

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/40/55

Title: 2nd Australian Light Horse Field
Ambulance

March 1919



AWM4-26/40/55



Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	1/3/19		<p>The B'de remained camped at RAFA in the Divisional Area. The weather during the early days of the month was warm showing signs of an approaching summer and hot boisterous winds from the South West brought sand and discomfort. The nights were comparatively cool and occasionally heavy fogs obscured the surroundings.</p> <p>The slight epidemic of measles which had occurred in the whole of the Divisional area continued during this month with signs of abating. Such patients were held by the 2nd L.H. F. Amb. in a special isolation area within the precincts of its camp, until a suitable number for evacuation was collected. The evacuation of infectious cases took place once a week and on this day no other cases were sent.</p> <p>The isolation of actual cases was looked after by special orderlies who lived entirely within the area. Their relief was arranged once a week when they were allowed 24 hours off duty pending the disinfection of their blankets etc, they themselves being closely inspected for several days... a contact isolation camp also existed where contacts were kept for 14 days</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JMS M. S. M. M.</p>	

5/3/19

W2353/P360 500,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sep. 52a. Forms/C2118/45



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RAFA	6/3/19		On 6.3.19 one officer and ten other ranks marched in from SEMAKH where they had been attached to the 5 th L.H. Regt. as a section of the ambulance. One NCO and five OR. had proceeded to MOASCAR with the seventeen horses which were to be handed in to Remounts. The two L.A. Waggon and one L.A. motor also came down by train and the former being minus horses were handed in to Ordnance at the RAFA Station.	jms
	7.3.19		The 108 th Dental Unit also marched in and were taken on the attached strength from 5 th L.H. Regt.	jms
	8.3.19		One S/Sgt, one L/Cpl and one OR. of the Anzac Field Laboratory marched in and were attached. They immediately set up and were ready for duty.	jms
	9.3.19		A daily inspection for suspected early cases of measles was commenced and the former system of isolating contacts abolished. The first inspection brought forth eight suspects.	jms
	10.3.19		Four cases of measles were in the isolation area. Number of suspects from the inspection of the Bide was nil.	jms M.D. nuan

(A9175) Wt W2353/P280 600,007 12/7 D.D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

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RAFA	11/3/19		108th Dental Unit marched out to MOASCAR for duty. Number of measles cases in Isolation area was seven. No suspects from medical inspection were reported.	
"	12/3/19		A commencement was made on the compiling of AIF Form 536 Measles in Isolation area 7. Number of suspects Nil. The compiling of AIF Form 536 continued	gms. gms
"	13/3/19		Two cases of measles admitted, both coming from units not in 2nd Bde. One suspected case of early measles admitted to "Suspect Camp".	gms
"	14/3/19		The ten cases of measles (including the one admitted to Suspect Camp) were evacuated by Hospital Train. Inspections for measles carried out; suspects nil. Compiling of AIF Form 536 continued.	gms
	15/3/19		Measles cases in Hospital, one. Medical inspection for measles carried out; suspects nil. Fifteen light draught horses despatched to Remounts MOASCAR. Five O.R. under a Brigade officer went on short leave to JERUSALEM.	gms W

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

M. D. Newman



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RAFA	16.3.19		Routine as usual. Ten light draught and seven riding horses with six men proceeded to Remounts MOASCAR.	jms
"	17.3.19		A.D.M.S. advises that Medical Branch of Angai Mamited Division is closed. All returns hitherto rendered there to be sent to D.D.M.S. AIF. Evacuations to be arranged direct through Scottish Horse Field Amb. RAFA. Measles suspects Nil. Cases of measles in Isolation area two.	jms
"	18/3/19		Routine as usual. One case of Diphtheria admitted + evacuated, with ^{also} two cases of measles. Surplus harness was handed in to Ordnance Dump Rafa.	jms
"	19/3/19		No change. Routine inspection carried out.	jms
"	20/3/19		No change. " " " "	jms
"	21/3/19		Routine as usual. Surplus ordnance stores returned. Measles. nil.	jms
"	22/3/19		Kit bags of personnel sent to a B'de dump at RAFA station. Orders from B'de Hqrs to entrain at RAFA station were received.	jms
"	23/3/19		Reveille 0430. Tents struck and with equipment of mobile column transported to station. Three officers and 38 O.R. marched out to	jms
			entrain, 27 O.R. remained behind to complete the return of vehicles	jms

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	23/3/19 (Contd)	1200	Tentage, equipment etc. Horses, equipment of the mobile column, and men were entrained at 1200 after a delay of 5 hours. The train trip was very uncomfortable as the men were closely packed (30 per truck) in covered in steel waggons. There were many delays on account of trouble with the engine and the trip was anything but a smooth one. Arrived at KANTARA station at 2300. Equipment and dismounted men were conveyed by motor lorry to camp site on the ^{WEST} bank of SUEZ CANAL, 2 1/2 miles south of station.	jms
KANTARA	24/3/19	2300	The camp area was small and no horses were kept at the camp. All horses were handed into the Remount Depot Kantara on receipt, where they were attended by our own men at regular intervals. 2 G.S. waggons, 2 water-carts and one ^{G.S.} limber were drawn from the Ordnance Department KANTARA... The men freely indulged in swimming.	jms
KANTARA	25/3/19		10 OR from the rear-party at RAFA + 11 OR (drivers) ^{from MOASCARD} rejoined unit. 2 Sanitary Section personnel became attached for duty. Capt Crosse W.R. marched in from 1st L.H.F.A. and was taken on attached strength... Twenty riding horses were drawn from 75th Div ^{McBryan}	jms



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KANTARA	25/3/19 (Contd)		2 Riding horses from Remounts KANTARA, 8 draught-mules from 6 th L.H. Regt. and 20 Light Draught Horses also from Remounts. Saddlery was drawn with the 20 Rides and 8 draught-mules were accompanied by complete and sets of harness.	jms
"	26/3/19	0345 0445 1930	Two water-carts and two L.A. motors moved off at 0345 to entrain with first party departing KANTARA 0700. Reveille for the remainder of ambulance was at 0445. Camp was struck + the equipment baggage etc was transported to the train by motor lorry + G.S. waggons. Two sand-carts, 2 L.A. waggons ATCO and 8 drivers remained behind at KANTARA. The trucking of the horses and loading of the waggons on to the train was carried out with no difficulty. The strength of the mobile column of the ambulance was 3 officers 50 OR, 2 G.S. waggons, 2 Sand carts, 2 water carts, 3 L.A. motors, 31 Riding and 32 L. Draughts. Arrived at DAMANHUR at 1930 and proceeded to the allotted camp site about one mile North of the station.	jms

M. J. M. M. M.



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DAMANHUR	27/3/19		<p>The camp site was changed during the morning. Drinking ^{+ washing} water was obtained from the DAMANHUR town supply which has been extended to the Bide camp site... Warning against the use of canal water for either drinking or washing had been given through orders issued from B.H.Q. Side irrigation channels containing water ran through or at, the boundaries of every units camping area. The S.M.O of the area was Major Pavy-Smith who relinquished to Lt. Col. Bowman on our arrival. The Government Hospital in the town was being utilised for our patients and an officer's ward with 4 beds a general ward with 12 beds and an infectious ward with 6 beds were put at our disposal. The hospital is well fitted up and very clean, the wards being bright and airy. The more serious cases are kept here while the slighter cases are retained at the ambulance where provision has been made for them in an E.P.I.P. tent.</p> <p>The food for the patients in the Govt Hospital was arranged by the staff but the patients welcomed the army rations prepared by an ambulance cook... Four nursing orderlies and one cook were brought to the hospital and accomodated there.</p>	

(A9475) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/7 D. D. & L. Sch. 51a. Forms/C2118/15

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DAMANHUR	28/3/19		The rear-party from KANTARA rejoined unit. One sand cart and two drivers were detached to the 5 th L.H. Regt. who were moving out on a patrol, which was to last four days.	ms
"	29/3/19		Capt. Lang A.A. marched in + was taken on strength, from 14 A.L.H. Evacuations from the Ambulance + Hospital took place to ALEXANDRIA. Accommodation on the train (passenger) was arranged by officer-in-charge station DAMANHUR. ADMS. ALEXANDRIA was wired in order that patients could be met and arranged for. A medical orderly accompanied patients on the train.	ms
"	30/3/19		Capt Crosse W.R. with 5 OR marched out with one sand cart + one water-cart, to be attached to a composite force proceeding to KAHER SELIM.	ms
"	31.3.19		One OR of ambulance admitted to hospital probably malaria the present being 3 rd recurrence	ms.
W.S. [Signature]				✓