

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

Formation Headquarters

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

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

July 1917



AWM4-1/59/1

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

Administration

A + A

Australian Mt Dis

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Only TARA	1 <sup>st</sup>		Move to Reserve area is postponed until 6 <sup>th</sup> inst, Brigades have collected much equipment stores and will be unable to move in one trip with the transport at their disposal - The CAC will return today before (5 <sup>th</sup> ) & come back empty & be available for transport work on 6 <sup>th</sup> .	aB
"	2 <sup>nd</sup>		1/2 Battery L.A.M. B. attached to the Division. Sp. Am. S. Aoyac Mt Dis came to Hdqrs to make preliminary arrangements prior to taking over the area -	aR
"	3 <sup>rd</sup>		The forwarding of reinforcements from Kantara. It always works satisfactorily men are sent to the wrong station, for instance today we had advice of men having arrived at <del>...</del> whilst RATA is our station - informed Chest-Chumun who will take the matter up.	
"	4 <sup>th</sup>		The move to Abasan calls for more transport than we have - we require 360 camels - which is unsatisfactory - The 5 <sup>th</sup> Mt Bde have an awful lot of stuff - it will be equined into & must be reduced.	aB
"	5 <sup>th</sup>		The Division out on a reconnaissance. Echelon 'B' (Camels) of the CAC is to be disbanded & the ammunition returned to store - The CAC is to be converted into Battery Chumun, but with the above alteration it appears that we shall only be able to carry 52 rounds instead of 72 on wheels.	aR

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FARA (Abasan)	6 <sup>th</sup>		The Division moved into Rescom at Abasan, after spending 6 weeks in the front line - during which time much work & improvement has been done to the water arrangements in the Wady Gorge, abutment places set apart & the thing put on a proper basis - A lot of work done by the anti-messuti Squad - no malaria cases reported -	a11
ABASAN	7 <sup>th</sup>	July	The Commander in Chief inspected a Composite Brigade, consisting of a Regt Germany - New Zealanders + Australians - The El Arish rest camp is about to open, but men are not to be sent there until a corresponding number of men come forward from AIF at Moascar - these men have not come, but the Desert Column instructed us yesterday to send the first party last night to Arish	a12
"	8 <sup>th</sup>		The work done erecting sun shelters by the large parties has not amounted to much - they shd have drawn sufficient material for 1000 shelters, but only about 100 shelters have been <del>not</del> erected - Instructed ac Rf to go ahead with the work at once.	a13
"	9 <sup>th</sup>		Orders arrived for 2000 ward beds, to hold himself in readiness for embarkation to India	a14

WAR DIARY

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ABASAN	10 <sup>th</sup> July.		Desert: Whuman asks for scheme to be proposed showing in detail how it is proposed to deal with camp kits in the event of a sudden move & also of an expected move - No elaborate preliminary arrangements can be made, as everything is necessary so long as the troops are in the camp & after we have gone, until other labour is available the tents, shelters etc must remain - Issued letter on subject of behaviour of the men on leave whilst in camp	Appendix A and B
"	11 <sup>th</sup>	"	All kit bags are to go to Kantana from Rafa dump. Where they will all be gone through & all public property removed - D.A.D.S. to carry out the inspection - Issued instructions accordingly.	Appendix C
"	12 <sup>th</sup>	"	Forwarded of schemes for the evacuation of the 3 areas occupied by the units in event of a move. Men power Board suggest that Clerks - privates & batmen at Cis HQ should be Class B men - This is not acceptable or advisable & if necessary Desert Whuman.	Appendix D
"	13 <sup>th</sup>	"	Whuman Commanded presented 3 ribbons of 3 Military Medals to men of the 4 <sup>th</sup> Lt. B. Coy. Revised System of roll call - by groups -	Appendix E B Cis

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✓	14 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Lt Col Ward BSO, who is to go back to India, is to be relieved by Lt Col V. Kelly - 3<sup>rd</sup> Hussars.</p> <p>The El Anish rest camp is now to be opened to Yomanoy as well as A.I.T. 7 days at a time - a very good idea to give men a rest which they badly want.</p> <p>Medicals report seriously concerning the insurrection condition of Marakeb Camp. The site has been used too long as a Camp. Flies are breeding freely. Reported same to Desert Column &amp; asked for a new site to be given us for the Bde now on the beach.</p>	a/c
	15 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The D.S.C. ceases to exist, the Column being converted into BAC's</p>	
	16 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Visited Marakeb Camp to decide where the Division can bivouac when it moves there on 22<sup>nd</sup> inst. The French &amp; S.F. Camps will have to be moved before we can find space.</p>	a/c
	17 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Nothing to record.</p>	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Lt Col Ward BSO left for Cairo on being relieved by Lt Col V. Kelly</p>	
	18 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Orders issued concerning the move of the Div on 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> inst</p>	a/c
	19 <sup>th</sup>		<p>The Division was suddenly called out for operation. Bde's took 2 hours from time of receipt of orders to reach the point of concentration</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABASAN	19 <sup>th</sup>		There appears to be some confusion of ideas concerning the quantity of rations that units carry at such an occasion - Units are really rationed for 24 hours - but having been so long without their Regimental Transport they do not seem all to have taken what they could not carry on the horse, in the wagon -	
			owing to the disbandment of the S.A.C. a temporary improvised Column had to be formed - from Regt Transport - 18 limbers, providing 50 rounds for the rifles of the Div	ack ack
	25 <sup>th</sup>		Div returned from operations. Regimental Transport was turned back in the morning owing to operations being over, so troops did not receive their rations until they got back to camp	
MARAKIB	21 <sup>st</sup>		The carrying of the special emergency rations formed the subject of a Conference. Plans are to be prepared for moving best method of carrying same.	ack
			4 <sup>th</sup> Lt <del>Adviser</del> moved to Marakib, being relieved by the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Lt B de J the Yeomanry M.O.W.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Manakot	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Remainder of Div moved on to the beach - All transport being left in Khor Yumis	
"	23 <sup>rd</sup>		The question of what the soldiers are to carry on operations, show the special extra ration was to be taken is to be considered at a special Conference shortly to be held. Lieut A. Watt. 5 <sup>th</sup> L. H. Regt reprimanded by SAC for trial by court martial for drunkenness Capt A. T. Thompson to revert to his Regimental duty.	ack
"	24 <sup>th</sup>		Inspected all watering arrangements in the Div The erection of shade shelters for ponies & cows is recommended for Div on the beach. Ponies are going sick in somewhat large numbers, & they are difficult to replace - have referred the case to Capt Whinn	ack
"	25 <sup>th</sup>		Conference to discuss the best method of carrying the 2 days special ration of forage & provisions - when it was decided that 1 day of such should be carried on the limbers - 4 in all, that are liberated owing to SAC. limbers 2 being carried on the horse, & 2 of the 'top' limbers load being taken on pack horses. The other 1 day being carried on the horse.	ack

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MARAKIB	26 <sup>th</sup>		The strength of the details camp Rafa is to be reduced from 20 to 12 OR -	air
"	27 <sup>th</sup>		Applied to Desert Column for a quota of mules to be detailed for each Bde, & which are to be sent over the hills, without further demand, in case of a sudden order to move the Division.	
"	28 <sup>th</sup>		Orders received for despatch of 1 <sup>st</sup> party to Fort Said next Camp - 220 from the Division -	air Apr 13 air
"	29 <sup>th</sup>		Asking Desert Column for instructions in event of sudden orders to move the Fort Said next camp is to start on 31 <sup>st</sup> inst.	
"	30 <sup>th</sup>		Asked Desert Column to provide us with a fixed number of mules, which are to be sent to Bde's, on receipt of sudden orders to move - without any further demand.	air
"	31 <sup>st</sup>		Asked Desert Column if any decision has yet been arrived at, as to method of carrying the special rations during operations. Informed that no decision has yet been come to.	air
			There is still unsettled the question of what rations stores shall be carried by Division in the field - it is again being represented to Desert Column that we desire to carry of 72 hours rations, half on the man, & half on the wheel transport.	air
			Attached is statement of casualties during the month. The Division has not been in the front line during July.	air
			Captain F Jackson joined as G.S.A. vice Capt A Thompson, who reverts to Regt duty.	air A Thompson Australian Museum

1875 Wt. W593/326 1,000,000 4/15 J.B.C. & A. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.



CIRCULAR LETTER No. 20.  
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BEHAVIOUR OF TROOPS IN CAIRO &c.

The G. O. C. has been informed that the Commander-in-Chief on his arrival in EGYPT has been struck by the unsatisfactory deportment and general absence of soldier-like qualities of a great number, not only of the rank and file, but of the officers of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

Various General Routine Orders and other instructions on the subject of Dress and Saluting have from time to time been issued but they have not been complied with to the extent hoped for.

Now that parties are proceeding each week on leave to CAIRO, it is especially necessary that all ranks should be made acquainted with this unsatisfactory state of affairs in order that an improvement may be brought about.

All ranks are to be informed before proceeding on leave of their responsibility in respect of their behaviour and dress whilst away from their units, they have the good name of their regiment to consider and their soldier-like bearing and appearance will bring credit not only to that regiment but to the Country that they represent whilst in EGYPT.

Officers can do much to improve matters, by their own example they can set a lead that every soldier will be glad to follow. Further, officers must remember that the checking of irregularities should not be confined to the Military Police. An officer that for example, sees a soldier improperly dressed or not saluting when he should, fails in his duty if he does not take the man's name and address and reports the case to the P.M.'s Office. There is an idea that this only applies to men in an officer's own particular unit, this is not the case and should in no way influence an officer.

It has been noticed that the custom of officers saluting their superior officers is not always carried out, O.C. units will please instruct their officers that this custom should not be allowed to lapse.

*A. A. & C. M. G.*

Lieut. Colonel,  
A. A. & C. M. G.

AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

10th July, 1917.

Copies to:-

All Brigades & Divisional Troops.

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Headquarters-

- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3rd A.L.H. Brigade       | O.C., 31st Sanitary Section |
| 4th - do -               | O.C., A. S. C.              |
| 5th Mounted Brigade      | O.C., Details RAFA          |
| O.C. 19th R.H.A. Brigade | Camp Commandant             |
| O.C. Signal Squadron     | D. A. D. O. S.              |
| O.C. Field Squadron      |                             |

B

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1. The attached Desert Column Instructions concerning action to be taken with camp and area stores in event of orders to move, are passed for information and guidance.

2. Brigades will arrange for the site of Brigade Dumps. The dump for Divisional Troops will be in the neighbourhood of D.H.Q. the actual situation will be decided by the Camp Commandant. In the case of Divisional Troops each unit thereof will leave 1 man in charge; brigades 1 N.C.O. and 6 men.

Application should be made to D.H.Q. for instructions as to moving dumps to WELI SHRIKH NURAN. The destination of "A" stores is to be arranged by Brigades etc. direct with the D. A. D. O. S. The D. A. D. O. S. will act in accordance with para 2D of attached.

Stores "B". The O.C., R.E. will communicate with the O.E. Desert Column concerning same. He will arrange for the instructions concerning Meatsafes, Wooden troughs, Canvas reservoirs and Pumps to be complied with.

3. It is important that the stores in categories "A", "B" and "C" are kept in separate dumps.

4. Headquarters 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will detail a Field Officer, whose name should be reported to this office, to take charge of all details and stores left behind. He will be responsible for the collection and despatch to RAFA of all stores and baggage detailed to go there, and generally represent the interests of the Division. His duties will commence as soon as orders are received for the Division to hold itself in readiness to move, when he will immediately report to D.H.Q.

5. On receipt of notification from this office, the O.C. Details RAFA will act in accordance with para 7 of attached. The O.C. Details will inform D.H.Q. on the 1st and 15th of each month what numbers can be sent forward to the vacated area for duty.

The Field Officer 3rd A.L.H. Brigade will note the instructions contained in paras 8- 9 and 10 of attached

*A.C. Robinson*

Lieut. Col.  
A.A. & Q.M.G.  
AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

27/7/17

Q. 3388

## Australian Mounted Division

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1. In the event of a move forward and with the possibility that ~~the~~ Divisions will not return to any of the three areas at present occupied by the Mounted Troops, the following scheme will be adopted for the disposal of :-

- (A) Ordnance stores (including area stores, i.e., tents, sanitary bins, fantasses, lifebuoys and taraulins)
- (B) R.E. Stores.
- (C) Regimental baggage, etc., to include all stores other than "A" and "B" which are not carried, normally, on the 1st Line Transport Vehicles.

## 2. FORWARD AND ABASAN AREAS

(a) Stores "A" Tents will be left standing unless specific orders are given to the contrary. All stores in this category will be accumulated in Brigade Dumps within each Brigade area and one dump for Divisional Troops. If time permits, these will be moved to WELI SHEIKH NURAN railway station, by the 1st. Line Transport vehicles, where they will be dumped in a Divisional dump, and left under charge of the Brigade W.O. A.O.D. and a party of 6 men. If time does not permit of these stores being moved to WELI SHEIKH NURAN railway station, they will be left at the Brigade dumps in each Brigade area under an N.C.O. and 3 men per Regiment, and a similar number from Divisional Troops.

(b) The sites for Brigade dumps will be selected as near WELI SHEIKH NURAN as circumstances permit.

(c) If it is desired to retain any of the Ordnance stores, for future use of Units they will be forwarded to the D.A.D.O.S. representative at RAFA, and held there pending further instructions. If, on the other hand it is not considered that the stores will be required by Units for a considerable time, or not at all, then they should be consigned to R.O.O., RAFA under convoy, for return to Ordnance.

(d) D.A.D.'s.O.S. through their W.O.'s will make arrangements for the stores to be received at RAFA and for a record to be kept by their staff there, of all stores received for retention. Receipts should be obtained from R.O.O. for all stores returned to Ordnance.

(e) Stores "B". R.E. Stores, other than equipment, will be dealt with under orders of the C.S., Desert Column, but hurdle bivouac shelters will be left standing unless definite orders are given to the contrary.

(f) Meat safes should be stacked in Brigade dumps, they together with wooden horse troughs, and canvas reservoirs, and pumps surplus to Units equipment will be taken over by a salvage party of the A.T. Coy. attached to Desert Column.

(g) R.E. equipment of Units surplus to that which the present scale of transport carries will be left in the dumps of the Units of the various R.E. Stores.

(h) Stores "C" Will be collected in Brigade dumps and one dump for Divisional Troops, and if time permits they will be moved to WELI SHEIKH NURAN railway station by the 1st. Line vehicles. These stores will be moved first in preference to Stores "A" if time does not permit of the removal of both. On arrival at WELI SHEIKH NURAN these stores will be stored in Brigade dumps under 1 N.C.O. and 6 men from each Brigade and a similar number from Divisional Troops, and forwarded to their respective O.C. Details, RAFA. If time does not permit of their removal, they will remain in Brigade dumps within Brigade areas under a similar party. The Brigade sites will be selected as near WELI SHEIKH NURAN as circumstances permit. When taken to WELI SHEIKH NURAN station these stores will be despatched to RAFA consigned to the O.C., Details of the Division to which they belong.

APPENDIX. B3. BEACH AREA

Stores "A", "B" and "C" on Brigade and Divisional charge will be with in a similar manner to those at the Forward and Abbasan Areas, except that KHAN YUNUS Station will be substituted for WELI SHEIKH NURAN.

IMMOBILE SECTIONS FIELD AMBULANCE AT MAPAKEB

Orders for the move of the Immobile Section of the Field Ambulance will be issued by the D.D.M.S., Desert Column.

4. In any event stores in categories "A", "B" and "C" must be kept in separate dumps.
5. Divisions will appoint a Field Officer to be in charge of their Divisional area, and to be responsible for the collection, and despatch to RAFA of stores and baggage detailed to go there.
6. Before moving out Divisions will notify their O i/c Details at RAFA. These Officers will then arrange for as large a party as can possibly be spared to move out to the area lately occupied by their Division. On arrival there they will report to the Officer in charge of their Divisional Baggage, and will be detailed to assist in loading and transporting stores by rail to RAFA, and in striking tents when orders to this effect are issued. Divisions will arrange for the O.C. of their respective details to inform them periodically of the approximate strength of the parties they could send forward so that arrangements may be made for their supplies and water. Transport for taking daily supplies to personnel left in Brigade areas will be made available by DESERT COLUMN.
7. Immediately the Divisions move out the Field Officer left in charge of the dumps of each Division will report by wire to Desert Column, the exact strength, location and quantity of personnel and stores "A" and "C" left under his charge. Desert Column will then arrange for their removal by Tractor and Camel transport, if necessary, to place of entrapment and then for rail transport to RAFA.
8. The parties in charge will accompany the baggage and stores to RAFA, and on arrival there will hand in stores "A" to A.O.D. RAFA, and stores "C" to the O i/c Brigade Details at RAFA as indicated in para 2 above. The parties will then rejoin their units as opportunity offers.
9. Parties detailed for baggage duties will be selected from light duty men and men whom it has become necessary to dismount. In selecting these parties full advantage will be taken of extra personnel brought up from the Training Depots to take the place of men sent to the REST CAMP, PORT SAID.

24/7/1917

Sgd. E. TREW, Lieut. Col.  
A. A. & Q. M. G., DESERT COLUMN.

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Casualties in action July 1917

	C.R.
<u>KILLED.</u> 11th A.L.H.	1
<u>WOUNDED.</u> 8th A.L.H.	2
9th A.L.H.	1
11th A.L.H.	3
<u>Total casualties</u>	<u>7.</u>