

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/59/5

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

November 1917



AWM4-1/59/5

Australian War Diaries

November 1917

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21.

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.)

A & P

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beersaba	20	Nov	Water presents the paramount difficulty - The Turks have not demolished the engines on the wells, but have thrown parts away - the horses are badly hit for water.	
"	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nov	Water again is the difficulty - too many horses taken for the quantity available - Our engineers have worked very well - All Div got 2 drinks - Received 1 full ration B echelon arrived - 3 <sup>rd</sup> L.H. Bde rejoined the Div 5 <sup>th</sup> M.Bde attached to Surges	a2
"	3 <sup>rd</sup>	-	The difficulty of water is serious indeed - We get one watering only today - I.C.C. Bde having priority of water - the Brigade which goes out by operation does not now get water for 40 hours when it goes out - no water here for water.	a2

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21.

E81

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Beersheba + on track	4 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 17	<p>The Div early in today was allotted 3 wells, which owing to various causes would not be capable of yielding enough water even for 1 Brigade - later, about 1000 bottles was worned to march to KARM. for which place we started at 12.30, the main was entirely to relieve the water situation would not otherwise have been ordered -</p> <p>The want of good discipline amongst the two Mounted Divs has not relieved the confusion + had the Divs been trained to stay in the true sense of the word, we should not have had so much of the "every horseman for his own horse's water" - however the water was insufficient.</p> <p>In spite of report by SAC. we had to leave <del>out</del> our field Squadron behind at Beersheba, the equip of the Squad is set up all over the Corps Area in the town, with them away we cannot face the water difficulties peculiar to operations in this country.</p> <p>The horse got a good drink at KARM.</p>	aer
KARM	5 <sup>th</sup>	Nov	<p>We have relieved the Yeodiv - GHO will not allow us to water at KARM some have to push back to the Wady Shizge - the Bedi in the Right Sector has 10 miles to walk to water. I have asked GHO to allow us to take water from Karm.</p> <p>Tonight we shall have 2 special rations on our horse + the current day - we still require 1 special for B. echelon</p>	<p>- NOV 1917</p> <p>aer</p>

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 21.

E01

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
IMLEH	6 Nov	17	Marched 1500. Watered 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde at HARM & portion of 7 <sup>th</sup> Bde - Informed Corps that we require a supply convoy on 8 <sup>th</sup> B1 arrived about midnight	
IRREBIB	7 <sup>th</sup>		Marched at 0200. & on to position south of SHEPPIA. Unable to transfer supplies from B1 to units during the morning as we had hoped owing to mt. halting. Div went into action north of SHEPPIA no drinking water can be drawn from SHARIA owing to heavy shelling, & no water at IMLEH last night - bottles very low. Fought all day until we can take SHARIA (no water from there) Withdrew 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde from line & put into Corps sectors watered. After dark watered Div troops - wady SHARIA, ration on man & horse up to tomorrow night	
SHARIA			Ration for DHA arrived 0630. DHA gone to organize Div water cart convoy & how will of action admits log & fuel came out to Bdeps	
			At 1200 Bdeps informed by wire that A echelon will be under Bde control, but are not to bring them up too far, excepting water carts.	
HUB	8 <sup>th</sup>		Marched all day & fetch up at HUB. No water on the Tanks have destroyed the wells, no horses watered tonight	
	9 <sup>th</sup>		Information given by Arabs says unlimited water in the wady SH-MIMAH - sent the Div to water here to find only 900 gallons on horse about 3000 horses turning towards at the same time. Sent scouts out about 1500 found the water was in the wady HEBY & not Jimmah at all. Much confusion. At 1500 5 <sup>th</sup> Bde went on to these water. The position of watering place was only by then ascertained by returning scouts - Bde did not get back to HUB till 2300.	
HEBY	10 <sup>th</sup>		Division marched between 1700 & 2300 in direction of HEBY Arrived HEBY 0430 - good water plentiful. B echelon arrived about 0700. Changed DHA 3 times during day finally camping south of FAKUJAH. Corps notified by HQ 504 arrangements for refilling points, in reply which my A 426 followed by A 429 advised Corps that convoys were	

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

E8/4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FALUJA.	11 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	1917	<p>Singh ARAK. SUWFIDAN to refill. B echelon left 2130. At 0530 on 11<sup>th</sup>. I was handed wire SA. 330 from Camp saying rations were at JOHIS. Conroy was then out of touch with Div but as I had informed ac. Escort to call at Camp HQ on his way, I hoped he would be aware of the alteration. At 0930 I sent a D.R. to endeavour to trace Conroy. Message received from ac. Escort at 1500 that he was going on to JOHIS. At 1202 wire SA 340 relates to the rations are at KAUBABA. The result is yet to be seen. The Corps changed their arrangements with respect to the Div cannot alter to once a convoy has been sent off for any length of time to date.</p> <p>20 mules of the BAC have had to be despatched with B echelon to make up the convoy as the 5<sup>th</sup> Bde Group has not joined up - this is a bad arrangement. B. left at 2200</p> <p>During the alteration of filling points B echelon did not get back till 2100. Horses very done up &amp; 16 of the BAC will do no more.</p> <p>Arranged for exchange of horses from B2 into B1. Went off new convoy at 2300. Drinking water is a great difficulty, many horses 20 hours without water.</p> <p>A number of evacuations due to dysentery &amp; diarrhoea.</p> <p>Marched at 1030. B1 returned at 1000. Saw M.T. office which arranged to bring her horses right into FALUJA.</p> <p>Big plan have been upset by the Turks once more, for he has delayed our advance by a decided counter-attack about SAMAH - water situation is grave, as owing to the attack we had to pull out certain requirements that have not yet been located.</p> <p>All transport except A has been sent back to ARAK. SUWFIDAN is being for here tonight to organize a convoy with one day's rations after dawn tomorrow.</p>	
				- NOV 1917

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E 8/5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Point 245	13 <sup>th</sup> Nov	1917	<p>Marched at 0700 to point 245 - At 1430 moved on to <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> mile S. of SHAMAZINE, where we spent the night. Refilling point at SHARIKYE, where Bde refilled 2200.</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> Mds Bde which was attached to us today did not get its supplies echelon, presumably because Administration Base Corps was not advanced to the name of the Bde by their own Base Battle Orders. 7<sup>th</sup> Bde did not actually get these rations until evening of 14<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>The BI echelon is being very much overworked. News that the train is 'expected' is as far as we can get.</p> <p>The evacuation work has been most unsatisfactory, the cars have broken down owing to bad country &amp; for technical reasons the collecting station has twice been repeatedly used.</p>	
EL TIME	14 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Marched about 0930, to the high ground south of EL TIME, where we were most of the day. EL TIME was an important military post - they left behind them 1,000,000 rds 300 &amp; abt 800 5" shells &amp; much valuable engineering stores. Advised Corps, &amp; detailed 2 Squadron as guard on the place is very scattered.</p> <p>The disposition for tonight covers a large area from YERNA on the west to JUNCTION on the east, 15 miles from N to S. Refilling point will be <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> mile S of SHARIKYE. DHO horses not watered for 40 hours, Marched late to YARUP.</p>	
YARUP	15		<p>Supplies delivered all night last night, except to 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde at YERNA, who unless we do so were told not to go to YERNA - DHO horses have to go 5 miles to water where they will stop all day &amp; return at dark.</p>	<p>- NOV 1917</p>

WAR DIARY

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E8/6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																
	1917		<p>Casualties for the year 3/10 - 12/41</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Killed</td> <td>W.</td> <td>Missing</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Officers</td> <td>7</td> <td>31</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>O.P.</td> <td>95</td> <td>285</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>102</td> <td>316</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </table> <p>Went now have 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> Brigades with the Div              tried to send asking them to send up all reinforcements complete with horses              1700 Div. Train marched in with 1 days rations for 3, 4 &amp; 5<sup>th</sup> Bds              Refilling point 1/2 mile S of Mesungit              Marched to JUNCTION Sta, great difficulty in obtaining information from Bds re              their watering reports              The detaching of Brigades is still causing much trouble to administration, comes              Div Train constantly having to send Bds trains where horses might well deliver, the              cause is largely due to bad communication which are so slow that they cannot keep              pace with the constant changes from hour to hour.</p> <p>Particulars of the second phase issued.              Corps suggests improving pack transport which is impossible without proper saddles etc              B2 will have to give up its horses &amp; give to B1, to make up teams of 6 &amp; 8 in 1st echelon.              Only 5 of the 15 SAA horses of the BSC will be taken - will from dump at Junction Sta. This              will give <del>stronger</del> stronger teams for the mountainous country we have before us.</p>		Killed	W.	Missing	Officers	7	31	1	O.P.	95	285	12		102	316	13	
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E8/7

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JUNCTION Sta	1917	15 <sup>th</sup> hour	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Bde nations came to Junction Sta where they should have gone to YERBA, due again to slowness of communication -</p> <p>Our operations will now depend upon certainty of water supply at the junction - asked Descols for 57,000 gallons every 24 hours - 2 days ago but no reply yet</p> <p>Marched to attack LAMIAS &amp; LATRON at 1100. attack to commence at 1600; at 1330 orders rec'd to cancel attack. Div returned to the junction, after being collected with much difficulty - Orders later to go to the west of YERBA, which were cancelled later. 4<sup>th</sup> Bde moves to LATRON, 5<sup>th</sup> to 21 Corp 3<sup>rd</sup> to stay with us.</p>	
	19 <sup>th</sup>		<p>We are now to take over the big well at the junction &amp; run engine, yield from which is about 1500 gallons per hour, 5<sup>th</sup> concentration at the junction.</p>	
	20 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Warning sent to move to MESJED. &amp; give up transport to Yerdio. A very bad rain storm - 5<sup>th</sup> Bde detached to <del>Yerdio</del> 21<sup>st</sup> Corps - one Regt 5<sup>th</sup> Bde exchanges with 1 Regt 3 Bde</p>	
MESJED.	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<p>Div moves, 4<sup>th</sup> Bde to HAMMAMEH. remainder, less 5<sup>th</sup> to MESJED. no water this evening</p> <p>The water supply still presents difficulties, in the town the area is right in the market square &amp; difficult spaces only 30 horses at a time; 2 Bdes to water at a mill which has with engine which persists to slip its belt - on old Turkish engine, result - one Bde watered &amp; only 1 Regt farther, set up 2 troughs at rain water pool.</p>	
	23 <sup>rd</sup>		<p>Market opened up outside town at arranged prices by P.M. men come to buy but merchants refuse to sell at agreed prices; then having plenty money depart our div.</p> <p>Dating letter today - sent Descols to BORAH to arrange for necessary ordnance stores - have loan of 6 horses!</p>	

A5834 Wt. W. 4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C. 2118/13.

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E8/8

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MEJDEH.	24 <sup>th</sup>	1917	The 74 <sup>th</sup> Div is to spend tomorrow night here, swatan - Staff officer arrived - with whom details were discussed	
"	25 <sup>th</sup>		74 Div Marched in swateded comfortably - Tillwin has now been requisitioned for 4 days, at 4 lbs per horse. 6 lorry loads of ordnance received from BASHAN	and
"	26 <sup>th</sup>		74 Div marched out Watering arrangements much improved	and
"	27 <sup>th</sup>		4 <sup>th</sup> L. Bde marched 0600 for DEIRAN Div Troops marched for DEIRAN at 2200	
DEIRAN	28 <sup>th</sup>		No apparent hurry, 4 <sup>th</sup> Bde goes under Yerdio to SOFFA 3 <sup>rd</sup> L. Bde ordered at midnight to SOFFA	
"	29		The Div has now no Bde's under its control at all - The Div Troops ordered suddenly to move to take over from Yerdio - which was afterwards altered to a portion of 52 Div line	
BIR MAIN	30		Arrived in the mountains, having left the majority of the horses at DEIRAN water again a trouble - The Div is based on LATRON, from where a lumber convoy brings up rations - Informed XX Corps that water in the neighbourhood is sufficient to last up to 3 Dec	
"	31		Definitely - Missing grenades - XX Corps have none in their dump for us - Casualties last night - return 3 <sup>rd</sup> L. Bde - killed wounded 6 <sup>th</sup> officers 45 other ranks at Robinson told K. M. G. A. M. G.	and

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