

AWM4

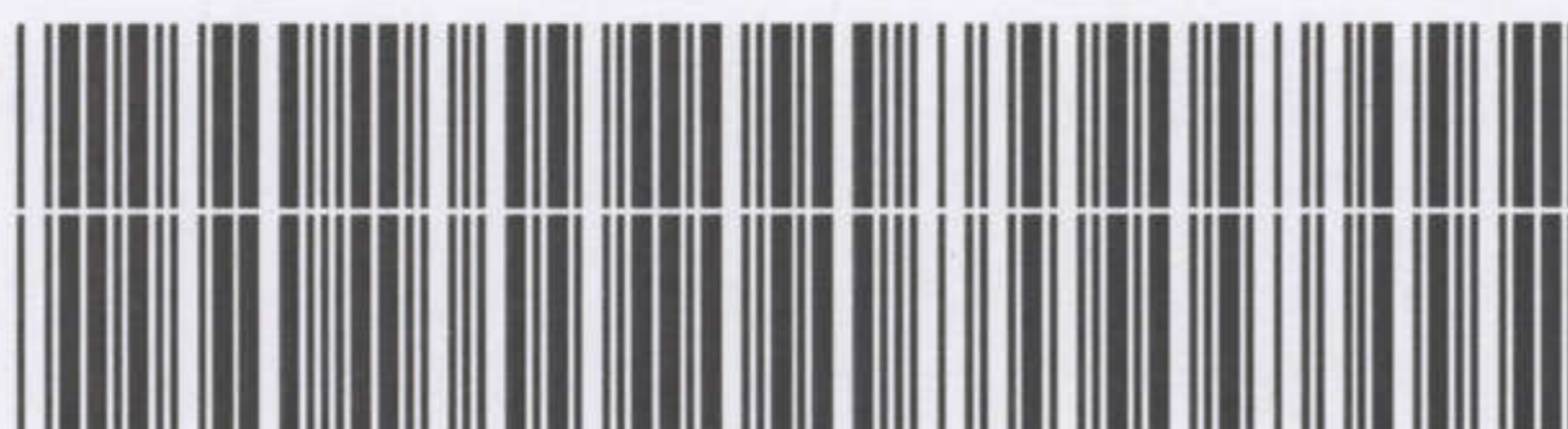
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/12/9

Title: Deputy Director of Medical Services,
20th Corps

June 1917 Eastern Force



AWM4-26/12/9

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H.Q., E.F., DEIR-EL- BELAH.	1/6/17.		Captain L.M.V. Mitchell, R.A.M.C. reported as M.O., H.Q., Eastern Force. A.D.M.S., 52nd Division, called. Captain Bird visited ESANI to report on water there. Asked for an increase of issue of Lefroy Fluid and "C" Solution.	
	2/6/17.		New stock of bleaching powder reported available. Scheme put up to "Q" for bathing arrangement at Well 15, Deir-el-Belah. G.O.C. asked about high sick rate I.M.D. Wrote D.D.M.S., D.C. Outbreak of German Measles; 11 cases in 52nd Division.	
	3/6/17.		Further questions about status of Rest Camp. Wrote D.M.S. explaining that Rest Camp is not under Red Cross, and considerable R.A.M.C. personnel required there. A.D.M.S., Desert Column, called.	
	4/6/17.		Inspected with A.D.M.S. (Sanitary) and A.D.M.S., 74th Division, Field Ambulances 74th Division and front lines of 231st Brigade, MANSURA. Moved Medical H.Q. from DEIR-EL-BELAH to new H.Q.	
	5/6/17. 1500.		Conference A.Ds.M.S., 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 74th Divisions. Discussed (1) Arrangements for evacuation, (2) Delousing, (3) Disinfection of motor ambulances, (4) Returns, (5) Attached Brigades, responsibility for, (6) Sanitation, (7) Cholera precautions, (8) Diphtheria, (9) Lectures. Captain Shannon, 2nd Lowland F.A., appointed to 26th C.C.S. with a view to command. Captain Eastes, R.A.M.C., to command 18th Sanitary Section, vice Captain Brown who rejoins unit.	76C
	6/6/17.		Inspected 54th C.C.S. Excellent order. Consent obtained from G.O.C. to open Tent Sub-Division for reception of Tonsillitis cases (12 E.P. and 15 Bell Tents) and for Diphtheria carriers. Major Austen reported from Desert Column, to investigate <i>mosquito breeding</i> Malania at mouth of Wadi.	
	7/6/17.		Proposed scheme mooted for camel convoys and reduction of camel caacolets.	

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H.Q., E.F., DEIR-EL- BELAH.	8/6/17.		1500. Visited KHAN YUNUS and French Ambulance.	
	9/6/17.		Submitted modified scheme of modified transport for Desert Column units. A.D.M.S., 52nd Division, visited re. Diphtheria Hospital. Detailed 1 M.O. and 8 O.R. from Rest Camp, RAFA, and 1 Corporal from 18th Sanitary Section to proceed to Rest Camp, EL ARISH, for duty there. Complete proposed establishment of camel transport for Mounted Divisions.	
	10/6/17.		Captain Diamond reported and was detailed to 53rd Division for duty with Ambulance. Captain Eastes reported for duty with 18th Sanitary Section. Visited Ordnance to see fanatis stoppers which were converted for filling bottles, etc.	
	11/6/17.		Interview with Lieut-General Lawson re. man power. O.C. 54th C.C.S. called re. possibility of substituting Class B for Class A men. Saw O.C. Anzac Field Laboratory re. Diphtheria measures. M.O., B.W.I. Regiment, reported suspected suicide by carbolic poisoning by British M.C.O. in B.W.I. Regiment. Ordered P.M. and reported to D.A. & Q.M.G. Asked D.M.S. for a Field Laboratory for Deir-el-Belah to replace Anzac Field Laboratory, which I suggested be moved to RAFA for 53rd C.C.S.	
	12/6/17.		Accompanied Lieut-General Lawson to 54th C.C.S. re. man power. Submitted suggestion re. Field Ambulances and C.C.Ss. to him. Conference with A.Ds.M.S., 52nd, 53rd and 74th Divisions, and Acting D.A.D.M.S., 54th Division. Discussed Diphtheria, Cholera and Sanitation. Inspected motor ambulance road to C.13, 14 and 19. Received report on Malaria-bearing mosquito places from Major Austen - from area C.19 to mouth of Wadi Guzsee. Submitted his suggestion to "Q".	997
	13/6/17.		Wrote D.M.S. re. heretical anti-fly and vermin pamphlet, forwarding Major Austen's report thereon. Major Austen returned to Desert Column. A.D.M.S. visited Disinfecting Train and also chose site for abbattair.	

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H.Q., E.F., DEIR-EL- BELAH.	13/6/17.		Recommended Captain Bullock, Warwick Yeomanry, to D.M.S. as one suitable for post of O.C., R.A.M.C. Base Depot, Mustapha. Captain Kennard, M.O., 1/1st Somerset Yeomanry, visited.	
	14/6/17.		Captain MacKeevor, R.A.M.C., reported for duty and was posted to 52nd Division for duty with an Ambulance. Visited the immobile tent sub-divisions of the Ambulances of 52nd, 53rd, 54th and 74th Divisions at DEIR-EL-BELAH.	
	15/6/17.		Responsibility of making up Hospital Train loads transferred from 54th to 53rd C.C.S. Visited B.W.I. Regiment with reference to reported men being returned sick from the Base.	
	16/6/17.		In view of increased sick rate, with D.D.M.S., Desert Column, I inspected the general health and sanitation of the I.C.C. Brigade camped S. of RAFA-SHELLAL line. Special report furnished. General conditions found satisfactory. Letter from Desert Column asking if C.C.S. will be available on RAFA-SHELLAL line in case of resumption of active operations. Answered that this depends on operation scheme and availability of C.C.Ss. Hospital for reception of Tonsillitis and Diphtheria carriers reported ready for reception of cases.	D 48
	17/6/17.		1500. Inspected with A.D.M.S., 52nd Division, new tonsillitis hospital opened by 1/2nd Lowland F.A. Found everything in excellent order. Visited abattoir at A.S.C. Main Dump. Major Chatinière and two other French Medical Officers called. Issued scheme of arrangements in the event of occurrence of Cholera to all A.Ds.M.S., D.D.M.S., D.C., S.M.Os., Belah and Rest Camp, Rafa, and A.D.M.S., Egyptian Hospitals.	
	18/6/17.		Issued instructions and arrangements for dealing with Diphtheria and Tonsillitis cases. Now arranged that Hospital Train will proceed on new line as far as WELI SHEIKH NURAN. Proceeded over and inspected wire road by motor ambulance to crossing 33 and 34, and rode over wadi to 1/2nd East Anglian F.A.	

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H.Q., E.F., DEIR-EL- BELAH.	19/6/17.		<p>Captain E.A. MacKenzie, 1/1st Highland Mtd. Bde. F.A. reported for duty to 229th F.A. Case reported from D.M.S. of alleged articles of wounded officer's kit having been stolen by R.A.M.C. orderly. Divisions circularised on this subject ordering steps to be taken to avoid such an occurrence.</p> <p>Conference of A.Ds.M.S. Points raised, Cholera, etc.</p> <p>Captain Craig, O.C. 2nd Field Laboratory, reported arrival.</p> <p>Reported escape and recapture of lunatic from 54th C.C.S.</p>	
	20/6/17.		<p>Captain Williamson reported for duty as O.C. 53rd Sanitary Section. 1700. Inspected No. 2 Field Laboratory. Found all in order and ready for work.</p>	
	21/6/17.		<p>Conference with G.O.C., E.F., on motors and motor ambulances. Horse transport to be used as much as possible during period of quiescence.</p> <p>Proposals from D.M.S. re. R.M.Os. attending Base Hospitals for 30 days. No reliefs to be expected from outside the Force.</p> <p>Sent in recommendations for mentions and awards from H.Q. Staff and 54th C.C.S.</p> <p>Saw Colonel Woodhill re. drafts of B.W.I. Regiment sent up to join Regiment when unfit.</p> <p>Saw Captain Watson, Acting O.C. 54th C.C.S., re. these men.</p> <p>Captain Mitchell on Court of Enquiry as to loss of medical stores between Depot of Medical Stores, El Arish and 54th C.C.S.</p>	
	22/6/17.		<p>Visited 3rd East Anglian F.A.</p> <p>Saw O.C. Motor Ambulance Park re. new arrangements of motor ambulances, as to where cars will be situated - such cars to be used solely for the transport of serious cases.</p>	D44
	23/6/17.		<p>Issued instructions to Divisions re use of motor ambulances for cases of severe illness or wounds only. Copy to O.C. Motor Ambulance Park advising him to post cars as follows:- 3 to crossing 13, 2 to approach to crossing 27, 2 to spot R.7.a.</p> <p>Inspected with A.D.M.S. (Sanitary), E.F., sites of possible Cholera camps.</p> <p>12 cases reported of diarrhoea and vomiting and symptoms of ptomaine poisoning after eating ration of dried fish.</p> <p>Captain W.K. Biggar reported for duty as R.M.O., 25th R.W.F., 74th Division.</p>	

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H.Q., E.F., DEIR-EL- BELAH.	24/6/17.		Wrote A.D.M.S., L. of C., re. withdrawal of motor ambulance from KHAN YUNUS, and to "Q" re. withdrawal of two cars from RAFA. No. 14 Disinfecting Train moved last night from Desert Column to RAFA for Palestine L. of C. troops.	
	25/6/17.		Submitted report and recommendations that fish should not be issued again as ration without steps being taken to have it cured in a satisfactory manner. Recommended that Libby's salmon should not be sold to troops. Visited Desert Column Administrative Headquarters. Captain Judah reported for duty with "B" Battery, H.A.C.	
	26/6/17.		Conference of A.Ds.M.S. 1500. Discussed new motor ambulance arrangements, returns, diphtheria incidence. Lieut. Fehily, R.A.M.C., reported for posting to 231st Field Ambulance.	
	27/6/17.		Authority received to hold Standing Medical Classification Boards. Numbers wanting Boarding asked for. Draft Routine Order submitted to H.Q. Wrote and wired D.M.S. re. possible reductions in M.Os. for R.A. Units. To 229th Field Ambulance and 1st Lowland F.A. Inspected ground with a view to altering position of Ambulances of 74th and 52nd Divisions in vicinity of Wadi Sharta as observation balloons may be worked from there. Wire from D.M.S. asking if Mk.1 light ambulance wagons could be used in default of sandcarts which are not at present available. Wired in the affirmative.	Disc
	28/6/17.		Submitted design for trench stretcher to R.E. Visited Anzac and I.M.D. Hospital for light cases, MARAKEB.	
	29/6/17.		Discussed sick rate of I.M.D. with D.A. & Q.M.G. Dr. Hume, Professor of Geology, visited re. water supplies. Visited 54th C.C.S. and discussed organisation of C.C.S. in view of operations. O.C. and Surgical Specialist present. Disinfecting Train finished at KHAN YUNUS: 52nd Division reported unable to take advantage of it. 54th Division making enquiries re. details.	

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H.Q., E.F., DEIR-EL- BELAH.	30/6/17.		<p>Visited 14th Company R.E. to inspect and try pattern of new trench stretcher. Found it satisfactory. Suggested minor alteration in handles.</p> <p>Visited No. 89 Sanitary Section re. O.C.'s illness.</p> <p>Captain Gilmour, 231st Field Ambulance, reported for temporary duty as O.C. 89th Sanitary Section during Captain Gregory's absence (Hospital).</p> <p>Wrote A.D.M.S. asking for returns of M.Os. with surgical experience and for brief details of such experience.</p> <p>Major Heron, A.D.M.S., Egyptian Hospitals, called. Discussed procedure in case of Cholera outbreak with him.</p>	

5-7-17

R.H. [unclear]
DDMS EF

D101