

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/1/33

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

November 1918



AWM4-26/1/33

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A. D. M. S. Sanitation., B. E. F., A. F. O. S. I.



Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Abbeville.	<u>1.11.18.</u>		Nil.
	<u>2.11.18.</u>		Colonel. W. W. O. Beveridge., C. B., D. S. O., A. M. S., A. D. M. S. Sanitation preceded on 7 days special leave to the United Kingdom today.
			D. G. M. S. asks for suitable Officer in relief of Captain China R. A. M. C of No. 3 Water Tank Company. I replied that the only officers with qualifications for this work are already engaged in important duties and I regretted that I am unable to suggest a name.
			The D. G. M. S notified me that Captain T. Legge R. A. M. C. T. F., at present at the R. A. M. C School of Instruction., Etaples is available for duty. There being at present no vacancy I notified the DGMS to this effect. It is possible however that the services of Officers with the kind of experience and training of this Officer* will probably be required in the near future for towns taken over from the enemy.
			D. M. S L. of. C, forwarded memo from the D. of. Works reference Central Bathing Station for Demobilisation.
	<u>3.11.18.</u>		Nil.
	<u>4.11.18.</u>		Received a moleskin waistcoat from D. G. M. S for inspection and remarks as to its suitability for general issue to troops. I agreed that the moleskin waistcoat is suitable as an alternative issue to the cardigan for all troops in this country provided it is made long enough to cover the stomach.
			I returned to the DGMS the proof copy of Supplement to S. S. 455 D. G. Circ Memo No. 15 /Revised/ with my remarks regarding the style of type.
	<u>5.11.18.</u>		I forwarded monthly return of Infectious Diseases (By Armies) to Colonel Nixon.
			Received file from DGMS reference clothing of men proceeding from Salonika to the United Kingdom. The scale of clothing laid down in table 5 War Clothing Reglms 1917 with the addition of 2 blankets before arrival in this country should be adequate except that drawers cotton should not be issued during the winter but drawers woollen only on the scale laid down in GRC 5103. The third blanket is issued to troops of the L. of. C during the winter and it is presumed

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WAR DIARY

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A.D.M.S. Sanitation., B.E.F., A.T.O., 3.11.18

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks add. references to Appendixes
Abbeville.	5.11.18. Contd.		<p>the the extra blanket would be supplied to troops from Salonika on their arrival in this country during the winter period.</p> <p>D.M.S., L.of.C asks if there is a suitable vacancy for Major F.G. Bushnell RAMC.TF at present at No.3. Native Labour General Hpl. No vacancy at present.</p> <p>In reply to a minute from the DMS First Army regarding the provision of thermometers for ORR Disinfestors I stated that arrangements have been made to obtain special thermometers for this apparatus. Presumably when available, they will be supplied on demand in the usual way.</p> <p>6.11.18. NIL.</p> <p>7.11.18. Reference extra rations for QMAAC (Bakeresses) and a minute from DGMS dated 31.10.18 I agreed with the remarks of the C.M.S., Q.M.A.A. Corps that the extra ration provided in GRO 5334 should be issued to members of the QMAAC employed during the day as Bakeresses.</p> <p>Colonel W.W.O. Beveridge., C.B., D.S.O., A.M.S., returned from special leave of absence today.</p> <p>8.11.18. Major Orr called this morning reference his Disinfestor. The D.G.M.S forwarded for my examination a pair (sample) of knickerbockers which it has been proposed by a special committee in England to issue to troops in lieu of Trousers S.D. In my remarks I mentioned that trousers would be somewhat warmer and more comfortable at night than knickerbockers; furthermore there is a certain number of men of low category with varicose veins for whom possibly the wearing of knickerbockers and puttees would be irksome or even harmful. From the medical point of view there is little to choose between trousers and knickerbockers. I do not think that knickerbockers and puttees would confer any greater immunity from trench foot than the trousers at present issued. On the whole I am inclined to the opinion that as the issue of only one type of garment is practicable SD Trousers are more suitable than knickerbockers for use in all circumstances.</p> <p>I wrote to the D.M.S., L.of.C with reference to D.W.No. 783 and suggested that Canadian Hot Air Disinfestors be utilised in place of Steam Chambers as shown in the plan. These would have to be outside the building on account of the coke fumes emitted which are injurious to health. At each cleansing station for 3000 men per day of 10 hours six hot air disinfestors will be necessary. They should be arranged in pairs. The hot air disinfestors will econ-</p>	<p>112</p>

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

A. D. M. S. Sanitation., B. E. F., A. P. O., 5. 1.

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Army Form G 2118



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	
Abbeville	<u>8.11.18.</u> Contd.		<p>mise labour fuel and other material and will possess the advantage of being able to deal with all varieties of clothing including those containing leather which cannot be disinfested by steam. I suggested that a Medical Officer be detailed to supervise the process and to certify that the men are free from vermin before embarking for England.</p> <p>With reference to a minute from D.M.S., L.of.C dated 7.11.18 regarding the issue of rations on repayment at Labour Scale to W.G.Tarrant's employees I stated that the L.of.C ration should suffice for these women.</p> <p><u>9.11.18.</u> Received copy of B.C.I., No. MA 58587 reference Spanish Influenza in Germany. I forwarded a copy to the DGMS and also to the Adviser in Pathology.</p> <p>The D.of.W. Works (thro DMS) forwarded copy of instructions for working a Central Delousing and Bathing Station for Demobilisation. In returning same to D.M.S I stated that I understand that these instructions will be revised.</p> <p>QUARANTINE OF PORTUGUESE OFF BREST. D.G.M.S states that the Isle of Treberon is now required by the French solely for infectious cases from Brest and raises the question of the quarantine of Portuguese Troops. I mentioned that so long as typhus fever is prevalent in Portugal (and I believe that 1811 cases have occurred there during the last 6 months) disinfestation and quarantine of Portuguese arriving in France will be necessary.</p> <p><u>10.11.18.</u> The D.M.S., forwarded me a copy of D.W.Circ Memo No. 338A (Installation of Disinfestors) to which I made remarks in regard to table of dimensions and capacities of Canadian Type, Box Type and Chamber type.</p> <p><u>11.11.18.</u> News of signing of the armistice received today. I wrote to D.G.M.S reference the scheme for demobilisation and the correspondence I have had with the D.M.S., L.of.C regarding D.of.W Circ Memo 783. Gave D.G.M.S a short report on the occurrence of Influenza in the British Troops during the period 7.10.18 and 2.11.18. Total cases - 22355. Total Deaths 999 or a case mortality of 4.4 per cent. Attack rate - 11.7 per 1000. The no. of cases of Broncho-Pneumonia was 1805.</p> <p><u>12.11.18.</u> Authority has been given for the issue of the Labour Ration to personnel of the ASC Repair shops etc. AQMG/QL/303/AA/375 dated 10.11.1918.</p>	<p>Remarks and references to Appendix</p> <p style="text-align: right;">MHS</p>

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WAR DIARY

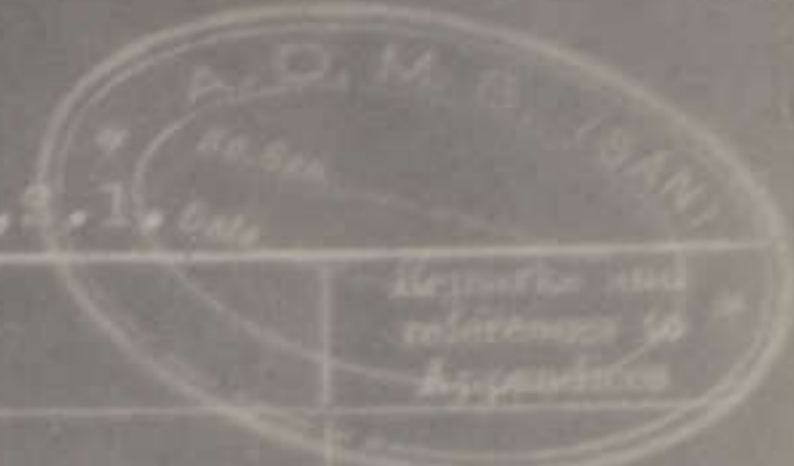
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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A.D.M.S. Sanitation., A.P.O., 3.1



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Abbeville	12.11.18	Contd.	The D.M.S.,L.of.C forwarded to me the results of experiments with a new disinfectant at Rouen, carried out by the O i/c Laboratory at No. 25 Stationary Hospital. I remarked that these experiments would appear to prove that the Disinfectant designed to replace the Thresh type is efficient both for disinfection and disinfection and could replace the Thresh Machine provided the recommendations made by the S.S.O.,Rouen in his report dated 25/7/18 be carried out.
	13.11.18.		The O.C.No. 1 R.E.Workshop made application thro D.M.S.,L.of.C for a special thermometer for an ORR Disinfectant. I replied that I understand that arrangements have been made by Q.M.G., to obtain these thermometers. Presumably when they are available they will be supplied on demand in the usual way.
	14.11.18		<p>In reply to a query regarding extra vegetables for Convalescent Depots I stated in my remarks to D.M.S.,L.of.C, that the present vegetable ration is 8 ozs per man per day and should normally suffice. I do not recommend that the amount be increased. If the O.C Depot considers that any particular patient requires a diet richer in vegetables than this he can presumably prescribe an extra quantity on medical grounds.</p> <p>Received from D, of Works thro' D.M.S.,L.of.C a copy of a memo sent by him to D.O.Services asking if it is proposed to continue the withdrawal of Thresh Disinfectants from hospitals on the L. of C.</p> <p>Received from D. of Works thro' D.M.S.,L.of.C a copy of a memorandum which he has forwarded to Q.M.G asking if steam lorry disinfectants will be available for use in connection with Dispersal Camps.</p> <p>The D.M.S.,L.of C furnished me with a copy of instructions regarding Demobilisation issued by the A.Q.M.G on 9/11/18.</p> <p>Repatriated Prisoners of War from Germany etc. - I received today a copy of instructions on this subject.</p>

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WAR DIARY

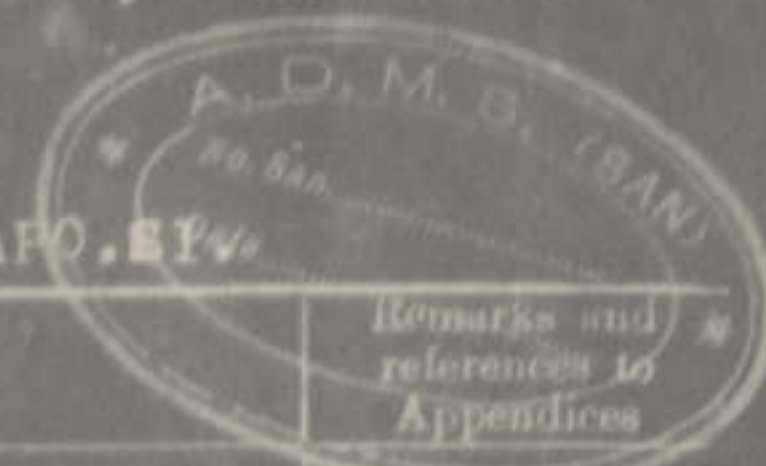
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Brass heading not required.)

A.D.M.S. Sanitation., B.E.F., APO. EY.



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abbeville	15.11.18.		<p>The Commdt, Abbeville Area made application for the issue of a second blanket to P. of, War. I recommended its issue at the discretion of the Commandant Abbeville Area to the Prisoners of War in Cages in that Area before being formed into companies.</p> <p>Feeding of men proceeding from their Units to Embarkation Camps on the ticket system, during Demobilisation. In accordance with instructions received from the D.G.M.S I prepared tables dividing the existing ration into four parts i.e., Breakfast, Haversack Ration, Dinner and Tea.</p> <p>With reference to correspondence received from the D. of Supplies regarding the issue of Sauerkraut to German Prisoners of War, I do not recommend its issue as part of the Potato ration. Two ounces of Sauerkraut may however be issued in lieu of 2 ozs other fresh vegetables on alternate days, as far as the supply permits.</p>	
	16.11.18		The D.G.M.S telephoned me at lam, with reference to the incidence of Influenza etc amongst the British Troops in France.	
	17.11.18		<p>The A.D.M.S. Sanitation proceeded on inspection duty to Calais and Boulogne.</p> <p>Wrote to D.G.M.S stating that in view of the continued prevalence of Influenza and the onset of colder weather I recommend that a third blanket be issued to troops in Army Areas so far as the military situation and traffic facilities permit. A third blanket has already been issued to troops on the L. of C.</p> <p>The D.G.M.S requests the nomination of an officer for duty as O.C No. 33 Mobile (Hyg) Lab'y. The only officer of whom I know at present who would be suitable for this post is Major F.G. Bushnell, but I understand that his services will not be available for about 10 days as he is convalescing from Influenza.</p> <p>Reference issue of Paillasses to the billet at No. 36 Rue Ponthieu, Paris. In reply to an application from the A.D.M.S., Central Area I stated that men under these conditions usually extemporise bedsteads, but there is no reason why paillasses should not be issued if they are available. Any suitable material such as straw etc which can be readily obtained may be used for stuffing them.</p>	

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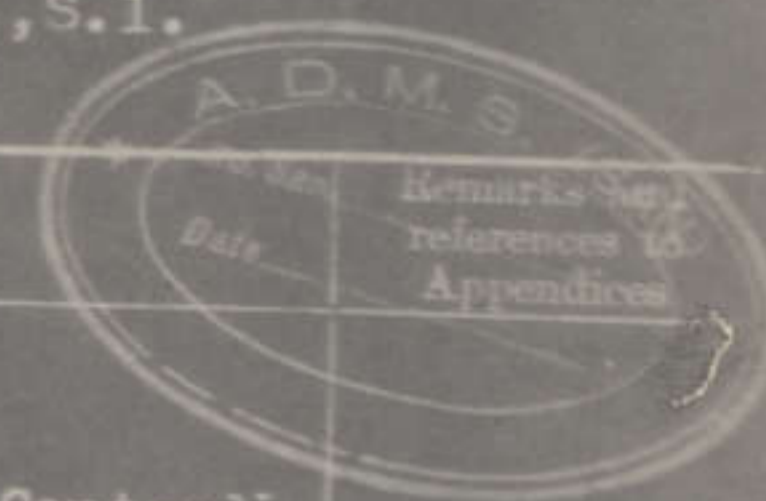
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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

A. D. M. S. Sanitation., S. 1.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Abbeville.	18.11.18.		Nil.
	19.11.18.		<p>I received from the Director of Works a copy of the revised working instructions for Central Delousing and Bathing Stations for 3000 men.</p> <p>Received Second Army Sanitary Reports for the month of Octr 1918.</p> <p>Received correspondence from the D.G.M.S Reference issue of trousers in lieu of kilts for Canadian Highland Regts during the coming winter. In my remarks I stated that presumably exposure to cold and inclement weather is to a great extent avoidable during the period of cessation from hostilities and in these circumstances I think that the retention of kilts might be permitted. Should hostilities be resumed or an undue incidence of sickness occur the issue of trousers would become desirable.</p> <p>With reference to a previous application for extra rations for Stretcher Bearers at Havre, the A.Q.M.G informs me that he does not consider that the work at present performed by these men necessitates the issue of extra rations.</p>
	20.11.18.		Nil.
	21.11.18.		Received intimation thro D.M.S.,L.of.C that Major A.A.Mussen RAMC.TF S.S.O Abbeville Area is to report to Adastral House, London, at the earliest possible date, for release.
	22.11.18.		<p>The Commandant, Doullens makes application for a Sanitary Section for his Area. I replied that the Doullens Area will shortly be taken over by an Army, and I do not think it necessary to provide a new Sanitary Section at Present.</p> <p>The O.C. 35th Coy, Canadian Forestry Corps applied for a daily issue of rum for that Coy. In my minute to the D.M.S.,L.of.C I stated that before expressing an opinion of this, I would be glad to know on what grounds the Medical Officer 4th Army Musketry School considers the issue necessary.</p> <p>The D.M.S.,L.of.C forwarded me a circ. memo ref the inoculation of U.S.Troops.</p>

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A.H.L.

WAR DIARY

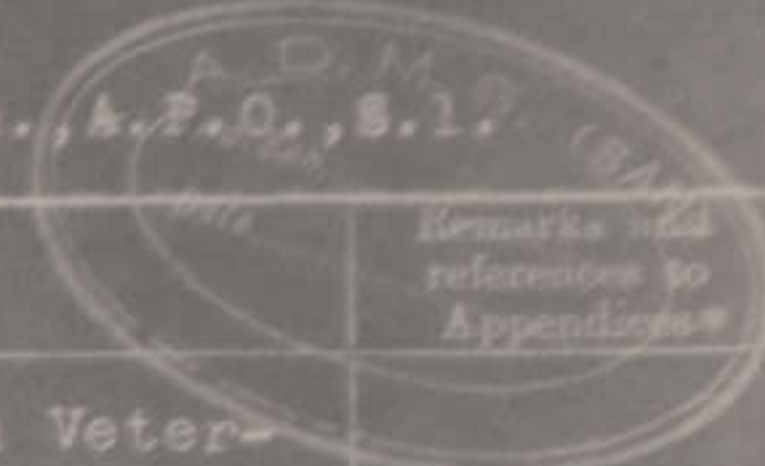
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A.D.M.S. Sanitation, A.P.O., S.1.



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abbeville.	22.11.18.	Cont'd.	<p>The A.Q.M.G has approved of the issue of rations on the labour scale to personnel in Veterinary Hospitals, Convalescent Horse Depots and Remount Depots.</p> <p>The D.of Works Dieppe, proposes to erect a Central Bathing Station in that district in accordance with a pencilled tracing submitted to me. This tracing was not in accordance with the original drawing approved for such Stations. I did not recommend the erection of Disinfesting Chambers in the courtyard enclosed by the main building owing to the poisonous nature of the coke fumes from the chambers. Valuable time would be lost if only one trolley per disinfestor is used at a time. The proposed arrangement also necessitates the provision of two doors to each disinfestor which would detract from its efficiency and I cannot vouch for the satisfactory working of any disinfestor that does not conform strictly to the type plan.</p> <p>I wrote to D.G.M.S recommending Captain A. White., O.C. 61st Sanitary Section as DADMS.San Third Army instead of Captain N. Gebbie recommended in my wire No. 373 dated 21.11.18 who has since then been admitted to Hospital.</p>	
	<u>23.11.18.</u>		<p>In continuation of my B/786/27 dated 4.11.18 I forwarded to the D.G.M.S drawings for supplement to SS 455 D.G.Circ Memo No. 16. It would conduct to clarity if the prints could be made the same size as the drawings and made to fold in the pamphlet. If this is impossible and reduction is necessary, the scales on the drawings will have to be altered accordingly.</p>	
	<u>24.11.18.</u>		<p>The D.M.S forwarded me AQMG File No. QL/514/208 ref General instrns for Demobilisation which I perused and returned .</p>	
	<u>25.11.18.</u>		<p>The A.D.M.S. 35th Division submitted thro DDMS a suggestion for demobilisation, to which I replied today stating that arrangements for bathing and disinfestation and provision of clean underclothing to troops on demobilisation are already being made at the Ports of Demobilisation.</p>	
			<p>The D.G.M.S forwarded a copy of a proposed draft for General Routine Orders reference reductions in Mobilisation equipment i.e., deletion of articles for clarifying and sterilising water. I replied that in this country clear water is obtainable almost everywhere so that clarifying apparatus is rarely, if ever, necessary and may be dispensed with for Anti-Aircraft Gun Sects (France). Water should continue to be chlorinated in the usual way.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

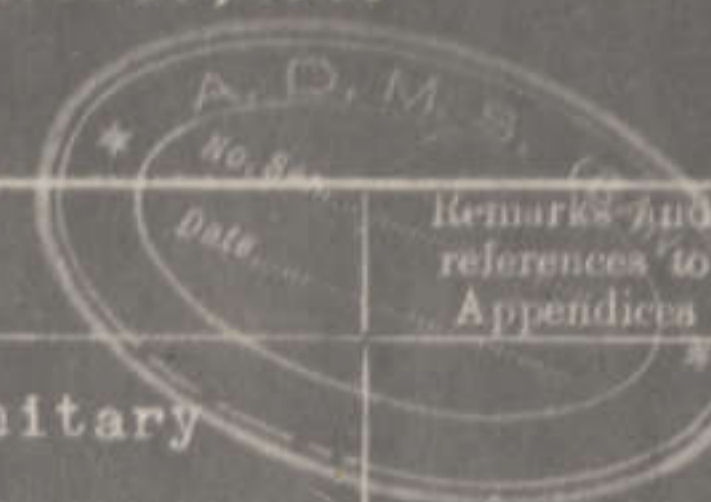
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OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

A. D. M. S. Sanitation., A. P. O., S. I.

(Brass heading not required.)



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abbeville.	26.11.18		<p>Forwarded a report on Influenza in the B.E.F, to the President of the Inter Allied Sanitary Commission, Paris.</p> <p>Received a copy of a minute from the A.Q.M.G to the effect that the stock of Thresh Disf's is fairly satisfactory and that it is not desired to substitute any more fixed disinfectors for Thresh's from home.</p> <p>The D.G.M.S forwarded me a letter from Messrs Clayton Disf'g Coy asking that their apparatus be considered for adoption in connection with Demobilisation etc. I replied pointing out that hot air disinfectors have been agreed to for this purpose.</p> <p>S.S.O., Dieppe made application for one dozen Temperature Recording Tubes (Naphthalene). I arranged for this issue with the Base Hygiene Laboratory.</p> <p>Wrote to D.M.S., First Army asking for a report on the occurrence of arsenic in bread, samples of which were forwarded by the OC; No. 6. Mobile Hyg. Laboratory to the Base Hgy. Lab., for analysis and were there found to contain arsenic.</p> <p>Received notification of the impending departure to England of Maj. A.A. Mussen., RAMC.TF., SSO, Abbeville Area. I recommended Capt. W.C.D.Hills., RAMC.TF Ambulance Trains as S.S.O of that Area in his relief.</p> <p>In reply to correspondence passed to me from the D.M.S., L.of.C I agreed that the drivers of ambulances of the B.R.C.S Convoy at Etaples, when working on night duty for four hours and over, between the hours of 21.00 and 06.00 should be permitted to draw the extra ration given in S.S.571 Section 2 (a) ii.</p>	
	27.11.18.		<p>I recommended the issue of an extra blanket to No. 2. Area Reception Camp as these men have suffered from Malaria and a proportion of them have probably not yet become acclimatised.</p>	
	28.11.18.		<p>The Engineer in Chief forwarded to me a copy of a minute from the Director of Transport ref. the replacing of casualties of Sterilising Lorries with Water Tank Coys. It is desired to know whether they should be fitted with Bleaching Powder Sets, or with the more recent</p>	

(Cont'd.)

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WAR DIARY

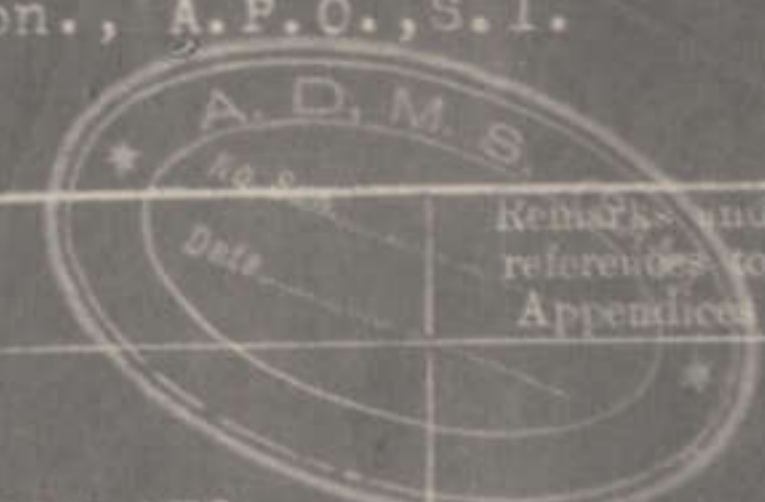
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A.D.M.S. Sanitation., A.P.O., S.1.

(Erase heading not required.)



Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Abbeville.	28.11.18		<p>pattern of Chlorine Gas Sterilising apparatus. In my remarks I stated that if these are still required I recommend that the more recent pattern of Chlorine Gas Sterilising Apparatus be installed.</p> <p>The D.M.S., L.of.C forwarded a minute received from the D.G.M.S regarding the figures given in my C/1100/14/18 dated 12.11.1918. I submitted a table showing the figures referred to by weekly periods, together with a report as to the source from which they were obtained.</p>	
	29.11.18.		<p>With reference to previous correspondence regarding the issue of paillasses to the billet at No. 36 Rue Ponthieu, Paris, the A.Q.M.G states in a minute dated 26.11.18 that the issue is not recommended.</p> <p>I received a sample of Plum Pudding (last year's) from the O.C.No. 3 Base Supply Depot. I examined the sample and found it fit for issue. There was no label or distinguishing mark on the container.</p>	
	30.11.18		<p>In reply to a minute from the D.M.S I stated that in my opinion the appointment of a Specialist Sanitary Officer is necessary for the Dunkerque Area which is increasing in importance and is about to become a centre for demobilisation.</p>	

A.P.O., S.1.
4.12.1918.

W.W.O. Beveridge
COLONEL. A.D.M.S. San'n.

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