

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/42/22

Title: 4th Australian Light Horse Field
Ambulance

November 1918



AWM4-26/42/22



CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Light Horse Field Ambulance

FOR

November 1918

Signature of Officer compiling W Evans. Major
Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding W Evans Major
Capt.
Liout. Col.
C C. 4th. Light Horse Fie'd. Amb



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HOMS	1-11-18	0900	The Mobile Section of the Ambulance established camp in the Brigade Area, while the Immobile Section re-opened the Divisional Clearing Station near Australian Divisional Headquarters.	
"	4-11-18	1400	Lieut-General Sir H.G. CHAUVEL, accompanied by Brigadier-General W. GRANT inspected the units of the Division in their own lines.	
"	5-11-18	1730	The Immobile Section of the Ambulance rejoined the Mobile Section, and the complete unit marched out with Brigade to a site slightly north of UMM HARLEIN, arriving at 2330, and bivouacking.	
	"	-	Capt E.S. JOSKE, marched in, vice Capt H. CRAWFORD, evacuated, and was taken on stretcher.	
UMM HARLEIN	6-11-18	0600	Moved with Brigade and marched to TEL KALE, arriving and bivouacking at 1230. The animals were watered at JISR ASWAD.	
TEL KALE	7-11-18	0730	Left TEL KALE at 0730, and travelled with the Brigade to TEL HARESH, arriving and bivouacking at 1615.	
TEL HARESH	8-11-18	0800	Proceeded with the Brigade to TRIPOLI, and bivouacked in an olive grove near Brigade HQ at ZGARTA.	
TRIPOLI	9-11-18	-	Capt E.S. JOSKE was posted to the 4th H Regt, vice Major C.J. SIMPSON, transferred to 12th H Regt as T.M.O., vice Capt S. HOLDER to hospital. An estimate of the Medical Composts required to feed 100 patients for one week was submitted to A.P.M.S.; Australian Mounted Division.	

Appendix 1
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI	11.11.18	1000	Seven other-ranks who embarked from Australia in 1914, proceeded by sea to Moascar to await embarkation to Australia on "1914 leave".	
"	12.11.18	0730	Four H. J. wagons reported to 74 th C. C. H, TRIPOLI, to assist in the evacuation of patients to EL-MINA, where they were transferred to a hospital ship.	
			The wagons returned at 1600.	
		0900	Winter clothing was issued to the personnel.	
"	13.11.18	-	Owing to inclement weather conditions, it was decided to evacuate all Bronchial cases to 74 th L. B. S, as it was impossible for these men to show signs of improvement whilst being kept in tents.	
"	15.11.18	-	In consequence of the camp being situated near cultivated ground, which was comparatively low-lying, the area became exceedingly muddy. The horse lines, in particular, presented a most boggy appearance.	
"	18.11.18	1400	A batch of 21 reinforcements marched in. As the unit was very short of personnel, the arrival of the reinforcements was welcomed.	
"	19.11.18	1400	Major E. K. PARRY accompanied the Staff Captain to select a new camping site, to which the Brigade would move on 20-11-1918.	
"	20.11.18	1000	Moved to the new camping area which was situated on the slopes of a hill, and adjoining a good motor road. The site was rough and rocky, but with a little labour the camp was levelled sufficiently to pitch all tents. Attention was then turned to an elaborate scheme of	

W2

3



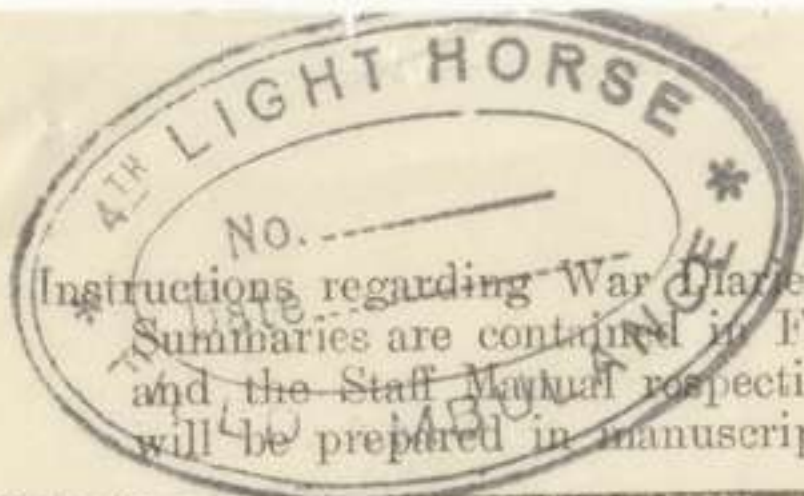
WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI	20.11.18	—	drainage, which, it is believed will be adequate to drain the entire camp when the wet season begins.	
"	21.11.18	0630	Four J.T. Ambulance wagons reported to 74 C.C.S. to assist in the evacuation of patients to the Hospital boat. They returned at noon.	
"	25.11.18	0500	Major E.K. PARRY proceeded to Egypt with a Divisional Party to buy Christmas Goods for the troops. Capt H.G. LEAHY assumed command temporarily.	
"	"	1200	Reports on Malarial Infection forwarded to A.D.M.S. Ausdiv. Good work done by personnel	Appendix 2. " 3
"	26.11.18	1600	The Divisional Commander inspected the Ambulance. He expected an improvement in the condition of all steel-works, but was otherwise satisfied.	
"	27.11.18	—	The Ambulance Cars which had previously been parked at Divisional HQ rejoined. Notes on recent operations forwarded to A.D.M.S. Ausdiv.	Appendix 4
"	27.11.18	1400	Capt H.G. LEAHY attended a meeting of C.O's at Ausdiv HQ to discuss proposals for the sports and recreation of the troops.	
"	28.11.18	0700	Captain H.G. LEAHY, proceeded to A.I.F. Headquarters, Cairo, on duty, in accordance with instructions received from A.D.M.S. Ausdiv. Capt. H.G. HUMPHRIES, temporarily assumed command.	
"	"	1400	A representative from the Ambulance attended a meeting of the Brigade Sports' Committee at Bde HQ. Office bearers were elected, and sports competitions discussed.	



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.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

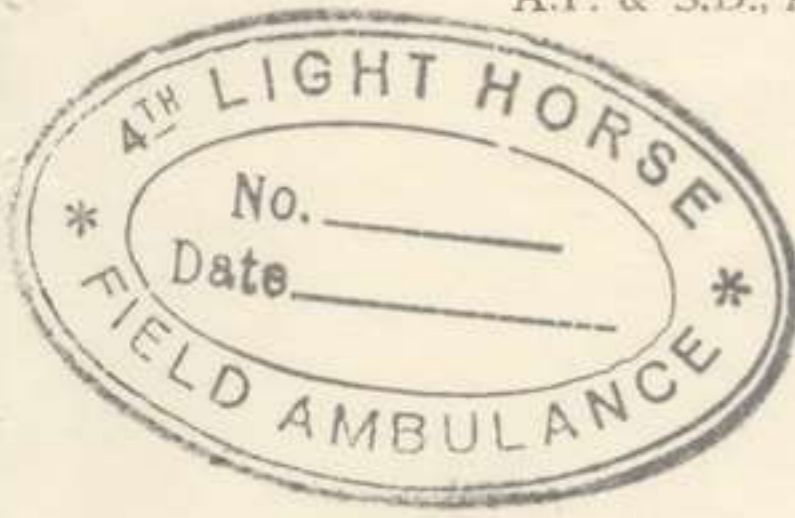
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TRIPOLI	29.11.18	1800	Captain H. G. HUMPHRIES, evacuated to 74 th C.C.H with Bacillary Dysentery.	
"	30.11.18	1700	Major W. EVANS., M.C., A.A.R. No. 1; Australian Mounted Division marched in and assumed temporary command during the absence of Major E. K. PARRY. For report on Q.M. works, Summary of Sick, Prevailing Diseases, Chart of Admissions, Fluctuation in Strength see Appendices 5 to 9.	Appendices 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

W Evans Major
Lieut. Col.
C.C. 4th. Light Horse Field. Amb.

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WAR DIARY

OF

4th Light Horse Field Ambulance

FOR

November 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Estimate of Medical Comforts.
2	Report on Malarial Infection.
3	Summary of good-works of personnel.
4	Notes on Recent Operations.
5	Chart of Admissions, Evacuations, and Discharges.
6	Summary of Admissions etc.
7	of Prevailing Diseases
8	Fluctuation in Strength.
9	Report on Q. M. work.

W Evans Major
Lieut. Col.
C C. 4th. Light Horse Field, Amb.



Appendix 1

Estimated Medical Comforts required
 100 Patients - as under.

Diets
 Full 40
 Light 30
 Milk 30

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Milk | 9 Cases |
| Sugar | 2 Bags |
| Cornflour | 50 lbs |
| Gum | 1 Case |
| Sago | 50 lbs |
| Fowl | 2 Cases |
| Ox | 1 Case |
| Mustard Powder | 10 lb |
| Jelly Crystals | 1 doz |
| Stout | 3 Cases |
| Brandy | 3 Bottles |
| Port Wine | 6 Bottles |
| Fruit Juices | 1 Case |
| Tea | 20 lb |
| Cocoa | 5 lb |
| Butter | 1 Case |
| Pickles | 7 Bottles |
| Pepper | 1/2 lb |

(Sgd) E. K. Parnery Mayer
 C. C., 4th. Light Horse Field, Amb.



The first intimation that the troops were heavily infected with Malaria was not given till the troops reached Damascus on 1.11.18. We had clinical cases before this but the cases were thought to have been infected in the Jordan Valley and were in the nature of relapses.

Influenza had also been epidemic at Ludd. Differential diagnosis was based on the following symptoms:- In Influenza coryza and catarrhs with the lack of grave systemic symptoms. Malignant Malaria by:

- 1 Cerebral manifestations
- 2 of typhoid state
- 3 Gastro-enteric disturbance
- 4 Jaundice

In my experience enlargement of the spleen was of very little value

Bacteriological diagnosis was not available till Capt. Chesterman of the Fus Rec Det arrived at Damascus (12th Oct 2), though we had been warned before this (Oct 10th) that the Divisions had been heavily infected probably at Iejun, Afule, Samakh, Beisan and Benat Yakub.

The incubation period points to these places. Statistics in the nature of complications are attached. With regard to difficulties of treatment at the French and English Hospitals, quinine in all forms was always available. The greatest factor in causing the high death rate was in my opinion the lack of rest. Patients had to be carried over great distances and in many cases by lorries. They then arrived at the hospitals in an exhausted state. If they could be tidied over the critical period immediately following their arrival in this exhausted state (the period was 2 to 3 days) there was every chance of recovery. This is evidenced by the fact that in November when patients could be held longer and the great distances had not to be travelled during the Pyrexial periods

the death rate has dropped although the incidence is high I do not think that the Influenza epidemic had any great influence on the mortality rate

The Broncho pneumoniae condition which was so fatal was from my observation of cases primarily due to heart weakness causing congestion and cyanosis, rather than a super-added Bronchial infection due to Influenza, though there were undoubtedly some cases of Primary Bronchial pneumonia, due to influenzal infection

In hospital the cases with marked pneumoniae hyperstatic congestion cleared up quickly with rest, in the sitting position in bed, and quinine treatment when they did respond.

The value of Malarial Diagnosis Units was inestimable both in quiescent period and during operations. The tendency of men in the field "is to fight a fever" and medical officers retain them in a unit to differentiate them from cases of Influenza which means waiting till the graver symptoms set in. If blood slide taken at this early stage and proving positive eliminates this period of uncertainty and the obscuring of future diagnosis by Empirical use of quinine

(Sgd) E. F. Parry Major
OC, Ausdiv C. S.

Statement of admissions of Immobile Section
4th LSO 3rd Div for periods as
marked, showing incidence of
Malaria.

	Admissions		Diagnoses		Died	
	White	Indian Officers	Malaria	Dysent	Malaria	Total
English Hosp. Damascus 4.10.18 - 21.10.18	349	198	46		36	49
French Hosp. Damascus 7.10.18 - 28.10.18	486 (French 108)	16	97	265	36	48
Period. 21.9.18 to 7.10.18	623	62		125		
Period 28.10.18 - 31.10.18			Nil.			
	1458 (French 108)	256	143	390	72	97

Reference your 4263 dated 23.11.18

(a) When the 4th L.S.C. Bde reached Kuneitra cases of clinical Malaria literally flocked into the Ambulance. This sudden influx was at the time attributed to the altered climatic conditions, for it was supposed that the comparatively sudden move from the heat of the Jordan Valley to the bitter cold of Kuneitra was responsible for malaria hitherto latent becoming manifest.

Later when careful observation showed that many reinforcements who had never been in the Valley showed typical clinical signs, the possibility of other areas of infection arose. The normal incubation period pointed to the Esdratim Plain, where the Brigade had spent considerable time - at Jenin, Lejjun, Afule, Beisan, Semakh etc.

The proportion of Pyrexia N.Y.D. evacuated before reaching the Esdratim Plain which subsequently proved to be malaria, was small compared with the proportion which at Kuneitra exhibited typical clinical signs.

In the absence of a Malarial Diagnosis Unit at Kuneitra, the possibility of diagnosing every case definite was very small. However the epidemics of Influenza together with the Malaria constituted almost certainly the great majority of illness during this period and the task of diagnosis resolved itself into deciding which of the two, a Pyrexia might be

Influenzal cases mainly exhibited temperatures from 99° to 102° with pains in head body and limbs and anorexia usually but not always, coryza and a good deal of prostration.

Cases of clinical malaria exhibited rigor palpable spleen diarrhoea, vomiting, jaundice, headache, and often myocarditis, with respiratory embarrassment and scattered areas of moist sounds. These responded to quinine either by mouth or intramuscularly as a rule but some cases particularly those with pulmonary complaints proved intractable.

At no time was there more intramuscular quinine than was needed. Most times there was not enough

with the result that cases which ordinarily would have received intramuscular quinine were refused it, but a more serious case be denied it. 12

Blankets and medical comforts were insufficient for a time, stimulants were sadly lacking, and the nursing staff was seriously depleted.

The exhausted condition of the men after the strenuous advance and the unsuitability of lorries as invalid conveyances were undoubtedly responsible in some degree for the lowered vitality and high death rate.

(b)

Dates	Admitted	Pyrexia	Malaria	Total Deaths	Death due to Malaria
Sept 18. to Oct 31.	925	584	28	25	4
Nov 1. to Nov 20.	295	167	73	1	
Total	1220	751	101	26	4

Of the above cases of death which occurred with the Mobile Section of the 4th L.H. Aid Ambulance, Broncho Pneumonia possibly due to infection superadded to hypostatic pneumonia, following myocarditis was responsible for most, heart failure alone for many.

It is not impossible that in many cases Influenza was superadded to Malaria, and in a few cases where this appeared to be the case, a rise of and weakness in the pulse preceded pulmonary symptoms.

(c) Had there been a Malarial Diagnosis Station with the ambulance undoubtedly some cases of typical malaria which escaped quinine for various reasons would have been saved the distress of a second attack, whilst others who had been condemned to a long period of quinine would have avoided it, and valuable time saved.

(d) No prophylaxis was advocated or ~~encouraged~~ ^{practised}

R.H.H.

(Sgt) H.G. Leahy ^{Capt} ~~Lieut. Col.~~
G.C. 4th. Light Horse Field. Amb.



Personnel who have done Good Works. Appendix 3

No 8315 Cpl MAITLAND, G. B. G; AMC DETAIL, 4th Lt Regt:-

13

Lt SASA on 30-9-18 this N.C.O. displayed the utmost gallantry and devotion to duty. When some of the men of the Regt were wounded he went into the firing line, and although under heavy rifle fire from a party of Germans, he placed the wounded in a place of safety and rendered First Aid.

While at Damascus from 1st to 18th October, when 50% of the Regt were sick he rendered invaluable assistance to the M.O. travelling between the different posts, some of which were 3 and 4 miles apart, at all hours of the day and night; and although at one time very ill himself he continued to remain on duty.

On previous operations this NCO has shown great devotion to duty, and a sublime indifference to danger.

No 15121 Pte FARHAM, T. S; AMC DETAIL, 11th Lt Regt.

This man was attached to B Sqd of 11th Lt Regt on 25-9-18, when the Regt attacked SEMAKH. He remained with the Squadron during the attack, and attended to the many casualties which occurred with great promptitude under MG and rifle fire, with absolute disregard for his own personal safety.

No 893 Cpl ROLFE, H. E. H; 4th Lt H. Fld Ambulance.

This N.C.O. has been with the unit since its inception, and has always performed his duties satisfactorily. Particularly was this the case during the operations from 19 Sept to 5 Oct. At the French Hospital Damascus, with a staff depleted by sickness, he was on duty day and night supervising the work of both orderlies and wardmaids, and performing nursing duties himself. He set a fine example to all who worked under him.

No. 18485 Pte WILLS, M.A.F. - 4th L.H.F. Amb.

During a very strenuous month while the Ambulance was at KUNEITRA sadly understaffed and overcrowded with seriously ill patients this man worked night and day with little sleep and the greatest devotion to duty. The untiring efforts and magnificent work of this hospital orderly cannot be praised too highly. His work did much to increase the comfort of the sick in a time when comforts were so sadly lacking, and his conduct in these trying circumstances was a fine example to the rest of the unit and to the patients.

No. 19354 Pte FAIRCLOUGH, H - 4th L.H.F. Amb.

By his untiring efforts and magnificent devotion to duty this man did much to fill the gaps in the personnel during the month the Ambulance was at KUNEITRA. His work cannot be too highly praised, while his example to others was invaluable.

W Evans Major
Lieut. Col.
O C, 4th, Light Horse Field, Amb.



The extraordinary success of the recent operations and the rapidity of the unparalleled advance were responsible for certain situations undreamed of by the most optimistic soldier or the most pessimistic D.D.M.S.

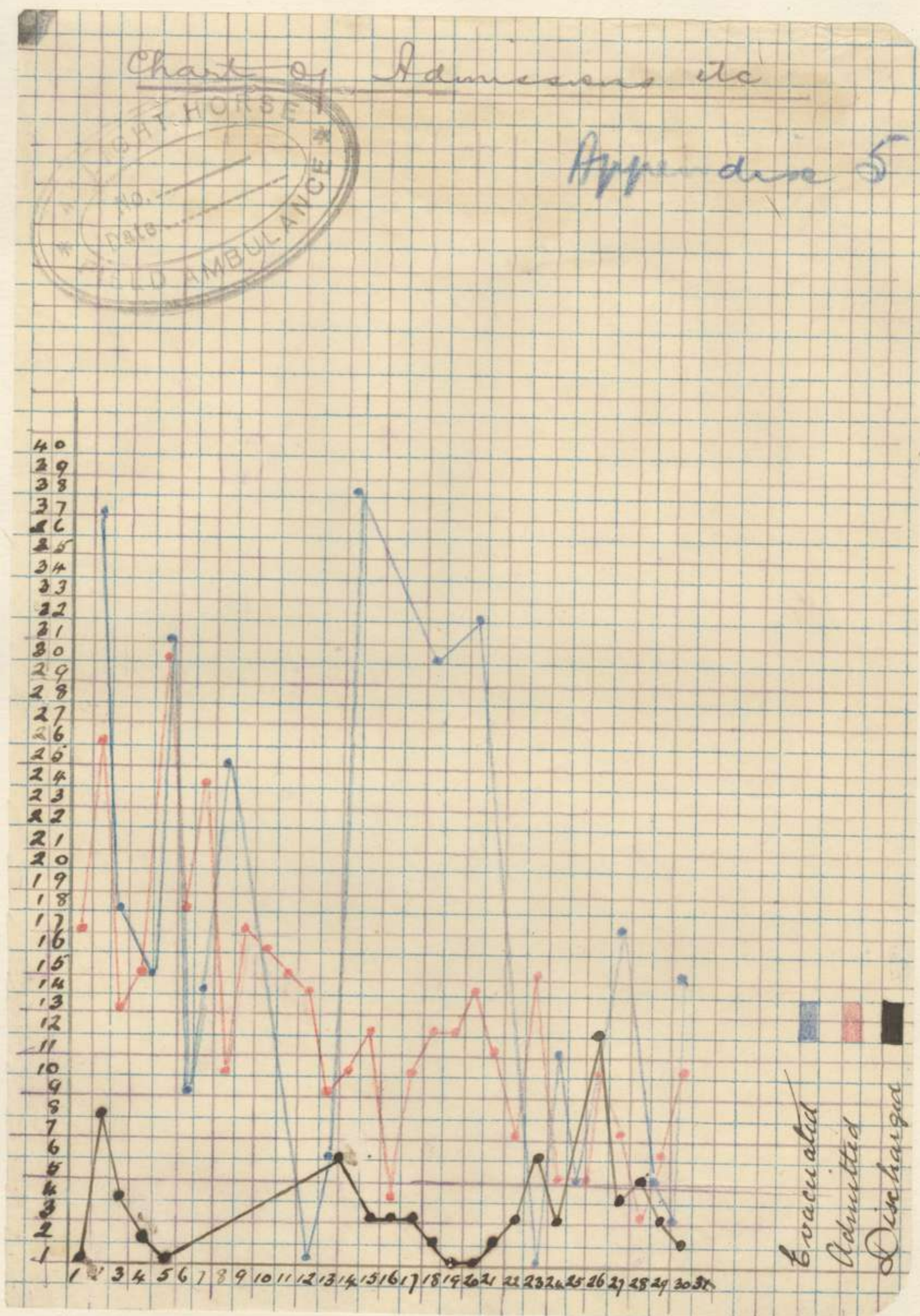
The particular items of medical interest were as follows:-

- 1 The distance of the 4th L.H.F.A. stationed at Kuneitra from the supply base
- 2 The enormous numbers of patients who materialized daily
- 3 The difficulties of evacuation
- 4 The shortage of drugs, suitable food and comforts
- 5 The shortage of suitable accommodation
- 6 The occurrence of Malignant Malaria and Influenza at the same time in debilitated troops
- 7 The depletion of nursing personnel from illness and the utilization of machine gunners as nurses
- 8 The utilization of and evil results accruing from the use of motor lorries as invalid carriers
- 9 The great number of sick P/W treated
- 10 The almost total absence of surgical cases
- 11 The eagerness of all ranks to be inoculated against cholera
- 12 The occurrence of 25 deaths 15 of which were the result of hypostatic pneumonia following on the failing heart of Malarial Toxaemia
- 13 The interest and assistance from the G.O.C. 4th L.H.F.A. Bde

The lamentable shortage of suitable food and stimulants in the proximity of the historic sites of the marriage. Feast of Cana, and the sea of Galilee led us to hope for wondrous happenings but nothing strange occurred.

That the lack of suitable food should have been in a minor degree overcome by the capture of foodstuffs from hungry Germany is certainly one of wars little ironies but the quality of the food did not atone for our other disappointment.

(Sgd) J G Leahy Capt
C.O. 4th Light Horse Field Amb.





Summary
of
Admissions, Evacuations, Discharges 17

Appendix 6

November	Remaining	Admitted	Evacuated	Discharged	Died	Remaining
1	15	17	-	1	-	31
2	31	26	37	8	-	12
3	12	13	18	4	-	3
4	3	15	14	2	-	2
5	2	30	31	1	-	-
6	-	18	9	-	-	9
7	9	24	14	-	-	19
8	19	10	25	-	-	4
9	4	17	-	-	1	20
10	20	16	-	-	-	36
11	36	15	-	-	-	51
12	51	14	1	-	-	64
13	64	9	6	6	-	61
14	61	10	38	-	-	33
15	33	12	-	3	-	42
16	42	4	-	3	-	43
17	43	10	-	3	-	50
18	50	12	30	2	-	32
19	32	12	-	1	-	43
20	43	14	32	1	-	24
21	24	11	-	2	-	32
22	32	7	-	3	-	36
23	36	15	1	6	-	44
24	44	5	11	3	-	35
25	35	5	5	-	-	35
26	35	10	-	12	-	33
27	33	7	17	4	-	19
28	19	3	5	5	-	17
29	17	6	3	3	-	17
30	17	10	15	2	-	10
GRAND TOTAL	862	377	312	75	1	857



Fluctuation in Strength

Whilst the 4th Brigade was at HOMS from 1-11-18 to 5-11-18, the Ambulance was subdivided into two sections, the Immobile Section working under Div. arrangements as a A.C.S.. As the total effective strength was 4 officers 81 other ranks, difficulty was experienced in carrying out all duties. Most of the bearers had to look after 3 horses in addition to doing general duties around the camp, while all members of the Tent Division did more than one man's normal share of work.

On the 18th November, however, 20 reinforcements arrived among whom were several of the old N.C.O's. The addition of these men greatly assisted in the execution of all duties, which were evenly apportioned to the men of the unit. At the ~~later~~ end of the month, the number of officers was reduced to two, one of whom was absent on duty. The R.A.A.M.S. Ausdr, however, relieved the pressure by temporarily assuming command.

Fluctuations are as follows:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Officers</u>	<u>O/T Ranks</u>	<u>Natives</u>	<u>B. Horses</u>	<u>Wrs</u>	<u>Wonts</u>
2 November	4	81	3	34	57	16
9 "	5	77	3	33	57	16
16 "	4	71	3	33	57	16
23 "	4	89	3	33	62	16
30 "	2	94	3	29	62	16



Appendix 9. 19

Report on Quartermasters Branch.

Fourth Light Horse Field Amb.

November 1918.

A.S.C.: During the period that the Ambulance was in the vicinity of Damascus, live sheep were issued as a meat ration in conjunction with corned meat. On several occasions native bread was issued in lieu of biscuits. Whilst in the vicinity of Homs. fresh meat was issued and also several issues of vegetables were received. At Tripoli corned meat has been issued very frequently. Vegetables have been available and the issue of Rum is regular.

Medical Comforts: The supply of medical comforts during the month was always equal to the demand and the assortment was varied. Quantities of Champagne, Whiskey, Beer and other spirits were obtained. Butter was also available as a medical comfort.

Ordnance: Supplies of Ordnance stores were not obtainable until Tripoli was reached. When winter clothing was issued. Felt Hats are in great demand but no supplies are forthcoming from Ordnance. Pack Saddles were ordered to be withdrawn from the unit and were returned to Ordnance as well as the issue of Steel Helmets.

R. Stewart R.Q.M.S.

Appendix 7

List of Prevailing Diseases
for
Month ending November 30th 1915



Date	Dysentery	Malaria	Malaria	Malaria	W.D.	Injuries	General	M. General	D. Diseases
1-7	101	2	8	-	10	1	8	1	7
8-14	30	24	20	2	2	-	6	4	3
15-21	45	5	11	-	5	-	6	2	2
22-28	34	6	2	1	-	-	4	5	-
29-30	9	1	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
GRAND TOTAL	219	38	41	3	19	1	25	12	15