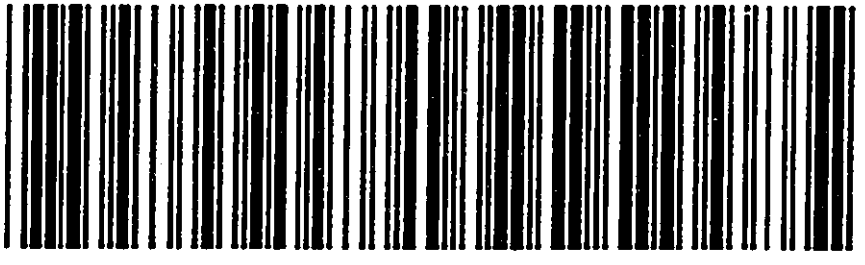
AWM52
Australian Military Forces, Army headquarters, formation and unit diaries, 1939-1945

1/12/6
EAST & MIDDLE EAST UNITS

AIF Headquarters Middle East Director of Amenities

November 1941 - October 1942



1/12/6-001+

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a-OK

(c)Transport: MT establishment is now complete, but ADES recommends an immediate addition of a 3-ton lorry for porterage of the theatre lighting generator, and this will be referred to Establishments Committee and AQMG, HQ AIF (ME).

(d)Instruments: Amenities Offr (Music) visited Jerusalem and Cairo in search of instruments for Entertainments Section and Formation Concert Parties, but was not able to purchase complete requirements; but sufficient instruments are now available for the "All In Fun" orchestra. HQ AIF (ME) cabled GOC at AHQ Melbourne inquiring as to possibility of locating balance in Australia.

(e)Wardrobe: A wardrobe mistress with four assistants has been engaged in making wardrobe for "All In Fun" company, and later on their services will be placed at disposal of Formation Concert Parties. All materials have been purchased with the assistance of AACS buying personnel, and ample provision has been made for storage and care of garments. Stock lists have been compiled of all properties.

(f)Visits to Hospitals, etc: Entertainments Section personnel have visited and provided entertainment at the following Units: (i) 8 ASH, (ii) 7 AGH, (iii) 6 Div RAA, (iv) 2/3 Fd Coy RAE, (v) 2 CCS, (vi) AACS (opening AIF Club, Haifa).

(g)Issue of Music, Properties, Novelties, etc: Music, properties, novelties, etc., have been issued to (i) 1 Aust Conval Depot, (ii) 1 AGH, (iii) 7 AGH, (iv) 2/1 Fd Regt, (v) 6 Aust Div, (vi) 7 Aust Div.

(h)Radio Transcription Records: These cannot be played on PBS or ESB circuits on account of royalty conditions. Delay has also been occasioned in delivery to Hospitals, due to shortage in original equipment as received from Australia. Capt Brown is now investigating and will purchase requirements, and will also ascertain acaptability of serials for Unit broadcasting sets.

(i)Alterations to Cinemas: These have been proceeding during the month, but delay has been occasioned through lack of materials and electrical equipment. It is now reported that all cinemas should be ready for the opening of Revue about 10 Dec 41.

5.SYRIA.-

(a)Cinemas:

(i) CE reports that the erection of the six Bde cinemas should be completed about 15 Jan 41; each cinema will hold 800, costing £P2500 and with 35' stages.

(ii) The standard of film provided by present licensee in existing cinemas has been commented on adversely, and is understood to be the subject of investigation by AD of AS (Syria) in conjunction with HQ 1 Aust Corps.

(d) 7 Div.

(i) The instrument position is almost complete following on

Amenities Offr's (Music) visits to Jerusalem and Cairo.

(ii) Rehearsals are proceeding at Tripoli and the party should be shortly ready for Formation area concerts, but not for routing until after (b) above.

(e)9 Div and AIF (ME) Reinft Depot

(i) These parties are in process of formation, and certain instruments have already been purchased. Rehearsals are commencing with available personnel.

(ii) AD of AS (Palestine) is assisting with the selection of personnel.

7.CINEMAS.-

(a)Palestine:

(i) New Cinemas have been opened or will open shortly at Khassa, Hill 95, Hill 69, 4 AGH, 6 AGH, 8 ASH, Dimra, Nuseirat and Mughazi.
(ii)Roofing has been completed at HQ Gaza and Kfar Bilu.
(iii)Lighting completed at Beit Jirja and Khassa.
(iv)Acoustics Barbara and all brick type cinemas.
(v)Stage Alterations should be completed by 10 Dec 41.
(vi)Takings: Nov records over £3000 per week, highest to date. AIF Special Trust Fund at 30 Nov 41 £A29,972/19/2.

(b)Syria:

(i) Licence to operate given to William Walluk of Beyrouth ref 5 (a) (ii).
(ii) Six cinemas are to be erected in Bde Areas ref 5 (a) (i)

8.GAMES.-

(a)Palestine.-

(i) General: Inter-Coy, Inter-Unit and Inter-Force games, football, hockey, cricket, basket-ball, tennis and deck tennis, with increased interest shown in volley-ball.

(ii) Swimming Championships: Jerusalem 8 Nov 41. AIF representatives won all swimming championships and relay race, breaking all existing records,and also came third in Diving Championship.

(iii) Rowing Championships: AIF came second in both eight- and four-oared races on the Yarkon 22 Nov 41.

(iv) Cross-Country Championship: (Gaza, 23 Nov 41) Attracted over 360 entries.

(v) Winter Athletic Programme: A meeting will be held at Kfar Vitkin and regular meetings are arranged for winter, culminating in AIF Team against Police, Maccabi, Haopel and British teams.

(b)Syria.- Ref 5 (d)

9.HOSPITALS AMENITIES OFFRS.-

(a)Appointments:
(i) 4 and 6 AGH: Capt J. F. Wyndham reported 4 Dec 41 after a week's observation of methods at 2, 1 and 7 AGH; is now resident at 4 AGH.
(ii) 1 Aust Conval Depot: Lt Roberts remains as Amenities Offr.

(b)Activities: Reports from all Comd Hospitals reveal considerable activity and general satisfaction with appointments. Work carried out comprises: Recreational trips to towns, places of interest, factories and institutions; Organised entertainment; Occupational Therapy (in conjunction with ARCS); Vocational training, carpentering, gardening; Secretarial work Offrs' Patients Mess; Protection of ARCS and ACF property.

(c)Instructions: A proposed list of activities and instructions has been submitted to DAG for consideration, as in many cases these Offrs are being used for purposes other than those for which they were appointed.

(d)Conference: It is proposed that a conference of all Hospitals Amenities Offrs should be called for an early date, and be attended by DMS and Commissioners of ARCS,ACF and D of AS.

10.GENERAL.-

(a)Conferences: Frequent conferences have been held with DMS, ARCS, ACF and LDCS in Egypt, Palestine and Syria, and a working basis of co-operation achieved. Amenities Services now refer all applications for assistance from Hospitals to ARCS and co-operate where agreed; similarly applications for Comforts are referred before action to Commissioner ACF, AS carrying on where considered desirable.

(b)Occupational Therapy: Considerable developments are occurring in this important phase, and Amenities Offrs are working with ARCS Representatives.

(c)Libraries:
(i) ARCS has increased book supplies in Hospitals, and these are now being handled on a circulating library basis.
(ii) AACS intends to institute circulating libraries at all canteens.
(iii) A shortage of books in ME is militating against complete success of above plans.

(d)Lectures: Arrangements have been made with HQ 1 Aust Corps and Dept of Antiquities (Jerusalem) for a series of lantern lectures to be given to patients and staff at AIF Hospitals and Conval Depot in Palestine. It is anticipated that the lectures will comprise:-

(i) Palestine and Syria - topographical and historical.

(ii) AIF (ME) participation in campaigns in present war.
(iii) International situation generally, and Pacific particularly.
The lecturers will probably be Lt-Col Rogers, MC, and Mr Johns.

(e) Broadcasting:

(i) With the assistance of AIF Broadcasting Unit, eight records of the Melbourne Cup were delivered to camps, PBS, and ESB, on Cup Day.
(ii) In co-operation with MI & I Section, Sgt Bell undertook duties of AIF Representative Broadcast Jerusalem, and supervision of cinemas 4 and 6 AGH.

(f) Playing Cards: On account of the demand for playing cards in Syria, and after ACF had promised to supply all available from their stocks, an agreement was made with DDCS by D of AS by which the troops would be able to purchase cards at canteens for 20 mils per pack, the balance under actual cost being debited Amenities Services. This was considered a better plan than free issue.

(g) Education: Contact has been established with UDF, and full details of the educational scheme are anticipated at an early date. From the advance information available it would appear as if the UDF plan is too comprehensive for AIF adoption, but it is probable that certain features may be acaptable for our assimilation. After analysis, the scheme will be discussed with DJAG and Senior Chaplains.

(h) Post-War Placements: It is submitted for consideration that a compulsory man-power questionnaire might be circulated throughout AIF (ME) calling for details of civil occupations, with a regular six-monthly Unit return covering reinforcements. It is suggested that a large number of soldiers gave wrong occupational data on enlistment, and if a suitable questionnaire was prepared, and the advantages of correct answers stressed in AIF News, Government schemes for post-war placings would receive considerable benefit. Perhaps the facilities of the Man-Power Committee might be made available for the submission of a proposed questionnaire which would appeal to the troops, and replies could be recorded by MP Committee staff in conjunction with 2nd Ech Australia, the latter advising casualties, etc., as occurring, to MP Committee.

11. SUGGESTED POLICY OF OPERATION.-

A. The correct policy to be adopted by Amenities Services AIF in the matter of disbursements and distribution has been given great consideration during the initial month. It is realised that the period may have been all too short for evolution of a definite plan, but it is submitted that the following factors are some of the many affecting the issue:-

(a)AACS claim that profits are simultaneously capital, and may be needed at any time, particularly in the event of hold-up or shipping losses.

(b)The present nebulous policy of expenditure of Regtl funds, hoarding, etc.

(c)Possible overlapping of ARCS, ACF and Amenities Services issues, unless some form of co-ordination and cross-reference is adopted.

(d)Possibility of complete consideration of Amenities and philanthropic services under one heading and control.

(e)Decision as to method, and extent of issues which may effect morale of troops by -
(i) "Spoonfeeding;"
(ii) Adoption of idea that issues are legal right, "just due," etc., resulting in dissatisfaction.
Absolute definition of Ordnance issues, prompt maintenance of Ordnance supply through LP etc., to ensure that AS, ARCS and ACF are not unfairly mulcted.

B.After giving due consideration to the above factors, the following plan, which has been discussed with 6, 7 and 9 Divs and DDCS, who expressed their accordance, appears to offer a working basis:-

(a)AIF (ME) to be divided into approximately six groups - 6, 7 and 9 Divs, Corps troops, AIF (ME) Base area (including Reinft Depot), Medical Services,and such others as may be decided upon.

(b)D of AS or AD of AS to attend regular meetings of Amenities Offrs in various areas and note list of requirements.

(c)All such applications to be accompanied by written statement as to position of Regimental funds.

(d)Applications to be considered, and those approved to be discussed with ACF and ARCS to prevent overlap.

(e)On approval by D of AS, Formations etc. Comds to be notified and asked for recommendations and approval of suggested requirements.

(f)When reply received from Formation Comds, sums estimated to cover requirements placed to the credit of Formations with written advice that it is intended to cover specific items, or alternatively, authority given for items to be purchased by AD of AS through AACS buying channels or LPO, and charged to Amenities Services.

C. In conclusion it is submitted for further consideration that t
Amenities Services AIF might be given operating powers on the
AIF Special Trust Account cheques for payment to be subject
to countersignature by any of the three present signatories.
Periodical grants from AACS would then be paid into this
account.

. . . . . .Lt-Col,
D of AS,
HQ AIF (ME).

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42/RO/1.

A.I.F. (ME),
19 Jan 42.

G.O.C.,
AIF (ME).

REPORT - AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - DECEMBER 1941.

Pursuant to instructions, submitted herewith is second regular monthly report on Amenities Services AIF (ME) inclusive of 31 Dec 41

2. MOVEMENTS of D of AS during period.
D of AS visited Palestine 3/13 Dec and 15/21 Dec 41, and left CAIRO en route for Palestine and Syria on 28 Dec 41. Owing to absence from CAIRO this report is slightly delayed.

3. POLICY.
A Conference called by DAG AIF (ME) at CAIRO on 23 Dec 41 to discuss proposed amendments to HQ AIF (ME) 10802 (Amenities AIF) of 16 Oct 41 for consideration by GOC AIF (ME), was attended by DAG, D of AS, AQME and AAG. The further anticipated direction, when received, should place Amenities Services' policy and financial condition on a firm basis.

4. FINANCE.
The opening of an Amenities Services AIF (ME) bank account at Barclay's Bank, TEL AVIV Branch, about 12 Dec 41, enabled several outstanding accounts to be met, and necessary adjustments with AACS and "AIF Special Trust Fund No.275" were made.

5. AIF ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION.
(a) "All in Fun" Revue opened at BEIT JIRJA on 16 Dec 41. In the absence of GOC AIF (ME), Comd 1 Aust Corps presided, thanking the Company and welcoming guests.
(B) The Company played successively at DEIR SNEID, HILL 95, GAZA HQ and KILO 89 during the remainder of the month, and were well received everywhere.
(c) Personnel. Several changes in civilian and military personnel have taken place, but the Company has now settled down and it is anticipated will remain practically unchanged until a second programme is required. Instructions have been issued for rehearsals of a second programme to be commenced about 15 Jan 42.
(d) Transport.
(i) Owing to the unsuitability of the trailer carrying th stage electric lighting equipment, a 3-ton Lorry was requisitioned and supplied by ADOS MT, and the necessary application will be lodged for inclusion on establishment.
(ii) In view of the inclement weather, risks of illness, the increase in number of personnel engaged, and long distances t be covered to and from Camps, it was found impracticable for the Company to be transported in open trucks, and a Bus was engaged fr Egged Co. If the section is to remain at present size, it is recommended the Establishment be increased to include a second Bu
(e) Instruments. The Orchestra requirements were finally completed by the inclusion of certain personnel who brought their own instruments. An affirmative cable from AHQ Melbourne has been received in answer to the request for purchase through AACS of further instruments for general supply to AIF (ME) Formation Conc Parties, etc. The receipt of these instruments should ease the position considerably. Overtures made to AAG GHQ (ME) and the Vice-President of Live Entertainment Sub-Committee for assistance from stocks held by NAAFI were unsuccessful.
(f) Wardrobe. On completion of wardrobe for "All in Fun" Company, certain of the civilian staff were dismissed, and the remainder are at present engaged in making wardrobes for Formation and Unit Concert Parties, which are supplying their own materi-

(g) Visits to Hospitals etc. In view of the constant engagement of personnel playing almost nightly since 16 Dec 41, it has not been found practicable to provide as much outside entertainment as during the month of November 41. Personnel have been lent on non-playing nights, and P.B.S. has asked if the services of the Orchestra could be made available for a broadcast from JERUSALEM. When the Company's formal application is received it will be referred for a direction.

(h) Production and Rehearsals of Formation Concert Parties. Ref para 6 of D of AS P/156 of 7 Dec 41; the first Formation Concert Party reported TEL AVIV on 28 Dec 41, and have now been developed into an entertainment party capable of giving public performances, and arrangements for routing are being drawn up by AD of AS (Pal). The next Formation Concert Party to report to Entertainments Section will be from 9 Aust Div, and is expected about 15 Jan 42.

(i) Radio Transcription Records and Equipment. In conjunction with Capt B.F.A. Brown numerous factories (including B.T.H.) were visited in an endeavor to get the necessary equipment to put this plant in running order. Unfortunately the necessary Turntables are not available in ME, and Capt Brown has recommended that the Transcription equipment be held in stock until suitable turntables are available. He has been requested to submit an exact list of plant required.

(j) Alterations to Cinemas. Further delays, due to lack of materials, strikes of personnel, etc. prevented the opening of the "All in Fun" Company until 16 Dec 41 at BEIT JIRJA - the first theatre to be ready. Fortunately, although certain disabilities were encountered due to incompletion of portions of structures, the routing programme has been adhered to up to the present.

6. SYRIA.

(a) Cinemas.

(i) Work on Cinemas is proceeding, but it would appear as though they will not be completed by 15 Jan 42 as expected by CE. Blizzards, strikes of personnel and shortage of supplies have re-acted against the original plan.

(ii) After representations were made by 1 Aust Corps regarding standard of films supplied by Licensee, the latter made application to visit CAIRO regarding new films leasing arrangements, and also to take into partnership Levant Commercial & Contracting Co. Permission was arranged, and it is understood that standards have improved somewhat.

(b) Mobile Cinema Section.

(i) Mobile Cinema Sub-Section No.1 on 31 Dec 41 had given 65 performances before audiences numbering 19,320. Programmes were varied during the month by inclusion of Gazettes loaned by M H & I Section and hired films. Messrs Thos. Shafto has been approached and is lending two films for exhibition during Jan 42.

(ii) The purchase of plant for a second Sub-Section was approved on 14 Dec 41, and Capt Brown arrived from Palestine to supervise structural alterations and installation in truck, which was received on 26 Dec 41. This Sub-Section should proceed to Syria with crew already selected and assisting in installation work, about 15 Jan 42.

(c) Formation and Civil Concert Parties.

(i) 6 Aust Div. On approval of application from Comd 6 Aust Div, an amount of £500 was placed to credit of Comd's Fund to cover expenditures on Concert Party and general amenities for troops.

(ii) 7 Aust Div. In order to provide 7 Aust Div with entertainment during the production of the Formation Concert Party, £300 was placed to the credit of Comd Fund to pay salaries of civilians hired in Palestine to provide entertainment at TRIPOLI, etc.

(iii) Assistance was also given 7 Aust Div in the purchase of wardrobe and instruments.

(d) Furniture and Lights. Further grants for furniture and lights were made to 6 and 7 Aust Divs during the month, and the

(d) Furniture and Lights (Contd)
the/
situation at the moment is reported on by AD of AS (Syria) as satisfactory.

(e) Wireless Sets. Following on receipt of AUSFORCE signal A.1420 of 12 Dec 41 relative to provision of amenities in Syria, it is understood that direct arrangements were made with DDCS for purchase of Wireless Sets and Sporting equipment and clothing, for distribution to Units. Details of these purchases and commitments are not yet available, but will be included in next report.

(f) Visits of Unit Sporting Teams to Palestine. Following on visit of Amenities Officer (Sports), a plan is under consider--ation by 1 Aust Corps and Base Area whereby Unit teams are to leave Syria and play in Palestine. If approved, the scheme will commence operating during Jan 42.

(g) Co-ordination of AIF and British Entertainments, Syria. AD of AS (Syria) has conferred with Amenities Officer, Ninth Army, relative to pooling of entertainments in Syria, and has been advised of AIF (ME) policy of retaining individuality, and co-operation, after AIF requirements are met.

7. PALESTINE.

(a) Cinemas.

(i) New Cinemas opened at DIBRA and MUGHAZI during the month. 8 ASH has been delayed owing to shortage of electrical equipment, but is expected to open about 15 Jan 42.

(ii) Heavy rains prevented Cinema screenings at certain theatres on 24, 25 & 26 Dec 41.

(iii) A plan for inclusion of Live Entertainment Vaudeville acts in conjunction with film exhibits has been commenced and is proving very successful.

(b) Formation and Other Concert Parties and Bands.

(i) 9 Aust Div Concert Party was selected during the month and have already been supplied with certain instruments and are playing in Unit lines.

(ii) HQ Guards Bn Band are continuing to play in Camp lines and hospitals, giving morning and afternoon recitals at 4 & 6 ACH, and it is understood broadcast over P.B.S.

(iii) Finance Party. This Party, which was assisted with a financial grant after a performance witnessed at 4 ACH, visited many Recreation Huts, and also gave several impromptu Camp Concerts during Xmas week. AD of AS (Pal) is giving consideration to plans for the routing of this Party in connection with 7 (a) (iii).

8. GAMES.

Inter-unit games of Cricket, Football (Australian Rules, Rugby and Soccer), Volley and Basket Ball, Hockey, Tennis, have been played by AIF Units during the month, and in Palestine many contests have taken place with local, Police and British Army teams.

20 Inf Bde won all its Hockey matches and lost all its Soccer matches on a tour from 1 to 5 Dec incl.

In the Rugby match at JERUSALEM on 14 Dec 41 a combined team of AIF personnel beat the Combined Palestine Police by 35 to 3.

Cross country races also took place, and a 10 miles Cross Country Championship and Teams Race has been arranged for 11 Jan 42. as per bill attached marked "A".

Squash matches were played at YMCA JERUSALEM against local teams.

Bad weather resulted in the cancellation of most matches during the week ending 28 Dec 41.

9. HOSPITALS AMENITIES OFFICERS.

(a) Conference. A conference of all Hospitals Amenities Officers was held at GAZA on Sat 20 Dec 41. DMS AIF (ME) was to have attended but was unfortunately debarred - ADMS AIF (ME) Base Area attending as his representative. The Minutes of the Confer-- are attached to this report ("B"), and indicate considerable interest and hard work on the part of these Officers.

HOSPITALS AMENITIES OFFICERS (Contd).

(b) Occupational Therapy Grant and Petty Cash. A monthly grant was arranged of £25 to each 600 bed Hospital and £50 to each 1200 bed Hospital and 1 Aust Conv Depot for Occupational Therapy requirements. Overseas Commissioner ARCS issued a circular letter (copy attached "C"), following on Amenities Services letter of 23 Dec 41 (copy attached "D"). An Imprest Petty Cash Account was also arranged for each Officer, covered by conditions outlined in above letter.

(c) Lectures, Films, etc.

(i) Lectures. On 29 Dec 41 Mr Johns, Director of the Department of Antiquities, JERUSALEM, addressed 6 AGH staff and patients, on the History and Geography of the Middle East. The lecture was illustrated by many excellent slide photographs, and was repeated at 4 AGH on the following day.

Mr Runciman of Public Information Office will repeat the lecture at 1 Aust Conv Depot and 9 AGH on 5 & 6 Jan 42, and Major Kaye (of 2 AGH) at 7 AGH and 1 AGH on 7 & 8 Jan 42.

S/Sgt Woods of Entertainments Section accompanies all Lecturers and operates the Cinematograph, amplifier and slides.

Owing to the unavailability of Lt-Col Rogers another Lecturer must be found to carry on the series.

(ii) Films. Mrs Sella of the Jerusalem Services Club has been instrumental in securing a film entitled "The Rebirth of Palestine" for free exhibition at 4 & 6 AGH on 7 & 8 Jan 42. The film is well considered and should prove interesting.

In addition to procuring the above film, Mrs Sella has been instrumental in arranging several ward concerts, and entertainment of patients in private houses, and a suitable letter of thanks has been forwarded.

UFS now exhibit twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays at 4 AGH Cinema.

(d) Patients Libraries, etc. Amenities Officer 1 AGH has been in touch with South Hawthorn Branch RSL, and has received a supply of books on technical and other subjects for educational and general reading purposes. The idea has been adopted by other Hospitals Amenities Officers, who have communicated with their respective Municipal Councils. Copy of "Recuperator", produced at 1 Aust Conv Depot is submitted herewith - marked "E".

(e) Tree Planting and Gardening. Considerable progress has been made in this direction during the month of Dec 41, over 600 trees being planted at 1 AGH, and large improvements in gar[den] being noted at 1 Aust Conv Depot and 7 AGH.

1 Aust Conv Depot also organised a voluntary painting squad for work on Canteens etc.

(f) Xmas Festivities. In all Hospitals committees were formed under Amenities Officers - ward decorations, special Xmas fare, Red Cross hampers, entertainments (band, choral and instrumental), picture showings, gramophone recitals, distributi[on] of Cinema and Concert tickets to walking patients, and outings to places of interest, including BETHLEHEM etc., were amongst the many forms of entertainment noted.

(g) Transport. A shortage of transport for patients' recreational leave parties is still reported, and has been discussed with ARCS, who have the matter under consideration. It is hoped that certain of the Buses due to arrive from Australia can be diverted for the above purpose. The effect on patients of the recreational visits to places of historical and agricultural interest, and organised visits to industries, is most marked. During one week over 400 men from 1 Aust Conv Depot were taken in ARCS buses to ACRE ruins, ATHLIT, SEBASTIAN, etc.

10. GENERAL.

(a) Conferences. Frequent conferences were held with ADs of AS (Pal) and (Syria) in Palestine and Syria, and immediate problems discussed. Formation and Bde Amenities Officers were also contacted and their local problems given consideration.

A visit of appreciation to all Units and Bdes in Syria has been planned for early Jan 42.

GENERAL (Contd).

(b) W.E.Ts. Due to the fact that many Establishments have only recently been approved, including those of Hospitals Amenities Officers, no WETs have been completed. This matter is now under consideration, as considerable difficulties in office and stationery supplies, and particularly typewriters, have been reported.

(c) Co-ordination. Ref 11 A (c) and (d) of P/156 of 7 Dec 41; it is hoped that some form of co-ordination of all Amenities and Philanthropic Services can be given early consider--ation.

Lt-Col.
D of AS HQ AIF (ME).

Copy to DAG AIF (ME).
ADC, GOC

19 Jan 42.

DIRECTOR OF AMENITIES — 206a

HELIOPOLIS — JAN 42

AMENITIES

MONTHLY REPORT	on Amenities Services AIF (ME) for Jan 42 accepted as WD for month.	DIRECTOROF AMENITI JAN 42

Major F. J. Howard M

204 A.

WAR DIARY
DIRECTOR OF AMENITIES
A I F.
Jan 42

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A.I.F. (ME).
1 Feb 42.

GOC AIF (ME).

REPORT on AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - JANUARY 42.

Pursuant to instructions, submitted herewith is third regular monthly report on Amenities Services AIF (ME), inclusive of 31 Jan 42.

2. Movements of D of AS during period:

Leaving CAIRO on Sun 28 Dec 41, visits were made to Palestine Camps and Hospitals on Dec 29/31 and Syria Jan 1/8 inclusive.

In Syria many Units were interviewed which had not previously been visited by a Representative of Amenities Services, including LATAKIA Area, and those adjacent to Turkish frontier and in ALEPPO area.

Owing to the snow and road conditions existing, the visit to 16 and 17 Bdes, [illegible] area, was cancelled on advice of Comd 6 Aust Div, and return made through [illegible] and [illegible].

In general, complete satisfaction was expressed with the amenities position, and the morale of Officers and troops encountered was exceedingly high.

In view of Formation reliefs a further visit to Syria is contemplated for early Feb 42.

3. Policy:

The release of the direction [illegible] AIF (ME) 937 of 16 Jan 42, anticipated in para 3 of December report, together with [illegible] AIF (ME) letter to CMN 1622 of 25 Jan 42 relative to the opening of banking accounts has now regularised Amenities SERVICES finance.

A Meeting of the Amenities Board is to be held at office of CMN AIF (ME) on 3 Feb 42.

4. AIF Entertainments Section:

(a) Routing:

(i) "All in Fun" Revue played at [illegible], JULIS, MILL 69, [illegible], QASTINA, MILL 69, [illegible] and JULIS Camps successively during Jan 42,- Where repeat performances were given before new arrivals in Camp Areas.

(ii) On 11 Jan 42 GOC AIF (ME) issued orders for cancellation of arrangements for Syrian visit, originally set down for 2 Feb 42. It is estimated that 80% of personnel of 9 Aust Div saw the Revue before leaving Palestine.

(iii) Arrangements have been made for routing of the Company before new audiences in Palestine during the entire month of February.

(b) Personnel:

Application was made for an increase in Establishment (42/P13/2 of 22 Jan 42) to include a Q.M. and Adjt (Lieut); but a further application compiled by Entertainments Section with the assistance of Base Area for increases, and changes, in Establishment, has been deferred for the time being.

The nominal roll of personnel at 31 Jan 42 totalled 2 Offrs and 50 ORs.

(c) Rehearsal of Second Programme:

Instructions were again issued on 14 Jan 42 for the commencement of rehearsals for a second programme, on the strict understanding that no further wardrobe purchases are to be made without authority of D of AS.

(d) Wardrobe Staff:
This was engaged during the month in preparing wardrobe for 7 Aust Div Concert Party and other Unit Concert Parties who all provided their own materials.

(e) Production and Rehearsal of Formation Concert Parties:
Ref para 5 (h) of D of AS 42/30/1 of 19 Jan 42;

(i) 7 Aust Div Concert Party:
The 7 Aust Div Concert Party was billeted and rehearsed at [illegible] AVIV, opening at 7 ACH on 22 Jan 42.
D/Lt-Col Gerald subsequently reported - "This show with a little more experience and a slight change in personnel will develop into a first class Unit show".

(ii) 9 Aust Div Concert Party:
Owing to movement, 9 Aust Div Concert Party were unable to move in to [illegible] AVIV to undergo their rehearsal and refitting, but in their place arrangements have been made to take 6 Aust Div Concert Party, and 9 Aust Div Concert Party will move in about the middle of Feb 42. On completion of rehearsal of 9 Aust Div Concert Party the three Formation Parties will have been rehearsed, and should be capable of providing good entertainment.
The existing plan is for the rehearsal of Reinft Depot Concert Party to follow after 9 Aust Div Concert Party is completed. The former Party has already been performing in Unit lines.

(iii) Finance Concert Party:
Finance Concert Party, referred to in para 7 (iii) of D of AS December report, are rapidly improving, and are continuing to give good average performances in Unit and Hospital lines.
This Party was given assistance in the manufacture of wardrobe, referred to (d) above.

(iv) YMCA Concert Party:
This Party was visited on 19 Jan 42, and although weak, may develop sufficient strength to be utilised for hospital ward and Recreation Hut work.

(f) Radio Transcription Records and Equipment:
In further consultation with Capt E.T.A. Brown after arrival of certain small amplifying equipment from Australia, instructions were issued for distribution of 78 r.p.m. records etc. to Hospitals Amenities Officers at 6 & 7 AGH, 1 ADD and 8 ADD, the balance of 16" records etc. being delivered to HQ i/c AIF Camp Broadcasting.

5. Syria:

(a) Cinemas:
(i) On 17 Jan 42 AD of AS (Syria) and D of AS interviewed AQMG HQ AIF (ME), and suggested that in view of the state of erection of Cinemas in 6 Aust Div area, and discussion as to responsibility for payment, further construction might be held up pending decision - particularly sub-contracts for stage alterations.
(ii) The Cinemas in [illegible] area were expected to be completed about second week in February, and ready for utilisation by Licensee and exhibition of films.

(b) Mobile Cinema Section:
The two further Mobile Cinema Sub-Sections purchased were despatched to Syria with crews during the month, but No.2 Sub-Section was withdrawn almost immediately after arrival for temporary attachment to 7 Aust Div.
No.1 Sub-Section will show to Units in [illegible] and [illegible] areas pending instructions to proceed for embarkation with 6 Aust Div.
No.3 Sub-Section will continue showing to 9 Aust Div units, and will proceed with that Formation.
AHQ Melbourne has been requested to forward to I Aust Corps, for distribution to the three sub-sections, the 35 m/m Films previously referred to in signal AD/5[illegible] of 4 Jan 42.

5. Syria (Contd.)

(c) Formation, NAAFI, and other Concert Parties:

(i) 9 Aust Div: This party proceeded with 18 and is playing in Unit lines pending arrival of further Concert Parties in the area about third week in the month, after which it is to proceed to [illegible] ATIV for production.

(ii) NAAFI: "The Rascals" will play to 9 Aust Div Units at [illegible] on 19/23 Feb 42.

(iii) 10 Div Concert Party: AD of M (Syria) is endeavouring to arrange for this party to play at 9 Aust Div area at the beginning of February, in exchange for visits to British Units, [illegible] areas, by Mobile Cinema Section - No.1 Sub-Section.

(d) Assistance and Grants to Units:

(i) Sporting Gear:
Prior to instructions being issued that Amenities Services were not to purchase goods for re-sale, but place orders received for distribution by branches NCOs, AD of M (Syria) placed orders amounting to approx £ 400 for sporting gear, boots, jerseys, etc. for delivery to 7 Aust Div units.
It is now reported that owing to departure of 7 Aust Div the goods were left on hand, and have been given to units 9 Aust Div.

(ii) NAAFI allocated £250 on behalf of Amenities Services to 16 Aust Inf Bde Gymkhana, for which total prize money aggregated approx £465.

(iii) Lantern projection equipment for the use of Chaplains in lectures, furniture and wireless sets, are also amongst items distributed in Syria during January.

6. Relaxing:

(a) Cinemas:

(i) New Cinemas.
5 ACH opened on 14 Jan 42, one performance nightly and Matinees Sats and Suns. On 18 Jan 42 a spool of film ignited in the cabin. Damage was confined to electric wiring and cinematograph apparatus - all property of [illegible], as also responsibility.
[illegible] Cinema opened on 16 Jan 42 - two performances nightly and Sunday matinee.
4 ACH Cinema closed down 16 Jan 42.

(ii) Accoustics.
Treatment was completed at BANYAS, KILO 89, JENIN and 8 ACH, and in all brick cinemas in ATP Camps.

(iii) Cancelled Screenings.
Owing to power mains break down, performances were cancelled at QASTINA, JULIS, RAFFARA, BEIT JIBRIN, [illegible] and KILO 89 on Sun 18 Jan 42.
[illegible] open-air cinema, owned by UNRRA, was blown down on 2 Jan 42.

(b) Concert Parties:
(i) 7 Aust Div Concert Party - refer para 4 (a) (i).
(ii) 2 Aust Div Concert Party - refer para 4 (a) (ii).
(iii) "The Rascals" and Jerusalem Red Cross.
"The Rascals" under NAAFI management gave performances at 1 Aust Corps Depot AIN VITKIN on 1/8 Jan 42 and at 9 ACH [illegible] on 16 Jan 42.
Jerusalem Red Cross arranged Naval Concerts at 4 & 6 ACH at [illegible] during the month.
(iv) 4, 6 & 7 ACHs have all instituted Concert Parties, which in the case of the latter two hospitals have already given several performances.

7. Games:

Games scheduled, inter-Unit and inter-Force, continued during the month, the main events being the 10 Miles Cross Country Championship (Palestine) held on 11 Jan 42, for which there were 66 starters, and the defeat of a Combined British team, in a cross country race finishing at SARAFAND, by a team composed of AIF personnel.
The return HOCKEY match against the Combined Palestine Police was won by the AIF representatives by 6 points to nil.
Owing to bad weather and troop movements, the visits of Unit Sporting Teams from Syria to Palestine (ref para 6 (f) December report) were cancelled.

8. Hospitals Amenities Officers:

(a) Progress reports have been received from all Hospitals Amenities Officers, and indicate considerable progress. The creation of these appointments has been favorably commented upon by all Hospital Comds, and further recommendations will be submitted in February. The selection of Hospitals Amenities Officers requires great consideration, as the role is difficult.

(b) Lectures:
Following on lectures by Mr Johns to 4 & 6 AGH, further lectures were given by Mr Rendinen (Public Information Office) on 5 Jan 42 at 1 Aust Conv Depot and 6 Jan 42 at NAZARETH, 9 AGH.
Major Kaye (2 AGH) lectured at 7 AGH on 7 Jan 42 and at 1 AGH on 8 Jan 42.
Reports indicate that the lectures were all well delivered, and of considerable interest.

(c) Occupational Therapy:
(i) Every report, including those from ARCS, indicate that Occupational Therapy is proving most valuable as an extinguisher of boredom, and a mental tonic, for patients.
(ii) Under instructions, the monthly grants are to be discontinued, other than to AIF Hospital Units remaining in ME, until conditions become static.

9. General:

(a) Education:
(i) Based on Corps memo 97147 of 20 Sep 41 (ref ACI 145 of Nov 40 and ACI 59 of Jan 42), and "Education in War time Army"; educational schemes have been commenced in certain AIF Units, and Amenities Services have assisted with supply of text books and payment of teaching fees.
Most notable are those originated by 2/2 AAW at AMLAH, where civilian instructors including a graduate of the American University, BEYROUTH, conducted classes in Mathematics, Physics, Surveying, FRENCH and ARABIC.
1 Aust ACW and 2/3 AAW are also conducting classes.
Comd 33 Aust Inf Bn interviewed at Tripol Area on Sat 3 Jan 42 stated that 244 applications had been received from personnel in the Unit, and voluntary classes were being arranged in English, History, Accountancy, Letter Writing and French. Sufficient instructors had been found in the Unit, including four trained teachers and several University graduates.
(ii) No further details of the UKF Educational Scheme have yet been received in answer to our enquiry last month, possibly due to absence of Educational Officer from GHQ.
(iii) The arrival of the Army Educational Officer from Australia is awaited, as it is felt that in rear or rest areas considerable scope offers for Amenities Services assistance in this field.
(iv) As outlined in ACI 59 of 15 Jan 42, the Army is a cross section of the population, and in many cases limited education has prevented the best use of leisure. It is to be expected that a considerable percentage of personnel will not volunteer for educational classes, but a scheme for the elimination of boredom by popular lectures, illustrated when possible, and of short duration, is in process of arrangement in certain sections.
(v) Hospital Amenities Officer at 6 AGH refers in his report of 12 Jan 42 to the excellent classes arranged by YMCA and other bodies in JERUSALEM for members of the Services. It is noted that YMCA classes draw far class attendances.

9. General (Continued):

(b) Occupational Therapy and Vocational Training:

Although it is realised that such efforts as may be made to engage a patient's interest and stimulate his enthusiasm, during the period of his convalescence, may not have any effect on his ultimate vocational career, it is submitted that this is not the case invariably, and it is suggested that considerably more use might be made of the services of patients at Camp Depots and Physiatric Centres than is the case at present.

Classes in sign-writing, carpentering, and tinsmithing, have been extraordinarily successful at 1 Aust Camp Depot, and it is proposed to add Tent Repairing and Camouflage Net Making to the curriculum, and thus increase the utilitarian scope of the work.

It is felt that the Ordnance Services might be called upon to supply skilled instructors and materials for the above classes, receiving in return finished articles for stock and issue.

In this manner the functioning of the various groups would not be interfered with, and they would provide a reasonable set off against the cost of treatment and convalescence.

Lt-Col.
D of [illegible] AIP (ME).

Copy O i/c M H & I SECTION.

- 3 MAR 1942

42/RO/3.

A.I.F. (ME),
28 Feb 42.

GOC AIF (ME).

REPORT on AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - FEBRUARY 42.

Pursuant to instructions, submitted herewith is fourth regular monthly report on Amenities Services AIF (ME), inclusive of 28 Feb 42.

2. Movements of D of AS during period:

BEYROUTH and TRIPOLI were visited early February with AD of AS (Syria), and final arrangements made for the opening of the three Military Cinemas in 9 Aust Div area. Details of 9 Aust Div Concert Party visit to Entertainments Section AIF (ME) for rehearsal and production were also completed.
PORT SAID and SUEZ Sub-Areas were visited on different occasions during the month, and MT Sea Transports and Transit Camps.

3. POLICY:

Two Meetings of the Board of Amenities Services AIF (ME) were held on 4 Feb 42 and 23 Feb 42 respectively. Copies of Minutes (APPENDIX "A" 1 & 2) are attached for information.

4. AIF ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION:

(a) Routing.
"All in Fun" Revue played at BEIT JIRJA, DEMRA and HILL 95 to new audiences during February, and will continue to play in Palestine areas until departure for Syria early March.

(b) Personnel.
(i) Lieut C. H. Jackett was appointed Adjutant and QM to Section, and marched in on 20 Feb 42.
(ii) Instructions have been given for cancellation of contract of Zoltan dancers prior to departure for Syria, and engagement of Rosita and Roy (specialist dancers) not approved.

(c) Rehearsal and Wardrobe.
Rehearsal of new programme commenced on 5 Feb 42. An application for permission to purchase a complete new wardrobe was notapproved, as it was considered that present supplies were ample for requirement

(d) Production and Rehearsal of Formation Concert Parties, etc.

(i) 6 Aust Div Concert Party of 18 members arrived TEL AVIV on 1 Feb 42, and were outfitted at expense of Formation, but with assistance of Entertainments Section wardrobe staff.
ADOS AT arranged for issue of 21 seater Bus, included in Establishment.
OC Section supervised rehearsals and production, and Amenities Officer (Music) rehearsed the orchestral items and provided a complete new score.
Before leaving on 10 Feb 42 the Party was equipped with eleven sets of make-up, various scripts, 4 Boomerang Special Mouth Organs, and silk stockings (ex Prestige Coy) for female impersonators.

(ii) 9 Aust Div Concert Party.
Rehearsals of this Party (11 in number, including 2 stage hands) commenced on 19 Feb 42. OC Entertainments Section recommended increase in number to approximate Establishment, including 4 more Musicians, and the expenditure of £250 on wardrobe and scenery. The recommendation was forwarded 9 Aust Div for consideration.

(d) Production and Rehearsal of Formation Concert Parties, etc. (Contd).

(iii) 2/2 A.F.W. Certain of the personnel of the Band of 2/2 AFW have been rehearsed at Entertainments Section billets, and 12 orchestrations have been supplied to Lieut R.G. Jasson (Conductor).

GOC AIF (ME) approved of the grant of £A 284/8/4 to this Unit, covering band instruments purchased.

(e) Radio Transcription Equipment.

4 - 78 r.p.m., 230 volt Turntables and 4 - 6 volt battery operated Amplifiers have been delivered to the following - 6 AGH, 7 AGH, 8 ASH and 1 Aust Conv Depot. As only two sets of 78 r.p.m. recordings are in stock, these were begun at 7 AGH and 1 Aust Conv Depot. When in full operation 6 AGH and 8 ASH will be embraced in a switch system, making all four units fully operative.

5. SYRIA:

(a) Cinemas.

The opening of Cinemas at at KUBBE (opposite Legault Barracks), ZGHORTA and MESKHAZZINE, took place according to plan on 9/12 Feb 42. The sound and projection were exceedingly poor, due to indifferent equipment supplied by Contractor and voltage variation in electricity supply. The services of Opl McCracken of Mobile Cinema Section were loaned to Contractor (accommodation charges to latter account), and Amenities Officer 9 Aust Div reported about 15 Feb that projection and sound are now of good quality.

The visit of Contractor to CAIRO (ref para 6 (A) (ii) of report 42/MO/1 of 19 Jan 42) it is anticipated will result in a great improvement - 15 first quality programmes monthly being arranged with M.G.M. and Fox Companies.

(b) Mobile Cinema Section.

No.1 and No.2 Sub-Sections have been withdrawn from Syria for embarkation with 6 & 7 Aust Div respectively.

No.3 Sub-Section is continuing to show to 9 Aust Div Units, and further film supplies kindly lent by Mr Thos Shafto and NZEF YMCA are going forward immediately transport is available.

No.3 Sub-Section equipment has been entirely overhauled, and alterations to truck made by A.F.W. have resulted in it being brought up to standard of other Sub-Sections.

The personnel of crews has been carefully selected, and all are now efficient and trustworthy.

(c) Entertainments Section AIF (ME) visit Syria.

Ref para 4 (a); Entertainments Section will visit Syria, opening at BEYROUTH on 9 Mar. It is anticipated that Comd 9 Aust Div will approve of the following itinerary :-

BEYROUTH	3	performances and 1 matinee.
TRIPOLI	3	"
ZGHORTA	2	"
KPARAKKA	2	"
ALEPPO	2	"

All required advance bookings of theatres and accommodation have had attention, and the Section will return to TEL AVIV after performance at ALEPPO.

(d) Formations, NAAFI and other British Concert Parties.

(i) 9 Aust Div. This Party gave several performances in TRIPOLI area, including a four night season at Parrikie Theatre TRIPOLI, before departing on 19 Feb 42 for rehearsal and production at TEL AVIV.

(ii) "The Rascals" played TRIPOLI 18 & 19 Feb, LEGAULT 20 & 21 Feb, ZGHORTA 23 & 24 Feb, MESKHAZZINE 25 & 26 Feb, LATTAKIA 27 Feb and ALEPPO 28 Feb.

(d) Formations, NAAFI and other British Concert Parties (Continued)

(iii) 10 Corps Concert Party commenced its Syrian circuit on 20 Feb, playing in Unit lines.

(iv) 7C Div. This Div has two Concert Parties, and AD of AS (Syria) is endeavoring to arrange visits to AIF Units, and is also negotiating with Free French for loan of 2 - 25 seater Buses for transport of Concert Party personnel.

(e) Assistance and Grants to Units.

Amenities Services AIF (SR) expenditure on AIF Units in Syria during the period 22 Dec 41 to 13 Feb 42 (6 weeks) totalled £P 2603.695, including outlays on furniture for Recreation Huts, entertainment, sporting gear and clothing, wireless sets, and gymkhana prize money.

Further expenditures were authorised by DDOS in the shape of loans to Units by AACS on account of Amenities Services, but no information is yet available of the amount of claims likely to be submitted.

6. PALESTINE:

(a) AIF Special Trust Account. On 14 Feb 42 this Fund amounted to £A 36,813/2/5.

(b) Cinemas.

(i) On 12 Feb 42 QASTINA Cinema closed down, and reduction of programme to one performance nightly occurred at JUMIS and HILL 69.

(ii) Stage attractions with films were continued throughout the month.

(c) Concert Parties.

(i) HQ Aust Gd Bn Band was booked as a combined free programme with Gazettes, commencing 22 Feb 42.

(ii) London Varieties (including Alice Delysia) played at DEIR SUNEID and 6 AGH, and "Night Must Fall" was played by a NAAFI Party at KFAR VITKIN on 11 Feb 42 - all performances free.

(d) Games.

Owing to troop movements considerably less activity in field games is reported, but Units played Soccer, Rugby and Hockey matches against RAF, GAZA Police, and British Yeomanry.

24 IZB also played Hockey, Basket Ball, Tennis, and staged Boxing, Rifle Shooting and Athletic contests against SARAFAND.

Palestine Base and L of C have drawn up plans for a United Services Athletic Meeting. Approval for AIF representation has been referred Comd Base Area.

7. HOSPITALS AMENITIES OFFICERS:

(a) Activities.

Reports from Hospitals Amenities Officers indicate a continuation of keenness in the work. By the end of the month only 6 & 7 AGH 8 ASH and 1 Aust Conv Depot were functioning in MK. After the departure of patients from the remainder, Amenities Officers organised outings and table tennis tournaments for AANS and VADs and staff, and inter Unit sports meetings, including tennis, hockey, soccer and cricket for male members of the staff. Several Unit Smoke Nights were held, that at 1 AGH being attended by 300 Officers and other ranks.

7 AGH with assistance from Amenities Services, has now organised an excellent Concert Party, which provides frequent entertainment in the wards.

(b) Issues.

10 doz Golf Balls (for re-sale at 50 mills each), 4 Tennis Racquets and 6 doz Tennis Balls, 6 Tug-o-War Ropes, 5 Medicine Balls, Gymnasium Mats and 6 Chess Sets were amongst items forwarded 1 Aust Conv Depot.

7. HOSPITALS AMENITIES OFFICERS (Continued)

(c) Occupational Therapy.

Under direction GOC AIF (ME) monthly grants for Occupational Therapy requirements were restricted to 6 & 7 AGH, 8 ASH and 1 Aust Conv Depot.

6 AGH reports having spent all funds to considerable advantage.

As 7 AGH had not reported progress, DAG AIF (ME) asked for an explanation

8 ASH and 1 Aust Conv Depot remarked on excellent results obtained.

The Physciatric Centre at 1 Aust Conv Depot referred to, work in the nature of D of AS report for Jan 42. Essential repair work to furniture, provision of kitchen utensils, engineering repairs, have all been carried out with tools and materials provided from Amenities Services grants.

8. GENERAL:

(a) Expenditure on Amenities during Voyage.

GOC AIF (ME) approved of an expenditure on amenities during voyage on the following conditions :-

Expenditure on amenities during voyage from Regtl Funds will be at discretion of CO. Units having credit of less than 10/- per head of embarkation strength may claim reimbursement from Amenities Funds at conclusion of voyage. Amount may be claimed to bring Regtl Fund to total of 10/- per head provided maximum amount of grant will not exceed 4/- per head

(b) Issues to MT Sea Transports.

An investigation of conditions on MT Sea Transports revealed the necessity for provision of Amenities items other than deck games. Sixtyfour parcels of Books and In-door Games costing approx £E 775 have been supplied through OC Port Detachment for delivery and distribution. OC Transports were requested to arrange for organised handling of books on a library basis, and games, all to be taken on Unit charge at expiration of voyage.

(c) Issues Stores AIF (ME) Transit Camps, SUEZ and GENEIFA Sub-Areas.

At request of L/O AIF (ME) SUEZ Sub-Area stores comprising Wireless Sets (6), all types of Sporting Gear, and Playing Cards etc. costing approx £E 260 were delivered SUEZ Sub-Area Store for distribution. All issues were made on AF G1033, and L/O has been requested to arrange for requisite packing, marking and consignment of stores at conclusion of Camps.

(d) AANS Visit CAIRO.

By direction, arrangements were made by DAG AIF (ME) for parties of members of AANS located SUEZ Sub-Area to visit CAIRO Feb 13/16 inclusive, and be billetted on ss. "Victoria" - evacuated convalescent Officers transferred ss. "Sudan".

(e) Inauguration of Amenities Services Store BARBARA.

After promulgation of AIF Order 987 of 2nd Feb 42, it was found that AIF (ME) Kit Store was not equipped to cope with supplies of Amenities items likely to be forwarded for custody and storage. An Amenities Services Store was established on 9 Feb 42, and it is of interest to note that during the first week items listed in APPENDIX "B" were reported. A very considerable portion of these would have undoubtedly been lost under conditions prevailing previously. A direction is now awaited as to disposal.

Copy to DAG AIF (ME).
O i/c M H & I Section.
ADC GOC AIF (ME)

Lt-Col.
D of AS HQ AIF (ME).

6. APR. 1942
Orig.

42/RC/4.

A.I.F. (ME),
3 Apr 42.

GOC AIF (ME).

REPORT on AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - MARCH 42.

Pursuant to instructions, submitted herewith is fifth regular monthly report on Amenities Services AIF (ME), inclusive of 31 Mar 42.

2. MOVEMENTS OF D OF AS:
Palestine and Syria were visited 6/14 Mar 42, and opening of Entertainments Section Revue witnessed at BEYROUTH.
Details of Syrian tour, Cinemas erection, etc. were discussed with AA & QMG 9 Aust Div at TRIPOLI on 9 Mar 42.
Under direction GOC AIF (ME), General Catroux, Comd FFL, was interviewed at BEYROUTH on 12 Mar 42, and complaint in regard to alleged non return by YMCA of cinema equipment and truck discussed. Report is attached - APPENDIX "A".
Amenities on Sea Transports were investigated regularly at SUEZ during March.

3. POLICY:

(a) GOC AIF (ME) directed that Entertainments Section visit to Syria should be limited to 21 days, but period might be increased at the discretion of GOC 9 Aust Div. On return from Syria, and conclusion of season at MUGHAZI, NUSEIRAT, and performances at JERUSALEM and TEL AVIV, the female members of caste will be dismissed.

(b) The next Meeting of Amenities Services AIF (ME) Board will take place on 15 Apr 42.

4. AIF (ME) ENTERTAINMENTS SECTION:

(a) Routing.
(i) "All in Fun" Revue opened at BEYROUTH on Tues 10 Mar 42, playing 5 nights, incl 14 Mar 42, and a matinee at American University, for which the programme was slightly pruned by direction. Newspaper clippings attached - APPENDIX "B".
(ii) Owing to troop movements an alteration in routing arrangements was necessitated, the Section playing at Legault Barracks and Zghorta Cinema from 16 Mar 42, until movement to Lattakia on 28 Mar 42. The Lattakia season extends from 30 Mar 42 to 2 Apr inclusive, and under arrangements of AD of AS (Syria) the company will then move to DAMASCUS, playing at Garrison Theatre 6, 7 & 8 April, returning to TEL AVIV on Thurs 9 April. Instructions had been issued by HQ 9 Aust Div for FS to meet Section at the border on 6 Apr 42, and the amended arrangements as outlined by AD of AS (Syria) were only received at HQ AIF (ME) on Fri 3 Apr 42. It would appear as if 6 extra days are required for the visit to DAMASCUS.
(iii) After returning to Palestine on 9 Apr 42, it will play at NUSEIRAT, MUGHAZI, KILO 89 and JERUSALEM, giving a final performance at TEL AVIV on 24 Apr 42.

(b) Personnel.
(i) In accordance with instructions of GOC AIF (ME), the civilian personnel will be given one month's notice on 31 Mar 42, and will be paid off on 25 Apr 42, thus giving approximately one week's holiday and bonus.
(ii) The chief executive officers of NAAFI Entertainment have been interviewed, and have promised to give consideration to the employment of certain selected civilian members after release.
(iii) The remaining military personnel of Section will be utilised after 24 Apr 42 under routing arrangements of AD of AS (Palestine) until embarked.

(c) Production and Rehearsal of Formation Concert Party.

(i) 9 Aust Div Concert Party.

GOC 9 Aust Div at TEL AVIV on 2 Mar 42 approved of the expenditure of a further £100 on wardrobe etc. for Formation Concert Party. The Party completed rehearsals, , and final elements left TEL AVIV on 12 Mar 42.

(ii) Owing to departure of Entertainments Section for Syria no further rehearsals of Unit Parties were possible during the month.

5. SYRIA:

(a) Cinemas.

According to reports from AD of AS (Syria) the three Cinemas in TRIPOLI area are continuing to give satisfaction, and receipts are increasing.

(b) Mobile Cinema Section.

No.3 Sub-Section completed its tour of Northern Syria by 18 Mar 42 and was re-routed immediately. Considerable difficulty is being experienced in getting a good type of films for exhibition. NZEF EMCA are unable to supply at present, NAAFI have no films available, and the last two films loaned by Mr Thos Shafto were of such indifferent quality that they were returned to his office and not released.

(c) Formation and British controlled Concert Parties.

NAAFT and UDF Concert Parties will visit AIF areas during the first weeks in April.

(d) Canteens.

As certain stocks of sporting gear are held in Amenities Services Store BARBARA, HQ 9 Aust Div has been requested to indicate requirements, which will be issued on Unit charge, and by decision of GOC will move with Unit on embarkation. Arrange--ments have been made for immediate issue on receipt of requisition from Formation

(e) In view of capability of Amenities Officer HQ 9 Aust Div, the retention of AD of AS (Syria) does not appear to be warranted after the departure of Entertainments Section for Palestine on 8 Apr 42, and subject to approval of GOC AIF (ME) the BEYROUTH office will be closed down from Sat 18 Apr 42.

By direction of GOC AIF (ME) of 1 Mar 42, and under arrangement DOS AIF (ME) 19 Mar 42, AD of AS (Syria) will report Aust Ord Tng Bagt AIF (ME) Reinft Depot on conclusion of above duty.

6. PALESTINE:

(a) AIF Special Trust Fund.

On 31 Mar 42 this Fund stood at £A 30,466/-/10. The balance will depreciate hence-forth very considerably as receipts from Cinemas and Canteens diminish.

(b) Cinemas.

Reduced numbers of performances, and closing down of cinemas at JULIS, HILL 69, KHASSA, CASTINA, HILL 95, 4 AGH and 6 AGH JERUSALEM, are reported.

(c) Concert Parties.

(i) Reinft Depot Concert Party is commencing to take shape, and is now capable of giving reasonably good performances in Unit lines.

(ii) 7 AGH Concert Party was assisted by transfer of a professional musician from Entertainments Section, and has already given several good concerts in wards - sample of programme attached - APPENDIX "C".

(c) Concert Parties (Contd)

(iii) 1 Aust Conv Depot Concert Party. This Unit Concert Party is in full swing, and AD of AS (Palestine) has asked to attend performances with a view to arranging visits to other Units.

(iv) 3 British Conv Depot Concert Party gave a free performance at KHAR YATKIN on 2 Mar 42.

(v) "Hello Happiness" NAAFI Party performed at NUSEIRAT and MAGHAZI on 14 & 17 Mar 42.

(d) Games.

(i) Football and Cricket. With the change in season cricket is supplanting football, the final games of football against GAZA Police being played on 15 Mar 42.

(ii) Hockey and Baseball. Inter Unit matches were arranged, as also contests against Club teams, the most notable being two wins against the strong Maccabi team at TEL AVIV.

(iii) Boxing and Athletics. Very little interest is being shown in Boxing, but Athletic meetings took place at MAGHAZI, DEIRA and MILL 95.

7. HOSPITALS AMENITIES OFFICERS:

(a) Reports from Hospitals remaining in ME show a continuance of activity on the part of Amenities Officers. Many conducted tours to places of historical interest were arranged by 1 AGH, 6 ACH, 1 Aust Conv Depot - two of these of 1 AGH extending over 2 days, personnel contributing 750 mills towards expenses of bus hire and hotel expenses, the balance being met from Regtl Funds. Difficulty experienced in having Army transport made available for these outings is having the attention of ADOS (MT), cost of private bus hire being now almost prohibitive.

(b) Amenities Officer 8 ASH sponsored a GAZA area Unit Table Tennis competition, which has created keen interest, and games are well attended.

(c) Amenities Services delivered complete Radio Transcription equipment with records to 6 & 7 AGH, 8 ASH and 1 ACD, enabling reception in wards. A routing system is in process, enabling exchange of records.

(d) Occupational Therapy - Activity continues in this picture of Amenities work, in conjunction with ARCS, and reports on expenditure of funds are satisfactory.

(e) Organisation and supervision of Hospital Libraries has also engaged attention.

(f) Civilians and villagers in GAZA area have entertained staff and patients of 6 AGH on several occasions during the month.

8. GENERAL:

(a) Expenditure on Amenities and Packages of Amenities Items supplied.

(i) On account of the heterogeneous composition of MT Sea Transports it was found impossible to adequately apply allowances outlined in cipher message AD 4220 X, ref para 8 (a) of report 42/RO/5 dated 28 Feb 42. Further instructions were issued on 21 Mar 42 and cipher message AD 4656 X released, reading :-

"Reference 4220X Stepsister expenditure on Amenities (.)
"Procedure outlined applies only to personnel actually
"embarking under Unit Command and excludes detachments
"travelling on MT Sea Transports (.) OC MT Sea Transports
"may expend up to £/- per head at embarkation irrespective
"of position Regimental Funds (.) OC Troops MT ships will
"obtain necessary funds from Pay Corps representative at
"port of embarkation (.) Expenditure will be supported by
"vouchers submitted to Pay Corps representative on board (.)
"Return OC Troops MT ships

(ii) Amenities Services grant of £P 1,000 was placed to credit of BUCKFORCE, and Trust Book handed Comd TIBERIAS 13 Mar 42.

(iii) Ample supplies of literature and games have been placed on all MT Sea Transports, and in conjunction with DDPS bundles of literature have been delivered to every other vessel.

(iv) In the case of a transport carrying details of all description, after consultation with OC, sporting gear was purchased, literature supplied, and in conjunction with A/CPM, monies made available for purchases and prize money on board - expenditure to be supported by requisitions and vouchers tendered AAPC representative on transport.

(v) CPM AIF has been signalled information of all grants and conditions applying thereto.

(b) Visit to Egypt of HQ Guard Bn Band.

At request of Executive Committee Entertainments (ME), and with approval of GOC AIF (ME), the HQ Guard Bn Band (OC Lieut McMillan) arrived in Egypt on 12 Mar 42, and was attached HQ BTE for administration and routing, being quartered at MAADI. The Band played as per attached itinerary (APPENDIX "D"), including recorded broadcast over ESB. Many favorable comments were received on the quality of the entertainment and general discipline. The Chairman of ECE at Meeting on 31 Mar 42 expressed appreciation of AIF co-operation. Press references attached (APPENDIX "E").

(c) Entertainments Section Orchestra.

In view of the success of the above liaison, and the continued courtesies of MAAFI Entertainments, approval will be requested to bring Entertainments Section Orchestra to CAIRO early in May 42, to play under routing arrangements of HQ BTE, and as transport is available and all billetting will be arranged, it is hoped that the required authority will be given.

(d) UFS (Pal) Claim.

The hearing of this claim by the Arbitrator took place at CAIRO on 16/20 Mar 42 inclusive, and was attended by Majors Gray and Conder, representing AIF (ME), and Mr Monis on behalf of UFS (Pal). It is understood that judgment is now ready, subject to decision as to UFS rights to remove Cinemas erected by that Company on properties leased by the Army. On receipt of judgment reference will be made DJAG, and in accordance with direction of GOC AIF (ME) 1 Mar 42, prompt adjustment will be made by Amenities Services AIF (ME).

(e) Aust Officers Leave Hostel - as "Sudan".

This Hostel was closed down on 31 Mar 42, and handed back to Messrs Thos Cook & Son.

Lt-Col.
D of AS HQ AIF (ME).

3 Apr 42.

Copy to DAS AIF (ME).
C 1/c N H & I Section. ✓

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME)

CAIRO MAR 42

AMENITIES

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION	COC directs that on return of Entertainment Section from SYRIA, and after short PALESTINE season, female members of cast will be dismissed.	AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) MAR 42

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF(ME)

PALESTINE

APR 42

AMENITIES

[redacted]	Monthly report covers matters of policy, cinemas, sports, hospital activities, entertainments, broadcasting etc.	AMENITIES SERVICES AIF(ME) APR 42.

7 A.G.H.

APPENDIX "C".

CONCERT PARTY.

PROGRAMME FOR SATURDAY 28 FEB. 42 AT 1900 HRS.

IN THE CINEMA.

Intro	Say it with Music	The Party
Trio	(a) Merry Widow (b) Spanish Quicksteps	Mello-piano - Pte. Norman Guitar - Pte. Burrows Bass - Pte. Nixon
Vocal	(a) Old Kentucky Home (b) Carry Me Back to Old Virginny	The Party
Solo	Steel Guitar	Pte. Barren
Ballet	Stepping it to Music	V.A.D.'s
Duet	Down South	Banjo - Pte. Burrows Mello-piano - Pte. Norman
Solo	(a) Somewhere a Voice is Calling (b) Giannina Mia	Miss Hensby
Pianoforte	Apres l'endeau	Sister Fletcher
Band	(a) Melody in F (b) Some of these Days (c) Carioca	The Dance Orchestra
Quartette	Pairings (from "Songs of the Fair")	Sister Milson - Miss Hensby Cpl. Jolly - Pte. Dudley Miss Richardson
Solo Dance	To Hungarian Rhapsody No. 5 (Brahms)	
Solo	Song of the Flea (Faust, Goethe)	Pte. Dudley
Lightning Sketches to Music		Pte. Oakley
Finale	(a) Look for the Silver Lining (b) Take me back to Aussie	The Party.

APPENDIX "D".

PROGRAMME FOR THE AUSTRALIAN FORCES GUARDS BAND.

1942

March	12	TEK.
	13	Cairo Area & Maadi NZEF
	14	" " " "
	15	" " " "
	16	Helmieh Concert Garden
	17	Helwan YMCA Hut
	18	Delta Barrage
	19	Tura 8 B.A.D.
	20	106 M.U. R.A.F.
	21	Cowley Camp Mena
	22	(Broadcast) Abbassia
	23	Maadi Recreation Tent
	24	Beni Yusef
	25	15th Scottish Hospital
	26	English School Heliopolis 108 M.U. R.A.F.
	27	D.D.O.S.B. Mena Kilo 4
	28	Mena
	29	Empire Club & Mena
	30	Khatatba
	31	"
April	1	"
	2	"
	3	Moascar - Return to Cairo
	4	Canal Zone
	5	" "
	6	" "
	7	Return to AIF (ME) Base Area

APPENDIX "D".

AUSTRALIAN HEADQUARTERS GUARD BATTALION A.I.F.

Regimental Brass Band visiting Cairo District.

Band Concert at EMPIRE CLUB CAIRO
SUNDAY 29th MARCH 1942.

PROGRAMME.

March	Machine Gun Guards	Michaelis
Overture	Echoes of Spring	Greenwood
Waltz	Thoughts	Alford
Selection	Rose Marie	Romberg
Medley	Savoy American	Somers
Cornet Solo	The Rosary	Nivin
Soloist-	Sgt. Fred Charlesworth	
Intermezzo	Bells of St Mary's	Adams
Selection	Cavalcade	Coward
Romance	Simple Aveu	Thome
Patrol	Wee Macgreegor	Amers
March Medley	Colonel Bogey on Parade	Alford

GOD SAVE THE KING.

COPY

42/RO/6

23. JULY 1942

Headquarters
A.I.F. (ME).
28 April 42.

GOC AIF (ME)

REPORT ON AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - APRIL 42

Pursuant to instructions, submitted herewith is sixth regular monthly report on Amenities Services AIF (ME), inclusive of 28 Apr 42.

2. Movements of D of AS.

SUEZ was visited on 1 Apr 42 in connection with amenities for a special Transport carrying very mixed personnel, and the arrangements made are referred to hereinafter - para 8 (c).

PALESTINE and SYRIA were visited 11/18 Apr 42, and closure of BEYROUTH office supervised.

A Conference with Amenities Officers 9 Aust Div was held at TRIPOLI on 14 Apr 42 - APPENDIX 1.

3. Policy.

(a) The closure of BEYROUTH office was authorised by GOC AIF (ME) and the appointment of AD of AS (Syria) terminated on account of contraction of AIF (ME) activities in ME.
(b) Recommendations regarding future operation of Amenities Services were included in letter submitted to GOC AIF (ME) 42/RO/5 of 22 Apr 42 - APPENDIX 2.
(c) A Meeting of Amenities Services Board was held at CAIRO on Tues 21 Apr 42 - Minutes attached - APPENDIX 3. Pending decision of GOC AIF (ME) on constitution of new Board, a Conference was held at GAZA on Tues 28 Apr 42, attended of D of AS, A/CPM, AD of AS (Pal) and A/DDCS, for the purpose of interpchange of views.

4. AIF (ME) Entertainments Section.

(a) Routing

(i) The Entertainments Section concluded its Syrian tour at DAMASCUS on 7 Apr 42, and returned TEL AVIV on 8 Apr 42. Universally well received, it is understood that AD of AS (Syria) received many letters of appreciation from military Comds and prominent civilians, certain of which were sent to HQ 9 Aust Div.

(ii) Since returning from Syria the Section has been engaged in playing at AIF Camps, and the combined Company concluded operations at KILO 89 on 28 Apr 42. GOC AIF (ME), and Comd Base Area, expressed intention of attending.

(iii) As arranged, and in reciprocation of many courtesies received, the Section was turned over to NAAFI control for a performance at Zion Cinema JERUSALEM on 17 Apr 42. The theatre was filled with British troops, including AIF Personnel stationed at JERUSALEM, and invitations were extended to leading civilians who had extended courtesies to AIF. In the absence of HE the Governor, the District Commissioner attended. Col Tatlow, Comd NAAFI (ME) thanked GOC AIF (ME) for allowing the Section to appear.

5. Syria

(a) Cinemas.

Owing to being in an infected malarial area one Cinema had closed down, but a request to the Licensee for removal of equipment to CHEKHA area was to have the consideration of Formation Amenities Officer, HQ 9 Aust Div.

Reports on remaining two Cinemas were satisfactory. The question of provision for cintinuation of payment of rebates to "AIF (ME) Special Trust Account No, 375" in the event of license being taken over by Ninth Army, was disgussed with AA & QMG HQ 9 Aust Div at TRIPOLI on 14 Apr 42, and it was agreed that Formation should make necessary arrangements.

(b) Mobile Cinema Section.

Satisfactory reports continue to be received in regard to the

operations of the Sub-Section, which is now under direct control of HQ 9 Aust Div. OC Section is located at TRIPOLI, and is acting as assistant to Formation Amenities Officer.
Owing to the courtesy of Mr Shafto three further film programmes were forwarded to AD of AS (Pal) during the month for despatch to Syria. This should ensure sufficient programmes material for a minimum of six weeks on OC Section figures.
The number of exhibitions given by the Section to date approximately 170, attended by about 48,000 troops.

6. Palestine:

(a) AIF (ME) Special Trust Fund No 375.
On 24 Apr 42 this Fund stood at £A 29,597/8/5.

(b) Cinemas
(i) Further closures and contraction of programmes occurred during the month.
(ii) AD of AS (Pal) reported a verbal request received from UFS (Pal) Ltd in regard to proposed increase in tariff of cinemas in AIF (ME) Camps, to bring into line with UFS cinemas in British Camps. AD of AS (Pal) was informed that the application could not be considered until tendered officially by the Company, and in view of UFS Directors agreement with GOC AIF (ME) in the matter of tariff, and also the recent arbitration award on purely moral grounds he should inform Directors of UFS that if they re-opened the question their application would be received with disfavor.

(c) Concert Parties.
(i) Reinft Depot Concert Party gave a further performance in Unit lines on 12 Apr 42, and is being assisted, under authority GOC AIF (ME), with a grant of musical instruments from stocks received ex Australia.
(ii) HQ Gd Bn Band continues to give excellent entertainment in Hospitals and Unit lines. Several letters of appreciation were received after departure of the Band for Palestine, including that of Comd BTE - all copies were forwarded Comd Base Area for information.
(iii) 8 ASH has reported the formation of a Staff Glee Club.
(iv) 1 ACD Concert Party paid visits to 20 ITB, Inf Comp Tng Regt. VAD Depot, and also played at Unit dances during the month.
(v) 7 AGH Concert Party played at RAF Dance REHOVOTH, and gave frequent concerts in April.
(vi) "Nomads of the Nile", a free NAAFI soldier Concert Party, o opened at MUGHAZI on 25 Apr 42.

(d) Games
(i) Cricket is occupying cardinal interest at present, and all available pitches are in use. A supply of matting, of which there is a great shortage in ME, has been ordered from NAAFI and is expected to arrive shortly from India.
(ii) Hockey. Outside matches have been played by Units against Maccabi, Tel Aviv and No 22 Indian General Hospital.
(iii) Athletics. About 70 entries were received from AIF contestants for the Palestine Championships and United Services Athletic Meetings, held late this month and early May.
(iv) Swimming. Beaches are now open at GAZA and NUSEIRAT, and plans are in process for the usual competitions in swimming and surfing events, comprising - marching, rescue and resuscitation, alarm reel and surf relay races.
(v) Tennis. Two of the three AIF representatives in the 1942 Palestine Championships won the singles (Pte Colin Long). and the doubles (Pte Colin Long and S/Sgt Kitching).

7. Hospitals Amenities Officers.

(a) Arrangements were made in Apr through ADOS (MT) for supply of 21 seater bus to 6 AGH . The recreational trips for hospital patients have proved of considerable value wherever transport has been available, and the extension of facilities at the above two Hospitals should be of considerable morale value.
(b) The entertainment of parties of patients by civilians in GAZA has been very much appreciated.

(c) 7 AGH reports formation of Sub-Committees covering the following features - Social, Concert, Educatio, Dramatic, Sporting and Debating, to ensure occupation of Staff during the present peridd of lessened activity.

(d) Occupational Therapy activity continues at 1 ACD, 6 AGH and 8 ASH and the continued interest of participants is reported favorably. Report of Amenities Officer 8 ASH includes the following:
" I cannot refrain from mentioning that Ptes Rogers and Carmichal two of the Hospital's worst radicals - were sitting up in bed doing fine needle work prior to their discharge. The same was witnessed by some hundred patients and actually proved an entertainment in itself. "

It is desired to place particularly on record the very excellent service given by Miss Larke, Commandant ARCS at 1 ASC. Her control and interest in the Handicraft Class has been an outstanding feature of the success attending Occupational Therapy work at the Depot, and has materially assisted Amenities Services cooperation in this field.

(e) Inter Hospital sporting activities have taken place in Tennis, Hockey, Cricket, and table Tennis.

8. General

(a) Conference of Amenities Officers 9 Aust Div
A Conference of Amenities Officers 9 Aust Div was attended at TRIPOLI on 14 Apr 42, as per report attached - APPENDIX 1. Instructions were immediately given to Amenities Services Store to prepare available items for despatch, and balance of all equipment requested has been placed on order through NAAFI and will be delivered by AD of AS (Pal) immediately received at SARAFAND.

(b) Camp Broadcasting Equipment.
Camp broadcasting equipment has been installed at RAFA, and installations at BEIT JIRJA and DEIR SUNEID dismantled. GAZA installed and KILO 89 improved.

(c) Approved Grants to HMT "Felix Roussel" etc.
Reference to special grants of LE 150 made to the above transport etc, is included in para 3 (c) of minutes of Amenities Services AIF (ME) Board Meeting of 21 Apr 42.

(d) UFS Claim
Ref para 7 (e) of above Minutes; Major Sims Marshall informed GOC AIF (ME) and D of AS on 25 Apr 42 that the letter sent to GHQ (ME) on behalf of AIF (ME) had been forwarded direct immediately following Conference of 21 Apr 42, and copy sent to HQ AIF (ME) for information.

(e) Library Books and Boxes.
Considerable delay has been occasioned in the receipt of the library books ex Anthony Horderns, but it is understood these have now been received, and boxes ordered should be ready about 3 May 42.

(f) Musical Instruments ex Australia.
Instructions have been given for this consignment to be delivered Amenities Services Store NUSEIRAT, and AD of AS (Pal) has been given authority to re-issue where requirements and standards are of sufficient merit. Remainder are to be packed for return, as Unit requirements ME will then be complete, and considerable shortages are anticipated in Australia owing to lack of imports.

(Sgd) L H Lemaire Lt-Col
D of AS HQ AIF (ME).

AMENITIES SERVICE AIF(ME)

GAZA (Palestine) MAY 42

AMENITIES

ACTIVITIES OF MONTH	covered by monthly report. Include entertainments (concert parties, cinemas etc), camp broadcasting, sporting, leave camp and hospital amenities.	AMENITIES SERVICE AIF (ME) MAY 42

HQ.AIF.(ME)
13-June-42

Orig 14. JUNE 1942

HQ. AIF.(ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF.(ME) - MONTHLY REPORT TO 31-May-42.

In observance of instructions given upon departure for Australia of D.of AS. the latter's duties have been taken over and amalgamated with those of AD.of AS., and regular monthly report thereon is herewith submitted.

2. POLICY
   a. At meeting convened by D.of AS.(Kilo 89,28-Apr-42) D.of AS. advised submission to GOC. AIF.(ME) of CPM, DDCS and AD.ofAS to constitute Amenities Services AIF.(ME) Board. Pending decision the above have conferred on matters of policy.
   b. To replace Amenities Services bank a/c Beirut, closed 13 Apr 42, an imprest of £P.1,000 has been made available by Amenities board to Comd. 9 Aust.Div. for provision of general amenities. (Meeting of board 21 Apr 42: para 3, sub para 5.)

3. PALESTINE
   a. AIF.(ME) ENTERTAINMENT SECTION: Following on final performance, Kilo 89 28 Apr 42, female personnel were dispensed with and section moved from Tel Aviv to Aust. Depot Bn. Two weeks elapsed in re-organisation to conform with amended establishment and production of "All In Fun" 2nd.Edition. Lt.B.Cox replaced Lt.CH.Jackett as Adj/Qm. Itinery of party as under :

PERFORMANCES PLAYED				ADVANCE	
May 15	Kilo 89	May 23	Nuseirat	June 1	Gaza
16	"	25	"	3	Rafa
18	"	26	"	4	"
19	"	27	"	9	Sarafand
20	" Matinee	29	Gaza	10	"
22	Nuseirat	30	"	12	Haifa
				13	Arrive Beirut.

ORCHESTRA ONLY PLAYED		ORCHCHESTRA ONLY PLAY	
May 13	Gaza Club	June 6	PBS.
14	Gaza House	7	AIF. hour PBS.
24	Inauguration AIF.hour PBS.		

Note: Kilo 89 included 6 ACH. and 7 ACH.
Gaza included 7 ACH from Gaza Ridge.
Sarafand and Haifa by arrangement with NAAFI.

   b. HQ.AIF.(ME)REINF.DEPOT CONCERT PARTY by direction ceased as such after 15 May 42 and henceforth will be known as HQ. Concert Party. Personnel have been moved to Aust.Depot Bn. where strength is being built up andrehearsals conducted. Unit lines performances given as circumstances permitted.
   c. MOBILE CINEMAS (NAAFI) twice obtained for screening of Australian gazettes augmented by features to AIF. at Rafa.
   d. UFS.CINEMAS: Closed on 23 May 42 Kfar Bilu. Matinees not required and ceased 8 ASH. Cinemas remaining in operation :

Kilo 89 : Three screenings daily Nuseirat(2): Open air
Gaza : Two screenings nightly screening once nightly,
Mughazi : One screening nightly. roofed twice nightly.

Gross takings for month £P.3,106-680. AIF.rebates £P.381-97

   e. ORCHESTRAS: It has been arranged for HQ.Aust.Gd.Bn. dance band to play at Gaza House each Thursday, and at Gaza Club each Saturday as a permanency, also 1 ACD band on Thursdays and Thursdays and Wednesdays respectively. Finance dance band is being assisted with instruments to further above, and also for lines entertainment.

f. HOSPITALS: Orchestra of 6 AGH, 7AGH and 1 ACD supplemented by concert nuclei are proving of great value and continue to give exchange appearances. For ward entertainment Amenities Services have provided turntable and speaker unit to each, maintaining record changes on library system. A ward entertainer has similarly been made available to 6 AGH and 8 ASH conjointly equipped with melo-piano, slide lantern and community singing slides. Occupational therapy and sporting activities continue. Grant for the former to 6 AGH has been increased from £P.25 to £P.50 monthly in accordance with increased bedding scale.

g. CAMP BROADCASTING is now in operation at Kilo 89, Gaza and Rafa. Nuseirat will shortly be installed. First mentioned provides service similar to commercial stations with: news, time signals, broadcast and recorded music, radio serial transcriptions, unit ans sporting notices, talks etc. Hours of operation 0715 to 0745 : 1745 to 1800 : 1845 to 2115.

h. SPORTING: A committee, meeting weekly, and comprising camp amenities officers and Capt.Lawson HQ.AIF.(ME) has been set up to co-ordinate all sport. This arrangement is proving very successful. Inter unit and camp sport is active in all branches. Boxing is slack. A table tennis tournament is in process of organisation, also swimming carnival. Major sporting fixtures during month were:

May 2. Combined United Services athletic meeting, Tel Aviv stadium. AIF placements, no winners.
16. Combined AIF sports meeting, Gaza Ridge ground.
22-23. Haifa swimming carnival. Five events; AIF two seconds, two thirds.
31. An Australian XI defeated combined Palestine Police; 1 wkt. and 22 runs.

i. AIF SPECIAL TRUST FUND No.375 at 31 May 42 Cr.£A.25,200/-/

4. SYRIA

a. MOBILE CINEMA: Difficulties of film supply have been temporarily overcome by receipt of features from Australia. Average quality fair. It is proposed this section should function at leave camp until delivery of new equipment.

b. LEAVE CAMP to open 3 June 42. The following have been provided by Amenities Services:
Mobile Cinema and seven programs ex Australia plus Fox and Cinesound Gazettes, the latter to be continually changed.
Camp Broadcasting equipped with six dispersed speakers, receiver for news and radio broadcats, turntable and records, microphone for announcements. System being installed by S/Sgt.Box of Palestine staff and will cover whole AIF area.
Sporting :
Cricket: two full pitches and three half complete with all materials including mats and nets.
Football: Australian Rules, rugby and soccer, plus goal posts, guernseys, boots, socks, shorts etc.
Volley Ball: Six equipped courts.
Badminton: One equipped court for officers.
Basketball: Three equipped courts.
Hockey: equipment for two teams.
Water polo: pair of nets and balls.
Quantity of indoor games including table tennis, and 200 library books for administration by YMCA and Salvation Army; swimming costumes, three surf boats, boxing gloves, tug-o-war ropes, medicine balls, skipping ropes, quoits. Field lay-outs, erection of posts etc. under supervision of S/Sgt.Kitching, Amenities(Sports) who will

remain at camp one week after opening to place sports on an organised basis for succeeding camps. AACS. have been asked to stock swimming costumes, sun burn oil and similar requirements.

c. CONCERT PARTIES: Divisional and two NAAFI played during month. The former have been assisted by Amenities Services with issue of double bass, tenor saxophone and complete drum kit, also microphone with amplifier and speakers two. "All In Fun" 2nd.Edition will arrive Beirut 13 June 42 ~~xxxx~~ on attachment 9 Aust.Div.

5. GENERAL

a. FILMS EX AUSTRALIA: Three Australian produced features and eight American of average quality have been received. Seven will be used, plus gazettes, to form a permanent program at Syrian leave camp, and will be fully absorbed at end of first cycle of camp. Remainder will be utilised by mobile cinema and will be fully absorbed by end of August. Fox and Cinesound gazettes continue to arrive.

b. MOBILE CINEMA - No.4 Sub Section: Authority to purchase full equipment given by GOC.AIF.(ME). Delivery to be effected during June.

c. LEAVE CAMP - PALESTINE will be provided for similarly to Syria. It is not yet known if this will permit ofa mobile cinema. Equipment is available for quick purchase.

d. Statement of Amenities Services receipts and disbursements for month to follow.

.....Major
AD.of AS.,HQ.AIF.(ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME)

KILO 89 (PALESTINE) JUN 42

AMENITIES

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Report in lieu of WD includes Concert Parties, Cinemas, Leave Camp, Camp Broadcasts and Sporting and Hospitals Amenities.

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) JUN 42

ORIGINAL

ack 17. JULY 19..

Brig

HQ. AIF. (ME)
11-July-42.

HQ. AIF. (ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF.(ME) - MONTHLY REPORT TO 30-JUNE-42

Submitted herewith is eighth monthly report.

2. ESTABLISHMENT :
   a. Establishment has been amended to include Store & Sporting personnel, also Camp Broadcasting technician.

3. POLICY :
   a. By direction supply and issue of all outdoor sporting equipment for AIF.(ME) has been taken over from ACF.by AS.
   b. It has been the practise to provide docks officer with supply of scaled amenities items, packaged, for placement on transports. In accordance with instructions future issues will be increased and will include sporting equipment and books.

4. FINANCE :
   a. June statement of receipts and expenditure attached.
   b. Occupational Therapy payments, hitherto made as monthly grants, have been altered to the imprest system.
   c. AIF. Special Trust A/c.375 as at 30 June 42 Cr.£A.26,764/-/9.

5. PALESTINE :
   a. AIF.(ME) ENTERTAINMENT SECTION: "All In Fun" 2nd. Edition appeared as under, departing after final performance to play under Comd. 9 Aust. Div.

June	1. Gaza	Orchestra Only Played as:
	3. Rafa	June 6. PBS. (Civil B/Cast)
	4. "	7. PBS. (AIF.Hour)
*	9. Sarafand	
*	10. "	* By arrangement with NAAFI
*	12. Haifa	Entertainments Branch.

   b. HEADQUARTERS CONCERT PARTY has been augmented to eighteen players including band of six. Party is now equipped with microphone, speaker horns and amplifier; foots and border lighting; grid and stage frame with tab curtains to fit. All are portable. Sufficiant wardrobe has been made, and dialogue and music put into rehearsal to provide two shows.

Perfs.Played		Advance		
June	29. Rafa	July	2. Mughazi	6- 7 Nuseirat
	30. "		3. Gaza	10-11 Kilo 89.
			4. "	13-18 British Camps.

   c. 9 AUST. DIV. CONCERT PARTY entered area on 28 June 42, and will commence rehearsals for new show. At conclusion they will play until required by Div.

   d. FREE FILM SCREENINGS: Cinesound Gazettes and Australian made feature, "It Isn't Done" were screened as:

June	26. Mughazi	June	29. 8 ASH.
	27. Nuseirat State		30. Kilo 89
	28. Gaza	July	1 Nuseirat Regent.

   Advance free screenings booked: Cinesound Gazettes and Australian made feature, "Dad and Dave Come to Town" as:

July	10. Mughazi	July	13. 8 ASH.
	11. Nuseirat State		14. Kilo 89
	12. Gaza		15. Nuseirat Regent.

   e. UFS. CINEMAS: Six in operation. Takings for month £ 2,735-280. AIF. rebates due and paid £ 326-163.

(over

f. CAMP BROADCASTING has hitherto operated with AACS. personnel attached. Amended establishment provides for technical S/Sgt.(who will be stationed at Kilo 89) to maintain and instal equipment.

g. MOBILE CINEMA, No.1. Sub Section, arrived in area on 30 June 42. Will be utilised approx three to four nights weekly at Rafa, 1 ACD., 4 ACD., 7 AGH. AACS.(Rehovoth)

h. LEAVE CAMP (AIF.Wing Nathanya) opened on 13 June 42. The following amenities have been provided:
(i) Camp Broadcasting equipped with six dispersed speakers, receiver for news and radio broadcasts, turntable with records and transcriptions ex. Australia, microphone for announcements and studio concerts. System installed by Sgt.Miller, AS.technician.
To thoroughly establish above WO.II. de Fraga of AS. office staff was detached for two weeks, and will return as circumstances permit. Additional to normal broadcasts, quiz and such competitions have been organised for prizes. British Con. Depot orchestra was twice utilised for studio broadcasts. Others will be availed of as opportunity offers.
(ii) Sporting: All possible equipment has been provided and installed under direction S/Sgt Kitching of AS.staff. This NCO. was detached to camp for two weeks to organise sport and competitions. Equipment provided :
Cricket: One full and two half pitches complete with nets and matting.
Football: Australian Rules, soccer, Rugby plus guernseys, shorts, socks and boots for two teams.
Volley Ball: Four courts in lines, two on beach.
Badminton: One court in lines for officers, two on beach as beach tennis.
Hockey: Equipment for two teams.
Tennis: Raquets, shoes and balls.
Swimming: Trunks on loan, free.
At present there is only one sporting field and one tennis court common to AIF. and British. Representations have been made for increased facilities.
Prizes given for sporting and camp broadcasting competitions are cigarettes,and free cinema tickets obtained from local contractor.
(iii) ACF. YMCA.and SALVATION ARMY are functioning and [illegible] indoor games, library and writing facilities.
(iv) Shopping Centre in operation near camp - Barber, [illegible] soft drinks and confectionery, camera supplies.
(v) Cinemas:one in township and one installed in camp by contract. The latter opened 17 June 42 and is open air. Contractor S.Lebanon; prices 30 and 50 mils. Capacity appro 450. Building good, sound and projection fair.
(vi) Beach Services include reel team and tower, diving raft, ~~xxxxxxx~~ aquatic and beach sports with an organised carnival weekly. ACF. distribute fruit drinks and biscuits.
(vii) Tours by buses, fares charged, are always available to Haifa, Tel Aviv and local interest points.

i. SPORTING: "A" Grade cricket competitions, comprising sixteen teams, have now commenced. Interest is keen and equipment position good. Additional to inter-unit fixtures the following matches against non AIF. teams were played:

Jaffa Police,	on Sat. 6 June.	Gaza Police	on Sun. 7 June
RAF.	on Sun.14 June.	" "	" Wed.10 June
		" "	" Sun.14 June.

Following elimination heats, grand final of table tennis championships, AIF.(ME) Palestine units, was played in Gaza cinema on 30 June 42. Winners were combined Sigs.Tng.Coy. Cav.Tng.Wing. Certificates were awarded to winners and [illegible] up.
A surf carnival organised by AIF.(ME) Reinf.Depot and 1 ACD. was held on Nuseirat beach on 27 June 42.

(over

An inter-unit and combined athletic meeting was held at Nuseirat on 20 June 42.
Tennis facilities are of necessity limited, and few out of area matches occur. Only such match during month was against Dizengoff Club, Tel Aviv, on 28 June 42. AIF. lost, five matches to three.
Sporting equipment demands during month, excluding initial issues to Leave Camps, were small, and all were met. One of two sets of baseball material held in store were released to Nuseirat Gymnasium. It is not proposed to sponsor this sport beyond issue of materials held.

j. HOSPITALS: 4 ACD. have been issued with all sporting equipment requested, and will receive Occupational Therapy Imprest of £ 25.
Hospital orchestras continue to function smoothly, also individual ward entertainer (Sgt.Sparks) a member of Entertainment Section detailed for this work to 6 AGH. and 8 ASH. conjointly.
Occupational Therapy, sporting activities and tours to places of interest continue.

6. SYRIA

a. LEAVE CAMP: Very favourable reports have been received. No.1. Sub Section of mobile cinema was withdrawn and replaced by new equipment purchased for this camp,(No.2. sub section.)Intention to return No.1. sub section to normal schedule with Div. was negatived by movements, and section withdrawn tp Palestine area.
Arrangements fpr Palestine staff to extend and improve camp broadcasting and organised sport in the light of experience gained since opening, were similarly prevented.

b. AIF.(ME) ENTERTAINMENT SECTION commenced tour at Beirut on 16 June 42 playing for ten days under British arrangements. Movements necessitated cancellation of tour before AIF. played, and unit returned to Aust. Depot Bn lines on 3 July 42.

c. CONCERT PARTIES, two, were made available by British during month.

Major
of AS., AIF.,(ME)

Attachments -

AMENITIES SERVICES
KILO 89 Jul 42

AMENITIES

Activities For Month

Outlined in report. These include entertainments (concert parties, cinemas, camp broadcasting etc.) Leave Camps, sport, hospitals, AIF Special Trust A/C as at 31 JUL 42, Cr. £A 49,502/10/9. Amen. Servcs. JUL.

HQ. AIF. (ME)
19 - Sep - 42.

HQ. AIF. (ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - MONTHLY REPORT TO 31 JULY 42

Submitted herewith is ninth monthly report.

2. FINANCE :
a. July statement of receipts and expenditure attached.
b. AIF Special Trust A/c 375 as at 31 July 42, Cr £A49,502.10.9
c. Amenities Board: Report attached.

3. PALESTINE :
a. AIF (ME) ENTERTAINMENT SECTION: Circumstances necessitated cutting short of tour under 9 Aust Div. Unit returned to Depot Bn lines on 3 July 42. Unit had too recently appeared in Palestine to permit of immediate repetitions of former material, and went into rehearsal of own party, and production of new shows of Headquarters and 9 Aust Div parties, which occupied a number of acting and musical personnel.

b. HEADQUARTERS CONCERT PARTY: Continued to give performances of their first production as below:-

2	Jul	Mughazi	14	Jul	Beit Nabala
3	"	Gaza	15	"	Aqir
4	"	"	16	"	Lydda
7	"	Nuseirat	17	"	Ramleh
8	"	"	18	"	Latrun
10	"	Kilo 89	20	"	Ramleh
11	"	" "	21	"	Rehoveth AACS
13	"	Wadi Sirah	23	"	1 A.C.D.
			25	"	A.M.E.S.

Rehearsals for second show were begun on 26 Jul 42 and will continue during the early part of next month.

c. 9 AUST DIV CONCERT PARTY: entered area on 28 Jun 42, and commenced rehearsals under OC Entertainment Section for new production. Expenditure was small. Performances of new show were given as:-

21	Jul	Nuseirat
22	"	"
24	"	Kilo 89
25	"	"
27	"	Mughazi
29	"	Nuseirat
31	"	Kilo 89

d. UFS CINEMAS: Six were in operation until 11 Jul 42, when Metropolitan, Gaza, passed into British control. Cinemas now open under AIF control are, Nuseirat (2) STATE and REGENT, Mughazi, Kilo 89 and 2 A.S.H. Takings for period 28 Jun to 1 Aug £ 3,105.880. AIF rebates due and paid £ 371.470.

e. CAMP BROADCASTING: Exposure to weather and lack of technical personnel had resulted in need of rehabilitation of Kilo 89 installation. This is receiving attention and system being extended. Programmes are being improved and lengthened. An added feature is the regular hour of public entertainment. This is conducted by WO II de Fraga of Amenities Services staff in adjoining YMCA hut, and relayed over speaker system. Primarily a public participation show, it features orchestras and individual performers as guest artists. It is conducted on lines similar to commercial broadcasting stations in Australia. This form of entertainment was first tried at Nathanya Leave Camp, where it is continuing under Camp Amenities Staff.

Sunday Evening

For some time it has been realised that the camp broadcasting system would give a much enhanced service if permission were granted to put programs on the air for reception by radio as well as over loud speakers in men's lines. Such a scheme can be operated on a controlled wave length (long wave) and comply with all censorship and security conditions. In a measure it would take the place, in so far, as A.I.F. camps Palestine are concerned, of the A.I.F. stations previously under consideration.

The results of experiments now in progress show no technical difficulties, and equipment costs are low. Advantages of such a service are:-

a. Inclusion of all messes and lines where radios exist but loud speakers impracticable, also Gaza House, hospitals Nuseirat and Mughazi camps and 1 A.C.D.

b. Music for reception over radios can continue after loud speakers cease and could always supply special dance programs for Gaza House and elsewhere.

c. English musical programs are ordinarily few and difficult to receive at night. This deficiency would be completely removed.

In regard to Gaza House an internal system has been supplied, but is unsatisfactory and often out of order through bad handling. Such disabilities would be removed by radio reception.

f. MOBILE CINEMA:

i. No 1 Sub-Section reported on detachment from 9 Aust Div on 30 Jun 42, and was fully utilised during the month. Programs were feature films recently received from Australia and Cinesound gazettes. Playing dates were:-

3	Jul	Rafa	20	Jul	1 ACD
4	"	1 ACD	22	"	Beit Shoba Drome
8	"	Rafa	23	"	Rafa
10	"	1 ACD	24	"	A.M.E.S.
11	"	AACS	25	"	AACS
13	"	7 ACH	26	"	1 ACD
14	"	"	27	"	2 AAOW & 2 BOD
15	"	"	29	"	7 ACH & 4 ACD
16	"	"	30	"	1 Rly Construction Coy
18	"	AACS	31	"	2 " " "

ii. No 2 Sub-Section Withdrawn from Leave Camp Beyrouth. Pending decision on disposal, personnel were used on urgent electrical maintenance of Camp Broadcasting. Cinema eqpt withdrawn to Amenities Services Store. No MT issued to this Sub-Section.

g. NATHANYA LEAVE CAMP:

i. Sporting activities along lines set out by Amenities Services staff has continued, and all sporting requirements met. Tennis and Cricket have proved extremely popular, with consequent heavy demands for balls. Concrete cricket pitches requested from British now provided.

ii. Entertainment Amenities Services personnel visited camp to reorganise amplified entertainment, both day and night. Recorded music stocks have been built up and radio transcriptions augmented and exchanged. One British concert party appeared during the month.

h. SPORT: "A" Grad Cricket competitions continued among 16 teams. In addition to inter-Unit fixtures, outside matches played

HQ AIF (ME)	V	Jaffa Police
Nuseirat	V	Jerusalem Police
Base Tpt Pl	V	R.A.F. Gaza
A.C.T.R.	V	Gaza Police

Tennis has also been popular, with a number of inter-Unit and also weekly matches matches with R.A.F. Gaza.

An AIF Surf Carnival, including AANS and VAD competitors, was held on Gaza Beach on 11 July 42, in the presence of Brig i/c Administration HQ AIF (ME), who distributed prizes at conclusion of programme. A marquee was erected for invited guests who included local notables. They were subsequently entertained at late afternoon tea by No 1 HQ AIF (ME) Officers Mess. A soft drinks marquee was provided by AACS for the benefit of spectators. Events were broadcast by an Amenities Services system and music between events played by Aust HQ Guard Bn Band. Programme attached

1. HOSPITALS:

a. Entertainment: Aust HQ Guard Bn Band continued to give weekly afternoon recitals in hospital grounds.
Weekly tours were taken to local settlements, and places of interest. A number of patients were entertained at organised afternoon tea parties by Gaza English Colony. Assistance in the loan of gramophone records for ward entertainment has generally been provided by Amenities Services, and issues made of sporting goods for patients and staff. Special matinee performances of concert parties playing at night in nearby cinemas were arranged.

b. Libraries: Distribution of Anthony Hordern's gift books were supplemented by Amenities Services were made as:-

250	to	6 A.G.H.	100	to	1 A.C.D.
150	to	7 A.G.H.	100	to	4 A.C.D.
50	to	No 2 AAOW	50	to	2/2 Ord Store Coy

4. SYRIA

a. Leave Camp: Movements necessitated closure on 11 Jul 42. An Amenities Services representative went forward and withdrew all sporting and camp broadcasting materials. Further sporting equipment was salvaged from 9 Aust Div area. The whole has been placed in Amenities Services Store for re-issue and taken on charge.

b. Concert Parties: Activities were restricted because of movements which later resulted in return of "All In Fun" on 3 Jul 42.

Attachment 1

J. [illegible] Major,
AD or AS HQ AIF (ME).

A.I.F.

(PALESTINE)

SURF CARNIVAL

GAZA BEACH

AT 1430 HRS

SATURDAY 11th JULY 1942

IN THE PRESENCE OF

BRIGADIER B. W. PULVER

OFFICIALS

Referee: W. O. R. Michaelis

March Past: Lt. G. Butler. Sgt. J. McPhee, Sgt. H. Nankeville, Pte J. Saunderson.

Land Judges: Lt. D. Gallacher, Lt. L. Dost, Lt. J. Male, Lt. G. Wray Lt. H. Morphett.

Boat Steward: Sgt. H. Nankeville.

Starter: Lt. C. Moxham.

Timekeepers: Lt. D. Scoggins, Sgt. L. Lynn.

Recording Steward: Cpl C. Carter.

Chief Steward: Lt. J. Monro.

Stewards: Padre Viney, Sgt. A. Ward, Cpl. G. Cormack, Gnr A. Scully, Pte R. Symonds, Pte A. McLean Cpl. J. Wilcox, Sgt. J. Driscoll, Cpl. J. Carr.

Announcer: S/Sgt. K. Kitching.

Organised by **Amenties Services A. I. F. (M.E.)**

Music by **Australian H. Q. Gd. Bn.**

PROGRAMME

March Past

Event 1.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Result. 1. ARTY TNG REGT. 2. SIG TNG REGT. 3. INF TNG REGT

WHEEL BARROW RACE.

~~Beach Sprint. VAD. AANS.~~

Event 2.

Result. 1 PTE JINNETTE. 2. GNR MCNEIL. 3. PTE KELAHER. GNR CHAPMAN

Rescue-Resuscitation

Event 3.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Result. 1. SIG TNG. REGT. 2. GAZA RIDGE 3.

Beach Sprint

Event 4.

Result. 1. LIEUT SCOGGINS 2. PTE JINNETTE 3. LIEUT MONRO.

Alarm Reel Race

Event 5.

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.

Result. 1. SIG PARROW 2. SGT. THURGOOD 3.

Beach Relay

Event 6.

Result. 1. SIG TNG REGT. 2. RECORDS 3.

Open Surf Race

Event 7.

Result. 1. SIG PARROW 2. F/O BARROW R.A.F. 3.

~~Beach Relay. VAD. AANS~~: CANCELLED

Event 8.

Result. 1. 2. 3.

Musical Flags

Event 9.

Result. 1. SIG CAMERON 2. 3

Event 10.	**Surf Race. VAD. AANS :**	
	Result.	1. S. MURRAY 2. R. KNIGHT 3. M. ELLIS
Event 11.	**Pillow Fight**	
	Result.	1. PTE. POD MORE 2. PTE. DODD 3.
Event 12.	**Surf Relay Race**	
	Result.	1. SIG THG REGT. 2. MG THG REGT. 3. R.A.F.
Event 13.	**Surf Race for Palestine Police**	
	Result.	1. SGT. WATKINS 2. SGT. STANNERS 3. B/C. WOOD
Event 14.	**Sack Race**	
	Result.	1. SIG ROBINSON 2. 3.

COMPETITORS

Adams	Farrier	Jackson	Moore	Shields
Asmus	Fowler	Jennings		Shurman
	Frankford	Jinnette	Nagle	Skinner
Ball	Freakes		Naylor	Smale
Barkley	Furner	Kelp	Nelson	Snowdon
Barban		Kelaher		Stark
Bassell	Garner	Kempton	Pacheriki	Symonds
Berry	Gill	King	Parker	
Bradford	Glazier	Klaus	Parrow	Thurgood
Brown	Graham	Lane	Power	Tiller
	Guthrie	Lyndon	Prest	Tilly
Cameron		Le Barry	Pretton	Timms
Cashman	Hadley	Lyon	Purser	Tubbs
Cladingbool	Harness	Lyon		
Caine	Hately		Rapp	Valentine
Cookson	Hill	McBeath	Rieck	
Craig	Hobbs	McDonald	Roberts	Watts
Cullen	Hogan	McKenzie	Robinson	Webb
	Hudson	McLachlan	Rusten	Ware
Downing	Hudson	McLean	Ryan	Westwood
Dunlevy	Hutchinson			White
Dunn	Hutton	Meehl	Scoggins	Wilson
	Hyde	Melbourne	Seddon	
Ellicn-Flint		Melville	Sheehy	Yates

GOD SAVE THE KING

AMENITIES

CONCERTS	in wards at 3 AGH from 8 to 18 AUG. 42. HQ Concert Party give 10 shows from 19 to 28 AUG. 42. Free cinemas; Mobile Cinema(2 shows during month);comprehensive camp b'casting;new records purchased. Sporting Facilities improved for basket ball and tennis comps.	Amen. HQ AIF (ME) AUG. 42

UNIT ORGANISATION

DISBANDING	of AIF (ME) Entertainment Section. Surplus personnel 14 O.R's released to AAPC Tng Ring,20 AUG. 42. Remainder of section totalling 2 offrs 26 O.R's deported for AUST. 28 AUG. 42.	
9 AUST. DIV.	Concert Party loaned to British for shows at Amman, Zerka, Rutbah,Jisr el Mejami etc. between 10 and 26 AUG. 42. Party recalled 29 AUG. to 9 Div.	Amen. HQ AIF (ME) AUG. 42
Finance	AIF Special Trust a/c 375 as at 31 AUG. 42 Cr. £446,663.5.9.	Amen. HQ AIF (ME) AUG. 42

EQUIPMENT (o/h)

PROJECTION	Apparatus (No [illegible] Section, Mobile Cinema) being overhauled. Petrol motor worn out. Replacement necessary.	Amen. HQ AIF (ME) AUG. 42.

- 2 OCT 1942

orig

Amenities Services,
HQ AIF (ME).
27 Sep 42.

HQ AIF (ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - MONTHLY REPORT TO 31 AUG 42

Submitted herewith is tenth monthly report:

2. FINANCE:
   a. August statement of receipts and expenditure attached.
   b. AIF Special Trust A/c 375 as at 31 Aug 42, Cr £A.46,663.5.9
   c. Audit report and reply : Copies attached.

3.a. AIF (ME) ENTERTAINMENT SECTION: Consequent upon advice of recall to Australia of section no further production was put into rehearsal. Section personnel were occupied rehearsing 9 Aust Div and AIF HQ parties and packing of equipment. Orchestra supplemented by singers and comedians provided ward entertainment for 6 AGH from 8 to 18 Aug 42. Surplus personnel, 14 ORs, were released to AIHC Tng Wing on 20 Aug 42. Remainder of Section totalling 2 Officers and 26 ORs marched out to Aust Depot Bn on 20 Aug 42 and finally departed 28 Aug 42.

b. HEADQUARTERS CONCERT PARTY rehearsed additional material and second production from 1 to 18 Aug 42. During this period unit line shows were given as circumstances permitted. With the cessation of ward entertainment by Ent Sec this party has taken over, and in addition, commencing in Sept, will perform at 1 ACD, appearing not less than once weekly. 7 Days leave were granted party from 30 Aug to 5 Sep. Performances given were:-

FIRST PRODUCTION in camp cinemas		WARD ENTERTAINMENT Twice nightly	
Aug 24	Mughazi	Aug 19	6 A.G.H.
" 26	Nuseirat	" 20	6 A.G.H.
" 28	Kilo 89	" 21	6 A.G.H.
" " 28	" Matinee*		

*Special matinee for Hospital patients

c. 9 AUST DIV CONCERT PARTY rehearsed during first week of month. As their material had been played to Palestine Camps during previous month, and there being sufficient other entertainment available, they were released to British for a short season as below. Party departed on recall to 9 Aust Div on 29 Aug 42.

Aug 10	Amman	Aug 18	CE/1
" 11	"	" 20	Mafrak Sub-Area
" 12	"	" 21	Jisr-el-Majami
" 13	Zerka	" 24	Azzib
" 15	H/4	" 25	Ramat David
" 17	Rutbah	" 26	Return to Mughazi

d. FREE CINEMA SCREENINGS Two features augmented by Cinesound Gazettes were released during month as below. "Lovers and Luggers" is the property of Amenities Services ex Australia, "Charlie Chan at the Races" was obtained on loan from NZ YMCA.

LOVERS AND LUGGERS & Gztts 549 - 551			CHARLIE CHAN & Gztts: 550,552 & 556	
Aug 11	Nuseirat	Regent (2)		
" 12	"	State (1)	Aug 31	Mughazi
" 13	Mughazi	(1)		
" 14	Kilo 89	(3)		
" 15	8 A.S.H.	(1)		

e. MOBILE CINEMA (i) No. 1 Sub-Section has taken over and is now operating new equipment purchased for Beirut Leave Camp. It was fully utilised during month screening Amenities Services features ex Australia and Cinesound Gazettes until recalled to 9 Aust Div, departing on 30 Aug 42. As all Amenities Services programmes have been seen by 9 Aust Div it has been necessary to arrange hire of films at approx £E 6.5.0 per week to cover forthcoming tour. Screenings during month were:-

Aug	1	3 Rly Const Coy	Aug	13	3 Rly Const Coy
"	2	451 RAAF El Basa	"	14	451 RAAF El Basa
"	3	AACS	"	16	Rhamle RAF
"	4	1 ACD	"	17	AACS
"	5	A.M.E.S.	"	18	61 RSU Rehoveth
"	6	RAF Wadi Sharia	"	19	1 ACD
"	7	Rafa 2 AAOW	"	21	2 AAOW
"	8	1 ACD	"	23	Wadi El Sharia
"	10	7 AGH Sidon	"	24	1 ACD
"	11	1 Rly Const Coy	"	25	2 AAOW
"	12	2 " " "	"	27	3 Rly Const Coy

(ii) No 2 Sub-Section Equipment has been subjected to heavy and continuous wear. Projection apparatus is now being overhauled in Amenities Services Store and Petrol motor and generator by 2 AAOW. The latter reports petrol motor (originally purchased second hand) now worn out and replacement necessary if section is to continue. Personnel by direction have been marched out to man power.

f. CAMP BROADCASTING Rehabilitation and extension of Kilo 89 system completed and Nuseirat begun. The latter has been delayed through necessary work at Beirut, Nathanya, Kilo 89 and 6 AGH claiming services of technician. The Sunday evening of "Public Participation" has taken place each week in Kilo 89 YMCA Hut to full audiences. The Rafa system has also been extended and altered to meet changing conditions, and record library built up. During July and Aug £P 50 of records were purchased or ordered. These are the first such purchases made and were necessary to replace old stock now practically worn out, and to meet ever increasing demands of an enlarging system. Hitherto service has been maintained by records obtained gratis during "stop sister".

Work on Oscillator for radio transmission, as reported last month, has been completed and equipment found satisfactory. It is felt that until such time as authority for its use is granted it could operate to advantage on the same wave length as 6 AGH, taking over when that station is not on the air.

6 A.G.H. operational hours are:-

1400 to 1600 hrs : Recordings
1915 to 2100 hrs : Recordings

CAMP BROADCASTING:
Amenities Services daily operational schedule is:-

0715 hrs	Recordings	1845 hrs	Recordings
0730 "	BBC News Relay	1900 "	BBC News Relay
0745 "	Close Down	1915 "	Recordings
		1930 "	Dr. DAVEY
1200 hrs	Recordings	1945 "	Relay from 6 A.C.H.
1300 "	Time Signal	2000 "	YOUTH SHOW
1330 "	Cairo News Relay	*2015 "	Sporting Session
1400 "	Close Down	2030 "	Musical Recordings
		2100 "	BBC News Relay
1735 hrs	PBS Forces Session	2115 "	Recordings
1800 "	Australian News	2130 "	Close Down.
1815 "	Close Down		

Items in caps are radio transcriptions brought from Australia

* Sporting Session : Tuesday and Saturday only.

The whole of above programme is available for oscillator radio transmission and can be continued after F.A. system has closed. Interspersed through programme are unit notices and information as requested, also speciality items as Public Participation hour, guest orchestras and unusual features, rebroadcast from national stations.

8. U.F.S. CINEMAS: Five in operation until 22 Aug roofed structure (Regent) Nuseirat closed: Insufficient attendance. Four remaining operative are:-

Kilo 89, 8 A.C.H., Mughazi and Nuseirat

Takings for period 2 Aug to 29 Aug 42 £ 2111.980, AIF rebates due and paid : £ 244.492.

h. MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT UNIT: In accordance with suggestion made and approval received a truck is being fitted to provide mobile entertainment in forward areas. This will contain portable generator, dual speed turntable, musical and transcription recordings, 2 loud speakers, radio receiver for news re-broadcasts, book library, cricket and football equipment. Two entertainers will travel with Truck.

i. NATANYA LEAVE CAMP: was temporarily closed during period 14 to 16 Aug 42. Attendances were reduced during the month but all amenities continued.

j. SPORTING: Inter-Unit sport continued as usual, but in accordance with policy out of area fixtures were not made; a pre-arranged match with ~~Palestine~~ Palestine Police being the only exception. Played at Kilo 89 on 9 Aug 42. Result was; A.I.F. 5 wickets for 173 (closed) lost to Police 5 wickets for 185.

Basket Ball is being fostered and to date nine teams are playing in Kilo 89 and Gaza Ridge area. Hockey which has never been supported to any great extent by the troops has come into favour. Equipment for both of these games has been supplied to 4 ACD as an initial issue. Cricket etc had already been provided.

Tennis is of necessity limited by lack of facilities. Matches of note played were:-

Aug 9 Air Port, at Air Port lost to 2 AAOR : 9 sets to love

" 23 " " " " " Lost to Nuseirat 6 " to 3.

Nets and racquets for two courts have been supplied to 2 AAOR and Aust Wing 2 BCD at Rafa; maintenance and balls to be their own responsibility. These units have also received golf and other "extra" equipment and have laid out their own golf course. Tennis Court at Nuseirat is under Construction.

K. HOSPITALS: Amenities Services provided ward entertainment to Palestine installations including 1 A.C.D. through medium Ent Sect and HQ Concert Parties. Guard Bn Band played once weekly. Occupational Therapy costs were higher at 6 A.G.H. than usual, due to excessive number of patients. At 1 A.C.D. this service now includes "Trade Hobbies" as Tinsmithing and Carpentry. The usual tours continue.

1. AMENITIES STORE: No purchases made during the month. Stock taking will proceed during Sept and purchases of winter items begun immediately afterwards. Stock of Summer items with small exceptions is good and all indents were met. Four cases of Amenities were placed on ship board, 30 cases of excess items were shipped to Australia in accordance with cable received. These included Hockey and Golf sticks, punching gloves and mitts. A quantity of Hockey sticks were retained but a sudden popularity of this game may necessitate local purchase.

R. [illegible] Major,
for HQ AIF (ME).

AMENITIES SERVICES
AIF (ME).

PALESTINE.

SEP 42

AMENITIES

MONTHLY

covers the activities of ENSA Concert Party, free cinemas, mobile cinemas, Camp broadcasts, mobile entertainment, leave camps, sporting, hospital entertainments etc.

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME). SEP 42

Air mail

13 OCT 1942

Amenities Services,
HQ AIF (ME).
15 Oct 42.

HQ AIF (ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF (ME) - MONTHLY REPORT TO 30 SEP 42

Submitted herewith is eleventh monthly report:

2. FINANCE:
   a. Sept statements of receipts and expenditure attached.
   b. AIF Special Trust A/c No 375 as at 30 Sep 42 Cr £A 23,100.17.5, this after providing £A 30,397.0.0 through CPM AIF (ME) to Australia by credit advice on 20 Sep 42 in accordance with authority from G.O.C. AIF (ME).
   c. Ref Audit Report of 29 Aug 42, paras 3 & 4 : relevant information concerning unacquitted advances has been advised Australia under letter, HQ AIF (ME) 11281 of 30 Sep 42.

3.a. HQ CONCERT PARTY completed leave 1 - 6 Sep 42. Rehearsals for second production completed and thire commenced. Rehearsals also held for change of program of hospital ward pot pouri shows. These are now given to 1 A.C.D. additional to 6 A.G.H. and, with cinema production shows, occupy party six nights weekly. Itinery for month as:-

SECOND REVUE Camp Cinemas			WARD ENTERTAINMENT Twice Nightly				
Sep 19	Mughazi		Sep 7	6 AGH	Sep 16	1 ACD	
" 22	Rafa		" 8	"	" 17	6 AGH	
" 23	"		" 9	1 ACD	" 18	"	
" 26	Nuseirat		" 10	"	" 21	"	
" 29	Kilo 89		" 11	6 AGH	" 24	1 ACD	
" 30	"		" 12	"	" 25	6 AGH	
*" 30	"		" 14	"	" 28	"	
			" 15	"			

* Special matinee for patients 6 A.G.H. and 8 A.S.H.

b. FREE CINEMA SCREENINGS: a further two features augmented by Cinesound Gazettes were released during month as below. These, with HQ Concert Party, maintained the aim of one free entertainment each week which has been carried out in recent months. This policy, in addition to providing regular free entertainment, enables gazettes to be screened immediately on arrival from Australia. Features screened were obtained on loan from N.Z. Y.M.C.A.

CHARLIE CHAN AT RACE TRACK & Gazettes 550 - 552 & 556			TOPPER - AND Gztts 553-555		
Sep 1	Mughazi	(1)	Sep 18	Mughazi	
" 2	Nuseirat	(1)	" 19	Nuseirat	
" 3	Kilo 89	(3)	" 21	Kilo 89	
" 4	8 A.S.H.	(1)	" 22	8 A.S.H.	

c. BRITISH CONCERT PARTY, "The Aristocrats" gave two free performances at Kilo 89 on 25 Sep 42, including hospital matinee.

d. MOBILE CINEMA (i) No 1 Sub-Section: departed this area on 30 Aug 42 on return to 9 Aust Div. Open air screenings not yet being possible with Division sub-section operated during month in static capacity at 4 ACD. Programs for first three weeks paid for out of 4 ACD funds. It has been submitted that an entrance charge could be made.

(ii) No 2 Sub-Section is immobilised pending new motor for generating set. The present motor is worn and unreliable for mobile purposes. If required for use as static unit where

power main is available, set can be utilised on purchase or manufacture of step down transformer. It is recommended, however, that motor should be obtained to enable operation of sub-section under all conditions. Any other course would be palliative and unsatisfactory. Purchase cost (if motor unavailable through army channels) would be reduced by trade in of old motor.

e. CAMP BROADCASTING: Nuseirat system now partially installed and in operation. Completion of system temporarily delayed by shortage of materials and occupation of installing personnel in more urgent work elsewhere. Completion anticipated during October.

Sunday evening public participation hour, which has been a regular weekly broadcast feature from Kilo 89, will be discontinued after 27 Sep 42. Requisition of studio and adjoi: -ing YMCA Hut and consequent separation to different buildings rendered this necessary. Efforts will be made to join new premises by landline at later date. It is proposed, when suitable building available to give these sessions at Nuseirat.

An installation is being assembled for 4 ACD and will go in during Oct. It has been delayed through inability to elicit/Depot and pressure of work elsewhere. In this connection expansion of systems is growing beyond capacity of technical NCO to administer and an assistant has become necessary.

requisite power infm from

Experiments are now in progress to construct a small battery charging system for 1 ACD. These two installations will then leave only Mughazi, for which no equipment is at present available.

f. MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT UNIT: Truck has been received and fully equipped for this purpose as reported last month. It is felt this unit will fill a great need in forward areas, and its forwarding is urged. Meanwhile it is playing locally and reports received confirm this opinion. Appearances made were:-

Sep	5	1 ACD		Sep	15	8 AGH Night
"	7	"		"	16	231 RAF
"	8	Rafa AAOD		"	17	66 Brit Gen Hosp
"	11	231 RAF		"	18	AACS Rehovath
"	12	Mughazi		"	19	Rafa AAOD
"	13	Nuseirat Evening		"	21	153 Brit AA
"	13	1 ACD Night		"	22	1 ACD
"	15	6 AGH				

g. U.F.S. CINEMAS Four in operation during month. Takings for period 30 Aug 42 to 3 Oct 42, £ 2529.700 A.I.F. rebates due and paid £ 332.425.

h. NATHANYA LEAVE CAMP: Amenities position good and all sporting requirements met. Radio technician and storeman will make their periodic overhaul and check of equipment during first week of Oct. Regulated sporting activities include an average of four cricket matches each week, usually with New Zealanders and Pal Police; Tennis tournaments, beach sports including donkey derbies. Additionally there are tours to Settlement Villages nightly pictures, camp broadcasting, and concert parties when available.

i. AMENITIES STORE: Periodic stock taking carried out during month. A small quantity of U.S. items were written off. No purchases made. Cost of sporting items since Amenities Services took over from A.I.F., has been very low, but coming change of season games and replacements will necessitate order of goods during October approximating £ 400.- . One case of amenities items was placed on ship board on 17 Sep 42.

Inventories are in course of preparation of all items supplied by Amenities Services to Ent Sec, HQ Concert Party and Camp Broadcasting System. Copies of first mentioned will be forwarded to Australia. All such purchases and issues have been recorded in Amenities Services books of account and stores ledger.

j. SPORTING: Outside cricket matches remain restricted. Other than inter-camp and unit matches, which continue, the only exceptions were:-

Sep 4 HQ AIF (ME) Sigs defeated a METC team at Kilo 89 by an innings and 37 runs.

Sep 6 HQ AIF (ME) Transport defeated R.A.F. at Kilo 89 by 135 runs to 108.

Six entries have been made for Palestine Tennis Championships at Tel Aviv. All have qualified for quarter finals. Finals to be played during first and second weeks of Oct.

Basket Ball and Hockey are becoming increasingly popular. Demands for footballs are also being met. An Aust Rules set of guernseys, shorts, socks and boots held by Amenities Services has been released to HQ AIF (ME).

Records has begun the laying out of a golf course. Excepting Rafa this sport has not been fostered by Amenities Services.

k. HOSPITALS: Amenities Officer, 7 AGH, was transferred to 8 ASH on 31 Aug 42.

Ward entertainments provided by Headquarters Concert Party is to be spread over 8 ASH and 1 ACD in addition to 6 AGH. A tennis court is in course of laying at 1 ACD and light sport of a recuperational nature fostered.

Radio oscillator again operating at 6 AGH and also serving 8 ASH. Technical difficulties prevent the latter being wired to Kilo 89 Broadcasting System. Programs, however, are relayed by land wire between Kilo 89 and 6 AGH.

In all three installations, Occupational Therapy and tours continue.

. . . . . Major,
AD of AS HQ AIF (ME).

AMENITIES

MONTH'S ACTIVITIES	Report covers Concert Parties, Mob Cinema, Camp Broadcasting, Mob Entertainment Unit, Sport, Leave Camps, Hospitals, Con Depots etc.	AMENITIES SERVICES OCT 42

APPOINTMENT & COMMAND

NEW AD OF AS	Major J.S. Silverman appointed AD of AS vice Major J.L. Gray 10 Oct.	AMENITIES SERVICES OCT 42.

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Amenities Services,
HQ AIF (ME).
14 Nov 42.

REF: A/RPT/14

HQ AIF (ME)

AMENITIES SERVICES AIF(ME) - MONTHLY REPORT TO 31 OCT 42

Submitted herewith is twelfth monthly report:

2. CHANGE of AD of AS
On 10 Oct 42 Major J.S. Silverman was appointed AD of AS vice Major J.L. Gray.

3. FINANCE:
Oct statement of receipts and expenditure attached.

4. HEADQUARTERS CONCERT PARTY continued showing at Palestine Camps as itinerary hereunder and rehearsals for third show almost completed. Ward entertainment at 6 A.G.H. as previously. Concert Party left for Egypt 28 Oct 42.

Oct 1	2nd Show at 1 ACD	Oct 17	1 ACD
2	Musical Show - 6 AGH	19/20	6 AGH
3	" " "	21	1 ACD
5	" " "	22	6 AGH
6	" " "	23/24	2nd show at cinema (Nuseirat)
7	1 ACD	25/27	Preparation for Egyptian tour
8/9	6 AGH	28	Left for Egypt reporting to Lieut French 4 ACD.
10	1 ACD		
12	8 ASH		
13	6 AGH		
14	1 ACD		
15/16	6 AGH		

5. MOB CINEMA No 1 Sub-Unit continued to operate at 4 ACD and final arrangements have now been made with C.O. of the unit under which film is hired from exchanges in Alexandria and Cairo, the cost being equally shared between 4 ACD and Amenities Services.

No 2 Sub-Unit was installed at 1 ACD and fills a long felt want, giving free entertainment twice weekly to patients. Programmes are being hired from Tel Aviv and the cost is met equally by 1 ACD and Amenities Services.

Both sub-units are operating very satisfactorily and current releases are being screened.

Reference para 3 (d)(ii) of Sept report, it was felt that this motor should be given a trial and it is now driving the generator on No 2 Sub-unit, but it is pointed out that should a break down occur a new motor would be necessary before this plant could again operated. It has been working satisfactorily since 26 Oct 42.

6. CAMP BROADCASTING Installation of Camp Broadcasting equipment at Nuseirat completed and now operating on full sessions.
Five speaker broadcasting equipment installed at 4 ACD by Sgt Miller and working to complete satisfaction. It is necessary however to purchase a quantity of recordings to keep these installations supplied and it is recommended that these be purchased without delay. Issues could be made on the library system and records changed around from time to time thus eliminating any possibility of monotonous repetition.

7. MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT UNIT This unit has completed a very successful tour of Syria and many letters of appreciation have been received from units. On return to Palesting the equipment was dismantled and stored and the truck returned. It is hoped that when possible a vehicle will again be made available so that this valuable unit may become a permanent feature of Amenities Services.

8. U.F.S. CINEMAS During the early part of the month storm damages put the Century Cinema (8 A.S.H) out of action. The Y.M.C.A. hut in 8 A.S.H. grounds is being used as a temporary measure and is satisfactorily catering to the present needs of the patients.

Owing to the onset of winter the Wintergarden (open air) Mughazi was closed and the Minerva opened.

Regent Cinema, Nuseirat was opened during Oct which, with the State, now gives a three show service nightly in the camp.

9. SPORTING EQUIPMENT During the month purchases of sporting equipment were made in order that an adequate supply of this material would be available for the coming season. Total of purchases made in Palestine through NAAFI and Palestine Sports was approx £P 450.-. In addition to this purchase a requisition was received from 9 Aust Div for supply of sporting material. This req was filled partly from stock held at Amenities Store and partly by purchases made through NAAFI (Cairo) on behalf of 9 Aust Div to be paid for from Amenities Trust A/c controlled by AA & QMG 9 Aust Div.

10. TOURS - JEWISH SETTLEMENTS During October a letter was received from Jewish Hospitality Committee suggesting a meeting with a view to organising control of tours by units to Jewish Settlements in Palestine. I interviewed the Secretary of this Committee in Tel Aviv and later called a meeting of representatives from Units concerned and scheme was agreed upon whereby control would be centred in this office and possibility of overlapping reduced to a minimum.

11. LEAVE CAMP - NATHANYA Reports from Amenities Officer in this Centre indicate that under winter conditions it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide suitable diversion for the troops on leave. I intend at the earliest opportunity to visit the camp with a view to making some concrete suggestion for the continuation and possible extension of amenities in this leave centre.

12. SPORTING FIXTURES Sporting fixtures of note during month of Oct were the Palestine Tennis Championships in which Sgt Long won the singles Championship and Sgt Long and WO II Kitching won the Men's doubles championships. Long and Kitching have now been doubles champions of Palestine for the past two years.
Other competitors in Major Halliday and Major Howard entered the semi-Finals of the Men's Doubles Championships.

In the YMCA Swimming Championships held in Jerusalem three Australians entered, in which Lieut Ellice-Flint swam 2nd in the 100 metres Freestyle and Sigmn Longley swam 2nd in the 100 metres Backstroke. In Longley's event both the winner and he broke the existing Palestinian record for the distance. The only other competitor, Sigmn Mellow while not gaining any individual placing, swam with the winning R.A.S.C. Relay Team.

The usual inter-unit and inter-camp cricket fixtures were played, but as summer season is now nearing its end, we are now about to concentrate on Football (all codes) Hockey and Basket Ball.

13 HOSPITALS Reports from Amenities Officers attached to Hospitals indicate that Amenities in these units are operating on a satisfactory scale for both staff and patients.

14. OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Monthly grants from Amenities funds for this work was, with the approval of Amenities Board, changed back to the original system of straight out monthly grants in lieu of imprest. This was considered to be a more satisfactory method.

Occupational Therapy centres are operating at 6 AGH, 8 ASH, 1 ACD, 4 ACD and 1 Aust Depot Bn and the field of activities in these units is weekly being extended.

Owing to existing circumstances 7 AGH are unable to carry on this work but anticipate re-establishing their centre when conditions become more normal.

15. CON DEPOTS During the month of October WO II Kitching was withdrawn from 1 ACD and attached to 4 ACD to act as Amenities representative with this unit. It is recommended that consideration be given to the appointment of Amenities Officer to Con Depots where full scope could be found for their activities.

. . . . . Major,
J.S. Silverman,
AD of AS HQ AIF (ME).