

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/44/1 Part 2

**Title:** General Staff, Headquarters 2nd  
Australian Division

June - August 1915



AWM4-1/44/1PART2

# 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

*(Erase heading not required.)*

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p style="text-align: center;">1915.</p> <p>ZEITOUN June 25.</p>	<p>G.O.C. Australian &amp; New Zealand Training Depot to H.Qrs. Force in Egypt :-</p> <p style="text-align: center;">States landing of 5th 6th and 7th Brigades A.I.F. will be completed by 10th July. Declares that if intended to employ them as a Division matter of extreme urgency that Divisional Commander and a full Divisional General Staff, if not the whole Staff, be appointed at once.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">E.ff L.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Original of above written on same sheet as entry for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month)</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

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H.Q. 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Div. (S.S.)

25/6/15 to 25/7/15 Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ZEITOUN	1915- June 25.		<p>G.O.C. Australian &amp; New Zealand Training Depot to H. Hqs. Force in Egypt :-</p> <p>States landing of 5th, 6th and 7th Brigades A.I.F. will be completed by 10th July. Declares that if intended to employ them as a Division matter of extreme urgency that Divisional Commander and a full Divisional General Staff, if not the whole Staff, be appointed at once.</p>	?
ANZAC	July 3.		<p>Major General. J. G. Legge C.M.C. Commanding 1st Australian Division to H. Hqs. A &amp; N.Z. Army Corps - minute -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recommends formation of 5th, 6th and 7th Infantry Brigades into 2nd Australian Division.</li> <li>2. Suggests if proposal be concurred in steps be taken at once :-</li> </ol>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC (Continued)	July 3		(a) Provide steps and deficient units (b) Obtain necessary additional equipment. (c) Begin systematic training.	File 105 G.S. 1/84 Div. 44/46  Eff. M.
H. Q. M. E. F.	July 5.		H. Q., M. E. F. to H. Q. A. & N. Z. Army Corps - <del>minutes</del> - Notifies agreement as to advisability of new Brigades being formed into Division and joining A. & N. Z. A. C. & states recommendation to this effect cabled W. O.	File 105 G. S. 1/84 Div. 44/45.  Eff. M.
ANZAC COVE	July 9.		General Staff A. & N. Z. A. C. to 1st Australian Division - <del>minutes</del> Forwards copy of telegram from G. H. Q. asking for proposals for :- (a) Formation of Divisional Train. (b) " " " Field Ambulances	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC COVE (continued)	July 9.		(c) Formation of proposition of Divisional Train, etc. (d) Staff.	File 105 Ca. 202
ANZAC COVE	July 10.		G. O. C. 1st Australian Division to H. Q. A. & N. Z. A. C. - <del>minutes</del> Submits proposals in reply to above Ca. 202.	
TENEJOS	July 15.		Sir Ian Hamilton <sup>submits</sup> to War Office, <del>repeated G.O.C. EGYPT</del> <del>- cable - Replying to 6074, cipher, S.I.2. Submits:-</del> [ 1. Statement as to existing units. 2. Recommendation re formation of new units. 3. Recommendation as to Staff. 4. Recommendation as to Command. ]	File 105 M.F. 450

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TENEJOS	1915 July 21		[ Sir Ian Hamilton to Sir John Maxwell, CAIRO - <del>copy</del> Notifies appointment of :- (a) Major General Legge to command. (b) Certain officers to Staff. <span style="float: right;">GFM</span>	File 100
ANZAC	July 22		[ H.Q., A. & N. Z. Army Corps to H.Q., 1st Aust. Div. Orders :- "Officers now at ANZAC should proceed at once to ALEXANDRIA." <span style="float: right;">GFM</span>	File 100 G.S. 1/AJ. Ab. 1926.
ANZAC	July 25		1st Australian Division Orders, Part II, No 50 :- Order detail of officers and other ranks to leave ANZAC 26th July 1915 en route to ALEXANDRIA <span style="float: right;">GFM</span>	File 100 ?

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p style="text-align: center;">1915.</p> <p>CAIRO July 31.</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>G.O.C. 2= AUSTN.DIV. to SEC. for DEFENCE, MELBOURNE :-                      Recommends 2/ AUST. DIV. be authorised by Order in Council dating 25th July 1915.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">(sgd) E. ff.L.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 40px;">(Original of above written on same sheet as entry for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that month.)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">108/6 (A.I.B. 950)</p>

H.Q. 2: Gen. Dir. (13)  
31/7/15 to 31/8/15

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAIRO	1915 July 31		G.O.C. 2/AUST. DIV. to SEC. for DEFENCE, MELBOURNE - Recommends 2/AUST. DIV. be authorized by Order in Council dating 25th. July 1915.	105/6 (A.13950) E.M.H.
HELIOPOLIS	Aug. 1.		Major General J. G. Legge, C.M.G., together with nucleus of Divisional Staff and personnel of DIV. H.Q.s arrived HELIOPOLIS. DIV. H.Q.s established and office opened at 22, RUE DE SAMANOU, HELIOPOLIS.	Appa 1 DIV. ORDER NO 1. 2/4/5/15. E.M.H.
HELIOPOLIS	Aug. 4.		Major General J. G. Legge, C.M.G., took over command from Major General L. Speers, C.B., Commanding A. & N.Z. Training Depot, of the following troops A.I.F. :- (a) 5th Australian Inf. Bde. 6th. " " " " 4th. " " " " (less 25th. Bn. & 2 Coys. 26th. Bn. not yet arrived from AUSTRALIA.)	E.M.H.



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HELIOPOLIS (Continued)	1915- Aug 4th		<p>(b) 2nd. Signal Coy. (Nos. 3 &amp; 4 Sections)                      3rd. Signal Coy (No. 2 Section)                      (To form nucleus of 3rd. AVST. DIV. SIG. CO.)</p> <p>(c) 15th. Coy. A.P.C.                      16th. " "                      17th. " "                      (To form nucleus of Divisional Train)</p> <p>(d) 5th. Field Ambulance                      6th. " "                      4th. " "</p>	

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HELIOPOLIS	1915 Aug. 4		2. The foregoing units arrived in EGYPT on dates as under :- <u>5th. Inf. Bde.</u> 14th. Bn. June 6th. 15th. " July 24th. 19th. " July 24th. 20th. " July 26th.  <u>6th. Inf. Bde.</u> 21st. Bn. June 12th. 22nd. " " " 23rd. " " " 24th. " " "	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIDPOLIS	1915- Aug. 4		<u>1st Inf. Bde.</u>	
			25th. Bn	Aug. 3rd. (Disembarked & joined BTL on Aug. 5th.)
			26th. "	
			12 Officers	
			422 Other ranks.	} June 30th.
			19 Officers	
			534 Other ranks.	} Aug. 3rd. (Disembarked & joined BTL on Aug. 5th.)
			27th. Bn.	July 4th.
			28th. Bn.	June 30th.
			<u>2nd. Div. Sig. Coy.</u>	
			No. 3 Section	July 21st.
			No. 4 "	July 16th.
			<u>3rd. Div. Sig. Coy.</u>	
			No. 2 Section	July 16th.

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HELIOPOLIS	1915 Aug 9		<u>Train</u> 15th Coy. A.S.C. June 23rd. 16th Coy. A.S.C. June 23rd. 17th Coy. A.S.C. June 30th.	
			<u>Medical Units:</u> 5th Field Ambulance July 24th 6th " " " July 17th 7th " " " June 30th.	
			Units, with exception of A.S.C. were without horses.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIDPOLIS	1915- Aug 4		<p><u>3. Training:</u> The state of training to date was as follows -</p> <p>(a) <u>Munitary:</u> 5th. Inf. Bde:- 17th. Bn. Completed all range Practices 6th. Inf. Bde:- Completed all range Practices - with exception of 1 1/2 Companies, still to fire - 7th. Inf. Bde:- Preliminary Training in progress</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Battalions had in some cases shot short courses of from 10 to 30 rounds before leaving Australia.</p>	2/Ans. 711 145/20

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HELIOPOOLIS	1915- Aug. 4		<p>musketery range practices were completed by 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Brigades</p> <p>(b) <u>Field Training</u>:                      [ Elementary Field Training in progress in all units. ]</p> <p>(c) <u>Machine Guns</u> }                      (d) <u>Signalling</u> } The training in Machine Gun &amp; Signalling had been almost exclusively confined to work done at the School of Instruction, Training Depot.</p> <p>(e) <u>Senior Officers</u>:                      [ The only instruction given to Senior Officers has been a few lectures to Brigade Staff &amp; Commanding Officers, 6<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde by G.S.O. Training Depot. ]                      Staffs only partially trained and</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIOPOLIS	1915 Aug 7.		<p>unexperienced, requiring particularly, instruction in writing clear and concise orders and in the principles governing the handling of large bodies of troops.</p> <p>(f) <u>Elementary Staff Tasks</u> None of these / yet carried out</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Training had been hampered since arrival in EGYPT by the heat. Outdoor training between 9 am &amp; 5 pm had been prohibited.</p>	
HELIOPOLIS	Aug. 5.		<p>25th Bn &amp; 1/2 26th Bn - 4th Inf. Bde disembarked and joined division.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices.
HELIOPOLIS	1915 Aug 6		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>notifier</i></p> <p>G.O.C. 2/AUST. DIV. <del>IN</del> REFERENCE, MELBOURNE: <sup>by</sup> cable —   <del>notifier</del> <sup>that he</sup> has raised Headquarters and 2 Coy.                       Field Engineers, Headquarters and No 1. Sec. Dir.                       Sig. Co. and Divisional Headquarters from                       available personnel A.I.F. <span style="float: right;"><i>W.H.</i></span></p>	<p>File 105 A.I.B. 1065.</p>
HELIOPOLIS	Aug 11.		<p style="text-align: center;"><i>cables</i></p> <p>Sir Ian Hamilton TENEBOS <sup>6</sup> Sir John Maxwell CAIRO,   <del>cable - states -</del>   <del>that he</del> would like Bde 2/AUST. DIV. sent ANZAC soon as                       possible; Bde to be that most advanced in                       training. To take all pack animals and no                       other transport.                       G.O.C. decided to send 5th. Inf. Bde. <span style="float: right;"><i>W.H.</i></span></p>	<p>99/1 M.F.A. 2649.</p>



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIDPOLIS	1915 Aug 13		<p>Following units ordered to hold themselves in readiness to move at short notice under command of Col. W. HOLMES, D.C. 5th Inf. Bde: -</p> <p>5th Inf. Bde. 3rd Div. Sig. Co - Tro 2 Section 5th Field Ambulance 15th A.A.S.C - Supply Section</p>	<p>Special Divisional Order Troop 13/5/15. Appa 1.</p>
"	"	"	<p>From H. Q. Force in EGYPT: Orders for embarkment and embarkation 5th Inf. Bde &amp; attached units proceeding to join M.E.F.</p>	99/3
"	"	14	<p>From G.H.Q. TENEDOS to G.O.C. CAIRO - ask - Field Ambulance accompany Inf. Bde: to come complete less seven ambulance wagons</p>	99/6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIOPOLIS	1916 Aug 9	15 46	5th Inf. Bde. and attached units entrained for ALEXANDRIA en route to ANZAC.	99/3
"	"	16	<p>From DEFENCE, MELBOURNE to GEN LEGGE - Cable -                      Notifies Government decided dispatch all units specified in Cable Defence W. 23964. One Brigade Field Artillery to be dispatched in advance other as soon as practicable, fully equipped but without ammunition.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> Units specified in Defence W. 23964: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Divisional Artillery H. Bns.</li> <li>2 3 Fd. Art. Bdes of 4 gun batteries.</li> <li>3 Div. Ammunition Column.</li> <li>4 H. Bns. Div Engineers</li> <li>5 3 Fd. Companies Engineers</li> </ol>	File 105

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIOPOLIS	1915 Aug 16		6 H. Qrs & No 1 Section Divisional Signal Coy. 7 H. Qrs Coy. Divisional Train.	See P. 17 for entry dated 17th Aug.
HELIOPOLIS	Aug 19		H. QM EGYPT to A. & N. 2. Training depot - <del>Copy to 2/AVST. DIV.</del> Notifies 4th Light Horse Brigade will be broken up; 13th Regiment being allotted to 2/AVST. DIV.	9 1/2.
HELIOPOLIS	Aug 21		Following units 4th Light Horse Brigade transferred to 2/AVST. DIV: - 13th Light Horse Regt. - To be Div! Mtd Troops 4th L. H. Bde Signal Troop - To be incorporated in 3rd Australian Divisional Signal Company. 4th L. H. Bde Train - To be incorporated in 2nd Australian Divisional Train.	Div. Order No 15 2/21/5/15 M/pt 1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references, to Appendices
HELIDPOLIS	1915- 17 Aug.		G.O.C. CAIRO to G.H.Q. MEJFORCE - cable - Asks if desired form complete Ammunition Col. 2/AVS. DIV. or if provision be made only for conveyance of 100 rounds S.P.A. per rifle in temporary unit which could be reallocated to larger Ammunition Col. later.	155/ 42 See encl. No dates 24 Aug. for reply.
HELIDPOLIS	22 Aug.		SIR IAN HAMILTON, MUDROS to SIR JOHN MAXWELL, CAIRO. - cable - States - Should like soon as possible another Inf Bde & Bde. SIG. SEC 2/AVST. DIV. To bring 8 pack animals per Bn. & 2 for SIG SEC and any other pack transport they may have. Also F.D. AMB to accompany complete less seven Ambulance Wagon.	99/11 M.F.A. 2992 Aug 21.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIOPOLIS	1915 24 Aug		<p>SIR IAN HAMILTON TENEJOS to SIR JOHN MAXWELL, CAIRO - cable - asks that - GEN: LEGGE and Staff be sent up now. Also send 3rd Inf. Bde with Sig. Sec &amp; Fd. Amb. Transport as for previous Bdes. Also any Dir. Engineers &amp; Div. Car. without horses if organised and sufficiently trained. One Bde Transport Officer &amp; 2 Tr.C.O.s, also one Bde Supply Officer &amp; 2 N.C.O.s. No vehicles of any kind.</p>	<p>99/11 M.F.A 3069 Aug. 23rd.</p>
HELIOPOLIS	24 Aug		<p>G.H.B. TENEJOS to SUPERFLUX, CAIRO - cable - states - No Amm<sup>n</sup> Cols should be organised, but provision be made for carriage by pack transport of 130 rounds per rifle &amp; 10,000 rds per Machine Gun in temporary units to be recalled to Amm<sup>n</sup> Cols if formed later.</p>	<p>105/42 M.F. 553 Aug 24</p>

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HELIOPOLIS	25	Aug	<p>1915</p> <p>H.Q. EGYPT to 2/AUST DIV. - forwards copies of telegrams from G.H.Q. MED FORCE. M.F.A. 2992 Aug 21 and M.F.A. 3069 AUG 23 and orders immediate action on them.</p> <p>Also orders - H.Q. 9 6th Bde embark on Aug 25 for embarkation ALEXANDRIA Aug 29.</p> <p>7th Bde &amp; Div troops follow later date as ships become available.</p> <p>Pack transport on scale as for 5th Bde.</p>	99/11
HELIOPOLIS	26	Aug	<p>DEFENCE MELBOURNE to GEN LEGGE. - Cable replying to AIB 1226 Aug 15 - states -</p> <p>following Engineer, Signal, Supply &amp; Medical units being raised.</p> <p>4th, 5th, 6th Companies Engineers.</p> <p>H.Q. &amp; No 1 Sec. Ina. Sig. Co.</p>	105/59

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIDPOLIS	26 Aug		<p>1918</p> <p>H. Qr Company 20th A.A.S.C.</p> <p>L. of C. units:-</p> <p>19th A.A.S.C. comprising Field Battery &amp; Field Butchery.</p> <p>21st A.A.S.C. depot units of supply.</p> <p>2nd Casualty Clearing Station.</p> <p>Sanitary Section.</p>	99/11.
HELIDPOLIS	26 Aug		<p>Order by Lt. Gen Sir J.G. Maxwell, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., C.V.O., D.S.O. "Division, less 5th Brigade, already embarked, under command of Maj-Gen J.G. Legge, C.M.G., will proceed to an overseas destination to be ordered by G.O.C. Mediterranean Expeditionary Force"</p> <p>2. Div. H.Q., 6th Bde (with Reg. Sec) &amp; 1 Lt. Amb embark Aug 29 for embarkation ALEXANDRIA Aug 30.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HELIOPOLIS	1915 Aug. 27.		H.Q. EGYPT to 2/AUST. DIV. Orders re entrainment and embarkation of:- Divisional H.Q. 6th. Inf. Bde 6th. Fd. Amb. No. 3. Sec. Div. Sig. Co. Supply Details 16th. A.A.S.C.	99/11
ALEXANDRIA	Aug 29/30		Above units embarked on H.M.Ts SOUTHLANE, SCOTIAN, HAVERFORD and NILE. Embarkation carried out in perfect order and without hitch.	99/11
H. M. T. SOUTHLANE	31 Aug. 1915		G. H. Macerles Major Gen. Staff 2/AUST. DIV.	