

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/18/31

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

June 1917



AWM4-26/18/31

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Vol 14
Sheet 151.

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.

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

A.D.M.S. (Erase heading not required.) 1st Australian Division

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Barseux	1/6/17 to 30/6/17		<p>The weather has been mild + sunshiny + opportunity has been taken by men to sleep out of doors; so that billets have been less congested -</p> <p>There has been a resurgence of a mild type of so-called "Trench Fever" during the latter part of the month -</p> <p>Copy of Monthly Sanitary Report is attached</p> <p>Veneral Disease has increased; mostly contracted in AMIENS but considerable numbers of men returning from leave in England have brought the disease back with them -</p> <p>Lectures have been given to men of the Div on the "National, moral + physical" effects of Veneral Disease by Lt Col A. Graham Butler (3rd Aust F. Ambul) + Archdeacon WARD (Specially detailed for this work from England)</p>	Appendix I

R. B. A. [Signature]

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

1250

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Vol 4
Sheet 152.

A.A.M.S.

(Erase heading not required.)

1st Austr Division -

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Barseux	1/6/17		During this month the Div ⁿ has been at rest: time being devoted to training generally, combined with sports of a useful nature -	
"	6		3 rd Aust. Field Ambce has occupied the Div ^l Rest Station at BUIRE.	
"	30/6/17		1 st " " " " has " billets in HENENCOURT 2 nd " " " " " " " " " " MONTIGNY and FRECHENCOURT.	
			R.M.Ds have lectured to S.B.S. (who have been brought up to strength) and Medical Details + have also given lectures to men of Bus on the application of First Aid Dressings -	
			The health of the men of the Division has improved vastly by the Rest + recreation.	
			Opportunity was obtained for bathing parades, + cleaning of clothes + blankets.	
			Rest Station figures show smallest number admitted there since the Div ⁿ came to the Somme - under 200, which is less than half the number for which accommodation has to be provided for at ordinary times.	

R.A. Huntake

1250

Appendix I

8

MONTHLY SANITARY REPORT.

By A.D.M.S. 1st. Australian Division.

PHYSIQUE. Marked improvement during the month. All R.M.O's report that the troops are very fit and in excellent spirits, and that their physical condition has benefitted very markedly during this period of training.

New drafts from Base are of good physique and condition of inoculation among them is satisfactory.

BILLETS & CAMPS. The Division has occupied billets for the past month in the towns of RIBEMONT, BUIRE, DERNANCOURT and adjoining towns. As a whole the sanitary condition of these towns has improved since winter and much work is still being done. DERNANCOURT is and always has been the dirtiest town in the area - mainly on account of its low lying position and the difficulty of drainage. Throughout this town new latrines and urinals have been constructed; a town incinerator is in course of construction and unit incinerators have disposed of much accumulated refuse. A town manure dump has been formed but up to the present the greater bulk of horse line refuse has been carted on to the surrounding cultivated fields. Throughout the district this has been the means of disposal of the greater part of horse manure but in BEHENCOURT, RIBEMONT and BUIRE town dumps have also been formed. Assistance has been rendered the civil population in cleaning out middens and several of the worst accumulations in RIBEMONT have been disposed of by these means. Billeting accommodation in RIBEMONT is severely taxed when occupied as at present by an Infantry Brigade up to strength but owing to the warm weather many men sleep out of doors.

Efforts have been made to reduce the degree of lice infestation in these long occupied billets by thoroughly cleaning and disposal of the accumulated straw and dust of the winter, with a very fair degree of success.

CLOTHING. Is too heavy and unsuitable for hot weather.

FOOD AND COOKING. Supply of vegetable is still very meagre but units supplement the ration to a great extent from Reg. funds and the individual soldier purchases fruit on every possible occasion. The proportion of fresh meat on issue lately has decreased very much - to approximately one third issue. The issue of bread remains satisfactory. The question of cooking has received careful attention during this period out of the line.

WATER SUPPLY. Chlorination is carried out by Reg. Water Duty men and is satisfactory.

CONSERVANCY. Deep pit latrines with fly proof seats. The latter are being continually replaced by Reg. San. Squads. Night urine tubs or urinals in close proximity to billets are in general use.

BATHS. Bathing parades have been held several times weekly by units in positions accessible to swimming pools. Elsewhere bathing facilities are provided and have been fully availed of. All men have been bathed at least once weekly.

LAUNDRY. System at present in vogue is the washing of clothes at Base and exchange of dirty and clean at Divl. Ordnance. Complaints are continually being received that clothes on issue as received from Base Laundry are dirty and very badly infected with lice ova. Samples unfit for wear have been seen.

All dirty clothing is disinfected before despatch to Base by Foden Lorry Disinfector. Blankets are also put through this machine regularly and the ironing and brushing of outer garments is becoming more widely adopted. Many units are doing the bulk of their own washing.

HEALTH OF TROOPS. There is remarkably little sickness in the Division except a febrile disease, apparently of low infectivity closely resembling Trench Fever. This first made its appearance at the end of March among units billeted in DERNANCOURT. It spread at that time through most of the Division though not of a severe type, then almost disappeared. This month there has been some recrudescence though not approaching the numbers originally affected. Association with lice infestivity is hard to reconcile as the men are probably as free from vermin now as they have been at any time during the last twelve months. The incidence of Scabies has markedly decreased.

R. R. Sturtable

Colonel. A. D. M. S.
1st. Australian Division.

D. H. Q.
June 30th. 1917.