

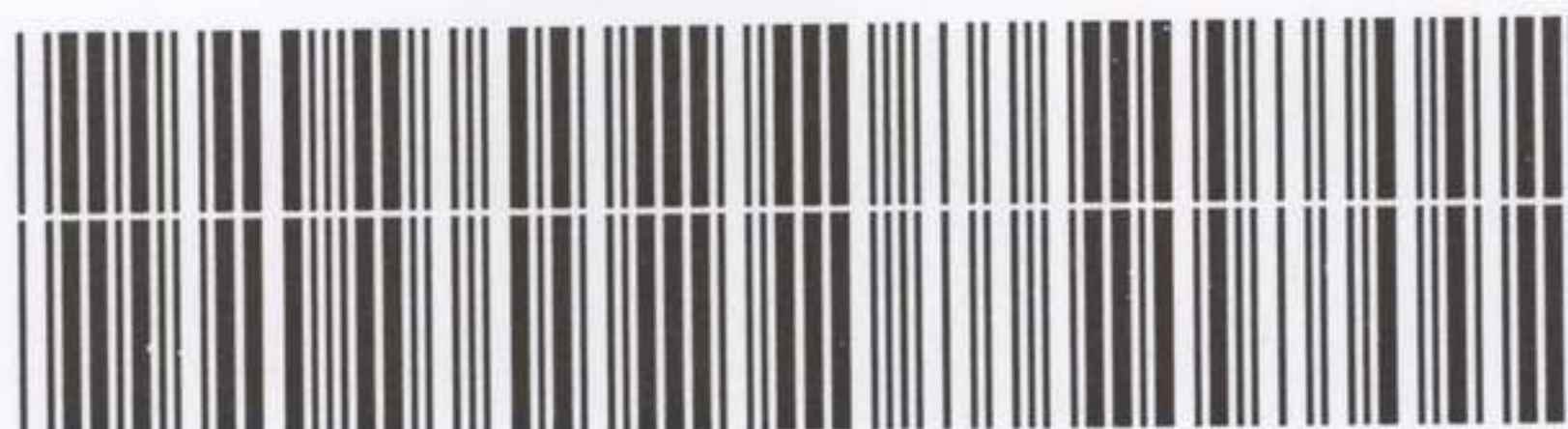
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Artillery

Item number: 13/79/2

Title: Imperial Mounted Divisional
Ammunition Column

April 1917



AWM4-13/79/2

WAR DIARY


or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118

APR 1917

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<p><u>Confidential</u></p> <p>War Diary of Divisional Amm. Col. - Imperial Mtd Div.</p> <p>from April 1st 1917 to April 30th 1917.</p> <p>(Volume 2.)</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)



Army Form C. 2118.

12 APR 1917

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
DEIR EL BELAH Africa March 26 E. III	<p>1 Received order from P/Gen Yang that he would inspect the DAC on the 2/4/17 at 0945 - At 2215 received order to change 15 G.S. Wagon Sub II for 18 Limbaird G.S. on the 2nd.</p> <p>2 Went to C.R.A. & asked if he would communicate with Gen Yang & ask him to put off the inspection as there was so much work to be done - The inspection was put off. Changed the 15 G.S. for the 18 Limbaird Wagons.</p> <p>3 Loaded 9-18 G.S. wagons - Present list of DAC</p> <p>4/5 Insured & drove ammunition. Quantity of Sub III S.A.A. returned by different units in report for use in Hottelberg gen.</p> <p>6 Another quantity of S.A.A. Sub III returned on 1/4/17. Hottelberg gen. Inspected DAC. Stock of S.A.A. Sub III & returned Hottelberg together with surplus of S.A.A. Sub III to Gen. Yang.</p> <p>7 Gen. Yang issued S.A.A.</p> <p>8 Parade Service 1015 - 11th Hottelberg gen.</p> <p>9 Received order to change 15 G.S. Wagon Sub II for 18 Limbaird G.S. on the 2nd.</p> <p>10/11 Load men. From 3 G.S. Wagon for 18 Limbaird G.S. Sub III of 3-12 Hottelberg gen. to A.S.C. (1/4/17) Gen. Yang.</p>	<p>32 Limbaird G.S. 512000 6 G.S. Sub II 162000 674000</p> <p>16-18 Limbaird G.S. 1216 Hottelberg gen.</p>

DSC

Lt Col D.

April 17

D. A. C.

Imp. ab. D.

April 17

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.

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

DEIR EL BELAH

Algeria
North N 36
E III

April 16
1917
(Continued)

Sent all three Brigades & Battery Ambulances with 1st & 2nd Squad to the 1st GOZ EL TAIRE. in order to make sure that they know where to come back to for communication. Sent these 8 Ambulances to the 1st & 2nd Brigades & Battery. Sent Ambulances also to C.R.A. and 1st D. Headquarters. Received order for moving up on the 17th. Sent Ambulances to Water Officer (Hill No 11) and S.S.O. - 1st D.

17

Received 0300 - Moved off 0415 - Sent Ambulances to ABRASSAN & KEIR (2nd 436) & 1st D. Sub I broke down on 1st D. Instructed Lt. J. L. BARNES (who was left at DEIR EL BELAH in charge of Detachment & 2nd Detachment from 1st D.) to send me a get another wagon & send it in to me - broke a wheel. Arrived at the 1st GOZ EL TAIRE at 0550. 1st D. Signals arrived at same spot at 0555 - got into communication with 1st D. H.Q. Sent a No 17 Pole to 1st D. H.Q. at 0905. Received order to move up the horses at DEIR EL BELAH - Sent a wagon with them to 1st D. H.Q. to replace. Horses left at 0915. Returned 1145. Men fed. Two No 17 Poles arrived at 1145.

D. C. C.

I. C. D.

April '17

WAR DIARY

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.

APR 1917

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

of 902 EL TAIRE

17/17

1917

1545-3 1/2 S. Ind. I. arrived with 75000 lbs. of food & 1 horse team - very exhausted - 1 horse completely exhausted
1525- Sent 1-18 lbs. wagon to report to B. H. H. - Wagon arrived back at 2250

18

Sent horse to water at DEIR EL BELAH at 6.00 - horse returned at 6.30 - Sent order to C. H. H. to send horse to water for conveying drinking water to D.A. 1015 Sent one (female) S. Ind. to report to HQ HQ for 5th Ind. Ind. on 18 Feb. Q. S. Wagon for B. H. H. - 1030 Went up camp to TEL EL JEMMI (Sum. H. 36) & saw Mr. Lowry (C.R.A. for 1907 that evening (18th) Also that I was to send 704000 lbs. S. Ind. Ind. to TEL EL JEMMI to form a dump, & that the wagon would return to the 1 of 902 EL TAIRE & then refill from barrels sent from DEIR EL BELAH Ammunition was dumped at TEL EL JEMMI at 1300 & 1st Ind. Ind. (V. H. R. H. A) left in charge - I gave him instructions to report to B. H. R. A. Desert Column (18 Jan. Jan.) 1445- Sent all horse to water - 1545 Sent telegram to C.R.A. informing him of the exact position the D.A. was in at 1400 (18th) & asked him to inform C. H. H. & J. H. H.

DAC

I. C. D.

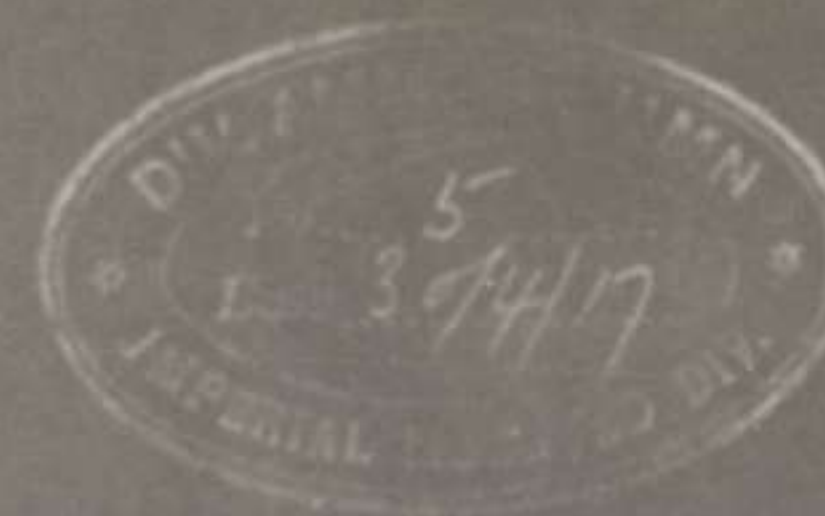
April 17

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
1 of 902 EL TAIRE April 18 1917	<p>1730. Left for TEL EL JEMMI - leaving Lt. Brindley to bring the D.A.C. on. Saw C.R.A. 1MO who told me I would get my orders from B.G.R.A. Desert Coln. (Officer King) Saw B.G.R.A. & he told me to move off in the morning (19th) so that I would be clear of the WADI GHUZZE by 0530. Received instructions from B.G.R.A. to refuel my dragons from the Dump (300' SW of JEMMI). Returned to the point I had selected for the D.A.C. (300' SW of the E. of SHEIKH NAKHUR & found D.A.C. there in accordance with orders I had given & gave orders for Reville at 0300 & move off at 0415 on the 19th distance from Jemmi to Wadi crossing 3200'.</p> <p>19 Moved off 0415. End of D.A.C. crossed WADI GHUZZE by 0530. But Capt. Brindley (S.C.R.A. Desert Coln.) Selected position for D.A.C. just on the E. side of the crossing over the WADI EL SHARIA (same as) D.A.C. on the 19th by 0600. in very scattered formation (in case of attack) Started immediately to move gun teams & to replace them the Buffaloes had broken. Capt. Betty (ADC B.G.R.A. - Desert Coln.) arrived at 0610 & told me to start moving my horses at once. 25% at a time.</p>	

D. A. C.

Imp A.D.

April 17.

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.

Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>EL KUTSHAN from EL H 36 E. III</p> <p>April 19 1917</p>	<p>0730 - Left for EL MENDUR as I could not get into phone connection with the C.R.A. - Spoke to Capt. Collock (S.C.R.A.) at 0750 from IMD Signals at EL MENDUR and ascertained the C.R.A. was at ABU MAILIN (edge of of <u>Wadi H 36</u>) Went to MAILIN & saw C.R.A. at 0830 - he told me to send 4 wagons to Charing Cross (GAZA(X) 10th file squared map - T.12 9.9 NE) Sent order back by Coder to this effect. Got back to D.A.C. - sent Coder to B.G.R.A. & issued from communication to Battalion & refilled from depot at TEL EL JEMMI - the men's horses being in practically continuous work all day - Reported to me at 1000 by Coder from B.G.R.A. that one wagon of the 4 on their way to B.H.A.C. had overturned on a gully - checked the road - Sent Lt ES. Ambrose off at once to see to it Sent 1400 hrs SAA to CHARING CROSS and 9600 hrs to MUNKHERSH (Reinforce <u>Wadi H 36</u>) & delivered this information to B.G.R.A. at JEMMI - Received instructions from B.G.R.A. to take D.A.C. back over the WADI GHUZZE & send forward wagons for B.H.A.C. to report from at EL KUTSHAN & take all remainder of D.A.C. back to spot indicated by B.G.R.A. (about 500 yds W of TEL EL JEMMI)</p>	<p>Communication resumed on the 19th -</p> <p>SAA H.E. Shagird 16000 629 2054</p>

DAC

Lt D

April '17

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.



TEL EL JEMMI
Africa
Nov 11 36
E. III

Hour, Date, Place

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

- Received order from B.G.R.A. to scatter the D.C. as much as possible to minimize effect of aerial attack. Also received order to move the TEL EL JEMMI camp to a point further W. Camp moved by 1100. The job taking 5 hours in conjunction with moving camp. Blood to all day. Rang up C.R.A. at 1700 & spoke to Capt. Lallah. who had no order for me. Took saddle off horse.
- 21) Received order to send off 1 Coy. Scout Light for to 1100. Sent some off at 1130. Sent signalling party off to JEMMI to get into radio communication with C.R.A. (now at KUTSHAN with 1AD HQ) & 0930. P.A.D.S. and D.A.M.S. 1AD arrived at 0930. I gave the former a complete list of the stone kangaroo. Sent G.S. into DEIR EL BELAH for repairs. (The kangaroo arrived back at 2030) 2 Scouts dropped during afternoon. 2 hours & 1 kangaroo lost.
- 22) Stood to all day. Went to C.R.A. at KUTSHAN & then on to B.H.C. Arrived back at the D.C. camp at 1530. 1200. Saw Lt. Smith (C.R.A. man) & asked him if he had any order for me. He told me I would receive them later. 1940. 1AD Signals passed & told me 1AD HQ had moved & all other units closed. 2000. I decided to move back to KHAN YUNUS & arrived off at 2030. Sent G.S. (Capt. Lallah) who confirmed my position.

D. A. C.

J. A. D.

April 17

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.



Hour, Date, Place	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
TEL EL JEMMI 13 th April 1917 E.M.	Moved along ABASSAN EL KEDIR road & struck WNW when reaching the outskirts of that village. Remained N of the ABASSAN EL KEDIR - BENI SELA road, on the long column.	
BENI SELA 13 th	Sent an orderly over to the C.R.A. to tell him I had moved from JEMMI & to ask for orders. He then arrived at 1.00 to go to look for communication at KHAN YOUSUF ask for a camping site. Sent Lt H.C. Durrant on to find camp site. S.C.R.A. & water supply. Arrived BENI SELA. Settled camp site. Arranged site for my H.Q. & connected telephone with C.R.A.	
14 th	Sent wagon to DEIR EL BELAH for Ammunition Stores. Made round to the 4 Batteries to note their positions. Issued ammunition.	
15 th	Took half the personnel & horses of D.M. to DEIR EL BELAH for bathing. Came across brown gelding on the down, dying of thirst. Shot him.	
16 th	Sent remainder of D.M. to DEIR EL BELAH under Lt Durrant for bathing. Grew & issued ammunition & ordnance stores.	
17 th	Normal. Rec'd order in the evening to take 514000 P.C. S.C.A. 2000 miles to 5 batteries & 1000 D.V. to 11. R. 5 th Int. Bde.	

D. A. C.

I. A. D.

April '17

Hour, Date, Place.	Summary of Events & Information		Remarks & References
			-----to Appendices.-----
DEIR EL BELAH Africa	1917 April 1st	Received orders from Brig.-Gen. King that he would inspect the D.A.C. on the 2/4/17 at 0945. At 2215 received orders to change 15 G.S. Wagons, MK.I, for 18 limbered G.S. on the 2nd.	
North H. 36 E III	2nd	Went to C.R.A. and asked if he would communicate with Gen. King and ask him to put off the inspection as there was so much work to be done. The inspection was put off. Changed the 15 G.S. Wagons for the 18 limbered wagons.	<div style="border-left: 2px solid black; padding-left: 5px;">S.A.A. 512000-X 162000 & <u>674000</u> 32 limbd. G.S.-X 6 G.S. Mk. I. & 16-18 pdr. Q.F. Wagons. 1216 rs</div>
	3rd	Loaded 8 - 18 Q.F. wagons. Present estmt. of D.A.C.:-	
	4/5th	Issued and drew ammunition. Quantity of Mk. VII. S.A.A. returned by different xxxxxx units as unfit for use in Hotchkiss gun.	
	6th	Further quantities of Mark VII. S.A.A. returned as useless for Hotchkiss gun. Inspected D.A.C. stock of S.A.A., Mk. VII. and returned that ? together with surplus gun ammunition to E.R.(?) Dump.	
	7th	Drew and issued S.A.A.	
	8th	" " Parade Service 1015..	
	9th)	Note by Aust. War Museum Library:-	
	10th)	The writing on the copy held by the Museum is too faint to be read.	
	11/12th	Drew and issued ammunition. P.H. Helmet drill. Drew S.A.A. from KHAN YUNUS. Wired to EL ARISH for Verrey Lights.	(D.A.C. (S.A.A. 866000 (Gun 1216 rds (2nd Echelon
	13th	Sent to KHAN YUNUS for 192,000 Rds. S.A.A., Mk. VII. for 4th Aust. L.H. Bde. Establishment ammn. now	(D.A.C. (S.A.A. 704000 (Gun 608 rds
	14th	Overhauled wagons and harness - Cart one G.S. Mk. V. and changed it.	
	15th	P.H. helmet instruction to whole D.A.C. at 1030. Separate instruction and drill to squads of 14 all that day. Attended conference at H.Q., C.R.A., I.M.D., and obtained particulars of the intended attack on the GAZA-HAREIRA-SHARIA position (Map ref. BEERSHEBA). Received orders for the D.A.C. to be at the <u>I</u> of GOZ EL TAIRE at 0615 on 1st day.	

DEIR EL
BELAH

1917
April 16

Recd. orders that today is ZERO DAY. Sent over to "A" & "B" H.A.C., Notts., and Berks. R.H.A. Staff Capt. 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Bdes. asking when they would be starting and that my orderlies (connecting links for communication supply) might accompany them. Sent all these Bde. & Battery Orderlies with Lt. R. C. Drummond to the I of GOZ EL TAIRE in order to make sure that they know where to come back to for ammunition. Sent these 8 orderlies to their separate Batteries and Brigades. Sent orderlies also to C.R.A. & I.M.D. H.Q. Issued orders for moving off on the 17th. Sent orderlies to the Water Officer (?) and S.S.O. & I.M.D.

The I of
GOZ EL TAIRE.

17th Reveille 0300. Moved off 0415. Sent orderly to ABASAN EL KEBIR. One G.S. MK. X. broke down & I left it. Instructed Lt. J. C. L. Barnes (who was left at DEIR EL BELAH in charge of details and 2nd Echelon Amm. Dump) to endeavour to get another wagon and send it on to me. ? ? ? Arrived at the I of GOZ EL TAIRE at 0550. I.M.D. Signals arrived at same spot at 0555. Got into communication with I.M.D.H.Q.

(From here on to end of the 17th is unreadable.)

18 Sent horses to water at DEIR EL BELAH at 0500. Horses returned at 0700. Sent orderly to C.C. "A" Coy. Camel to draw Camels for carrying drinking water to D.A.C. 1015 sent one limbered G.S. to report to H.Q. I.M.D. for 5th Mtd. Bde. One 18 pdr. Q.F. wagon for "B"/H.A.C. 1030 Went up myself to TEL EL JEMMI (North H.36) and saw Lt. Cowley (C.R.A. officer). I received orders for the D.A.C. to be at TEL (Ell) EL JEMMI by 1900 that evening (18th). Also that I was to send 704,000 rds. S.A.A. Mk. VII. to TEL EL JEMMI to form a dump, and that the wagons would return to the I of GOZ EL TAIRE and there refill from camels sent from DEIR EL BELAH. Ammunition was dumped at TEL EL JEMMI by 1300 and Lt. ? (Notts. R.H.A.) left in charge. I gave him instructions to report to B.G.R.A. Desert Column (B./Gen. King). 1445. Sent all horses to water. 1545. Sent telegram to C.R.A. informing him of the exact position the D.A.C. would be in at 1900 (18th), and asked him to inform me ? ? and Div. H.Q. 1730. Left for TEL EL JEMMI, leaving Lt. Anstacher to bring the D.A.C. on. Saw C.R.A., I.M.D., who told me I would get my orders from B.G.R.A. Desert Col. (B./Gen. King). Saw B.G.R.A. and he told me to move off in the morning (19th) so that I would be clear of the WADI GHUZZI by 0530. Received instructions from B.G.R.A. to refill my wagons from the dump (300 S.W. of JEMMI). Returned to the point I had selected for the D.A.C. (300^x S.W. of the E. of SHEIKH NAKHRUR) and found D.A.C. there in accordance with orders I had given. Gave orders for reveille at 0300 and move off at 0415 on the 19th. Distance from bivouac to Wadi crossing 3200^x.

19th Moved off at 0415. End of D.A.C. crossed WADI GHUZZI by 0530. Met Capt. Dunlop (S.C.R.A. Desert Col.) Selected position for D.A.C. just on the East side of the crossing over the WADI EL SHARIA (same ref.) D.A.C. in their position by 0600 in very scattered formation (in case of aeroplane attack). Started immediately to issue gun ammunition and to replace boxes the Batteries had broken. Capt. Antley (A.D.C. B.G.R.A. Des. Col.) arrived at 0610 and told me to start watering my horses at once. 25% at a time. 0720. Left for EL MENDUR as I could not get into phone communication with the C.R.A. Spoke to Capt. Pollock (S.C.R.A.) at 0750 from I.M.D. Signals at EL MENDUR and ascertained the C.R.A. was

EL KUTSHAN 1917
April 19 was at ABU MAILIK (edge of North H.36). Went to MAILIK and saw C.R.A. at 0830 and he told me to send four wagons ^{E.111} to "Charing Cross" (GAZA (X) AFRIC Squared Map T.12.9.9. N.E.). Sent orders back by orderly to this effect. Got back to D.A.C., sent orderly to B.G.R.A. and issued Gun Ammunition to Batteries and refilled from dump at TEL EL JEMMI, the men and horses being in practically continuous work all day. Reported to me at 1040 by orderly from Berks. Col. that one wagon of the 4 on their way to "B" H.A.C. had overturned in a gully and blocked the road. Sent Lt. S. S. Anstacher off at once to see to it. Sent 160,000 rds. S.A.A. to Charing Cross and 96,000 rds. to MUNKHEILEH (Beersheba North H36) and heliced the information to B.G.R.A. at JEMMI. Received instructions ^{E IV.} from B.G.R.A. to take D.A.C. back over the Wadi GHUZZE and forward an officer to be shown the camping site. Left 8 18-pdr. wagons for "B" H.A.C. to refill from at EL KUTSHAN and took the remainder of D.A.C. back to spot indicated by B.G.R.A. (about 500 yds. W. of TEL EL JEMMI).

TEL EL JEMMI " 20 Received orders from B.G.R.A. to scatter the D.A.C. as much as possible to minimise effect of aerial attack. Also received orders to move the TEL EL JEMMI dump to point further W. Dump cleared by 1100, the job taking five hours in conjunction with moving camp. Stood to all day. Rang up C.R.A. at 1700 and spoke to Capt. Pollock who had no orders for me. Took saddles off horses.

" 21 Recd. orders to send up 1 No.7 dial sight for "B" H.A.C. Sent same off at 0720. Sent signalling party off to JEMMI to get into helio communication with C.R.A. (now at KUTSMAN with 1 M.D. H.Q.) at 0930. D.A.D.U.S. and D.A.Q.M.G., 1 M.D., arrived at 0950 and I gave the former a complete list of the stores I required. Sent G.S. to DEIR EL BELAH for spares (these wagons arrived back at 2030). 2 bombs dropped during the afternoon. 2 horses and 1 wagon hit.

" 22 Stood to all day. Went to C.R.A. at KUTSHAN and then on to "B" H.A.C. Saw Lt. Mills (C.R.A. office). I asked him if he had any orders for me and he told me I would receive some later. 1940. 1.M.D. signals ~~man~~ phoned and told me. 1.M.D. H.Q. line moved and all others were closed. 2000. I decided to move back to KHAN YUNUS and moved off at 2030. I met C.S.O.2 (Capt. Cavanagh) who confirmed my action. I moved along ABSAN EL KEBIR Road and struck W.N.W. when reaching the outskirts of that village. Bivouacked N. of the ABASN EL KEBIR - BENISELA road in two long columns.

BENI SELA " 23 Sent an orderly on to the C.R.A. to tell him I had moved from JEMMI and to ask for orders. Received an answer at 0800 to go to Camp Commandant of KHAN YUNUS, and ask for a camping site. Sent Lt. Durward on to find Camp Comdt., S.C.R.A. and water supply. Arrived BENI SELA. Settled camp sites. Arranged site for my H.Q. and connected telephone with C.R.A.

" 24 Sent wagon to DEIR EL BELAH for Ordnance Stores. ~~Reck~~ Rode round to the 4 Batteries to note their positions. Issued ammunition.

BENI SELA 1917
April 25 Took half the personnel and horses of the D.A.C. to DEIR EL BELAH for bathing. Came across
brown gelding in the dunes dying of thirst. Shot him.

" 26 Sent remainder of D.A.C. to DEIR EL BELAH under Lt. Durward for bathing. Drew and issued
ammunition and ordnance stores.

" 27 Normal. Recd. orders in the evening to take 514,000 rds. S.A.A. 2000 Mills No. 5 grenades
and 200 D.I. Very Lights to H.Q., 5th Mtd. Bde.
