

**AWM4**

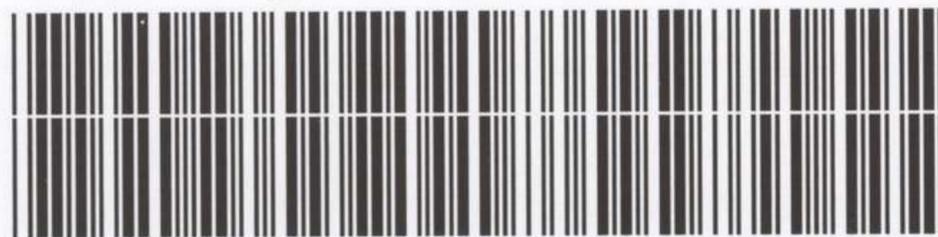
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/40/54

**Title:** 2nd Australian Light Horse Field  
Ambulance

February 1919



AWM4-26/40/54

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.

OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. H. P. Ambulance

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Rafa	1.2.19.		<p>Strength 1 of 74 O.R. At this time a school for medical officers was being held in Cairo. Major Bowman, Capt Marsh were attending from this unit. As Lt Col Smith had returned to Australia and Capt Smith was with the detachment at Semakh, two officers in the Ambulance and one from the 6<sup>th</sup> and one from 7<sup>th</sup> Regt had to do the medical work for the brigade which was without the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt.</p> <p>There was very little sickness &amp; urgent cases were being sent direct to Belah where there were 2 British General Hospitals. Ordinary daily evacuations were made to the Scottish Base 7<sup>th</sup> Amb. at Rafa. Station about 2 miles away.</p>	<p>Med.</p>
Feb. 4			<p>2 O.R's went to Hauser for embarkation to Australia on urgent grounds</p> <p>1 O.R attending a course at the Agricultural College Jaffa</p> <p>1 O.R " " at the workshops Ramleh</p> <p>This reduced the strength to 69 O.R's and with big attendances at the Educational classes daily the routine work of the unit kept everyone busy.</p>	<p>Med</p> <p>Med</p>

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2<sup>nd</sup> L. H. Field Ambulance

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lufu	13.2.19.		Usual routine up to this date when a case of measles was discovered in the Brigade the man having marched in from Moascar 7 days previously. Immediate steps were taken the contacts isolated and all men marching in from Moascar where they had an outbreak of measles were at once put into isolation for a fortnight.	W/S
	15.2.19.		Majors Downman R.M. & Capt March returned from the school at Cairo. Capt Abbott returned to his Regiment. Another school beginning in Cairo the 12 <sup>th</sup> Regt & 17 <sup>th</sup> Regt. went down to attend leaving 3 units in the Brigade which was still without the 5 <sup>th</sup> Regt.	W/S
	16.2.19.		Another case of measles in the Brigade. These cases are being sent direct to Belah.	W/S
	19.2.19.		Another case of measles. Effective strength 3 off 800 R.	W/S
	24.2.19.		Farewell address by General Chauvel at 10.30.	W/S
	26.2.19.		Belah hospitals closed down and this unit had to hold all cases of measles for the Division until such time as numbers	W/S

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3<sup>rd</sup> L.A. & Ambulance

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
26	2	9	<p>would justify evacuation by the daily hospital train to the Exclusion of all communications evacuations from the Division. Two E.P.I.P's + 5 C.D.L. tents were received and an independent mess kit compound started complete in itself except for cooking which was still carried on by the unit cooks + carried to the boundary of the mess kit area + handed over to an orderly there.</p>	<p>Hand</p>
27	2	9	<p>Capt March H. + marched at to Warsaw to await embarkation to Australia.</p>	<p>Hand</p>
28	2	9	<p>As we go to press the measles are still developing throughout the division but not in very alarming numbers.</p>	<p>Hand</p>
			<p>Appended the movements + domings of the unit's detachment - with the 5<sup>th</sup> Regt at Semak - under Capt Smith.</p>	<p>Hand</p>

# WAR DIARY

OF

2nd L.H.F. Amb.

FOR

Period Nov. 7th 1918 — March 6th 1919 191

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Subject.

2nd L.H.F. Amb. (Detachment) SEMAKH.

On November 7th 1918 a section of the 2nd L.H.F. Amb was detailed to accompany the 5th L.H. Regt. to SEMAKH from WADI HAVVIN. The section consisted of 6 O.R. and 2 L.A. waggons and one L.A. Car.

The trek was to be carried out in seven days, the general direction being that of the Standard Broad Gauge Railway as far as TULKERAM and from thence that of the Narrow Gauge Turkish Railway line as far as EL AFULE, where the railway would be left and the road from thence to SEMAKH via NAZARETH and TIBERIAS followed.

The first days trek ended at RAS-EL-AIN where the water supply was good both for drinking purposes (after chlorination) and for watering horses... There were no tents carried and as the arrivals were late and the reveille early bivouac tents were not erected. The road followed by the Regt. was not metalled but the transport moved along a fairly good road about one mile east of the the Railway line. The two L.A. waggons followed in the rear of the Regt. in case urgent malarial should crop up — there had in the previous month been a large number of malaria cases both benign + malignant tertian + they were still forthcoming.

The trek on the 8th Nov. was to TULKERAM where we found adequate water supply a mile or so from the town. On the morning of the 9th Nov. one case of PNYD was evacuated to the III CFA — possibly a B.T. Malaria.

The road from TULKERAM now entered the hills and proceeded towards MESSUDIEH and was very dusty. No watering arrangements were made for the Regt. here so

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 perforce the travelling roster as set down by 2nd Inf Bde had to be broken and the Regt. went on to SEBUSTIE where an abundant supply was forthcoming. The atmospheric temperature was considerably lower here & the conditions for open air camping not favourable.

On the 10th Nov. the trek was from MESSUDIEH to JENIN was across a range of mountains where the wind was very cold and resulted in the relapse of several cases of b.t. malaria, of which there were about 40 in the Regt. On arrival at JENIN it was found that our rations had not been sent along by train as arranged. The weather here became dull & threatening. The two cases of malaria were evacuated by train from JENIN to the HICFA TULKERAM. There were no arrangements for the evacuation of sick cases at JENIN

11th Nov '18 Rations were drawn at EL AFULE about midday & rain which had been threatening began to fall. The road across the Plain of Esdraelon was through "black-soil" which was very sticky. The climb to NAZARETH was by a good well metalled road of a fairly stiff grade. The camp site at NAZARETH was by no means good as it was situated in a hollow & the ground had been ploughed.

12th Nov. 18. Rain fell heavily in the early morning and continued all day making the conditions very bad. On arrival at TIBERIAS the Regiment was encamped on a ploughed field which rapidly was churned to deep sloppy mud. The camp was one of the worst experienced especially as the sale of alcohol (arak & cognac) and the presence of women in the lines were not prevented.

13th Nov. 18. The trek to SEMAKH was continued in wet weather along a very bad road. It was still raining on arrival at the

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2nd Amb. (Detachment) SEMAKH

selected camp site which was situated about one mile EAST of SEMAKH station in the foothills.

The outmarching Indian Regt. had a section of their ambulance at SEMAKH Railway Station, doing duty as a Collecting Station under a Medical Officer. This was taken over by the RMO, 5th LH Regt., in conjunction with Regimental duties.

There were a large number of units whose sick parades were done by the MO in/c of the Collecting Station. These units were as follows:— 1st Canadian Bridging Co., 555 Co RE, 347 MTCO ASC, 272 Co RODRE, ASC dump, one company of BWTs. One detachment of 555 Co RE. was situated at JISR BEINAT YAKUB at the bridge over the JORDAN RIVER north of the LAKE TIBERIAS. This was 35 miles away from SEMAKH, along a road impassable in wet weather, where was the nearest MO. . . . A ~~Post~~ POW Compound was at SEMAKH and the arrangements for the sick were in the hands of two Turkish M.Os, superintended by the SMO. SEMAKH.

There were a large number of cases of Pyrexia (undiagnosed on account of the absence of a laboratory) at SEMAKH during the last two weeks of November but these rapidly settled down and the number of evacuations fell from about 10 per day to five per week.

There was a standing order in the area for the taking of Quinine gr V daily (prophylactically) daily by every man in the SEMAKH area. This was impossible to carry out on account of the inability to get quinine. . . . Medical stores were difficult to obtain.

The number of men in the 2nd Amb. detachment was inadequate so early in December the strength was increased by one cpl. quartermaster, one cpl. cook, 3 nursing orderlies + 2 general duty men. With this number the work was satisfactorily carried out and patients were kept in hospital there for a few days + returned to their unit when possible.

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2nd Lt. F. Amb. (Detachment) SEMAKH

There were practically no cases of malaria from the beginning of December till the end of February when the Regt. left the area.

The general health of the 5th Regt. at SEMAKH was good but about 15 cases of venereal disease occurred, most of which could be traced to refugees, many hundreds of whom came through SEMAKH where they sometimes remained for several days.

The food ration on the whole was good with the exception of one week when the railway line between TULKERAM and EL AFULE washed away. Then the rations were rendered unfit by long keeping and exposure to the rain. Vegetables generally arrived in an unfit state for consumption but about the beginning of January a contract was entered into, to obtain fresh vegetables from DAMASCUS by train. These were bought out of Regimental Funds.

The drinking water was obtained direct from the LAKE TIBERIAS and chlorinated in the water cart. It was very clear & tasteless and required ~~the~~ only about half the ordinary amount of chloride of lime. The few cases of diarrhoea that occurred could be traced to food.

The Regiment left SEMAKH on the 1st March 1919 being relieved there by the 29th Lancers, trekked to the top of the hills outside TIBERIAS and camped down for the night.

On the 2nd March NAZARETH was reached after having watered and spelled two hours at KEFR KENR, three

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Miles from NAZARETH. The camping site was much better than on the our previous visit there, being situated on the hills to the west side of the town.

HAIFA was reached on the 3rd ~~ist~~ March and the camp site was on the sandy beach of the bay. The weather which up till now had been fine changed and heavy rain and high wind made bivouac life most uncomfortable. There was one case of relapse of malaria only, during the trek.

The weather conditions became worse on the 4th March and one case was evacuated to 33rd C.C.H. HAIFA.

The Regiment and ambulance detachment left HAIFA by train on the 5th March, the horses + waggons following in a subsequent train. The open trucks used for the carriage of the troops were most uncomfortable for the men as it rained heavily. Parapaulins were obtained at LUDD and placed over the tops of the trucks and this rendered the men more shelter against the elements. Arrived at RAFA at 2330 and camped at the railway station for the night, going into the camp site in the Bide area the following morning.

M. S. Munro

LT. COL.

Q. C., 2nd L. H. FIELD AMBCE

J. Smith Capt  
2nd Lt F Amb.