

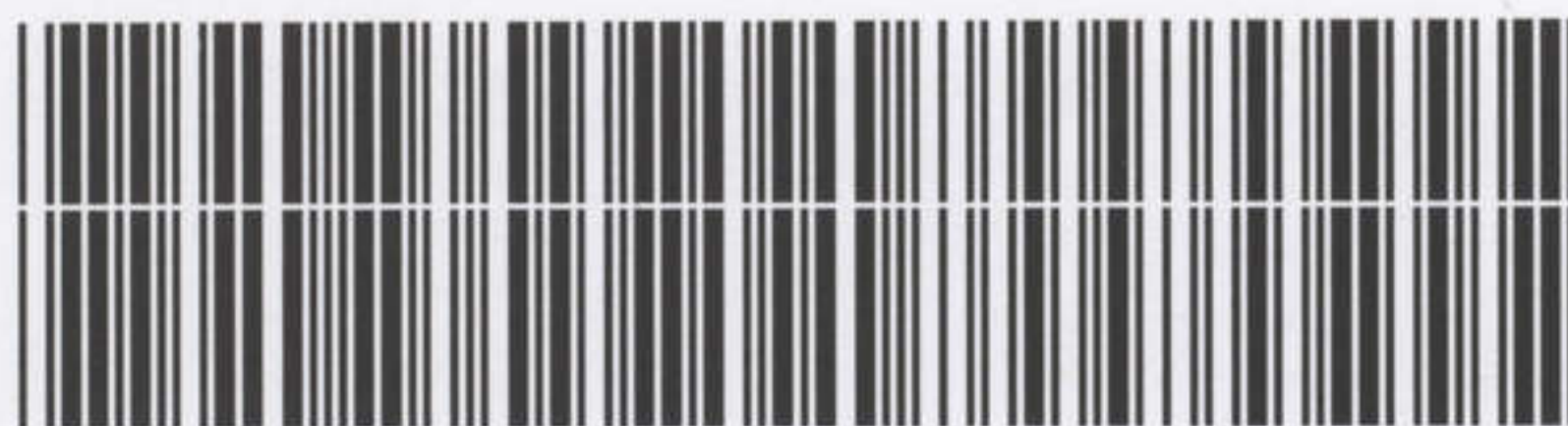
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/1/18

Title: Assistant Director of Medical
Services, Sanitation, British
Expeditionary Force

August 1917



AWM4-26/1/18

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abbeville	1919 Aug	1	<p>Carcasses at Havre are now largely being disposed of in a fat extracting plant and not by burial in manure which however is quite a satisfactory process</p> <p>Recommended that Major Munson R.A.M.C. T.F. be appointed as SSO Abbeville</p> <p>One in care Capt Mc Donnell the present SSO is transferred to Irish command as he has requested</p> <p>Case of Relapsing fever in a native reported from Marcellus - Issued the usual instructions as to precautions to be adopted</p>	

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A.D.M.S. SANITATION.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abbeville	1917 Aug	2	<p>Dealt with queries by HQ on Memorandum on precautions against dysentery in Draft supply units and suggested minor alterations.</p> <p>Approved of ration scale for WAAAC proposed by CC WAAAC & stated that the ration in ACSI 1069 was inadequate.</p> <p>Approved of 2 blankets for Indians - South of France & 3 blankets for those elsewhere during the summer.</p> <p>Recommended that Portuguese Naval Hospital at Abbeville should be hatted.</p> <p>Approved of Q.M.G. proposal to add 6g meat to scale in SS & 57(a) 22.9.17.</p> <p>Dealt with question of ration cost of clothing in case of outbreak of certain infectious diseases.</p> <p>Approved issue of lemons in lieu of chewing gum where demanded.</p> <p>Circular from DG to DMS Armies advising close inspection of all men drafted to Armies from Etaples on account of the presence of dysentery in Etaples.</p>	<p>Heavy & continuous rainfall</p> <p>R2</p>

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Abbeville	3	Aug	<p>Amended approval of lemons issue of lemons. Inform in light of further information Major Martin G.H. 2nd Echelon informed me by telephone that certain of the armies did not consider them necessary. I told him that I was not able to give an opinion on their necessity from a military point of view but that dietetically they were not be necessary. He proposes to inform Q.M.G. to this effect.</p> <p>Reported to DMS L of C on the state of dysentery at Staples. Precautionary measures seem to be having good results & outbreak is under control. Cases however still occur & the measures adopted should be continued.</p> <p>D.H.D.M.S. San III Homey telephoned as to course he should take in regard to drying of rabbit skins. I informed him of G.R.O. 31.7.17. on the subject.</p>	<p>Heavy & continuous Rainfall</p>
Abbeville	4	Aug	<p>2 cases of relapsing fever amongst Indians natives reported from Masselles but no further particulars given. Asked that a full report should be furnished stating details of preventive measures being employed. Called attention to circular memorandum which has been issued on the subject & to D.G. Circ Mem No. 16.</p> <p>Received report from Senior Chemist No. 1 W.T.C. on method of clarifying water in Flanders. He favours forced imentation in tanks as otherwise filters on loams get clogged by abundant ppt.</p>	<p>Heavy and continuous rainfall</p> <p>RS</p>

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	Aug 5 th		<p>Returned from visiting Boulogne, Calais, Dunkerque, Arras, & 4th Army Area.</p> <p>Saw A.M.C. on way Home, with reference to Army Laundries. & reported method of packing clothes down in impermeable sacks. Laundry Engineers came to see me, with reference to disinfection of clothes before washing. 5000 pieces an hour would require to be disinfectant. Reported plans of Clayton Gas machines.</p> <p>Sent in report on Boulogne water supply, recommending chlorination at source. Done by C.</p> <p>Saw D.G.W. with reference to draining Etaples & Camiers areas. D.G.W. agreed that the soak pits had reached their limit of usefulness. Sent in memo recommending drainage for whole areas to Dnd Log C.</p> <p>Red cell milk to be boiled at YMCA huts & similar institutions.</p> <p>Cpl. Buntchuck rang up, A.G. wished me to be Dr. Bouleau. Belgian D.G. with reference to what is required in way of medical assistance for civilians from British authorities.</p> <p>Dealt with correspondence re accommodations in new huts.</p> <p>Thy proposing latrine Roman. Red for all latrines in Log C area.</p> <p>D.G. telephoned re 6 tonnes extra meat per week 5 days a week. Fish not to be increased.</p> <p>Dysentery Etaples decreasing. 7 cases relapsing fever reported up to date from Messelles in Indians of transports.</p>	

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	Aug 5 th		<p>Investigations on nephritis proceeding. Capt Maddess, the bio-chemist at Etaples has now examined the urine of 25,000 men sent from Home. Some new to the Country & some returns. Approximately 3-4 per cent of these examined suffer from albuminuria. Sometimes under 2 per cent suffer from washed albuminuria. Roughly 1.5 per cent show distinct hyaline casts. About 1 per cent show very distinct granular casts. There must be at least 1 per cent of cases with some renal deficiency, sufficient to give rise to acute exacerbations. At present the nephritis rate is below 50 per 100,000 or 0.05 per cent. Therefore possibly there are more men with renal trouble coming out from Home than there are cases of diagnosed nephritis & albuminuria at the front. 50,000 men are to be examined here. The nephritis rate is falling during the summer months as it did last year. 6 cases of malaria have occurred on Belgian coast, 4th Army. New method of treating scabies, by which men are cured in 2 days. it is claimed. First men enter Russian vapour bath & scrub themselves in 2 1/2 per cent cresol solution afterwards anointed with oil mineral wood preserver, which is thamed before use. Mrs Vaughan says up reference to statement fr. Mrs Watson that W.A.C. girls were suffering for potatoes due to ration. No evidence of this. Note V.A.D. & Sisters eat same ration & no 'fatal results'</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">P.S.</p>

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	Aug 6 th		<p>Recd correspond. re fixed filtering plants from D. C. in C. Question of the addition of lime + alumina - ferric to matter + Plast filters.</p> <p>8 cases of typhoid fever reported among civil population at Boulogne.</p> <p>9 cases of dysentery in No 9 General TP. Roman among wounded. Field cases & since some days no more cases reported. Dysentery at Etaples subsiding & not many cases reported from armies.</p> <p>Coming to wet & cold weather very few flies are observable.</p>	<p>Thunder</p> <p>Storm & very heavy rain</p>
	Aug 7 th		<p>Suggested amendments to L of C para R.O. 274 re schools of cookery. That no candidates who have suffered from typhoid, paratyphoid fever & dysentery should be admitted.</p> <p>Saw S.S.O Abbeville with ref. to drainage of Hospital areas, Cayuse Conv. Camp & Royelle.</p> <p>Sent D.D.D.s. to inspect some of the camps. Abbeville area.</p> <p>Many of the German prisoners recently captured were found to be suffering from a severe form of diarrhoea. When taken many had been without food for 3 days & eat ravenously which may account for it.</p> <p>Senior Chemist No 1 Water Suck Company called with reference to a difficulty experienced of obtaining Portland lime for clarifying. J.W.T now say can't supply it. Rang up D & E in chief & asked that 1 ton of Portland lime should be supplied to each W.T. Company at once & 20 tons kept in reserve.</p>	<p>Cool & dull.</p>

RS

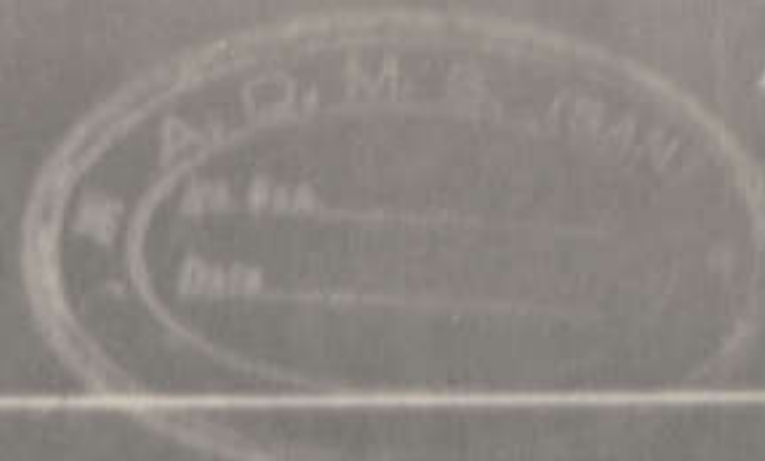
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	Aug 7.		<p>1st Water Tank Company Hd Qrs is at Meudon. One section is to proceed to 4th Army at short notice. One section back areas of 5th Army, but 4 Sections are with 1st Div at Mar dyck.</p> <p>It has been found necessary with many of the waters in Belgium to sediment in canvas reservoirs by means of alumino-ferric & lime, before putting the water through the filters. Sedimentation can be effected in 1 hour. A quarter or less work is thus put on the filters, which is a saving in time and there is less chlorination required. 2000 gallons tanks are used. A petrol pump is supplied to throw about 3000 gallons an hour or a fire-engine which throws about 7000 gallons per hour.</p> <p>In canals in Belgium the water varies from time to time, and it is found that at one time alum gives best results, while at others, lime.</p> <p>Col Edlin & Capt Hoparth from G.H.Q. G.M.C. Dpt called with reference to Army Examiners. They wished to know exactly what the sacks for clothing which I recommended to G.M.C. should consist of. We went to Ordnance Dpt & selected two canvas materials for trial. Two sacks are to be made up with close fitting mouths & are to be subjected to disinfection by steam.</p> <p>Dy S informs me they have 7 tons of Duxton lime & that W.T. Companies Ad. incident on D Dy & S. Lye. I asked him to keep reserve of 20 tons. Wired Senior Chemist No 1 Water Tank Company.</p> <p>Under instructions fr Dy Mrs. Sent copies of Instructions on Clayton Machines to DMS. Amies & Adams Marshall. for use in Corp Disinfecting Stations.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	Aug 8 th		<p>Went to G H Q L saw D. Dey. He wishes me to get in touch with Belgian Mission to find out from the promotion of the Interior & D. Release the extent of the assistance they require from the British authorities for the case of refugees or repatriation. Saw Col. Lister re trachoma cases among Chinese & Egyptians.</p> <p>DADMS Sam 2nd Army reports 15 cases of dysentery in 37th Div 5 days after arriving in Army area from Frevent. 1 Battery R G A 15 cases diagnosed, 3 amebic, 1 M. P. 11 flexures, about 30 cases diarrhoea 115 men hyperacid. 10 Battalion Brigade L N Lance in the line. 3 flexures, 21 diarrhoea.</p> <p>10 Australian F. Amb 1 flexure, 111 Machine G. Corps 1 case. 10 + 13 Batt. R. Fusiliers 1 + 2 cases. Warricks 1 case? M. P. 25 in all diagnosed. Isolated 350 men in all.</p> <p>Majr Doyle Smith DADMS Sam 5th Army wounded by splinter from an aeroplane bomb. Splinter extracted & he is doing well.</p> <p>Monthly Sanitary reports from armies show the venereal condition of troops at front, much improved. Many report 'very little' if not in evidence. P. D. O appears to be the chief disease in the line.</p>	<p>Still.</p> <p>Thomson's</p> <p>Henry Ross</p>
	Aug 9 th		<p>DADMS Sam 2nd Army reported to me state of dysentery cases in 57 Div. no enteric.</p> <p>Death & retention of trachoma cases at Marnelle.</p> <p>" Water purification plant D. 2 in charge. advised use of alkali & precipitant.</p> <p>" Sodium arsenite for fly destruction. Permal Work 96 lbs. advised no further work for this year.</p> <p>" Retention panel sheets for Cape Wags Boulogne.</p> <p>Net Gas circular. Ypres destroyed.</p>	<p>Re</p>

2853 W/L W2544/1454 700,000 5/15 D. D. & L. A.D.S.S./Forms/C. 2118.

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St Omer.	Aug 10 th		<p>Dealt with question of direct veg. for Kaffirs. " Insanitary conditions (alleged) of Laundry Hqs. Wulopre. " Fly Papers for L of C. 3000 copies to be issued among Base L of C. Recd instructions for Dly. to meet representatives of Belgian Mission at Arques to enquire into their requirements for the welfare of refugees. Left for St Omer.</p>	Rain
	Aug 11.		<p>Inspected advanced general Headquarters + C in C's chateau. Met Belgian delegates at Arques & discussed measures for care of refugees. Found out what they require from military authorities. Present, Col. Demier, Belgian Mission, Capt. Veldkens dc + Dr. Holmans, representing Minister of the Interior. Made report to Dly result of meeting. Returned at 11.15. 8 pm.</p>	Rain
	Aug 12.		<p>Dealt with question of no of mess operating incinerators ATHQ L of C. Promotion of Lt Harrison. B. H. LAB. Dispensing staples. Intention improving. Very little in answer.</p>	Rain. Pg
	Aug 13.		<p>Sent in report to Dly. on conference with Belgians.</p>	

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	Aug 14 th		<p>Memo for Mr. Ashby if I had agreed to 25 men per small Messon Hut. Replied Mr. Ashby & sent copies of correspondence re accommodation in small Messon Huts.</p> <p>Met with question of B. W. D. on 14th B. W. D. did not recommend its issue.</p> <p>Let for visit to 5th 2nd 21st Division.</p>	
	Aug 15 th		<p>Suggested Capt S. J. C. Holden R.A.M.C. as SSO 1st Depot. Colonel Kerbutt Professor of Hygiene at Military Academy Petrograd called.</p> <p>Dealt with pamphlet on the antiseptic properties of lime juice (D. G. M. S.)</p>	
	" 16 th		<p>Received report from R.D.M.S. Marseille on 8 cases of relapsing fever.</p> <p>Outbreak of measles 49 cases amongst about 800 men of 1st B. W. I. Regt. just disembarked at Boulogne. Commandant Boulogne has isolated the regiment & all steps are being taken to prevent spread of the disease.</p>	
	" 17 th		<p>R.D.M.S. have suggested removal of chem & magazines from Egyptian labourer ration & substitution of rice & jam. The amounts suggested however would mean a reduction in the money value of the ration & to make the ration satisfactory would have to be increased or other items added.</p>	

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	17 th Aug.		<p>Forwarded to D.G.M.S. a memorandum on Enteric and Dysentery suitable for P.G.W. Camps as supply of Turkish disinfectant is inadequate.</p> <p>Case of relapsing fever notified from Rouen. It occurred in 254 labourer USMAN KHAIV 26 U.P. labourer ILLROY. Patient was admitted to Lichens CCS & then transferred to Boulogne Labour HP Rouen where diagnosis was made. Informed D.M.S. III Army of the diagnosis so that he might take all necessary steps.</p> <p>Ratten pamphlet SS 571 received.</p> <p>Circular on Precautions to be taken against Dysentery in draft supply units has been circulated to all base Commandants & Administrative M.O's.</p>	
	18 Aug		<p>Egyptian labourers are being employed at Boulogne for in trenches. I advised that European colonial labour should not be used in connection with the preparation of food intended for use of European Troops.</p> <p>Report by CRE Boulogne on chlorination of Boulogne water supply forwarded by 880 Boulogne.</p> <p>Arrangements made for distribution of Medical spraying apparatus for the treatment of contacts of cerebrospinal fever.</p>	(21)

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	18	Aug	<p>Kaffirs are to be provided with Steam baths when ordinary sprays have not yet been installed Indians are to have only two blankets during summer + 3 in winter Latrines at Courbairet Camps Townville are to be fly proof</p>	
	19	Aug	<p>Prepared monthly report infectious disease for June. Conferred with D of W regarding provision of improved disinfectors for Prisoners, ^{Prisoners} Camps - Suggests adoption of Deform of Steam box as described in my minute to DGMS of 17 inst</p>	
	20	Aug	<p>Case of relapsing fever No 2043 Khan reported from Marseilles Recommended the retention of blankets in excess of one per man on recommendation of medical authorities Received copies of measures taken by Belgian Government in regard to feeding of Evacuees + sanitation of reconquered territory</p>	
	21	Aug	<p>9th B W 1 Regt landed at Boulogne from England with infested with lice 49 cases occurred during first day at Boulogne + the Regt was isolated there Suggests that samples of crude sewage effluent from sewage disposal works at Highcliff Camp be sent to Ban Hygiene Laboratory to determine the efficiency of the contact beds Referred to use of milk powder in hospitals in lieu of milk for puddings etc but states</p>	PR

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			<p>that fresh milk must be provided when required for treatment</p> <p>Forwarded description of Clayton disinfecting apparatus to 880 Boulogne</p> <p>Recommended suits of dungaree clothing for German prisoner cooks. 6 suits will be allowed for 4 cooks</p>	
	22	Aug	<p>Recommended issue of tent bottoms for wet camps at Calais or as an alternative the provision of huts</p> <p>Disembarkation from SS Heentopille not permitted as presence of cholera was suspected</p>	
	23	Aug	<p>Visited Camps of India Native Labourers (Beharis + Nagas) in Third Army. Their condition is now satisfactory. Slight overcrowding in some sections which will be remedied</p> <p>Forwarded to DGMS DGMS a memorandum on a hot air disinfectant designed by No 8 Sanitary Section & suggested that two experimental disinfector be made & tested.</p> <p>Dealt with memo from DGMS on the antiscorbutic properties of lime juice</p> <p>Indians at India Veterinary hospital are to retain 3rd blanket</p>	

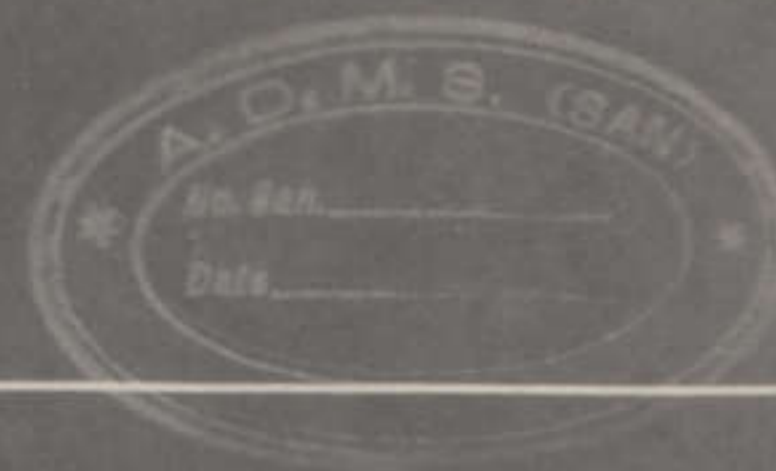
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	24	Any	<p>Capt Holden RAMEL DPH to proceed to 8th Div to do sanitary duty in addition to other duties. He is not appointed S.S.O.</p> <p>Provisional drainage scheme for Staples provided from DQW for approval - Suggested that the Hospital area be also included in the scheme</p> <p>Report on inspection of Water camp - 3rd Army forwarded to DQMS</p>	
	25	Any	<p>Dealt with quarter rooms by SSO Boulogne as to accommodation in Mess Halls.</p> <p>Advised DQW as to installation of Wallace & Tiernan chlorine steriliser (manual control direct feed type B) for water supply Boulogne</p> <p>Description & drawings of hot air disinfecter forwarded to DQMS</p> <p>Drawings of fly proof latrines forwarded to DQW</p>	
	26	Any	<p>Report on such specimens of pack for conveyance referred to Army bacteriologist</p> <p>Three cans of Relapoy from reports from L.I.G. H. Rouen. They come from 47th form, 27th Indian Labour Coy working at Querrien III Army Area admitted 42 Stationary HP transferred to Rouen where diagnosis was made. Informed DMS III Army so that he could adopt preventive measures</p>	
	27	Any	<p>Prepared information re dysentery for members of Army Sanitary Committee who arrived in Bance today to investigate the subject</p>	

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Abbeville	28	Aug.	<p>Owing to shortage of M.O.s D.G.M.S. has decided that C.O.s cannot be appointed to each Sanitary Section on L of L. They are to remain under charge of S.S.O.s where there has been the case hitherto.</p> <p>On account of shortage of huts Chinese labour must be accommodated 25 in a Nissen hut. When huts are available this will be reduced to 14 per hut (A.M.G. memo.)</p>	
	29	Aug.	<p>Colonel Buchanan Major Andrews members of Army Sanitary Committee arrived at Abbeville from Boulogne to inquire into occurrence of dysentery.</p> <p>Horn carcasses at Rouelles near Haon are now being disposed of in Fat Recovery plant & not in manure dumps.</p> <p>Particulars of 3 cases Relapsing fever amongst India labourers working in Tuffery at Quercy received from O.C. Sahon Hospital ROVEN</p> <p>Recommended use of Wallace & Piernan manual contact direct feed chlorinator for insertion into water main of Boulogne at Bellosane (junction of Tuffery & main at source of supply)</p> <p>Drew attention to overcrowding of 9 B.D.s at Etaples & suggested remedies including expansion of the area</p>	P. 15

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Abbeville	29	Amp	Recommended issue of 18 cans water sterilization testing for No 1 W.T.C	
	30		<p>Army Sanitary Committee proceeded to STAPLES to inquire into occurrence of dysentery at IBDs</p> <p>Question of proportion of dried & fresh milk required at hospitals - suggested that hospital at Boulogne be asked to supply the information</p>	
	31	4	<p>Army Sanitary Committee proceeded to III Army</p> <p>History of 17 Dysentery 'cans' received from STAPLES</p> <p>Draft with type of chlorometer required for Boulogne water supply</p>	
	1st	Sept	<p>Army Sanitary Committee returned from III Army -</p> <p>Prepared + function re dysentery for them</p>	<p>W.W.O. Bureau Lieut Col. R/MC</p>
	2nd	4	<p>Approved of modifications in Egyptian ration - Imski's Herring to be substituted</p> <p>3 days a week for meat. Imski's to be reduced from 3 to 2 g meat to be reduced from 8 to 6 g</p> <p>Application for Capt C Pender R/MC F to be sent to Sanitary Section for appointment as D.A.D.M.S of a Division. D.G.M.S has noted his case.</p>	<p>to 6</p>

(A7092) Wt W12539/M1293 75 .0.0. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.