

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/59/3

**Title:** Administrative Staff, Headquarters  
Australian Mounted Division

September 1917



AWM4-1/59/3

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

September

A & Q Australian Mounted Division

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN	1917 1 <sup>st</sup> September		<p>Desert Corps inspected the Desi Train. When it was pointed out that the mules were really too light to draw 1 ton. The heaviest load is 1 1/2 cwt that they can manage. It is much to be hoped that they will give us the extra mule per team, making 5.</p> <p>It has come to light that it is the custom when Australian officers overstay their leave in Cairo so that the Sudan Provost Corps communicates with the A.S. A.I.F. who in turn informs the B brigade concerned &amp; no subsequent is sent to the SAC of the Sudan - There are now two officers awaiting trial by C.M. in Cairo whom the SAC knows nothing - Have written to the Sde for report.</p> <p>Captain Ryan Sudan Provost Corps arrived to be A.P.M. vice Capt Arnold to</p>	<p>acR acR</p>
	2 <sup>nd</sup>		<p>21<sup>st</sup> Corps</p> <p>It appears to be doubtful if Capt Ryan is to be A.P.M. Capt Mulliner who has been understudy according to A.I.F. office is to be A.P.M.</p>	<p>acR acR</p>
	3 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>Nothing of importance to record.</p> <p>Put forward scheme for the B echelon of transport to answer the purpose of a Desi Train i.e. to carry one day supplies, so that when the train arrives the B echelon can take over from it &amp; carry right up to the best bivouacs that night the following day &amp; so on - This can be adopted the only difficulty being in the case of R.H.A., to whom during operations we shall have to</p>	<p>M137 acR</p>
	4 <sup>th</sup>		<p>attach one L.S.P. battery.</p>	

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ARBAHAN	6 <sup>5</sup>		Advanced guard officer of South African Field Artillery Brigade arrived to take over camp.	encl
	7.		The appointment of Lieut Ryan as APM is cancelled. South African I A. Sde marched in Cairo reports that Major Dunnington A.A.M.B will be another two months in hospital before he is fit for duty.	encl
	8		Lieut Mulliner to A.M. appointed APM of the Division Issued circular letter upon salvaging of equipment during operations The bus scheme for carrying traffic to certain tracks, in order to allow of the pass proving + a reduction in the dust trouble, commenced today.	encl appx -A
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Capt Hall A.T. from 3 <sup>rd</sup> Echelon arrived, to go into the question of return etc.	encl
	10 <sup>th</sup>		The third Company of the Div Train arrived from Kantana Instructions received concerning the compilation of the next despatch - all things to names to be sent forward.	encl
	11 <sup>th</sup>		Orders drafted for move of Division to Outpost Line on 18 <sup>th</sup> inst.	encl M/37 1/2/37

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ABASAIN	12 <sup>th</sup>		Orders received for Brig General Grant DSO to take over command of 4 <sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Bde vice Brig General MEREDITH DSO & for Lt Colonel MAYGAR, VC, DSO, to take over temporary command of 3 <sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Bde. Order received for Worcester Ye to be attached to 7 <sup>th</sup> M <sup>d</sup> Bde, proceeding by Route March from EL ARISH.	gfg
"	13 <sup>th</sup>		Man of Sherwood Rangers Ye wounded by shrapnel bullet from our AA guns.	gfg
"	14 <sup>th</sup>		Brig General Grant took over command of 4 <sup>th</sup> L.H. Bde. Major DANGAR, Bde Major 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Bde, returned from leave yesterday and left today to take up appointment of G.S.O. 2 Angas Int. Division - Worcester Ye: marched to EL BURI	gfg
"	15 <sup>th</sup>		Col Maygar assumed command of 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Bde 19 <sup>th</sup> Bde R.A. ordered to water at Abesam instead of Jukhari, owing to shortage of water passing through Jukhari on to Abuletta	air
"	16 <sup>th</sup>		Forwarded Ser to list of recommendations for period 1 <sup>st</sup> March to 15 Sept Supplies from 15 <sup>th</sup> inst are to be drawn from <del>the</del> H.H.H.H. Depot in Forward Division instead of the M.R.A.	air
"	17 <sup>th</sup>		The usual difficulties are again to be found concerning the landing over & taking over of area stores, such as shelter, meat rations & sanitary equip - all of which are supposed to be taken away with the moving Division - It has been suggested before that these articles should be left in the area - returns are rendered every	M/37 2/3

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	week, but stores are always being lost & damaged.	all
FARA	18 <sup>th</sup>		Division moved to forward line at TEL of FARA. A terrible sand storm all day.	all
"	19 <sup>th</sup>		Another bad sand storm. Confusion as to which station Sheikh Kusan, or Shelleh details for the camp should be sent - we have previously told the Corps that Shelleh station is where we wish them sent.	all
	20 <sup>th</sup>		Orders issued for laying out of tracks to prevent all the W.P.C. district being turned into a parade ground. Tracks will have to be kept - so limit the dust raised everywhere.	all
	21		Attended Conference at Camp HQ. concerning future movements, with the GSO. The acting GSO M.C. went on leave for 7 days. Reported to Moascar Training Centre that majority of reinforcements coming forward from there state they have never been given an iron ration.	all
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Orders sent for Lt Gen Meredith to proceed to Australia.	all
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		hit	all

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FARA	24 <sup>th</sup>	Sept	On reconnaissance to KAHASA - where we found the water supply all blown up & will take <del>two</del> quite a week to put in order - Arranged bivouac areas for Div around KAHASA -	ack
"	25 <sup>th</sup>		<p>No casualties to Division yesterday whilst on reconnaissance</p> <p>From the state of the wells at KAHASA which are blown in by the Turks there appears to be a good deal of work to be done before water is obtainable - much manual labour is necessary - native labour probably will be the best, they might be taken out on lories -</p> <p>The first two miles of the KAHASA - Seroaba road are very heavy in fact it is not a road - wire must be laid here before motor ambulances can pass over.</p> <p>Reported to the Corps the difficulty of providing sanitary appliances to the various parties &amp; detachments now forming camps at Shelled - These parties come with no sanitary buckets - The place is in the sanitary area of the division, but the Corps cannot issue to units outside the Div - The same difficulty will be found at GASHI when that place increases in importance - Colours will be sent to the chief parties concerned -</p>	ack
	26 <sup>th</sup>		<p>A Board is to assemble on 29<sup>th</sup> inst to inquire into the loss of the <del>sun shelter</del> <sup>beds</sup></p> <p>about 500 in all - in the Abasay area - The shelters are made of wood of grass mats + make useful fuel wood, which in spite of orders there is no doubt has accounted for a number of them during the last 3 months - on the area stone rather shelters are</p>	M 15/5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TARA	27 <sup>th</sup>	Sept late	given instead of 'hurdles' - 1 shelter = 4 hurdles. Actually they have been made up in various ways. Some of 2 hurdles, some of three. so it is probable there are really more hurdles than appear on paper. A census is being taken of all the hurdles in the area.	air
"	28 <sup>th</sup>	Sept.	The A.S.M.S. is likely to return to duty in three weeks. A Battery H.A.C. moved to new bivouac on east side of Wady - where it will be attached to the outpost Brigade -	air
"	29 <sup>th</sup>	"	Board sat on question of loss of some shelters - as described under 27 <sup>th</sup> inst.	air
"	30 <sup>th</sup>	"	Board reassembled today The Administrative areas have been altered so that now Desert M.C. Corps has no area left over - the 20 <sup>th</sup> Corps has taken over the old Corps area Attached is statement of casualties due to the enemy during the month 5 <sup>th</sup> M.S. Bde commenced their march from EL ARISH to rejoin the Division.  1 <sup>10</sup> / <sub>17</sub>  Lt Johnson Ltd A.S.M.S. Australian M.C. Bde	air

CIRCULAR LETTER No 21.

SALVAGE OF STORES DURING OPERATIONS.

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It is important that every effort should be made during operations to avoid the waste of equipment, arms and other material that usually occurs during such periods.

This can best be avoided by a systematic arrangement throughout all Units concerned in the Division.

The general procedure to be followed will be that :-

- (1). Each Regiment will be responsible for the collection of Stores left lying in their area.  
Search parties should be organised for this purpose when opportunity offers.
- (2). Stores found under 1. will under Brigade arrangements be loaded on to the returning empty "B.L." Echelon on its way to meet the Divisional Train.
- (3). The O.C. Divisional Train will receive and carry on his returning stage all such stores.
- (4). Brigade Ordnance Warrant Officers will superintend at the refilling points the returning of stores.
- (5). Should the Divisional Train not return as far as Railhead the D.A.D.O.S. will arrange for the transfer of salved stores on to the next convoy stage.
- (6). Should there be no R.O.O. at Railhead the Divisional Ordnance Warrant Officer will proceed to Railhead and superintend the return of stores to Ordnance.
- (7). All losses of important and urgent equipment should be reported without delay to Divisional Headquarters.  
Past experience shows that Machine Guns and Pack Saddlery lost by units are sometimes found and brought in by other units.  
Units finding such articles and any others of special value should inform their Brigades who immediately notify the D.A.D.O.S. who will be at Divisional Headquarters in order that he may inform Brigades who have reported any such losses.
- (8). Empty corn sacks will also be returned to Supply Depots by means of returning transport.

*A. A. S. O. M. G.*

Lieut Colonel.  
A. A. S. O. M. G.,  
Australian Mounted Division.

8/9/17.

Copies to :-

All Brigades and Divisional Troops.

W137





W137  
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Casualties during month of Sept.

WOUNDED.

13/9/17. Shenwood Rangers. 1 O.R.

30/9/17 " " 3 "

(2 remaining at duty).