

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

Artillery

Item number: 13/79/3

Title: Imperial Mounted Divisional
Ammunition Column

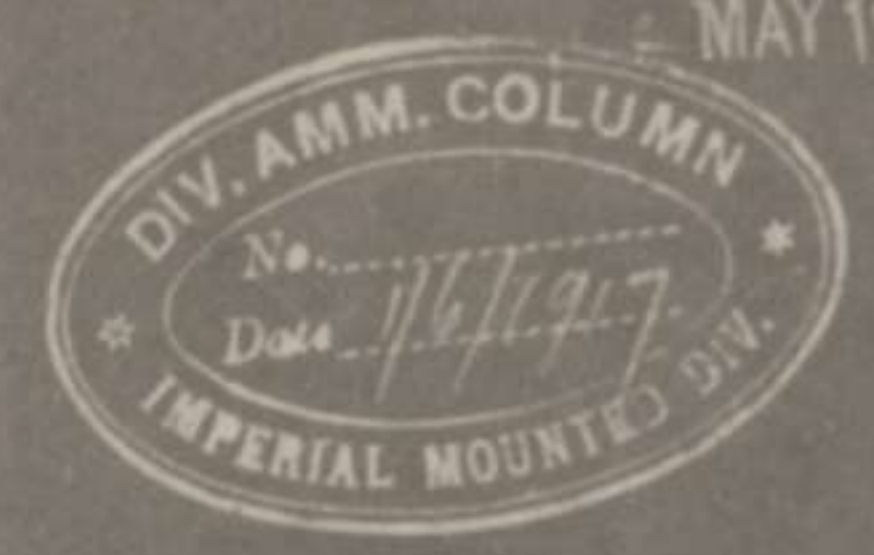
May 1917



AWM4-13/79/3

P16/1

MAY 1917



Confidential

War Diary
of

Imperial Mounted Division Ammunition Column

from May 1st 1917. to May 31st 1917.

(Volume 3.)

WAR DIARY
OF
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Army Form C. 2118

MAY 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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SELA	May		Issued & drew Ammunition -	
H-36	1 st		Reconnitred direct and alternative route to WELI SHEIKH NURAN and SHA'UTH (Route - H.36)	
EA	4/5/17		Took Stores to B Battery H.A.C. at SHA'UTH	
	3/5/17		Normal day - Bathed 25% of men & horses at DEIR EL BELAH (same map)	
	4/5/17		DEIR EL BELAH bombed -	
	5/5/17		Bathed remainder of D.A.C.	
	6/5/17		C.R.A. inspected D.A.C. - BELAH bombed.	
	7/5/17		Boq in morning - Received orders to make dugouts or trenches for all ranks. Recd order that B.G.R.A. Desert Column (Gen King) would inspect D.A.C. on the 8 th .	
	8/5/17		Lieut. Ambacher and 20 men to practical gas demonstration	
	9/5/17		Lieut. Frackinder and 50 men -	
	10/5/17		Col. Richardson, ^{ADMS} inspected D.A.C. at 12/15 - Expressed approval - 21 horses, 9 mules and 13 O.R.s arrived from KANTARA	

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BENI SELA North-H-36 E III RAFA	11 th May 1917		C.R.A. inspected camp at 0845 - General Hodgson (Brig/gen - Imp. Maj/gen) arrived in camp at 0925 and gave me orders for the D.A.C. to move to ABASSAN EL KEBIR (same map) Lt. R.C. DURWARD met Col. ROBINSON - (A.A.S.Q.M.G. - I.M.O.) to select actual site - 12 Wagons to DEIR EL BELAH for moving Brigade stores.	
	12/5/17		- D.A.C. moved off at 1045 under Lt. R.S. MACKINDER to new camp site (200° NE of ABASSAN EL KEBIR water trough) The site was dirty (on old camel lines) Application was made at once to C.R.A. that camp could be moved to a cleaner spot.	
	13/5/17		- Sanitary N.C.O. visited camp during the day & recommended it	
	14/5/17		- Received order to turn out 20 teams of 6 horses at 0600 - 14/5/17	
	14/5/17		- Turned out 20 teams at 0600.	
	14/5/17		- 17 car dyed helmets that had bleached too white -	
	14/5/17		- Turned out 22 teams - 106 men to gas demonstration	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SELA	16/5		Moved camp in afternoon to point 1000 ^x S.W. of ABASSAN EL KEBIR water troughs -	
H-36 III	(continued)			
FA	17/5		Normal day	
	18/5		Received orders from C.R.A. as to carrying more gun & less S.A.A. ammunition for next operations (672000 S.A.A. instead of 942000 and 608 extra rounds of 18 Pdr) Received details of proposed operations for the destruction of the railway between ASLUJ and EL AVJA (Jerusalem 1/250000)	
	19/5		Wind turned to South with sandstorm & extreme heat. Sent 13 teams to A.S.C. Sent 40 men to KHAN YUNUS (north H. 36 E. III) to fetch by Remounts which I had received advice were arriving from KANTARA. (15 of these horses were for I.M.D. Batteries - 72 were for the teams for the extra 12 G.S. Wagons (3 per Brigade Ammunition Column) for the R.A. Column of the Division - Men left camp to fetch horses at 0315. I arrived back in Selat camp at 0930 -	

1917 W. 295/36 1/00000 4/5 J.B.C. & A.D.S.S. Form C. 2118

17 16/5

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY



MAY 1917

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SAN 19 17 H36	17/5	17	<p>Indecorated to reconnoitre best direct route to WELI SHEIKH NURAN - but sandstorm too violent - Wind intensely hot - Received orders to water DAC. at ABU SITTA (4 miles from camp) at 1730 - Rang up C.R.A. & told him I had a large number of Remounts & watering at that time would mean getting back long after dark - Remounts referred to had arrived with no personnel - and were equipped with hamp halter & headrope only - 530 horses left for ABU SITTA under Lieut. R.S. MACKINDER at 1630 - This officer found only one trough to water - It was dark before half the horses were watered - Some men were riding one & leading 3 horses - Under these conditions - (sandstorm still blowing) 29 horses were missing on arrival back in camp - The last man arrived back at 0400 on the 18th morning of 20th - Some horses were found - Total missing 19 - on 20th</p>	

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WAR DIARY or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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1716/6
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MAY 1917

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SSAN L BIR	20 5 17		Bent out 15 mounted men to find missing horses. Found 8 Reported whole occurrence to C.R.A. and advised 11 animals missing. Wind shifted to North during day - quite cool.	
2436 III AFA	21/5/17		Received 5 men to help with Remounts. Received orders that 21 st was 'X' day - Dumped SAA in DAC camp, leaving 672,000 loaded - 360 Re arrived from KANTARA -	
	22/5/17		'X' day - C.R.A. visited camp. Very hot day.	
	23/5/17		Reveille 0100 - Arrived TEL EL FARA (same) 0500. Helio on FARA hill at 0530 but owing to clouds, was not in communication (by helio) with C.R.A. until 0930. Slight rain at intervals - Watered horses in WADI EL GHUZZE. Received orders that D.A.C. would stay the night at TEL EL FARA - drawing rations from GAMALI	
	24/5/17		Left TEL EL FARA at 0730 - Met CRA from WELI SHEIKH NURAN that I was on the way back to ABASSAN EL KEBIR - and that I was leaving 608 Re 18 Pdr ammunition with 2 nd Echelon D.A.C. at WELI SHEIKH NURAN - Arrived ABASSAN EL KEBIR at 1000	

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25/5/17		Drove 5 G.S. Wagons from Ordnance -	
26/5/17		Handed back 5 G.S. Wagons to 5th Intd. Bde. Transport.	
27/5/17		Received order re the Division moving to relieve the A & NZ Intd. Div.	
28/5/17		Moved at 1300 to G.S. Co. (GAZA-SHELLAL / 40000) Arrived 1530 - Sent back immediately 47 lumbered G.S. to old camp (empty) to help move the Division.	
28/5/17		Enemy bombed camps N.W. of DAC. in morning - also camps round TEL EL FARA in the evening - Arranged camp details -	
29/5/17		Enemy bombed camps E. of DAC. - Normal day.	
30/5/17		Moved 18 lbs ammunition for Somerset RHA. (A & NZ Intd. Div) from EL SHAUTH to WELI SHEIKH NURAN - A & NZ Intd. DAC. leaving returned to the neighbourhood of KHAN YUNUS.	
31/5/17		Bombs dropped first North of TEL EL FARA - Heavy bombardment heard in a northerly direction at dawn - Sent into RAFA for Ordnance stores -	

CAPT. J. Wainford Small
 CMDG. DIVISIONAL AMM. COLUMN.
 IMPERIAL MOUNTED DIVISION