

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

Supplies & Transport

Item number: 25/7/9

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

April 1918



AWM4-25/7/9

DEIRAN.

1.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. visits MEJDEL & GAZA to see if Supply arrangements are in order for move of AUSDIV
and Regiments. Finds everything O.K.

Sukereir are all right too as regards supplies for the move.

DEIRAN. 2.
4.18.

Further to my notes on 2-2-18, and 7-2-18, D.S.T. writes as follows:-

1. With reference to the instructions contained in my Circular Memorandum, No.M.12/244 dated 31-1-18, it is notified that it is not the intention of this order to preclude men from smoking when they are in a position equivalent to "Marching at ease".
2. Take for instance the case of a Motor Lorry driver. When he is driving his lorry along the road, he is not to smoke; when his vehicle is parked, provided it is not in any Supply Depot, or when he is taking his mid-day meal, this order is to be rescinded.
3. Officers and N.C.O's in charge of convoys can use their discretion in regard to allowing their men to smoke at halts and other such like times.
"Advise Descorps Trains, Workshops and Ambulances accordingly."

C.G.S. G.H.Q., advises that a Box Car is to be allowed for the A.P.M. Desert Mounted Corps H.Q., and will be provided in the event of the Corps being employed as a whole, and every endeavour will be made to provide it.

DEIRAN.

3.
4.18.

The nine Yeomanry Regiments leaving Descorps will move from BELAH to ALEXANDRIA on the 7th and 8th April.

4.
4.18.

A.A. & Q.M.G., Descorps, issues instructions to be followed re abandonment of Motor Cars & Cycles of Signal Units, to all Formations of Descorps.

For copy of instructions see --- App. 1;

5.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T., and Lieut. L.A. Walker visit Supplies, SARONA.

Major. N.B. Loveridge's arrival at Moascar notified by O.C. A.A.S.C., Training Depot. Major. Loveridge before embarking on leave to Australia was O.C. Anzac Train.

D.D.S.T., E.E.F., asks for statistics of what is considered would be a fair ration on which to base the adjustment against Australian and New Zealand Contingents for forage issued during the quarter ended March 31st/18.

DEIRAN. 6.
4.18.

Instruct AUSDIV to draw Two Days Emergency Rations forthwith.

Issue instructions received from D.S.T., G.H.Q., to H.Q. Formations and O.C. Trains, reference transfer of certain Class "A" A.S.C. Officers, under 30 years of age, to Infantry, from Yeodiv, Ausdiv and 7th Mounted Brigade Trains.

Forward copy of correspondence to D.A. & Q.M.G., D.M.C.,

Following copy of letter received from D.A. & Q.M.G., D.M.C., has been circulated to Descorps Formations:-

"It has been reported that animals of certain Units have not received the full forage scale, although full forage scale has been obtainable.

Will G.O.C's Mounted Divisions and O.C. Units of Corps Troops please report to these Headquarters any cases of this nature. Such reports should contain details of the shortage, together with the date on which the short ration was issued.

Full scale should always be expected unless orders are issued putting Units on Mobile Scale, or unless unforeseen circumstances prevent forage on full scale being taken up to the forward area.

For the month of March statistics shew considerable underdrawals, for which there appears to be no reason!"

Following postings made of A.A.S.C. Officers:-

Major. N.B. Loveridge to take over command of Anzac Train.

Major. P. Dunningham. (T/O.C.) to take up duties of S.S.O. Anzac Mounted Division.

Major. F.S. Dickinson (S.S.O. Anzacs) to be posted to Ausdiv Train as S.S.O.

Lieut. N.V. Light., T.O. 32 Company, Anzac Train, to be posted to MOASCAR, A.A.S.C.

Training Depot, as O.C. - relieving Lieut. A.R. Kaye (present O.C.) who is to report to Anzac Train for duty.

DEIRAN. 7.
4.18.

Reference my notes on 5-4-18, following reply sent D.D.S.T., E.E.F.,

"Reference your 40355 of 5th inst, the average ration for the quarter ended 31st March, 1918, has been computed in accordance with your request, and is as follows:-

Barley	$6\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Gram	$3\frac{1}{4}$:
Bran	$1\frac{1}{2}$:
Sucrapaille	$1\frac{1}{2}$:
Hay (Indian)	$5\frac{1}{2}$:
Tibben	$3\frac{1}{2}$:
Canadian & French Hay.	$\frac{1}{2}$:
Maize	$\frac{1}{2}$:
Bhoosa	$\frac{1}{2}$:

TOTAL 23 lbs.
=====

The variation from a 24 lb. Ration is occasioned by operations during the period in question, when a full ration was not issued.

The averages given have been worked out on the actual daily issue to Australian and New Zealand Units.

DEIRAN. 9.
4.18.

Major. N.B. Loveridge reported to A.D.S & T., Desert Mounted Corps.

One point raised at C. in C's Conference on 4-4-18 as follows:-

LONG REIN DRIVING.

A certain number of vehicles in each Company, in each Train (about 3 or 4 vehicles) will be experimented with, both Native and British Drivers to be so Trained. Reports to be sent in by all Corps on May 1st.

Instruct A. & N.Z. and Australian Trains to experiment accordingly with Native drivers, and Yeodiv and 7th Mounted Brigade Train with both British and Native drivers. Reports to be forwarded this office by the 26th inst.

DEIRAN.

10.
4.18.

D.S.T. wires:-

"T/3697/3/P. - 10th - Officer substitutes arrived from home AAA Three H.T. officers have been allotted to you AAA Telegraph units to which they should be sent and names of Officers they are replacing AAA Telegraph reply to-day."

Replies:-

"S.1175 - 10th - To replace T. Lieut. G.D. Thomson, 7th Mounted Brigade Train. T.2nd Lt. DELL P.B. 1002 Coy., Yeodiv Train and T.2nd Lt. TRUSTRAM. J.L. 1000 Coy., Yeodiv Train."

DEIRAN. 12.
4.18.

"It is the opinion of each Company Commander of this Train, that a number of Native N.C.Os. in the Companies are a hindrance. Each Company would prefer to have one or at the outside two Native N.C.O's, and would prefer natives who would work, i.e., drivers in place of more N.C.Os..
It is preferable that Native N.C.O's be appointed in the Field after trial."

Point out that I agree with the suggestion that it is preferable that Native N.C.O's should be appointed in the Field after trial.

DEIRAN. 12.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. attends conference of D.S.T. G.H.Q., in the morning. In the afternoon, accompanied by Lt. Walker, visit Supplies, SARONA, and Ausdiv Train., which is encamped at SELMEH.

D.A.D.S.T. leaves DEIRAN to-night for Port Said to visit Lt.Col. Stansfield, D.S.O., (A.D.S.T.. D.M.C.,) who is in hospital there.

Reply to D.S.T., G.H.Q., reference Auto-boiling Conserved Meat & Vegetables samples forwarded this Branch for testing:-

"Experiments have been carried out by Units of this Corps, and the general consensus of opinion is:-

- (1) Quality good, but not so well prepared or tasty as the present M. & V. Ration.
- (2) Tinning - Fair.
- (3) That the time taken for cooking (40 minutes) is too long, and that the average man would not wait for the contents to be thoroughly cooked.
- (4) That, although the auto-heating device is ingenious, satisfactory, and without detriment to the wholesomeness of the contents, it does not recommend itself as a substitute for the present M. & V. Ration (the nett weight of contents is only about 12 ozs.) by reason of its cost, loss in bulk ration entailed and want of variety of vegetables in its composition.

Compared with the present M. & V. Ration at 1/6³d, this ration is not economical at 10 P.T.

D.S.T. queries why O.C. Ausdiv Train states on his Strength Returns weekly that Native N.C.O's are not required.

Reply to query as follows:-

DEIRAN. 14.
4.18.

Following copy of wire received from D.A. & Q.M.G.,

"H.Q.1456 - 14/4. - Following Units will proceed by march route to KANTARA forthwith where they will entrain for BELAH under arrangements to be made by Communs on arrival at BELAH they will come under orders of Descorps AAA 6th Cavalry 19th Lancers SIALKOT Brigade Field Ambulance SIALKOT Brigade Veterinary Section"

DEIRAN. 15.
4.18.

In consequence of reports being received from Units that Native Drivers are being sent forward insufficiently trained, and that no opportunity exists for their being fully trained in the Field, owing to there being no Arabic speaking N.C.O's., send following letter to Os.C. Trains:-

"Field Ambulances are complaining of the Training in connection with their Native drivers, and state they are unable to do same, having no N.C.Os. who can speak Arabic. It has been suggested that the Trains should assist by lending the Native Officer or N.C.O. say, twice a week, for the purpose of instructing the natives in driving. Please say if you consider this suggestion feasible?"

D.S.T. instructs that Class "A" A.S.C. Officers being replaced by Class "B" A.S.C. officers should proceed to Base Depots as soon as reliefs arrive.

16.
4.18.

Receive following copies of wires from D.A. & Q.M.G.,

"G.A.811 - 16th - Under instructions from G.H.Q., WORCESTER YEOMANRY will be transferred from DESCORPS to XXth CORPS, as Corps Cavalry AAA WORCESTER YEOMANRY will march on 18th to LATRON where it will come under orders of G.O.C., 20th Corps."

6th Cavalry, 19th Lancers, SIALKOT Bde, Fld.Amb. and SIALKOT Bde Vet. Section entrain KANTARA 18th and 19th inst for BELAH.

36th Horse, 29th Lancers, Lucknow C.F.A., and Lucknow V.S., will entrain KANTARA 20th inst for BELAH.

Deiran. 16.
4.18.

Write D.A. & Q.M.G., as follows:-

"Owing to the larger numbers in personnel and animals of an Indian over an Yeomanry Regiment, it is considered that the following additional transport (1 G.S. wagon with necessary drivers and animals per Indian Regiment) will be required by Trains to carry the extra rations and forage:-

	G.S. Wgns.	Drivers.		D.Animals.
		B. -	N.	
<u>Yeomanry Mtd Divn.</u> (6 Indian Regts.)	6	6	6	24
<u>Australian Mtd Divn.</u> (2 Indian Regts., 5th Mtd Brigade.)	2	2	2	8
<u>7th Mounted Bde.</u> (2 Indian Regts.)	9	9	9	36
<hr/>				
TOTAL.	17	17	17	68
<hr/>				

The numbers for the 7th Mounted Brigade include 8 Wagons, 8 British and 8 Native H.T. Drivers and 32 Animals, for the second Indian Regiment, as at present the Brigade Train Transport is based on the Establishment for two Regiments only.

Instructions issued for move of 6th (EGYPT) Mobile Repair Unit, A.S.C., from DESCORPS to Adv. Base M.T. Sub-Depot, LUDD.

DEIRAN. D 19.
4.18.

Suggest to D.S.T., that the following additions be made to the present Scale of Clothing
for Native H.T. Drivers, Summer and Winter:-

	<u>Summer.</u>	<u>Winter.</u>
Drawers, prs.	-	2
Cardigan Jackets.	-	1
Shorts, Khaki, prs.	1	-
Housewives.	1 to 12 Natives.	

DEIRAN. 20.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. visited G.H.Q. with D.A. & Q.M.G.. Informed Corps getting 347., 1039 & 907 M.T.
Companies - S.M.T.O. and Adjutant would also be appointed temporarily. Also that 7200 Camels
would be handed over as soon as required, together with a D.I.C.T.C.

DEIRAN. 21.
4.18.

Received word that allotment of Camels would only be 6600 owing to shortage.

Arrange with Anzac and Australian Mtd.Dvnl.Trains for Supply Personnel to run JERICHO DEPOT.
Captain L.G.ALROE, A.A.S.C. to be in charge.

Issued instructions for No.5(E) M.R.Unit to move from RAMLEH to JERUSALEM as soon as possible.

DEIRAN.

22.
4.18.

Move from KHIRBET DEIRAN to TAALAT-ED-DUMM.

D.A.D.S.T. attends conference at XXth.Corps H.Q. with D.A.&Q.M.G., D.M.C. reference taking over of Transport, etc.

TAALAT-ED- 23.
DUMM. 4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. with D.A.&Q.M.G., D.M.C. visited JERICH On the morning, JERUSALEM in the afternoon.
Take over 3 M.T.Companies to-day, viz., No.907., 1038 and 1039. 1038 M.T.Coy. arrived
JERUSALEM from RAMLEH to-day.

Lieut.W.ERROL., A.A.S.C. working Supply Arrangements at JERUSALEM DEPOT.

TAALAT. 24.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. visits JERICHO & JERUSALEM. At the latter place arranges allotment of Motor Lorries for tomorrow's Supply Convoy. 147 Lorries available.

D.S.T. wires:-

"ST.4266. 4200 Camels leaving JUNCTION 25th. arriving at TAALAT-ED-DUMM 27th. AAA In addition to equipment and 3 days march rations for men and camels they carry Grain which will be waybilled to you by Supplies Junction AAA Arrange disposal of this Waybill and accounting for Grain."

TAALAT. 25.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. visits JERICH0.

Wire S.S.O's Anzacs. Ausdiv. S.O., I.S.C.Bde. S.O., I.C.Bde. and S.O., 20th.I.I.Bde. as follows:-

"S.1255. Render all indents to Captain ALROE, Descorps Supplies, JERICH0, who will take over issues to Descorps Troops from 26th.instant inclusive AAA S.S.O's will continue to issue to details as heretofore until otherwise advised."

S.M.T.O. (Major A.H.LAIRD., M.T., A.S.C. and Adjutant (2/Lieut.W.E.GREEN, A.S.C., M.T.) report for duty.

Open small Dump at G.10 (TAALAT-ED-DUMM) for feeding of Corps H.Q., Signals, etc.

Supplies Junction adviseconvoy of camels left this morning, carrying following Supplies:-

"A" Company.

Maize 500 x 160. Bran 650 x 80.

"C" Company.

Gram 770 x 160. Bran 1000 x 80. Maize 168 x 160.

"L" Company.

Gram 800 x 160. Barley 640 x 90. Caroub Beans 600 x 112. Bran 360 x 80.

"T" Company.

Gram 1200 x 160. Caroub Beans 675 x 112.

TAALAT.

26.
4.18.

Major L.BUCKLAND (D.I., C.T.C.) reports for duty.

Inform O.C., Descorps Supplies, JERUSALEM that Fresh Meat will not be required.

Descorps feed 60th.Division after 28.4.18.

"E" Coy., C.T.C. and 347 Coy., M.T., A.S.C. will be handed over to-day.

TAALAT.

27.
4.18.

D.A.D.S.T. attended Conference of D.A.&Q.M.G. Representatives from Divisions present.
Discussed plans for forthcoming operations.

Lieut.C.E.UPFOLD., A.A.S.C. will, from to-day, assist Captain L.G.ALROE, A.A.S.C. at Supply Depot, JERICO.

Inform Anzac & Ausdiv Trains that arrangements have been made at BIR SALEM to take over issues to Indians, and that the personnel belonging to these Trains are now to be withdrawn for duty at JERICO.

Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade arrive BETHLEHEM, strength as under:-
B.O. 9. I.O. 23. B.O.R. 12. I.O.R. 471. Horses 494. Mules 191.

In view of the fact that a large proportion of A.S.C.Officers sent to the B.H.T.D Depot to await Medical Board have been classified "B" than was reasonably anticipated, and the importance of releasing Officers for duty with the Infantry, D.S.T. advises that it has become necessary to take away Adjutants from Divisional Trains.

TAALAT. 28.
4.18.

A.A.&Q.M.G., D.M.C. issues instructions for 2 N.C.O's and 12 Men to be sent from Anzac & Ausdiv Details to Lieut.ERROL, A.A.S.C., Descorps Supply Officer, JERUSALEM for work with M.T. Lorry supervision.

Descorps Supplies, JERICHO, issue two days Mobile Rations to Anzacs and Ausdiv, and have following Mobile Rations on hand after issue:-

Cocoa 11.000.	Sugar "Nil".	Fruit 30.000.	Tea 30.000.	Jam 48.000
P.Meat 30.000.	Milk 70.000.	Biscuits 70.000.		

Make arrangements to complete these figures to 70.000 Rations all round as a reserve.

A.A.Q.M.G. wires Anzacs as follows:-

"All 1st.Line Transport over and above 70 G.S.Wagons forming C.T.C.Improvised Train will be handed over to Corps Reserve".

D.A. & Q.M.G. draws attention of all Units to the lack of care exercised to camels wounded or suffering from exhaustion during operations. Owing to the great shortage of camels, it is of paramount importance to minimise casualties to the utmost.

JERICO. 29.
4.18.

A.D.T., E.E.F. advises 8 Ford Vans being despatched Corps H.Q. for use of Signals from No.956 M.T.Company.

D.A.D.S.&T., S.M.T.O. & D.I., C.T.C. move to JERICO. 2/Lieut.W.E.GREEN of S.M.T.O's Staff moves to JERUSALEM.

Forming of Corps Reserve Train from 1st.Line Wagons of Anzac & Australian Divisions in hand. 93 Wagons will be available from the Australian Division. These two Divisions are, for the present, working with Camel Transport.

JERICO. 30.
4.18.

Lieut-Colonel.
A.D.S. & T., D.M. Corps.

1. JULY 1918.

60th.Divisional Train, Imperial Service Cav.Bde.Train & N.Z.Bde.Train only ones to take out rations to-day.

Advanced Dump (JORDAN VALLEY) under charge of Captain L.H.G.ALROE and Lieut.C.E.UPFOLD, AASC., formed. Lieut.A.RKAYE., A.A.S.C. takes over JERICHO DEPOT. Advanced Dump shelled during day.

Issued 2 days Mobile Rations to all Troops on Operations - to be carried on Camels.

Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade (less Mysore Lancers) will be fed as follows:-
8 of the 15 G.S.Wagons allotted to I.S.C.Bde. will work between JERICHO Supply Depot and East Side of HAJLA BRIDGE. From HAJLA BRIDGE 50 "C" Coy. Camels will carry Supplies to Units.

The Mysore Lancers will be supplied by part of Transport already allotted 6th .Mtd.Bde. plus 7 out of the 15 G.S.wagons allotted I.S.C.Bde.

D.A.&Q.M.G. wires D.S.T. that the Labour at Supply Depot, JERUSALEM, is insufficient. Loading of Lorries not being completed until 1700. Can Labour be increased? D.S.T. replies:-

"100 extra labourers being sent earliest. It is not so much the shortage of Labour as owing to Supplies being drawn for 5 or 6 days Group Formations which naturally

delays loading. If supplies can be drawn in one bulk, loading would be much expedited".
Average Forage Ration issued to A.I.F. Units during April/18.

ANZACS.			
Barley	...	5.2/3	lbs.
Gram	...	3.1/5	lbs.
Maize	...	2.2/5	lbs.
Bran	...	.4/5	lbs.
Sucra	...	1.	lb.
Indn Hay	...	4.3/5	lbs.
Bhoosa	...	2.	lbs.
Tibben	...	2.4/5	lbs.

22.4/5 lbs.

Total 46 lbs. Average ... 23 lbs.

AUSDIV.			
Barley	...	4.1/2	lbs.
Gram	...	4.	lbs.
Maize	...	2.	lbs.
Bran	...	.2/3	lbs.
Sucra	...	2.2/5	lbs.
Hay	...	6.1/3	lbs.
Linseed Cake	...	.1/2	lb.
Tibben	...	1.1/2	lbs.
Grain E.R.	..	.4/5	lb.
Dries	...	.1/2	lb.

23.1/5 lbs.

To:-

Anzacs. Ausdiv. Onediv. 7th.Mtd.Bde.
A.D.A.S., D.M.C. Camp Commandant.
O.C., No.1 Light Car Patrol. No.7 Light Car Patrol.

1. In continuation of this office letter No.Q.2073 dated 24.3.18., the following orders for Despatch Riders whose Motor Cycles break down, are to be complied with:-

- (a). A Despatch Rider carrying despatches will proceed by the quickest means available to his destination with his despatches.
- (b). On arrival, he will request the Signal Office, should it not be his own Squadron or Company, to inform the Signal Office he started from, of the position, and the nature of the breakdown. As soon as the Signal Office receives this report, it will, if possible, send out to recover the damaged car or motor cycle. When the Signal Office is sending out to collect the cycle, it should whenever possible, direct the despatch rider to return to his machine to await the breakdown car.
- (c). If the Signal Office is unable to send out to save the vehicle, it will inform the A.D.S. & T. Desert Mounted Corps, to this effect, giving the location and nature of the breakdown.
- (d). A despatch rider not carrying despatches will proceed to the nearest Signal Office and carry out the procedure as indicated above.

2. Every effort must be made to get the machine in, or if beyond immediate repair, deposited somewhere in safety. Application should be made to any transport in the vicinity to see if they can assist.

It is, however, of the utmost importance that the despatch rider should rejoin his Unit at the earliest possible moment.

4-4-1918.

Sgd. W.F. FARR. Lieut-Colonel.
A.A. & Q.M.G. DESERT MTD CORPS.

Copies to:-

General Staff.
A.D.S. & T.
D.D.V.S.
C.M.G.O.
A.D.C. to G.O.C.

G.O.C. R.A.
A.D.O.S.
D.A.D.R.
C.C.A.

C.R.E.
D.D.M.S.
A.P.M.
C.C.O.