

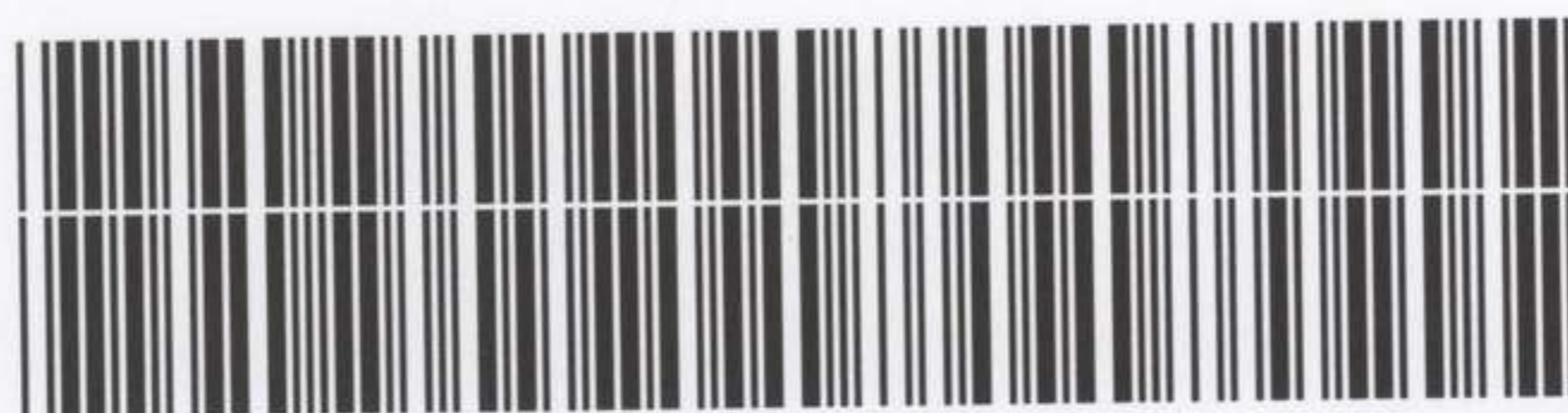
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

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October 1918



AWM4-26/26/15

A.D.M.S. 4TH CAVALRY DIVISION.

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October. DAMASCUS.

1st Arrived DAMASCUS & camped the night near the wireless station. No. 11 C.F.A. Mobile Section opened in two empty houses near the wireless.

2nd Lt.Col.Moore, R.A.M.C. Acting A.D.M.S. admitted to the Field Ambulance with fever. The Division moved into camp at DARAYA, No. 11 C.F.A. mobile section remained in its former situation owing to the number of cases held by them awaiting evacuation.

DARAYA.

3rd D.A.D.M.S. went to DAMASCUS to interview D.D.M.S., but failed to see him.

4th D.A.D.M.S. went to DAMASCUS & met D.D.M.S. Des.Corps. He advised evacuation by Lorries when running via EL KUNEITRA. At present this is impossible. Lt.Col.Moore R.A.M.C. evacuated sick to DAMASCUS.

5th Lt.Col. Beadles, R.A.M.C. took over duties of acting A.D.M.S. & proceeded to DAMASCUS to interview D.D.M.S., but returned not having found him. An inordinate number of cases of fever occurred in the division. As No. 11 C.F.A. mobile section is becoming congested with sick owing to the impossibility of evacuation No. 12 C.F.A. mobile section ordered to open & receive cases. Orders received for division to move the following day, and as no opportunity for evacuation has yet occurred it is imperative that Nos. 11 & 12 C.F.A. mobile sections remain behind until such time as they can empty. Bearer sections of above units were ordered to proceed with their respective brigades. Capt. Bartlett R.A.M.C. admitted to the F.A. with fever. As no petrol available all motor ambulances remain behind at DAMASCUS until a supply obtainable.

DAMASCUS. - EL.HAME.

6th Owing to the number of cases of fever which occurred yesterday No. 11 C.F.A. mobile section now holds about 250 cases & No. 12 C.F.A. mobile section approximately the same number. The Division marched

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6th (contd.) to EL.HAME. Lt.Col. Rutherford I.M.S. & Capt. T.Heson R.A.M.C. remaining behind with No. 11 C.F.A. & Capt. Corrie R.A.M.C. with No. 12 C.F.A. Capt. Catford R.A.M.C. & Capt. Hawkins R.A.M.C. proceeding in charge of the mobile bearer sections of the above F. Ambulances. Arrived EL.HAME. A large number of men fell out during the march, and must be evacuated. F.As. ordered to send all cases for evacuation to ration dump for evacuation in empty lorries returning to DAMASCUS. Lt.Col. Beadles R.A.M.C., acting A.D.M.S. admitted sick into the Field Ambulance.

EL.HAME - KHAN MEIZERUN.

7th 180 sick sent back to DAMASCUS in returning lorries. Division marched for KHAN MEUSERUN. A large number of cases of fever cases occurred during the march. Arrived at KHAN MEIZERUN. Units instructed that will take place by returning empty lorries to DAMASCUS.

KHAN MEIZERUN.

8th Approximately 190 cases evacuated by empty returning lorries to DAMASCUS. It is noteworthy that the men in some way connect the present outbreak with BEISAN and it was here that we came into contact with great numbers of captured Turks. Turkish doctors inform me that the health of the Turkish army was good, but that a disease which they called "Espaguol" accounted for large numbers of sick amongst them. No. 11 C.F.A. mobile section under Lt.Col. Rutherford joined this evening from DAMASCUS. Orders received for 12 Bde to proceed to BAR. ELIAS independently to H.Q. 10th & 11th Bdes going to ZEBDANI. As No. 12 C.F.A. mobile section is still in DAMASCUS, a certain amount of personnel, medicines & dressings were taken from No. 12 C.F.A. mobile section to accompany the Bde. D.H.Q. with 10th & 11th Bdes marched to ZEBDANI. 12th Bde to BAR. ELIAS.

ZEBDANI.

9th Lt.Col. Beadles R.A.M.C. evacuated. D.A.D.M.S. continued to carry out duties of A.D.M.S. Visited No. 10 & 11 C.F.A. & arranged with O.Cs. for distribution of work. Proposed that O.C. No. 11 C.F.A. should open his section in a large house in BLUDEIN about 4 miles from ZEBDANI, this being the only suitable place in the neighbourhood. Capt. Catford sent to report on the building & road. All evacuations to DAMASCUS stopped & BEIRUT not yet opened. Lt.Col. Beadles

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- 9th  
(contd.) R.A.M.C. evacuated to DAMASCUS. Some personnel from the Sanitary Section with medicines & dressings sent to 12th Bde. BAR ELIAS by motor to augment their establishment. Large numbers still going sick.
- 10th Attended conference between Divl. Commander & Bde. Commanders. I am now convinced that the greater proportion of cases of fever are malaria with a high percentage of the malignant type doubtless contracted in the Jordan valley at BEISAN and JEZRA, MAJAMI both of which places are notorious as the most malarial spots in Palestine & where mosquitoes were abundant. The incubation period would also correspond with this infection.
- 11th Orders received for troops at ZEBDANI to move next day to BAR ELIAS. No evacuation possible, decided that Lt. Col. Rutherford I.M.S. with his mobile section remain at BLUDEIN with his patients until such time as he can be evacuated. All sick in Brigades being taken on in the empty train waggons to EL. TIKKI in hopes that a train may be arranged to take them into BAR ELIAS on the morrow. 98 patients were accordingly carried forward this evening with Capt. Catford in charge.  
ZEBDANI - BAR ELIAS.
- 12th Visited No. 11 C.F.A. mobile section at BLUDEIN with Divisional Commander. Divnl. Commander has asked that a train may be sent to EL. TIKKE from DAMASCUS today to take patients to BAR ELIAS. Evacuation to DAMASCUS being closed. D.A.D.M.S. proceeded to BAR ELIAS & found that a Bde hosptl. had been opened in a specious building (a partially destroyed agricultural college) under Capt. Hawkins R.A.M.C. & that there were 250 patients. No. 11 C.F.A. mobile section arrived from DAMASCUS under Capt. Corrie this evening.  
BAR ELIAS.
- 13th Capts. Hawkins & Corrie both incapacitated with fever. 12th Bde. moved out en route for BAALBECK. D.A.D.M.S. took over sole charge of hospl. large numbers of cases being left behind by the outgoing Bde. At 10 pm train arrived from EL. TIKKE bringing 143 cases which were admitted. Total in hosptl. at midnight 574. Dvn. arrived at STORA.
- 14th Capt. Catford R.A.M.C. joined for duty. D.A.D.M.S. remained in charge of hospl. An officers ward opened in a partially

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- 14th (contd.) finished house near by. 12th Bde marched for LEBUE. D.H.Q. & 10th & 11th Bdes marched to BAALBECK.
- 15th D.A.D.M.S. remained at BAR ELIAS. Evacuation of patients to BEIRUT begun from to-day. Following M.Os. evacuated. Capt. Mangot R.A.M.C., Capt. Barfoot R.A.M.C. Sanitary Section.
- 16th Lt.Col.Gile I.M.S. took over acting A.D.M.S. D.A.D.M.S. remained at BAR ELIAS. Capt. Corrie R.A.M.C. evacuated sick, also Lt.Col.Rutherford I.M.S. from ZEBDANI to BEIRUT.
- 17th Capt.Catford R.A.M.C. left for Zebdani to bring the patients from there to BAR ELIAS hospl. by a train being arranged by Des. Corps from Zebdani to Moallaka.
- 18th News received of the death of Lt.Col. Rutherford, I.M.S. at BEIRUT of Malignant Malaria. Lt. Theron R.A.M.C. arrived at Moallaka by rail with 153 patients from Zebdani. 133 of these transported to BAR ELIAS hosptl. 20 being left in 5. Cav. D.R.S. Moallaka. Evacuation to BEIRUT temporarily suspended.

BAALBEK.

- 19th Col.H.Richardson A.D.M.S. rejoined the Division. Disposition of Medical units at this date as follows. 10th Cav. Bde C.F.A. at BAALBEK acting as Divl. Fd.Amb. less Capt.Thomson with Div.Coll.Station marching up from DAMASCUS. 11th C.B.C.F.A. marching from ZEBDANIE under Capt.Catford. 12th C.B.C.F.A. less Bearer Section at BAR ELIAS acting as tempy hospital for Divl. Details. Bearer Section with 12th Bde at LEBWE. Divisional Receiving Station marching from Damascus. The Division is 11 Med. officers under strength including Lt.Col.Moore sick at Damascus & Lt.Col Rutherford I.M.S. who died at BEYRUTH on 18th D.A.D.M.S. is superintending medical matters of Rear Div. H.Q. The Division is in exhausted condition having suffered severely from Malaria and Influenza of Damascus. Not considered fit to move at present & in urgent need of rest & warm clothing. Col.Richardson took over from A/A.D.M.S. Lt Col.Gill I.M.S. who gave a review of present situation as regards medical matters. Medical units are very weak & it is very necessary to get each Fd.Amb. together again & with its own Brigade.

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20th

A.D.M.S. & Lt.Col.Gill inspected Turkish Barracks where are 80 sick Turks & made arrangements for their care with Syrian doctor resident in the town. Issued orders for 11th Bde. C.F.A. to rejoin the 11th Bde at BAALBEK. 12th C.F.A. to remain at ELIAS being immobile for lack of drivers. Division ordered to move tomorrow. Advised G.O.C. Division not fit to move & that an increase of sickness to be expected if they did. This was represented to Des.Corps, Move cancelled. Advanced party of D.R.S. arrived MOALAKA by train.

21st

A.D.M.S. visited Receiving Station at MOUALAKA with G.O.C. 5th D.R.S. & part of 4th Cav. D.R.S. Sick being received also from Damascus. Evacuations are to Beirut by 9 heavy ambulances & also Motor lorries. Also 12th C.B.C.F.A. at Bar Elias where there are still 200 sick. Admissions are from Details only now & it is intended to reduce this hospital as soon as possible. Evacuation from it is by motor lorry to Beirut or Ambulance Motor to Div. R.S. at Moulaka. 11th Bde C.F.A. arrived & rejoined Bde. Only one British Officer, Capt. Catford. Capt. Walshe posted to 12th Bde C.F.A. & proceeded to LEBWE i/c Bearer Section there. Lt.Col.Gill proceeded to rejoin his own unit.

22nd

D.D.M.S. visited & discussed situation & strength of Units. Quinine being sent to 4th D.R.S. A.D.M.S. visited Dorset Yeo. Only 7 sick there to-day & one to hospital. Follicula tonsillitis appearing. Native milk suspected & supply stopped unless Regt. can ensure its boiling. Also fruit to be peeled or cleansed. Also visited 8th Bde C.F.A. and water point. Inspection of water carts to be carried out by Cpl. McCulloch. Inspected Turkish Disinfector reported on by Capt. Williams M.O.R.E. & arranged to have it put in working order & taken over temply by Capt. Williams. Wired D.D.M.S. re supply of drugs.

23rd

A.D.M.S. visited LEBWE & saw Capt. Walshe i/c 12th Bde. C.F.A. & the Brig. Genl. & went round Bde. with the M.Os. Camp good, men are getting good rations. In need of blankets & warm clothing. There are 3 M.Os to look after the Bde group & they are sufficient for the work. Water good & sanitation well looked after. Some drugs were taken up & note taken of those required. D.D.M.S. called on his way back from H.O.M.S. Sick admissions are reduced.

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- 24th Lts. Harrington reported & posted to Div. R.S. Lt. Watts to Div. R.S. also. D.M.S. called & took note of urgent need for drivers A.S.C. for Field Ambulances. Capt. Malhoutre rejoined 27th Lancers for duty from hospital.
- 25th A.D.M.S. visited Div. R.S. at MOOALAKA. This at present consists of the 3 Immobile Sections, all are weak in personnel, but M.Os. are up to strength. The sick are accommodated in a house for more serious cases, 18 Bell tents & 3 op. tents & a large shed is also in use. Owing to congestion in Beirut there are about 400 cases in hospital for whom there is not enough equipment, but they are all getting food & shelter & the more serious can be well looked after. An officers guard is needed to regulate the natives who trespass on the hospital. G.O.C. Div. is going to arrange. Also visited 5th Bde C.F.A. Bar ELIAS where there are 50 cases left. 14 serious, only a few admissions here, decided to leave them in present site to relieve D.R.S. till Beirut again open. This unit still immobile for want of Drivers A.S.C. H.T. D.A.D.M.S. still remaining at BAR ELIAS.
- 26th Visited 11th Bde. C.F.A. who have a small hospital in house at BAALBEK. Their Bde ordered to move back tomorrow. Office work.
- 27th Inspected sanitation generally. Town in filthy condition. Governor to be interviewed to organize scavenging. Capt. Brown reported & posted to 11th Bde. C.F.A. on 25th. Admissions for W.E. 26th 343. Lt. Harrington I.M.S. posted to 12th C.F.A. Lt. Watts to 10th
- 29th Visited Xth Bde area. Still some sickness but rations are good & warm clothing is arriving.
- 30th Lt. Col. Beadles visited from 12th C.F.A. Total admissions during operations 19.1X.18 - 22.X.18 were 3256 = 46% of Divl strength. 1% wounded 45% sick (Br. 2045. Ind. 1211). Cases of Pyrexia including Malaria 2194 = 31% Malaria 1800 = 25%. Many more cases must have been admitted to hospital of whom there is no trace in our A & D books & sick rate was probably 50% & Malaria at least 35% about half of which was Malaria. Health of troops is improving, but they are not fit for hard work.

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31st Visited Divl. Receiving Station at MOALAKA  
& 12th Bde. C.F.A. at BAR ELIAS.

H. RICHARDSON,  
Colonel,  
A.D.M.S. Four Cav.