

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

Provost

**Item number:** 3/8/13

**Title:** Egyptian Section, Australian Provost  
Corps

August 1917



AWM4-3/8/13



**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**  
**DUPLICATE.**  
**TRIPPLICATE.**

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

~~EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.~~

FOR

AUGUST 1917. 191

- AUG 1917



(Volume . . . . . 13.)

Signature of Officer compiling

*J. P. B. Col.*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. P. B. Col.*

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

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

EGYPTIAN SECTION

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.

~~Confidential, INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

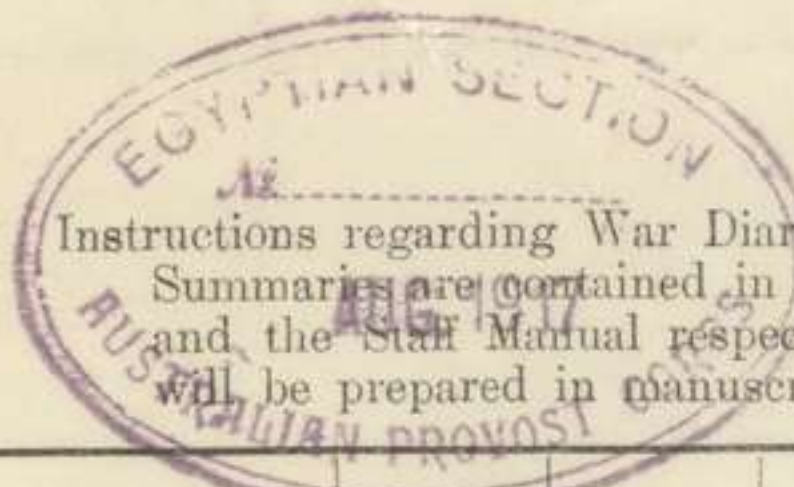
Volume 13.

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Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo.	August 1917.		Duties in Cairo and Heliopolis carried on as usual. There is now a parade of all available members of the Cairo Detachment on Mondays and Thursdays from 0715 to 0800 for the purpose of rifle exercise and Company drill.	JAB
	10-8-17.		On this date 1 officer and 55 other ranks composing the Guard of No 14 Australian General Hospital at Abbassia, were attached to the Corps for pay and discipline. This was found necessary, as, up to the present, the management and work of the Guard have not been satisfactory. A report on the subject by the C.O. Egyptian Section Anzac Provost Corps is attached as <u>Appendix I.</u> to this volume.	JAB. App. I.
	16-8-17.		A new issue of Military Police pocket books has been made, concerning which the following Order is published:- "The recent issue of pocket books made to members of the Corps are for the purpose of recording events and occurrences during a man's period of duty. All occurrences such as arrests, accidents, disturbances etc: and anything out of the ordinary, are to be recorded in the man's book, which is liable for inspection at all times. Strict attention is to be paid to this Order."	JAB.
Heliopolis.	17-8-17.		One N2C20. and four other ranks on escort duty for prisoners of war from Abbassia Siding to Heliopolis Compound.	JAB
Cairo.	18-8-17.		Extract from Section Order 366 of 18-8-17. <u>Mentioned in Despatches</u> by the C. in C. E.E.F.:- No 544 Sergt. McIntyre S. (A.I.F. List No 200. of 6-7-18.)	JAB.
	22-8-17.		Invalid escort of one officer 4 N.C.Os. and 20 O.Rs. at Cairo station. Duties as usual.	JAB
	25-8-17.		Lieut Col Fulton, Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters Cairo, issues the following instructions with regard to reporting arrests in future:- "N.C.Os. and men under arrest in Cairo will have their names wired direct to the Brigade concerned by the Anzac Provost Corps. In the case of officers, the Anzac Provost Corps will notify A.I.F. Headquarters in addition to D.&W.F., and this office will wire the Brigade	JAB AUG 1917 E387



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.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Volume 13.

Page 2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices						
Cairo.	25-8-17. (Cont.)		<p>"concerned direct."</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Report on Moascar Detachment <u>Appendix II.</u></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Report on Anzac Mounted Division. <u>Appendix III.</u></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Report on P.L.of C. Detachment <u>Appendix IV.</u></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Summary of Arrests and charges by Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments <u>Appendix V.</u></p> <p>This shows a total rather above the average, with a slight increase in serious offences. This is probably accounted for by the fact that at this time there was always a large number of Troops on leave in Cairo from the Divisions which were out of the Line on Palestine for the time being.</p> <p>Cases against members of the Corps for the month are as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>F.G.C.MS.....Nil.</td> <td>Cases dealt with by C.O. or Os.C. Detachments:-</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Members of Corps..... 17/</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>14th A.G.H.Guard..... 6.</td> </tr> </table> <p>-----</p>	F.G.C.MS.....Nil.	Cases dealt with by C.O. or Os.C. Detachments:-		Members of Corps..... 17/		14th A.G.H.Guard..... 6.	<p>JLB</p> <p>App. II</p> <p>App. III</p> <p>App. IV.</p> <p>App. V.</p> <p>JLB</p>
F.G.C.MS.....Nil.	Cases dealt with by C.O. or Os.C. Detachments:-									
	Members of Corps..... 17/									
	14th A.G.H.Guard..... 6.									

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AUG 1917

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# WAR DIARY

OF

- AUG 1917

EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

AUGUST 1917. 191

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Report on 14th A.G.H. Guard.
II.	Report on Moascar Detachment.
III.	Report on Anzac Mtd Division.
IV.	Report on P.L. of C. Detachment.
V.	Summary of Arrests and Charges.

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AUGUST 1917.

Report on 14th A.G.H. Guard.

With reference to the above subject, I have to report that I have taken over the supervision of the Guard.

I consulted the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters and Headquarters D.& W.F. in the matter and the Guard is now established on a proper Guard basis. It is reorganised and now being worked on proper lines.

I found when I inspected the Guard, that they had what they termed an automatic method of working reliefs, every member of the Guard being on duty all the time. This was certainly unsatisfactory, but is now altered and the personnel of the Guard now know exactly what their duties are and when they take them up and are relieved from them.

I also found an inspection, that the quarters were unsatisfactory, the men not being provided with beds and , in some cases, mattresses, and 75% of the Guard were sleeping on the tent floors. This is now all altered and bed cots have been issued to all the Guard, who now express themselves much more contented.

I feel bound to report that I do not think the Guard had been properly supervised, but now, the Commandant A.I.F. Headquarters has issued orders which are being published in Delta and Western Force, Orders also to the effect that the Guard will come under myself for pay and administration, and they are being visited frequently every day, and at all times, by myself or one of my officers quartered in Cairo.

The Guards on the V.D. Compound were not correctly posted, the areas under each sentry's supervision being far too large, but now the area has been restricted during the day (with the consent of the medical authorities.) and at night the sentries are drawn in to within a sensible distance of the patients' quarters, and the number of sentries has been reduced.

I found that one of the Guard was posted and doing duty which should be done by the hospital Authorities, viz. a sentry on the cookhouse whose duty it was to turn the patients out. This, considering that a ~~xxx~~ cook Sergeant and two hospital orderlies were therein, was absurd, and I have done away with this post.

I have made no reduction, and do not recommend any at present, in the establishment of the Guard, for the reason that I understand that there is a likelihood of the V.D. Compound being removed to Moascar, or some other locality shortly, and that being so, I thought the redistribution of the Guard could be made when the Compound is removed.

There is now 1 Officer (Lieut. K.F. Alford) and 55 men on the Guard Establishment, but almost every day there a number of them admitted to hospital for a few days, so that it is necessary to have a number in excess of the actual requirements for the posts, to be able to replace men admitted to hospital.

Kasr el Nil 15-8-17.

Sd A.F. Jordan. Capt, C.O.

EGYPTIAN SECTION ANZAC PROVOST CORPS.

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AUG 1917  
E 389/4  
J.H. Biddle  
C.O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps  
A.I.F. in Egypt



*Original*

Report on Moascar Detachment.

Work in the Moascar Detachment was carried out as usual during the month and nothing of special importance occurred.

On August 16th a course of lectures on police duties was started by the O.C. Detachment. These lectures were delivered at 1000 daily, and all ranks of the Detachment who were off duty were expected to attend.

A summary of Arrests and Charges for the month shows a total somewhat in excess of the average, but it will be seen that the great majority of the charges are for minor offences, and that there is only one case of drunkenness. Summary as follows:-

Absence without Leave . . . . .	14.
Disobeying a lawful command etc. . . . .	1.
Drunkenness . . . . .	1.
Insubordination . . . . .	2.
Conduct to prejudice . . . . .	3.
Improperly dressed . . . . .	18.
Failing to Salute . . . . .	24.
Altering a pass . . . . .	3.
Not being in possession of an Identity Disc . . . . .	4.
Making a false statement . . . . .	1.
Disobeying Camp Routine Orders . . . . .	1.
Resisting arrest . . . . .	1.
Creating a disturbance . . . . .	1.

TOTAL. 74.  
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Natives charged . . . . . 36.

The following is a Summary of the Field Punishment Compound returns for the month:-

Admissions . . . . .	52.
Prisoners transferred to Citadel . . . . .	4.
Refractory prisoners dealt with by Governor . . . . .	4.
Discharged Time Expired . . . . .	33.
Safe custody prisoners admitted and discharged . . . . .	35.

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*J. A. Pinder Lt Col.*  
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps  
A. P. S. S. A. T. F. in Egypt

AUG 1917  
E 25/5



*Original*

Report on police of Anzac Mtd Division.

The Division remained in the Tel el Fara - Shellal area until the 18th August 1917. During this period the usual duties were performed by the police. Small parties of prisoners of war and Bedouin suspects were received daily and dealt with as described in previous reports. Every effort has been made to ensure that the Regulations governing the water supply are adhered to, and patrols were frequently kept out as late as 2100.

On August 15th two strangers were arrested in the Divisional Area who proved to be men who had deserted from ships at Alexandria and made their way up to the front in the hope of being taken on the strength of a Light Horse Regiment. They were returned to Alexandria under escort.

On several occasions police have again escorted our secret agents through the Outpost Line.

On August 18th the Division moved back to rest on the beach at Marakeb, S.W. of Khan Yunus. Duties of police in this area consist chiefly of patrolling the beach in order to prevent the galloping of horses in deep sand, and enforce the regulations governing sea bathing. It is intended to give men and horses as much rest as possible and ample opportunity is afforded for sea bathing.

On August 20th a collision occurred between some Australian soldiers and Egyptian Police on Guard on the wire cordon round Khan Yunus. The Australians, not understanding what was required of them, attempted to pass the cordon and were fired on by the police. One man from the D.H.Q. Detachment was then placed on duty at the opening in the wire to prevent further trouble.

On the 31st instructions were received from Divisional Headquarters to the effect that no newsvendors are to be allowed East of El Arish. The necessary action was taken by the police and a certificate rendered that the area was clear of newsvendors.

During the month there have been a number of instances of persons, suspected to be enemy agents, being seen in the Area and on several occasions the police have been employed in searching for them. A circular memo on the subject was issued by the Provost Marshal, a copy of which is attached to this report.

The following is a summary of cases dealt with during the month:-

Prisoners of War . . . . .	Turks 11.	Arabs and Bedouins 5.	Total 16.
Bedouins suspects and refugees . . . . .			93.
Soldiers charged, (including 43 cases of pollution of water in the Wadi Ghuzze) . . . . .			57.
Natives charged . . . . .		11 . . . . .	10.

COPY OF CIRCULAR MEMO NO 2461/17 OF 21-8-17 BY PROVOST MARSHAL E.P.E.F.

It is established that German Spies have on various occasions recently entered our lines disguised as:-  
(a) A British Staff Officer, Australian Officer or Trooper accompanied by a mounted orderly. (b) As an Arab.

In the former case their method has been to ride through one of the gaps in our front line wire, probably between TEL EL JEMMI and KENT FORT, to shelter at certain deserted huts, in the war area, or Khan Yunus gardens, and to move during the day time among units in the Field observing and asking questions from officers and men.

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

- AUG 1917 E3576



EGYPTIAN SECTION  
AUG 1917  
AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS

*Original*

In the latter case, i.e. when disguised in native dress, the uniform of C.T.C. or E.L.C. labourers may be used. In both disguises they will probably be mounted, if on horseback, the description of horse is given as big ugly bay waler, if disguised as an arab, on camel back.

Description of German Spies.

- 1. Not very tall, dark, clean shaven, usually wears sun spectacles in daytime; has prominent scar on left side of chin. Speaks English perfectly. Good revolver shot.
- 2. Average height, red face, green eyes. Hands are spotted.
- 3. Tall, thin, fair, blue eyes. Left eye smaller than right.

All ranks are cautioned as to the danger of answering questions put to them by officers and men unknown to them, especially with regard to the position of Units, guns, supplies, or movements.

It is the duty of all ranks finding native labourers without sealed numbers, or with the seal string broken, to hand the native over to the nearest A.D.M. or O.C. Unit.

All ranks are further warned against entering deserted native huts, and any such found should be detained for identification.

Any information of urgent importance in connection with the above should be communicated promptly to the nearest Intelligence Officer.

Signed. HOEL LLEWELLYN Col.  
P.M. E.E.F.

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

AUG 1917

E 387



*Original*

APPENDIX IV. TO VOLUME 13 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

August 1917.

Report on P.L. of C. Detachment

During the month duties were carried out without any variation. As a considerable number of minor alterations and additions have taken place in the last few weeks under review, it may be as well to enumerate the duties again. The Detachment now consists of 24 crs of the Anzac Provost Corps and 6 M.M.P. Patrols are found for the beach, ~~and~~ wells, village, Deir el Belah Area and traffic control at the Railway Station, which takes 1 Sgt and 14 men by day. 2 men are employed permanently on Sealing, which makes the total number of day duties 17.

Patrols of two men are supplied by night on the wells, village and area, working in two reliefs of six hours each, with a Sgt in charge, which brings the total of duties by day and night to 24. The remaining six men are employed as follows:—

- 1 Shoeing Smith, who also performs the duties of Quartermaster.
- 1 Clerk to A/A.P.M. Deir el Belah.
- 1 Cook.
- 1 Groom .
- 1 Batman.
- 1 Emergency man.

There was a considerable amount of sickness in the Detachment during the month, chiefly sandfly fever, and several members of the Detachment have been evacuated to hospital.

Otherwise there is nothing of special importance to report.

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

AUG 1917

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*Original*

APPENDIX V. TO VOLUME 13 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. AUGUST 1917.

Summary of arrests and charges by Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments for the month.

Absence without leave . . . . .	159.
Drunkenness . . . . .	39.
Failing to salute . . . . .	33.
Improperly dressed . . . . .	32.
In possession of another soldier's pass . . . . .	3.
Out of Bounds . . . . .	67.
No Identity Disc . . . . .	34.
Using obscene language to a N.C.O. . . . .	1.
Creating a disturbance . . . . .	4.
Resisting Arrest . . . . .	4.
Striking a Military Policeman . . . . .	1.
Irregular pass . . . . .	1.
In possession of intoxicating liquor . . . . .	4.
Insubordination . . . . .	1.
Refusing to obey an order . . . . .	2.
Failing to comply with an order . . . . .	2.
Desertion (Attempted) . . . . .	2.
Breaking arrest . . . . .	4.
Being in possession of stolen property . . . . .	1.

TOTAL CHARGES 394.  
TOTAL ARRESTS 278.

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Natives charged:-

Stealing . . . . .	3.
In possession of military clothing . . . . .	1.

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4.  
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*J. A. B. B. Col.*

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

AUG 1917

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