

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/18/20

**Title:** Assistant Director of Medical  
Services, 1st Australian Division

July 1916



AWM4-26/18/20

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 116

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Vol 2  
Sheet 16.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SPILLY	2.7.16		3rd Aust. Field Ambulance accompanied 2nd Inf. Bgde. to OUTERSTEEN	
	3.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at SPILLY reopened at MERRIS 2nd F. Amb. handed over A.D. Station to HQ Division.	
MERRIS	6.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at MERRIS reopened at BAILLIEUL	
BAILLEUL	10.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at BAILLEUL reopened at DOMART - Field Ambts entrained at various times - motor vehicles proceeding by road.	
DOMART	12.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at DOMART reopened at FLESSELLES	
FLESSELLES	16.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at FLESSELLES reopened at CONTAY.	
CONTAY	18.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at CONTAY reopened at SENLIS	
SENLIS	19.7.16		Closed H.Q. office at SENLIS reopened at Rue Bontin ALBERT.	
ALBERT	20.7.16		3rd F. Amb (less Tent section) reopened ADS at N. CHIMINEY 1st F. Amb. (less Bearer section) opened at WARLOY to receive seriously wounded 2nd F. Amb (less Bearer section) opened at VADENCOURT to receive walking cases and pick. Bearer section of 1st & 2nd F. Amb. attached to 3rd F. Amb.	
	21.7.16		ADMS office closed at Rue Bontin and reopened at 19 Rue de Royelles. 2nd F. Amb opened an A.D.S. at BECOURT CHU. with collecting and aid posts towards the fighting line behind the Brigades (vide scheme at H.)	
	22.7.16		Formed a collecting post at E 4 d. 4. 6. (map 62° N.E) mostly at ham terminus, for walking cases - with a continuous service of motor Lorries to VADENCOURT arranged for by 1st Amys. - Wounded 83 other ranks.	App. A+B.
	23.7.16		00.30 - Battle commenced - until 0300 only small batches of patients were dealt with at BECOURT CHU. from that on there was a continual flow of wounded, the serious cases being sent direct to WARLOY in motor Ambulances and the walking cases	

# WAR DIARY

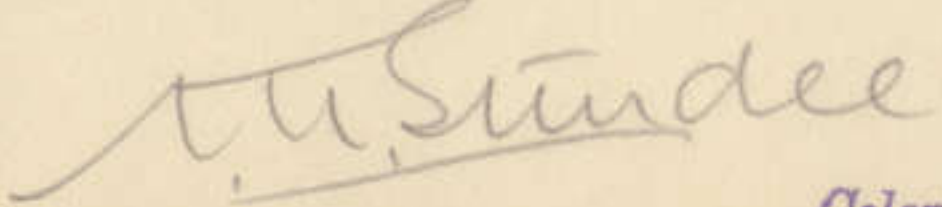
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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol 2  
Sheet 17

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALBERT	23.7.16		directed to the collecting post at Tram Terminus on N. Chimney. At 2000 two medical officers were sent up to replace Capt's. Joyer and Campbell who were wounded. Capt. Sprent and 30 bearers from 4th Division were sent up to BECOURT CHATEAU to assist. Wounded 22 officers 1101 other ranks.	
	24.7.16		The methods adopted for evacuation from Gordons Dump (x15 Central) - (a) by trolley to Tram terminus (b) Horse ambulance to BECOURT CHATEAU. (c) wheeled stretchers to BECOURT CHATEAU. Wounded 13 officers 504 other ranks.	
	25.7.16		Capt. Chapman, Savage and 78 bearers from 2nd Aust. Div sent up to relieve other bearers	
	26.7.16		Three officers + 123 bearers from 4th Division reported for duty - kept in reserve at N. Chimney Three horse drawn ambulance wagons from 4th Division reported were sent up to Chateau to relieve ours. 6th F. Amb which had arrived were ordered to relieve 3rd F. Amb. at Becourt Chateau and take over posts gradually - at various times 300 bearers were working the evacuation of wounded.	
	27.7.16		Wounded 13 officers 514 other ranks. Handed over to ADMS 2nd Aust. Div reopened office at RUBEMPRE	
RUBEMPRE	28.7.16		Wounded 6 officers 174 other ranks. Closed at RUBEMPRE and opened at CANAPLES	
CANAPLES	31.7.16		3rd F. Amb. moved to BERTEAUCOURT 1st F. Amb " " HALLOT 2nd F. Amb. stood fast at YADENCOURT The known casualties among bearers was 4 other Ranks killed and 29 other ranks wounded. Report attached	
			 Colonel, A. A. M. C. A. D. of M. S. 1st. Australian Division.	App. C.

SECRET

1ST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONMEDICAL ARRANGEMENTSOPERATION ORDERS

20.7.16

REFERENCE MAP SHEET 57D.8.E.

1. The Division will relieve the 3rd Division in the front line and will take over a portion of the line held by 1st Division (MERRILL) tonight.  
The front will extend from X.5.6.3.1. to the strong point at X.4.C.4.1.2.  
March Table for movement is attached.
2. The 1st Division (MERRILL) is on our right and the 4th Division is on our left.
  - (a) The right boundary of the division is BLACK WATCH ALLEY from square X.11.0.8.9. to X.16.0.2.7. (inclusive) to BARLIFF WOOD (inclusive) to SAUSAGE VALLEY (inclusive) to HELIGOLAND square X.21.C.0.8. to X.20. Central to FOOTBRIDGE at square W.23.C.1.0. to Cross Roads Square W.22.6.1.3. (inclusive) to ALBERT Railway Station (exclusive) and thence due west.
  - (b) The ALBERT-BARRUMIE Road so far as X.19.0.0.9. may be used by both the division and 4th Division. Thence the left boundary of the division will be the road running past LES BOISELLE Church (inclusive) so far as X.14.d.1.8. (inclusive) and thence along the railway (exclusive).  
The post at square X.4.C.4.1.1. is a joint post held by parties from both divisions.
3. The area will be divided into two sectors. The dividing line between the sectors will be from X.11.a.2.4. to the western end of CONTRAFORT WOOD to the square X.15.6.7.3. and along SAUSAGE VALLEY. This may be varied by mutual agreement between G.O.C. 3900005. Divisional Headquarters will be informed.
4. The 3rd Aust. Inf. Brigade will take over the right sector and the 1st Aust. Inf. Bde. will take over the left sector. Details of relief will be arranged between Brigadiers direct.
5. Evacuations of wounded from the post will be carried out by the nearest subdivision of the 2nd Div. Aust. Field Ambulances.  
The O.C. 2nd Div. Amb. will be responsible for clearing the left half and the O.C. 3rd Div. Amb. for clearing the right half.  
They will confer as to point of junction and take steps to see that no portion of the ground is left unsearched.

MINIX DRESSING STATION

The 1st Field Ambulance will take over the Auxiliary Hospital at WARLOY from the 2nd South Midland Field Amb. and be ready to receive cases by 5pm on 20th instant.

The 2nd Field Ambulance will move its tent subdivision to VADENCOURT and stand by to assist the 2nd South Midland Field Ambulance if required.

Abdominal, Head and Serious cases will be sent to MINIX ~~HOSPITAL~~ HOSPITAL WARLOY, walking and slight cases to VADENCOURT, all other casualties to Auxiliary Hospital WARLOY.

Sick will be sent to VADENCOURT.

COLLECTING POST for slightly wounded.

Walking cases will be sent to BARRUMIE POST W.22.d.35. on

ADVANCED DRESSING STATION.

The 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance will open an advanced dressing station at N. CHIMNEY, ELBERT, with one tent subdivision. - also one at Becourt Chateau.

Headquarters  
20.7.16

John Wood  
J. Colonel

90415

1st Aust. Division

SECRET

911

MAIN Dressing Station	ADVANCED Dressing Station	COLLECTING POSTS	AID POSTS
AUXILIARY HOSPITAL WARLOY	N. CHIMNEY RUGBY	W 24 & 35 BRUPRUME POST	----- ----- ----- -----
ADDITIONAL AND SERIOUS CASES TO MAIN HOSPITAL WARLOY	BECOURT CHATEAU	X 15 CENTRAL (TRAM TERMINUS)	----- -----
WALKING AND SLIGHT CASES		----- (HOSPITAL)	----- -----
2 YADENECOURT		GORDON DUMP	x 16 a.o.o Baillif Wood x 16 cental

Aid posts will be altered as considered advisable by RMO's who will notify the ADMS + the S. Amb. in the area

Regimental stretcher bearers (assisted if necessary by G.M.C. bearers) will convey wounded to aid posts where R.M.O. will stay (2 in each aid post). G.M.C. bearers will then convey cases back to collecting posts. Cases will be brought back by train down SPOUSAGE VALLEY and also by horse ambulance, and from BRUPRUME POST by motor ambulance. Cases will be sorted at Advanced Dressing Stations and despatched in motor ambulances to Main Dressing Station. Light cases being sent back by lorry.

Communications from main dressing station will be carried out by 6th M.G.C. which is stationed at WARLOY.

20.7.16

J. P. ...  
Major  
for Colonel  
90.115.  
1st Australian Div.

Appendix No. B

I beg to submit the following report upon the work of the A.A.M.C. under my Command during the operations commencing July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

In drawing up the original scheme for evacuation of the wounded much difficulty was encountered as none of the Main Dressing Stations, formerly used for the Area in which our troops were operating were handed over to us, also the Advanced Dressing Station at Becont Chateau which from the lay of the ground and the formation of the roads was ~~over~~ a natural clearing spot was outside our area. It was at first refused to us and then when we had occupied it we were instructed to vacate it upon the evening of July 22<sup>nd</sup>; as the vacation of this position on that evening would have completely upset all arrangements I reported the matter to the A.A.-Q.M.G. and received instructions from him and the A.A.-Q.M.G. of the Corps to continue its use.

Our evacuations again were made difficult owing to the Main Dressing Stations being so far removed from the scene of operations viz. one at WARLOY and the other at VADENCOURT. This difficulty was overcome to a large extent by the D.D.M.S. giving us the use of the Motor Ambulances of the other two Divisions and also by the use of the Motor Lorries of the 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Supply Col. and two Motor buses. The 19<sup>th</sup> Division also kindly lent four lorries at night which greatly assisted during the stress.

The scheme I laid down for the evacuation of the wounded necessitated dividing the three Ambulances up.

The 1<sup>st</sup>. Field Ambulance, tent sub-divisions, under Lieut-Col. Shaw took over the Auxiliary Hospital at WARLOY from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. South Midland F. Ambulance, and formed a main Dressing Station for all stretcher and severe cases.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>. F. Ambulance, tent sub-divisions, under Lieut-Col. Hearne and by arrangements made by the D.D.M.S. opened out in the Chateau in VADENCOURT and received all slight and walking cases. Their personnel was increased by a few Officers and Other Ranks from the 14<sup>th</sup> Aust. Division.

911

The bearers of the three Field Ambulances were placed under the Command of Lieut - Col Butler of the 3rd. F. Ambulance who also had one tent sub-division of his own Ambulance with him. He opened an Advanced Dressing Station at North Chimney ALBERT and one at Becourt Chateau.

A. Collecting post for stretcher cases coming in by tram from Gordon Dump and for all walking cases from the tram line and Becourt Chateau was formed at E.4.D.6.5. a spot next to the end of the tram line. At this place the motor lorries were parked.

Collecting Posts were also formed at X.16.7.0.0 and Chalk Pit. These Posts were each in charge of a Medical Officer and a party of stretcher bearers.

In addition to above one Sergeant with twenty four bearers was stationed at Gordon Dump X.15. Centre to assist in loading the trams and attend to all cases arriving at this spot, and also superintend the loading of the Horse Ambulances which were able to reach this place and convey stretcher cases to Becourt Chateau. It was found impossible to take motor Ambulances past Becourt Chateau. Wheeled Ambulance stretchers were also kept at Gordon dump.

A small post of three men was established along the BAUPAUME Road at W.24.D.5.5. to direct any walking cases arriving at this point to the Advanced Dressing Station at North Chimney.

The Motor Ambulance wagons were parked at North Chimney and placed in charge of a Transport Sergeant who kept full particulars of their movements. In order that they should be in touch with the Advanced Dressing Station and the Collecting post at the end of the tram line one car and a cyclist were stationed at the corner of Rue Doullens by the railway bridge. As the Motor Ambulances passed on the way to WARLOY word was left for another car or cars to proceed forward and the cyclist conveyed the message to North Chimney. By this means the wagons were kept under control, were sent to the spot where they were most needed, a check kept upon their movements, and the drivers enabled to obtain a little rest, for

the cars as they reported back to North Chimney were placed at the bottom of the roster.

Our personnel was increased from time to time on application to the D.O.M.S. by Officers and men from the other Australian Divisions.

On July 23<sup>rd</sup> one Officer and thirty eight other ranks reported from the 13<sup>th</sup> Aust. F. Amb., on the 25<sup>th</sup> two Officers and seventy other ranks from the 7<sup>th</sup> Aust. F. Amb., and upon the 26<sup>th</sup> 3 Officers and one hundred and twenty three other ranks from 12<sup>th</sup> Aust. F. Amb.

Eighteen motor Ambulance wagons and three horse drawn Ambulances were sent to us from the other Divisions.

The selection of Regimental Aid Posts was left entirely in the hands of the Regimental Medical Officers but the R.M.O's as well as the officers in charge of the bearer detachments were instructed to get into touch at once.

The bearers were instructed to re-inforce the Regimental Stretcher bearers and not only to collect from the aid post. This was done and from the first our bearers carried from the front line.

Orders were issued to send all cases back to the main Dressing Stations without delay, and the O.S.C's of main Dressing Stations instructed to evacuate all cases so as to avoid any chance of congestion. This was carried out so well with the aid of the trains and the motor ambulance convoy that at no time was there any sign of congestion at the main Dressing Stations.

An ample supply of stretchers was held at Becont Chateau and Gordon Dump and arrangements made for more stretchers and blankets to be brought up from the main Dressing Stations if required.

A sufficient supply of dressings and medical comforts was kept at all posts and hot drinks, biscuits, cake and cigarettes were always on hand at all Dressing Stations and Collecting Posts.



In conclusion I would like to add that owing to the good and willing work performed by all, the evacuation of the wounded surpassed my most sanguine expectation. At times small parties of wounded collected here and there owing to the difficulties, ~~caused~~ caused by heavy shell fire, of immediately removing them from the battle field, but when possible wounded were collected and brought back to the Collecting Posts without delay.

In every case where a complaint or request was received I was able to remedy the former or comply with the latter almost immediately.

Attached is a table showing the number of cases attended to and passed through the main Dressing Stations from 12 o'clock on July 22nd to 12 o'clock on July 24th. The figures are given from 1200 to 2100, from 2100 to 0600 and from 0600 to 1200 each day.

As will always happen when troops are fighting in a congested area and field Ambulances are placed almost alongside of one another, some of our wounded were received into other Ambulances, the full figures of these have not yet been received, but those in hand show that comparatively few missed our posts, and of these most were walking cases.

A. A. M. C.

Colonel, A. A. M. C.  
A. D. of M. S. 1st. Australian Division.

1st Australian DivisionWounded Evacuated

Date	Time	Officers	Other Ranks.
22nd.	1200 - 2100	-	57
	2100 - 0600	3	86
	0600 - 1200	7	319
23rd	1200 - 2100	10	633
	2100 - 0600	-	263
	0600 - 1200	8	88
24th	1200 - 2100	5	153
	2100 - 0600	4	209
25th	0600 - 1200	6	259
	1200 - 2100	19	590
26th	2100 - 0600	11	303
	0600 - 1200	-	72
	1200 - 2100	2	142
27th.	2100 - 0600	5	124
	0600 - 1200	1	50
Total		81	3348

*A. A. M. C.*

Colonel, A. A. M. C.  
A. D. of M. S., 1st. Australian Division.