

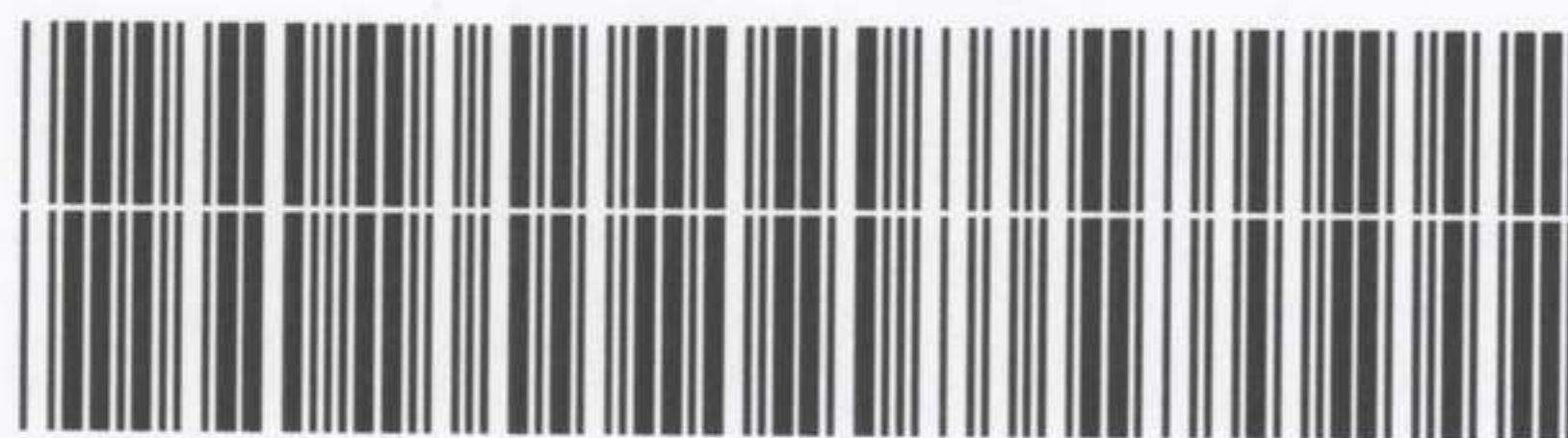
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/7/11

Title: Assistant Director of Supplies and
Transport, Desert Mounted Corps

June 1918



AWM4-25/7/11

TAALAT. 1.
6.18.

Issue of One Ford Touring Car to each Mounted Brigade Headquarters approved. A.D.T. calls for Corps requirements. Nine cars are required on present Corps strength.

R.A. Rest Camp organised at ENAB to contain about 13,000 Officers and Other Ranks, 1800 Horses and Mules. Arrange for Lorry Convoy daily to a Refilling Point. From there Supplies will be taken to the Camp by wagons.

TAALAT.

2.
6.18.

A.D.T. advises he is sending another workshop to this Corps for M.T. Repairs. Ask for this to report to S.M.T.O. JERUSALEM, who will issue instructions as to where it will proceed.

With a view to saving wear and tear on M.T. Lorries doing convoy duty from JERUSALEM to JERICO, in consequence of the bad condition of roads from TAALAT-ED-DUMM to JERICO, A.D.T. asks whether a Refilling Point could be made at TAALAT-ED-DUMM, where Lorries could be unloaded, and Supplies then put on Camels for conveyance to JERICO.

3.
6.18.

Physique of Class "B" personnel posted to 5th Mounted Brigade Supply Section very poor, and men hardly of any use to carry out work required of them. Take up with D.S.T.

A.D.S.T. Inspects Old Roamn Road from TAALAT-ED-DUMM to JERICO, and finds same still in a very bad condition. Discusses matter with D.A. & Q.M.G. who is instructing the Engineers to put labour on this Road immediately. It is hoped to have it ready for up-coming Motor traffic in a few days time.

No Refilling Point can be made for Camels. Inform A.D.T. accordingly.

ESTABLISHMENT. Supply Sections Mounted Division.

Corps Headquarters asks D.Q.M.G. G.H.Q. if authority can be given for the substitution of One Indian Agent for One British O.R. per Brigade Supply Section in the ONEDIV and 5th Mounted Bde.

The presence of an Indian Agent would be of great assistance in rationing Indian Troops, moreover it is understood that the Agents brought over with the 5th Cavalry Divn are available at the Base. Weighmen not considered necessary.

TAALAT.

4.
6.18.

Reference "B" personnel with 5th Bde Supply Section, A.D.T. replies that he fully appreciates the difficulty, but unfortunately able-bodied men are more urgently required for the Infantry.

5.
6.18.

Opium for Indian Troops.

Demands for Opium will be made by Units on Supply Officers. One weeks supply will be demanded at a time, and in multiples of not less than 1 oz. This weekly quantity will be held under Regimental arrangements, and issued to Opium eaters on the general approval of C.O's, on the signature of a M.O.
(G.H.Q. QK/4449 of 5-6-18.)

JERICHO. 6 8.
TARANT. 5.18.

Further to my notes of 30-5-18, following letter put up to A.A.G. A.I.F., by D.A. & Q.M.G., on the subject of A.A.S.C. M.T. Drivers:-

"Reference the driving of Motor Cars by personnel of the A. & N.Z. A.S.C., G.H.Q. have approved of this being done provided that :-

- (a) Sanction is given by these H.Q. in each case.
- (b) They are properly tested under arrangements to be made by A.D.S.T. D.M.C.,
- (c) They are in possession of the proper written authority permitting them to drive Motor Cars.
- (d) That in the event of their becoming casualties they are ultimately relieved by personnel who also fulfil all the above conditions.

The question now arises as to the pay of Australian and N.Z. personnel thus employed. Will they continue at the present rates of pay, or will they be paid the increased rates of pay M.T. drivers. If the latter, they should be transferred to an M.T. Unit. Can this be done?

TAALAT.

6.
6.18.

Institution of a Field Bakery in JORDON VALLEY approved by G.H.Q. This Bakery is being formed so that the Troops in the Valley can obtain their bread in as fresh a condition as possible.

7.
6.18.

A.D.T. advises all Mounted Brigade Fld Ambulances are to be equipped with 6 Ford Motor Ambulances each. 8 Surplus Ambulances at present held by this Corps after equipping all Ambulances on this basis to be returned to Adv'd Base M.T. Sub-Depot, LUDD.
(Authority - T.M.8/128 of 7-6-18.)

The second workshop Unit allotted Desert Mtd Corps by D.H.Q. is the No.3 (EGYPT) Mobile Repair Unit, A.S.C. which is located at BETHANY.

TAALAT. 8.
6.18.

The following are Camel Details for 6th, 7th and 8th June :-

6th JUNE.

3rd A.L.H. Brigade	...	150
20th Indn Infy Brigade.	...	70
22nd Mounted Brigade.	...	228
D.A.C.	...	6
Rest Camp.	...	6
Wood Supplies.	...	10
4th A.L.H. Bde (1st Line)	...	50

TOTAL 520.
=====

7th JUNE.

5th Mounted Brigade	...	385
6th Mounted Brigade	...	228
Rest Camp	...	6
Wood Supplies	...	10
D.A.C.	...	6
4th A.L.H. Bde (1st Line)	...	50

TOTAL 685
=====

8th JUNE.

6th Mounted Brigade	...	228
1st A.L.H. Brigade.	...	265
4th A.L.H. Brigade.	...	230
D.A.C.	...	6
Rest Camp	...	6
Wood Supplies	...	10
4th A.L.H. Bde (1st Line)	...	50

TOTAL 795
=====

TAALAT.

9.
6-18.

A.A.G. A.I.F. replies reference question of A.A.S.C. M.T. Drivers :-

"A.I.F. personnel employed as Motor Drivers here cannot be transferred to an M.T. Unit, as there is none here.

The matter in regard to pay has been referred to Australian Headquarters, LONDON, as it is desired to keep in line with whatever action is taken there."

10.
6.18

Accompany D.A.D.S. G.H.Q., and Bakery Officer to JERICHO, to make arrangements for necessary accommodation of Bakery. JORDON HOTEL found suitable and will be used for this purpose.

11.
6.18.

A G.R.O. is shortly being published authorising the issue of Long Reins, but stocks will not be available for some considerable time. - (Five months).

TAALAT. 13.
6.18.

D.M.C. R.O. No. 425 RATIONS INDIAN TROOPS EMERGENCY - SCALE OF :-

"Reference G.R.O. No. 3098 dated 17th October, 1917, the Emergency Rations for Indian Troops is the equivalent of the Iron Rations issued to British Troops. This will consist of -

- (a) 2 Tins "Iron Grocery Rations" (As supplied to British Troops.)
- (b) 1 Linen Bag with 2 lbs. Biscuits or 1 lb. Parched Gram.

14.
6.18.

A.D.T. carries out informal inspection of Divisional Trains in and around JERICHO. Pleased with everything seen.

TAALAT. 17.
6.18.

A.D.T. calls for 5 Instructor Drivers from each Divnl Train for duty at Training School for Egyptian Army H.T. Drivers, who will in future be provided through the medium of the Egyptian Army, and will serve for the duration of the war. Drivers sent from Trains as Instructors will be replaced by Natives enlisted under present conditions.

18.
6.18.

Work on Bakery being formed at JERICHO stopped for the present.

TAALAT. 21.
6.18.

Decided not to continue with Jericho Bakery. Personnel to be returned to Main Supplies,
JERUSALEM; C.R.E. to dispose of R.E. material.

*This step has been taken owing to JERICHO being shelled, as it is not considered
advisable to proceed with the works.*

22.
6.18.

M.T. spares issued to American Red Cross Units are to be issued on usual terms of re-payment.

D.S.T. advises wheat, barley, maize, millet, tibben (wheat and barley) should in future be requisitioned through the Administrators Occupied Enemy Territory. As regards the four first named, this procedure has become necessary in order to ensure that the inhabitants are left with a sufficiency of grain for their requirements until next harvest.

23.
6.18.

Inform C.R.A. Descorps that supplies for R.A. Rest Camp, ENAB, will be drawn from LATRON on and after 25-6-18. Men will be detailed by him to draw and forward supplies on lorries which will now be provided by G.H.Q.

Ask A.D.T. if Ford Touring Car can be made available for A/S.M.T.O. owing to the large amount of travelling that has to be done by him.

TAALAT. 24-
6-18.

Inform D.S.T. of amount of Refugee Rations taken over from Dead Sea Flotilla on 30-5-18.
As there is no likelihood of getting these supplies away by Sea for some months, ask of same may be used for current issue and a fresh consignment sent down when required, as it is probable the JERICHO Dump will have to be gone away with owing to the enemy having it within the range of his gun.

2/Lieut. W.S. MACKINTOSH proceeds to Dead Sea Flotilla for duty in connection with the construction of a lighter there.
Special artificers and M.T. personnel are being sent from Base for duty in this direction.

25.
6.18.

Ask D.S.T. if a Moto Cycle fitter can be attached to each M.R.U. These Units are now getting a large number of cycles to overhaul, and in order to make satisfactory repairs, it is essential that a fitter be employed, who is used to this particular work.

TAALAT. 27.
6.18.

A.D.T advises Fitters at present with M.R.U's quite capable of overhauling Motor Cycles.

Ford Car cannot be made available by A.D.T. for S.M.T.O. Points out that by rights the work of S.M.T.O. should be carried out by this office, as no Establishments exists for an S.M.T.O, for this Corps, also that I have a D.A.D.S.T. and other Corps have not!

D.S.T. is arranging for "M" Coy. C.T.C. to be sent to JORDON VALLEY to relieve "T" Coy. C.T.C. at present doing convoy duty for Descorps.

28.
6.18.

Corps H.Q. asks Units for opinion as to whether two boxes now fitted to wagons L.G.S. should be dispensed with. Difficulty now be experienced in obtaining stores, I quite agree that these can be dispensed with.

TAALAT. 29.
6.18.

Advise O.C. Supplies, JERICHO, that approval has been given for the issue of all the Supplies taken over from the Dead Sea Flotilla. Instruct him to arrange for the issuing of these supplies, cutting down demands on Jerusalem Depot accordingly.

221 Tons of Fuelwood have been delivered under Contract with Ibrahim Nazzar and Hanah Shamali to date.

30.
6.18.

Question of transfer of M.T. A.S.C. Road Officers under 30 to Infantry raised by G.H.Q. Information required as to what extent it is considered that this can be done. Passed to S.M.T.O.

TAALAT. 30.
6.18.

Average Forage Scale issued to Anzacs and Ausdiv during month of June 1918:-

	<u>ANZACS.</u>		<u>AUSDIV.</u>		
	<u>Mules.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	<u>Mules.</u>	<u>Horses.</u>	
Barley	4	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Gram	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	
Tibbin.	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	7	
Dries.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	
Hay.	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Sucra.	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Maize.	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Bhoosa.	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	
Bran.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Beans.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	-	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	-	
Totals.	22 lbs.	22 lbs.	22 lbs.	22 lbs.	AVERAGE - 22 lbs.

8th. JULY 1918.

W. Mansfield
Lieut-Colonel.
A.D. of S. & T., DESERT MTD. CORPS.