

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

Provost

Item number: 3/8/18

Title: Egyptian Section, Australian Provost
Corps

January 1918



AWM4-3/8/18

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

JANUARY 1918. 191

(Volume 18.)

Signature of Officer compiling

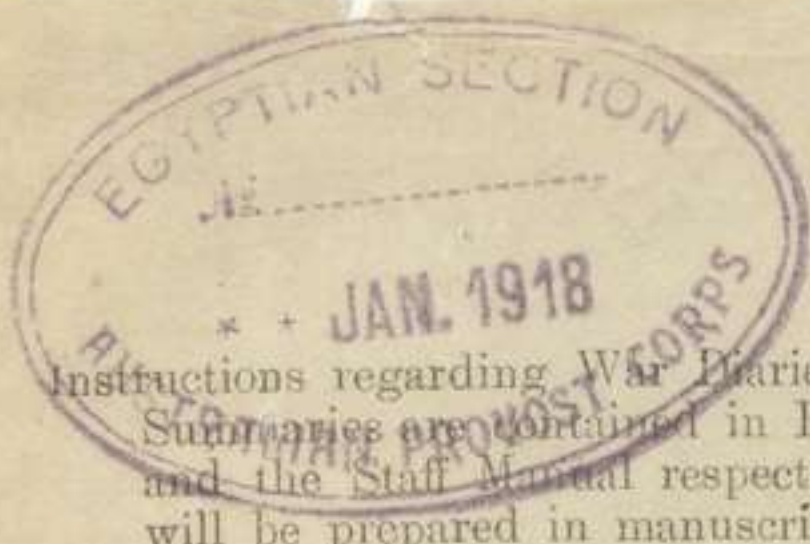
J. A. P. [Signature]
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. A. I. F. in Egypt

Signature of Officer Commanding

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



- JAN 1918



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.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118.

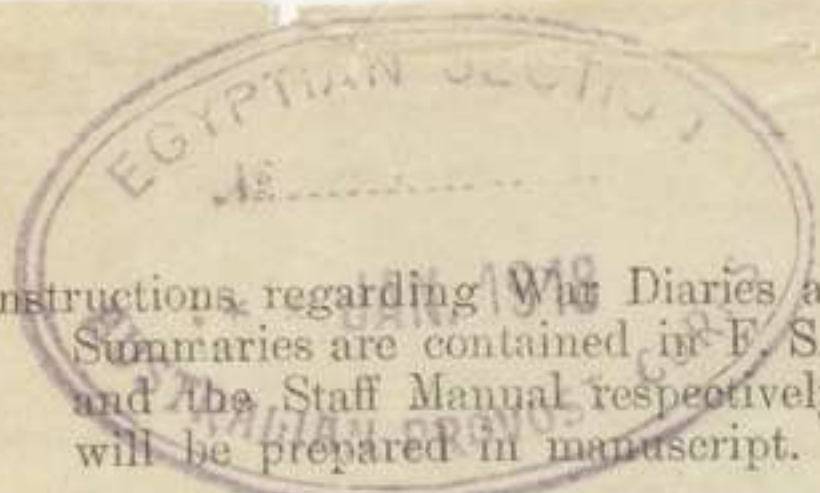
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Original

Volume 18.

Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo.	1-1-18.		<p>The designation of the Corps has, from this date, been changed from ANZAC PROVOST CORPS to AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. (A.I.F. ORDER 1058.)</p>	JAB
	6-1-18.		<p>Lieut. E.D. GRIGSON takes temporary command of the Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps vice Capt A.F. JORDAN, to hospital. (A.I.F.H.Q. Memo 59:2:124.)</p>	JAB
	8-1-18.		<p>National Hotel placed "In Bounds" to officers and "Out of Bounds" to Other ranks. From this date two men were sent to the Zoological Gardens at Giza, daily, to preserve order among visiting soldiers.</p>	JAB
	11-1-18.		<p>Complaints have been received of the behaviour of troops from the Heliopolis and Zeitoun Areas when returning from leave on trams and trains. Up to this time two men have been on duty at Pont Lineun Station from 2000 to 2200 daily. These were increased to four, for a time, two men being detailed to travel to and from Manchiel el Sadr on the Heliopolis trams. It was impossible to keep four men on this duty for long, owing to the shortage of men; after the necessary improvement in the behaviour of the men was noticed, the patrol was again reduced to two men, to be on duty from 2000 to 2300 daily.</p>	JAB
	14-1-18.		<p>In instructions received from A.P.M. D.S.W.F., that special care is to be taken by the men on duty at the Kursaal, as both the High Commissioner and the Commander in Chief will be visiting the theatre this evening. Duties were carried out satisfactorily.</p>	JAB
	20-1-18.		<p>A.I.F. Headquarters instructs that, in future, all men discharged from the Citadel Detention Barracks are to be escorted direct to their Units in the Field, and not to Details at Meascar. The C.O. had recently made a report on this subject, giving his opinion that it was inadvisable to retain men in a Detail Camp after release from a long sentence, as they are there still subject to the temptations of a large town, and are apt to commit themselves again, whereas, if they are returned to their Units in the Field at once, they are kept more fully occupied, and are less likely to get into further trouble.</p>	<p>JAB JAN 1918 1237</p>



WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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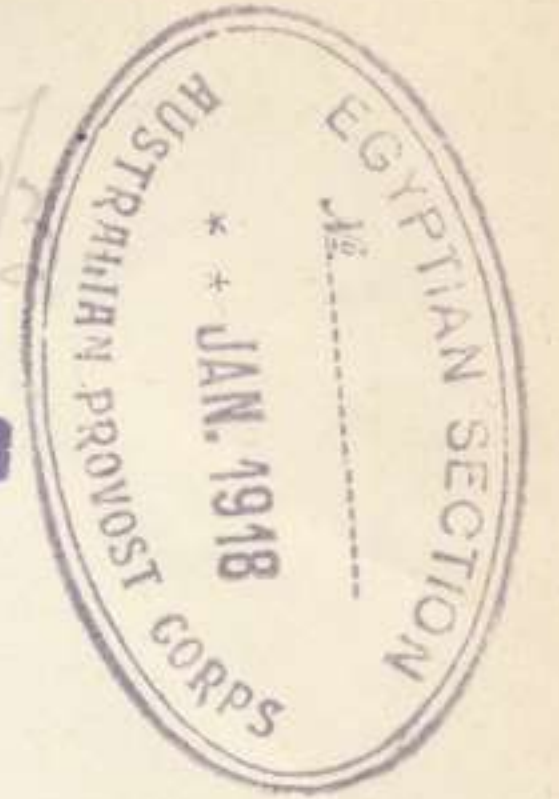
Page 2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo.	20-1-18.		Major J.H.BISDEE V.C. seconded from 12th L.H.Reg. to command the Egyptian Section Australian Provost Corps, and to be A.P.M....A.I.F. in Egypt.	
	28-1-18.		With reference to obtaining reinforcements for the Corps, a Circular letter has been written by the A.A.G....A.I.F. in Egypt to all Australian Formations in the E.E.F. instructing that C.Os. of Units are to give every support to the Corps: a copy of this letter is attached as Appendix I 2 to this volume.	JAB
	29-1-18.		The personnel of the 14th A.G.H.Guard at Abbassia were on this date transferred to Meascar, and ceased to be administered by the Australian Provost Corps. Lieut. P.V.RYAN struck off strength to 7th L.H.Regiment.	App.I. JAB
			About this time reports were made by various soldiers that they had bought cigarettes from certain shops in Cairo, and found the packets to contain cards stating that the cigarettes had been made expressly for the Red Cross. Investigations were made, and the cigarettes were traced to certain shops in the Esbekieh District, the proprietors of which were subsequently tried and convicted of trading in the property of the Red Cross Society.	
Heliopolis.			The Heliopolis Detachment reports that everything has been quiet in the area. Occasional escorts for Prisoners of War have been furnished and duties have been carried on as usual, except that from time to time police patrols have been sent to the Old Suez Road through the Aerodrome, which has been closed to the public from 6-1-18.	
General.			No disturbances of any kind occurred in Cairo during the month. From the Summary of Arrests for the month it will be seen that out of 269 charges, 260 were for the common offences of "Absence", "Failing to salute", "Drunkenness", and "Improperly Dressed". Cases against members of the Corps total as follows:- F.G.C.Ms. 1. C.O's Cases. . . . 2. The usual Appendices on the work of Detachments are attached to this volume, with the exception of the Palestine Lines of Communication Detachment, about which there is nothing to report.	- JAN 1918 E367/21

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

E351

- JAN 1918



WAR DIARY

OF

EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

JANUARY 1918. 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Letter re Reinforcements for Corps.
II.	Report on Canal Zone Detachment.
III.	Report on Anzac Mtd Division.
IV.	Report on Australian Mtd Division.
V.	Summary of Arrests and Charges.

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Original

Letter re Reinforcing of Egyptian Section Australian Provost Corps.

From A.A.G...A.I.F. in Egypt.

To:- G.O.C. A.&N.Z.Mtd Division,
G.O.C. Australian Mtd Division,
G.O.C. Imperial Camel Brigade.

133/196.
28-1-18.

It has been brought under the notice of the G.O.C.,A.I.F. that Commanding Officers of Units are not giving that support to the Anzac Provost Corps which is necessary and which might be expected, and the G.O.C. requests that you will impress upon Commanding Officers the necessity in the interests of the Australian Imperial Force of keeping this Unit a Corps d'Elite. It should be regarded as an honour and a reward for good service to be selected for it, and every endeavour should be made, when ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ volunteers are called for to encourage suitable men to apply. In order that it may not be looked upon as a deterrent to promotion to non-commissioned rank, Commanding Officers may be allowed to ask for the re-transfer of any men, should they want them subsequently as non-commissioned officers. Vacancies at the Zeitoun Cadet Course will also be allotted to this Corps. In other words, the G.O.C. expects every support from Commanding Officers in the maintenance of this Corps.

Major J.H.Bisdee V.C. has been selected to command and will visit formations and units with regard to the above.

Sd F.G.Newton Major,
A.A.G....A.I.F. IN EGYPT.

@-@

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

- JAN 1918
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APPENDIX II. TO VOLUME 18 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. JANUARY 1918.

Original

Report on Canal Zone Detachment.

There is very little of interest to report for the month. Duties were carried out as usual and there is no record of any event of importance.

The Field Punishment Compound was inspected by the A.P.M. Southern Canal Section and the D.A.A.G., A. & N.Z.T.C. & D.C. on the 12th January. Both expressed their approval at the efficient state of the compound.

On 30-1-18 the new C.O., Major J.H. Bisdie V.C. inspected the Compound and Detachment: he was satisfied with the general turnout of the Detachment and prisoners. His remarks on the inspection are included in a general report made to Headquarters A.I.F. in Egypt, which will be attached as an Appendix to Volume 19 of this Diary.

The Port Said and Suez Detachments have continued to do good work throughout the month. The troops at Suez appear to have steadied down considerably as there is no record of any large number of charges being made against them nor of any disturbance taking place.

Field Punishment Compound Returns for the month shew:-

Admissions to Compound.	64.
Transfers to Citadel.	6.
Refractory prisoners dealt with by Governor.	29.
Discharges, time expired.	54.
Safe custody prisoners passed through.	29.

There is nothing further to report.

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

JAN 1918
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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Appendix III. to
Volume 18.

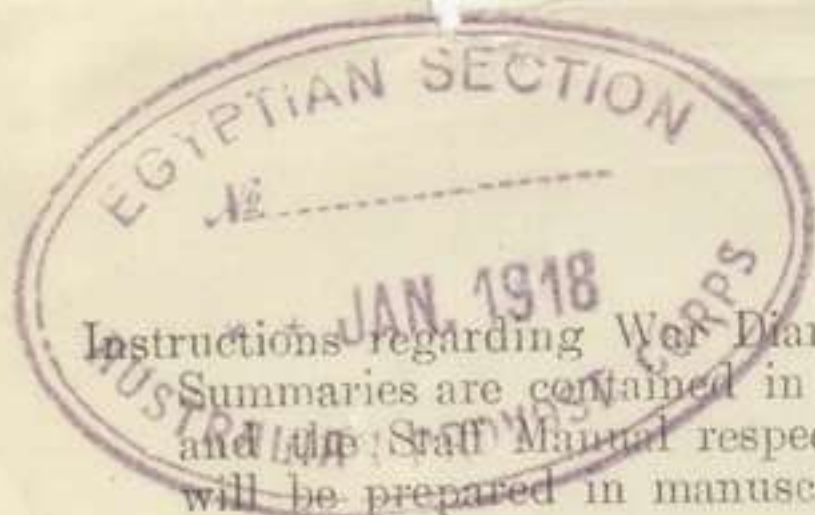
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Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			The following is a copy of the War Diary of the A.P.M. Anzac Mtd Division, for the month of January 1918, in so far as it relates here to work done by the Australian Provest Corps under his command.	
Esdud.	1-1-18 to 6-1-18.		Nothing of importance to report. Police duties carried out as detailed in last month's report.	
	7-1-18.		A market place has been established just outside the village of Esdud on the North side. All the inhabitants have been warned that no sale of commodities is to take place except in this market. Any persons found attempting to sell any goods to troops elsewhere will have these goods confiscated. A notification of this has been circulated throughout the Division together with a list showing the maximum prices to be paid for commodities in general demand.	
Ayun Kara.	12-1-18.		The Division moved to Ayun Kara. (Sheet XIII N.19.b.) D.H.Q. is stationed in the village, the Brigades being to the South of it. The 1st L.H.Bgde is at Deiran and the whole of the police of that Brigade are directly under the control of the A.P.M. Desert Mtd Corps. The D.H.Q. Police patrol the village of Ayun Kara and the watering place in the village; the orchards and the outskirts of the village are policed by the 21st Corps Cavalry Regt. The village is patrolled from 0830 to 2130 daily unless some unusual circumstance makes it advisable to extend the hours.	
	15-1-18.		Captain A.J.WATTS returned from hospital and resumed duties as A.P.M. Lieut P.J.MARTIN proceeded to Cairo.	
	16-1-18.		Several complaints have been made by civilians of damage done to orchards and fruit stolen by troops: all cases have been investigated and the damage has generally been found to have been done by E.L.C.natives. Many charges have been made by the Brigade police against these natives and strong disciplinary action has been taken against the offenders by their officers. As it was impossible for the police to keep a strict watch over all orchards it has been suggested that each Regiment be made responsible for the safe guarding of orchards and gardens in its own area.	
	18-1-18.		Report received from the N.C.O. i/c 2nd L.H.Bgde Detachment that he has received information	

- JAN 1918
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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Appendix III? to
Volume 18.

Original

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Page 2.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>that a trade in British and Turkish rifles is being carried on at the village of Wadi Hanein. The report was passed to "G" Branch of D.H.Q. and the case was taken over by them.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Owing to excessive duties on D.H.Q. and the need of having one or two men always in camp who can be called upon in an emergency, it has been found necessary to attach two police to D.H.Q. from 1st L.H.Bgde Detachment. An application has also been made that the police of establishment of D.H.Q. be increased by at least 3 Other Ranks. (This was never sanctioned, but later on a Detachment was formed at Desert Mtd Corps Headquarters, which was used for reinforcing the Divisions when necessary.)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Two arab suspects were arrested by the police in Ayun Kara. One was in possession of L.E.150 which he stated he was taking to Khan Yunus, in order to purchase merchandise. The other was in possession of a letter, written in German to a German, containing information of movements of our troops in the Jaffa area. Both suspects were detained and passed to the Administrator Occupied Enemy Territory at Jaffa.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>As a case has occurred of liquor being stolen from the Winepress in Ayun Kara, a Guard of 1 N.C.O. and 9 men under the supervision of the A.P.M. has been mounted at the Wine press, their duties being to keep all troops off the premises except those provided with special permits to visit the winepress on special visiting days.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Orders from the Administrative Commandant Ayun Kara have been received and circulated, that, with effect from 30-1-18, all wine purchased in Ayun Kara must be purchased regimentally, i.e. orders for wine will only be issued to an officer presenting an order signed by his C.O. or a Staff Officer and bearing the office stamp of the Unit or Branch and stating the exact amount required and for what purpose. All wine purchased must be removed from the Carmel Company's premises under the supervision of an officer.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>A suspect giving the name of MAHOMED IBN TAWFICK was arrested by the A.P.M. in the village of Surafehd. He was found to have been in the Turkish army, and then, for a time in the force of SHERIF ABDULLAH; it was also found that he had been closely connected since childhood with certain suspected persons in the district. He was detained under guard pending further investigations.</p> <p>-----</p>	
Ayun Kara.	23-1-18.			
	26-1-18.			
	27-1-18.			
	29-1-18.			
	30-1-18.			

- JAN 1918

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Appendix III. to Volume 18.

Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
Ayun Kara.	31-1-18.		<p>As a result of the report re gun running referred to in the entry for 18-1-18, a raid was carried out at Wadi Hanein at night under the supervision of an Intelligence Officer from Corps Headquarters, resulting in the arrest of two natives and the capture of several rifles, both British and Turkish which were being offered for sale.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>During the month the police have strictly enforced all orders with regard to Bounds and general behaviour in Occupied Enemy Territory and many charges have been made for contravention of these orders. Most of the charges have been minor ones, but there have been a few serious cases which can be traced to the illegal selling of wine to troops by civilians. Every effort has been made to put this practice down and two convictions have been secured against civilians. It is also thought that civilians are conveying liquor to troops outside the town by concealing it in bundles of washing etc.; steps are being taken to prevent this.</p> <p>During the last week of January all Detachments were inspected by the A.P.M. Desert Mtd Corps; the following is a copy of his remarks on the inspection in his report to the Provost Marshal.</p> <p>"During the past week I have inspected the 4 A.P.C. Detachments in Anzac Mtd Division. These are now up to full strength with the exception of the N.Z.M.R. Brigade for which one reinforcement is required.</p> <p>"The best turned out Detachment in this Division was that belonging to the 2nd A.L.H. Brigade; D.H.Q. Detachment next; N.Z.M.R. Bgde next; and 1st L.H. Bgde last; the turn out of the last named was disappointing. Horses, generally speaking, in good condition, but in nearly all cases shoeing neglected, equipment fair. Saddlery in many cases not up to the mark and of various patterns. I consider that A.P.C. should have a general overhauling in this respect, as, while new men coming from the training centre are well clothed and equipped, renewal of saddlery appears to be left to the Brigades, where it is neglected.</p> <p>"The Brigade police in the Division are still armed with rifles only.</p> <p>"I beg to recommend that the A.P.C. be requested to reconsider the substitution of revolver equipment for rifle equipment. The D.H.Q. Detachment has had revolver equipment for 4 months now, and this has been found in every way preferable. I feel sure that no obstacle will be placed in the way of this in the case of Detachments in the Forward Area, by A.I.F."</p> <p>The following is a summary of returns for the month:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Soldiers charged.</td> <td>126.</td> <td>E.L.C. & C.T.C. Natives charged.</td> <td>40/.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Civilians charged.</td> <td>4.</td> <td>Suspects dealt with.</td> <td>3.</td> </tr> </table> <p>-----</p>	Soldiers charged.	126.	E.L.C. & C.T.C. Natives charged.	40/.	Civilians charged.	4.	Suspects dealt with.	3.	<p>to put that</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">- JAN 1918</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">E 35/8</p>
Soldiers charged.	126.	E.L.C. & C.T.C. Natives charged.	40/.									
Civilians charged.	4.	Suspects dealt with.	3.									

J. B. Braden Lt Col



Original

APPENDIX IV. TO VOLUME 18 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. JANUARY 1918.

Report on Australian Mtd Division.

D.H.Q. remained at Katrah until January 5th: the police with Advanced H.Q. rejoined on 3.1.18.
 On the 5th the Division left Katrah and marched back to Deir el Belah, arriving there on the 8th. Police performed the usual duties ~~throughout~~ throughout the march which was carried out without any unusual incident. The remainder of the month was spent at Deir el Belah, The police were employed on watering areas, road patrols and canteens.

Frequent inspections of Brigade Detachments were held by the A.P.M. and every endeavour was made to improve the appearance and condition of the saddlery and equipment.

On the 20th D.H.Q. was inspected by the Corps Commander, and on the same day the Detachment was visited by the C.O., Egyptian Section Australian Provost Corps.

There is nothing further to report.

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

APPENDIX V. TO VOLUME 18 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. JANUARY 1918.

Summary of Arrests and Charges made by the Cairo and Heliopolis Detachments.

Failing to Salute.	58.
Absence without Leave.	107.
Disorderly Conduct.	1.
Assaulting the Military Police.	1.
Refusing to obey an order.	1.
Drunkenness.	82.
Failing to comply with an order.	1.
Improperly dressed.	13.
Using obscene language to an N.C.O.	3.
Creating a disturbance.	1.
Resisting Arrest.	1.
	<u>TOTAL 269.</u>

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

JAN 1918

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