

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

Engineers

Item number: 14/36/22 Part 2

Title: 1st Field Squadron, Australian
Engineers

March 1918 (duplicate)



AWM4-14/36/22PART2



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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

1st Field Squadron Eggrs

FOR

MARCH 1918

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding.....

WAR DIARY

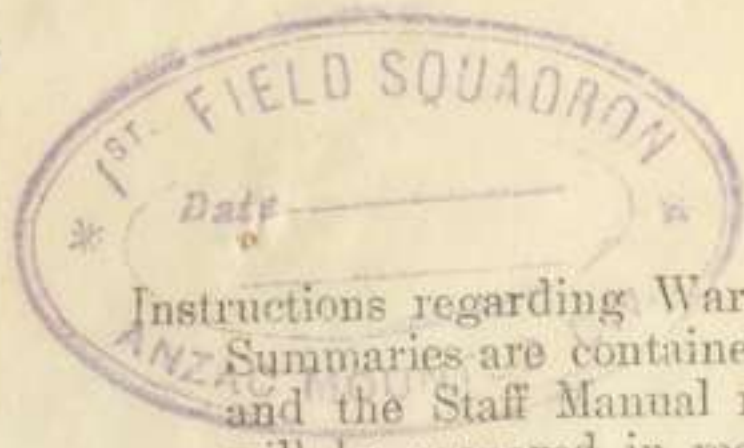
Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	MARCH 1918		HEADQUARTERS	
JERUSALEM			Troops were attached to Brigades complete till the 18 th when the right half of Each Troop reported to S.H.Q at JERUSALEM, for preparation of material for demolition work.	
AYON KARA.			The following was done by a small detachment at S.H.Q - RUNNING and maintenance of Town Water Supply Plant, Village of RICHON (AYON KARA) - Maintenance (up to date of dismantling) of Barrel Pier Bridge	
LUDD	1 st		Overhauling equipment and obtaining renewals from A.R.R.E LUDD	
	2 nd		Erected Gallows and prepared trenches for Bayonet fighting and Gymnastic Sergeants attached to Division	
	4 th		Commenced dismantling of Tel-es-SULTAN Barrel Pier Bridge	
TEL.ES.SULTAN	5 th		Continued dismantling of B.P. Bridge and returned material to R.E. Park LUDD	
	6 th & 7 th		Preparing schemes for Bridging of JORDAN RIVER and demolition of HEDJAG RAILWAY.	
	9 th		Commenced removal of Squadron DUMP from Kilo 205 to LUDD	
HEDJAG	10 th		Requirements worked out, and orders submitted for explosives for demolition of HEDJAG RAILWAY.	
	11 th		C.E XXI Corps interviewed re handing over water supply at AYON KARA	
	12 th		Removed S.H.Q camp from AYON KARA to RICHON EAST	
	13		Trekked from RICHON to LATRON	
LATRON	14		" " LATRON to JERUSALEM camped on the Mount of OLIVES Raining every cold.	
	15		Raining all day - 16 th Moved into Billets at ENGLISH HOSPITAL JERUSALEM commenced preparation of Explosives for demolition work. Sent to BIREH for gelignite	
TALAAT-ED-DUMM	17 & 18		Detachments of A, B, and N.Z Troop reported.	
	19		Loading explosives - Left Jerusalem 1000 trekked down JERICHO ROAD to near TALAAT-ED-DUMM.	
KASR HAULA	21 & 22 nd		Overhauling explosives - Standing by. (JORDAN still in Flood)	
	23 rd		Left TALAAT ED DUMM 1800 marched to KASR HAULA (D. Troop. DES CORPS, constructed Bridge over JORDAN).	
TEL-EL-MUSLIM	24 th		Crossed JORDAN 0800 trekked to TEL EL MUSLIM arrived 1700, commenced march up road 3 at 1800 Road impracticable for wheels - From about two miles along road sent back to MUSLIM for Camels and transferred loads from 1/2 limbers to camels	
BIREH			Followed Imperial Camel Brigade up ROAD 3.	



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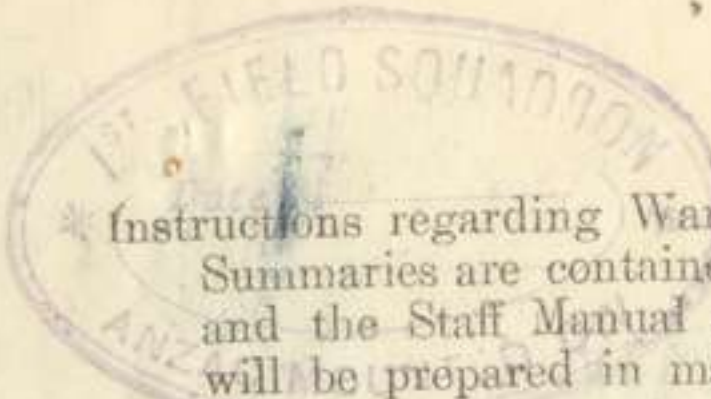
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Place	March Date 1918	Hour	HEADQUARTERS Coytd.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
AIN HEKR	25 25-26 NIGHT			Rainy - Road so slippery as to be almost impracticable for Camels - Continued trek through AIN-HEKR	
UMM. AMUD				Marched to UMM-AMUD great difficulty with Camel transport, road very bad rainy and bitterly cold	
AMMUN	26-27 NIGHT			At UMM-AMUD, 27 th Moved on to AMMAN 0700. Stood by at Divisional H.Q before AMMAN, explosives on packhorses	
SHUNET	28 th			0130 Lieut Lockington and detachment covered by 2 Squadron 5 th A.L.H Regt. Demolished two arch, masonry bridge, 16ft high, gap 25ft. Charge 600 lbs fired electrically.	
NIMRIN.	29 th 31 st			Attack continued, stood by awaiting opportunity for further demolition work same of the 30 th 0100, Demolition party trekked to UMM-UMUD, transferred unused explosives, back to Camels from pack horses and rejoined Divisional H.Q at AIN-ES-SIR. Detachment from B and N.I Troops, joined Brigades, Detachment A Troop proceeded down Road 4 acting as Camel Escort. Left Ain-es-Sir 1500 Trekked via Road 4 to SHUNET NIMRIN arrived 2130 and bivouacked.	

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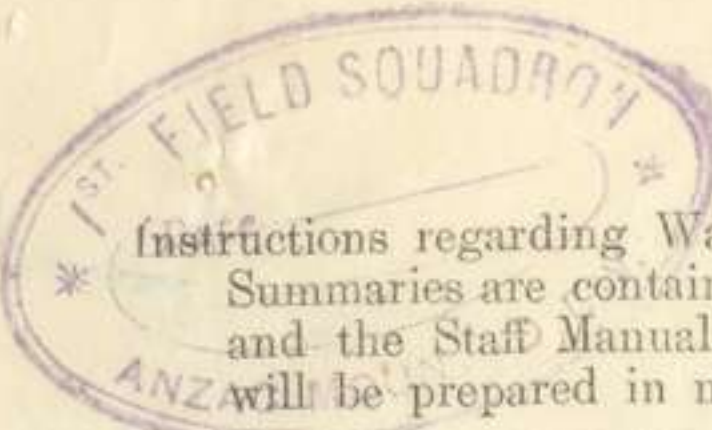
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Place	Date	Hour	A FIELD TROOP.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RICHON	1 st			Supervising watering arrangements for Brigade at RICHON. Overhauling and repairs to Troop equipment. 2 O.R supervising watering arrangements for Div Train.	
AYON KARA F.I.	2 nd				
RAMLEH	5 th			Moved with Brigade from RICHON on trek to RAMLEH and arranged watering	
ENAB	6 th			" " " " RAMLEH " " to ENAB " " " " they on to BIDDA.	
BIDDA	7 th			" " " " BIDDA " " " BEITUNIA " " " " for Brigade.	
BETIN	8 th			" " " " BEITUNIA " " " BETIN " " " " " " " "	
BETHLEHEM	11 th			Brigade watering under R.E Field Company arrangements - Lieut Jones & 2 O/R with 1 st A.L.H. Regt	
MAR ELIAS	12 th			Troop engaged on repairs to Transport Wagons and overhauling Troop equipment	
BETHLEHEM	13 th			Lieut Jones & 2 O/R with 1 st A.L.H. Regt.	
MAR ELIAS	14 th			Moved from BETIN to BETHLEHEM and prepared watering arrangements for Brigade, less one Regt. Battery R.H.A.D.A.C. and 1. Brigade Mountain Battery at MAR ELIAS and one Regt Machine Gun Squadron less (less 2 sub section) Field Amb M.V.S and B.H.Q at Bethlehem - Lieut Jones and 2 O/R with 1 st A.L.H. Regt	
MAR ELIAS				Watering Brigade at MAR ELIAS and BETHLEHEM Lieut Jones with 1 st A.L.H. Regt	
RUMMON				Separate Diary of Lieut Jones and 2 O/R attached to 1 st A.L.H. Regt.	
ET TAIYIBEH.				8 th Moved from BEITUNIA with detachment to water 1 st Regt A.L.H at BEITIN from BEITIN to to RUMMON and camped the night	
MUNTAR				9 th Moved at 0400 with 1 st Regt to ET TAIYIBEH and watered 1 st Reg & Details and No 10 Mountain Battery at Cistern in TAIYIBEH - Left 4 O/R at TAIYIBEH to water Regimental Transport and moved with rest of detachment to MUNTAR. located water square S.15A SHEET XV. and watered Regt and Machine Gun detachment	
DAREL JERIA				10 th Shifted 4 O/R with troughs from TAIYIBEH to RUMMON and erected trough in square V.11.A Sheet XVII to water regimental transport - Making pack Road from square S 27 D Sheet XV. along Wadi DAREL JERIR to Square S 22 b Sheet XV. Prospecting for fresh cisterns.	

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Place	Date	Hour	A TROOP Coy th Lt Jones. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RUMMON		11 th	Watered Regiment and details at Square VIIa - Shifted trough to new cistern Square S 26 a Sheet XV Making road (pack) to watering area. Watering regimental transport at RUMMON	
		12 th	Watered Regiment and prospecting for fresh cisterns. h	
TIYIBEH		13 th	" " " " " " " " Located one in Square S 4 a. Sheet XV and arranged for Machine Gun Section to water with buckets.	
MUNTAR		14 th	Making road from TIYIBEH to MUNTAR - Same on the 15 th	
Sheet XVIII, 100.11.4 R.G. a		16 th	Moved from Muntar with regiment to BEITIN and arranged watering for Regiment and details	
BEITIN		17 th	Moved from BEITIN to BETHLEHEM and erected troughs at BEIT-JALA for 1 st Regt.	
		18 th	Watering 1 st Bde at Bethlehem - 2 half limbers 8 horses 4 Drivers. 10/R 10 Riding horses to S.H.Q.	
		19 th	" " " and Auckland Regt N.Z. - Repairing water pumps at B.H.Q. packing limbers for move with Bde	
		21 st	" " " " " " " " - On track with Bde at 1800	
BETHLEHEM		22 nd	" " " at Tel-et-Dumm Tracked with Bde to NEBI-MUSA	
Sheet XVII, 100.11.35 1" = 1 mile		23 rd	" " " at Greek Convent	
BEIT JALA		24 th	" " " and 1 st and 2 nd liye 1 st Bde Carrels at AIN HAULA	
		25 th	Tracked with Bde from AIN HAULA to Square 27.0 Central, Sheet ES-SALT watered Bde at Wadi NIMRIN	
TEL-ET-DUMM		26 th	Officer 2/R prospecting for water	
Sheet XVIII, 113.9.11 1" = 1 mile		27 th	Improving water supply for Bde in Wadi RALEM	
NEBI-MUSA		28 th	Watering 1 st Reg at VMN-ES-SHERT. 2 Reg at Wadi RALEM. Lyverness and Ayrshire Batteries at JORDAN	
Syria Jerusalem N. 3			Brigade Troop at JORDAN Square O.I.B.D. Sheet ES-SALT.	
AIN-HAULA		29 th	Improved spring found on 25/3/18 in square O.I.C. sheet ES-SALT and watered Ayrshire + Lyverness Batteries A 303 Batteries	
WADI NIM RIN		30 th	Improving Spring and watered 2 Batteries. Brigade Troop-Welsh Infantry and Transport-1 st Bde Fld Amb.	
WADI RALEM		31 st	Improving water supply of spring watering same as 30 th /3/18.	
VMN-ES-SHERT			Continuing O.C.'s Report from the 14 th .	
	15 th to 20 th		Watering Bde at Bethlehem and MAR ELIAS.	
	21 st		" " one A.L.H. Regt, M.G.S. Field Amb, Vet Sect, Sig Troop and B.H.Q. Watered from 6" main, fed from low level aqueduct, Sheet XVII, 100 33 d - Placed 2-600 gallon	

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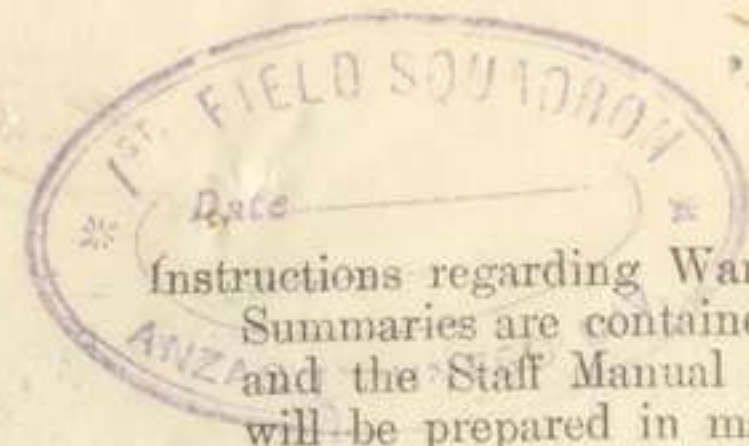
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	March 1918		A Troop Coy R.	
MAR ELIAS	21 st	day	carvas troughs in old existing stone troughing and fed direct from 6" main.	
KH-EL-MESHRAH			Approaches only one road existed and traffic required careful handling to prevent congesting - Having plenty of time in carrying out the watering parades. Total, numbering 1100 horses Time taken to water 2 1/2 hours.	
WADI EL-KELT			MAR ELIAS. Watering one Regt, 1 Batty, R.H.A. 1 Bde Mountain Batt. 1 Regt N.Z.M.R Bde. Watered from 2 Stone Cisterns fed from high level Aqueduct, Sheet 17, Sq 100 K.10b. Put down 4,600 gallon carvas troughs and 1,2300 carvas reservoir for mays drinking water. Good area for water system. Time for watering above unit's 2 1/2 hours.	
ABU:			Lieut Weedman and 6 Sappers and 1 Troop from 2 nd ALH Regt left Beit Lehem at 1100 on the 17 th 23-18 for Kh-el-Meshrah Sheet 18, Square 113, 10.6. To carry out watering arrangements for ANZ Mounted Division.	
UMM DUMM			Working in conjunction with the 522 Field Coy R.E. arrangements were made to water one Brigade and Divisional Units at watering area of the 60 th Infantry Div. and 2 Bdes at water system of Wadi el Kelt. Owing to the disposition of Bde camp areas and the rough hilly country and no roads a road was made from Square 13b along the Abu which enabled horses to pass when in halt sections.	
TEL-ABU-KUR			Lt Weedman and 12 9/R with S.H.Q preparing explosives and loads for Demolition operations	
NAAUR	22 nd		1 " " " demolition party with S.H.Q moved from UMM DUMM to KUSR HAJLEH.	
	23		Moved with S.H.Q " " from KUSR HAJLEH to TEL ABU KUR (Sheet AMMAN Sq 127 W 25d)	
	24		" " " " " of track along N°3 road through NAAUR to crossroads. Sq 127 R 25b	
AIN-ES-SIR	25, 26		" " " " " from Cross roads	
WADI JERIA	27		Demolition party standing to awaiting orders for Action. Sq 127 R 35d.	
	28 1830		Lieut Weedman and party Escort camels loaded with explosives. from Sq 127 R 35d.	
SHUNET-NIMRIM	31		through AIN-ES-SIR following track along wadi Sir at Sq V.11b and travelling to WADI JERIA or to ShUNET NIMRIM	



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Place	MARCH Date 1918	Hour	B TROOP.	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WADI RUBIN		1 st	I have to report that general routine work was carried out by this Troop. - 2 nd A.L.H. Bde and Divisional Train drinking and animal water supply was kept satisfactorily supplied. Pumping plants and Technical gear over hauled and repairs effected where necessary. On all occasions when time permitted, field games such as football, cricket and foot racing were indulged in, to keep the men in a good standard of condition.		
Map Syria Jerusalem Sheet XVII 085M.10. 1"=1 mile		to			
LATRON.		11 th			
WADI HANEIN.		12 th		Acting on instructions from S.H.Q through B.H.Q 3 drivers with 6 horses and 1 G.S. Wagon were detailed to report to O.C.D. Troop Des Corps Engineers at Wadi RUBIN for duty until further notice	
I.M.E. of Ayon Karh. Map Syria Jerusalem Scale 1:100,000 F.1.		13 th		Acting under 2 nd A.L.H. Bde orders 2 Officers & 41 st R marched out with Bde at 0930 to LATRON. Technical gear was carried on 20 Camels and 1 half Limber. A detail of 1.N.C.O & 3 men remained at WADI HANEIN. to take charge of the watering of details of 2 nd A.L.H. Bde & H.Z. Bde.	
JERUSALEM		14 th		Remained at LATRON with Bde on the 14 th , repaired roadway on South Side of LATRON watering area over wadi by building stone causeway over lengths of 4 inch metal casing at suitable point for horses to leave area after having watered at troughs. An Irish bridge was constructed at a suitable point for entrance to area; thus avoiding the necessity for troops watering, to go on to the metal road on the North side of Area and causing congestion and blockage of traffic which had previously been the case.	
AMMAN		to			
Sheet AMMAN Sg 142 Y.12b. 1"=1 mile		16 th			
		17 th		Continued march with Bde to JERUSALEM arrived camping area 1600 and supervised arrangements for watering Bde.	
		18 th		Lieut Campbell with 14 th R including 2 drivers with 1/2 Limber reported to S.H.Q under instructions from C.O. through B.H.Q. and remained under direct command of C.O. Sadriz. with demolition party during the advance on AMMAN and to date of withdrawal. 31 st They receiving orders to join the Bde. - The balance of the Troop under Lieut ^{Mc} Glaughlan remained with Bde. - Lieut ^{Mc} Glaughlan reports having attended to any watering arrangements that were required by Bde. which amounted to constructing a few small temporary dams when required, where streams were running too narrow and fast for horses to drink properly. Watering arrangements were simplified through out the operations by heavy but unwelcome rains. 1.N.C.O & 2 men each carrying 4 slabs of Gub cotton and 4 each of primers detonators and safety fuse, were detailed to report to B.H.Q. to act under orders of a Bde Officer in an attempt to cut enemy Railway line at an arranged point. The Troop with draw with Bde on the 31 st suffering 1 casualty during operations.	
		31 st			

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RAMLEH Sheet XIII O85 H.6 1" = 1 MILE.	1 st			Watered Bde - Exchanged pumping gear of watering area - Carpenters making obelisk and preparing timbers for culvert. Painting crosses. 2 Limbers sent to RAMLEH for repairs.	
WADI HANEIN 1 Mile E of Ayon Kana. Map Syria Jerusalem.	2 nd			Sappers excavating foundation for culvert walls and erecting timber on site. Farmers rejoining horses	
F.I.	3 rd			Carpenters and sappers erecting culvert and fixing tie up rails at B.H.Q. filters changing hoses of watering area and fitting pumps	
JUNCTION STATION Sheet XVI F.28d 1" = 1 MILE.	4 th			Erecting culvert. - Filters fitting pumps and threading troughs. Filters preparing spare pump parts -	
ZACARIYAH Sheet XVII O86 W31a 1" = 1 MILE.	5 th to 7 th			painting and carrying crosses - limbers delivering pumping gear to Regiment's.	
BETHLEHEM Sheet XVII 100 K.35 1" = 1 MILE.	8 th to 11			Carpenters making crosses painting and lettering them. Watering brigade, overhauling gear.	
TAL-ET-DUMM Sheet XVIII 113 G.11. 1" = 1 MILE.	12 th			Sorting loads for Camels and limber and spare horses.	
	13 th			Marched out at 1000 from Wadi HANEIN with Bde reached JUNCTION STATION at 1500. R.E's watered Brigade at woodey troughs	
	14 th to 15 th			Rested at Junction Station. R.E's watered Brigade and Somerset Battery	
	16 th			Marched out from Junction Station at 0730 for ZACARIYAH, on arrival at 1130 erected water hoist and three troughs and watered Brigade and Battery	
	17 th			Arrived at BETHLEHEM	
	18 th			(Mr) Lieut Lockington and party of 16/R left for Mount of Olives and camped there - Lieut Large with remainder of troop put down pump for drinking water and troughs for C.M.R. to water.	
	19 th			Lt Lockington on the Mount of Olives preparing explosives - Lt Large watering C.M.R.	
	20 th			Pr " " " " " " " and marched out at 1600 for TAL-ET-DUMM.	
	21 st			Mr LARGE'S party watered C.M.R. at BETHLEHEM.	
	22 nd			Arrived at TAL-ET-DUMM at 0130 remained the day, checked explosives and gear for demolition - Party from Brigade joined up. Mr Large and party arrived from Bethlehem.	
	23			Instructed Brigade party in their duties and overhauled gear. Mr Large and party superintending watering of Brigade	
				Moved out from TAL-ET-DUMM at 1500 arrived Jordan River 2400 and bivouached for the night - Mr Large's party watering Bde moved out with Bde at 1930 bivouached on the East Side of the Jordan River.	



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NIMRIM	24 th			Moved across JORDAN RIVER at 1030 and stood to all day. - Mr Lange and party left with Bde and bivouacked in WADI NIMRIM	
NAPUR	25 th			Moved forward on No 3 Road (JORDAN to AMMAN) and left the 4 Limbers at Valley, loaded material on Camels, and proceeded with 4 miles of NAPUR, halted for 1/2 hours they moved forward to NAPUR. - Mr Lange's party moved off with Bde at 0800 up Wadi SIR bivouacked near AIM-EN-SIR.	
WADI SIR	26 th			Moved from NAPUR at 0630 arrived near south of NAPUR at 0500 bivouacked for night. 25 th & 26 th wet days, had great difficulty with Camel Transport loaded with Demolition Material. Lieut Lange's party rested at AIM-EN-SIR with Bde.	
AIN-EN-SIR	27 th			Proceeded to AMMAN RAILWAY and blew up Masonry Bridge. (Demolition carried out at 0130 of the night 27 th & 28 th) of 2 Arches each 12 ft span - Used in Demolition 600 slabs of Gun cotton	
AMMAN	28 th			Lieut Lange's party moved off with Bde towards AMMAN halted in Wadi AMMAN with HEADQUARTERS. Lieut Lange's party remained with B.H.Q. carrying small arm ammunition on horses and camels from Dump at D.H.Q. to N.Z.M.R. B.H.Q. and Machine Gun Sdny	
	29 th			Arrived back at 2 nd B.H.Q. at 0500. Stood to in Wadi all day and carried small arm ammunition to B.H.Q.	
	30 th			Stood to all day, carried ammunition to B.H.Q. retired with Bde at 2400 to AIM-ES-SIR.	
	31 st			Evacuated AMMAN and proceeded to AIM-ES-SIR handed all explosives over to S.H.Q. Lieut Lange's party joined up with Mr Lockington's party and stood to all day.	