

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

Formation Headquarters

**Item number:** 1/61/32

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

October 1918



AWM4-1/61/32

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

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*Volume 20.*



Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*"A" Branch A. & N. Z. Mounted Division*

FOR

*October* 1918.

*Michael J. Bennett*

Signature of Officer compiling

Lieut. Col.

A. A. & Q. M. G.

A. & N. Z. Mtd. Division

Signature of Officer Commanding

## WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

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Volume 20 Page 1.



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 Oct		MAP REFERENCES:- ES SALT, AMMAN 1/63360: JERICHO B6., DAMIEH C6, NIMRIN B7, 1/40,000.	
			<p>The Headquarters, A &amp; N.Z. Mounted Division was still administering "CHAYTORS FORCE."</p> <p>As active operations ceased with the surrender of the entire force of Ali Bey Whahaby on 29th. September at Z12A, the whole of the month of October was spent in collecting and sending in all Prisoners of War, administering the occupied area, and installing the Hejaz Government, collecting and sending back all captured material, and the gradual withdrawal of the units comprising the Force. The detailed account is now given under these heads.</p> <p><u>PRISONERS OF WAR.</u></p> <p>Fully 50% of the 10,000 taken by this Force were either sick or unable to march and had to be despatched by returning lorries; arrangements were made at JERICHO for their reception and classification before being forwarded to JERUSALEM. Owing to their complete disregard for sanitation, and the apathy of most of the officers towards the men, the task of assisting them was very difficult.</p> <p>All Germans were in better condition as regards food and clothing than the Turks, and there was considerable friction between them.</p> <p>Those that marched were escorted by Infantry by stages- Amman to Ain Hemar, thence to Es Salt, thence Nimrin, thence Jericho. A small gang of 100 Turks were retained for loading salvage, and after a few days good food, picked up and did excellent work, proving intelligent and keen. A great many local inhabitants, both Circassian and Arab, who had been conscripted, deserted before surrendering and returned to their homes. These were left unmolested provided their behaviour was good and they were not required for political reasons.</p> <p>A large number of officers of all ranks were accommodated in a clean house with necessary attachments, but in every case they used their sleeping apartments for the purposes of nature, and concluded by smashing all watches and articles of value in their kits, although these had been respected in every way.</p> <p><u>CIVIL ADMINISTRATION.</u></p> <p><u>ES SALT.</u> This large centre was in a state of chaos, and the enemy had done wanton damage to a lot of the houses, especially those of supporters of the Allies. The local administration was non-existent or engaged in collecting as much Turkish property as they could. Steps were at once taken to restore order, and with the assistance of Capt. Angel</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918 October		<p>of the G.S.I. Staff, affairs soon settled down, and with the return of large numbers of refugees, the inhabitants assumed their ordinary occupation.</p> <p>The prevailing feeling here, as well as AMMAN, was one of unsettled and speculative expectancy as to what form of Government would be introduced. This was allayed by the arrival of Col. MACKESY, C.M.G., D.S.O., as liason officer to the Hejaz Administration, who took up his residence in the town and assured the people of the certainty of British advice to the new Government.</p> <p>Here the bulk of the population is Christian Arab, and they had suffered cruelly at the hands of German, Turk, and Bedouin, and their homes left desolate of furniture and food, which necessitated immediate help; this was forthcoming and distress soon relieved.</p> <p><u>AMMAN.</u></p> <p>Unlike ES SALT, this town is composed of Circassians in the main, but it is also the centre of a large fertile belt of agricultural country, and consequently Arabs- both Mohammedan and Christian frequent it, and of course, the Bedouin.</p> <p>Little damage had been done by the enemy, but sanitation was conspicuous by its absence and Turkish stores had been looted by everyone. A firm hand had to be taken to get control of stores and arrest numbers of Turks who were in hiding.</p> <p>Capt. CLARKE, M.C., of the Patiala Infantry, was appointed Administrative Commandant, and through this officer's energy and tact, a very difficult period was passed peacefully.</p> <p>The people were extremely suspicious, and it was impossible to requisition supplies without using force, so this was not resorted to. However, after the complete debacle of the enemy they realised that the Turk had gone for ever and began to prepare for the new order.</p> <p>It was evident that if our troops withdrew, the Circassian would get a very bad handling at the hands of the Arabs and the Bedouin, the latter during the whole time proved himself devoid of principle, his only desire being to loot and thief from either side, and as the Bedouin had taken numbers of Turk rifles and much ammunition, sniping was rife day and night.</p> <p>The General Officer Commanding the Force made frequent excursions to Madaba, Hesbon, Zetka and the surrounding tribes, meeting Sheiks and influential men, and obtaining their co-operation in preventing crime and meting out justice.</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>October, 1918.</p> <p><i>WMP</i></p>	<p>On 27th. October, Gaafir Pasha, C.M.G., who had been appointed Military Governor and commanding the Arab Forces in the district by the Emir Faisal arrived to formally assumed his duties. . . 4 officers }          Arrangements were made for a guard of honour of 60 other ranks }          from 1st. A.L.H. Brigade and 1 British Officer 30 other ranks from 20th }          Indian Infantry Brigade. The whole ceremony was carried out with }          considerable pomp, and the Hejaz flag hoisted on 28th. October. }          On 30th. October a similar ceremony took place at ES SALT and every }          endeavour made to make the happening impressive. }          The Hejaz administration commenced its duties, and the A. &amp; N.Z. }          Mtd. Division withdrew. }</p> <p><u>SALVAGE OF ENEMY MATERIAL.</u></p> <p>Owing to the demands made upon returning lorries for the evacuation of sick, it was some time before salvage could be loaded, but its collection went on systematically. Trains were got going and run to ZIZA and MAFRAK, and returned with guns, ammunition and anything of value, but the Bedouins had looted the latter place considerably. In all, some 150 tons of Ordnance stores, 240 tons of Ammunition were sent to Jericho, and all guns and a number of waggons and bakeries. An auction sale of material was held, and realised some £315, and a similar amount, approximately, was handed over to the Hejaz Administration, by the 30th. October. All salvage of value had been cleared from Amman.</p> <p>Meanwhile, large quantities of captured stores were collected into ES SALT, and Rear Chaytor's Force, Jericho salvaged SHUNET NIMRIN by camels and lorries, clearing this place by the end of the month.</p> <p>An unfortunate explosion of an enemy trap caused the death of 1 officer and 9 other ranks and wounded 8 other ranks, on the NIMRIN Road, delaying work and traffic for 3 days.</p>	

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Oct., 1918	<p>The whole of the stores and material of the Jordan Valley Defences were collected into Jericho, and as these consisted of some 250 tons of ammunition, guns, area stores, and 3000 tents, the work entailed was very heavy, especially under the trying conditions of heat, sand flies and mosquitoes.</p> <p><u>THE WITHDRAWAL OF CHAYTOR'S FORCE.</u></p> <p>This was gradual and carried out as far as JERICHO by Advanced Chaytor's Force and thence to JERUSALEM by Rear Chaytor's, where the units came under Palestine Lines of Communication.</p> <p>The 38th. Btn., Royal Fusiliers left for Jerusalem on 28th. September, the 18th. R. H.A. Brigade, 39th. Battn., Royal Fusiliers, and A/263 Batty., R. F.A., for DEIRAN on 1st. October.</p> <p>The 2nd. A.L.H. Brigade marched via Ain es Sir to Deiran on 2nd. October, and similarly the N.Z.M.R. Brigade on the 3rd. October.</p> <p>The 2nd. B.W.I. Regiment marched back 9th. October, leaving 1 Company at NIMRIN, and 2 Battalions of 20th. Indian Infy. Bde. on 10th. October: B.H.Q. and 29th. Batty., I.M.A. left on 15th. October.</p> <p>On 24th. October, "M" Coy., Camel Transport Corps were withdrawn to DEIRAN.</p> <p>All these units collected their baggage at JERICHO and were rationed en route.</p> <p>On the 1st. November, Div. H.Q., 1st. A.L.H. Bde (less 1 Squadron of 2nd. Regiment) march back, leaving as garrisons, H.Q., and 2 Battns., 20th. Ind. Infy. Bde. and 32nd. I.M.A. Battery, One Squadron, 2nd. A.L.H. Regiment, Chaytor's Force ceasing to exist at 1200 on 3rd. November at JERICHO.</p> <p>All camps and stores west of the Jordan were handed over to P.L. of C.</p> <p>The work that fell on the Divisional Staff during this period was considerable, as offices had to be maintained at Amman, Jericho, and Jerusalem, and constant visits made to Deiran, where 2 Brigades</p>	

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Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
<p>Oct., 1918.</p> <p><i>WMS</i></p>	<p>and Divisional Artillery were camped.</p> <p><u>SUPPLIES.</u></p> <p>A full ration was maintained during the month, and fresh meat and vegetables brought from Jerusalem. On the withdrawal of 2 Brigades from Amman, it was possible to run a daily convoy from Jericho to Amman, and also from Jerusalem to Jericho.</p> <p>A.A. &amp; Q.M.G. return 154/339 of 11. 11. 18 shows the general results of operations from 19th. September to 3rd. November.</p> <p><u>CASUALTIES.</u></p> <p>Casualties in the Division for the month of October were as follows:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1297 1073 2262 1252"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><u>Officers</u></th> <th><u>Other Ranks</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Killed</td> <td>-</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wounded</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sick</td> <td>79</td> <td>2812</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The average daily percentage of evacuations sick was 1.44%</p>		<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>	Killed	-	4	Wounded	1	6	Sick	79	2812	<p>154/339 A.A. &amp; Q.M.G.</p> <p><i>Michael J. Dennis</i>  <i>AA regts</i></p>
	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Other Ranks</u>												
Killed	-	4												
Wounded	1	6												
Sick	79	2812												



E2/6

RETURN SHEWING CASUALTIES, CAPTURES, AND GENERAL RESULTS OF OPERATIONS  
 BY CHAYTOR'S FORCE FROM 19th SEPT, 1918, to 3rd NOV, 1918.

1. CASUALTIES.
- |         | <u>OFFICERS.</u> | <u>O/RANKS.</u> |
|---------|------------------|-----------------|
| KILLED  | 2                | 24              |
| WOUNDED | 10               | 93              |
| MISSING |                  | 4               |
| SICK    | 293              | 6627            |
2. PRISONERS. 496 9661
3. GUNS. 55. 5, 77mm. 3, 5.9 How. 21, 7.5 cm.  
 9, 10.4cm. 1, A.A. 8 mountain.  
 Unsalved. 1, 6" Naval. 3, 77mm.  
 1, mountain. 2, 13pdrs. 1, 7.5cm.
4. MACHINE GUNS. 169.
5. AMMUNITION. 800 Tons. At Es Salt awaiting transport 156 tons  
 Between El Howieg & Nimrim 4  
 At Jericho. 440  
 At Markruk estimated 200
6. STORES. MADYBA. AIN ES SIR. AMMAN. MAHUS.  
 Large quantities of grain, wheat and barley.  
 Handed over to Hedjaz Administration.
7. ROLLING STOCK. AMMAN. 3 engines, 4 tenders, 43 trucks.  
 1 motor truck, 1 armoured motor car.  
 KISSIR. 2 waggons damaged.  
 YIZA. 1 engine, 3 waggons.  
 NILO 193. 12 waggons.  
 SAMRA. 20 waggons.  
 MAFRAK. 4 engines, 35 waggons.  
 Handed over to Hedjaz Administration.
8. ORDNANCE STORES. Approx £300 worth handed over to Hedjaz Admin.  
 Approx £315 worth sold at AMMAN.  
 150 tons collected to JERICHO, including 10  
 German lorries damaged.
9. UNBALVED. Large quantity hand carts, cookers, barbwire,  
 and wheelbarrows, between El Howieg & Nimrim.
10. ANIMALS. 890. 816 thro P.L. of C. & Mobile Vet Sections.  
 49 to 20th Indian Infantry Brigade.  
 17 to 32nd Indian Mountain Battery.  
 8 to Hedjaz Administration Amman.

*Michael F. Brunes*

Lt-COLONEL.  
 A.A. & Q.M.G.

AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND MOUNTED DIVISION.

11th Novr, 1918.