

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/28/1 Part 2

**Title:** Administrative Staff, Headquarters,  
Australian and New Zealand Army  
Corps

December 1914



AWM4-1/28/1PART2



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Administrative Staff,  
A.&N.Z. Army Corps.

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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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1914 Decr. 17th (cont)		<p>1. From G.O.C. Aden to General Bingley requesting him to arrange that personnel and animals on H.T. "INDIAN" be disembarked in Egypt.</p> <p>2. From General Birdwood to G.O.C. Suez notifying date of arrival at Suez and asking him to arrange rail accomodation Suez to Cairo.</p>	
	Decr. 21st		<p>Arrived Suez 7.15 a.m. and landed at 10.30 a.m.</p> <p>All officers(except Capt. McConaghy) also second batman (Steward) entertained by G.O.C. on board "PERSIA" and servants 3. Entrained at 12.15 for Cairo; arrived Cairo 6.15 p.m. Major C.H. Villiers-Stuart, 56 Rifles joined his appointment as G.S.O. 2.</p> <p>Capt. McConaghy and details remained at Suez to await arrival of H.T. "INDIAN".</p>	
	Decr. 23rd		<p>Following letter and telegram despatched:-</p> <p>1.- To G.O.C., Australian Division asking him to detail an S.M.O. for Army Corps Headquarters.</p> <p>2.- To Headquarters, Egypt. Arrival report.</p> <p>3.- To Headquarters Egypt.(for transmission to <del>Egypt</del><sup>War Office</sup>). Roll of staff for insertion in London Gazette.</p> <p>4.- To Headquarters, Egypt. Draft cable to War Office re deficiencies in Staff Officers, clerical personnel, office equipment, forms, stationery, motor cars, mechanical transport for</p>	<p>Appx. 2</p> <p>Appx 3</p>

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(A9175) Wt W235/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Administrative Staff,  
A.&N.Z. Army Corps.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1914			
	Decr. 23rd		Army Corps Headquarters, and giving proposed designation of Army Corps.	
	(cont)			
	Decr. 24th		D.A.&.Q.M.G. and A.A.&.Q.M.G. visited Headquarters Australian Division to discuss Administrative matters.	
			Capt. McConaghy, with details ex H.T. "INDIAN", which arrived Suez 22.12.14 reached Cairo.	
			Colonel C.St.C. Cameron C.B. reported arrival.- to be attached to Staff and graded as A.A.G.	
	Decr. 26th		Following telegrams despatched :-	
			1.- To Headquarters, Egypt. Draft telegram to War Office asking for Standing Orders.	Appx. 4
			2.- To Headquarters, Egypt. Draft telegram to War Office asking that Colonel Plomer and Major Foott be sent out as soon as possible, as services urgently required.	Appx. 5
	Decr. 27th		GOC., Australian Division reported that he was issuing orders re adoption of 4 company organisation in infantry battalions of division and asked for authority to purchase extra horses.	
			Issued telegram to Defence Minister, New Zealand asking for services of certain officers.	Appx. 6
	Decr. 28th		Colonel C.S. Ryan, V.D., A.D.M.S. 1st Australian Division joined Army Corps Headquarters as Medical Officer.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Administrative Staff,  
A.&N.Z. Army Corps.

4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1914			
	Decr. 28th		Following clerks reported for duty:-	
	(cont)		From Australian D.H.Q.: No. 2 W.O. J.W. Donnelly and No.49 Sgt. L.A.P. Ward.	
			From New Zealand D.H.Q.: No. 15/58 Sgt. K.M. Little.	
			Received from Headquarters, Egypt copy of War Office reply to our cable 23rd re deficiencies staff officers, clerical personnel, motor cars &c.	Appx. 7
			G.O.C., New Zealand Division asked for a ruling as to whether Division was to be considered as on active service.	Appx. 9
			D.A.&Q.M.G. visited Headquarters, New Zealand Division to discuss Administrative matters.	
	Decr. 29th		Correspondence :-	
			1.- From G.O.C. Australian Division. Proposals establishments personnel horses consequent on adoption 4 company organisation. G.O.C., Army Corps concurred.	
			2.- To G.O.C., Australian Division conveying sanction of Army Corps Commander to purchase of 58 cookers for Division.	Appx 8
			3.- To G.O.C., Australian Division authorising him to purchase 64 horses.	
			4.- To G.O.C., New Zealand Division informing him that for purposes of discipline, Division must be considered as "on active service" whilst in Egypt.	Appx. 9

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(A9175) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C:118/15.

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WAR DIARY

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or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Administrative Staff,  
A.&N.Z. Army Corps. 5.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1914.			
	Decr. 29th (cont)		<p>5.- To Imperial Service Cavy. Bde., Ismailia, returning car sent for General Birdwood.</p> <p>6.- Cable from Defence, New Zealand. Details reinforcements sailed 13.12.14.</p> <p>7.- From G.O.C., Australian Division. Details extra units - reinforcements to sail.</p>	
	Decr. 30th		<p>D.A.&amp;.Q.M.G. and D.A.A.&amp;.Q.M.G. visited Headquarters, Australian Division.</p> <p>Correspondence:-</p> <p>1.- From G.O.C., Australian Division. Copy of cable from High Commissioner, London regarding amount of pay to be drawn by Australian troops.</p> <p>2.- From Headquarters, Egypt. Australia offers pack camels and water canteens..</p> <p>3.- To Headquarters, Egypt. Statement next of kin officers Army Corps Headquarters.</p> <p>4.- To Headquarters, Egypt. Re motor cars and motor vans for Army Corps Headquarters.</p>	Appx. 10
	Decr. 31st		<p>Correspondence :-</p> <p>1.- To Headquarters Egypt. Books, forms, and stationery required by Army Corps Headquarters.</p> <p>2.- From G.O.C. Australian Division. Arrangements re cold shoeing.</p> <p>3.- From G.O.C. Australian Division re purchase of horses.</p> <p>4.- From G.O.C. New Zealand Division. Practice ammunition and re arming.</p> <p>5.- From Headquarters Egypt. Hospital ship "KYARRA" due SUEZ about January 13th.</p>	

copy appx -

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



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Copy of telegram from G.O.C., Cairo to G.O.C., Aden Brigade,  
No. ~~EXBEE~~ C. 161, dated 11th December 1914.

Begins "Please instruct General Birdwood and staff on board Mail  
steamer which left Bombay 12th December should disembark SUEZ to  
proceed to Cairo" ends.

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Letter No Aa 8  
From:- G.O.C., A & N.Z.A.C.  
To:- G.O.C., Force in Egypt.

23-12-14

Sir,

I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to forward this letter to the Secretary, War Office; London, so that the names of the officers mentioned below may be inserted in the London Gazette in the appointments noted against them, if this has not already been done:

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS.

Maj-Gen:(temp. Lieut.Gen.) W.R. Birdwood, C.B.,C.S.I.;  
C.I.E., D.S.O.

Brig.Gen: Colonel (temp. Brig.Gen.) General Staff  
H.B. Walker, D.S.O.

G.S.O. Bt.Lt.Col. A. Skeen; 24th Punjabis.  
(1st Grade)

G.S.O. Major C.H. Villiers-Stuart, 6th Rifles.  
(2nd Grade)

- do - Captain C.M. Wagstaff, Royal Engineers.

D.A. & Q.M.G. - Colonel R.A. Carruthers, C.B.

A.A. & Q.M.G. - Major W.B. Lesslie; Royal Engineers.

D.A.A. & Q.M.G. - Major M.P. Hancock, Royal Fusiliers.

Colonel, R.E. - Lt.Col. A.C. de L. Joly de Lotbiniere; R.E.,  
C.S.I., C.I.E.

A.D.C. - Lieut. B.W. Onslow, 11th (K.E.O.) Lancers.

Camp Commandant. - Capt. J.G. McConaghy; 25th Cavalry.

All appointments to date from December 12th 1914.

I have the honour to be, etc.

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Appendix No. 3.

Cable:- No. Aa 9  
From G.O.C., A. & N.Z.A.C.  
To W.O.  
Dated 23.12.14

Please refer to telegram No 8203 W, dated 27th November from Commander-in-Chief India regarding General Birdwoods staff Birdwood is deficient of following aaa A.Q.M.G. - this appointment is not immediately urgent but should be filled as soon as possible An Army Service Corps officer of experience is essential aaa Both Australian and New Zealand artillery are very backward indeed and ~~want~~ want all the help they can possibly be given in training this arm aaa A Brigadier General Royal Artillery is therefore essential and urgently required aaa I suggest LtColonel Sandilands or Colonels Smith or Stokes as suitable if available aaa Please also refer to Secretary War Office No 2237 G S D 1 dated 26th November to General Officer Commanding in Chief regarding provision of office equipment and personnel aaa Egypt can provide no office equipment forms and stationery and only untrained clerical assistance is available from units of command aaa Full equipment forms stationery etc for Army Corps Headquarters office therefore required also full clerical personnel as in War Establishments page 29 aaa Requested that these be despatched by earliest possible mail steamer aaa Please see also your no number dated 29th Novr. regarding supply of motor cars aaa None have been received and I would be glad to learn of very early despatch of cars and drivers and mechanical transport vide War Establishments page 50 aaa At request of contingents concerned I am calling Birdwoods command The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and will submit proposals shortly regarding its organisation with reference to the further troops now en route from Australia and New Zealand aaa

Draft telegram to Secretary War Office.

General Birdwood would be glad if you could kindly send fifty copies of latest standing orders for Expeditionary Force in France also ten sample copies each of Standing Orders for an Army Corps a Division and a Brigade now being used in France.

No. Aa23

*Dated 26.12.14*

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Cablegram

From G.O.C., Egypt  
To Troopers, London

dated 27.12.14  
Sub.Reg.No. Ab.13

(Code) C 206 In continuation of previous telegram 396 E  
15th December and reference your telegram 17th December ~~is~~  
2479 M.O.S services of Colonel Plomer and Major Foott urgently  
required here. Trust you will despatch them as soon as possible.

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Telegram

From General Birdwood

To Defence New Zealand

Dated 27.12.14

Sub. Reg. No. A80

I would be most grateful if you would send Major Fulton and either Major Pinwell Gibbon or MacDonalld and either Captain Morrison or Captain S A Grant by first ship that <sup>They</sup> ~~that~~ can catch as New Zealand Division is very handicapped for want of Staff Officers aaa I have just seen High Commissioner who concurs aaa

(signed) General Birdwood

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Telegram

To General Birdwood

From Defence Minister

Dated 30.12.14

Your cable of 22nd instant firstly New Zealand force was sent in accordance with arrangements with Army Council information is awaited regarding organisation of Division referred to by you aaa His Excellency has referred General Godleys proposals to Army Council aaa Secondly Fulton recently operated Hernia not fit for service at present aaa Thirdly Captain Andrews with second reinforcements Pinwell and Captain Eastwood will accompany third reinforcements early February aaa Grant and Captain Robinson or Wright fourth reinforcements April aaa Suggest asking for Major Richardson or Captain Gardener and Chesney if more Staff Officers required aaa Fourthly High Commissioner is concerned only contracts and finance

Defence Minister

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Cable Dy.No. 19

From W.O.

To G.O.C. , Egypt

Dated 26.12.14

Sub. Reg. No. 32

2575 Cipher your 429 E

Birdwoods Staff aaa He is rather better provided than any other  
General and must <sup>supervise</sup> provide additional requirements from his  
force aaa An R.A. will be sent aaa I am astonished to hear  
that there is no stationery to be bought in Egypt and that  
clerks cannot be found locally aaa You should put a practical  
man on your staff to develop local resources aaa

KITCHENER

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Diary No

Sub Registry No. /Q.44

Copy of Memo No.

Dated 29/1/15

From Headquarters,  
Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

To G.O.C.,  
Australian Division.

1. Referring to your verbal message ~~yesterday~~ regarding cookers I am directed to convey the Army Commanders sanction to your purchasing the necessary ~~vehicles~~ vehicles, irrespective of their pattern, provided they are two horse vehicles, and that you are satisfied of their efficiency.

2. I estimate your requirements at 58, as follows:-

4 per Battalion	--	48 for the Division
3 per Div. Regiment	66	3 for the Division
Nil for Artillery		
1 per Field Company		3 for the Division
1 per Div. Signal Company		1 for the Division
1 per Field Ambulance		3 for the Division
Nil for Co: Div. Train.		
Total cookers required.		58 for the Division.

and should be glad to know if this is correct.

3. Efforts should be made to expedite the supply of these cookers so that instruction in their use can be given, and the necessary re-adjustment of first line transport carried out, before embarkation.

(signed) R.A. Carruthers, Col.  
D.A. & Q.M.G.,  
Aust. and N.Z. Army Corps.



Diary No.

Sub. Registry No. Aa/54

Copy of memo dated 29/12/14.

From: D.A. &amp; Q.M.G., A. &amp; N.Z. Army Corps.

To: GOC New Zealand Division.

In reply to your No. 518 of the 27th instant, you are informed that the New Zealand Force ~~embarked~~ disembarked in Egypt is to be considered, for the purpose of discipline, as being on active service.

(Signed) M. Hancock, Major.

for Colonel,  
D.A. & Q.M.G.,  
Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

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Diary No. 69  
Copy of Memo. No.

Sub. Registry No. Q/68  
Dated 29/2/15.

From: Headquarters;  
Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.  
To : A.A. & Q.M.G.,  
Force in Egypt.

With reference to your cable No. 429 E to Secretary, War Office, no definite answer has been received as to the provision of motor cars or motor transport for my Headquarters.

2. It is presumed from the wording of Secretary War Office cablegram of 2575 cipher, in reply to your 429 E, that as far as possible these should be provided from local resources.

3. If this is your view, will you please let me know if you will take steps in the matter, or whether you would prefer that I should take action under the authority of the General Officer Commanding, Force in Egypt.

4. Headquarters requirements in these items, as laid down in W.E. 1914, are :-

Motor cars	5	Personnel - Drivers A.S.C.	5
Motor Vans - capable of carrying a load of two tons.	2	" " " "	4

5. The matter is an urgent one, as I am at present dependent on the good offices of my Divisional Generals in this respect. Also I am compelled to incur expenditure in the hire of vehicles for my staff, a matter which is the subject of a separate communication.

(Signed) W.R. Birdwood.  
Lieut-General,  
Commanding Australian and New Zealand Army Corps