21.4/1/15
21.5/1/9 (as Appx)

AD O S NZ DIV
D A D O S (E)

War Diary for Mar 1941.
Egypt - Greece.
Original
S.E.C.R.E.T
WAR DIARY
of
A.D.O.S. -- N.Z. DIVISION.
From 1/3/41
To 31/3/41
(Volume No. 3)

OFFICIAL ARCHIVES

Received
Initial
5/6/41

Reed
8/1/41

Fired
9/1/41

Classification 21/4/1/15

† 21/5/1/9 as appx.
Drew 46 A/T tank rifles and distributed them to units. This distribution completed unit requirements. Further 10 TT sets were received and issued to 6 Freyberg Cdo.: though issued as complete sets, many were deficient in essential components which prevented them working. The Div. is now complete with WT sets though all are not capable of functioning. Drew 884 RD tents from Tel El Kebir, also some .55 ammunition from Abu Sultan. 32 Bn. defeated Div. Cav. 12 - 6 in final of the Freyberg Cup.

Distributed 500 RD tents to units about to move and returned 384 to BOC Maadi for distribution to units moving in the next flight. Storemen sent to No. 9 Bdeg for tank hunting equipment for the Bns. All explosives were obtained, but heaviest rain we have experienced in Egypt. Still endeavouring to obtain equipment for units leaving in the next flight. All superfluous records were returned to Base Ordnance, Maadi, and the office packed up preparatory to move from Helwan.

Div. HQ moved out, but Capt. J. Kelsey and I remained to meet Lieut-Colonel T. J. King, who has just returned from England. Spent all day in conference with the DDOS, 2NZEF.

Moved to Amriya after further conference with DDOS.

Arranged to draw 2000 mosquito nets for 6 Bde. from Alexandria. N.Z. Reception Unit suddenly discovered that it had no 1098 equipment. Arranged to draw a certain amount from Amriya dump and Alexandria and took a convoy back to Maadi for the balance.

Returned to Amriya.

Sent another convoy to Maadi for further tentage for Reception unit. Cpl. Griffiths has been evacuated to hospital with pleurisy.

Arranged for two reinforcements to be sent from Maadi to replace Cpl. Griffiths and Pte. Mooney who was regraded and returned to Base.

At Amriya.

Worst sandstorm yet our experience in Egypt.

Did some shooting, both with rifle and Bren gun.

Warning order to move.

Embarked on S.S. "Corinthia" for Greece.

Calm and peaceful trip in convoy. Arrived in port at 2300 hrs.

In the afternoon visited all N.Z. units Disembarked at Piraeus. Visited HQ Bdeg and had conference with MG NZDDOS. In the afternoon visited all N.Z. units in vicinity of Athens and gave them instructions regarding obtaining deficiency of mosquito nets.

Visited Voules Camp for conference with the Commandant. Two visits to HQ, Bdeg for conference with DDOS, AOC(S) and DDOS.

Left Voules camp with 10 HQ vehicles and joined a 40 mile convoy. An interesting but uneventful day and we finally stopped about 120 miles out from Athens.
Another interesting day. This night we stayed just outside Larissa.
Reached Kalavouri about 1730hrs after a very slow trip over the Pass.
Both office personnel and the office truck were still on the road so it was not possible to establish the office.
Visited railhead and investigated the ammunitions position; then at 1 N.Z. Fd. Workshops and Ordnance Fd. Park.
In afternoon visited 4 Inf Bde HQ at Palaeonellia. Palaeonellia
Staff and office truck arrived last night, so spent day establishing an office in a very respectable type of house.
Cleared up all mail that had accumulated since leaving Helwan. Sent off consolidated demand for expendable stores for the whole Div.
Visited HQ 6 Inf Bde at Splendidini, then OME 19 LAD and finally Ammunition Railhead at Katerini. Signalled to the BOD for MG equipment urgently required by Div. Cav.
Conference with OC 1 Ord. Fd. Park then submitted draft proposals to A/G in regard to procedure to be carried out when replacements of signal parts are required from the Ordnance Fd. Park.
Submitted bulk demands for all anti-material stores and equipment. Signalled BOD for urgent signalling equipment required by 25 Bn. Visited 1 N.Z. Ord. Fd. Workshop. A serious fault has developed in Ford 15cwt CAS and DADOS(E) and O.C. Fd. Workshop are now endeavouring to design a suitable modification.
Went to Salonika and made contact with unit purchasing officer. Spent a profitable day buying equipment and materials urgently required by 1 N.Z. Fd. Workshops.

[Signature]
Maj Gen Dados
NZ Div.
March

1. Normal routine. To Base to see No. 1 Fd W/shops which is in the process of formation, and which will move shortly.
2. Very busy day. Last minute rush prior to departure of most units. 2/Lt Cooper of 16 LAD reported. Conference
   with Capt. Pollock prior to departure of 1 Fd W/shops.
3. Final day before departure from Helwan camp. Working at high pressure.
4. Div. HQ move. Lieut-Colonel King DADOS arrives from England and ADOS and DADOS(E) have conference with him all
   day on policy matters.
5. Further conference with DDOS and SMO(Base). Depart for Western Desert and join Div. HQ at Amriya.
6. Take convoy to Mustapha Barracks at Alexandria to load barrack stores for sundry units.
   Contact 9, 14, 11 LAD's and 1 Fd. W/shops.
   Advised by DOS that 4 and 5 Ind. Bde. Group W/shops will be included in the 7th Flight.
   WO 1 McKay, 17 LAD; Sgt Barry, 2 Cas; and Sgt Stratford, Base Ordnance; are selected for O.C.T.U. as potential Ordnance
   men.
   Cpl Griffiths DADOS(E) clerk evacuated to hospital.
   Leave Amriya with detachment of Div. HQ. Embark on S.S. "Corinthia" at Alexandria. Leave here at 1510 hrs in convoy.
9, 10
11. Arrive at Athens. Disembark and move to Nymattus Camp. Call to see Colonel Miller ADOS(E) "W" Force and have
    long conference with him. Call on 2 LAD, Div Cav, 27(M G) Bn, 1 Fd W/shops and 14 LAD.
12. Inspect 1 NZ Fd W/shops with Colonel Miller.
13. Leave in convoy for forward area.
14, 15, 16, 17
19, 20
21. To 1 NZ Fd W/shops and A and B sections 6F Ordnance Field Park.
22. Prepare instructions to units on procedure regarding workshops practice, evacuation and replacement of vehicles.
23. Ordnance Fd. Park and returns. To contact 11, 14 LAD's, 1 NZ Fd. W/shops and OPP.
24. With Capt Pollock to Salonika. Receive permission from Chief Purchasing Officer to buy spring steel which is obtained.
25. Hear that Ford steering sector needle bearings are failing in some vehicles. Examine this defect at 11 LAD. Arrange
26. with 1 NZ Fd. W/shops to manufacture sufficient phosphor bronze bushings as a local modification for this defect.
27. Report this defect to ADOS(E) "W" Force. Col. Harding, O.C. of OPP reports and discuss policy of this unit with him.
28. To 1 NZ Fd W/shops re steering sector modification and work in progress.
29. Normal routine at office. Contact 9, 13 and 14 LAD's.
30. 31

No reports received. These units have only recently arrived from England and have moved successfully. Each LAD is equipped with a 2 1/2 ton truck.
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| 9 LAD | Major lst line repairs 2 Minor " " 100 Overhauls to B.O.W. Feb/March 76 All guns and trailers inspected and modified by B.O.W before departure of unit. All 15cwt Ford Generator spindles spot welded in accordance with modification.
| 10 LAD | Major lst line repairs 12 Minor " " 43 Overhauls to B.O.W 16 Unit moved with 5 Fd. Park Coy.
<p>| 11 LAD | Major lst line Repairs 7 Minor &quot; &quot; 56 Overhauls to B.O.W 87 Two major defects were discovered (a) Ford steering sectors. (b) Ford generator bushings. Local modifications to both defects are being carried out. These are manufactured by 1 NZ Fd. W/shops. A certain amount of experiment is necessary with regard to the modified type of Ford steering sector bushings and two different types are under observation. |
| 12 LAD | Major lst line repairs 3 Minor 2nd line repairs 17 Overhauls to B.O.W 97 This unit was handicapped in its convey work by its deficiency of Breakdown truck. (cont. over) |
| 13 LAD | Major lst line repairs 9 Minor &quot; &quot; 66 Overhauls to B.O.W 69 Modifications carried out: Harmon Harrington armoured car turrets &quot; &quot; spare wheel brackets |
| 14 LAD | Minor lst line repairs 24 Evacuations to B.O.W 2 LAD moved forward with unit. OME's inspection carried out on all Diw Sigs vehicles during month. |
| 15, 16, 17 LAD's | No reports received. These units have only recently arrived from England and have moved and are functioning successfully. Each LAD is equipped with a B/down truck. |</p>
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<th>LAD</th>
<th>Major 1st line repairs</th>
<th>Minor &quot; &quot;</th>
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<tr>
<td>18 LAD</td>
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<td>19 LAD</td>
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LAD functioning well. Has carried out inspection and service of Arty. equipment.

This is one of the most successful LAD's in the NZ Div. The CME has insisted upon constant maintenance in the 6 Bde., and the effect of this is very marked.

Formed on 28 Feb 1941 in five days. Moved from Egypt with the NZ Div. Opened to operate for the Div on 27 March, '41. For four remaining days of the month 60 2nd line repairs were accepted and of these 27 completed. This unit is not fully equipped and would not be able to function but for a captured Italian trailer fully equipped as a field workshop. Although this unit is designed to serve only a Bde. Group, it is serving the whole Division until the arrival of two British units.

F. o. Army Cap.

8 April 1941

M. J. Biv

15 Apr 1941