

**AWM4**

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

Camel Corps

**Item number:** 11/9/13

**Title:** 4th ANZAC Battalion, Imperial Camel  
Corps

March 1918



AWM4-11/9/13

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

**ORIGINAL.**  
**DUPLICATE.**  
**TRIPLICATE.**

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

4<sup>th</sup> Anzac Batt. I.C. Brigade

FOR

Month of March 1918

MAR 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*J.G. Neweek*

Lieut.

Adjutant 4<sup>th</sup> Batt.  
I.C. Bde

Signature of Officer Commanding

*C. J. Miles*

Lieut.-Colonel

4<sup>th</sup> Anz Batt.  
I.C. Bde.

WAR DIARY

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.

OR  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

For Month of March 1918

4<sup>th</sup> Anzac Battalion Imperial Camel Brigade

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shellal	1st		Advance party sent from Rafa Bivouac area to Shellal under Major H.C. Hemphill to select new camp site preparatory to move of Battalion from Rafa to Shellal. Remainder of battalion very busy during the day cleaning up old camp site.	
"	2		The Battalion moved away at 1100 sharp for Shellal, walked all the way leading camels, on account of weak state of Camels, and insufficient Camels to mount personnel in Battalion, Reached Shellal Camp at 1700.	
	3		Companies in Battalion engaged settling down in new Bivouac area, and preparing scheme for Training.	
	4		Battalion commenced Route marches with a view to hardening up both men and Camels, Two companies going out on alternate days. The Two companies remaining in Bivouac carrying out a programme of Training.	
	5		Same procedure carried out as on 4 <sup>th</sup> March.	
	6		Route marches and training carried out as previously. Party of men under Major Hemphill sent back to Rafa to clean up Battalion lines in old camp site. Bedouins having dug up all Rubbish that was buried, by the Battalion.	
	7		Route marches and training carried out as previously. Later in day weather changed, and stormy night experienced.	
	8		Dull weather and Showery. Training operations carried out.	
	9		Camel Watering of Battalion, Route marches cancelled for this day. Training as usual carried on in camp	

- MAR 1918

572  
1

WAR DIARY

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Shellal	10.		<p>Sunday. Busy day in Camp having received Movement Orders for early next morning. All tents were dismantled at night and dumped. From this point the Battalion were to move away on a special Organisation scheme, whereby companies moved out at 5 Officers and 129 other Ranks, in addition each Company taking 25 spare Camels. All surplus gear was dumped and moved to Rafa where a Brigade Detail Camp was formed, with Major Hemphill in charge. Some 400 surplus men of the Brigade were left at this Dump. The work of removing the dump was a slow and arduous one on account of shortage of Trucks and it was a week before dump was finally established.</p>	
	11.		<p>Left Shellal at 0630. Arriving Hereira at 0945, leaving the latter point again at 1230 arrived Hulikat at 1830 (Dark). The Camels travelled well, but some difficulty was experienced in crossing Wadi, South of Barrier. The camp site was bad, had a good</p>	
	12		<p>nights rest. Brigade moved away at 0600 for Julis, arriving there at 0730. Camels were turned out for grazing which was poor. Left Julis at 1300, arriving at Gazur at 1600 Bivouaced for the night which was Showery.</p>	
	13		<p>Left at 0600 for Ras. Drain. Heavy Showers en route. Were held up on way By NZM Brigade moving out. Reached Bivouac area in S.Q. V25 B. at 1430. All camels arriving in good condition.</p>	
	14		<p>Busy completing Organisations and preparations for further Journey</p>	
	15		<p>Showery Day, and occupied as previous day.</p>	
	16		<p>Heavy Rain during the morning and continued preparations. Very wet night.</p>	
	17		<p>Moved away at 0800 for Hebron, Bethelam Road in S.Q. X32 C travelling via Junction Station. Shortly after moving out Rain came down in torrents Roads</p>	

- MAR 1918

5/2

WAR DIARY

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	17		all day in a very bad state. After passing Junction Stations Brigade ordered Battalions to make for Zachariyeh, first part of Road good, the latter bad and narrow tracks, finally reaching destination at 2340. Rain again during the night, all wet through.	
	18		Moved away at 0500 for Bethelam, the <del>greater</del> majority of the Brigade having to walk and lead their Camels through the mud during the morning. Afternoon trekking was over hilly country and was a long and slow journey, finally reached Solomon's Pools at 1650 and camped for the night. More heavy rain during the night.	
	19		Moved away at 0830 to a better camp site and rested during the day. A goodly number visiting the city of Bethelam.	
	20		Weather much better, Brigade again resting. Sick Camels evacuated to Camel Hospital.	
	21		Busy all day preparatory to moving out in the evening. Moved away at 1700 for Talal-el-Dumm via Jerusalem, arriving there at 0350, on 22nd.	
	22		Camped down and awaited Orders, drew drinking water at 1630 Rations at 1830 which arrived in camp at 2100 and were issued.	
	23		Watered Camels at 1000, drinking water drawn at 1430. Moved away for the Jordan at 2000. Received half an hour's notice for this move, and men being in bed, Roads good, reached Kasr-Hazlah at 0200 on 24th.	
	24		Moved along to head of Dead Sea at 0500, had breakfast on road and awaited our turn to cross over narrow Pontoon Bridge, at 1130, and moved forward into the hills and had lunch. In the afternoon received orders from Anzac Division asking Battalion to hurry long, as Turkish cavalry were in the vicinity. By the time we got up the enemy had <del>cleared out</del> and we received instructions to move on again at 1830.	

- MAR 1918

6/25

# WAR DIARY

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.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	24		with Demolition parties. We were held up awaiting reports and it was 2200 before we finally moved on. We travelled all night over steep and hilly Country, mostly being a single track. Rain commenced at 0300, the track still being continued, head of column halted at 0400, then moved on again at 0530, rain peaking down and intensely cold. Rained incessantly all the forenoon and the tracks were nothing but slush and mud, camels having a bad time getting over, and climbing hills. Halted at 1400, having caught up with the 2nd H. L. H. Brigade, whom we were able to ration and forage. Moved on again for Es-ir travelling via Naaur.	
	25		heavy Rain, and Roads very bad, column broken in half. Continued travelling all night at 0500 the rear half of column got on the wrong Road, but were again righted, and we passed the Anzac Mounted Division and reported at 0800 at Es-ir. Rested for the day. Anticipated moving on again at night but at 2000 received word to Rest on.	
	26		Moved away at 0830 for to Kasr. The N. Z. M. R. Brigade moving out on our Right. From here we split up our Battalion, we despatch 18th Company going South to Kissr, the 2nd Batt. to Hamman. The 1st Btm. in Reserve. The going was over good country but intensely boggy in places. Encountered enemy opposition on way but were able to work round to our destination which was reached at 1600. We proceeded with Demolition blowing up the line for nearly four miles and two culverts. Moved back towards Hamman at 1730 but on the way were asked by N. Z. M. R. Brigade	
	27			

- MAR 1918

6/24

WAR DIARY

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.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	27		to join in an attack on Amman. Turned in for rest at 0100 on 28 <sup>th</sup> .	
	28		Moved out 0600 on foot to take up position on right flank between N.Z.M.R. Brigade & the Railway. Ordered to proceed with Demolition at 1100. Encountered heavy fire all day. 13 <sup>th</sup> company were attacked, but counter attacked with success. The casualties were amounted to 5 killed & 21 wounded. Demolition completed at 1730, all companies withdrawn at about 2000.	
	29		Position quiet all day, in the evening weather changed to cold and showery. General arrangements made for attack to be launched.	
	30		Attack was carried out at 0200 in cold and showery weather. It was well carried out three ridges being gained. The new position left us open to Shell Fire and H.E. and we were heavily handicapped in not having Artillery Support, being impossible to get them up owing to bad transit. Heavy fighting lasted the whole day and the casualties were severe. During the afternoon we received notification of the intended withdrawal of the Hnzac Division. The work of bringing in the remaining wounded to the led camels and horses occupied considerable time and it was midnight before we finally moved out.	
	31.		Travelling on from midnight on 30 <sup>th</sup> the N.Z.M.R. Brigade leading, we joined up with the I.C. Brigade at 0500, and immediately received instructions to move on with the Brigade to Shunt Nimrin, arriving there about 1700. We drew six days Rations and issued them and had a good nights Rest. Men all very tired and worn out. Total casualties for the Battalion were: Killed 1 officer 23 other Ranks Wounded 6 " 98 " " Missing 1 " 9 " " Wounded and Remaining with Companies 3 Officers 20 other Ranks.	

- MAR 1918

673/6