

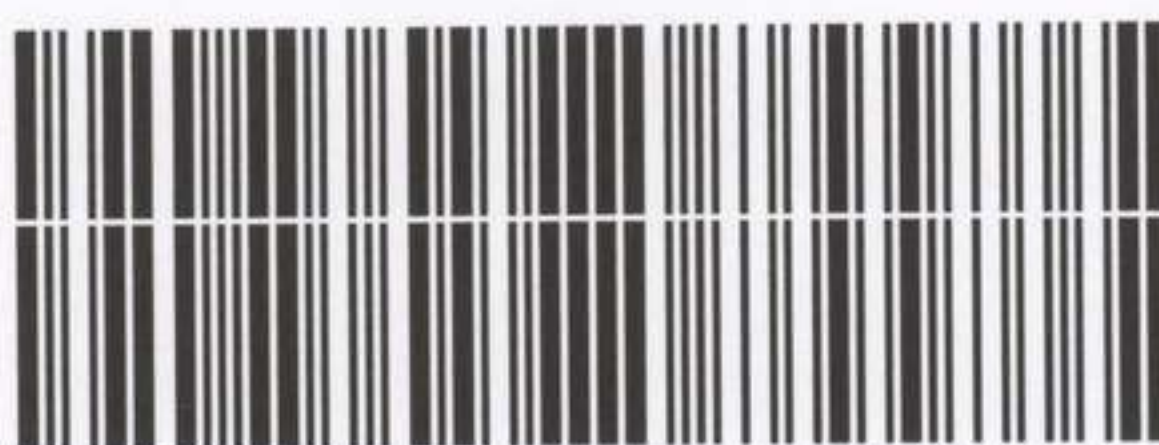
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Provost

Item number: 3/8/7

Title: Egyptian Section, Australian Provost
Corps

February 1917



AWM4-3/8/7

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~



Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

EGYPTIAN SECTION, AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

F E B R U A R Y 1917. 191

(1 VOLUME.....7.)

Signature of Officer compiling

J. H. Bissell Lt Col.

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

Signature of Officer Commanding

J. H. Bissell Lt Col.

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

- MAR 1917

- MAR 1917

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

Confidential.~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~Volume 7.Page 1.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAIRO.	1-2-17.		Duties as usual. Nothing of importance to report.	
Heliopolis.	3-2-17.		Fatal accident occurred to No 157 Cpl Matthews N.E. Whilst on patrol, his horse became excited and collided with that of his comrade. Matthews was thrown and sustained a fractured skull. He died early on the morning of the 4th February.	
Cairo.	6-2-17.		Major General Sir H.G. Chauvel, K.E.M.G., C.B., G.O.C., Anzac Mtd Division, inspected the Cairo Detachment at Kasr el Nil. He expressed his satisfaction at the general turn out of the men and the condition of the quarters.	
	14-2-17.		A letter was written by C.O., Egyptian Section to O.C. Cairo Detachment Anzac Provost Corps, inaugurating a new system of dealing with serious offences in Cairo, and methods of giving evidence and framing charges. An extract of this letter is attached as Appendix I. to this volume.	
	17-2-17.		As certain Australian and New Zealand soldiers, on discharge from 27th General Hospital, Abbassia, and Infectious Diseases Hospital, Choubra, have absented themselves without leave whilst returning to their units, it has been arranged to include discharged patients from these hospitals in the parties from No 14 A.G.H. which are escorted to Details by the Cairo Detachment. (See entry for 17-10-16. and 18-11-16.)	
	18-2-17.		A new arrangement has been made with the A.P.M., D.D. & L. of C. Defences with reference to the area of the Ezbekieh District to be patrolled by the Anzac Provost Corps. Sharia Wagh el Berka is the dividing line between A.P.C. and M.P. patrols, and the following area is allotted to the Anzac Provost Corps:- All lanes and streets adjoining Wagh el Berka and facing Ezbekieh Gardens up to Sharia Kamel. From there to the Royal Bar, turning round into the street leading into Emad el Dine, up Emad el Dine and turning round into Sharia Boulac to Sharia Kamel, up Sharia Kamel to Sharia Manakh and back to the West side of Ezbekieh Gardens. This area is enclosed by a dotted red line on the map attached as Appendix II. to Volume I. of this Diary. With reference to the above arrangement, Sharia Kamel is patrolled by a special patrol of 2 Sergeants and 2 Corporals in turn, from 1000 to 1600 and from 1600 to 2200 for the purpose of enforcing orders in regard to saluting and dress.	

MAR 1917

EGYPTIAN SECTION
FEB 1917
PROVOST

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.

Original

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

Volume 7.

Page 2.

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Kantara.	21-2-17.		A Detachment of four O.Rs. has been sent to Kantara for duty on the railway station at Kantara West to preserve order and regulate traffic among Australian troops travelling to and from the front. They will come under the Moascar Detachment for pay and discipline.	J.H.B.
Moascar.			A short report on the work of the Moascar Detachment with a summary of arrests and charges made by them during the month is attached as <u>Appendix II.</u> to this volume.	J.H.B. <u>APP. II.</u>
			Report on work of Field Troop for the month, <u>Appendix III.</u>	J.H.B. <u>APP. III.</u>
			Report on Anzac Mtd Division Detachment for month. <u>Appendix IV.</u>	J.H.B. <u>APP. IV.</u>
			List of places OUT OF BOUNDS in Cairo. <u>Appendix V.</u>	J.H.B. <u>APP. V.</u>
	<u>Summary.</u>		This has been a particularly quiet month in Cairo and discipline amongst troops on leave has been good. The summary of arrests and charges for the month, (attached as <u>Appendix VI.</u>) shows a total of little over a third of that for last month. Nearly half the charges are for the offence of "Being improperly dressed in town" and are the result of the work of the special patrol on Sharia Kamel. Cases against members of the Corps for the month:- C.O's. Cases.....7. F.G.C.M.....1. There is nothing further of importance to report for the month.	J.H.B. <u>APP. VI.</u>
			E = = = = =	

J. H. B. D. A. C. Col
C. O. Egyptian Section, Australian Provost Corps
A. P. M. Egypt

- MAR 1917
F 351

WAR DIARY

OF

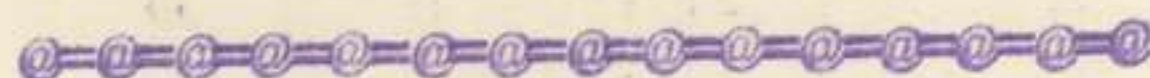
EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FOR

FEBRUARY 1917. 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
I.	Letter re system of dealing with serious offences in Cairo.
II.	Report on Moascar Detachment.
III.	Report on Field Troop.
IV.	Report on Anzac Mtd Division.
V.	List of places "Out of Bounds " in Cairo.
VI.	Summary of Arrests and Charges Cairo.



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



MAR 1917

FEBRUARY 1917.

Copy of letter from C.O. Egyptian Section to O.C. Cairo Detachment.

Arrests for serious offences in Cairo.



With reference to the above, you will, for the future, adopt the following procedure.
In all serious cases, such as theft, offences against property or persons, etc., especially where any member of the civilian population is involved, or if you consider that a F.G.C.M. will be necessary, or in cases where all the evidence that is available is in Cairo, the prisoners will be taken before the Commandant of the Expeditionary Force Base, either Australian or New Zealand, and they will be dealt with by the Base Commandant, who, if necessary, will take the summaries of evidence and the Courts Martial will be held in Cairo.

It will be necessary for you carefully to examine every case in the future, and I would bring to your notice that complaints have been made in the Division during the last few days that in many cases the evidence, as set down, is found to be insufficient, conflicting, and in some instances quite useless.

It is absolutely imperative that all evidence should be conclusive and corroborative, else, if there is a flaw in the evidence of the police, the case falls to the ground and great discredit ~~is~~ is brought on us.

You will commence a series of lectures to the Kasr el Nil Detachment on, 1. The giving of evidence. 2. Framing of charges and so forth, and impress on all ranks the absolute necessity of corroboration in these matters.

The A.A.&Q.M.G., A.&N.Z. Mtd Division, has authorised the procedure mentioned in the first part of the foregoing, and you will assist the A.I.F.&N.Z. Base to carry out the procedure.

If conduct sheets are required in Cairo a telegraphic request should be made to me, and the copy of Crime Sheet and results of all investigations and trials of all soldiers dealt with, should be sent to me for record and passing to Unit concerned.

You will provide all escorts required to carry out these instructions, and will ensure that they are correct and smart in appearance and manner.

Please acknowledge receipt of these instructions, which should be conveyed to all officers of the Corps in Cairo and District.

All cases dealt with by the Bases will go through your office.

Headquarters, Anzac Mounted Division.
14-2-17.

Sd. A.F. Jordan Capt.
C.O. Egyptian Section Anzac Provost Corps.
&
A.P.M....Anzac Mtd Division.

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

MAR 1917

F-35/4



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Confidential.

or

Appendix II. to Volume 7.~~INTIMIDATING SUMMARY~~Page 1.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Moascar.	February 1917.		The is very little of importance to report for the month.	
---	10-2-17.		The Detachment was inspected by Lieut. Col. Powles, A.A.&Q.M.G., Anzac Mtn Division, who expressed his extreme satisfaction at the efficient state of the Field Punishment Compound and the Detachment in general.	
	12-2-17.		Major J.A.Clutton A.P.M., Eastern Force, inspected the Detachment and also appeared much impressed with the improvement shewn since his previous visit.	
	15-2-17.		In order to minimise the chances of prisoners employed outside the Compound bringing prohibited articles into the Compound on their return, the following procedure has been adopted:- All prisoners will be searched in the presence of the escort before leaving the Compound. They will also be searched in the presence of the escort on their return. In the event of any prohibited articles being found, in their possession on their return, the escort will be held personally responsible.	
	26-2-17.		In order to improve the efficiency of the N.C.Os. of the Detachment in Compounding work, one N.C.O. per day is detailed to report to the N.C.O. i/c F.P.Compound for duty on prisoners' parade.	
	28-2-17.		Orders governing passes of civilians to enter camps at Moasvar are as follows:- No passes or permits to enter camp are to be issued to civilians or natives other than those employed on military work except through the agency of the A.P.M. Ismailia. Bearers of unauthorised passes should be sent under arrest to A.P.M. Ismailia together with the confiscated pass. (Station R.Os. 24 and 35.)	
			The following is a summary of charges made by the Detachment during the month.	
			Drunkenness.....3.	Disobedience of Orders.....2.
			Absence without leave...2.	Improperly Dressed.....1.
			Leaving his Guard.....1.	
			<u>Natives and Civilians.</u>	
			Hawking in camp without permit.....18.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

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

MAR 1917

F 35/5

APPENDIX III. TO VOLUME 7. OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS.

FEBRUARY 1917.

Report on work done by Field Troop during the month.

During my period of duty with the 7th A.L.H. Regiment at MA'ASAIID a special course of cavalry drill was carried out, consisting of preparation for meeting hostile cavalry in shock action.

Only one event of importance occurred, namely the inspection of the 2nd L.H.Bgde by Lieut. General Sir P. Chetwode. When passing my troop he noticed that my horses were in rather low condition and asked me the reason of it. I inform him that the troop had been attached to the 1st L.H.Regt and had only just come into reserve. He then remarked "Your men and horses have been through it." On the 22nd February I handed over command of the Troop to Lieut. R.A.ADAMS and proceeded to Cairo.

Signed P.J.Martin, Lieut,
Anzac Provost Corps.

The 2nd L.H. Brigade left MA'ASAIID at 0700 on the 22nd February and marched to SHEIK ZOWAIID, the Troop forming part of the 7th A.L.H. Regt. Arrived at Sheikh Zowaiid at 1630 the same day and camped there until 0100 on 23rd. At that hour the Brigade advanced towards KHAN YUNUS. The troop escorted the camels of the 2nd L.H. Field Ambulance as far as RAFA, where they halted at 0530. The troop was then broken up into sections to patrol the valley North of RAFA to look for Turkish stragglers and prevent Bedouins from moving towards the Turkish lines, one section being sent on outpost to a commanding position between Rafa redoubt and the sea. This duty was continued till about 1200 when word was received that the Brigade was returning from a reconnaissance in force on Khan Yunus. The troop then escorted the A.M.C. camels back to Sheikh Zowaiid. On arrival there at about 1630 a standing camp was formed on the beach and one section was immediately sent up the beach on Outpost duty.

During the rest of the month a system of reconnaissance patrols was carried out by which the troop formed part of a ~~recon~~ patrol as far as the enemy's positions near Khan Yunus every other day, small parties of prisoners being taken from time to time.

There is nothing further of importance to report for the month.

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

- MAR 1914

Report on work done by police of Anzac Mtd Division during month.

1-2-17. to 7-2-17. The Division is still in the El Arish area. Discipline is good throughout the Division, except for a few cases of disobedience of Routine Orders prohibiting the galloping of horses in heavy sand, and riding along wire netting Infantry roads. Small parties of prisoners of war are being received daily.

On Feb. 1st orders were issued by the Chief of General Staff, G.H.Q., E.E.F., with reference to espionage and leakage of information, of which the following is an extract which bears on the procedure to be adopted in dealing with suspects in the Divisional Area:-

"The action to be taken in the case of a suspect depends on circumstances. As a general principle far more drastic action may be taken during an advance than during stationary warfare. The following may be taken as a guide:-

"(a). During mobile operations any civilian in the fighting area on whom the least suspicion rests should be arrested and handed over to the Intelligence Branch of the Staff, for transference to the nearest G.H.Q., Intelligence Officer.

"(b). The papers of any person dressed in uniform, of whatever rank, whose words or actions are suspicious should be examined by any officer, N.C.O. or man on the spot. If this leaves any doubt the suspect should be taken to the nearest British Officer who will be responsible that he does not escape. If the officer is not satisfied he should send the suspect to the nearest A.P.M. or Intelligence Officer, or direct to the Headquarters of the nearest Brigade, Division or Corps, who will have enquiries made.

"In territory which has been occupied by the enemy particular care must be taken to guard against the working of the enemy's espionage system. During a retreat he may leave agents either in uniform or dressed as Bedouins concealed in native towns or in Arab encampments to observe the movements of our troops, and to communicate with the enemy by special Bedouin agents told off for the purpose beforehand.

"Carrier pigeons are very possibly employed by the enemy, and may be left in all native villages or Arab encampments to communicate information over long distances.

"If a man has the misfortune to be taken prisoner, he is not to give any information beyond his own name and rank. The enemy cannot and will not compell him to say more, though he may threaten to do so, on the contrary he will respect a man whose courage and patriotism do not fail even though wounded or a prisoner. Prisoners should be on their guard against any officers dressed as British officers who are employed by the enemy to extract information.

"Papers of every sort must be burnt before troops move from a billet or bivouac. All chalk or other marks indicating the units occupying the billets must be removed before departure.

"It is of the greatest importance that every man in the ranks should be impressed with the necessity of doing every thing in his power to combat the enemy's system of espionage, and above all to do nothing to assist him by carelessness in writing, talking or custody of documents. If circumstances prevent him from giving an evasive answer to a question such as "Where he has come from, or Where he is going" he should understand that it is a national duty to make a false statement, however much he may dislike doing so.

"It is essential that the whole of the information contained herein be communicated to all ranks.

*NOTE. Any man coming into our liner captured, who claims to be on special service for us should

- MAR 19 1951



APPENDIX IV. TO VOLUME 7. OF WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. PAGE 2.

be detained, but the case should be reported urgently to the nearest G.H.Q., Intelligence Officer."

G.H.Q., E.E.F.
1st Feb. 1917.

Sd A.L. LYNDEN-BELL., MAJOR GENERAL,
Chief of General Staff.

7th to 14th.
Feb: 1917.

The following is an extract from report by A.P.M., A.&N.Z. Mtd Division for week ending 14-2-17.

"Prisoners of War. During the week 32 prisoners of war have been evacuated through Desert Column.

Railway Crossings and Pipe Line. The police have had some difficulty in enforcing the order, as in many instances Brigades have been located some considerable distance from recognised crossings, as in the case of the 2nd L.H. Brigade, which is situated about a mile from a crossing. They have however made two crossings over the Pipe Line with sandbags, which are very satisfactory. Application has been made for the formation of a level crossing over the railway line in the vicinity of that Brigade, but at present this has not been done."

"The order referred to is a Divisional Routine Order forbidding the crossing of Railway or Pipe lines by troops or vehicles at any place other than an authorised level crossing.

"General. The various Brigades were visited by me during the week and the police are all carrying out their duty satisfactorily.

"The Camel Transport units are daily visited and it was found in some places that the lines were dirty & ill kept, but after interviewing the Officer Commanding, the necessary improvement is to be seen.

"Leave to Port Said.

BOUNDS. I visited Port Said during the week and noticed a number of soldiers there on leave from the Division.

"The placing of the public women's quarters out of bounds appears to me to be the cause of an amount of crime. Soldiers from the Division, if given short leave, are only able to go to Port Said, and on arrival there find the women's quarters out of bounds. I would recommend that a certain number of the women's establishments be supervised and placed in bounds, and that soldiers be permitted to make use of the places within certain hours, as is the case in Cairo, and I would suggest that the hours be from 1600 to 2130 daily, the same as in Cairo."

20-2-17. The 4th Light Horse Brigade has now been formed, and is at Ferry Post on the Suez Canal. In order to start the police of that Brigade on a firm footing three experienced N.C.Os., 1 Sergt and 2 Corporals, are transferred from the Anzac Mtd Divisional H.Q. Application has been made for an increase in the Establishment of the Corps of 1 Sergeant and 9 men to provide a full Detachment for that Brigade. On this being approved, the Detachment will be absorbed into the Corps as has been done with the other Divisional Police.

The following is an extract from the report of the A.P.M. for week ending 21-2-17.

"I would like to point out that some units are not supporting the action of the police with regard to contravention of D.R.O. against "Gallopings in sand.", and when cases are being brought up they are frequently dismissed

MAR 1917

E-35/8

FEBRUARY 1917.



LIST OF PLACES AT PRESENT "OUT OF BOUNDS" TO TROOPS IN CAIRO.

EZBEKIEH.

Wassah. Wassah Bazaar from 2130 to 1600.

Bab el Cherieh. Sharia Tanbally after 2130 daily.

Clot Bey. All the lanes and brothels on the right and left of Clot Bey Street except the first turning on the right coming from Khazindar Square. After 2130 daily.

Wagh el Berka. Street and all streets and brothels on the right and left of Wagh el Berka after 2130 daily.

Citadel. Villages El Kharta and El Hattaban, North of Citadel, between tombs of Khalifs and the Citadel, Arab-el-Yassar, Sidi-Galal and Manshieh Prison South of the Citadel, between the tombs of the Memelukes and the Citadel.

Citadel Road. All drinking shops, Sharia Mahomed Ali.

Mansheya. Houses in Mansheya Square.

Kasr el Nil. Buffet de la Promenade, East end of the Bridge.

Mouski Khalig. Daher to Mawardi and vice versa closed to vehicles and horses.

Native Villages. All.

Swimming Baths. All Public Swimming Baths.

=====

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

- MAR 1917

E 351
110.



APPENDIX VI. TO WAR DIARY OF EGYPTIAN SECTION AUSTRALIAN PROVOST CORPS. VOLUME 7. FEBRUARY 1917.

SUMMARY OF A RRESTS AND CHARGES BY CAIRO AND HELIOPOLIS DETACHMENT FOR THE MONTH.

Out of Bounds.....7.
Absance without leave.....44.
Drunkenness.....15.
Deficient of Identity Disc..... 7.
Imprøperly dressed.....73.
Refusing to obey an order given by his superior officer..... 1.
Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline..... 1.
Creating a disturbance..... 1.
Resisting arrest..... 3.
Presenting a false pass..... 2.
Breaking arrest..... 1.

TOTAL CHARGES. 155.
TOTAL ARRRESTS. 136.

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

- MAR 1917

E351
/11