

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

Postal

Item number: 17/3/2

Title: Australian Base Post Office,
Egyptian Expeditionary Force

April 1918



AWM4-17/3/2

BASE POST OFFICE.

AUSTRALIAN BASE POST OFFICE

S. Z 3

65 / 1 / 1

EGY

D.A.P.S.,

In accordance with your instructions, I beg to submit the following report on the working of the Australian Base Army Post Office E.E.F., for the month of March 1918:-

Mails received from Australia:-

Letter Bags	211
Parcel "	796
Newspapers	633
	<u>1640</u>

Mails despatched to Australia

Letter Bags	305
Parcel "	75
	<u>380</u>

Mails received from London, 704 Bags

Mails received from the Field

and Egypt

678 Bags

Mails despatched to London 43 "

Mails despatched to the Field

and Egypt

2171 "

The number of bags received from London could be considerable reduced if correspondence be sorted alphabetically, at the present time many of the bags contain only one or two letters.

STAFF Important changes in the Base Office Staff have taken place during the past month, Staff Sergeant Inches was placed in charge vice Staff Serbeant Downe transferred to the Field on the 21st March 1918.

3057	Trooper G.F. Cole	to F.P.O.	DML	9.3.18
1637	" K.F. Murray	"	TML	14.3.18
1581	" H.C. James	"	DML	21.3.18
2585	" J.W. Blake	" A.P.O. SZ41	do	
307	" J.V. Scanlon	" F.P.O. LH2	do	
86	" H. Brown	rejoined F.P.O.	LH2	16.3.18
2416	" J.G. Wines	"	LH3	17.3.18

TRANSFERS TO A.B.P.O.

739 A/cpl L.C. Weeks from F.P.O. LH3

2311 Tpr F. Atkinson

" Moascar Training Centre (pending transfer.)

238 Cpl. Kelly and 3586 Ptr R.L. Millar 7th L.H. were sent here from Moascar Training Centre for interview, but were returned as undesirable for transfer - the former on account of his rank and the latter as being physically unfit to perform the duties required of him.

At present the staff of the A.B.P.O. is 5 men below establishment I shall be glad if the A.I.F. Headquarters can be requested to fill the vacancies as soon as possible.

It is found necessary to borrow 3 men from Moascar Training Centre to act as vacancy substitutes.

The Australian Base Army Post Office, Kantara West, closed on the night of the 8th March and reopened at Kantara East on the morning of the 9th, in a hut measuring 150' by 30', specially constructed to meet requirements.

The staff is working exceedingly well under Staff Sergt. Inches who promises to be a very able leader.

The site of the new camp occupied by the personnel is a much healthier spot than the old one on the west back of the Canal, and it is anticipated that the staff will derive great benefit from the change.

Kantara
11th April 1918

(Sgd) ? Hahn
Captain R.E.
D.A.D.P.S.

Australian Headquarters
C A I R O

AUSTRALIAN BASE POST OFFICE

S. 23

65/1/1
22nd April 1919
EGYPT

D.A.P.S.,
A.I.F.,
LONDON.

Soon after my arrival in Egypt I asked the D.A.P.S., E.E.F. if he would be good enough to arrange for a monthly report on the A.I.F. Postal Services in Egypt to be supplied to the D.A.P.S., A.I.F., London and he promised to do so.

Separate reports by the D.A.D.A.P.S., Kantara, and D.A.D.A.P.S., Desert Mounted Corps (Field), who each control a section of our service here have been forwarded to me through the D.A.P.S., E.E.F., and are attached hereto. I asked that a copy might be supplied to the A. I. F. Headquarters, Cairo, for their information and this will be done.

The marked portions of the reports denote that the matters referred to therein have been dealt with in connection with the re-organisation. It will be seen that the many changes made by me have caused great satisfaction generally as well as increasing the efficiency of our service here.

It has been necessary, as you no doubt will understand, to proceed with caution and use great tact in dealing with the R.E.P.S. but I am glad to say that, while we have had some spirited arguments at times, as they did not desire any changes made in the systems in vogue, I was in the end successful in introducing the new systems which are now working splendidly.

Acting S/sgt. Inches, H.C.O. in charge of the A.B.P.O., Kantara, has done good work since taking over from S/sgt. Downe, having had the whole of the new Card Index Records to complete as well as supervise and put into working order other schemes recently introduced; the whole staff working splendidly especially in transferring and completing the Card Index.

S/sgts. Green and Downe are at present acting as Divisional Supervisors (or Inspectors) in the field. These H.C.Os. were recommended for the positions by the D.A.P.S., E.E.F. and the D.A.D.A.P.S., Desert Mounted Corps, and I think should prove more than equal to the task, as they are thoroughly experienced in Army Postal Work, having had three and a half years service with the Light Horse, and also understand the conditions here, which is a very important factor.

The establishing of the two Australian Divisional Stationary Post Offices (S241 and S242), which gives us direct vouching between the A.B.P.O. and the Field, makes it possible to keep a check on the parcels and complete our records.

Captain,
D.D.A.P.S., A.I. FORCES.