

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

Infantry

Item number: 23/24/1

Title: 7th Infantry Battalion

August 1914 - February 1915



AWM4-23/24/1

7th. BATTALION. A.I. FORCE.



Camp, MENA.
16/2/15.

CONFIDENTIAL.

443

FROM C.O. 7th. Battalion. A.I.F..
TO O.C., Aust. Section Base Depot,
4 Rond Point Suares,
CAIRO.

Herewith War Diary of 7th. Battalion since
14th. August 1914 to 10th. February 1915, with Appendices
A to J attached.

Please acknowledge receipt hereon.



A. S. Stewart
.....Lt. Col.
C.O. 7th. BN. A.I. Force.

7th Bty. (Horse) (Australia)

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
14 th Aug.	Melbourn	Instructions to raise 7 th Batta. A.I.F. from 17 th Batta Brigade Area comprising 58 th , 60 th , 66 th + 67 th Battalions, with the additional training areas temporarily attached to them. Names of volunteers had previously been enclosed.	
"	MOONEE POND	Went Territorial Battalion commanders for lists of their officers + n.c.o. who had volunteered + asking for their recommendations in order of merit.	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
15 th Aug	MOONEE PONDS.	<p>7th Battalion Order NOT Issued with instructions as to enrollment & assembling troops at BROAD MEADOWS.</p> <p>I suggest in future that if an expeditionary force is being raised the Battalion Commander of the Expeditionary force be made a temporary Brigadier of the Brigade etua^m to which he is raising the Battalion & all communication to Battalion Commander from D.H.Q. be sent through him. This will obviate contradictory orders being issued</p>	<p>See CW 10/14</p>

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
15 th Aug.	MOONEE PONDS.	causing confusion and delay	
16 th Aug.	..	<p>Interviewed Officers whose names had been submitted for selection. Owing to my previous connection with the 58th + 60th Infantry Battalions I knew the Officers of these Battalions thoroughly + had made a tentative selection of them before my own appointment + with a view to the necessary action if employed. Hence selection was easy.</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
18 th Aug	MOONEE PONDS.	Battalion Order No 3 issued with instructions for assembly at Victoria Barracks on 19/8/14	
19 th Aug	..	assembled at Victoria Barracks so far as enrollment completed + Battalion marched to BROADMEADOWS under MAJOR MCNICHOE total marching in State 15 officers and 556 other ranks	
20 th Aug	..	Battalion Order No 5 issued with instructions for training in Camp.	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
21 Aug	BROAD-MEADOWS.	<p>Proceeded to Broad BROAD MEADOWS with Battalion H. A. The existing organization of functional battalions in my opinion immensely facilitated the assembly & selection of recruits & provided a wide field of selection for officers.</p>	
22 "	"	<p>Morning State 23 officers & 829 other ranks</p>	
23 "	"	<p>Morning State 23 officers & 857 O. R.</p>	
25 "	"	<p>" " 28 officers & 1015 O. R. thus being 20 over strength for 1st time.</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
26 th Aug.	BROAD-	Morning State 28 Specimens + 10150, O. R.	Instructions to
27 th "	MEADOWS	" " 29 " + 10020, O. R.	discharge all
28 th "		" " 30 " + 959, O. R.	unharmful men
29 th "		" " 31 " 974 "	reduced strength
30 th "		" " 31 " 931 "	
31 st "		" " 31 " 933 "	
1 st Sept		" " 31 " 939 "	
2 nd Sept		" " 30 " 929 "	
3 rd "		" " 32 " 969 "	
4 th "		" " 32 " 963 "	
5 th "		" " 32 " 973 "	
6 th "		" " 32 " 976 "	
7 th "		" " 32 " 981 "	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
8 th Sept	BROAD-	Morning State 32 Off + 991, Oth. R.	
9 th Sept	MEADOWS	" 32 " + 1006, Oth. R.	
10 th	"	" 32 " + 1007 " "	
11 th "	"	" 32 " + 1008 " "	
12 "	"	" 32 + 1012 " "	
13 "	"	" 32 + 1008 " "	
14 "	"	" 32 + 1009 " "	Instructions
15 "	"	" 32 + 1009 " "	to recruit
16 "	"	" 32 + 1013 " "	50% over strength
17 "	"	" 32 + 1048 " "	The constant
18 "	"	" 32 + 1036 " "	addition of
19 "	"	" 32 + 1058 " "	new recruits
20 "	"	" 32 + 1052	increased training

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
21 st Sept.	BROAD-MEADOWS.	Morning state 32 off + 1052 Oct. R.	It is my deliberate
22 nd Sept.	" "	" " 32 " + 1053, Oct. R.	opinion that
23 rd Sept	" "	" " 32 " + 1052 " "	would you
24 th Sept	" "	" " 32 " + 1051 " "	have good
25 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1047 " "	instructors &
26 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1038 " "	given 3 weeks
27 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1038 " "	training, the
28 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1032 " "	untrained man
29 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1033	is equal to the
30 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1033	Belgian trainee
1 st Oct	" "	" " 32 " + 1031	but the reference
2 nd "	" "	" " 32 " + 1036	is not a

C.11056.

N.60 instructors

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
3 rd Oct	BROAD-	Morning state 32 off + 1036 O.M.R.	
4 th Oct	MEADOWS	" " 32 " + 1034 " "	
5 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1033 " "	
6 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1033 " "	
7 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1033 " "	
8 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1032 " "	
9 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1033 " "	
10 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1034 " "	
11 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1031 " "	
12 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1030 " "	
13 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1028 " "	
14 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1026 " "	
15 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 1022 " "	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
16 th Oct	BROAD-	Morning State 32 off + 102204 R.	
17 th "	MEADOWS	" " 32 " + 1022 " "	Instructions to Embark.
18 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 193 " "	Balance transferred to 1 st Reinforcements
19 th "	2 nd Squadron 1 st Force	" " 32 " + 991 " "	Balance 2 returned by Pilote Boat.
20 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	
21 st "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	
22 nd "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	
23 rd "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	
24 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	
25 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	Crawled Albany Harbor
26 th "	" "	" " 32 " + 991 " "	Albany Harbor

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
27 th Oct	"HOROKATI"	<p>Morning State 320 off & 990 other Ranks Colon Sgt O. MARA "F" Coy reported missing. Board of Inquiry appointed to enquire into case. Boats crew despatched to search cliffs.</p>	
6 Dec	1914	<p>covered at Cairns Penia Camp Morning State 320 peers & 991 other ranks including one Stowaway</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1 st Jan 1915	Mena	<p>Pte Gell later on strength to replace O Medina He also had 4 other stowaway shot on the strength who came along with the Regiment. Instructions received to form double companies as from this date I combined A & B to form new A Coy C & D to form new B Coy, & E & F to form new C Coy & G & H to form new D Coy. In this way the territorial basis of the Regiment was still preserved.</p>	
C.11056.		<p>The other strength of the Regiment was increased to 1026 + the four stowaways at Mena on strength</p>	

28th Jan }
3rd Feb }
6th Feb }

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
28 th Jan		<p>I however transferred Capt Henderson from ^{old "B"} "B" Coy to command the new C. Coy. + Capt Weddell to new A Coy. In this way I secured Capt C. C. Mason as a double company commander of new A Coy. + Capt Henderson of new "C" Coy as I regarded Mason + Henderson as better than Weddell + McRenna.</p> <p>Pte Lutke of "E" Coy having died was struck off the strength.</p>	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1st 2 nd Feb 1915	Mena	Instructions received to march to Casso & entrench for Somalia	
3 rd Feb 1915	Somalia	<p>arrived here. Strength on arrival 32 officers & 90 other ranks Balance accounted for as under Details left in Mena as instructed 1 Staff Sgt, 1 Sgt, 40. Ranks Total 6. in Hospital. 8 Total 64</p> <p>N.B.D. Instructors at Detention Barracks Aden - 2 Signaller at Aden - 1 In Detention invalided to Australia. Transferred to other units total</p>	<p>9 26 90</p>

C.11156.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
3 rd Feb	Somalia	<p>Truck off the strength 6 N.C.O.'s & men returned to Australia included as mentioned above. One man</p>	transferred to Base HQ
5 th Feb.	Somalia	<p>Truck off the strength two men in detention at Cairo named McCarter sentenced to six months imprisonment & discharge for assaulting N.C.O.</p>	
r	9:30 pm	<p>Received from Brigadier order in regard to subsequently cancelled</p>	See Appendix A

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Ismaïli			
7 th Feb.	Ismaïli 2:15 pm	Received from Brigadier Order in Margel.	see Appendix B
" "	" 3:35 pm	Issued my Operations Order in Margel	see Appendix "F"
		<p>Strength on this date.</p> <p>32 officers + 984 O.R.</p> <p>made up as under.</p> <p>On Parade 32 officers O.R. 576 ⁸⁹⁷</p> <p>Hospital O.R. 64</p> <p>Back in Camp O.R. 5</p> <p>At Base + O.R. 9</p> <p>Detention 9</p>	
		Total O.A. 32 — OR 984	

C.11056.

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
7 th Feb	Tornubha 7.30pm	Received from Brigadier his Order No 4	See Appendix "D"
..	.. 8.45pm	Issued to Capt Mason my Operation Order No 2	See Appendix "E"
8 th Feb	.. 9am	Capt Mason's party left for Serapeuin Hill 4 officers 1070.R including 1 R.C. Chaplain attached	} See Appendix "F"
9 th Feb	..	Received from Brigadier his Order No 5	} See Appendix "H" "G"
..	" 12.25pm 2pm	Issued my Operation Order No 3 joined by 56 reinforcements 21 sick returned to duty & 3 from detention	} See Appendix "A" "H"

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
9 th Feb	Jomailin	Received Operation Order Nos from Brigadier.	See Appendix "I"
10 th Feb	"	Issued my Operation Order No 4 for return to Mena	See Appendix "J."

Copy.

APPENDIX. A.

Headquarters.
2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde.
ISMAILIA.

O.C. 7th. Bn..

(1) You will detail two Coys. under command of your second in command to proceed to ISMAILIA FERRY STATION to occupy the trenches there. Maj. Mc.Nicoll will report to Col. Ellesmere 56th. P.Rifles.

Twenty-four hours rations and forage to be carried in haversacks.

Your cook's cart will accompany the Two Coys. with proportion of Camp Equipment.

Proportion of first line Transport will also accompany the detachment.

One blanket and ground sheet per Officer and man. The detachment is not to reach the FERRY station before 10 a.m. as the road will not be clear earlier.

2. The remainder of your Bn. is the Unit "in readiness". See "normal method of move", but you will have only one water cart, maltese cart, one waggon limbered G.S. for signalling etc., one waggon limbered for M.G. and belts and two S.A.A. carts..

Otherwise the "normal method of move" applies in its entirety.

You require to be able to move within one hour of notice to move.

Men however go to bed as usual, but everything must be ready for instant action.

(Signed) J.W.Mc.Cay Colonel
Cdg. 2nd. I.B..

5/2/15
9.27 p.m..

APPENDIX. B

COPY.

Operation Order No. 3 by Col. J.W. Mc. Cay
O.C. 2nd. Inf. Bde..

ISMAILIA.

7/2/15.

1. "C" & "D" Coys., 8th. BN. and 2 platoons "A" Coy, 7th. BN. will move from ISMAILIA BIVOUAC on 8th. February 1915, at hour to be notified later. They will carry 150 rounds S.A.A. per man on the soldier with 100 rounds per man in boxes. Twenty-four hours cooked rations to be carried in haversacks. Three day's preserved meat and biscuit ration in haversack, or otherwise as practicable, or further notified.
2. "C" Coy, 8th. Bn. will be able to use Bn. transport for all purposes. "D" Coy, 8th. BN. will on arrival at destination, be ^{provided} ~~paraded~~ with 12 mules to carry S.A.A. and 30 mules to carry blankets. Troops will carry W.P. sheets and at least 1 blanket per man. Cooking equipment to be taken. Three day's reserve of fuel to be taken.
3. It is intended to supply uncooked rations daily to avoid breaking in on reserve rations.
4. "C" Coy. 8th. BN. will probably move by road. "D" Coy. 8th. BN. by train. 2 Platoons "A" Coy, ^{7th. BN.} by road and launch.
5. 2nd. in command, 8th. BN. will proceed with "D" Coy. 8th. BN. and Assistant Adjt. may be permitted to accompany him. O.C. Coy. and C.S. Major, or C.Q.M.S. at the option of the Coy. commander, with the 2 Platoons "A" Coy., 7th. BN.
6. No 1st. line transport drivers and no horses will accompany troops.

(Signed) W.E. Cass Major
Bde. Major, 2nd. Inf. Bde..

Dictated to Adjutant 2.30 p.m..

COPY.

APPENDIX. 6.

Operation Order No. 1. Copy. No. D.
by Lieut. Col. H. E. Elliott, C.O. 7th. Bn. A.I.F..

ISMAILIA.
7/2/15.

1. 2 Platoons "A" Coy. 7th. Bn. will move from ISMAILIA BIVOUAC on 8th. February 1915 at an hour to be notified later. They will carry 150 S.A.A. per man on the soldier and 100 rounds per man in boxes.
Twenty-four hours cooked rations to be carried in haversacks. Three day's preserved meat and biscuit ration to be carried in haversack or otherwise as practicable or further notified.
2. Troops will carry W.P. sheets and at least 1 Blanket per man.
Cooking equipment to be taken.
Three days reserve of fuel to be taken.
3. It is intended to supply uncooked rations daily to avoid breaking in on reserve rations.
4. O.C. "A" Coy. and C.S. Major or C.Q.M.S. at option of Coy. commander will accompany the Platoons.
5. No 1st. line transport drivers or horses will accompany troops.

(Signed) C. Finlayson Captain
Adj. 7th. Btn.. A.I.F...

Copy No.	1	Filed	
" "	2	O.C. "A" Coy.	3.35 p.m. by Orderly
" "	3	Q.M.	3.35 p.m. personally.

COPY.

APPENDIX.

7th. BATTALION. A.I. FORCE.

7/2/15.

PARADE STATE.

	H.Q.	"A" Coy.	"B" Coy.	"C" Coy.	"D" Coy.	TOTAL.
STRENGTH	4	7 246	7 242	7 246	7 250	32 984
Present	2	5 202	7 198	7 227	6 216	27 843
Hospital		18	11	14	21	64
Sick in Camp					5	5
Duty at Mena & Cairo.		3	4	2	-	9
Detention		2	4	3	-	9
Duty in Camp.	2	2 21	25	-	1 8	5 54
	4	7 246	7 242	7 246	7 250	32 984

TOTAL ON PARADE :- Offs. O.R. TOTAL
 27 843 = 870.

COPY.

APPENDIX. D.

Operation Order No. 4 by Col. J.W. Mc. Cay,
O.C. 2nd. Inf. Bde..

ISMAILIA.
7/2/15.

1. With reference to Operation Order No. 3 the Detachments of New Zealand Infantry now at EL FERDAN, HOSPITAL BATTERY, FERRY POST and SERAPEUM will be relieved by detachments from the 2nd. Australian BRIGADE as follows:-

EL FERDAN, EAST Bank	$\frac{1}{2}$ Coy. "D" Coy. 8th. Bn.
EL FERDAN WEST Bank	" " " "
HOSPITAL BATTERY, WEST Bank	$\frac{1}{2}$ " "C" " "
FERRY POST, EAST Bank	$\frac{1}{2}$ " " " "
SERAPEUM	Coy. Staff & 2 Platoons "A" Coy., 7th. Bn. as detailed.

2. The detachments will be relieved weekly.
3. The detachment at SERAPEUM will be under the orders of G.O.C., SERAPEUM sub-section, Canal Defence.
4. The detachments at FERRY POST, HOSPITAL BATTERY, and EL FERDAN, East Bank will be under the orders of G.O.C., 28th. (FF) Bde..
5. The detachment at EL FERDAN will be under the orders of G.O.C., 32nd. (I.S.) Bde..
6. Detachments will be relieved weekly by Australian and New Zealand troops alternately.
7. Movements to and from the FERRY POST and HOSPITAL BATTERY will be by road; the relieving detachments to reach these places by 11.30 a.m.
8. Movements to and from EL FERDAN will be by emergency train leaving ISMAILIA Station at 7.30 a.m..
9. Movements to and from SERAPEUM will be by launch leaving CUSTOM HOUSE JETTY at 9 a.m..
10. Men will carry 24 hours cooked rations. Subsequently the ration and fuel arrangements will be made by the supply Officer with the Australian Brigade. Any reserve rations with the New Zealand Detachments will be handed to relieving detachments, O's C. of which will check and give a receipt for supplies handed over.
11. Detachments will invariably remain on their posts until actually relieved.

(Signed) W.E. Cass Major
Bde. Major, 2nd. Inf. Bde..

Dictated to Adj. 7th. Bn..
7.30 p.m..

COPY.

APPENDIX. F.

OPERATION ORDER No. 2
by Lieut. Col. H. E. Elliott, C.O.,
7th. Bn. A.I.F..

Copy No. 1.

ISMAILIA.
7/2/15

1. With reference to Operation Order No. 1, the detachment of New Zealand Infantry now at SERAPEUM. will be relieved by 2 platoons "A" Coy., 7th. Bn. and Coy. Staff as already detailed.
2. The detachment will be under the orders of G.O.C., SERAPEUM sub-section CANAL Defence.
3. The detachment will be relieved weekly by New Zealand and Australian troops alternately.
4. Launch for SERAPEUM ^{will leave} and CUSTOM HOUSE JETTY at 9 a.m..
5. Men will carry 24 hours cooked rations. Three days fuel will be carried. Subsequently the ration and fuel arrangements will be made by the Supply Officer with the Australian Brigade. Any reserve rations with the New Zealand Detachment will be handed to relieving detachment, the O.C. of which will check and give a receipt for supplies handed over.
6. The detachment will invariably remain on its post until actually relieved.

(Signed) C. Finlayson Captain
Adj. 7th. Bn.. A.I.F..

Copy No. 1	Filed) 8.45 p.m..
" " 2	To O.C. "A" Coy. personally	
" " 3	To Q.M. personally	

COPY.

APPENDIX. E.

MARCHING OUT STATE OF RIGHT HALF "A" Coy., 7th. Bn. A.I.F..

8/2/15.

	OFFICERS	O. RANKS.	REMARKS.
	3	101	
Attached	1	2	Coy. H.Q. Signallers Chaplain
		2	Bn. H.Q. Signallers
		2	Bn. H.Q. Stretcher Brs.
TOTAL.	<u>4</u>	<u>107.</u>	

APPENDIX. G.

OPERATION ORDER No. 5 by Col. the Hon. J.W.Mc.Cay V.D.,
2nd. Aust. Inf. Bde..

ISMAILIA, 9/2/15.

1. For the night of 9/10th. February to the night of 15/16th. February both inclusive, the 2nd. Aust. Brigade will provide the sentry groups for the protection of the Australian and New Zealand troops. The groups are to be mounted by 6 p.m. and will be withdrawn at 6 a.m. These will be provided as follows, subject to alterations caused by troops proceeding on other duties.

9/10	Feb.	7th. Bn.
10/11	"	8th. Bn.
11/12	"	7th. Bn.
12/13	"	7th. Bn.
13/14	"	8th. Bn.
14/15	"	7th. Bn.
15/16	"	7th. Bn..

2. An Officer will be detailed daily by the Bn. furnishing the groups to command the line of groups. He will visit them all twice during the night.
3. All sentry groups are to be carefully warned of troops going out for night exercise.

(Signed) W.E. Cass Major
Bde. Major, 2nd. Inf. Bde..

COPY.

Copy No. 1.

APPENDIX H.

Operation Order No. 3 by Lieut. Col. H. E. Elliott,
C.O., 7th. Bn. A.I.F..

ISMATLIA.
9/2/15.

1. For the night of 9/10 Feby. to the night of 15:16th. Feby., Both inclusive, the 2nd. Aust. Brigade will provide the sentry groups for the protection of the Australian and New Zealand troops. The groups are to be mounted by 6 p.m. and will be withdrawn at 6 a.m.. They will be provided by the 7th. Bn. on dates as follows, subject to alterations caused by troops proceeding on other duties:-
9/10 Feb.
11/12 "
12/13 "
14/15 "
15/16 "
2. "C" Coy. will furnish 2 platoons for above duties for night 9/10 Feby..
3. Captain Henderson will command the line of groups. He will visit them all twice during the night
4. All sentry groups are to carefully warned of troops going out for night exercise.

(Signed) C. Finlayson Captain
Adj. 7th. Bn.. A.I.F..

Copy No. 1 Filed
" " 2 O.C. "C" Coy. 12.25 p.m..

APPENDIX. I

Operation Order No. 5 by Col. the Hon. J.W.Mc.Cay V.D.,
Commanding 2nd. Inf. Bde..

ISMAILIA. 9/2/15.

1. Bde. H.Q., 7th. Bn., 8th. Bn. and Bde. Section Divl. ~~Inf~~ Sig. Coy. and Supply Details A.S.C.. will return to Mena Camp, Cairo by train leaving ISMAILIA Station goods platform as follows:-
Thursday 11th. Feb. 7.30 a.m. B.H.Q. & $\frac{1}{2}$ 8th. Bn..
8.30 a.m. Half 8th. Bn.
Friday 12th. February 7.30 a.m.. Bde. Sec. Divl. Sig. Coy. & $\frac{1}{2}$ 7th. Bn.
8.30 a.m. Half 7th. Bn. & Supply Details A.S.C..
2. Bn. Cndrs. will divide the H.Q. and other details of their commands in such a way as to suit the train accomodation.
3. Trains will be ready for loading each day at 6 a.m. and 7.45 a.m. respectively.
4. Trains are timed to reach Cairo each day at 12.15 p.m. and 2 p.m. respectively. Bn. Cndrs. will make the necessary arrangements re rations & forage.
5. On arrival at Cairo each train load will proceed to ~~El~~ Mena by route march not waiting for any other trains to arrive.
6. The transport Details A.S.C. now with the Bde. will remain at ISMAILIA whilst the Yeomanry Brigade remains there but it will return with the Brigade the rations brought with the Brigade including the 7 days reserve rations.
7. Of the 382 boxes of S.A.A. from Zagazig in possession of the Brigade 280 will be loaded into trucks at a place and hour to be detailed later by a fatigue 50 men 7th. Battalion which will also provide any transport necessary. The remaining 102 boxes will be delivered to the O.C. New Zealand Infantry Brigade and a receipt taken for them.
8. The detachment now in posts along the canal will be withdrawn tomorrow as follows:-
At EL FERDAN - by train leaving about 11 a.m., at the FERRY POST (E Bank) by ferry and route march leaving at 11 a.m., O.C. 8th. Bn. to have necessary transport at the Ferry. At the HOSPITAL BATTERY on Being relieved by 1 platoon New Zealand Infantry at 11 a.m.. O.C. 8th. Bn. to have necessary transport at the Battery at that hour. At SEREPEUM by lurch leaving at 3.30 p.m.. O.C. 7th. Bn. to provide necessary transport from the CUSTOM HOUSE JETTY. Except in the case of the HOSPITAL BATTERY the platoons will not be replaced.
9. Advance parties of 1 Officer and 3 men will be sent to Mena by the m 10 a.m. train from ISMAILIA. tomorrow morning.
10. O's C. Bns. will be responsible for guarding rations or stores on either or both their trains and will supply any fatigues necessary to assist in moving, loading or unloading them.
11. The Bde. Major and Vet. Officer will remain at ISMAILIA till the second troop train on Friday 12th. inst..
12. Haversack rations at discretion of C.O.
13. Fatigue parties will be detailed by the 7th. and 8th. Bns. as directed later to assist in loading and unloading supplies.

(Signed) W.E. Cass Major
Bde. Major, 2nd. Inf. Bde..

APPENDIX. J.

Operation Order No. 4 by Lieut. Col. H. E. Elliott,
C.O., 7th. Bn.. A.I.F..

ISMAILIA. 10/2/15.

1. The 7th. Bn. will return to MENA CAMP, Cairo. by train leaving ISMAILIA Station Goods Platform as follows:-
Friday 7.30 a.m.. Left Half
" 8.30 a.m. Right Half.
Headquarter details will be divided to suit the train accommodation.
2. Trains will be ready for loading at 6 a.m. and 7.45 a.m. respectively.
3. Trains are timed to reach CAIRO. at 12.15 p.m. and 2 p.m..
4. Each train load will proceed to MENA by route march independently.
5. The detachment stations at SERAPEUM will be relieved today by launch leaving at 3.30 p.m.. Transport Officer to provide necessary transport from CUSTOMS HOUSE JETTY.
6. Captain Mc.Kenna and 3 men will leave ISMAILIA by 10 a.m. train today as Advance Party.
7. Twenty four hours cooked rations to be carried by all ranks in haversacks. Twenty-four hours forage for horses also.

(Signed) C. Finlayson Captain
Adj. 7th. Bn.. A.I.F..

Copy No. 1 Filed
" " 2 To O.C. SERAPEUM Detachment.
Dictated to O's C. 9 a.m..

11/2/15.

Appendix to Operation Order No 4.

1. Composition of trains:-

- 1 brake van.
- 1 1st class car.
- 1 2nd class car.
- 11 3rd class cars.
- 4 horse trucks.
- 3 10 ton trucks.
- 3 flats.
- 1 brake van.

2. No 1 train will carry the following:-

- Brake van - Officers luggage.
- 1st class car. - Officers of "C" and "D" Coys.
- 2nd class car. - Coy. S.M's.
- Coy. Q.M.S's.
- Platoon Sergeants.
- Staff Sergeants.
- 5 3rd class cars - "D" Coy.
- 5 3rd " " - "C" Coy.
- 1 3rd " " - Bde. Signal Section and cooks 7th Btn.
- Horse trucks (a. 6 riding horses, 2 Sig. riding horses, 1 Sig. pack.
- (b. 1 Sig. pack. 2 Sig. draughts. 6 Pack.
- (c. 2 pack. 7 draughts.
- (d. 9 draughts.
- Major McNicoll, O.C. "C" Coy., O.C. "D" Coy. M.G. Officer.
- Transport ~~Officer~~ Sergeant, Medical Officer.
- Trucks. (a. Packs, Sigs. stores, H.Q. Officers' luggage, (blankets if
- 10 ton. (b. Blankets. necessary).
- (c. Stores.
- Flats. (a. Cooks and Sig. G.S.
- (b. 2 G.S. and 1 water and 1 M.G.
- (c. 2 G.S. and 1 Maltese.
- Rear Brake Van - Signallers.

No 2 Train will carry the following:-

- Engine.
- Brake Van - Officers' baggage.
- 1st Class Car - Officers "A" and "B" Coys. and H.Q.
- 2nd Class Car - Coy. S.M's.
- " Q.M.S's.
- Platoon Sergeants.
- Staff Sergeants.
- 5 3rd Class cars - "A" Coy.
- 5 3rd " " - "B" Coy.
- 1 3rd " " - Hd-Qrs. 2nd Inf. Bde.
- Horse (a. 8 riding horses and 1 Bde. Riding horse.
- trucks. (b. 1 Bde. Riding horse and 8 pack horses.
- (c. 8 draught and spare.
- (d. 9 draughts.
- C.O. 2, Adj. 1, Q.M. 1, Transport Officer 1, Sig. Officer 1,
- O.C. "A" Coy. 1, O.C. "B" Coy. 1.
- 3 10 ton trucks - (a) Packs. (b) and (c) Blankets.
- 3 Flats. - (a) 3 G.S. (b) 2 G.S. and 1 water cart.
- Brake Van - Sigs. bicycles.

Wagons to travel by the first train will be packed (loaded) on the platform this evening. The cooks' wagon will be conveyed thither as early tomorrow morning as possible. (6/30 a.m.).

Q.M's stores will be stacked on platform this afternoon.

Breakfast in the morning will be at 5 a.m.

One blanket and W.P. sheet will be packed in section canvas bags and two blankets will be packed in bran bags.

"C" and "D" Coys. will load these into wagons near taps.

"A" and "B" Coys. will stack them at a spot immediately in front of "A" Coys. lines ready to load into wagons.

All officers' baggage will travel by first train. It must be stacked ready for transport near taps at 5/45 a.m.

Five trucks will be allotted to each Coy., consequently O's C. will have their coys. told off into 5 ~~xxxxxx~~ equal parties ready to entrain.

As soon as a platoon is entrained its commander will entrain.

As soon as a coy. is entrained its O.C. and 2nd in command will entrain.

"B" Coy. will provide the following fatigues:-

30 men to truck vehicles.

16 " " packs.

30 men to truck blankets and stores.

All above parties to be under responsible n.c.o's and to report on station at 6 a.m.

Fatigue party for second train same as for first.

(Signed) C. Finlayson, Capt.
Adj. 7th Battn. A.I. Force.

To be typed

Note by Australian War Memorial Library:

No diary received for March 1915