

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/68/2

Title: 6th Battery, Australian Field Artillery

October 1914 - March 1915



AWM4-13/68/2

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<u>1914</u>			
Oct 28/31	ALBANY	Remained at anchor.	
Nov. 1	" 6am	Sailed for Solomons, "Oriveto"	
		<p>flagship weighed anchor about 6am. Portion of transport "Thurston" No 3 in starboard (No 3) Division of 10 transports. 1st (centre) division comprised 9 transports, and port (2nd) division, seven ships. New Zealand transport 10 ships followed in two divisions</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>J.M.M.</u></p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Nov 3	AT SEA	Transports "Medic" and "Ascanius" with West Australian units joined the convoy (port division).	
" 9	" "	Received news of the destruction of the German cruiser EMDEN by "HMAS" "SYDNEY".	
12	" "	One horse died, (gangrenous pneumonia)	
14	" "	One horse died, (colic). Total to date 3.	
15	COLOMBO	Arrived at Colombo, anchored	
16	" "	outside breakwater. One horse died (gangrenous pneumonia) total 4.	
17	" "	Sailed from Colombo for ADEN, after procuring water, at inner harbor	J.M.M.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<p>1914 Nov 20</p>	<p>AT SEA 435 am.</p>	<p>H.M.A.T. Shropshire, forming part of detached division (3rd) which had sailed from Colombo about 6 hours after remainder of fleet, was struck by H.M.A.T. Ascarius, which was in rear, having taken the place of H.M.A.T. Atrix from Colombo. The Ascarius, with port side of her bows, struck the stem of the Shropshire, slightly on the starboard side. The collision threw the Shropshires stem slightly round to port.</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 Nov 20	AT SEA 4 ³⁰ am	<p>and the Ascarius coming on again struck the <u>Shropshire</u> a glancing blow nearly amidships on the starboard side. Collision stations were immediately given from the bridge, and the battery fell in, with lifebelts, and the roll was called and all the personnel of the battery accounted for. Meanwhile two rockets were sent up from the bridge in consequence of a report that at the first <u>Explos.</u></p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 Nov 20	AT SEA 4.35 am	<p>impact two men had fallen overboard. This report probably arose from the fact that some men who were sleeping near the stern lost blankets or hammocks overboard. The men remained at collision stations for just over an hour, by which time it was ascertained that the ship had not sustained any injury below the water line and the men were then dismissed. Inspection of</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<p>1914 Nov 20</p>	<p>AT SEA</p>	<p>the ship showed that the damage was confined to the smashing of the starboard portion of the after bridge and the destruction of the railing and part of the upper portion of several plates on the stern, from the first impact, and the bending of certain of the stanchions and upper portion of some plates amidships from the second impact, with minor damage to woodwork. The discipline</p>	<p><i>mm</i></p>

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 Nov 21	AT SEA	of the troops throughout was excellent,	
Nov 25	ADEN	arrived at ADEN, early morning	
Nov. 26	ADEN	Sailed for Suez, early morning	
Dec. 1	SUEZ	arrived at Suez, morning, and anchored. Sailed for PORT SAID the same evening.	
Dec 2	PT SAID	arrived at PORT SAID, forenoon. Sailed in the evening and anchored in the roadstead, about 3 miles from PT SAID	
Dec 3,		Sailed for ALEXANDRIA under orders to disembark and go	

6 Batts. 2 AF A Bde.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 Dec 3	PT SAID	into camp at MENA near CAIRO	
Dec 4	ALEXANDRIA.	Arrived at Alexandria, morning. Came alongside pier during evening (about sundown)	
Dec 5	"	Commenced disembarkation. Despatched two officers (2/Lts Gallyp and Dode with 56 v.c.os. and men and 56 horses) for CAIRO. Remainder continued disembarkation.	
6	"	Remainder of battery (less Capt Stevenson and details) entrained for CAIRO. Arrived afternoon and went to camp at <u>Ymu</u>	

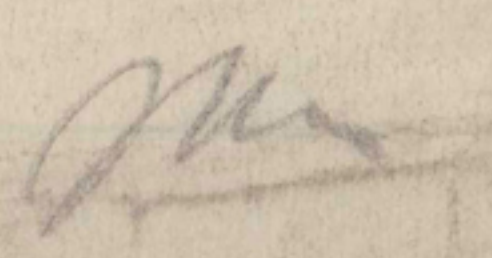
Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 Dec 6		MENA. Bivouacked for the night	
" 7	MENA	Pitched camp, at MENA, near Pyramids	
" 8	"	Captain Stevenson and details arrived from ALEXANDRIA. Programme of work for ensuing week, section gun drill, and exercising horses (walking exercises only, horses being led.)	
" 13	"	Remained in camp at MENA. Programme of work for ensuing week, section gun drill, semaphore signalling and instruction of	JAM

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 Dec 13	MENA (EGYPT)	Battery specialists, walking exercise for horses	
" 21	"	Battery engaged in brigade manoeuvre with other units of brigade, horse being hooked in teams but without vehicles	
Dec 28 1915 Jan 1	" "	one horse destroyed owing to injury to vertebrae The battery paraded at MENA to hear address by Sir George Reid, High Commissioner for Australia	
4	"	Battery paraded complete with first line wagons.	
7		message from General Birdwood to all ranks outlining over command of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.	J.M.S.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
<p>1915 January</p>	<p>7 MENA</p>	<p>Two horses destroyed by order of veterinary officer, on account of laminitis, which developed on shipboard. These were the only losses since disembarking. ^(with the exception of one horse destroyed on 28/12/14) Total losses since sailing from Australia:— on ship, 5, destroyed since, 3; total 8. Strength now 118 horses.</p>	
	<p>21.</p>	<p>Elementary shell practice, near Pyramids.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jmm</p>	

6th Bty

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 Jan'y 28	MENA	Battery engaged in trench work and barrages, on night of Jan'y 28/29	
Feb'y 3	MENA	2/Lieuts F E Gallip and AW Dodd promoted Lieutenant	(1/1/15)
5		Lts Woodgett, Howard (2) and Jenkins returned to Australia for mismanagement; Lt Hulse gradually unfit	
7		Five men transferred to battery from Brigade ammunition column	
8		Horse no 4082, destroyed by order of Veterinary Officer Shell practice, south of pyramids	J. M.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915 Feb 10	MENA	7 men allotted to battery from B.A.C. being 5% in excess of establishment	
20	"	Divisional signal exercise on terrain east of camp.	
23	"	Shell practice	
27	"	Orders to be ready to take the field immediately, to follow 3rd Infantry Brigade, leaving on the 28th inst	
Mar	2	Shell practice	
	16	Practised drawing a pulley guns and weapons up angle of slope of 4.5 degrees on ground	

1914-15

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
MU 16	MENA	near the Great Pyramid (north side)	
19	"	Tactical scheme for divisional artillery.	
26	"	Tactical scheme for divisional artillery in conjunction with other arms	
29	"	Divisional artillery and Divisional Sign Horse Regiment (4 th) inspected by General Sir Ian Hamilton	Jm.
April 1 st	MENA	Divisional tactical scheme in conjunction with all arms	Jm.

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