forwarded to the O.C. Anzac Provost Police Corps, Australian Headquarters Cairo."

The personnel left behind when the Headquarters of the Corps proceeded overseas, is considerably reduced as will be seen from my report, and of them I now have only 2 officers and 80 other ranks, Cairo, and one officer and 30 other ranks at Heliopolis.

I attach herewith a Distribution return, whereon it will be seen that a large number of duties are being carried out, of which they are apparently in ignorance at Home.

I provided one officer and 21 other ranks for the Eastern Force Headquarters, and am still being called upon for men, but am at present unable to provide them.

The Palestine L.O.F.C. take from me 14 other ranks, and I am also unable to supply all they require there.

These details were asked for by the Commander in Chief through the Provost Marshal, E.E.F., and if the Establishment of the Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments were to be reduced, I feel sure that the personnel thus freed from these Detachments would be required elsewhere, in Eastern Force Area.

Signed A.F.JORDAN Capt,
 C.O., EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

5. From A.A.G. A.I.F. in Egypt, to Headquarters Anzac Mounted Division.

9/12 of 6-7-17.

With reference to your 59/86 dated 2-7-17, attached herewith is copy of letter to Australian Headquarters London on the subject.

With reference to the remarks of the C.O. Egyptian Section Anzac Provost Corps, the G.O.C.... A.I.F. in Egypt would like to see this officer when he visits your Headquarters again.

He desires information on the following points:-

- (a). What the actual duties of the Heliopolis and Cairo detachments are at present.
- (b). Why members of this Corps are employed conducting patients from Hospital to Moascar, which is surely a duty which should be performed by N.C.Os. from Moascar.
- (c). What he means by his statement that the Cairo Detachment was "lent" to the G.O.C. Delta and Western Force.
- (d). Why it is necessary to have three other ranks at Romani.
- (e). The necessity for such a large establishment of horses.

Sd. F.E. NEWTON, Major,
 A/A.A.G. A.I.F. IN EGYPT.

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6th. 1917 From C.O. Egyptian Section Australian Provost Corps. to A.A.G. A.I.F. in Egypt.

18-7-17.

With reference to your 9/12 dated 6-7-17. wherein you require further information on a few points.

(a). The actual duties of the Cairo and Heliopolis Detachment consist of policing the two districts, as an auxiliary force in conjunction with the Military Mounted Police under the A.P.M. Delta and Western Force Area. The Detachments are also required to provide Guard on the Telephone exchange, A.S.C. Depot, and Headquarters Garage; armed with revolvers, and patrolling around the places concerned. This was a duty that was detailed for the police to do, by, I understand, G.H.Q., as there were not other Units available for the duty. An equal number of similar duties are performed by the Imperial Mounted Police, so that it is not imposed upon me only.

(b). This was necessitated owing to patients jumping the train en route to Moascar when not conducted down. The Commandant of the Training Centre stated that if the conducting party were to be provided from his command, it would seriously interfere with the training.

I have no police available for the duty at Moascar, and as a matter of fact we sometimes do not receive notification from the hospital authorities that the batches of patients are leaving, until quite late in the day, and when it would not be possible for escorts to be sent from Moascar in time. The present arrangement is most satisfactory under the present circumstances.

(c). When the Anzac Provost Corps left Cairo for England on the 3rd August last, the G.O.C. Delta and District through G.H.Q. requested that the Details now in Cairo be left, as they were required for the policing of the district, and, it being approved of, they were left behind.

(d). These men were sent to Romani in April last together some others to Rafa and Khan Yunus, to replace Imperial Mounted Police who were required elsewhere on the Lines of Communication. I understand the Romani Detachment will shortly be brought forward to Deir el Belah, where I have another Detachment.

(e). The Establishment is not excessive, except that it provides for three horses for each officer, which is now reduced to two, but at the time the establishment was put forward I did not know a reduction had been made. Otherwise the Establishment simply provides for one for each Mounted Man.

Sd. A.F. JORDAN? Captian,
 C.O., EGYPTIAN SECTION
 AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

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7. From G.O.C. A.I.F. in Egypt, to Administrative Headquarters A.I.F. London. 6/12.

1. Reference to A.A.G...A.I.F. 21/113 dated 23 May 1917, and the attached letter from the C.O. Anzac Provost Corps, it would ~~seem~~ seem that the C.O. Anzac Provost Corps has forgotten somewhat Egyptian conditions, and that, in accordance with A.I.F. Order No 264 all Military Police borne on the establishment of Divisional and Brigade Headquarters were transferred to the Anzac Provost Corps. Conditions have also considerably changed since he was in Egypt, in that a certain number of Anzac Police have to be provided for a long L. of C. and for an advanced Army Headquarters.

2. With regard to the letter in question- para 1., Headquarters referred to is the Headquarters of the Mounted Section and might be either at Cairo, Moascar or with the Army Headquarters, but never by any chance with the Anzac Mounted Division, as appears to be assumed. The establishment of Headquarters is as low as is considered compatible with the efficiency of the Unit.

The officer shown in Provisional Establishment as at A.&N.Z.Mtd Division and Brigade Headquarters is the officer commanding the Field Troop mentioned below.

The A.P.M. Anzac Mtd Division has no officer assistant, but when called away from the Division from time to time his place is temporarily filled.

The comparison to the establishment of an Army Corps Headquarters does not appear to apply. The Anzac Provost Corps in Egypt has to provide for the policing of four towns, a large Training Centre, a long L.of C., and an advanced Army Headquarters in a thickly populated enemy country, as well as Divisions and Brigades in the Field.

The Mounted Detachment ~~is~~ shown at Heliopolis is considerably reduced, as from there a Field Troop has been provided which for some months (the personnel being constantly changed) has been employed actually as a troop in the Field attached to various Regiments, primarily for the purpose of removing an entirely undeserved stigma attached to the Corps of having a "cold-footed job". This troop, now that all the Mounted personnel have seen Active Service in the Field, is employed at Advanced Army Headquarters where it does police duty in the villages and the area occupied by the Army.

It might be stated that the Military Police in Heliopolis get no assistance now from an evening picquet which, I understand, at the period referred to, amounted at times to 300 other ranks.

3. The Establishment on A.&N.Z. Mounted Division and Brigade Headquarters is in accordance with WAR ESTABLISHMENTS PART VII.

4. The Detachment at Moascar has to provide for the policing of the town of Ismailia and the Training Camps, ~~there~~ and to find the personnel for the Anzac Field Punishment Compound the establishment of which was found absolutely necessary owing to the unsatisfactory manner in which Field Punishment was carried out in the Field, and the fact that the Detention Barracks at Abbassia had been done away with. I may state that the manner in which the institution is being carried on has caused considerable gratification to the Imperial authorities and has had a very good disciplinary effect on the troops.

5. When the C.O. Anzac Provost Corps was in Egypt the Australian troops did not visit Port Said. At the present time they go there on leave and the Detachment there is small enough and may have to be increased.

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6. In my opinion there can be no comparison between London and Cairo from a police point of view. In the latter city no assistance whatever can be obtained from the civil police and conditions are utterly different. A large number of Anzac Troops still continue to visit Cairo on leave and constant escorts have to be provided for prisoners. I had considered reducing the establishment of this Detachment on two occasions but was specially requested not to do so by the G.O.C. Delta District. It has now however been reduced to three officers and eighty other ranks.

7. I need hardly point out that the conditions in France are as different to those in Egypt and Palestine as those in London are to those in Cairo.

The establishment of horses will be reduced to provide only two per officer.

With reference to the 50% temporary ranks, this has always been allowed on Mounted Divisional and Brigade Headquarters for the following reasons:-

1. They have practically to carry out the duties of N.C.Os.
2. They have considerably more work to perform than the ordinary trooper.
3. It was very difficult, originally to get men to volunteer for the work.

It is not considered that 48,000 troops can be called a ~~limited~~ limited number.

I regret that I cannot see my way to recommending the reduction of the personnel of the establishment of the Anzac Provost Corps in Egypt.

Signed H.G. CHAUVEL, Major Genl.
Commanding A.I.F. IN EGYPT.

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J. A. Biddle Lt Col.
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

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JULY 1917.

Report on Moascar Detachment.

Duties as usual during the month.

On the 11th July the Detachment was inspected by Major General Sir H.G. Chauvel, K.C.M.G., C.B. G.O. Administering A.I.F. in Egypt. After the inspection the General inserted the following entry in the daily occurrence book:- "Very pleased indeed with what I have seen. The state of the Compound reflects great credit on the Anzac Provost Corps and the establishment of it has had good disciplinary effect on the Anzac Troops generally."

On the 12th the following orders were issued governing the sale of liquor to troops in Ismailia:-

"In future the sale of alcoholic liquors to troops in Ismailia town will be from 1200 to 1400 and from 1800 to 2000." Camp Routine Order No 924 of 12-7-17.

On the 16th Lieut. L. Lawrence, having been discharged from hospital, resumed command of the Detachment, Lieut P.V. Ryan was transferred to Cairo.

On the 23rd two men were detailed to patrol the morning train to Cairo to search for absentees. The train was met by two men from the Cairo Detachment, ~~xxxxxxx~~ in order to take over any prisoners made by the patrol. This duty is to be performed about twice weekly at irregular intervals.

During the month the O.C. Detachment applied for permission to erect a mud brick wall round the F.P. Compound in order more completely to isolate the prisoners in the compound. It has been found that prisoners can occasionally communicate with friends in the Training Centre, and cases have occurred of prohibited articles being passed in through the wire. It was suggested that the wall be ten feet high and seven feet from the ring fence. The material for making the bricks was at hand and the only cost to the Government would be the native labour necessary to make the bricks and erect the wall. The suggestion was not approved, however.

Field Punishment Compound returns for the month are as follows:-

| | |
|--|-----|
| Admissions | 38. |
| Transfers to Citadel | 2. |
| Refractories dealt with by the Governor | 6. |
| Safe custody prisoners admitted and discharged | 53. |
| Discharges of time expired men | 39. |

The following is a summary of arrests and charges made by the Detachment during the month:- It will be noticed that there have been a very large number of charges for the offence of Absence Without Leave. This is evidently partly due to the new train patrol mentioned above.

| | | | |
|---|------|---|-----|
| Absent without Leave | 165. | Disobeying C.R.Os. | 8. |
| Conduct to prejudice | 8. | An act to the prejudice etc: | 1. |
| Improperly dressed | 6. | Disobedience of G.R.O. 1169. (No Disc.) | 21. |
| Out of Bounds | 4. | Insubordinate language | 7. |
| Creating a disturbance | 6. | Breaking Arrest | 2. |
| Insolence to his Superior Officer | 4. | Minor Offences | 7. |
| TOTAL CHARGES | | 239. | |

Natives dealt with 18.

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J. H. Bissell Lt Col
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

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1st to 5th July.

6-7-17. The Division moved up to the line in the Tel-el-Fara Sector, occupying the area, Squares G.M.& K. Gaza-Shellal map 1:40,000., Divisional Headquarters being at point G9. The principal duty in this area is the patrolling of the watering area in the Wadi Ghuzze. Special ablution places have now been set apart on the banks of the Wadi and no washing of any sort is allowed except at these places. No horses or camels may be tethered in the bed of the Wadi or watered at places other than the authorised troughs.

10-XX-17. Captain A.F. Jordan returned from Cairo and resumed duties of A.P.M. Anzac Mtd Division.

11-72-17 Lieut A.J.Watts relinquished duties of A.P.M. and left for Cairo.

12th to 17th. July. Nothing of importance occurred. Parties of prisoners of war and Bedouin refugees, suspects were received daily and sent on, the prisoners of war to the concentration camp at Deir el Belah, and the Bedouins to the Military Governor at Khan Yunus, for disposal. This duty involved the use of two or three of the D.H.Q. police daily, as it is a journey of some 15 miles from Tel el Fara and progress was often unavoidably slow. Assistance was subsequently obtained from the Duty Troop on D.H.Q. so as to free the police for their very necessary and important duties in the Wadi Ghuzze.

18-7-17. Advice received from A.P.M. Desert Column that a man corresponding in appearance to the Notorious German secret agent Paul Schiecke had been seen riding past the East side of Tel el Jemmi going towards Shellal. Special patrols were sent out from Brigades and from D.H.Q. and a thorough search was made but no trace of the suspected person could be found.

22-7-17. Captain A.F.Jordan left for Cairo. Lieut A.J.Watts returned and resumed duties of A.P.M. Capt. Jordan made a report to A.P.M. Desert Column re the unsatisfactory nature of Sealing Regulations. The string retaining the seal becomes rotten and breaks and the seal is lost. He suggests the use of wire instead of string for retaining the seal.

GENERAL. The escorting of prisoners of war and suspects to the base has continued daily throughout the month. The same difficulty has been experienced in safe guarding the water supply as during the former occupation of the area by the Division. Fresh troops are continually coming into the area who are not at once made aware of the regulations governing the water. In many cases where men were charged with disobedience of orders it was found impossible to get a conviction for this reason. On several occasions during the month it has been the duty of members of the Detachment to escort our native secret agents from Desert Column Headquarters through our Outpost Line, leaving them in the enemy's country. This has always been carried out satisfactorily.

The following is a summary of work done by the Detachment during the month:-

| | | | |
|---|------|--|------|
| Prisoners of War dealt with | .21. | Bedouin Suspects | .34. |
| Charges against soldiers | .38. | (Including 27 in connection with Water Supply.) | |
| Charges against netives of the C.T.C. and E.L.C | .18. | | |

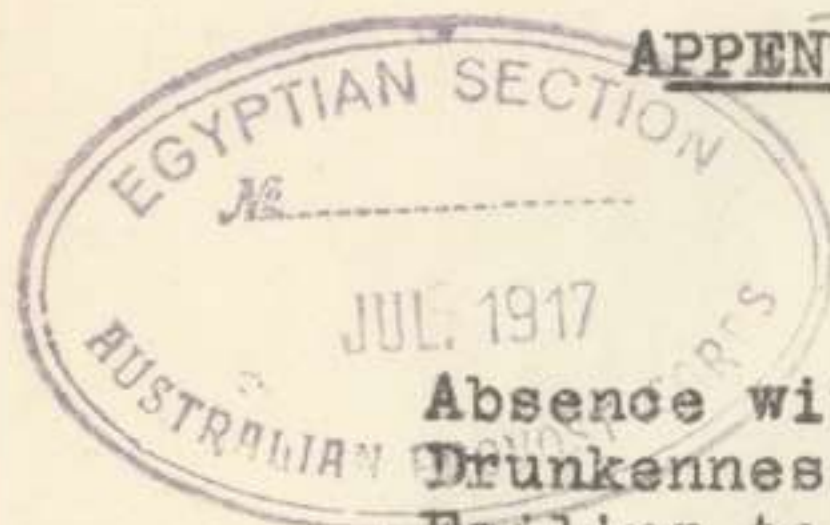
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C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

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APPENDIX VI. TO VOLUME 12. OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

JULY 1917.



Summary of Arrests and Charges by Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments

| | |
|---|------|
| Absence without Leave | 109. |
| Drunkenness | 28. |
| Failing to salute | 96. |
| Out of Bounds | 41. |
| Improperly Dressed | 55. |
| Failing to comply with an order | 1. |
| Assaulting the Military Police | 5. |
| No Identity Disc | 26. |
| False pass | 1. |
| In possession of another man's pass | 2. |
| Assaulting the Egyptian police | 2. |
| Resisting arrest | 6. |
| Creating a disturbance | 1. |
| Damaging property | 1. |
| Insolence to superior officer | 2. |
| Irregular Conduct | 1. |
| Stealing | 1. |
| Breaking Arrest | 1. |

TOTAL CHARGES. 379.
TOTAL ARRESTS. 298.

Natives and civilians charged 5.

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J. H. P. S. L. Col.
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

JUL 1917

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