

**AWM4**

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/95/2

**Title:** Staff Officer, Australian Dental  
Services, Egypt

April 1918



AWM4-26/95/2





WAR DIARY  
OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references Appendix
Jordan Valley	April 1918		<p>On April 1<sup>st</sup> the 73<sup>rd</sup> Dental Section was sent to the Australian Mounted Divisional Detach Camp at Belah. All the gear was packed &amp; put in the Divisional Dump at the Station.</p> <p>On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the personnel in company with the other Divisional details entrained for Ludd, a party being left in charge of the dump. At Ludd we marched into the camp of the Desert Corps details.</p> <p>On April 8<sup>th</sup> the Dental Section left this camp &amp; proceeded to Yassar on the Ramleh-Jaffa road about 4 miles from Jaffa. Here the section was attached to the Australian Receiving Station under Major G.K. Parry. For some time the usual lack of transport prevented any dental material being brought up, but on April 15<sup>th</sup> we opened again. Here we treated men from the 3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup> L.A. Brigades as No 6 section attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> L.A. Co had not yet come up.</p> <p>On April 18<sup>th</sup> we again received orders to pack up &amp; we then proceeded to Daran &amp; thence by way of Anab &amp; Jerusalem to Talat el Dum where we remained for a couple of days. As our movements were uncertain we did not unpack here but we were able to secure a bell tent &amp; do any urgent relief work. After 3 days we proceeded to Jericho &amp; became attached first to the Australian Receiving Station &amp; later to the 2<sup>nd</sup> London Field Ambulance. We opened here but did practically no dental work as under instructions from the N.S.M.S. Desert Corps we handed over our tent to an advanced operating unit.</p> <p>During the next 5 or 6 days the whole of the section were temporarily attached to the Desert Corps operating unit under Lt Col. J. Colvin Storey, the Dental Officer acting as an assistant while the rest of the section were employed in various useful ways. We then rejoined the Aust Receiving Station.</p>	M/3/1 Apr-17 '18 1

Robertson - Dent Sect  
of 73<sup>rd</sup> Lt H. 7.A



M3/2  
Original  
APR 17 '18 2

# WAR DIARY

OF

A.I.F. IN EGYPT DENTAL SERVICES.

FOR

APRIL. 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Nominal Roll of Officers.
2.	Statistical Report.
3.	General Report.
4.	Reports from individual Officers.



NOMINAL ROLL OF OFFICERS A.A.M.C.D.S.

APRIL 1918.

M3/3

April '18

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MAJOR G. DOUGLASS.	A.I.F. HEADQUARTERS?
CAPT. R. A. BULL.	25. D. U.
CAPT. H. A. LAMBERT	71. D. U.
CAPT. J. H. CUNNINGHAM	"G". D. U.
CAPT. F. T. PASCOE.	31. D. U.
LIEUT. F. A. COMINS.	6. D. U.
" J. B. DONNELLY	97. D. U.
" A. C. JOHNSTON	16. D. U.
" A. R. ROBERTSON	73. D. U.
" W. H. KILMER	"B". D. U.
" MITCHELL J. F.	"A". D. U.
" C. S. BARRHAM.	7. D. U.
" J. McLACHLAN.	"F"? D. U.
" F. B. ADAMSON.	"C". D. U.
R P. A. RYAN.	"E". D. U.
" W. H. ROSS.	"D". D. U.



M 3/4  
 April '18

DATE		NUMBER OF		REMARKS
APRIL 1918.				
3121	Attendance			
1782	Cases Treated			
642	Teeth Extracted			
467	Local	Anæsthetics		
3	General			
1168	Amalgam.	Fillings		
127	Cement			
212	Root			
262	Temporary			
78	Scaling Cases			
507	Dressings			
161	Minor Operations			
104	Ulcerative Gingivitis			
35	Pyorrhœa			
7	Crowns			
7	Fractured Jaw Cases			
21	Full Upper	Dentures		
3	Full Lower			
135	Partial Upper			
105	Partial Lower			
215	Repairs			
X	Approx. Number waiting for Dentures			
X		Teeth Used	Pin.	
X			Diatomic	

To Staff Officer, Dental Services,  
 Administrative Headquarters, A. I. F.,  
 Egypt.

A.P. & S.D., Alex. /  $\frac{2750}{1225}$  / 2:18/500. W. M. & Co.

Dental Officer in Charge.

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FOR MONTH OF APRIL 1918.

M 3/5 APR 17 '18

The Statistical statement for this month shows a considerable reduction in the amount of treatment rendered and in the number of patients seen.

This is consequent upon operations, and Units being unable to keep up owing to lack of transport.

In all these operations well equipped light ambulances would have been an invaluable help - providing a means of transit, decent quarters for work, means of avoiding losses of equipment, and would further enable each Unit to be used where its services were most needed.

The value of a Unit being available for treatment as close as possible to its ambulance, during operations, is shown by the men evacuated for Dental Treatment to Base Hospitals.

Reports from individual officers are attached.

*George Douglas,*

Major.

S.O.A.D.S.

For D.D.M.S., A.I.F. in Egypt.



4 C

WAR DIARY OF "B" DENTAL UNIT.

(att'd 5th. Mounted Brigade). M3/6

for month of APRIL 1918.

/ APR 17 '18

The 5th. Mounted Brigade moved out from Belah on the 1st. April. All Dental equipment was packed up and sent to "Dump" at railway Belah.

Only transport for myself and orderly and one case, containing hand instruments, local anaesthetics, filling material was available with the field Ambulance.

Several Minor detail cases were treated during the trek.

When the division halted for any length of time dental parades were always held twice a day and all surgical cases treated.

Conditions do not lend themselves to extensive and permanent treatment being performed.

For a fortnight at Selmeah I was fortunate in having a bell tent in which to operate and treated many cases (being the only dental officer with the division at that time).

A single lined bell tent is not the best dental surgery, but when the wind and dust would allow, work was carried on.

A small Red Cross folding chair, using the tent pole as a head-rest, is a makeshift for a Dental chair and acts well.

Sterilising is always a difficulty but, when the primus stove can be kept burning, an empty fruit tin makes an excellent sterilizer. After a fortnight at Selmeah the Brigade again moved and trekked until it went into action.

During the last part of the month all cases were treated sitting on the side seat of an ambulance waggon.

I am now attached to Divisional Receiving Station, having reported there yesterday, and will work with 73rd. Dental section until such time as the staff and equipment of "B" unit arrives from the "Dump" at Ludd.

The number of extractions is no doubt large in proportion to other work; the cases are mostly abscessed teeth and the patient generally parades suffering acutely with swollen face and, in many instances, suffering from septic absorption.

Could I have had an engine with me during the month a number of these teeth would have been treated and saved.

Sgd. W.H. Kilner. Lieut.

7/5/18.



M 3/7

APR 17. '18

7

No. 71 DENTAL UNIT ATTACHED NO. 14 A.G.H.

5

WAR DIARY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1918

During the month the surgical work presenting has maintained its average. The mechanical being perhaps a little below. There have been one or two changes in the staff, one attached man going out, a new staff sergeant and officer joining.

There have been three cases of G.S.W. of the jaw one of which having no teeth and considerable portion of the mandible missing presented more than ordinary difficulty.

Case of ulcerative gingivitis have been few there being only four for the month. This complaint seems to be more prevalent in the summer months and diminish considerably as winter sets in.

A new departure, that of enabling men, where necessary, to have gold work done at reasonable cost has been started and should be of considerable advantage.

The quarters of the department are not so roomy or convenient as at Abbassia, being merely part of a building partitioned off with native rush matting. In view of the increase of the staff another room would be of considerable advantage.

Port Said,  
3/5/1918.

*J. A. Lambert.* Captain.

Officer i/c 71st Dental Unit., A.I.F.,



M3/8  
Apr 17 '18

To: *Loadd*  
*A.P. Co. Hq.*  
*Cairo*

*Abbassia*  
HEADQUARTERS, EGYPT  
(CENTRAL REGISTRY)  
M 0740 / 6 / 115

6

Please find attached diary  
of his unit for period ending  
April 30<sup>th</sup> 1918

*J. F. Matell*  
Captain  
Commanding First Dental Clinic  
Abbassia

RECEIVED  
7 MAY 1918  
TIME  
HEADQUARTERS



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Diary of Australian Dental

M 3/9 Unit  
APR 17 '18  
Abbasia

Period ending April 30<sup>th</sup> 1918.

April 1<sup>st</sup> Strength

1. Officer.
2. 5. Sgts.
2. Orderlies.

Operative Mechanical work carried on in usual manner.

Dental Parades & Examinations taken Daily 9. am & 2. pm.

High percentage of men reporting for examination, found to be Dentally fit.

The Hygienic Condition of the men's mouths on the whole is very good.

Gold work proceeded with until 21. 4. 18 when all materials necessary for this work was transferred to A.S.F. Hqs. Cairo one (1) St. Sgt marching out on this date.

J. F. Mitchell  
Captain  
Commanding Aust. Dental Unit  
Abbasia



M. 3/10

Apr 17 '18.

8.

Report of No. 6. Dental Section  
for Month of April 1918.

- April 1st. Left Belah for Australian Flying Corps: camped at Guya that night.
- 2nd. Arrived at the Australian Flying Corps, Medjel.
- 3rd. Commenced work.
- 4th. Received advice from A. S. J. Hdqrs. that S/Sgt. Joyner & Foster were to proceed to Port Said for duty at 14th A. G. H. and S. M. C. Rest Camp, respectively. Pt. Beck proceed to Cairo on duty.
- 6th. S/Sgt. Hand J. reported for duty from Moascar. Raining heavily preventing work.
- 12th. Pte W. Ewen reported for duty from 4th Brigade Dental Section.
- 15th. Approval received of promotion to S/Lt. of Pte W. Ewen.
- 17th. No work due to dust storm.
- 22nd. Received instructions from G. O. to pack up.
- 23rd. Moved to Railway Station at Medjel.
- 24th. Arrived at Luda Railway Station and proceeded to present camp at Ramleh, but received no assistance to erect tent.
- 26th. Commenced work.
- 29th. Notification of confirmation of promotion of S/Lt. W. Ewen.

30th April 1918.

J. H. Collins  
Lieut.



Monthly Dental Reports (CENTRAL REGISTRY)

No 0440/6/114

March & April 1918

9.

Australian Trench Depot  
Dental Hospital

at Camp 7, Trench Camp  
Choscar

138 men marching into Choscar during March, & 763 during April, have been examined & charted.

The greater majority have been treated & rendered Dentally Fit.

We are not been able to treat all men on account of the short time some men are in camp & owing to limited staff.

The facilities for working on the whole are quite good, but rather cramped & a little impossible during the dusty season.

R. Bull Capt -  
S. D. O.

Australian Trench Depot.  
Dental Hospital  
Choscar

7-5-18



Nominal		Boat	HEADQUARTERS EGYPT
Lieut	Boss W. G.	x	107 D.U.
Lieut	McLachlan J. C.	x	" 16 - - 10
do. Lieut	Ryan P. A.	x	D.U. Abbassia
122	M. Sgt. Rice G. E.	x	1025 D.U. 2nd A.S.H.
1767	do. Green W.	x	" 97 D.U.
795	do. Batten G. T.	x	" 31 D.U.
1044	do. Dent G. G.	x	8th A.L.H.
17577	do. Umhauer G. A.	x	8th A.S. Sec.
3491	do. Edwards L. W.	x	D.U. Abbassia
2191	do. Irvine R. L.	x	107 D.U.
505	do. Williams G. J.	x	" 25 D.U. 2 A.S.H.
18989	Ch Bird J. S.	x	" " " " " "
19385	" Pearce W. L.	x	107 D.U.
2081	" Eldridge J. B.	x	14th Coy. G. G.
16919	" Brisdale J. A.	x	1st Coy. G. G.
14358	" Peare G. G.	x	Angac chfd Div. Bond
2218	" Richards A. J.	x	14th A.G.H.

Owing to shortage of plaster during week ending Saturday 27-4-18 the mechanical work was held up for two days. To get over this difficulty we borrowed 76 lbs from the Chew Zealand D. U. which carried us on two days before arrival of indent.

R. Bull Capt  
S. D. O.

Australian Trench Depot. Dental Hospital  
Choscar

5-5-18

M 3/11  
April '18  
11



*[Handwritten notes on a separate sheet of graph paper, including a date stamp: 1918, and various illegible entries.]*

## Australian Army Dental A. I. F.

DENTAL REPORT for <sup>month</sup> week ending Midnight Saturday <sup>Tuesday</sup>

No. of Dental Unit	Attached to	Location
<i>1st. Inf. Depot Dental Hospital</i>	<i>A. A. Co. 6 Cadre</i>	<i>A. &amp; C. 7. Inf. Camp Ch. pasca</i>

DATE	NUMBER OF														
	Attendance	Cases Treated	Teeth Extracted	Anæsthetics		Fillings				Scaling Cases	Dressings	Minor Operations	Ulcerative Gingivitis	Pyorrhoea	Crowns
				Local	General	Amalgam.	Cement	Root	Temporary						
<i>18</i>															
<i>19</i>	<i>1387</i>	<i>572</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>760</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>256</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>248</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>-</i>

*To Staff Officer, Dental Services,  
Administrative Headquarters, A. I. F.,  
Egypt.*

A.P. & S.D., Alex./<sup>2750</sup>/<sub>1225</sub> /2: 18/500. W. M. & Co.



M. 3/12

12

April '18

16<sup>th</sup> Dental Unit, <sup>12.</sup>  
D.M.C. Rest Camp,  
Port Said.

To. I.O.A.D.S.

H.I.F. Headquarters.

Cairo.

AUSTRALIAN  
HEADQUARTERS, EGYPT  
(CENTRAL REGISTRY)

No C 440 / 6 / 112

8 MAY 1918

Monthly report for April, 1918.

This unit started operations in the Y.M.C.A. building at the D.M.C. Rest Camp, Port Said on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1918.

Considering the small number of men at present in camp, we have got through a fair amount of work. The number of extractions was rather more than might have been expected — chiefly for Imperial troops, whose teeth had evidently been neglected and were too far gone for treatment.

We have had several cases of Gingivitis. The majority of these have been treated successfully, and the remainder are still under treatment.

At the beginning of the month we were working under difficulties owing to the shortage of material, until we succeeded in borrowing sufficient to carry on with temporarily from the 71<sup>st</sup> Dental Unit at 14<sup>th</sup> A.G.H.



M 3/13

Apr 17 '18

13

Much delay has also been caused owing to our <sup>13</sup> shortage of impression trays.

I would suggest that we may be allowed to continue to occupy our present quarters, as they are so admirably suited for dental work. It would be impossible to improve upon them in any way, as there is every necessary convenience at hand.

A. G. Johnston Lieut

OC No 16 dental Unit

J



A.D.M.S.  
A.I.F.  
C A I R O.

M 3/14 143  
April '18

Monthly War Diary for April of "C" Dental Unit attached  
No 2 Australian Stationary Hospital.

PROMOTIONS. No 2516 Pte N.J. Clarke and No 5047 Pte S. Curtis  
were promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant on 24-3-1918. Both these  
N.C.O's are perfectly trustworthy and good conscientious workers  
and I have every confidence in both of them.

TRANSFERS. No 19372 Pte J. Robertson was transferred from  
Staff of No 2 A.S.H. to A.A.D.C. for duty with this Unit as orderly.  
No 789 Tpr Pillow was marched out to Port Said for duty with Dental  
Unit at Desert Mounted Corps Rest Camp on 3rd May 1918.

ILLNESS I was admitted to Hospital on 17-4-1918 and  
discharged on 30-4-1918, during this time the work was carried on by  
Capt R.A. Bull and Lieut Ross who attended at the following hours:-  
Capt Bull 9-30 am - 12-30 on 18, 19 and 20 of April  
Lieut Ross 9-30 am - 12-30 pm 24 and 25th of April.  
For the rest of the period S/Sgt Clarke took charge and did  
what work he was capable of.

<u>WORK DONE</u>	Total Number of attendances	255
	Patients attended to	116
	Number of teeth Extracted	33
	do of Amalgam Fillings	37
	do do Cement do	14
	do do Porcelain do	-
	do do Root do	12
	do do Dressings	43
	do do Crowns	-
	do do Minor operations	11
	do do Partial upper dentures	9
	do do do Lower do	10
	do do Full Upper Dentures	4
	do do do Lower do	-
	do do Repairs	15.
	Patients examined.	142
	do Dentally Fit	57
	do Rendered D.P.	85.

Moascar  
May 24th 1918.

*E. B. ...* Lieut.  
O.C "C" Dental Unit.





Report April 1918.

16.

Dental Surgeon. Lieutenant G. Parkham  
" Mechanics. Spsst Procter, Spsst Southgate  
Employed. Pte Devlin.

		Officers	Of Ranks
Total No of Patients	149	5	144
" " Fillings	50	3	47
" " Extractions	45	-	45
" " Sealing	1	-	1
" " Sundry treatments	76	1	77

Dentures supplied for month,	-	-	14
Repairs " " "	17	1	16

Total No teeth used. Pin Incisors 44. Diatoms 64.

M 3/16  
APR 17 '18  
14



Monthly War Report: April 1918, 15 ~~17~~

No 7. Dental Unit, Attached 2<sup>nd</sup> G. H. F. Ambulance.

Dental Officer. Lieutenant W. Ross. M 3/16  
Apr 17 '18  
Staff. Spgt Procter. Spgt Southgate. Pte Declink.

From April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 13<sup>th</sup>, the work of this unit was carried on at the Jewish Colony - Wadi Moanein - where a room & closed in verandah of a private house was occupied as surgery and laboratory. On 14<sup>th</sup> April orders were received to move to new site about two miles distant nearer to Colony of Richon.

Work was commenced again on 17<sup>th</sup> April, an E.P. tent being used.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, Lieutenant C. S. Barham, reported to 2<sup>nd</sup> G. H. F. Ambulance, for duty - Dental Officer - having marched in from Dental Hospital, Moascar.

Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Lieutenant W. Ross, marched out to Moascar.

On Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April I received movement orders and outfit was packed on G.S. wagon, & the following day moved to - Amzac Divisional Dump at Gudd, where on the Friday morning it was picked up by motor wagon and we proceeded to Jericho, arriving at our destination 21.30 pm the same day. The Brigade had moved out across the Jordan and I received instructions to unload wagon and remain at Brigade Dump & await further orders.

The work for this month ending 30<sup>th</sup> April 18.

Attached.

Chas Barham, Lieutenant  
Dental Officer

Attached 2<sup>nd</sup> G. H. F. Ambulance



To. S. O. A. D. S.

Chair

Through <sup>Sgt</sup> <sup>O</sup> <sup>1918</sup>  
Choascan

Direct <sup>1918</sup>  
Choascan

HEADQUARTERS, EGYPT  
(CENTRAL REGISTRY)

No 0770 6/114

18

Re your memo No 14927 to hand, regarding "War Diary Report" for March & April. Please find herein resubmission of same.

There are (4) four Dental Units attached to Dental Hospital, ~~being~~ known as 25 D. U. 25 D. U., 25 E. D. U., & 25 F. D. U.

Troops are examined (in chair) within 24 hours of their marching into Choascan.

They are paraded with nominal rolls in duplicate, which are prepared by R. O. R.'s. Details of treatment required are entered on these rolls, and as the men are required for treatment the respective R. O. R.'s are notified before 4 p.m. on the day previous to when men are required.

The numbers treated daily average 50.

When the men are made "Dentally Fit" their R. O. R.'s are notified to this effect, and so all men are not "Dentally" examined when they march out.

Owing to the urgent need for men at the front, they are at present in camp a very short time & we are unable to treat all men, but the severe cases are kept back until they are rendered fit, and so many of the slight cases

are treated as is possible under the circumstances

The adopted method of running the hospital is as follows, as laid down by Staff Officer ~~Special~~ Dental Services.

Each man has a record card of treatment required, based from the nominal rolls. & each morning and afternoon, the cards of the patients attending, are placed on the operators' brackets & after a patient is treated the operator initials work done & the patient is given a fresh appointment if necessary.

The only difficulty met with is the delay in receiving supplies from the Base Depot Medical Stores which holds up mechanical work for two to three days at a time.

D. O.

Assistant Trig Depot Dental Hospital  
Choascan

24-5-18



7/6

M 3/17 16  
Apr-17 18