

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/25/1 Part 1

**Title:** Assistant Director of Medical  
Services, Imperial Mounted Division

February-March 1917



AWM4-26/25/1PART1

IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION

A. D. M. S.

18th FEBRUARY

TO

/31st MARCH

1 9 1 7

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Volume No. 1 + 2

# EGYPTIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

# WAR DIARY.

COMMITTEE FOR THE  
MEDICAL HISTORY OF THE WAR  
Date 21 MAY. 1917

Unit A.I.D. M.S. Imperial Mounted Div

From 18. 2. 17 To 31. 3. 17.

*Lib. 1917  
+ 170000 + 170000*

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>FERRY POST</p>	<p>Feb 18 Sun</p>		<p>Diary of ADMS Imperial Mounted Division</p> <p>Divisional Headquarters assembled at FERRY POST (East) ISMAILIA</p> <p>Major General H.W. HODGSON in command CB. CVO</p> <p>ADMS Col R.H. LUCE AMS. 7</p> <p>DADMS Capt W. MATHIESON RAMC.</p> <p>Units composing the Division</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade gen' Wiggins 6<sup>th</sup> Mounted Brigade gen Pells 3<sup>rd</sup> Australian Light Horse 4<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Horse Notts RHA Berks RHA Major MAYALL A Batty HAC Major English B Batty HAC Major Puxton</p> <p>Signal Squadron Major Hill</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb Lt Col Fowles 6<sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb Lt Col MOORE 3<sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Fd Amb Lt Col Fraser 4<sup>th</sup> A.L.H. Fd Amb Major Fowles</p> <p>31<sup>st</sup> Sanitary Section Veterinary</p> <p>Authority for appointment &amp; transfer Col LUCE Appointed ADMS Imp M<sup>td</sup> Div (Auth DAG GHQ EEF No AA 1693 6/2/17) Transferred from Western Force to take up new appointment (Auth East Force No DAST. 1962 14.2.17)</p>	<p>GSO, Lt Col WENTH. C.S. AA QMG Lt Col Robinson AC GSO<sub>2</sub> Capt Cawson DA QMG Capt Thomson W.H.J. GSO<sub>3</sub> Capt URGUHART. DAA. QMG Capt BUTCHARD H. DADOS Lt HEWSON K.M. ADC. Capt MUSKIE E.H. ADVSMY MURRAY. JONES 2 Capt BUXTON E.H. APM Capt ARMITAGE W.P. O.S. ASC Lt Col MACKINTOSH J.K.</p>

Hour, Date and Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
<p>FERRY POST Feb 19. Mon</p>	<p>Rode out with GOC to visit camps of A Bally HAC + 4<sup>th</sup> ALH. saw the adjutant M.Os Capt GIBSON + Capt Chirnside Visited DDMS to get instructions re returns, incidents. Established He is moving with HQ Eastern Force to el ARISH tomorrow Saw Major Fowler D.C 4 ALH F<sup>d</sup> Amb whose personnel to form the section are assembling. Instructed him to submit incidents for Horses Ordnance &amp; Medical Stores at once Advanced party of Dorset Yeo arrived Capt Mathews in arranging sanitation of camps for 6<sup>th</sup> Buzack 5.45 p Attended Staff Conference Submitted application for special scale sanitary equipment for mobile units</p>	
<p>Feb 20 Tues</p>	<p>Dorset Yeomanry marched in. M.O Capt DEMPSEY Issued instructions to units in accordance with those received from ADMS Southern Section as to disposal of latrine refuse + manure Difficulty about obtaining native labour for latrines Saw Major RUTHERFORD ADMS Southern Section</p>	
<p>21 Wed</p>	<p>Rode round camps saw M.O. Duster Capt DEARSEY - 4 ALH Capt CHIRNSIDE</p>	

Hour, Date and Place.	Summary of Events and Information.	Remarks and references to Appendices.
FERRY POST Feb 22 Thurs	Visited Ausstake Base MOASCAR saw Major FOWLER Capt STAFFORD TASPINALL of 4 <sup>th</sup> ALH F <sup>d</sup> Amb	
Feb 24 <sup>th</sup> Sat	Lt Col MOORE 6 <sup>th</sup> MB F <sup>d</sup> Amb came from PORT TEWFIK, his unit started for ISMAILIA	
Feb 25 Sun	made Secretary inspection of all the camps at FERRY POST Received Secretary instructions from DDMS. Beahat Force + particulars of returns from DDMS Eastern Face Capt MATHIESON to KANTARA to enquire about issue of Special Secretary equipment for wants of the Division. 250 buckets on order for the Division not yet ready. Warm Furnish + incineration RE plants Ferry Post unfeasible	
Feb 26 Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> ALH F <sup>d</sup> Amb moved over to FERRY POST complete in personnel + office except 10 TOR. No equipment yet received except camp equipment Capt RAINFORTH called with reference to carriage of his medical equipment with new establishment of RHA. Bally Report to CRA for necessary provision	
Feb 27 9 AM 3 PM	Parade of HQ unit + inspection by GOC Visited camps of HAC A Desert Tea Bush Tea 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> LH RE Squadron + Messrs Dump with Major Rutherford + DA MG Southern Section	

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

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	Feb 27	Tues	<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">6<sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb</p> <p>Saw report SHANNON RAME M.O of Becks Yeo</p> <p>† Capt Vernon of 11<sup>th</sup> A.L.H      Capt CHIRNSIDE 4<sup>th</sup> ALH</p>	<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">6<sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb</p> <p>LT COL AW MOORE</p> <p>Capt HF HUMFREYS</p> <p>Capt W.E.H BULL</p> <p>Capt C. JENNER T.C</p> <p>Capt J.R.K THOMSON T.C</p> <p>LT H.M. CRAWFORD T.C.</p>
	Feb 28	Wed	<p>Visited camp of 6<sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb</p> <p>HQ closed 7 PM &amp; opened at EL ARISH</p> <p>Becks RHA &amp; HAC A marched to KANTARA</p> <p>a sand cart detached by 6 MB Fd Amb to accompany</p>	
	Wed 29 <sup>th</sup>	Thurs	<p>H.Q. left FERRY POST en route for EL ARISH via KANTARA</p> <p>visited Ordnance Store &amp; A Dep Mid Store at KANTARA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">u trucks</p>	
EL ARISH	Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Friday	<p>Arrived EL ARISH camp 1 mile east of WADI on the coast</p> <p>Reported arrival at DDMS office Eastern Force</p> <p>I.M.D still remains directly under Eastern Force</p> <p>Visited Notts RHA encamped 1 mile S.E of HQ saw M.O Capt Roberts</p>	<p style="text-align: right; margin-right: 20px;">5<sup>th</sup> ALH Fd Amb</p> <p>LT COL FOWLER</p> <p>Capt OFFICER 3<sup>rd</sup> ALH Fd Amb</p> <p>Capt ARRY</p> <p>Capt Col VA FRASER</p> <p>May M.W. CAVE</p> <p>Capt W. EVAIVS</p> <p>Capt HG LEAHY</p>
	Mar 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sat	<p>Visited 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust LH Fd Amb camped at 4 miles West of EL ARISH</p> <p>Saw Lt Col FRASER O.C. also saw B<sup>de</sup> Gen ROTSTON commander 3<sup>rd</sup> ALH</p> <p>Letter from DMS announcing Maj M.W. CAVE appointed DADMS I.M.D</p> <p>in place of Capt MATHIESON who is to remain attached pending formation of 74<sup>th</sup> Div</p>	

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EL ARISH	Mar 4 Sun.		<p>Capt MATHIESON DADMS admitted to 54 C.C.C. suffering from Bronchial Asthma</p> <p>Majr CAVE reported for duty to join tomorrow</p> <p>Visited DDMS E Fac. in establishment informed Capt O. BRIEN has been detailed as MO to 7<sup>th</sup> Squadron P.F.E.</p>	
	Mar 5 Mon		<p>Visited H.Q. E Fac. saw DDMS in establishment. Saw also DDMS Desert Column in sanitation water development to work with ADMS. Divisions but will be inspected by Specialist</p> <p>Visited well being developed for divisional water supply at THAMILA near HQD 600 yds <del>W</del> of HQ camp</p> <p>Two 2300 capacity tanks erected</p>	
	Mar 6 Tue		<p>Rode over to el BURGE to inspect camps of 5<sup>th</sup> M<sup>th</sup> Buzoch. Saw GOC + all COs. Impressed importance of incriminating Human Inocula. Inoculations portable not yet issued but they have nearly all their buckets ample water supply. Fever rather prevalent</p>	
	Mar 7 Wed		<p>Appointed to DDMS as to detailing of native labour for sanitary purposes whether carry authority for an establishment</p>	
	Mar 8 Thurs		<p>Communicated with DDMS Desert Column now moved to SHEIK EL ZDWAID in disinfection train &amp; de course 3<sup>rd</sup> A.L.H. Case of Relapsing Fever reported in 9<sup>th</sup> A.L.H.</p> <p>Train will be available on 11<sup>th</sup></p>	



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EL BURGE	Mon 9 Fu	AM	H.Q. moved over by route march from EL ARISH 3 <sup>rd</sup> ALH Brijad moved from MASAD to EL ARISH with Fd Amb whose Reception Station however unmanned at EL ARISH Saw O.C. 5 <sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb about water arrangements for camp + about his establishment	
	Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Sat		5 <sup>th</sup> MB Fd Amb moved with 5 <sup>th</sup> MB from EL BURGE to SHEIK EL ZOWAID 31 <sup>st</sup> Sanitary Section joined Division from MAZAR 20 <sup>th</sup> in 23 <sup>rd</sup> OR camped near station 3 <sup>rd</sup> ALH Brijad de loaded by Train about 1100 passed through. Coal + Steam then ran out	
	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Sun		Capt Wynne O.C. 31 Sanitary Section reported Saw Sand Storm with some light rain	
SHEIK ZOWEID	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> Mon		ADMS proceeded to Cairo to lecture on Medical Organization in the Field at Staff College MENA H.Q. IMD moved by route march from EL BURGE to SHEIK ZOWEID camped on the shore at ABU HAMTHALA 3 <sup>rd</sup> ALH Fd Amb moved with this Brijad from EL BURGE to RAFA uncamped on the Beach	
	13 <sup>th</sup> Tue		Dental Section of 3 <sup>rd</sup> ALH attached to 2 <sup>nd</sup> A Stationary Hospital EL ARISH ADMS visited Veterinary Base at KANTARA re medical arrangements + saw O.C. 229 Fd Amb	
	14 <sup>th</sup> Wed		ADMS lecture in CAIRO	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEIK ZOWEID	Mon 15			
	Thurs		Letter from DDMS Desert Col. Communication now to go through him as IMD party Desert Column	
	Mon 16			
	Fri		ADMS returned 5th Mounted Brigade Fd Amb to open for evacuation of sick to station Rode to H.Q. Desert Force to see DDMS about matters for Divisional Sanitary work Instructions received re Mochpis Cholera outfit	
	Mon 17			
	Sat		Visited 5th + 6th Mtd Brigades re sanitation with DADMS 2.30 PM Attended conference re transport Col Forrest + O.C. Sanitary Section called Instructed Sanitary Section to detail 2 inspectors to each Brigade + one water specialist to 5th Brigade	
	Mon 18			
	Sun		Visited all 4 Batteries with DADMS re sanitation saw MO of B Btl HAC + later of Berks RHA Col Douglas ADMS Amzac Div <sup>n</sup> called Visited Col Forrest re dehousing 5th Brigade Capt Robinson detailed as S.M.O./R.A. Temporarily	
	Mon 19			
	Mon		Visited DDMS re Hospital Train proceeding to RAFA + arrangements of Fd Amb in case full supply of corneds not forthcoming 600 bds men of 5th ISB de housed partly by train partly by truck disinfectors 54 div Train placed under medical charge of MO B Btl HAC saw Capt Robinson with RHA + Capt RAINFORTH re sanitation	

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEIK ZOWEID	Mar 20 Tue		<p>HQ I.M.D moved to RAFA Camped below front A of POLICE BARRACKS on grassy down land                      Saw O.C. 31 South of Section + O.C. 154 Divisional Train                      5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> MB Brigades moving with their Fd Ambs from SHEIK ZOWEID to RAFA                      + 4 Batteries                      3<sup>rd</sup> MB, Fd Amb moving from RAFA to TELELMARAKEB on the Blvd</p> <p>HQ DESERT COLUMN opened RAFA</p> <p>Conference with 3 O.C.s Fd Amb re equipping units for service. (to be completed today)</p> <p>Look want to have one Tent Division immobilised as regards riding personnel</p> <p>Sick Transport 10. Sand Carts 2 Bicycle wheel Stretcher 11. Sitting Caecobls 7 lying sledges to be left behind</p> <p>3 Immobilis Section to be collected at Railway Station RAFA Walk sick</p> <p>Visited DDMS Desert Column H.Q. + attended conference with ADMS ANZAC Division + DDMS</p> <p>2 scheme 17.00</p> <p>3 Mota Ambulances allotted to Division attached to B Tent Div 3<sup>rd</sup> ALH at Station</p> <p>RAFA 2 cars</p> <p>HQ East Force moving in to RAFA</p>	
	Mar 21 Wed		<p>Visited 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> MB Fd Ambs</p> <p>Issued orders AMS for Reconnaissance for 23<sup>rd</sup></p>	
	Mar 22 Thurs		<p>1875 Wt. W393/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. &amp; A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.</p>	Copy of orders

# WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAFA	Mar 23 Fri	6.15	<p>Divisional Reconnaissance to WADI GHUZEE + toward GAZA</p> <p>Left camp with pack equipmt only + rations for 3 days</p> <p>HA established at point 310 1 1/2 miles S of EL BREIJ 1 1/2 miles NE of point 320 IN SEIRAT originally intended + mentioned in order</p> <p>Reconnaissance of Turkish Position across WADI GHUZEE by 3<sup>rd</sup> ALH + 5<sup>th</sup> MB + by RE for water in WADI very little success as regards water</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Brigade in reserve at IN SEIRAT</p>	
		15.00	Troops withdrawn + returned to camp at RAFA	
	Mar 24 Sat		<p>Capt VERNON M.O. 11<sup>th</sup> LH went sick Capt ASPHALL 2<sup>nd</sup> LH F<sup>th</sup> Amb detailed to medical change</p>	
		15.00	<p>Visited DDMS re move</p> <p>OC of 31 Security Section + 20 R. moved to RAFA</p> <p>Order that 25 Section for special security duty to arrive at RAFA if only actually covered</p>	
		16.00	<p>Issued march order for F<sup>th</sup> Amb to proceed to DEIR EL BELAH 25<sup>th</sup></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> F<sup>th</sup> Amb moved from RAFA to KHAN YUNUS with OHA to bivouac there</p> <p>1 mobile Tent Division of 3<sup>rd</sup> LH F<sup>th</sup> Amb remained at RAFA Station</p>	
DEIR EL BELAH	Mar 25 Sun		<p>Division with troops already moved, proceeded from RAFA to KHAN YUNUS picking up 3 LH Brigade at MARANAB en route moving by coast road. Division marched on light mobile scale</p> <p>HA arrived at DEIR EL BELAH about 1700 established in trench near water of RUINS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A.M.C.</p>	Order
		2.00	<p>Issued operation order No 3 based on Div Operation Order No 10</p>	

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DEIR EL BELAH	11 Mar 26	0200	<p>Division moved out for operation against GAZA</p> <p>All 3rd Amb took part except Tent Division of 9th Lt at RAFA 3</p> <p>3 mobile Tent Divisions 2 immovable i.c. with personnel marching</p> <p><u>Suites of Divisions</u> to move round enemy's left flank + with ANZAC M.D.W. which we followed to form a cordon round GAZA position so as to hold off Turkish Reinforcements from W. + N.W. during attack in position of 53rd Div.</p> <p><u>Route</u> move via single Tr. EL DENEIDA. cross the WADI GUZZEE. S. of SHEIKH YUBHAN then by southern spur of SHEIKH ABBAS past EL MENDUR via KHURBET SIMON to KHURBET ER RESEIN</p> <p><u>Station</u> I.M.D. to watch enemy advance in force from HUS to SIMON on GAZA - BIR SABA Rd</p> <p>Anzac Divisions were to watch for HUS to the N.E. of GAZA H.Q. at BEIT DURDIS</p> <p>The I.C.C. Bujods to watch for the S.V. between GAZA - BIR SABA Rd</p> <p>A Dussing station to be formed on GAZA - BIR SABA road at point of crossing by the two immovable Tent Divisions of 5th + 6th MB Fd Amb.</p> <p>The 3rd Amb moved out in succession to one another in view of BHA + not with their Bujods</p> <p>The WADI GUZZEE was crossed by the Division at dawn + it moved slowly forward round GAZA - BIR SABA road about 1000 + patrols were thrown out to AT Flank.</p> <p>There were shelled on from direction of BIR SABA</p> <p>The attack by 53rd Division which should have occurred at dawn did not develop till noon. It continued all the afternoon</p> <p>the I.C.C. moving up to take our place</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																				
		16 30	<p>A few casualties had occurred during the period in Mansura Yeoman on the night Flank in direction of B.M. SABA &amp; were taken to Dressing Station</p> <p>News received that enemy reinforcements were coming up from HUS to the NW.</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> LH + 1<sup>st</sup> Coy sent out N + NW to meet these Beaur Divisions of F<sup>o</sup> Tanks accompanied 3. LH but 6<sup>th</sup> was sent back &amp; had to be called up again when casualties began to occur</p> <p>The advance of enemy reinforcements was checked &amp; held off Two PMA Batteries were moved up &amp; gave great help</p> <p>At dusk it became obvious that the infantry attack had failed &amp; though the Conger Division had got in to the town of BAZA the main position at MANSURA had not been taken &amp; a general retirement across the WADI GUZZEE was ordered</p> <p>The 3<sup>rd</sup> LH Base + 6<sup>th</sup> MB acted as rear guard &amp; did not cross water down of 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>H.Q. retired to the Wadi about 8 PM &amp; bivouacked for the night about 1/2 mile on NE side north crossing</p> <p>At dawn the whole Division having retired across the WADI. it was ordered to assemble at Singh Tree EL DEMEITA at NOON &amp; rested for afternoon</p> <p>All casualties were brought back by the F<sup>o</sup> Tanks. The numbers brought in by F<sup>o</sup> Tanks were</p> <table style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>3<sup>rd</sup> LH</td> <td>Off 2</td> <td>OR 15</td> <td>casualties 4 light</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5<sup>th</sup> MB</td> <td>-</td> <td>OR 2</td> <td>6 light</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6<sup>th</sup> MB</td> <td>Off 1</td> <td>OR 9</td> <td>5 light</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>(2 RFC)</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total of Div</td> <td>1 off</td> <td>22 OR</td> </tr> </table> <p>1500000 casualties sent after afternoon</p>	3 <sup>rd</sup> LH	Off 2	OR 15	casualties 4 light	5 <sup>th</sup> MB	-	OR 2	6 light	6 <sup>th</sup> MB	Off 1	OR 9	5 light		(2 RFC)			Total of Div		1 off	22 OR	
3 <sup>rd</sup> LH	Off 2	OR 15	casualties 4 light																					
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DEAR EL BEI  
March 27  
Tues

1875 Wt. W593/826 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

all cases were evacuated to 1<sup>st</sup> W F<sup>o</sup> Tank Station this was sent by MAIL to 54 CCS KHANYUNK on 6-4-44 PMA Southern Rd sub pt 110

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	Mon 27 Tue 27	17 30	<p><del>Visited all 3 Fd Amb in their old positions, taking the opportunity they did not assemble at single Tel Hill until 1600 &amp; having assembled 11.00 &amp; left the DDMS Desert Column to proceed to the position of Tel Hill.</del></p> <p>Division moved out to take up line of out posts. Fd Amb moved with them but not except the 2 ambulances. Test Divisions which were established &amp; opened on RAFA-GAZA road near L of WADI EL BELKA. HQ established on crest of hills S.W. of DEIR EL BELAH between Z + E of GOZ EL TAIR at pt 320 in the centre of the line.</p>	
	Mon 28 Tue 28	05 00 16 30	<p>Saddled at dawn but did not move. Division remained on out post.</p> <p>Division moved back to old quarters DEIR EL BELAH.</p>	
	Mon 29 Tue 29	10 00 17 00	<p>Reported at DDMS office. He was out in Visited Test Division GAZA-RAFA road. Found them open &amp; receiving sick from Division.</p> <p>Conference with DDMS &amp; ADMS Amreeq Div re medical arrangements for sunset move of Division. Sent in return of casualties for 26-27. No camels to actually accompany mounted troops. No wheeled transport other than sand carts available. Visited all Fd Amb &amp; ambulance. Saw DDMS re immobility of Fd Amb on new scale &amp; also re transport of medical equipment of units camel during trees with decrease. Divn HQ trying to arrange Pack Horse for this.</p>	
	Mon 30 Tue 30		<p>Issued provisional medical instructions in case of move. Saw all 3 O.C.s up area &amp; this re to handling of camels.</p>	
	Mon 31 Sat 31	14 00	<p>Conference with DDMS &amp; ADMS Amreeq at Desert F HQ.</p>	