

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/29/22

Title: Deputy Director of Medical Services,
Desert Mounted Corps

October 1918



AWM4-26/29/22

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.)

DDMS Desert Mtd Corps

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TIBERIAS	1/10/18		STONES reached here this afternoon + reported to Military Gov. also saw Lt Col COLLIER who had charge of epidemic. The usual precautions were taken, quats were put on the walls, some of which were closed. The town was put out of bounds + a Cholera hospital opened. Staff for this could not be found + I gave several salvarsan with good results that evening. Deaths from 15-20 took place in the town each night. A meeting of the powers was called + the necessary equipment for the hospital demanded. This was very reluctantly given.	al
	2/10/18		Cooking utensils for cholera patients still scarce. A Syrian doctor was put in charge but cleared out the next day. Still numerous cases coming in.	al
	3/10/18		Still busy at cholera work, in which regard the situation has improved slightly. STONES visited here today on his way to KUNEITRA. @ 5th BRS ordered to proceed to DAMASCUS. + as usual I had to roam around begging boxes for vaccination of patients. The vaccination was completed by next forenoon. Mobile laboratory arrived at TIBERIAS.	al
	4/10/18		Medical representative from OETA arrived + took over charge of cholera. Went round town with OC. Mobile Lab. General anti cholera inoculation of inhabitants is being carried out by OETA.	al
	5/10/18		Visited cholera hospital + found it minus some of its staff who had simply gone off. Received instructions to proceed to DAMASCUS from STONES.	al
	6/10/18		Reached DAMASCUS at 1730 having previously called at KUNEITRA and Aurds CB. Then in process of being taken over by 5th BRS. Found STONES in bed.	al

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OF INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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DAMASCUS.	6/10/18		Talked over situation with D.O. and there seemed to be plenty to do + a lot of a mistake.	
	7/10/18		<p>Spent all day going round the Hospitals which consisted of: French (120 beds) English (100) German (100) Turkish - BARANKIE Barracks. - Bahama (Private Houses + Schools)</p> <p>The 3 first mentioned Hospitals were all in going order + working smoothly. The German one was in charge of a German M.O. who did good work all along. The same could not be said of the Turkish Hospitals all of which were in a filthy condition + the mortality appalling in the BARANKIE Barracks where there were over 2000 sick + wounded. They were insufficiently fed not so much due to the lack of food as to the amount of help being done by the staff. D.O. had a talk with Corps Commander in the evening with regard to Stalman's memo by Lt Col FARR. As a result of this a conference was arranged to take place in the morning.</p>	<p>Pl</p>
	8/10/18		<p>Present at conference: Corps Commander, Gen. News, Col Farr, Lt Col Cornwell, Capt. Ramsay Medical Advisor to Arab Government, D.O. + D.O.'s Deputies.</p> <p>The Corps Commander laid it down that the care of the Prisoners of War was ours + that it should be carried out by us. As a result of this a Hospital Administration (Lt Col WILLIAMS) was appointed. He dealt with everything + had as a business advisor the D.O.'s Deputy or his representative. The civil + general hospitals were kept by the Sherifian party, as was also the Infectious Hospital.</p> <p>An inspection of all hospitals was made by D.O. Conditions in Barracks is better. An attempt has been made to clean up.</p>	<p>CS 3</p> <p>Pl</p>

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DAMASCUS	9/10/15		usual daily inspection including 5 th B.R.S. which has now taken over some desired buildings. All Hospitals are now full & sickness amongst the personnel is becoming more marked. Admissions far exceed the evacuations. Influenza & malaria rampant.	At
	10/10/15		5 th B.R.S. much overcrowded & lacking in blankets. This is due to the capacity of the B.S. being based to that of a General Hospital. Many of the staff are down sick & only 2 M.O.'s on duty. Patient number about 700. Evacuations few owing to failure of lorries to turn up. Medical comforts scarce.	At
	11/10/15		Much as yesterday. No amelioration of conditions. Col. Bagshawe arrived & was taken to see hospitals by D.D. unit.	At
	12/10/15		A very slight improvement in 5 th B.R.S. Col. Bagshawe at D.D.'s request visited 5 th B.R.S. & saw actual conditions.	At
	13/10/15		Amdin R.S. arrived & proceeded to open up & this relieved situation greatly. As the 5 th B.R.S. now hopelessly depleted by illness obtained a well earned rest. Lt. Col. MELHUSH. I.M.S. arrived & took over duties of S.H.Q. Damascus.	At
	14/10/15		5 th B.R.S. evacuated to BEIRUT. Situation from this time steadily improved.	At
	15/10/15		Improvement maintained. The great proportion of sickness is now shown to be neurotically malignant malaria.	At
	16/10/15		Portion of 5 th B.R.S. under Capt. HARDING sent forward by rail to MOALLAKA & opened up there.	At

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DAMASCUS.	17/10/18		Doctors returned from BEIRUT. Situation almost normal now although sick are still numerous	At
	18/10/18		Doctors visited English French + German Hospitals. Train runs to day to BEIRUT.	At
	19/10/18		4 th Cav. Div R.B. arrived having attached with the Div. Coll. Station remnants. 35 th MAC. cars arrived. Evacuation route by rail to MOALLAKA thence by ambulance to BEIRUT where there is a C.C.H.	At
	20/10/18		All Hospitals much easier. + great improvement at TURKISH Hospitals where there are now British NCO's who exercise general supervision re cleanliness + issuing of food. The death rate is still high + likely to remain so for some time owing to the lamentable condition in which the Turks left their sick + wounded.	At
	21/10/18		Usual daily inspection of Hospitals. Sickness has now seriously depleted the Corps of M.O's. At one time no less than 11 medical officers were in Hospital chiefly with highland Turkish Maj Carson BSO B.A.O.W. 5 th Cav. Div. unfortunately died from Pneumonia possibly following on a M.T. infection. Many other M.O's had to carry on though obviously unft.	At Cass
	22/10/18		The usual routine nothing fresh to record.	At

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DAMASCUS	25/10/18		Lt Col (Gen Luce) arrived here + was shown round hospitals by Lt Col Denecke + the situation thoroughly explained to him although now there is no special sentences. 66th C.C.S. arrived	a
	26/10/18		Lt Col accompanied Lt Col who inspected Amman R.S. Site chosen for C.C.S. was also shown to him + O.C. C.C.S. + found suitable. Lt Col proceeded to G.H. 2. Transport of C.C.S. from Station to site chosen was pushed forward.	a
	27/10/18		Lt Col left for BEIRUT.	a
	28/10/18		Amman R.S. left for HOMS.	a
	29/10/18		Lt Col returned.	a
	30/10/18		Adv. Corps HQ left for HOMS via TRIPOLI	a C.C.S. a

A Leggat bag
Lt Col's Beirut Amman R.S.