

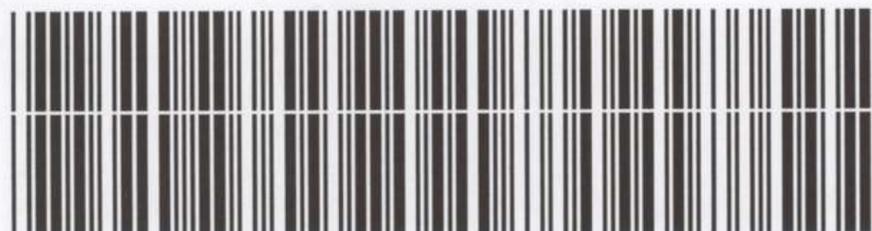
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/29/4

Title: Deputy Director of Medical Services,
Desert Mounted Corps

February 1917



AWM4-26/29/4

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading-not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EL ARISH	1 2 17		<p>Instructed Mr Adams (SAs) to inspect the working arrangements of work at EL ARISH + submit a report, as I am anxious to have them on a thoroughly sound footing.</p> <p>The despatching train is here at present working for the Amara Domain. It is not sufficient to meet the requirements but when the four electric despatchers in that line are being replaced in working, the position will be satisfactory. Frequent despatching is at present very necessary on account of a certain number of releasing from amongst captured material especially the Egyptian Locomotives.</p> <p>Saw Captain PIERCE the Chief Officer Mess with regard to the local water supply. Four of the wells in the local area show a marked increase in salinity - two having to be discontinued for this reason + four have commenced stopping + are still used for drinking. The water from the wells at Thameh, Semant, Sera + Had EBEID continues quite satisfactory. I have to submit a report to me orally on water in use so that monthly from it may be included in my report to JDMs 17.</p> <p>Report received from JDMs 47 - Saw that he had handed me the slides of his area including Amara do to JDMs 53 - Saw report from JDMs 50 - Saw field trip that he had taken + found that he had some slides of the area + a couple of slides.</p>	<p>JDMs Secret Column, Volume 10 1917</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Delt	2 2 17		<p>Memo sent to A.D.C. Mr. & Surge Independent Brigade to ensure that their old tinaches in their areas completely filled in, so that they being used as refuse dumps or for latrines, and consequently a source of disease. <i>W. Adams</i></p> <p>Arrived in Surge Independent Brigade to be able to draw the reports sanitary material for their Brigade Sanitary Detachment thus to be more dependent on Divisional Sanitary Section for their supplies as before. Much was found unsatisfactory in working.</p> <p>Instructed Mess AUSTIN the excellent bacteriologist to inspect the members of the Egyptian Labour Corps + submit a report.</p> <p>Received report from Adams (Surge) with regard to drinking water supply of the New Zealand Mounted Rifle + the 3rd Australian Light Horse provided at the Adams Angle Dr for his information necessary with report.</p> <p>The incidence of Relapsing fever amongst employed native - especially the Egyptian Labour Corps - is showing a marked tendency to increase.</p> <p>Medical Board held this morning for the purpose of classifying 16 men of the 42nd Dr who had been marked temporarily unfit + who are employed outside the Division at EL ARISH. The Board was published in to some extent unless otherwise stated by the Board. I hold it by whose from Adams & T.</p>	
Delt	3 2 17			C.A.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Camp	3		<p>Went to 32nd CCS in afternoon to meet the Consulting Dentist to select a site for the Dental Annex for 5 Dental Officers + 10 mechanics, who are to be hosted here for duty immediately. Site selected to south of the CCS and on unexcused scuttles. The Consulting Dentist agreed.</p> <p>About 6 PM Major HERON hit some Egyptian household from ISMAILIA came to discuss matters with regard to site of Stationary Hospital in Egypt. The following points were discussed.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site for above mentioned hospital. The site at present occupied by the British Prisoner of War Camp. It was said there is quite a large amount of water at that time in a section of the 121st Indian Field Force in view of it. The ground should be worked further back of this & am not sure, in ground area but seen by me did not appear scuttles. 2. Showed to him with regard to the supervision of the sanitary arrangements of the B. P. Camp, the 2nd Lt. Col. & the Egyptian Army Messengers. They considered this last much of the discussion & asked him to get the Messengers to bring all such matters to his notice of the 121st Indian Field Force action in order to report to the 5th Indian Division. He seemed to think that the matter was impossible to rectify as the headquarters of the 121st Indian Field Force had to be understood with the 121st Indian Field Force & immediate subordinates did not take definite action. 	C3

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Dunt		4	<p>The nation would make no changes, instancing a report made to me by the ADMS (Bar.) that I'd known other persons the VCO did not know anything about his detention. He said he had checked these things and that he had taken no action to get them done or even to see if it had been done. I pointed out that unless improvement in the present methods took place, the whole of this area will be disastrously troubled, and that there is a serious danger to the Force during the coming hot weather.</p> <p>I spoke to him also about the instructions concerning the area which have been working lately in the vicinity of the camp, and have been making the vicinity disastrously. He said that it is impossible to make any arrangements for their subsistence as he did not know where his men. I advised him to meet representatives in which he could tell the world he done in advance, and which he had made. I pointed out arrangements for the necessary subsistence. He now stated that this could not be done. I asked if it could not be done from one of the limited areas in the vicinity of the element District Camps either. He stated that it was not possible. I then told him that if that were so he should let me know and not let the element make the impression that this could be done in detail in circumstances.</p>	C4

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Buiton	4/2/17		<p>He promised to send me a report on the subject of his return.</p> <p>Shoke to him also with reference to cases of Adultery here amongst natives involved, + asked that action be taken there as well as members of I.P. who committed in the day mainly from L.C. whether or endeavours was made to trace the cases + if found to come inland from the coast that was actually done. He said nothing was done, but that the dispersing them could not be blamed when reviewed hunting out that he was unable to get word from ELARISH + MAZAB for some days. I asked him to let me know when anything of that sort occurred so that I might try to help to check the Adultery here in extent if possible.</p> <p>He promised to do so in future.</p> <p>Shoke to A.A. + B.H.S. with regard to the sanction of the ELARISH case + pointed out the difficulty in obtaining any improvement notwithstanding frequent instructions advice + recommendations. I told him that under those circumstances it was necessary to bring home L.S.O.s from chains + etc. must take their responsibilities in this matter + that if that is done all reports of instructions made under my instructions would be forwarded to him for the information of the Column Commander.</p>	C6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ent-yl	5- 2 17		<p>He has now sent out a memo on the subject to all Division + branches directing their attention to the seriousness + necessity, + the importance, of the fact that more active measures will be adopted by them.</p> <p>He should visit them.</p> <p>Went with Capt PIERCE + visited the hills at THAMELA, Samacch, Sam + HOD EBEID. They are all well protected + are surrounded by a wire fence enclosing a sufficient area, while no camps are in the vicinity. The tanks however in their the hills + stores for ammunition + distribution are unguarded except at the last named place. The matter has been called attention to already but nothing done to remedy again. Also visited a new well near the Wadi about 600 yds to South East of the town + found it satisfactory.</p> <p>Sent memo to D.D.M.G. & F. on following subjects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pointing out the necessity for anti Cholera inoculation especially in view of the early advent of the hot weather + also of the fact that Cholera was prevalent in this area last season. 2. Requesting that the amount of the 31st Sanitary Section be calculated in view of the large extent of the area to be supervised - about 12 square miles + the large number of employed natives - at present about 20,000. This work is being done. They are difficult to control + supervise from a Sanitary Stand point. 	C6 N/1

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Soltz	6/2/51		<p>Unless subject to incident + detailed submission may lead to fouling of camp, occupied by troops to an extent, which must surely become a source of serious damage later on.</p> <p>Instructed Messr AVSTIN to proceed forthwith to lecture this morning to the Mess of the JCC regarding the breeding + the sanitation.</p> <p>The Column Commander spoke to me this morning with regard to the sanitation of the ELABISH area + said that from what he saw there was nothing to be done at present. He told me to apply for anything necessary to put things in order + to warn all A.D.S. + Messrs accordingly that special attention to sanitary duties + to ensure that had been done so far in that direction, dealing with the medical Officer, but that it would be necessary for VC, who was responsible to take the matter up thoroughly, to make it present.</p> <p>In accordance with order submitted a letter to AA + B, G Acting, enquiring what was required as follows.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An additional sanitary section for Messons already given 2. The sanitary equipment for all units recommended by me on the 30th Jan to be included, so as to enable them to have their sanitary equipment in a sound working order. 3. The distribution of a leaflet containing embodying regulations for sanitation for action in the desert column area. These were prepared in Messrs + sent. 	C1

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Delta	7/2/17		<p>Language so that they could easily be understood + embraced all points with which it would be necessary for them to deal. It is necessary to give them guidance in this matter as they are not naturally organized from a sanitary point of view + it is hard in this way to tell them to put their arrangements on an efficient working basis.</p> <p>Report received from Major AUSTIN re 4 members of the Egyptian Legion who must be inspected yesterday under my instructions. It showed a marked improvement in previous conditions.</p> <p>Report from A.D.M.C. (San) with regard to the area north of the town. This disclosed an unsatisfactory condition. Sent Lt. AA + Q.M.S. to investigate as it formed part of the Dorsal area.</p> <p>Saw the A.D.M.C. 52-Div + discussed certain matters with regard to the Division. Told him of the necessity for the greatest care in the supervision of all matters dealing with sanitation.</p> <p>Report from 52nd CCS that nine cases of German measles had been admitted from units of 52-Div. Found no evidence that they occurred amongst Dorsal but found this had come out in the "Ceramic" + landed at ALEXANDRIA on 27th ult. Wined A.D.M.C. & Z giving particulars.</p> <p>Relieving Party still present amongst others. Specially Egyptian Legion who: Despatching train out of order. Wined KANTARA but then it returned at once as matter most urgent.</p>	<p>88</p>

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9

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Ditto

8/2/17

Visited 52nd CCS. At present there are 16 cases of German measles under treatment - all very mild & all due to infection in "Ceramic". No cases so far to day. Which all primary infections we have accounted for. The next two days will show the extent of secondary infection. If that shows serious I propose to have the field staff of the 52nd Div to dealing with those cases so as to prevent the CCS from being filled up completely with them & thus interfering with the other duties.

Inspected the disinfection & connection arrangements - then found them satisfactory.

Relieving from still prevalent amongst S. L. C. - 31 cases contracted in last 24 hours.

Transfer to work train 1 stop daily at Holo 144 to take care from the 2nd Light Horse Field Ambulance has moved close to there.

Miss AUSTIN gave lecture to some women of 53rd Div on fly breeding & transmission.

Report received from some 52nd Div that the disinfecting team had now completely broken down & was not able to do even the limited amount of work when been performing for the best week. Wrote to Coy. Quartermaster KANTARA asking to have relief sent out as quickly as possible in next account in view of presence of relieving team in this area amongst the actions. The tendency at present shows in this direction & increase amongst the troops. Accordingly had to necessary work to do with the necessary which could be sent out in form of a reasonable.

CA 1111

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lette	9 2 17		<p>10</p> <p>Sent memo to Doms 97 asking to have 4 food cans distributed that they should be double typed so as to enable them to go on next day. There will be necessary in view of the fact that there are being stationed now at EL BURT.</p> <p>Sent Mem AUSTIN to LAHFAN to inspect as it is reported that there are numerous there.</p> <p>Sent Capt PIERCE to EL BURT to inspect his new water supply. He reported 6 wells on the beach were giving a good supply. That was not an hour time very suitable. An old well on the Casarum coast about 20 miles in from here a Schmitz for use, but in view of Dr. Hume's report that such wells contain very much on cleaning & draining, it is possible that this must be made suitable.</p> <p>Sent memo to Doms asking if an extract containing rules could be published prohibiting Larks + nations from travelling to the same tracks. This is necessary on account of the increase in releasing form.</p> <p>Sent out memo to all formations in the column asking for a report on the facilities for clothing + laundry amongst men + the organization existing to ensure that they are used to full extent.</p> <p>Report received from Mem AUSTIN with regard to fly breeding at LAHFAN. Sent to Smd JCC Bussell for necessary action + report.</p> <p>Sent memo to Administrative Commandant ELARISH asking that all railway water tanks should be thoroughly cleaned at a force as possible, in</p>	
Lette	10 2 17		<p>1875 Wt. W591/326 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.</p>	C 10

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cont'd	11		<p>view of the fact that they are likely to be used again in about 10 days. Sgt Adams (San) to inspect a new well for drinking water developed by New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade. This water is contaminated by impurities & great liability to contamination from latrines & urine. Telegraphed to me to Adams Angkor Wat but it was not safe source for drinking water & later sent on report of Adams (San) to his command.</p> <p>The German Messer amongst units of 52 show tendency to kill M. numbers, but increasingly looks as if secondary infection would be less. Visited the triple reservoir well, which is now suitably covered in, also the de-lousing station of the 52-Div, which on looking schematically they had two Quackin + two small Lushier batteries at work here able to do 4000 h/d day.</p> <p>Went then to the Egyptian Wash & saw the D.A.D.M. Releasee from still showing a marked increase cheerfully amongst the E.L.C. Asher from with reference to disinfecting train show it was that there should be this rapid increase sleep that all men had been disinfecting recently. He said that a number of small parties of men had since come up & in answer to my question said that they had not been dealt with. I told him that this must be done in future. Sent one to Adams Egyptian Wash ISHMAILIA + reported to D.D.M. 57 asking that disinfecting train NO 21 be sent to EL ARISH immediately in view of above increase. Received reply later that it would arrive tomorrow.</p>	C11

outlets
11
2
17

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Title heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Belt	14/2/17		<p>The Stationary Hospital Capt MILLER Home in Charge with 2 Staff of 5 British Home + 22 400 Indian arrived here yesterday to duty at EL ARISH. He recommended to for 150 Miss WILLOUGHBY the bacteriologist with Sanitary Advisory Committee arrived Asked him for information on following points.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Question of disinfectant base. Is it best to be treated in disinfectant with all the necessary precautions, or should it be safely be eliminated by not increasing the base. This information essential from bacteriological point of view. He said that he thought he would be able to answer that this would be done, what he would see to the H.Q. Secretary 2. Question of relaying from. Whether there is a necessary need to relay the material to give this point. That is whether there is a need in treatment with salvarsan, you receive result from treatment that base may not still be possible. He said that he would see to the H.Q. Secretary he said that he personally would not see in answer definitely 3. Question of drying base. Whether he would there any best a base preparation - the best method of treatment. He said that he would see to the H.Q. Secretary <p>Followed about this morning from Lt Col O'CONNOR to field Laboratory No 2 & R with reference to bacteriological work in this district of my report. He did not understand it.</p>	B15

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
East of	16		<p>Men of NOX VC 1215 Indian Field but reported his decision with regard to Section in duty here. He will act as some Indian work to the men concerned with him -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good transport to the big Province with it present working in sections, some towards EL BURJ. They have some in charge + as they work from there + two miles to west of southeast some work of transport is necessary. told him to send a sand cart to call out from his work + clear that if they should happen to have some material in the line they should give to me + I would arrange to send it to the Ambulance + sending this second cart as before. 2. Inoculation of all Indian work here in 7 A B + Cholera as arranged. <p>Submitted report to AAA + DMS with account of cases of food poisoning already mentioned. There were due to eating tinned sardines of the Libby brand, which the men state has no indication of the time that they ate anything wrong with it. Recommended that the sale of this brand should be prohibited + that steps should be taken to prevent the sale of stock now in hand here to troops elsewhere. Long of about sent to DMS + received from S.S. copy of instructions to S.O.C. I.C. Records for the attack on HASSANA. This movement is in connection with attack by forces of the Southern Section on NEKHL. Make the necessary medical arrangements with the VC I.C. Base Field Amb. If further transport should be required to be being met</p>	C 16
Bitter	15 2 17			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dlt	16 2 17		<p>18</p> <p>Sut memo to DADMS Egyptian Works that in view of prevalence of malaria from all cases of fever admitted should have been screened before sent to the Field Laboratory for examination. This will place matters in a definite footing as far as diagnosis is concerned.</p> <p>Sut memo to AA & BNS with draft of Bureau Protocols rules governing the maintenance of personal cleanliness should be maintained amongst Egyptians employed with troops so that the danger of their spreading the disease to the latter may be minimized. The Egyptian units + those employing Egyptian Labour will make effort:-</p> <p>(a) Allow every man at least 1/2 a day a week for using facilities which should be provided for personal cleanliness + washing clothes.</p> <p>(b) Arrange for treatment of clothing in the disinfecting tanks by seeing that the men attend to the number + the times required.</p> <p>Sut memo to AA & BNS with regard to water supply at present being developed by R.E.S. in line S.E. of Kalo 145 pointing out that certain wells should be properly enclosed + protected from contamination.</p> <p>Saw Capt BIRD the Special Water Duty Officer with memo to the water at present being developed at SHEIKH ZAWAID. There is a plentiful supply of good water both in the quantity + quality with near the village + the shallow wells + these points along the canal + in the hills. Some have to be marked if possible but enclosed certain areas which I indicated in a 2-</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Burtin	14		<p>Account collection of recently taken books began to receive their report received from Major AUSTIN with reference to the breeding in the 53-BW area. Sent it to ADME 53-BW for information, which + report No 14 describing train reported advanced that in work. Informing 52-BW so that they may continue description.</p> <p>Message received from DOME & F conveying instructions from Dms & HQ that anti cholera inoculation was to start in about a month. Why? It is likely that I had already instructed the various formations that they should be done at once in view of uncertainty as to when war would actually begin & that I had already recommended individuals for vaccine for that purpose, but that I had now noticed that it was not to be given before 15th March in accordance with instructions of the Dms.</p> <p>Sent message to AA + QMS requesting that a stationary work be sent to EL ARISH as soon as possible within the 25th unit. It can take over the site at present occupied by the 54th CCS which would then be able to have its equipment packed ready to move forward when required.</p> <p>Received letter from SS giving the various moves about to take place amongst the formations of the Desert Column. The result of them will be that by the 23rd unit the Army Mounted Div + its Reserve groups of the 53-BW will be at SHEIKH ZUWAND + the 5th Mounted Brigade + the Reserve group of the 57-BW will be at EL BURJ.</p>	C19
Burtin	17 2 17			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ent-4	20		<p>The 52nd D.W. remaining at EL ARISH received news from AA+B, H.S. regarding a scheme for withdrawing a portion of camels from camel Division (subunit) for the purpose of returning to Gaza at SHEIKH ZOWAID as mentioned above. This will mean that a portion of the camel units will also be withdrawn, which is undesirable but as the Division will be in heat if not wholly transferred by the withdrawal the matter is not so serious. The division which will still be then to determine the nature of the transfer of the section under those circumstances must be considered. The withdrawal is one of necessity in consequence of the move above mentioned the shortage of camels to meet requirements I am writing to the A.D. to be increased to accommodate with their Divisional staffs but a sufficient portion of camels for full rounded transport is allotted to the full staff to meet requirements of a debussing column. At the same time told them to have the motor ambulances for their Divisional units scheduled to be available here in case of emergency. Saw the A.D. of the 52nd D.W. who is at present at MAZAR but due to move up here in a few days. He told me he had no hostile contact with them. I advised him to have in it if he could not get it before leaving at here to arrange for a supply of camel drivers as a temporary measure to meet here on moving out with the Divisional staff with them.</p>	C 20

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Delt	21		<p>Dr discussed this matter with him with regard to routine duties in the Desert Column.</p> <p>Saw the ADMS Egyptian Major from ISMAILIA who is on inspection duty. Told him what I wanted done re the question of releasing the 1st Battalion & the action taken by me already in that direction. Showed him the draft copy for Column Routine Order mentioned previously & he said it would meet the case. Discussed with him also the sanitation & the various other things that I wanted to have done by his HQ with regard to them.</p> <p>Received report from Field Secretary re samples of water taken at the Chlorination & will have made S.E. of town. The report & think however that the Chlorination is not only not effective, but probably not being done at all. Phoned LADMS 52 Dr + arranged that he & Dr should meet the ADMS (Bun) there 2 morning morning & investigate.</p> <p>He & Ford met by Amba called by telephoning on 15th but did not occur.</p> <p>Received memo letter from ADMS 57 that I was to reply through General Staff. It will be necessary to telegraph to him in this will be necessary in connection from SHEIKH ZAWAID. If I had been informed at the time of telephoning I should have taken action at once & in this time would be now.</p> <p>Saw ADMS 62 Dr + told him to schedule supply of motor fuel.</p>	6/21
Delt	14 2 17			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cant	22		<p>the Divisional Staff. Herts on same subject L.A.D. No 53-Div received report from Capt PIERCE re value of duty done at EL ARISH with regard to the new wells developed in this area, giving their locality & quantity surroundings. Also reported on the quality of the wells previously developed as they maintained. There was no chance to estimate in them as no record is available in my files as to when the resolution for 4 A.B should be reheated. Sent memo 2:00 PM 27 asking for 4 A.B three more detailed reports with mechanisms around at 5:40 PM in which the Senior of them told me that they could do 60 cases a day between them. Sent out memo L.A.D. No 53 + 8ms. Independent records with them + abstracting the number of the Staff in by Capt. Hilly. After the luncheon this morning the Column Commander sent for me + told said that he was anxious to reduce the number of tents with the minimum that he wished to reduce the number of tents with the minimum possible. He said that one field Amb for each Division should be enough + that even in that case only as many tents as were absolutely necessary should be pitched. I told him that they would meet requirements but that I should like to hear the motor Amb of the 53-Div with a 2-man transport brought up chance so that only the best cases need be retained with the Division. He then being connected with L-EL ARISH to the CCS or to the field Amb there by order in their published a cross line + sent to all formations The A.A. & B.M.S. sent a telegram + returned to Engharib asking for all motor</p>	C 22
Cants	19 2 17			

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(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Unit 21		23	<p>Ambulances of the 53-Div should be sent to EL ARISH as early as possible.</p> <p>Send instruction to the ADMS 53-Div on following points:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To send the 3 movable sections of the Field Ambs to EL BURJ if possible. It is to select a site for one at least near railhead & mark out the ground with tent pegs. It is not to touch the tents unless actually necessary. Mobile sections to go with Biscuits. 2. Sanitary section with sheets & 50 S.C. sections allotted to the Div to go forward also - a notification to be sent to EL BURJ to SHEIKH ZOWAID so that special attention should be paid to sanitation at both of those places immediately on arrival so as to prevent fouling of ground. 3. To arrange with some Egyptian Architects EL ARISH with a view to the mobile sections of S.C. Sections allotted to his Division so that they may be available at once when required. <p>Informed by A.D.S. + J that 8 motor Ambs were being sent up from KANTARA into they were being fitted with double tyres. It would be too dark before they arrived.</p> <p>The ADMS Engineer Division came to see me with request to be accompanied to the raid by two of the personnel at KHAN YUNUS on the morning of the 23rd inst.</p> <p>Arranged as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Mobile sections to go with the Division. 2. The Mobile section left at SHEIKH ZOWAID to be ready to receive cases if need be. 3. The Field Amb of the 53-Div at SHEIKH ZOWAID to be ready to send 14 ambulances forward if needed. <p>and then with ADMS 53-Div.</p>	C 23

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.)

24

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dlts	20 2 17		<p>4. The VC HQ at EL BURJ to be ready to send first case toward of road to the bus been accounted with to A.D.C. + J.</p> <p>5. The hygiene committee section at EL BURJ to be ready to receive cases of cholera.</p> <p>Instruction to Adams to go to EL BURJ to send down view of recesses, more sent the Adams (San) to EL BURJ to inspect + report on the sanitation conditions there.</p> <p>Saw the same Indian look + discussed with him matters concerning them. They are all inoculated against cholera + both typhoid + paratyphoid. Report from Mess ADSTIK on fly breeding conditions at RS + Subhali. They both showed an improvement, but there was still some to be dealt with. Sent them to Mess to be cleaned, asking to have them but not to mess. Arrived at the Hygiene Section of New Zealand Field Ambulance by train to EL BURJ.</p>	
Dlts	21 2 17		<p>Colonel BARRETT his luncheon at 11 am. Had a conference at 11 am with the A.D.C. MS 52 + 53 Division + the VC + their Field Amb present. The views of the scheme previously mentioned were given + he advanced himself as very pleased with what had been done. He said that one result of the action taken so far was a marked diminution in the cases sent to base. Sent memo to A.D.C. MS 52 + 53 asking the source of water supply to be traced by the morning post. Nothing from local wells or by train from the bus there.</p>	11/24

WAR DIARY

Army Form G. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Front of			<p style="text-align: center;">25-</p> <p>as there is some doubt as to subject + I am anxious to detail all necessary precautions</p> <p>Captain BIRD has shown value duty. When being to report on the value of SHEIKH ZOWAID both new + old in view of his work proceeding there on the 23. The subject is good + of low salinity, but requires information. Told him that he was to go out there with his tongue as early tomorrow morning + that he was to help the Divisional Medical Officer that that this would be sent in front of success to the value of their collection Division.</p> <p>Sent memo to ADMS (can) + A.D. in 5 Aug + 5-5 Div on following points:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrangement to be made with their C.R.C. that strict necessity for information of drinking water to be made immediately on arrival of personnel at their camping grounds. 2. Instruction to be issued by them that medical arrangements be made for information + subsistence of drinking water sources in advance of the arrival of the main bodies of their formations. 3. Arrangement to be made with their "B" element for the circulation of such orders to be issued with regard to the protection of authorized sources, the prohibition of unauthorized sources. <p>Told the ADMS (can) to submit all details with regard to them on his lines which I indicated to him.</p>	C 225

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cutt	26		<p>The comm section was taken care of by the AA + D, MS + the CE in their absence from EL BVRD + they told me that local radio would be used.</p> <p>Letter from SS asking if I could furnish sheets radio duty when for 2 divisions + 2 mounted divisions but as 12 medical groups to be published that I had not radio duty when work for that position that this duty must be lessened at under divisions management by MS of the divisions, indicating how this could be done.</p> <p>I think that check afterwards from the lack of sheets radio duty when the divisional management - better as at their own of developing + working on the radio supply of the division staff + makes the ADI responsible for the quality + quantity of the radio developed + the standard of the radio to be used together with the measures necessary for their protection. A section meeting should occur when development would cease automatically + the MS detached to the machine level upon their report.</p>	
Dutt	22 2 17		<p>Went to see the Doms of the 1st and 2nd at EL ARISH with Capt. ...</p> <p>Heard questions particularly of discussed many points with him - amongst them the supply of motor ambulances to the SS-Division, + also the question of the ...</p> <p>He telephoned 1-3 H & sent letter + received reply that I in here that should be lessened at it was.</p>	C26

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY
(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Unit			<p style="text-align: center;"><u>27</u></p> <p>Sent out instructions to all formations accordingly. With regard to motor ambulances, saw the A.D.S. + J. Clithorne with the 50ms & 7 other ambulances that 8 Ford ambulances would be sent at once & that 13 more would be sent as soon as possible. High train to run to EL BURJ daily leaving here at 7.50 am. To make this to be done No 6 & 7 trains will run on alternate days. He letter is now furnished with a hitcher wagon. Sent instructions to all concerned with regard to the above.</p>	
Ditto	23 2 17		<p>Sent to A.A. & H.S. memo based on report of A.D.M. (Saw) with regard to road at EL BURJ. Sent to A.D.M. 544 D.W. with a check sheet covering at EL ARISH to win the desert columns. Lines of orders, supplies, & instructions generally with regard to questions of sanitation etc.</p> <p>Received information from C.E. that one of the huts for Clayton description is now erected at EL ARISH. Led A.D.M. (Saw) to see & inspect it. Asked C.E. to send one to SHEIKH ZOHAYD as soon as possible & to lead the train here in return for the present.</p> <p>Led A.D.M. (Saw) to inspect the main latrine & also the 4 H.C. & with regard to the food stuffs in the latrine. He reported that he found in the full latrine 002 tin of sardines & tins of tinned meat were evidently blown in the shelter nearly on full. At the H.C. he also found tins of sardines & tinned meat were blown in the shelter. He also found tins of tinned salmon & brand marmalade by C.R. 262 in the shelter nearly on full. Sent 4 memos with recommendations on the subject to A.A. & H.S.</p>	1927

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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28

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place Date Hour

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Out of

Received wire from Adms Anzac Div that the casualties during the raid L-YUNUS KHAN today amounted to one officer + nine other ranks killed + one other rank seriously. The former were sent to Reception Station (Anzac) at EL BURJ + the latter was retained in the Field Amb at SHEIKH ZOWAID

Out of 24
2
17

Received notification from Adms Anzac Div that the ten casualties at EL BURJ were evacuated by Hospital Train this morning to HANTARA, + that the serious cases would be sent to EL BURJ this afternoon

Sent a memo to Adms Div + Gen's Independent Brigade with an attached memo for communication to all HQ's of units going in detail their duties with regard to kitchens + what they should look for in their inspections of them; at the same time stating the S.R.P. or C.R.P. bearing on the subject.

The Field Ambulance arrived at EL BURJ yesterday + 4 more this afternoon. Sent wire to Adms Anzac + S.S. Div notifying them of the fact + instructing them to reply to the H. J. at EL BURJ for them when necessary to supply cases from SHEIKH ZOWAID to EL BURJ.

Notification received that disembarking train No 14 which has been sent to HANTARA 02 23 but no onward work being done here on 25th but should be to Adms 52-Div to that effect so that he could be relieved.

As the two battalions of the 23rd (Indians) are now employed in receiving instructions to form a reception station in Anzac to them at daylight

C 28 11

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 211B

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	Details and references to Appendices
Lent	29		<p>This is especially necessary in view of the fact that they are liable to be called upon to take part when certain operations are in progress. Asked if a section of the 121st Indian Field Amb could be transferred from A B D for this purpose, as the two sections at EL ARISH would be necessary to carry on the duties as at present.</p> <p>Sent memo to A D O's with regard to previous correspondence in which it was assumed that 300 stretchers would be held in a reserve in the Desert Column at HANTARA, & asked if they were now available.</p> <p>Visited the S. U. C. O. S. & also the Colonel's party of the 5th Advanced Det. Medical Stores which arrived yesterday.</p> <p>Went to see the D O's & 7 afterwards by appointment. Discussed many subjects including the Lushai prisoners of War. I pointed out that the present arrangement was not altogether satisfactory & that under the matter in hand & demands for time I would rather the utmost of stretchers than to rely on a very haphazard & find at the critical moment the necessary would be set down with regard to it. I deprecated divided authority & responsibility with regard to it & that it would be much more satisfactory in any way to let the D O's explain to the D O's & together to be me to do so with the D O's Egyptian work. I should think to be present in the Desert Column being responsible to me direct in it. In other case I should feel on several grounds that it is better to be in the matter.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

In regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
reports contained in I. S. Regs. Part II
the Staff Manual respectively. This page
be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Brass heading not required.)

Date Hour

30

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
References to
Appendices

11/10 25
2
17
11/10 26
17

Sent the 40ms (Saw) to inspect the 1st of the E.L. bit, report, 40ms
Anxious to know how things went. Stood with regard to provision of letters
batches & instructions in accordance with instructions already issued.
40ms & 7 came to my office to discuss the receipt of the Lushet, answer
of the work. I told him that in his case I could ascertain the reasons for the
transit of the equipment of this work, that the 40ms Egyptian work
had been informally but not definitely processed ~~down~~ for the machine,
could come from either the O.S.P.C. Desert Column or Palestine, that
the supply was not independent of the ordinary military supply, would
consequently be subject to the ordinary military necessities. Under those
circumstances I thought that there was no advantage in his trying to
arrange this from Palestine, that I must put it up to me, that
would have the additional advantage that I should know how I stood &
what my chance of getting the work up. The same applies to the action taken
for getting work from the work of the work train. There he should be
only get by asking for me of the Reserve Sections of the E.L.C. allotted to
work with Submarine Division. It was therefore arranged that the 40ms
Egyptian work should be responsible for the following work which I should
work my personnel, and success of advance commitment that I should
be responsible for securing for the transport process & for the Reserve Section.

C30

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place Date Hour

Unit 1

31

When received.
Saw the ADMS Egyptian Air HQ subsequently on the subject under
instructions from Doms L7. He said that at present he had
succeeded in obtaining a commitment for 150 cases on ready at present
that the personnel would be assembled at 24 hours notice. He said
however that owing to the increasing difficulty in getting the personnel
that this must not be possible later. He had been told that if he found
that this further delay arose he should let me know at once so that I
should know how I stood. The question of transport + teachers to be
arranged by me is clearly mentioned.
Visited the ADMS Air HQ and saw the ADMS. He has been told that some
from ABD + saw the ADMS. He has been told that some
ADMS received from ADMS (Saw) who asked L-8, L-9, L-10
of EL ARISH. Some were good + his very in detail. Forwarded what
to ADMS Egyptian Air HQ for necessary action + report.
Received report from Captain BIRD to Special duties duty. He
at SHEIKH ZOWAID. He will be said that he has been working in
this area during the night. He has been working in the area
with one being developed in a fenced area north of the subject.
Instructed the ADMS (Saw) L-80 at this time + instructions letter.

Page 1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Ditto	27 <u>2</u> 17		<p style="text-align: center;">J 2</p> <p>me know by telephone at once if the question of the order whether or not to withdraw, + if any source of danger that it could not be assumed by him at this point, what I could take the action which they. At entrance this morning, the is to recommend to trust in case of active operations + explained the situation from my point of view pointing out that although we have had only a small number of small numbers of casualties this might not be the case in the immediate future especially in view of the large number of which were reported to be at SHALAL + nearby. Attached sent letter to him in view of above saying that the following units would be received + recommended that they be sent to SHEIKH ZUWAID as early as possible.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Two casualty clearing stations. 2. The Turkish Prisoners of War Hospital. This is at present housed at EL ARISH + ready to move forward. <p>The above units would not then at SHEIKH ZUWAID unless circumstances demanded it but would be held ready here to move forward to RAFA the moment circumstances made this necessary + the opportunity to doing so arose.</p> <p>I also recommended that the Hospital at EL ARISH of the Veterinary Hospital already asked for be included, that it be ready to be handed at night when the need of circumstances rendered this necessary. Sent a copy of the above to ODONS 27 at the same time pointing out to him</p>	C 32

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erased heading not required.)

Place Date Hour

33

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Attachments

East of

that more liaison vehicles would be necessary to reach the front line in view of the increased length of the lines of communication & the longer time necessarily taken to be taken in connecting bases by train. In this connection I sent a memo to the Military Director HANTARA asking him if in case of emergency - that is in case of certain operations on a large scale resulting in a large number of casualties - he could arrange for his Hoshida trains to run daily from Baghdad to HANTARA.

The Lt Col (Sqn) showed to me the exact conditions at SHEIKH ZOWAID & I instructed him to allot certain areas, which I indicated to him - for drinking purposes & to arrange to have his area cut off & checked so that no troops should encamp near them. Told him also to tell the Lt Colms 50 - 52 from me that he was to see that his area was cut off & checked to.

Told Lt Colms (Sqn) to remain at SHEIKH ZOWAID to meet & inspect his 22 mounted Bessade here to morrow before returning here, as I was anxious to find out how they stood from the sanitary point of view being only just joined the column.

Lt Col PIERCE to proceed to the north where I had sent out Lt EL BURJ this morning to inspect the water supplies here returned this afternoon & reported that they were satisfactory, but the wells were

C98

The following notes, compiled by A.D.M.S. (San) Desert Column, from office records, are submitted for your information- in amplification of reports by Divisional A.D.s.M.S., dealing with the week ending 27th inst.

(a) Total sick admitted:

Anzac Division	1.27%	No Brigade gave a sick rate calling for detailed analysis.
42nd Division	1.20%	
Column Troops	1.15%	
52nd Division	.78%	
5th Mtd. Bde.	.70%	
I.C.C. Bde.	.69%	

(b). Infectious Disease.Enterica - nil.Dysentery - 8 cases, against 7 last week.

The 6th Manchester's gave two cases out of three from the 42nd Division. No other Division gave more than 2 cases.

Malaria. - 3 cases, against 6 last week.Diphtheria - 1 cases, against 5 last week.

From the 8th Scottish Division Rifles, 52nd Division.

(c). Laboratory Work.

The examinations carried out on Nos. 1 and 2 Field Laboratories during the week were:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Positives.</u>
Diarrhoea Cases.	44	19 (Dysentery 15)
Other Cases	346	19 (Diphtheria 19)
	<u>390</u>	<u>38</u>

(d) General Conditions.Climatic.

With the exception of heavy rain on the night of the 22nd, the weather remained dry and warm by day and cold at night.

Water.

At EI ARISH the general policy already outlined was continued. Yields from wells were generally maintained.

Salinities.

In inland wells the salinities remained generally constant.

In beach wells of the 52nd Division (near the tomb), increasing salinity led to sinking of a new well in the Thamila area, W.N.W. of the town.

In the triangle between the sea and the East bank of the Wadi, no potable water was reached by exploratory borings.

In the area South of the beach between kilos. 152 and 153, borings in search of water near the Anzac Camps proved unsuccessful.

Borings proved that fresh water does not extend along the beach to the west of kilo. 152. Inland from the beach West of kilo 152, the salinities were mostly very high (up to 1000 parts), but potable water was found in a few scattered areas.

Bacteriscope examination of samples from 12 wells, showed that the average was represented by a total count of 13,600 organisms per c.c., and a minimal lactose-fractor figure of .28 c.c.

Chlorination was continued under careful supervision.

The Independent Brigades were provided with outfits for water chlorination in desert wells, and orders were given that the personnel be instructed in the use of this equipment.

The A.D.M.S, Egyptian Hospitals was asked to arrange that all wells supplying drinking water for natives are chlorinated.

Protection of wells. The C.E. Desert Column was asked to have notice boards placed at all wells, and to have all drinking water well areas for 250 yards radius from each well enclosed by a wire fence.

Vermin.

Application was made to A.A.&Q.M.G. , D.Col. for three houses to be rented for use as disinfecting chambers for Clayton's apparatus. The disinfecting train was temporarily out of action for repairs.

Flies. A circular was issued to A.D.s.M.S., which embodied notes on all means of fly-destruction of known efficacy and applicability in this area.

Conversancy. Application was made to the Desert Column H.Qrs., for additional portable sanitary latrines for 2% of their strength.

?

Desert Column H.Qrs.

Colonel D.D.M.S.

6-2-17.

Moderate day and night temperatures - Climatic
Yields and salinities were maintained - Water
New sources were developed :-

The following notes, compiled by the A.D.M.S., (San).
Desert Column from Office records, are submitted for your information
in amplification of reports by A.D.M.S. of Divisions dealing
with the week ending February 10th.

(a) Total sick admitted. The admitted natives. The admitted
I. Camel Brigade 1.79% No brigade had an admission rate
Anzac Division 1.30% for this week of over 2%.
5th Mounted Bde. 88.88%
53rd Division .87%
52nd Division .79%
Column Troops .56%

(b) Infectious Diseases. Enterica - 2 cases, both paratyphoid 'A'.
The man with a small detachment
on odd duties and constantly on the move. Open trench latrines
were used, but a man was posted to cover faeces promptly. No source
of information and infection could be traced and the cooks were free
from suspicion. Two battalions of Sikh Pioneers having
from 30-12-16 to 16-1-17, hands came sick again a week after discharge. No source of
infection could be traced in his Brigade.

Dysentery. 12 cases. The only units giving more than one case for
53rd Division 10. The week were:
52nd Division 5
Anzac Division 3 1/1 Herefords 3 (158th Bde).
5th Mtd. Bde. 2 1/5 Welsh Regt. 2
Column Troops 2
Malaria - 2 cases.
Diphtheria 9 cases. The units giving more than one case were:
52nd Division 4
Anzac Division 3 8th Canterbury Mtd. Rifles 3.
53rd Division 2 1/4 R. Scots Fusiliers 2.
The last case from the Canterbury Mtd. Rifles occurred over 3 weeks ago;
the ab. examinations following the admission of these 3 cases, led to
the discovery of one carrier and six cases with 'diphtheria' bacilli.
The latter are isolated, and under observation and treatment.
No case had occurred in the 1/4 R. Scots Fus. since Dec. 1st 1916.

Relapsing Fever: 5 cases. One each from 52nd Divn, 53rd Divn, 5th Mtd. Bde., and Column troops,
and 42nd Division. All gave a history of close association with natives -
1. 6th H.L.I. permanent guard on A.S.C. depot, often sitting by natives.
2. 3rd Coy, E. Lancs. R.E., helping natives to load pumps on camels.
3. 53rd Coy. (Ry), R.E. supervising natives at work in railway station.
4. 1/4 Cheshire Regt. constantly bringing up rations by railway.
5. 3/1 Mob. Vet. Section, natives constantly employed in lines.
Bilharzia case. 3rd A.L.H. Regt., drank from sweet-water Canal at Serapium, 7 months ago.

Scarlet Fever - 2 cases. In separate units, neither of which had had a recent case (within two
months). No source of infection could be traced.
Measles - 1 case. A man from draft (2/4 R.W. Kents) which disembarked from the 'Ceramic'
seven days before onset of disease. German Measles 21 cases.
All from drafts for 52nd Division, and from the 'Ceramic' within
9 days after disembarkation.

(c) Laboratory work - No. 1 Field Lab. Total positives. Inoculation -
Diarrhoea Cases 38 21 (Dysentery 21)
Other Cases 282 15 (Diphtheria 8, Relapsing 5, Bil-
Totals... 320 36 harzia 1).

Regulations for native sanitation. The units giving more than one case were:
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53rd Division 2 1/4 R. Scots Fusiliers 2.
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All from drafts for 52nd Division, and from the 'Ceramic' within
9 days after disembarkation.

(d) General Conditions.

Climatic
Water

- Moderate day and night temperatures. Dry, with occasional show-
- Yields and salinities were maintained.-----
New sources were developed :-

1. On beach, 2 miles E. of Wadi, salinity 56. For 1st L.H. Bde.
2. On beach S. of Railway at kilo. 151, salinity 46. For N.Z. Mounted Brigade.
3. On beach, 1000 yards E. of Wadi, being developed for 156th Bde

Chlorination was continued for British Troops and employed natives. The triple reservoir was being fitted for chlorination
Railway Trucks. - requests were made that due notice be given, and the trucks be cleaned, before pipe water is railed from El Arish Water Carts. - orders were issued that all horses be examined, & defective lengths replaced.

Diet
Conversancy.

The calorie value of the mobile scale ration estimated at 36100
Portable sanitary equipment, is being issued to Brit. units as made available. The pattern made being found heavy, a new type was made and sent as a pattern weighing only 5 lbs, for theseat
'A' scheme was drawn up for supply of portable latrines for native employed on defence works etc, and some units of the EL?C. have already been supplied.
Application was made that the 54th Division be provided with this equipment before coming into the Desert Column area. Two battalions of Sikh Pioneers having arrived unequipped, they were temporarily provided with buckets and sack-covers, until the portable latrines can be provided as arranged.
Incineration of all organic refuse is being adopted as the necessary equipment is made available and issued.

An establishment of natives for emptying the latrine buckets, and incinerating faeces, has been applied for independent Brigades.)
Public latrines have been made at the Railway Station and sites have been selected for others along the main traffic routes at El ARISH, where they will be installed as materials are available

Regulations for native sanitation were drawn up and submitted to Desert Col. H. Ors. whence they were circulated to all concerned. A copy is attached.

Flies.
Showed no marked increase in numbers, save for a time in the bazaar in the town. Action was taken, fly-papers were issued, & the results have proved satisfactory.
A column Routine Order was submitted, and published, prohibiting the burial and dumping of manure.
Major E.E. Austen lectured to medical and combatant Officers on practical methods of dealing with the fly problem, and, also under my orders, inspected and instructed camps of units.

Vermin.

The number of cases of natives returned as relapsing fever during the week amounting to 239, the means of delousing were utilised to the utmost extent.
A clause regarding personal cleanliness and co-operation to ensure attendance of natives at the disinfecting train was inserted in the above mentioned regulations for native sanitation.
On a request by the Q.C. Military Railways, Kantar East, methods for dealing with lice in railway trucks were formulated and submitted.
No 14 Disinfecting Train (British) was temporarily repaired, but broke down completely on the 7th, after having deloused the Anzacs and I.C. Camel Bde. personnel, and commenced the 52nd Div. New fittings were asked for urgently by telegram. Meanwhile the 52nd Division borrowed all available thresh machines, and treated as many mens' clothing as possible.
Materials for use with Clayton's apparatus having arrived, an Officer was detailed to make himself conversant with the working of this apparatus. Sites were chosen for erecting the huts as soon as they arrive.

A request was made for publication in (East Force orders of a S.R.O. (129) prohibiting troops and natives using the same trucks
Inoculation- Attention was drawn to low percentages of inoculated men.

(Dysentery)	31	38	Dist. Cases
(Diphtheria)	15	282	Other Cases
(Paratyphoid)	38	320	Totals