

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

Provost

**Item number:** 3/8/21

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

April 1918



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**TRIPLICATE.**



Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

APRIL 1918 191

(VOLUME.....21.)

Signature of Officer compiling *J. H. Bisdace Lt Col.*  
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps  
A. P. M. .... A. I. F. in Egypt

Signature of Officer Commanding *J. H. Bisdace Lt Col.*  
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps  
A. P. M. .... A. I. F. in Egypt



APR 1918



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Volume 21.

Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cairo.	April 1918.		Duties in the Cairo Detachment were carried out as usual during the month, and no unusual incident occurred. The training of the new men was proceeded with, and, with the exception of a very few, the O.C. Cairo Detachment reports well of them.	JrB.
Heliopolis.	16-4-18.		On this date the Detachment at Heliopolis was withdrawn, leaving 1 N.C.O., 1 clerk and 6 mounted men to assist the Imperial Police in dealing with Colonial Troops in the area. The remainder of the Detachment under Lieut. G. McCarthy was sent to Moascar to await transfer to Desert Mtd Corps Headquarters.	JrB.
Moascar.	18-4-18.		Accusations have been made against certain members of the Corps of ill treatment of a certain Tpr MITCHELL who became insane in the Field Punishment Compound at Moascar. A Court of Enquiry was held on the matter and a copy of the Proceedings and Finding is attached as Appendix I. to this volume.	JrB.
Cairo	26-4-18.		<p>The following are extracts from Section Order No 586 of 26-4-18:-</p> <p><u>PROMOTIONS.</u></p> <p>The following promotions have been approved by the G.O.C.....A.I.F. in Egypt:-</p> <p>Major J.H. BISDEE V.C. to be Temporary Lieutenant Colonel.</p> <p>Lieut: E.D. GRIGSON to be Captain.</p> <p>Lieut: (Temp: Captain) A.J. WATTS to be Captain.</p> <p>to date from 17-2-18 in all cases. (Authority, A.I.F. Headquarters Memo <del>XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX</del>)</p> <p><u>APPOINTMENTS.</u></p> <p>G.R.O. No 3829 dated 23-4-18 reads:-</p> <p>The undermentioned officers of the Australian Provost Corps are graded as A.P.MsS without pay and allowances:-</p> <p>Lieut E.D. GRIGSON</p> <p>Lieut P.J. MARTIN.</p> <p>Lieut L. LAWRENCE.</p>	JrB
			During the month the Detachments in Palestine have been reinforced, 8 O.Rs. were sent to Jerusalem on the 24th and the Desert Mtd Corps Detachment has been brought up to 1 officer	

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Page 2.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
General.			<p>and 27 O.Rs. under Lieut G. McCarthy.            The process of weeding out had been continued and 8 unsuitable men were struck off the strength on the 25th.            An issue of police whistles has been made throughout the Cairo and Canal Zone Detachments to enable men to call for assistance when necessary in the course of duty.            The Detachment were all well reported on by their Os.C.; the Desert Mtd Corps Detachment was split up during the last week of the month and posted at various places along the Jerice road between Telat ed pumm and Ghoraniyeh Bridgehead. Its duties were to direct and control traffic along the road, assist in the evacuation of Prisoners of War, and police the town of Jericho.            The usual Appendices on the work of the other Detachments are attached to this volume.            Very few cases of disciplinary action against members of the Corps occurred during the month, there was one F.G.C.M. and two cases were tried by the C.O.            The record of Arrests and Charges for the month has been lost, but there does not appear to have been any unusual amount of crime in Cairo and there is no record of any disturbance.</p>	

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

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# WAR DIARY

- APR 1918

OF

EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

APRIL 1918.

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Proceedings and Finding Of Court of Enquiry in the case of MITCHELL?
II.	Report on Canal Zone Detachment.
III.	Report on Anzac Mtd Division.
IV.	Report on Australian Mtd Division.
V.	Report on P.L.of C. Detachment.

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APRIL 1918.

Original.Australian Headquarters, Egypt.  
Cairo, 18th April 1918.  
-----CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM NO 12.REFERENCE:- Alleged illtreatment of No 2033 Tpr MITCHELL, 9th L.H.Regt. by Australian Provost Corps.

It is known that exaggerated rumours have been circulated in regard to the above case.  
A board of enquiry was held consisting of:-

Major A.E.D'ARCY 12th L.H.Regt., Major F.G.GRIFFITHS? A.A.M.C., Capt: F.G.CODE. 9th L.H.Regiment.

The Finding, together with the evidence of Dr John WARNOCK, Mental expert to the Army for the Cairo District and Captain M.M.RODGERS?R.A.M.C., and Trooper MITCHELL'S own statements are appended.

1st WITNESS: Captain M.M.RODGERS, R.A.M.C. being duly sworn, states:-

"The report (procuded) made by me on the 7-3-18, is identical with Mitchell's condition on that date, with the exception that the two abrasions on the right cheek then mentioned, ~~were~~, upon further examination, found to be old scars. It would not be uncommon for a mental patient to show fear or apprehension when being approached or handled. The emotional disturbance caused by his getting into trouble may have caused the sudden breakdown. Had there been marks of violence I should have noticed them, for I made a thorough examination of Mitchell.

"Mitchell has steadily improved from his admission here, but he is still of unsound mind and I am not yet able to say what is the nature of his disease. I have never seen a patient such as Mitchell, whose mental breakdown has been traced to ill treatment. His condition, when admitted to "M" Special Hospital was some form of acute mania. I have known other cases in which the onset of acute mania was as sudden as in Mitchell's case, judging from reports."

2nd WITNESS: John WARNOCK M.D., Edinburgh, B.Sc. M.R.C.S., England, O.C. "M" Special Hospital, and Mental Expert to the Army for Cairo District, being sworn, states:-

"Assuming that the man Mitchell had a previous good character, and then suddenly made use of insubordinate remarks when spoken to, and then immediately afterwards offered violent resistance, it appears to me that the mental attack was developing when he made the insolent reply. The arrest made it more evident, and caused more rapid development. His resistiveness when being placed in the cell and his resistiveness when admitted here, were so much in harmony one with the other to make one conclude that it was due to entirely the same cause- mental defection. The apparent suddenness of the attack would be nothing extraordinary. It is quite a common occurrence for the symptoms of acute insanity to develop in one hour or less. Later on we may be able to diagnose his case, but at present it is not possible. In my opinion it would be improbable - even impossible - that a man should develop insanity from any injury which he had received within two hours, or even a longer period. There is usually an incubation period of a day or so between the date of the injury and the obvious outbreak of insanity. His symptoms are not different to those observed in cases of insanity not due to injury. They are consistent with a non-traumatic causation,"

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No 2033 Trooper MITCHELL 9th L.H.Reg't, makes the following statement:-

"I remember giving the insolent answer to the sentry. I remember afterwards falling in, and the Sergeant blamed someone else for the insolence, and I admitted the blame. I remember being ordered into the cells, I think I went to the cells myself. I can't remember the police taking hold of me to take me to the cells. ~~xxxxxx~~ I do not remember any more after I went into the cells. I had always been well treated by the Compound Staff and had a good job there as Mess Orderly. I do not remember being ill treated in any way. I always got on well with the Compound Staff and they gave me a good job. I cannot say what prompted me to make the insolent reply to the Compound Guard that morning. They had not provoked me in any way.

"I do not remember anything from the time I went into the Cell until I found myself in this hospital, I am well treated here but would rather go back to the Compound and complete my sentence."

FINDING.

The COURT having due consideration to the evidence as adduced, are of the opinion that no further evidence is needed, and are arrived at the following conclusions:-

- (1). That the Compound Staff of the Field Punishment Compound, Meascar did not treat Trooper MITCHELL with harshness or undue violence.
- (2). Medical examination on several occasions on the 5-3-18, and since, proved that MITCHELL did not, and does not show any signs ~~of violence~~ on his body or head, that he has been treated with violence.
- (3). (a). That the reports of Troopers AXELSEN AND GANZER were based on false conclusions.  
(b). That they inferred - and wrongly - that certain things were occurring, without being in a position to see.  
(c). That according to their own evidence, what they actually saw and heard is insufficient to support the charge they made.
- (4). That Trooper MITCHELL'S insanity is of natural origin and not the result of any injury received on 4-3-1918.
- (5). The evidence is unanimous in showing that, owing to MITCHELL'S particularly good behaviour, whilst serving the early part of his sentence, he was treated with unusual leniency.

Sd. A.E.D'Arcy, Major.  
President.

The G.O.C. A.I.F. in Egypt directs that this Memorandum be read on parade to all Units of the A.I.F. in Egypt to correct a most unjust and very unfortunate impression in regard to the action of certain members of the Australian Provost Corps.

Sd. F.G. NEWTON Lieut Colonel,  
A.A.G...A.I.F....in Egypt.

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

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APPENDIX II. TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. APRIL 1918.



Report on Canal Zone Detachment.

Duties were carried on as usual throughout the month.

During the first week the personnel of the Suez and Port Sais Detachments was almost entirely changed, the fresh personnel being drawn from the Cairo and Moascar Detachments.

On the 16th the following new Routine Time table for the Compound and Detachment was brought into effect:-

Field Punishment Compound

Reveille. . . . .	0500.	Dinner. . . . .	1200.
Parade. . . . .	0530.	Work. . . . .	1430 to 1630.
Physical Drill and Training. . . . .	0530 to 0645.	Bathing Parade. . . . .	1630 to 1700.
Sick Parade. . . . .	0700.	Tea. . . . .	1700 to 1730.
Washing and Ablution. . . . .	0700 to 0730.	Hand over to Guard. . . . .	1800.
Breakfast. . . . .	0730 to 0800.	Blankets of Refractory Prisoners. . . . .	2000.
Fall in. . . . .	0800.	Lights out in Special Yard. . . . .	2000.
Work. . . . .	0800 to 1130.	The prisoners blankets will not be touched until the Guard	
Inspection. . . . .	1145 to 1200.	takes over at 1800.	

In the Lines.

Reveille. . . . .	0530.	Lecture. . . . .	1300.
Breakfast. . . . .	0730.	Tea. . . . .	1700.
Lecture. . . . .	0930.	Duties Mount. . . . .	1800.
Inspection. . . . .	1130.	Lights Out. . . . .	2200.
Dinner. . . . .	1200.		

It appears to have been a particularly quiet month, and discipline, both in the Detachment and among the A.&N.Z. Troops in the Training Centre was good. The A.P.M. Kantara reports that the Detachment under his Command is doing excellent work among the A.&N.Z. Troops passing through, and that he is quite satisfied with them.

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

Admissions. . . . .	62.
Transfers to Citadel. . . . .	3.
Transfers to Gabbari. . . . .	1.
Refractories dealt with by Governor. . . . .	92.
Discharges, time expired. . . . .	57.
Safe custodies, Admitted and discharged. . . . .	30.

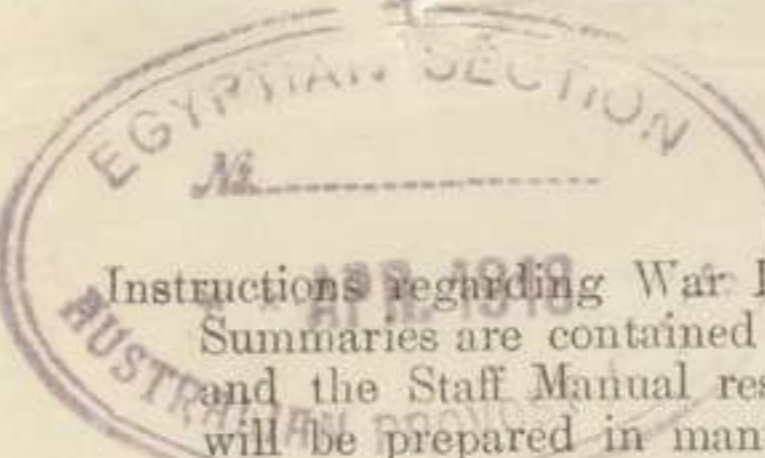
It should be noted that in the total of "Refractories", every minor infringement of Compound Rules is included, so that the large total of 92 does not mean that the prisoners were unusually insubordinate.

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

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Appendix III to Volume 21. Page 1.

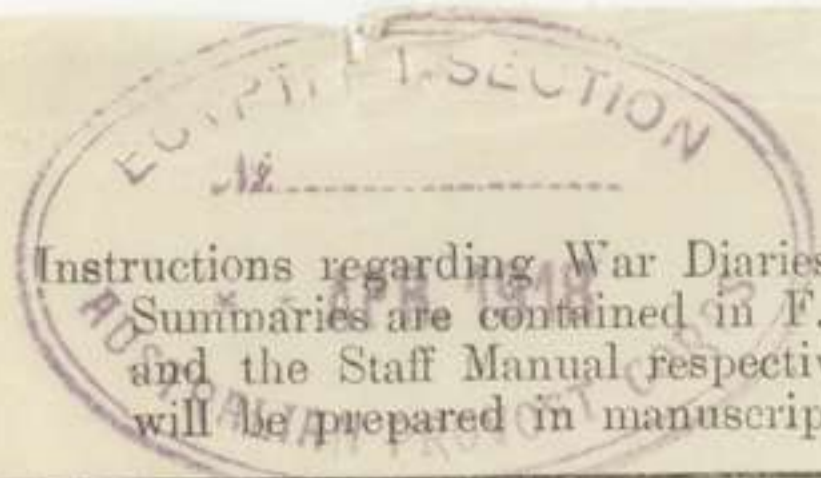
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ain es Sir. to Shunet Nimrin	1-4-18.	0800.	<p>The following is a copy of the War Diary of the A.P.M. Anzac Mtd Division for the Month of April 1918.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>As detailed in entry for 31-3-18, D.H.Q. camped all night of 31/3 to 1/4/18 at a point on Wadi Sir about one mile below the village of Ain es Sir. (142 S. 6. d.) N.Z.M.R. Brigade formed rearguard while camel transport, Mountain Batteries etc, moved down the wadi. By 0800 all these troops had safely passed through, and D.H.Q. moved off, followed by N.Z.M.R. Brigade. Before leaving three Turkish prisoners, an officer and two other ranks were brought in from Ain es Sir, where they had been captured disguised as Bedouins. They were placed under escort of two police and marched on with the column. As soon as the rearguard commenced to move down the wadi, it was fired on by the Circassian inhabitants of Ain es Sir, and suffered several casualties. As the enemy were advancing in force, the retirement was continued, and a position taken up in the neighbourhood of Khurbet Karade, (127 V. 3. b.). On the outbreak of the attack on the rearguard the three prisoners scattered and made as if to escape; but on being threatened by the escort with their revolvers they proceeded quietly. On arrival at Khurbet Karade the prisoners were sent straight on to await our arrival at Shunet Nimrin. D.H.Q. and N.Z.M.R. Brigade moved from Khurbet Karade at 1500 and marched to Shunet Nimrin, (127 P. 23. a.) where a halt was made for the night. Escort with three prisoners did not rejoin. Brigade police employed in policing bad portions of the track, guiding Units into bivouac Areas and regulating watering traffic on arrival of Brigades at Shunet Nimrin.</p> <p>-----</p>	
to Jericho.	2-4-18.		<p>D.H.Q., followed by 2nd L.H. and N.Z.M.R. Brigades left Shunet Nimrin at 0600 and moved across the Jordan at Ghoraniyeh Bridge. (127. Q. 2. c.) The police of D.H.Q. remained on duty at the bridge until all troops of the Division had passed over. Two bridges were in use and the procedure adopted was to send alternate half sections over each Bridge, thus keeping both bridges continually in use. Had the column been able to approach the bridge in Sections, no trouble would have been experienced, as Sections could have been directed by a policeman stationed at the fork of the road; unfortunately the nature of the approach to the bridge would not permit this, and it was found no easy matter to make troops understand what was required of them. Officers of troops crossing rendered the police every assistance in their power. D.H.Q. camped between Jericho-Ghoraniyeh road and the Wadi Kelt at a point about 1 mile East of Jericho. 2nd L.H. and N.Z.M.R. Brigades further down the Wadi Kelt. 1st L.H. Brigade, after covering the retirement from Shunet Nimrin, took up a position East of Ghoraniyeh Bridge</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

Appendix III to  
Volume 21.  
Page 2.

*Original*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jericho.	2-4-18.		head. The three prisoners captured in Ain es Sir were brought into D.H.Q. shortly after arrival in camp. Steps are being taken to have the officer tried by Court Martial as the instigator of the attack on our rearguard on 1-4-18. Unfortunately the papers taken from him were in the possession of an officer who was killed in the rearguard action and whose body was not recovered, so it is unlikely that sufficient evidence will be obtainable to get a conviction against him. The case had been taken over by the General Staff of the Division.	
	3-4-18.		A post of one Sergt and 4 men of 2nd L.H. Bgde police established at Gheraniyeh Bridge at 0500; this post is to be assisted by a Regimental Guard of 1 N.W.O. and 8 men, the whole to be under the command of the police Sergeant. Copy of orders issued to this post is attached as Sub-Appendix I. to this Appendix. Remaining Brigade Police are patrolling their own areas. D.H.Q. supplied patrol of 4 men on the Wadi Kelt to prevent pollution of water, though no definite orders have as yet been issued on this subject. Two p.o.w. received and evacuated.	
	4-4-18.		Duties as on 3rd., except that D.H.Q. supplied an additional 2 men to guard the reservoir at Tel es Sultan. (113.K. 10.) which supplies the drinking water for the town and area; there orders are that no bathing or washing is to take place in these reservoirs. They had some difficulty in enforcing these orders, as organised bathing parties were sent down by various units of the 60th Division with the intention of utilising the reservoirs as baths.	
	5-4-18.		6 police reported for duty from Desert Mtd Corps Headquarters, and were attached to D.H.Q. The following extra duties were taken over by this Detachment. 1. Policing of and regulation of traffic at Supply Dump South of Jericho. 2. Policing of town of Jericho. One man of the D.H.Q. Detachment who had a knowledge of Arabic was attached to the Bridge post as interpreter. 3 p.o.w. received and evacuated.	
	6-4-18.		Received and evacuated 5 p.o.w. Otherwise nothing to report.	
	to 210-4-18.		During the past four days nothing of particular importance has occurred. A market place has been established a short distance East of the town, where natives can sell fruit and other commodities to troops. No other place is to be used for this purpose. These orders have been strictly enforced, and some 70 or 80 natives have been arrested in camp areas and dealt with by the I?O. at Jericho. It has been found that a number of natives are in the habit of going North to the	

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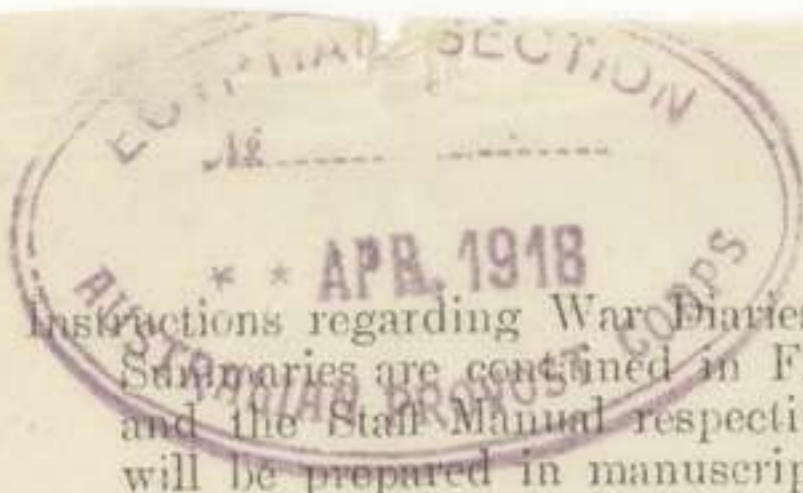
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Appendix III to  
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 Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jericho.	10-4-18.		Line held by the Imperial Camel Brigade, North of the Wadi Auja ( 113.J,12.d.) ostensibly to examine their crops and ascertain whether they had been damaged by troops. As this practice affords enemy agents opportunities for gaining information as to our defences in that area, orders have been issued that no natives are to proceed further North than the Wadi Obaedieh, (113.J.8.). A number of refugees from East of the Jordan have been passed through the Bridge post, also some of our intelligence agents.	
	11-4-18.		Enemy attacked Ghoraniyeh bridgehead defences and was repulsed with heavy losses. Received and evacuated 2 officers and 46 O.Rs. p.o.w.. These were collected and escorted to D.H.Q. by the police of the 1st L.H. Brigade.	
	12-4-18.		Evacuated 31 O.Rs p.o.w. Nothing further to report.	
	13-4-18.		Evacuated 7 O.Rs. p.o.w. Four police arrived from Moascar to complete establishment on the 1st and 2nd L.H. Brigades. As the 2nd L.H. Bgde could not mount their two they were detained for duty at D.H.Q.	
	14-4-18.		Evacuated 3 o.r.s p.o.w. At 0300 a man dressed in Austrian uniform was detected by the police post at Ghoraniyeh endeavouring to cross the bridge unnoticed with his boots off. He was arrested and conducted to D.H.Q. where he stated that he was an interpreter in the Turkish forces and had deserted. He was found to be in possession of maps of our defences and a second uniform differing from that which he was wearing. As he was in uniform he was evacuated as a p.o.w. under a special guard: it was afterwards discovered that he was a well known enemy agent.	
	15-4-18.,		N.C.O. i/c/ Bridge post reports that Indian Cavalry and Infantry crossed the Jordan Eastwards at 0400 and 5th L.H. Regt crossed Westwards at 0700, all troops crossing without difficulty. Evacuated 3 p.o.w.	
	16-4-18.		Evacuated 12 p.o.w. Otherwise nothing to report.	
	17-4-18.		During the past week duties have been carried out as detailed in entry for 5th inst. Very little trouble has been caused by troops and only a few trivial charges have been made by the police. Order forbidding riding in shorts have been strictly enforced. A few natives are still found	

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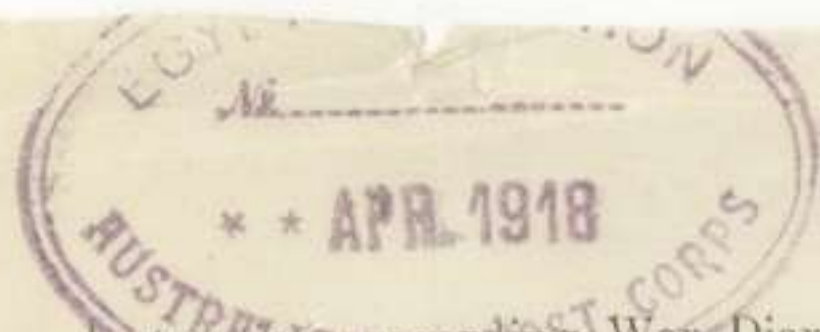
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jericho.	17-4-18.		<p>loitering around camps and selling fruit etc; but this nuisance has been practically overcome. The Imperial Camel Brigade still complains of natives wandering through their lines, and the police of that Brigade have arrested the same natives repeatedly for the offence. These natives have been brought before the I.O at Jericho and severely dealt with. The Post at Ghoraniyeh Bridge has passed through large numbers of refugees and Intelligence Agents.</p>	
	18-4-18.		<p>The A.P.M. and 6 police from D.H.Q. went down to the brigade in the afternoon to assist in crossing the troops taking part in the forthcoming Demonstration past of the Jordan. At 1800 the 303 Bgde R.F.A. commenced to cross and was clear of the Bridge at 2030 without accident. At 2100 the N.Z.M.R. Brigade crossed; clear at 2230. One horse fell into the river and was recovered with difficulty,</p>	
	19-4-18.		<p>2nd L.H.Bgde reached the bridge at 0400 and crossed rapidly without mishap, being clear of the bridge by 0530. All guns and heavy wheeled traffic were manhandled across, teams being sent <del>sent</del> ahead to save congestion. The A.P.M. and police returned to D.H.Q. at 0700 leaving 4 men to regulate traffic on Jericho-Ghoraniyeh <del>bridge</del> road. Duties were resumed on the bridges at 1800 to control the crossing of returning troops. 303 Bge R.F.A. commenced to cross at 1930 and the whole force was clear of the bridges by 2230; the crossing was carried through without a hitch. Anzac Divisional R.H.A. remained on the east side of the river. D.H.Q. police returned to camp at 2400 leaving two men to bring in a party of refugees from the bridge. Evacuated 3 p.o.w.</p>	
	20-4-18 to		<p>Duties as usual. Small parties of p.o.w. received and evacuated; otherwise nothing of note occurred.</p>	
	24-4-18.		<p>On the 22nd the duties of Provost Sergt of the Division were taken over by No 562 Sergt E.E.COLLETTE. Sergt TOONE was transferred to Meascar. On the 23rd Capt A.J.WATTS left for Egypt, for treatment of the wound received on Nov 8th 1917, which had been causing him trouble. The following Orders have been issued regarding washing in streams in the area:-        "No washing or bathing is to take place in any spring or running water, but washing may be permitted 20 yards from the water's edge in water carried there in buckets, provided the waste water does not go back into the stream.        "This order does not apply to the Jordan."        ( D.R.O. 950 of 21-4-18.)</p>	

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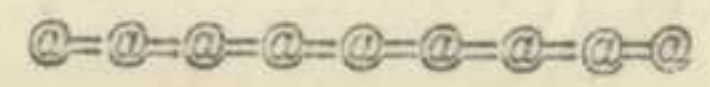
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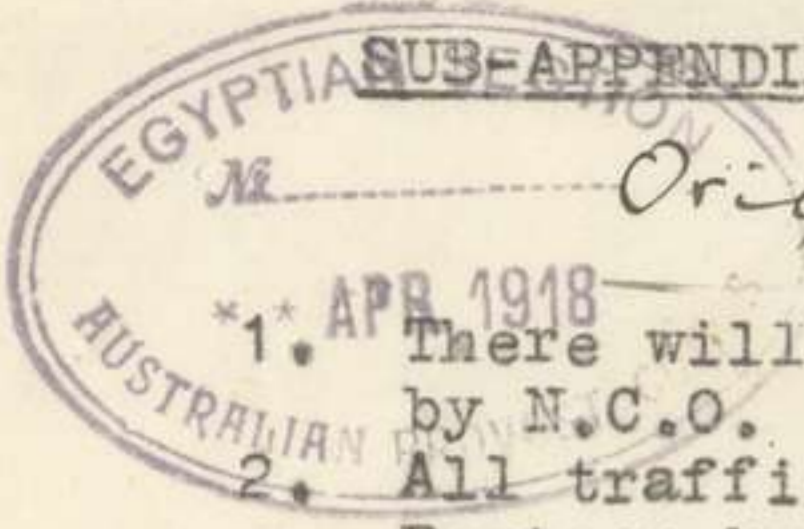
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jericho.	24-4-18.		"On no account are horses or camels to be washed in the Wadi Kelt." (D.R.O. 952. of 21-4-18.)	
	25-4-18.		A native in possession of a pass signed by Capt MACHRAY, I.O., G.H.Q. passed over the bridge Westwards. This man had crossed Eastwards on the 20th inst. He was brought before the Agent on duty at the bridge, who failed to recognise him. He was then escorted to the I.O. at Jericho, who found him to be an enemy agent who had obtained a pass from one of our own men.	
	26-4-18.		2/Lieut, E.H. COWEN marched in from Ayun Kara and assumed duties as Acting A.P.M. of the Division, in the absence of Captain Watts.	
	27-4-18.		2nd L.H. Bgde passed over bridge at 2300. Otherwise nothing to report.	
	28-4-18.		<del>The</del> 5 men attached for duty on the 5th were returned to Desert Mtd Corps, the sixth has been evacuated to hospital. Police were employed in directing traffic on the Gheraniyeh road, which was full of troops moving down to the forthcoming operations. The police Post at Gheraniyeh was relieved by the police of the 60th Division. This Post has done excellent work on the Bridgehead since the 3rd inst: All traffic has been regulated, hundreds of refugees have been passed through to Jericho, and two enemy agents have been detected and arrested. The duties of the post have frequently been carried out under shellfire and attacks from hostile aircraft. Credit is due to No 372 A/Sergt J.A. BROWN for the way in which he has carried out his duties as N.C.O. i/c Post.	
	29-4-18.		1 officer p.o.w. evacuated. Otherwise nothing to report.	
	30-4-18.		Orders to be ready to move out at 0600. No patrols sent out. "Stood to" all day but did not move. During the month discipline throughout the area has been good, only a few minor charges having been made by the police. Strict attention has been paid to the orders governing pollution of water, damage to crops, trading with natives and interference with inhabitants of the town. Brigade police have been employed in their own areas on the usual police duties which have been satisfactorily carried out. A report on the duties performed by the detachment at Ayun Kara is attached as Sub-Appendix II to this Appendix. Copy of Monthly Report Sub-Appendix III. Orders re inhabitants of occupied villages Sub-Appendix IV.	

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C.O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps



SUB-APPENDIX I TO APPENDIX III TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

Duties of Bridge Post at Ghoraniyeh.

1. There will be 4 men on duty by day and night, one man on the bank at each end of each bridge, hours to be arranged by N.C.O. in charge. Men must be armed and properly dressed.
2. All traffic proceeding East over the Jordan will cross by the barrell bridge, and that proceeding West by the Pontoon bridge; unless one bridge is under repair, when all traffic will be directed over the sound bridge. Eastward moving traffic will have preference, except in the cases of ambulances bearing wounded and despatch riders.
3. Not more than two animals will be allowed to cross abreast, and there must be at least one man to each pair of animals.
4. No civilians are to cross Eastwards, unless provided with a pass signed by an Intelligence Officer or a Staff Officer.
5. All armed or suspicious looking civilians crossing Westwards will be handed over to the N.C.O. i/c Post who will have them interrogated by the I.O. stationed at the bridge. If the officer is absent they will be detained until his arrival.
6. The N.C.O. i/c Post will be held responsible that these orders are carried out.

Subsequently Para 5. of the above was cancelled and the following substituted:-  
 All natives, whether men, women or children, armed or unarmed, crossing the bridge Westwards at any hour of the day or night are to be detained at the bridge until the following evening, when the Intelligence Agent on duty will collect them and escort them to Jericho. This native will leave the bridge between the hours of 1600 and 1700 daily.

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SUB-APPENDIX II. TO APPENDIX III. TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

Report on the Detachment at Ayun Kara.

- April 1st. A number of men from the 52nd Division were in the town of Ayun Kara without passes, and were creating a disturbance. It was impossible to arrest them all, so they were collected and escorted out of the town in batches. About 20 arrests were made during the afternoon.
- April 2nd. Still a large number of men of the 52nd Division in town without passes. The same procedure as yesterday was adopted, and about 14 arrests were made in the evening.
- April 3rd. 3 arrests made of soldiers creating a disturbance in the town.
- April 8th. Special patrols placed on the town on the occasion of Baron Rothschild's visit. All quiet. Later two suspects were arrested and brought to the office where one of them drew a revolver with the evident intention of using it. On this being taken from him he drew a knife and attempted to stab one of the police. Both suspects were handcuffed and chained up.
- April 10th. Native referred to above forwarded to Military Governor at Ramleh under police escort, charged with attempted murder and carrying concealed arms. Large sums of money also found on these men were forwarded

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April 10th.

by special escort and a receipt obtained.

April 13th.

Wire received from A.P.M. Ramleh that Moustafa Mahomed, the native charged with attempted murder, has escaped. Police instructed to keep a sharp look out for him.

April 14th.

2/Lieut Cowen and 9 police, accompanied by a Yeomanry Detachment of 3 officers and 34 O.Rs., raided a village of Beit Dejan (071.L.24.c.). Three camel loads of Government Property were collected and brought to Ayun Kara. Nine natives were arrested and vrought in to be questioned as to arms and ammunition in the village.

April 15th.

Three more natives arrested at Beir Dejan, as one of the menarrested there on the 14th gave their names as being in possession of arms and ammunition. Still holding all natives arrested as hostages, as no rifles or ammunition have so far been brought in from the village.

April 16th.

Questioned all natives arrested at Beit Dejan, but could get no information of value. Released 3 with instructions to ewepert back tomorrow with arms and ammunition. Released another native at 1730 with similar instructions.

April 17th.

Raided Arab village on the outskirts of Ayun Kara and obtained a small quantity of Government Property.

April 18th.

A cael load of Military goods was brought in from Beit Dejan, consisting chiefly of sacks, also two old revolvers, Remainder of hostages released.

April 19th.

Raided all Yeminite houses in Ayun Kara and obtained two sacks full of Military clothing etc.:

April 21st.

It is reported that bedouins are digging up bodies on the old battlefield in this Area. Police instructed to keep a strick look out.

April 23rd.

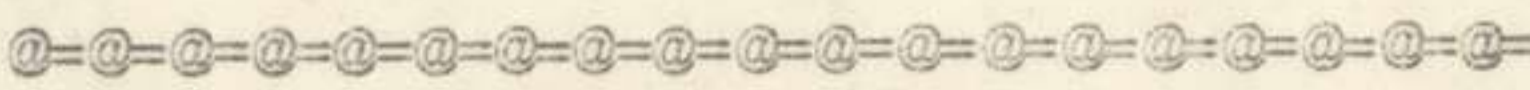
Capt Watts arrived from Advanced D.H.Q. and took over the Area from 2/Lt Cowen who left for Advanced D.H.Q. to take over duties as ~~XXXXXXX~~ A/A-P-M Anzac Mtd Division.

General.

There was a good deal of illicit selling of liquor during the early part of the month, which was the cause of the trouble with the men of the 52nd Division. Although no arrests have been made in this connection, such a strict watch has been kept by the police that the offenders have been unable to carry on their ~~trix~~ trade.

Many cases of Cruelty to animals ahve occurred, which have been suitably dealt with by the Auth-erities.

Market places have been established near the camps where natives can sell goods to troops. This has practically overcome the trouble cauded by natives entering camp areas. It is, however to be regretted that troops do not avaik themselve s more of these market places, and thus deprive the natives of any incentive to enter camps.



J. A. P. ... Col  
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A. P. M. .... A. I. F. in Egypt

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SUB-APPENDIX III TO APPENDIX III TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

Summary of returns for the month of April 1918.

Prisoners of war dealt with. . . . . 4 Officers. 153 other ranks. Total 157.  
Court Martial Prisoners sent to Base. . . . . 2.

Charges made against Soldiers. . . .

Absence without Leave. . . . .	39.
Drunkenness. . . . .	5.
No identity Disc. . . . .	2.
Damaging Crops. . . . .	4.
Presenting a false pass. . . . .	1.
Striking a N.C.O. . . . .	1.
Creating a disturbance. . . . .	1.
Improperly Dressed. . . . .	29.
Insubordination. . . . .	1.
Interfering with the M.P. . . . .	1.
Resisting Arrest. . . . .	2.
Improper language to Superior Officer. . . . .	5.
Riding in shorts. . . . .	1.
Washing in streams. . . . .	2.
Out of bounds. . . . .	16.
Committing an offence against an inhabitant of the country. . . . .	3.
Disobeying a direct Order. . . . .	1.
Neglecting to obey an order. . . . .	2.
Inciting soldiers to mutiny. . . . .	1.

Total. 117.

Of this total, 84 charges were against members of Units not on the Anzac Mtd Division.

Charges against Natives. . .

Out of Bounds. . . . .	8.
Pollution of Water. . . . .	9.
Selling fruit in camps. . . . .	80 (About.)

Total 97.

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SUB-APPENDIX IV. TO APPENDIX III. TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

Instructions/ re dealing with the inhabitants of Occupied Villages during Operations.

When advancing through villages in the progress of ~~an~~ Operations, the A.P.M. of the Formation concerned will take immediate steps in conjunction with the Advanced Intelligence Officer, to warn the Headman that all the inhabitants of the village must concentrate in the village within 24 hours, and must not leave its precincts again until permission to do so is given: and that any person seen outside the village in defiance of this order is liable to be shot.

When it is found necessary to evacuate from a village either certain undesirables, or the whole population of the village, the A.P.M. of the Formation, will, with the help of the Advanced Intelligence Officer and the Headman, select responsible villagers to remain in the village as Ghaffirs to guard the property of those evacuated.

To avoid subsequent claims, an inventory of the property left in the guardianship of such Ghaffirs should, if possible, be drawn up and signed by the Headman of the village and by the Ghaffir, and a copy should be retained by the A.P.M. The A.P.M. will provide such Ghaffirs with a Green Armlet with the letter "G" marked thereon in Red.

G.H.Q. 1st Echelon,  
April 18th 1918.

Signed F.P. Fearon. Lieut Col., A.A.G.  
FOR D.A.G.

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APPENDIX IV TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

APRIL 1918.

Report on Australian Mtd Division.

The first five days of April 1918 were taken up in moving from Deir el Belah to Jaffa. The A/A.P.M. with 6 of the D.H.Q. police travelled ahead of the Division the whole way and took over the bivouac area each night, guided troops into place and controlled traffic and watering.

The Division remained in the Jaffa Area until the morning of the 20th. The police performed the usual duties in all villages and orchards in the neighbourhood of camps. 2 police were sent to Jaffa to do duty under the A.P.M. there.

Everything appears to have been quiet and orderly in the Area.

On the 20th the Division left the Jaffa Area and marched to Jericho, arriving there on the 26th. No halt was made at Jerusalem; the Division marched through from Enab to Telat ed Dumm on the 23rd and remained there till the 26th. The usual advanced party of police was sent ahead to take over the new bivouac areas. At Telat ed Dumm all the police were employed on the watering area as the supply was very limited and there was apt to be considerable congestion in the traffic.

From the 26th to the 29th the police did duty on the Jericho Supply Dump and the Wadi Kelt, regulating traffic at the former and enforcing orders governing the water supply at the latter.

At 2100 on the 29th the Division ~~marched~~ moved across the Jordan on Operations and advanced in the direction of Es Salt. Police posts were established along the route for direction of traffic and collection of stragglers.

On the 30th 3 prisoners were received and evacuated. D.H.Q. was at that time about 3 miles W. of Es Salt.

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*J. H. Biddle Lt Col.*  
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A. P. M. .... A. P. M. in Egypt

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APPENDIX K. TO VOLUME 21 OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

APRIL 1918.



Z Report on the PALESTINE LINES OF COMMUNICATION DETACHMENT.

Patrols were found throughout the month on dumps and railway lines and villages in the area.

Reports were received that a great deal of looting from trains was being carried on by the natives. To cope with this the Detachment at Mejdal was moved to Esdud and ordered to keep a sharp lookout for cases of this nature and to try and locate some of the stores and fodder already stolen. The police located a quantity of grain in a Bedouin Camp between Esdud and gukerieh. A raid was organised, but, on arrival, the camp was found to be deserted.

Two Bedouins were arrested in the village ~~XX~~ of Sinsim for being in possession of Government petrol. They were dealt with by the Military Governor.

On the 30th the Detachment left No 3 Area and moved to Jerusalem, to do police duty in the town. A halt was made at Junction Station on the night of the 30th, and Jerusalem was reached on 1-5-18.

The health of the Detachment has been consistently good throughout the month, and the O.C. reports that all ranks have worked well and carried out their duties satisfactorily.

The condition of the horses is also excellent.

There is nothing further to report.

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*J. H. B. ...*

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

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