

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/18/55

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

November 1918 - April 1919



AWM4-26/18/55

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

ST SOUPLET.

November 11th. Wire was received from G.H.Q. as follows:-
" Following from 9th Corps aaa. Hostilities will cease at 11 00.
to day aaa. There is to be no ~~instructions~~ intercourse with enemy,
until further instructions which will be issued ".
52 reinforcements arrived at MAZINGHEM, and are temporarily
attached to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance.
Weather is fine and clear, but cold.

13th November . D.H.Q. asked for nominal roll of officers and
O.Ranks who can speak German fluently, and to state their present
employment, and if available for special duties.

BOHAIN.

14th November . On this date the A.D.M.S. office closed at ST. SOUPLET
and opened at BOHAIN. Location of Field Ambulances at this period were:-

1st Field Ambulance	----	BUSIGNY.	
2nd	do	----	BOHAIN.
3rd	do	----	BOHAIN.

15th November. D.H.Q. asked for nominal roll of other ranks who enlisted in January and February 1915, and have not since returned to AUSTRALIA, and who are desirous of 6 months furlough in AUSTRALIA. Instructed C.O. 2nd Field Ambulance to open a Divisional Rest Station and Scabies Station at Institution Jeanne D' Arc by 19-00 on 16th instant.

16th November . In view of the predicted march into GERMANY, issued memo to C.O's and R.M.O.'s concerned that a Depot is to be opened for the reception and retention of men physically unfit for the march and calling for a nominal roll of same.

18th November. There is marked ~~difference~~ decrease in incidence of Influenza. The weather at this stage was cold and wet.

CARTIGNIES.

22nd November. A.D.M.S. Office closed at BOHAIN , and re-opened at CARTIGNIES.
~~The~~

24th November . Locations of Field Ambulances at this period are :-
1st Field Ambulance ---- AVESNELLES
2nd Field Ambulance ---- "
3rd Field Ambulance ---- CARTIGNIES.

SOLRE LE CHATEAU.

25th November . A.D.M.S. Office closed at CARTIGNIES and re-opened at SOLRE LE CHATEAU.

Issued to all C.O's. and R.M.O's. the following memo:-

' The evacuations from the Division have been too high. Greater care must be taken in marking cases for evacuation and men will not be evacuated for the reason, that they are unable to keep up with the rest of the column, but will only be sent to Field Ambulances if suffering from some definite pathological condition'.

Issued to all C.O's and R.M.O's concerned a memo ' advising them that opportunity will be given to all medical Officers to take a six ~~months~~ weeks ' refresher' course in medicine and surgery at Australian General Hospital, therefore officers desirous of taking advantage of this course will submit their names to this office at earliest possible moment.

There is a marked falling off of Influenza incidence.

27th November. C.O. 3rd Field Ambulance inquired re disposal of of scabies cases . Replied that all scabies cases would be retained in units unless they became septic, all evacuations would be to No. 5 C.C.S. MAUBEUGE.
The weather is exceedingly cold and wet.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

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SOLRE LE CHATEAU.

29th November. 1918.

First D.H.Q. asked to publish following in D.R.O's.

" As the Army Area will include a large number of towns and villages recently vacated by the enemy, and as enteric fever is known to have been prevalent among the civic inhabitants, there is a danger of an outbreak among the troops unless full advantage is taken of the protection afforded by inoculation. The attention of all officers Commanding is directed to this important matter".

Ambulance Commanders instructed to arrange to have a supply of trench foot powder available.

29th November.

R.M.O. 1st Australian Divisional Reinforcement Wing asked for an ambulance car to be detailed for clearance of sick to C.C.S. and also stated that the accommodation at the camp was totally inadequate and bad. Instructed C.O. 3rd Field Ambulance to detail ambulance car to Div. Reinforcement Wing and forwarded the above R.M.O.s. report to 1st D.H.Q.

30th November.

1st Field Ambulance collected 3 barrels of soft soap for trench foot mixture. Other Field Ambulances notified that ~~above ambulance~~ soft soap was available at the above ambulance, if required. During the month, the Division was on the move practically all the time. The moves owing to blockages on the railway, were frequently delayed. Owing to this and the indefiniteness of future moves it was not considered advisable to hold cases in the ambulances and the sick wastage was consequently high. The areas through which we have passed have been on the whole bad. At first greatly damaged by shell fire and the last area, though in good condition as regards the buildings, was in a filthy state. The Germans had evidently not done any cleaning for some time before evacuation and other troops occupying in the meantime had not improved matters. The following shows the wastage for the month of NOVEMBER.

FOURTH ARMY.

Wastage return for month of November 1918.

Cases evacuated to the Base.

			Officers.		Other Ranks.		Totals.	
			Sick Wounded.		Sick Wounded.		Sick Wounded.	
<u>AUSTRALIAN CORPS.</u>								
1st Aust. Division	9	-		430	6		439	6
2nd Aust. Division	9	-		218	3		227	3
3rd Aust. Division	6	-		95	7		101	7
4th Aust. Division	20	-		670	6		690	6
5th Aust. Division	5	-		79	4		84	4

DECEMBER 1918.

The following report on water supply was submitted by C.C. 2nd Australian Sanitary Section :-

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

REPORT ON WATER SUPPLY OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AREA.

(SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU . SARS POTIERES . BEUGNIES .)

I beg to submit the following report on water supply. In this area, water is obtained from the following sources:-

1. Springs discharging at the ground surface.
The water is collected in stone basins which, in some cases, are covered over, and a hand pump attached.; in other cases are left open and water obtained by dipping with buckets.
2. Shallow wells.
3. Rain water stored in underground tanks.
4. Running streams.

All the sources of supply are liable to pollution as the water is surface water from a highly polluted soil, and is contaminated by access of surface water.

In SOLRE LE CHATEAU there are 11 pumps fed from shallow streams (see attached plan), and 80 wells at private houses, and also underground tanks. There is also a stream running through the town.

In BEUGNIES two public pumps fed from springs
one open basin)

There is a large number of underground tanks.

In SARS POTIERES a large number of public pumps and basins fed by springs. A large number of wells and underground tanks.

At the Railway Station there is a well with a rotary pump in good order, a large stand pipe. This could be developed as a good water point, and is a comparatively safe supply.

The water supplies throughout have been tested, and shew one measure B.P. per water cart to be sufficient for sterilisation.

Progress is being made in the erection of notices.

Chlorination is being carried out where water is drawn in water carts, but water drawn direct from pumps, etc. in dixies and petrol tins is rarely chlorinated.

I have made inquiries from the French Civil Authorities who say that there has been no typhoid recently in this area.

The area is, however, in a very insanitary condition, and pollution of water supply is easy, and does occur. Consequently the danger from typhoid fever is not by any means negligible and in every case is necessary in connection with the water supply, which is a surface supply almost entirely.

As the present water supply must continue to be used, I would suggest:-

1. Troops to use water only from public pumps and not from wells, underground or streams.
2. Water wherever possible to be drawn in water carts and chlorinated carefully (1 measure B.P. per water cart). Units to fill water bottles from water carts.
3. Guard of one water duty man should be placed on each authorised public pump with stock solution of B.P. to personally chlorinate all water drawn in small receptacles such as petrol tins and dixies.
4. Unit orders to draw attention to the danger of water supply, and to warn men that water must not be drawn from unauthorised sources. Special attention has already been drawn by Division to the question of re-inoculation.

As regards guards drawn from water duty men of units:- In SOLRE -LE-CHATEAU 11 guards would be required, one on each public pump. In BEUGNIES 3 guards. In SARS POTIERES number not yet ascertained but probably at least 12. The guards only need to be on duty during daylight.

Lessons in preparation and use of stock solutions of B.P. can be given by the Sanitary Section. Half an hour instruction would be sufficient.

(Signed) M.J. HOLMES Captain
O.C. 2nd Aust. San. Section

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. 19B-18

SOLRE LE CHATEAU.

2nd December 1918. The following January and February 1915 personnel reported to 1st D.H.Q. prior to departure for Australia.

1st Field Ambulance	----	6 O.Ranks.
2nd Field Ambulance	----	3 O.Ranks.
3rd Field Ambulance	----	4 O.Ranks.

4th December 1918. The C.O. 1st Field Ambulance enquired if any definite date has been allotted when men from Ambulances 'Physically unfit to march' may be paraded at this office. Reply sent stating that a short medical history and particulars of each case should be submitted to this office and time and date for sending the men for examination by A.D.M.S. would then be notified. Weather mild and foggy.

Ambulance Commanders notified to prepare list of those eligible for supplementary New Years Honours despatch 1919.

O.C. 3rd Field Ambulance reported case of Typhoid Fever (French Civilian) at BEUGNIES, and asked for location of nearest civilian hospital. Instructed C.O. 3rd Field Ambulance to send case to Civil Hospital MAUBEUGE.

D.H.Q. have asked for nominal roll of Officers who embarked in 1914 and who are eligible and desirous of (A) Furlough to Australia (B) 75 days furlough to U.K.

6th December 1918. D.D.M.S. notified that no vacancies at present at MICHELHAM Convalescent Home for Officers.

Another case of typhoid reported by R.M.O. 11th Battalion (Civilian); instructed him evacuate to MAUBEUGE.

8th December 1918. Letter received from D.D.M.S. Australian Corps, instructing this office to obtain ~~receipts~~ reports from Medical Officers of this Division on 'Gas' and its effects.

D.H.Q. asked this office to obtain a report on the water supply in new area from O.C. 2nd Sanitary Section and to ascertain whether chlorination is necessary and whether picquets are necessary to ensure chlorination. D.H.Q. asked if arrangements could be made for lessons to be given to all units by O.C. 2nd Australian Sanitary Section or Field Ambulances on preparation and use of stock solutions of B.P.

9th December 1918. Following memo sent to Field Ambulances and R.M.O's. "Will you please say if you have any records of cases of gas poisoning and if so, forward reports to this office. Information of the general character of gas casualties, the nature and severity of the symptoms, the mortality ~~with~~ and methods of treatments, the after history of the cases is required to enable an estimate to be formed of the significance of this form of warfare, both from a medical and tactical point of view."

(Sgd) Colonel A.D.M.S. 1st Aust.Div.

Weather showery and dull.

Following A.A.M.C. Order No. 53 issued.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Map Ref. Sheet NAMUR. 8.

Refr. Div. Order No 136.

Field Ambulances will move accordingly to above order.

1. O.C. 3rd Field Ambulance will arrange to open a collecting post at 144 Rue De La Station, CHATELET, on 'A' day.
2. O.C. Field Ambulance will arrange to clear all cases ~~accordingly~~ accruing during move to 3rd Australian Field Ambulance post at CHATELET.
3. O.C. 1st Australian Field Ambulance will arrange to clear cases from 1st Aust. Div. Artillery, during move.
4. O.C. 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance will arrange to clear cases from 3rd Army A.F.A? Bde, during move.
5. On arrival in new area, O.C. 1st Field Ambulance will arrange to clear the artillery Area.
6. O.C. 3rd Field Ambulance will arrange to clear Div. Engineers, 1st Pioneer Battalion and 1st Machine Gun Corps Battalion.
7. Attention is drawn to A.A.M.C. Standing Order No 11 para VIII.
8. Field Ambulances acknowledge.

D.H.Q. 12-12-18.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION . 1918.

SOLRE LE CHATEAU.

14th December 1918. O.C. 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance instructed to open 'Blue Light' establishment at CHARLEROI. Town Major will arrange accommodation in centre of town for preference.

16th December 1918. Captain JACOBS reported having assumed command of No. 2 Sanitary Section (Australian).
Captain HOLMES proceeded to LONDON to report to A.I.F. Headquarters for duty.

18th December 1918. Rum issue, twice weekly authorised .
Locations of units as at 6 a.m. 20th instant.

1st Field Ambulance ---- CHATEAU TOUSSAINT, GOUGNIES.
2nd Field Ambulance ---- LOVERAL - TRY D'HAIES.
3rd Field Ambulance ---- 144 Rue de la Station, CHATELET.
A.D.M.S. Office ---- PRESLES.

PRESLES.

21st December 1918.

New leave allotment issued by D.H.Q. A.A.M.C. 3 Officers, 8 O.Ranks per week.

22nd December 1918. D.H.Q. notified this office that A.A.M.C. allotment of early 1915 personnel for return to Australia leaving 25-12-18 would be 20. - Ambulances allotted as follows :- 1st Field Ambulance 7 - 2nd Field Ambulance 5 - 3rd Field Ambulance 8.

23rd December 1918. Letter sent to D.H.Q. pointing out the danger of transferring experienced A.A.M.C. Officers from the Field to duty in ENGLAND and thus leaving in some cases only unexperienced officers with no knowledge of the handling of men.

Weather at this stage was cold and wet, with and occasional fall of snow.

28th December 1918. D.H.Q. notified this office that the following medical officers should report forthwith to A.I.F. Headquarters for duty on transports. Lt. Col. CADE DSO., Major FLOOD J.W., Major CULLEN A.E. Warrants were in accordance issued to the above named officers.

30th December 1918. The Prince of Wales presented medals to 3rd Inf. Bde. (including 3rd Field Ambulance) at CHATELET area. Same performance 1st Inf. Bde at GOUGNIES, A.D.M.S. and D.A.D.M.S. attended.

The first half of month spent in SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU area, - very little work was done by Field Ambulances. On arrival at new area, accommodation was arranged for 50 patients in each ambulance. German hospital beds were brought from SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU.

The health of troops in new area has been good. Diarrhoea has been fairly prevalent, but as some of the water is mineralised, I think this sufficient to account for it. V.D. has increased, but as the 2nd and 3rd Bdes. are billeted practically in CHARLEROI, this is to be expected. The Blue Light establishment in the town is averaging 150 attendances daily, and there are two establishments run by the 2nd Division. Seabies returns in the Division have been high. The bathing arrangements in some areas are not very good, partly owing to poor water supply and partly owing to the scattered billeting area. Sanitary report for month shows :-

Physique Very good.

Billets and Camp. In the PRESLES area, billeting arrangements are good. The majority of men are in beds and are billeted with civilian population. As a general rule company mess rooms have been established, and in addition recreation rooms, have been provided.

Water Supply. The C.O. 2nd Sanitary Section has reported that the water in the Area by test is very good, but it is a surface supply, and is liable to vary in quality.

Conservancy. Fly-proof and fit latrines have been established throughout the area and the civilian latrines have been put out of bounds for the troops.

Health. Very good. Influenza has practically died out . A few sporadic ~~xxx~~ cases of mumps, and measles are still occurring.

The following are extracts from R.M.O's diaries for month of December 1918.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION --- 1919.

PRESLES.

January 2nd. Ambulances instructed to report completion of new establishment as regards personnel and horses by 4th instant. They were to hand over to D.A.D.O.S. and A.D.M.Stores all "C" Section equipment less articles specified. Receipts and statements to be sent to this office without delay.

Circular received from the 1st Australian Div. H.Q. containing questions to be answered with regard to the organisation of units and the 'Post Bellum Army'.

Weather very cold and showery.

January 3rd. Report sent to D.H.Q. covering four questions in regard to R.A.M.C. with a Division vide Circular re 'Post Bellum Army'.

January 4th. General BIRDWOOD visited 1st Aust. Div. units.

January 14th. A.I.F. Order received authorising the wearing of the 1914- 1915 Star.

January 16th. A.D.M.S. accompanied by D.D.M.S. Australian Corps, visited all Field Ambulances.

January 17th. Instructions received from D.H.Q. to send 1 M.O. and 50 O.Ranks to accompany draft for Australia to England, for purpose of attending to medical requirements. M.O. to be responsible for equipment taken.

January 18th. Letter received from A/ D.M.S., LONDON, asking for list of anticipated Dispensers. (In order of claim for return to Australia) for transport duty.

January 21st. Circular received from D.D.M.S. Australian Corps, giving establishment of 2 sections Field Ambulances - Total 170 (including motor transport).

January 23rd. Memo received from D.D.M.S. Australian Corps, asking if the Division could spare 2 Medical Officers and some orderlies for temporary duty at No. 20 C.C.S. Reply wired 2 Officers and 18 O.Ranks can be spared.

January 25th. Received instructions from D.D.M.S. Australian Corps to detail one Medical Officer for temporary duty at No. 20 C.C.S. This officer may be withdrawn should requirements of the Division ~~make~~ demand it.

January 26th. Wire received from D.D.M.S. " Michelham Home for Officers opened. Wire weekly. Nominations". All units informed. Two copies of monthly sanitary report for month ending January 26th. sent to D.D.M.S. as:-

Physique. Very good.

Camp and Billets. Division has remained in PRELES area during the month. Billets are excellent and well kept. A leave club has been opened at BRUSSELS and NAMUR and 50 men from the Division proceeds to these places each day for 48 hours.

Food and Cooking. Very good.

Conversancy. Fly proof pit latrines on a 6% basis have been completed throughout the area.

Baths. Three new ~~sets~~ sets have been installed. Blankets from the units are now taken to the Foden Disinfector at CHATELET, instead of the Foden visiting units. This plan has been found more satisfactory.

Health of troops. Very good. Venereal Disease is the main trouble. During the month further " Blue Light " establishments has been placed in BRUSSELS and NAMUR, and very few cases are reported from these towns.

A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION DIARY - 1919.

PRESLES.

January 27th. List of university students to be repatriated forthwith received and distributed to Field Ambulances. Received details of additions to Sections "A & "B" of War Establishment 632 of 1-8-17 under new establishment on 2 section basis of Field Ambulances. Weather fine, very cold, with occasional fall of snow.

January 28th. Protest received from 3rd Field Ambulance reference retaining of men in U.K. for duty at A.I.F. Headquarters forwarded to 1st Australian Division H.Q. Demobilisation administrative Instructions 27 and 28 received from 1st Australian Division.

29th January . Colonel RAFFAN C.O. BULFORD A.D.H. called and ~~published~~ proceeded with D.A.D.M.S. to inspect V.D. Prophylactic centres of 3rd A.I. Brigade.

30th January. Colonel RAFFAN met M.O's. of 2nd Brigade in conference at 2nd Field Ambulance and afterwards, inspected 'Blue Light' Depot.

The following communication received from D.M.S. reference Post Graduate Courses for medical Officers is repeated to all R.M.O's. and Field Ambulances:-

Issued to all R.M.O's etc.

Headquarters. 30th January 1919.

" From personal enquiries received it would appear that some misapprehension exists as to the scope of the A.I.F. Education Scheme for Medical Officers.

Primarily, it is designed to allow Medical Officers who have been out of touch with their profession through the nature of their service regaining a certain amount of familiarity with surgical and medical details prior to return to civil life. In the second place it is hoped to allow junior medical officers a ~~scheme~~ chance to do the hospital work which their enlistment soon after graduation has debarred them from obtaining.

The calls of the service as a whole, and the needs of medical attention for troops during demobilisation will make it impossible for all medical officers to be afforded opportunity to do Post Graduate work so that a selection will be made by the D.M.S. and recommendations forwarded to the Director of General Repatriation and Demobilisation. Each application will be considered on its merits, but special consideration will be given to the case of Medical Officers who have had long service in the Field without opportunity of doing hospital work.

Efforts have been made to initiate a similar scheme in Australia for the benefit of those Medical Officers who are compelled through their services in the A.I.F. to return, but sufficient information is not yet to hand enabling any announcement to be made.

Signed. H.B. LEE. Major
For Colonel. A.D.M.S. "

DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. 1919.

DIARRHOEA CASES.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Unit.	Cases.
1st Battalion	25
2nd "	59
3rd "	23
4th "	-
5th "	9
6th "	7
7th "	12
8th "	29
9th "	12
10th "	2
11th "	2
12th "	5
1st Pioneer Battalion	12
1st Mac. Gun Battalion	17
1st A.F.A. Bde	30
2nd "	-
1st D.A.C.	6
1st Div. Engineers	18
1st Div. Train	7
1st Field Ambulance	4
2nd "	-
3rd "	2
TOTAL	<u>281</u>

Following table shewing the Sick wastage for the month of January 1919.

FOURTH ARMY.

CASES EVACUATED TO THE BASE.

		<u>Officers</u>	<u>O.Ranks.</u>	<u>Totals</u>
		Sick Wounded	Sick Wounded	Sick Wounded
<u>AUST. CORPS.</u>				
1st Aust. Divn	4	-	269	-
2nd " "	4	-	186	-
3rd " "	1	-	60	-
4th " "	9	-	146	-
5th " "	8	-	158	-

The following are extracts from R.M.O's diaries for January 1919.

PRESLES.

1st February. Confidential report re demobilisation of "undesirables" from C.O's Field Ambulances forwarded to 1st Australian Division.

3rd February. V.D. return shows an enormous increase during the last fortnight. Memo sent to all R.M.O's re this advising use of calomel ointment should be ~~more~~ more consistent.

Complaint received from D.D.M.S. that ambulance cars are not being used the proper way by M.O. Such cases as cars having to go along way to meet officers returning from leave must cease.

Report was received from C.O. 2nd Field Ambulance reference to the great difficulty in obtaining adequate supply of drugs etc. Requisitions for drugs and other medical stores are forwarded weekly through the 3rd Field Ambulance (Australian) to Advanced Depot of Medical Stores. On each occasion a large number of the items of the requisition are marked "unobtainable", many of these items include drugs which are absolutely essential to the treatment of bronchitis, Coryza, and catarrh of upper air passages, which complaints are especially prevalent among the troops at the present time.

9th February . Communication received from D.D.M.S. Australian Corps, covering an invitation to A.I.F. Medical Officers from the Sec. Royal College of Surgeons, to sit for their special fellowship examination. Circular giving the conditions under which applications will be received was also forwarded .

11th February. 2nd Field Ambulance instructed to close hospital at Try D'Haies, and take over patients and hospital from 3rd Field Ambulance, CHATELET, 12th instant. O.C. 3rd Field Ambulance to remove his Ambulance equipment and prepare it for despatch to Base. O.C. 3rd Field Ambulance to provide personnel to assist 2nd Field Ambulance with hospital.

Demobilisation of A.A.M.C. personnel is proceeding slowly.

Field Ambulances asked to furnish return of :-

Total strength of unit - and number who enlisted in 1915.

Reply received as :-

Strength 1st Field Ambulance, 174 - 2nd Field Ambulance 162 - 3rd Field Ambulance 160. Enlisted in 1915. 101, 95 and 100 respectively.

The following outline of scheme for amalgamation of Field Ambulances was sent to D.D.M.S. :-

" As the Divisional Group is concentrating on CHATELET, it will soon be necessary to move the 1st and 2nd Field Ambulances to position either in CHATELET, COUILLET, or BOUFFLOUX.

By running three separate units especially where patients are held practically three times the number of men are required. ~~in the~~ next quota 50 A.A.M.C. men have been included and it is hoped to include 150 men in the following which will then leave me with about 250 men in one unit to administer to 'A' Group, already under 50% strength."

Weather has been fine and cold.

13th February . General outline of the scheme of demobilising A.A.M.C. personnel was received from D.D.M.S. and promulgated to Field Ambulances.

14th February. The D.M.S. issued instructions as to disposal of Medical and Surgical stores and equipment of Field Ambulances This information was repeated to Field Ambulances and Sanitary Sections.

The following instructions were sent to all R.M.O's. :-

Demobilisation of Medical and Surgical equipment on charge to units.

The stores consist of :-

a. Surgical Haversack.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION . 1919.

PRESLES.

February 11th. Continued.

as for one unit holding sick, though the actual number of sick held may not be greater.

To obviate this wastage of personnel and to allow for the early inclusion in quotas of 1915 men, I propose with your sanction to concentrate all the men and work in one Field Ambulance and proceed with demobilisation of the stores of the two others leaving only the cadres as laid down.

I propose that the 2nd Field Ambulance should remain till last and become practically a group A.A.M.C. unit.

To carry out this scheme the 2nd Field Ambulance will take over the hospital in CHATELET, the 3rd Field Ambulance preparing its equipment for handing in. When this is effected the remaining officers and men of the 3rd Field Ambulance (except those on cadre) will be transferred to 2nd Field Ambulance, so ~~simplifying~~ simplifying the administration and rendering of returns.

Later, when the strength of the Divisional Group decreases sufficiently the 1st Field Ambulance will be treated in the same way.

This would, if no A.A.M.C. men (except the 5 laid down) accompany quotas, leave me with one unit of a strength about 496, this including 296 1915 men. In the next quota, 50 A.A.M.C. men have been included and it is hoped to include 150 men in the following which will then leave me with about 250 men in one unit to administer to a group already under 50% strength. "

Weather has been fine, and cold.

February 13th .

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The following instructions were sent to all R.M.O's. :-

DEMOB. OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL EQUIPMENT ON CHARGE TO UNITS.

The stores consist of :-

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION . 1919

PRESLES. Continued.

- a. Field Medical Panniers 1 & 2.
- b. Surgical Haversack.
- c. Medical Companion
- d. Two water bottles.
- e. Water testing cases 2. (one for poisons and one for sterilisation).

On the amalgamation of two units one medical officer will be detailed as M.O. of the amalgamated units. The M.O. thus freed will be detailed for duty elsewhere. He will hand over his medical equipment (as detailed above) to No. 18 Advanced Depot of Medical Stores with A.F.I. 1234 (6 copies) of these receipts duly signed by the responsible officer of the A.D.M. Stores. Four copies will be forwarded to the A.D.M.S. 1st Australian Division, one to C.O. of unit, and one will be retained by the Medical Officer.

In case of shortage a certificate by the M.O. stating that this shortage was due to enemy action, or the exigencies of active service will be appended to each of A.F.I. 1234 ".

15th February. D.D.M.S. notified that he concurs re the scheme of demobilisation of Field Ambulances subject to approval of G.O.C. Division.

Weather mild, with slight rain.

18th February. A.A.M.C. Order No. 54 re demobilisation of Field Ambulances issued (copy attached to original diary A.D.M.S. February 1919).

Weather conditions seem to be causing considerable amount of trouble, the thaw having set in making road traffic dangerous.

21st February. Wire from D.D.M.S. received " medical and surgical equipment and stores to be handed in to British Depots should include everything laid down in A.M.S. regulations or issued under authority of any G.R.O. from whatever source supplied".

22nd February. A.D.M.S. attended parade 9th Battalion, where Mr. HUGHES Australian Prime Minister, spoke to members of the Division.

23rd February. Memo sent to 1st Australian Division drawing attention to need for frequent fumigation of unit blankets, owing to increase in incidence of scabies. 1st Field Ambulance instructed to prepare all stores for handing in to D.A.D.O.S., 26th instant.

General BIRDWOOD saw senior officers of Divisions at Brigade centres.

28th February . Approval received from Australian Corps to send 1 officer and 15 O.R.s with "C" Demobilisation Group.

Following shows wastage return for the month of February 1919.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Cases evacuated to the Base.

Formation	Officers Sick	Sick. Other Ranks	Totals. Sick.
1st Aust. Div.	9	326	335
2nd " "	11	249	260
3rd " "	2	81	83
4th " "	6	191	197
5th " "	11	175	186

During the month the weather has been exceedingly cold and dull. The thaw following severe frost making roads, very difficult for heavy traffic.

The following table shows percentage of Diarrhoea cases for the month of February .

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION - 1919.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DIARRHOEA CASES REPORTED DURING MONTH . FEBRUARY 1919.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>No of cases.</u>
1st Battalion	12.
2nd "	11
3rd "	9
4th "	1
5th "	2
6th "	-
7th "	14
8th "	9
9th "	4
10th "	1
11th "	4
12th "	5
1st Pioneer Battalion	2
1st M.G. Battalion	5
1st A.F.A. Brigade	8
2nd " "	-
1st Div. Engineers	2
1st D.A.C.	1
1st Div. Train	13
1st Field Ambulance	1
2nd Field Ambulance	-
3rd Field Ambulance	-
TOTALS.	<hr/> 104. <hr/>

PRESLES.

March 1st. D.M.M.S. notifies that C.O's. Field Ambulances may be sent to D.M.M.S., A.I.F. for educational leave when cadre "A" is demobilised.

"BLUE Light" Depots in BRUSSELS were inspected by D.A.D.M.S. Location of "Blue Light" depots in CHARLEROI and BRUSSELS sent to 4th and 5th Australian Divisions.

Medical Officers leave the Division from time to time on educational leave in U.K.

Following memo was sent to all R.M.O's. :-

"Please ensure on completion of duty with your unit that your war diary is fully written up to that date and handed to your successor, or, in the case of amalgamation of units, forward to this office. You are reminded that war diaries are due in this office on 3rd day of each month".

R.M.O. 2nd Battalion informed that arrangements had been made for transfer of all cases requiring Wasserman Test to 1st A.D.H. BULFORD, ENGLAND, cases should be evacuated in the ordinary way. The weather has been mild of late with occasional showers.

March 8th. Units instructed to strike personnel off strength as from day of entrainment for Base.

Issued following A.A.M.C. Order No 55.

1. The 1st Australian Field Ambulance will move from BIESNES to CHATELET on 10-3-19. BIESNES will be cleared by 09-00. Billeting in CHATELET will be arranged in connection with C.O. 2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

2. C.O. 2nd Field Ambulance will arrange for clearing of 1st Aust. Infantry Brigade and Div. Artillery sick from and including 10-3-19.

3. All personnel of 3rd Australian Field Ambulance excepting Major RUTLEDGE E.H. and personnel of Cadre "B" will be transferred to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance 11-3-19.

4. All personnel of 1st Australian Field Ambulance, excepting Lt. Col. SIMMONS W.F. and personnel of Cadre "B" will be transferred to 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance 12-3-19.

5. Motor Ambulances held by 1st and 3rd Field Ambulances will be transferred by 12-3-19 with M.T. personnel to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance. Transfers to be arranged in conjunction with 1st A.M.T. Coy. Motor cycles held by 1st and 3rd Field Ambulances will be returned to 1st A.M.T. Coy and receipts obtained as for ordnance stores.

6. All horses held by the 1st Aust. Field Ambulance will be transferred to 2nd Field Ambulance by 12-3-19.

7. C.O. 1st Field Ambulance will hand in remaining ordnance stores to D.A.D.O.S. by 12-3-19.

8. Before transfer of personnel C.O's 1st and 3rd Aust. Field Ambulances will have A.I.F. Form 500 (Q1) completed for each man.

9. Dental units 5th, 18th, and 62nd will be attached to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance from 11-3-19.

Signed Colonel A.D.M.S.
1st Aust. Div.

March 11th. A report was received from C.O. 2nd Field Ambulance reference to the difficulty of obtaining clean clothing for scabies patients and forwarded to D.H.Q.

~~March~~

March 15th. Major SUTTON M.G. took up duty as A/D.A.D.M.S. Letter received from D.M.S., A.I.F. through D.D.M.S. that medical Board forms are in many cases not being properly compiled, this was circularised to all R.M.O's.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARY OF A.D.M.S. FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION. 1919.

PRESLES.

March 19th. Administrative Instruction No 52. received, to the effect that "B" Cadre of 1st and 3rd Field Ambulances may now be despatched to Base.

Memo to D.D.M.S. Australian Corps that it is considered that two Dental Units may now be dispensed with in the Division.

March 22nd. Memo from 1st Australian Division that it is now decided to abandon leave, ANTWERP, and personnel for "Blue Light" Depot need not now be held in readiness, -2nd Field Ambulance advised to this effect.

24th March. A.D.M.S. Office closed at PRESLES and opened at GERPINNES as "A" Group.

The weather is wet, cold and considerable amount of snow.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF 1st, 2nd and 3rd FIELD AMBULANCES. 1918.

11th November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BAZUEL.

News received of signing of armistice. Much rejoicing and demonstration by troops and civilians.

2nd Field Ambulance.

FAVRIL.

During march of unit from BAZUEL to FAVRIL it was announced that hostilities had ceased on all fronts. This news was received with rousing cheers. Unit arrived FAVRIL at 13-00 where a hot meal was already prepared.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

MAZINGHEM

Unit embussed at ROISEL at an early hour for MAZINGHEM arriving at about 17-00, passing through HARGICOURT, across HINDENBURG Line, to BELLICOURT, ESTREES, MARCTZ, MAUROIS, NONNECHY, and ST. SOUPLLET en route. The unit was here billeted at a SUCERIE on outskirts of the town. (Location Sheet 57B X.2.b.6.5.) which had been fitted out with wire bunks, during the German occupation. Weather is frosty and cold.

13th November 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BAZUEL.

At 8-15 a.m. unit complete under Brigade orders proceeded by march route via LE CATEAU, to BUSIGNY, arriving at 12-30 p.m. Blankets were carried, by transport. Unit comfortably billeted in town dwellings which were in excellent condition. The civilians were very pleased and manifested great enjoyment on arrival of Australian troops.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

BALZEUL.

Unit marched out of FAVRIL at 09-00 in column of route as part of 2nd Brigade Group in accordance with 2nd Brigade Order 134. An advance party was sent on by car consisting of cooks, and Sergeant Clerk under command of Captain GATEHOUSE. Destination being BAZUEL, where previous were again occupied. Marched in about 13-00 when hot meal was already prepared.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BAZUEL &
BOHAIN.

Ambulance marched in column of route to BOHAIN as part of

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES. ETC.

14th November 1918.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

BAZEUL &
BOHAIN.

Ambulance marched in column of route to BOHAIN, as part of 2nd Infantry Brigade Group arriving new billets just at dusk.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

MAZINGHEIN
& BOHAIN.

In accordance with movement order of 3rd Australian Infantry Brigade, the unit moved from MA ZINGHEIN by route march to BOHAIN area. During the march, midday, a hot meal was prepared by cooks using German Cookers which proved a great advantage, the meal having been prepared without any delay. On arrival at BOHAIN billets were allotted in ECOLE-DES-FILLES and house adjoining the Municipal buildings. L'ECOLE-DES-FILLES is a large two storey building situated in centre of BOHAIN. The ground floor was used by 2nd Field Ambulance and 1st storey by 2nd Australian Sanitary Section and 3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

During the march the ambulance cars collected the sick from the Brigade and evacuated them to the BUSIGNY Group of C.C. Stations.

16th November 1918.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

BOHAIN.

Rest Station for fifty sick opened in a large house at BOHAIN to take patients from all troops of 1st Australian Division. C.O.'s conference held at 2nd Brigade Headquarters, when G.O.C. gave details of forthcoming move to COBLENZ and expounded policy of military occupation of Germany. 28 O.Ranks were taken on strength as reinforcements. These men were almost without exception, from base hospitals and have had no active service in the field whatever.

17th November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BUSIGNY.

Every preparation being made for the well being and comfort of troops during the proposed march to GERMANY. Stocks overhauled, boots repaired, personnel medically examined and surplus stores etc returned to Depot. Relaxation of censorship orders and permission to use camera much appreciated by personnel.

18th November 1918.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BOHAIN.

Lieut. SHAW 9th Battalion, conducted a parade of unit in preparation for move and gave instruction regarding dress and equipment in order to ensure uniformity throughout the Brigade. An inspection of billets by G.O.C. 1st Australian Division and G.O.C. 3rd Brigade was held. Slight fall of snow fell during morning but gave place to rain later in day. Weather very cold.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST DIVISIONAL AMBULANCES . 1918.

19th November 1918.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BOHAIN. Vide instructions from A.D.M.S. 1st Australian Division an inspection of unit personnel was held in order to pick those out who were considered physically unfit to undergo the strain of continued heavy marching. Three only were picked out.

20th November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BUSIGNY. Orders received from 1st Australian Infantry Brigade for unit to be prepared to move forward by march route extending over 3 days.

21st November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance .

BUSIGNY. Unit complete moved off at 9-30 a.m. via LA HAIE MENNERESSE
& ST SOUPLER- ABRE + DE GUISE to MAZINGHEIN , arriving at 12-30 p.m.
MAZINGHEIN. distance 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Personnel billeted in an old Brewery, comfortably fitted up by the ~~enemy~~ enemy during their occupation.
1. G.S. wagon, 1 G.S. Limber, and 7 O.Ranks of the 1st Australian D.A.C. were temporarily attached to unit for duty with Horse transport on forward move.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

BOHAIN. In view of the warning of forward move of 1st Australian Division orders were received from A.D.M.S. to close Divisional Rest Station at BOHAIN forthwith. This untimely closing of an establishment upon which much time and thought had been expended was a deep disappointment to Major SUTTON and his tent division. The greatest ingenuity had been displayed by this officer and the most excellent work accomplished by the nursing section under his command in the arranging and equipment of the hospital. With the patients numbering upwards of thirty, all of them on the high road to convalescence, almost the entire compliment had to be hurriedly evacuated, whereas, given another week, a substantive economy in the Sick wastage of the Division would have been accomplished.

22nd November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

MAZINGHEIN Unit complete moved off at 10 a.m. proceeding by CATILLON -
to LA GROISE, to PRISCHES, arriving at 1-30 p.m.
PRISCHES 1 additional G.S. limber from 1st Australian D.A.C. was attached to unit to carry comforts and other stores during march. Blankets were carried by transport.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

PRISCHES Unit marched out from BOHAIN to MAZINGHEIN ~~xxx~~ as per movement order
to of 2nd Inf. Bde. No. 136 and billeted in an old ~~farm~~house recently
AVESNELLES occupied by German artillery.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF 1ST DIVISIONAL FIELD AMBULANCES . 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

23rd November 1918.

PRISCHES
to
AVESNELLES.

Unit moved off with 1st Australian Brigade Group and proceeded via CARTIGNIES- DESSUS-DU-MOULIN-GODIN-AVESNES to AVESNELLES arriving about midday.

Weather is very cold but men were protected from discomfort by good billets in a particularly undamaged town.

2nd Field Ambulance.

PRISCHIES.

Unit complete marched out from MAZINGHEIN to PRISCHIES area. Men comfortably billeted and given hearty reception by French population. No man of unit fell out of march.

2nd Brigade movement order received re predicted move to AVESNELLES on 24-11-19. Embodied in order was clause that " all men who could not march were to be evacuated". This cause considered preposterous by C.O. of this unit, but no action taken., pending observation of effect of clause on Brigade evacuation.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BOHAIN.

During the stay in this area large sick parades were held every morning in a large marquee erected in front of school buildings. A prophylactic treatment centre was also established in the ECOLE-DES-GARCONS, but very few patients received treatment.

The unit marched out of BOHAIN to MAZINGHEIN via VAUX, AUDIGNY, MOLAIN, ST MARTIN, ARBRE DE GUISE .

The weather was fine, frosty, and the roads were in excellent condition for marching.

Unit arrived at its destination about 4 p.m.

24th November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

AVESNELLES.

Unit enjoying days rest. Troops interest themselves in their surroundings, especially at the sight of a wrecked German ammunition train, at a siding on the FALUMONT Road.

Warning of further move received.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

AVESNELLES.

Still freezing hard. Unit moved off to AVESNELLES (as per movement order No. 12) where comfortable billets were provided for personnel. No men dropped out of march, 34 men were sent to Ambulance after Brigade had marched out for evacuation as being unable to march as result of Brigade order of previous night.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

The ambulance moved out from MAZINGHEIN, and joined Brigade about 1 Kilometre ~~away~~ along the CATILLON Road, where the G.O.C. of Brigade, inspected the various units. The route taken was through CATILLON, LA GROISE, PRISCHIES, to near CARTIGNIES. Ambulance cars evacuated the sick to BUSIGNY before the march, and during the journey other cars followed the Brigade Group. Men were picked up on the line of march from the Battalions.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF 1ST AUST. DIVISIONAL AMBULANCES . 1918.

25th November 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

AVESNELLES
to
SOLRELE-
CHATEAU.

Unit moved to SOLRE-LE-CHATEAU via FLAUMONT- FELLERIES, a distance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles. This village had just been evacuated and left intact by the enemy. One horse drawn Ambulance waggon with an emergency box containing drugs, dressings, and splints was allotted to pick up men who fell during march either from foot trouble or illness. Each Sunbeam motor car was fitted with 1 large Thomas splint (leg), 1 arm splint, and one back splint. In this way, splints were carried in a very accessible way, and without increasing, to any extent, the load of each car. It was impossible to ~~carry~~ try and carry any sick whilst moving, during the first and second days of march practically no one from the whole Brigade fell out - 3 on first day and 4 on second, and third day. However the figures suddenly increased to 20. This is partly explained by the fact that after word was received that the Brigade would march to Germany, medically unfit cases were sent by the various units to a Divisional camp, where it was thought they would be looked after. Corps, however, decided that these camps should not be allowed and so ~~these~~ these men were returned to their units and they rejoined on the second day. A number of cases were due to ill fitting boots causing blisters on heels. Length of march was ^{on} an average of 8 - 10 miles per day. ~~One~~ marches such as these the need of a Field Cooker is badly felt in all ambulances. This ambulance is fortunate in possessing a German Field Cooker, but they are not nearly as satisfactory as our own.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BEUGNIES.

The march was continued but under very unfavourable weather conditions, for rain had fallen during the night making the roads very dirty and heavy and occasional showers fell during the day. The route taken was through CARTIGNIES, Outskirts of AVESNES, AVESNELLES, WARDRECHIES, FELLERIES to BEUGNIES, a distance of 17 kilometres.

Ambulance arrived at BEUGNIES at about 14-40 and men allotted to billets. All sick were collected from Brigade prior to march and sent to No. 5 C.C.S. MAUBEUGE.

26th November 1918.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

To

SARS POTERIES. Unit moved off in column of route to SARS POTIERIES, arriving at destination about 13-00, where billets were allotted. All ranks comfortably housed, a recreation room for men was procured with a piano.

The French Civilians rendered all possible assistance and ~~showed~~ showed themselves most hospitable.

28th November 1918.

General cleaning up of billets which were left in filthy condition by Germans.

Conference of C.O's units of 2nd Brigade Group ~~were~~ held at Brigade Headquarters.

Policy of demobilisation and repatriation outlined, and cancellation of move of 4th Army to Germany notified.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIV. FIELD AMBULANCES.

29th November 1918.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BEUGNIES.

Bathing parades held in factory BEUGNIES, the unit had to supply own fuel. Major FLOOD gave interesting lecture on his adventures on the German Sea Raider "WOLFF"

1st December 1918.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance

SARS
POTERIES.

Cold, heavy frost. Unit marched eight kilometres to MMAUBEUGE - AVESNES Road and lined portion of the road, being in position at 11-00. At about 12-30 p.m. King George V and Prince of Wales and Prince Albert passed along road in motor cars, after which unit marched back to billets.

3rd December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

SOLRE LE
CHATEAU.

Unit still in comfortable billets in this town pending further moves of 1st Australian Division to Rhine Towns. Occupied in clearing sick of 1st Australian Division and Imperial units who are billeted intown, and attending to civilian sick, many of whom are refugees from villages recently vacated by Germans.

6th December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

SOLRE LE
CHATEAU.

Last of 1914 personnel who were desirous of early return to Australia left unit to report to A.I.F. Headquarters LONDON for return to Australia.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

SARS
POTERIES.

Unit inspected in review order with transport by A.D.M.S. 1st Australian Division, who expressed satisfaction and especially praised harness of transport and condition of leather equipment of dismounted personnel.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BEUGNIES.

Bathing parade held in baths at Glass Factory, SARS POTERIES; fuel was provided for purpose from neighbouring wood. Major WILLIS proceeded to CHATELET (Near CHARLEROI) to arrange billeting accommodation for members of unit and to reserve a suitable building to be used as Brigade Rest Station for the accommodation of fifty patients.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUST. DIVISIONAL FIELD AMBULANCES . 1918.

9th December 1918.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

SARS
POTIERES.

Weather continues to be wet and miserable. 2/Lt. LOWE Education Officer of 1st Australian Division A.A.M.C. taken on ration strength and immediately commenced work enquiring into intentions and needs of personnel as regards learning and practising a trade on return to Australia. This officer addressed a muster parade and explained to men the aim and intentions of the Educational Branch A.I.F. The men were encouraged to interview the Educational Officer privately and confide in him any private ambitions and desires as to future career on becoming once more citizens of the Australian Commonwealth.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BEUGNIES.

Further bathing parades held at SARS POTIERES. Arrangements were made for an orderly from the unit to be in attendance at the baths and to report all men who were suffering from skin trouble. He was also provided ointment for the treatment of such persons advised for treatment by the R.M.O's.

13th December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

SOLRE LE
CHATEAU.

Orders received that 1st Australian Division is to prepare for further move to Area S.E. of CHARLEROI on the 15th inst and that 1st Field Ambulance will move under orders of 1st Australian Infantry Brigade.

15th December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

17 O.Ranks detached to complete establishment of A.A.M.C. water duty. Personnel to 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Australian Infantry Battalions 1st Aust. D.A.C., 1st Aust. F.A. Bde, 1st Australian Div. Engineers in accordance with A.I.F. Order No. 1441 of 15-11-18. Unit complete marched out and joined Brigade Group on march to new Area. First days destination - SOLRE ST GERY reached about 15-00.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

SARS
POTIERES.

Major SUTTON with one Corporal and 3 men proceeded to CHARLEROI to establish a "Blue Light" post in city in accordance with instructions from A.D.M.S. 1st Australian Division. Unit marched from billets at SARS POTIERES to first stage at SOLRE ST GERY in accordance with movement order of 2nd Brigade Group. Starting off in ~~rain~~ driving rain on road heavy with mud, with passing lorries splashing sheets of mud ~~over the~~ and slush over the men. The unit marched briskly, passed H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, who with Corps Commander, Div. Commander, and Brigadier were stationed at cross roads three miles out. Arrived at new billets at dusk.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUST. DIVISIONAL AMBULANCES. 1918.

15th December 1918.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BEUGNIES. Preparations made for move on 17th inst. Weather is cold and unsettled.
Personnel chiefly engaged on loading waggons.

16th December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

SOLRE ST. Unit complete moved off at 8-00 for GOURDINNE, the destination
GERY of the second days march. Route via BARBENCON, CASTILLON, FONTENELLE
to WALCOURT, TOMBOIS, and THY LE CHATEAU. Arrived at destination at
GOURDINNE. about 14-50, distance of about 13¹/₂ miles. Roads were in a sloppy
condition and drizzling rain great day of the way.

17th December 1918.

GOURDINNE Unit moved off again, destination CHATEAU TOUSSAINT, via villages
to SOMZEE, TERCENNE, GERPINNES, FIGOTTERIE, and GOUGNIES. Arrived about
BIEMES. noon.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

THY LE Squally with sheets of rain. Unit marched out from SOLRE ST GERY, in
CHATEAU. accordance with 2nd Infantry Brigade order No 140 to billet at second
stage at THY LE CHATEAU. Arrived destination about 15-00. Men were in
high spirits, although fatigued.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BEUGNIES. Unit marched out of BEUGNIES to join 6 Brigade Group in accordance
with Brigade order. Roads were in a very bad condition.
Owing to the shortage of ambulance waggons, due to breakages, no car was
available for collection of patients on line of march. Sick were
collected from 9th 10th 11th and 12th Battalions, Div. Engineers at
SOLRE LE CHATEAU, and the Pioneers at HESTOUD before the move,
and collected at BEUGNIES. The more serious cases were evacuated
direct by ambulance car to CHARLEROI and the remainder transferred
to Ambulance waggons, which followed the Brigade to BARBENCON, where
they were transferred to ambulance car sent down from CHATELET and
evacuated to C.C.S.
Arrived at Willets (a large farm) at about 14-20.

2nd Aust. Field Ambulance.

18th December 1918.

LOUVERAL. Rain steadily and miserably cold. Unit marched out from THY LE CHATEAU
to new area in vicinity of CHARLEROI. (as per movement order No 140
of 2nd Infantry Brigade). Billets in new area very scattered and not
satisfactory, stabling for horses inadequate.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

BARBENCON. Ambulance ~~moved~~ again moved off to join Brigade Group. Weather was very
stormy with driving rain, the route chosen was through WALCOURT,
TOMBOIS. to THY LE CHATEAU.

19th December 1918.

The last stage of move was commenced at 08-00 and route taken was through
SOMZEE, TERCENNE, AGOZ. to CHATELET. arriving about 9.0 a.m.
Same procedure was adopted as on 17th instant at BEUGNIES for collection

19th December 1918. Contd.

and evacuation of patients.

The billet chosen for the Rest Station is a large and commodious chateau in CHATELET (a plan of same can be had from original diary) situated in one of the main streets. The tent sub-divisions were ~~found~~ found accommodation in the chateau and bearers and transport in houses in close proximity. Empty house was taken from Barbers Shop, boot maker, and Library and education rooms.

20th December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

Steps taken to improve chateau in which unit is billeted. The approach road had to be repaired before vehicles of any size could pass, chateau itself possessed very little in way of furniture which was needed for the administrative, recording, Education Class rooms, personnel mess rooms and Q.M. store etc. Carpenters of unit soon got to work but good results were hampered owing to shortage of wood, and the uncertainty of an adequate supply in future.

One nursing section was detailed to open a Brigade Rest Station capable of accommodating 50 patients in accordance with instructions from A.D.M.S.

Outdoor work hampered by bad weather.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

LOUVERVAL.

A Brigade Rest Station for 50 patients was opened by "B" section Tent subdivision in a large farm situated in the grounds of the Chateau of Count De Merade. There were two large airy rooms down stairs and a spacious upper story at our disposal and these were converted into wards and furnished with light iron. German beds brought up from SARS POTERIES, tables and cupboards and stores were salvaged from a very large German Dump near CHARLEROI, with the result that a very ~~large~~ cosy little hospital was established. As is to be expected from the mild weather in this part of BELQUIM this year there is very little sickness in the Brigade and consequently there has never been more than 11 cases at one time with an average of 5 per day in hospital.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET.

Weather again fine.

Unit engaged in preparing a Rest Station.

23rd December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

No 18 Dental Unit who had accompanied 1st Aust. Field Ambulance on move proceeded to VILLERS POTERIES, which was found to be more central to Brigade Group billeted in this area.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL FIELD AMBS. 1918.

25th Decemver 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

Despite unfavourable weather personnel as a whole agreed that this was the most enjoyable Xmas spent on active service.

Snow falling part of day.

Menu for Xmas dinner was :-

Soup

Roast Mutton with onion sauce.

Roast Potatoes, carrots, sweet turnips and cabbage.

Plum pudding with Brandy sauce
and custard.

Mixed nuts, muscatels, oranges and apples,
Cigarettes.

In addition each man received a Xmas box from comforts fund. Visited during dinner by Colonel MARKS A.H. Dso. A.D.M.S. AND Major LEE H.B? DSO. MC. D.A.D.M.S.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

LOUVERVAL.

Xmas passed off well, every effort being made for comfort of men.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance .

CHATELET.

Yesterday G.O.C. 1st Australian Division accompanied by A.D.?S. inspected Rest Station. To-day every effort has been made for comfort of men; the wards and patients dining hall were tastefully decorated with ivy, and laurel and various coloured flags and paper. An excellent dinner was provided. An expenditure of 2/6 per head was allowed by the Australian Comforts Fund.

31st December 1918.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

A considerable amount of leave to U.K. has been granted to personnel during month . Yesterday, military medals were presented by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales who is at present attached to Australian Corps, to following personnel:- 931 Pte CAFFEN S.L. , 5001 Pte. LESMOND A.W. and No. 8512 Pte BRIGGS M.D.

(A graph and chart shewing cars running and mileage covered, number of patients carried and petrol consumption by ambulances attached to 1st Field Ambulance can be got from original diary).

Strength Return as :-

	Off	O.Rs.
Strength of unit at beginning of month	9	196
Personnel taken on strength during month	1	9
	10	205
Enac's. and transfers from unit during month-	-	42
Strength of unit at end of month	10	163

Steps are being taken to prepare men for civil occupation-the following is a report on functions of educational authorities.

A.I.F. EDUCATION SCHEME.

A meeting of the Committee was held on 1st December 1918. Following members were present:-

Lt. Col. SIMMONS W.F. Pte CROWDEN H.A. and Pte. HOUSE H.W.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIV. FIELD AMBULANCES. 1918.

1st Aust. Field Ambulance.

31st December 1918. Ctd.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and adopted.
Colonel SIMMONS signified his willingness to accept the position of Unit Education Officer in place of Major MCKILLOP A. resigned.
The question was raised as to whether these on the Committee were exempt from parades and duty.
The Colonel outlined the scheme, and the manner in which it is to be carried out between Brigade units.
Question was raised as to whether special classes in marine engineering, and farming, also chemistry were to be formed at some base such as ENGLAND. No information regarding this question is at present available.
The question was raised as to whether we could submit to the Education Officer, 1st Australian Division names of men willing to act as Brigade Instructors (or Divisional). It was pointed out that Brigade would request a return of such men as their need became evident.
Since above meeting was held the Director Of Education has appointed Lt LOWE as Education Officer for the three Divisional Ambulances.
On December 2nd Lt LOWE addresses the unit and outlined more fully the A.I.F. Education scheme. Lt. Lowe has since been every man in unit personally and tabulated information regarding educational course required by each man.
Classes have continued as per usual and additional classes have been formed as stated in following list.
On 12th December the debating society sent a team to oppose the 3rd Aust. Infantry Battalion in an inter-unit debate on the subject of "Does the experience gained by the A.I.F. counter balance the loss sustained by Australia owing to the absence of men." The team who supported the affirmative consisted of 1 N.C.O. and 2 O.Ranks. The Brigade Adjudicator decided in favour of the 3rd Battalion on points but our team gained the highest points for subject matter.
Classes are now being held for following :-
English Arithmetic Shorthand
French Geometry Bookkeeping
Modern History Trigonometry Motor Engineering
Growth of the Brit. Empire. Algebra.

(A long series titled - " Our present ~~position~~ location " giving an account of the units activities during its occupation of CHATEAU TOUSSAINT, in the BIESMES area, is attached to original diary also sketch of the Chateau).

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

LOUVERVAL.

Under instructions from .A.D.M.S. an N.C.O and three men were sent up to BRUSSELS in charge of Captain Clatworthy to establish a Prophylactic Depot at 1st Australian Division Leave Club. This is working excellently and certainly justifies its existence.
(Graph showing number received prophylactic treatment in CHARLEROI attached as appendix to original diary.)
Monthly reports were received from Quarter Master and Transport Officer, but contains little information of value.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET.

Large number of 1915 men have proceeded to A.I.F. Headquarters during ~~next~~ month for return to Australia.
Lieut. Col Cade D.D. DSO. C.O. of this unit since December 1917 and Major Flood J.W. proceeded to England prior to returning to Australia.
H.R.H. the Prince of Wales presented medals to number of personnel during stay of unit in the town the civil population have done everything

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES FROM FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL FIELD AMBS. 1918- 1919.

31st December 1918.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance. Continued.

CHATELET.

possible was done for our comfort.
(Sketch showing arrangement of kit attached as an appendix to original diary. Also ~~diary~~ plan of billeting area in CHATELET, and plan of 144, Rue De La Station, also graph shewing cases admitted.

1st January 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

Unit billeted at CHATEAU TOUSSAINTS, on YOUNGIES BIESMES Road (Location sheet NAMUR 8.2.H.5.18.) . Brigade Rest Station is established in which are admitted sick of 1st Australian Infantry Brigade, 1st and 2nd Aust. Field and 3rd Army Brigades of Artillery. Sick are collected every morning from surrounding units by motor ambulance cars attached to this unit. Civilians were catered for by civilian Doctors. The Education scheme has gone ahead by leaps and bounds and very keen interest is being taken by all ranks attending the various classes. It is noted that the men are very reluctant to be detached to attend Army or Corps trade courses.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET.

A Thresh Disinfector of German make was handed over to unit by salvage officer of the Division and taken into use.

4th January 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

Under authority of D.A.G. A.I.F. 3 O.Ranks were promoted to fill position of E.R. Sergeant (1), and 2 E.R. Corporals. Instructions to unit; under A.I.F. education scheme. Also instructions from D.A.G. A.I.F. (51/70d 11-12-18.- Reorganisation of Field Ambulances). Unit reorganised on a two section basis with an establishment of 8 officers and 190 O.Ranks and 37 horses as compared with 10 Officers 218 O.Ranks and 45 Horses on a three section basis.

6th January 1919.

BIESMES.

The deletion of 'C' Section necessitated the reversion to substantive rank of all N.C.O's who were appointed to temporary position vice ~~position~~ personnel of section who proceeded to Australia or were evacuated to hospital . Drivers appointed under A.I.F. order No 785 and rendered surplus were remustered as privates. On advise later received from D.A.G. A.I.F. (19/8/29d) 31-12-18 the temporary rank of N.C.O. who were promoted vice 1914 personnel, who proceeded to Australia on furlough are made substantive.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST DIV'L AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBS. 1919.

6th January 1919.

3rd Australian Field Ambulances.

CHATELET.

Under Authority of D.A.G. A.I.F. 193/5 dated 23-11-18, education service one E.R. Sgt and two E.R. Corporals were allowed for this Field Ambulance. Suitable men for these ~~positions~~ promotions were selected and approved of by educational officers and subsequently promoted.

Weather continues to be fine.

12th January 1919.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

TRY DE
HAIES

During the last three or four days a number of horses have been stolen also fittings of Sunbeam Car. A thorough search has been made through the adjoining woods and the A.P.M. notified but no trace could be found of either horses or motor fittings.

18th January 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

Under instructions from A/AA & QMG 1st Australian Division all horses of unit were boarded by a Veterinary Board for classification ~~by Veterinary Board for classification in the following groups~~ in the following groups .

- a. Practically sound from 5-8 years inclusive.
- b. Practically sound from 9-12 years inclusive.
- c. Permanently unsound but fit for work or animals over 12 years.
- d. Those only fit for sale to butchers or destruction and conversion into by products.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

TRY DE
HAIES.

A court of Enquiry consisting of Lt. Col. HERROD C.M.G. D.S.O. 7th Battalion, President, Major SUTTON 2nd Field Ambulance, Lt SWALLOW 7th Battalion sat in billets of 2nd Field Ambulance to enquire into circumstances surrounding loss of horses on charge to 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance. Enquiry commenced at 10-00 and terminated at 18-00. Colonel BARBER addressed all R.M.O's of 2nd Infantry Brigade on question of demobilisation of medical officers and undergoing of a Post Graduate Course.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET.

A number of lectures have been delivered by different officers to the personnel of this unit, which were considered instructive and helpful.

31st January 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

Quite a number of unit have been struck of ration strength the last week or so, owing to ~~leave~~ leave in U.K. and personnel returning to Australia, 1915 quota and medical students. Weather has been very cold and heavy snow.

31st January 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance. Continued.

BIESMES.

STRENGTH.

	<u>Off.</u>	<u>O.Rs.</u>
Strength of unit at beginning of month ---	10	163
Personnel taken on strength during month ---		3
Evac. and transfer from unit during month ---	3	18
Strength of unit at end of the month ---	7	148

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

TRY DE
HAIES

Conference of quartermasters of 1st Australian Division to discuss demobilisation of equipment and waggons was held - attended by Lt. BUTTERWORTH & R.Q.M.S.

R.M.O's of 2nd A.I. Brigade assembled at Headquarters 2nd Field Ambulance and were addressed on prophylaxis of early treatment of Venereal Disease by Col. RAFFAN A.A.M.C. from BULFORD Venereal Hospital.

Following report received from Officer in charge of hospital :-

" The Brigade Rest Station has been maintained during the month and has continued to justify its existence in so far as out of a total of 93 patients admitted, 43 or (nearly 50%) were discharged to duty without having to go beyond the Divisional Area. A graph, which can be seen in original diary shows clearly the number of cases admitted, discharged to duty, and evacuated to C.C.S. in the Station during the month. was

The incidence of influenza in the Brigade Group at the beginning of the month almost nil and continued to be so until the last week when the number of cases increased: doubtless on account of the change in weather for the worse and its accompanying cold.

Up to the 23rd of the month there were 12 cases of influenza, admitted, six of whom were discharged to duty, and these evacuated to C.C.S., while during the last eight days there were 17 admittances, six discharged to duty and three evacuated to C.C.S. However, the cases have not been so severe as during the previous months. Most of the cases uncomplicated and shewing only the usual malaise, headache, backache, and slight catarrhal symptoms and becoming fit for discharge to their units within a week. The type of cases evacuated to C.C.S. have been those of ~~which~~ high temperature, as showing signs of pneumonia - broncho. Of the 64 other patients many have been admitted while undergoing treatment for pyorrhoea, or gingivitis by the dental officer, a few with gonorrhoea primary syphilis, otitis, and similar conditions incurable within 10 days to a fortnight in such a station, were merely passed on to C.C.S. while remainder comprising such cases as furunculosis, tonsillitis, gastritis etc were treated successfully within this station".

Signed M.G. SUTTON Major.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET.

Arrangements are being made for Australians in this area to make an inspection of local industries. The tour for each party will last 5 days during that period they will be attached to the reinforcement wing. The chief items of interest will be coal mining, steel rolling, cement making steel wire, rope making, electric power production, and other industries later.

No. 62 Dental Unit temporarily attached for duty in this area.

A unit ball was held in Hotel De Ville, CHATELET, when 150 ladies were invited and was a great success.

Number of personnel proceeding to ENGLAND daily for embarkation to Aust. It is rather interesting to note that number of attendances at BLUE LIGHT Depots is at its highest on or immediately after pay day and has also markedly increased its popularity since our arrival here.

Although many difficulties have had to be faced and contended with,

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIV'L FIELD AMBS. ~~1st~~ 1919.

31st January 1919.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance. Continued.

progress in work of education in this unit has been in ~~may~~ ^{many} respects has been very satisfactory.

Graphs showing admissions and discharges in 3rd Australian Field Ambulance for month of January are attached to original diary.

1st February 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES. In accordance with instructions from Repatriation and Demobilisation Department, repatriation precedence rolls of personnel of unit completed cadre for handing over stores equipment and records selected and men who enlisted in 1914 and 1915, held in readiness to proceed with next quota to ENGLAND. Instructions re handing in of stores on demobilisation received.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. The repatriation Department have made arrangements for the temporary employment of men desirous of pursuing the following occupation in FRANCE & BELGUIM, Beet and sugar manufacture, silk culture, etc. Applications were invited but up to date the men have not taken advantage of it.

9th February 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES. In accordance with instructions from A.D.M.S. 1st Division, 1 N.C.O. and 15 O.Ranks detailed for temporary duty to No. 55 British C.C.S. CHARLEROI. Unit allotment of 23 O.Ranks for quota No. 10 of "A" Brigade Group received. Allotment to include 5 O.Ranks for medical duty with quota en route, ~~to~~ to ENGLAND. The quota eventually marched out including 1 Officer, 1 R.Q.M.S., 1 sgt, 2 Cpls, and 19 O.Ranks for return to Australia.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

LOUVERVAL. Unit ~~marched~~ visited by A.D.M.S. who addresses the N.C.O's and men explaining his policy in dealing with the Demobilisation of the Medical Services of the 1st Australian Division. Any who had questions to ask or men dissatisfied with the arrangements as affecting themselves individually were offered a hearing. Everyone appeared to be contented however, and to thoroughly comprehend the policy outlined. Warning order received to proceed to CHATELET about 17th inst. to billets occupied by 3rd Field Ambulance.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. Monsieur Minster, the interpreter of 3rd Field Ambulance of 1st Div'n. has returned to the French Mission for demobilisation on 4-2-19. He has been attached to this unit since its arrival in FRANCE and his loss is greatly felt. He always did his best in making things comfortable for the members of the unit amongst the French and Belgum civilians and was untiring in answering numerous questions put to him. He also took a great interest in the French lessons that were being held

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIV'L FIELD AMBS. 1919.

9th February. 1919.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance. Continued.

and played the part of instructor in conversational French with marked results.

Weather still remains very cold and skating is freely indulged in by members of this unit.

18th February 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES.

On 12th inst. instructions were received from 1st Australian Division for the organisation of "Quota No 16 of "B" Brigade Group". Special allotment for the unit 50. O.Ranks to include personnel who enlisted in 1914 and 1915 and completed by men of 1916 ~~establishment~~ enlistment. On the 14th inst in accordance with instructions from D.A.D.V.S. 1st Australian Division, 12 horses of unit that were classified X (selected for use in the British Army after the war or for use of the Army of occupation) and 16 classified Y (to be sold to civilians work in U.K.) were transferred to 2nd and 3rd Field Ambulances respectively for dispatch to the Base, 24 Z class horse (for sale to civilian in France and Belgium) were received from the 2nd and 3rd Field Ambulances pending sale by public auction.

In accordance with instructions received from A.D.M.S. on 16th inst. Brigade Rest Station conducted by this unit at BIESMES ceased to receive sick of the 1st Brigade Group. Patients to be collected daily by ambulance cars and conveyed to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance Rest Station at CHATELET.

Unit stores are being prepared as ~~far~~ per Mob. Store table for handing over to Ordnance in view of proposed amalgamation.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

LOUVERVAL.

On the 12th inst. according to instructions an advance party of 1 Officer and 9 O.Ranks proceeded to CHATELET to take over hospital from 3rd Field Ambulance. All horse classified have been handed over to respective units as per instructions from A.D.M.S.

On the 17th inst, Major JONES proceeded to LONDON A.I.F. Headquarters and is struck off strength. ' I wish to place on record the splendid work done by this officer (Major JONES) while on the strength of 2nd Field Ambulance. His devotion to his duty and conscientious and tactful supervision of the men, under his command endeared him to all ranks. Employed a transport officer, for 4 months. His influence has been responsible for the steady good work and excellent spirit of the drivers of the unit. '

In accordance with ~~xxxxx~~ instructions received from A.D.M.S., 2nd Field Ambulance moved from LOUVERVAL to CHATELET.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET.

On the 12th inst the commencement of the entire demobilisation of the 3rd Field Ambulance as a field unit. No 2 Field Ambulance are taking over. The patients have been transferred and the medical statistics are being conducted by the 2nd Field Ambulance. The mobilisation equipment of unit is ready for transmission to base.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUST. DIV'L FIELD AMBULANCES . 1919.

28th February 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES. On the 20th inst. Brigade Rest Station at BIESMES closed and premises handed over to civil authorities . Tent sub-division withdrawn to Unit Headquarters .
Unit stores as per mobilisation store table less 2 G.S. waggons and harness, sundry stores, handed over to 1st Division Ordnance as per instructions (Repat. and Demob.) No. 14.
(Graph shewing mileage and petrol consumed by ambulance cars of 1st Field Ambulance for month of February 1919, can be seen in original diary, appendix No. 1.
Note on the demobilisation of unit during month of February 1919 also attached to original diary, appendix No. 9.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. On the 22nd inst. Mr Hughes addressed all ranks of 1st Australian Division in the rain from a G.S. wagon- an umbrella being held gracefully over his head by a staff officer.
(Graph showing number received prophylactic treatment in CHARLEROI for month of February, attached to original diary.)

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. On 19th inst a portion of 2nd Field Ambulance marched in from LOUVERVAL and took over the hospital from this unit, at 144 Rue De La Station. On 23rd the mobilisation equipment of this unit was handed over to Local Ordnance thus ending work of unit as a Field Ambulance with the exception of necessary office work carried on by ~~extra extra~~ cadre 'B'.

1st March 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

BIESMES. Location of 1st Field Ambulance same as last month. Comfortable billets horses well stabled, cars collecting sick from surrounding units in usual way and evacuating to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

10th March 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. In accordance with ~~instructions~~ A.A.M.C. order No. 55 unit complete moved from Chateau Tpusaint to Chatelet, commencing at 9-0 a.m. and marching via Gougnyes and Figotterie. On completion of move the following postings and transfers took place :-
Unit less cadre "B" transferred to 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance.
Dental unit No 18 with Liet. (T/Capt.) P. De.M. Seymour Wells in charge, attached was detached to 2nd Australian Field Ambulance for duty.
Cadre 'B' attached to 2nd Field Ambulance for rations.
50 O.Ranks marched out with Quota No. 16 for return to Australia ~~ex~~ detachment to 2nd Field Ambulance and were struck off strength.

EXTRACTS FROM DIARIES OF FIRST AUST. DIV'L FIELD AMBULANCES . 1919.

March
10th February 1919.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. Quota No. 16 marched out including 40 O.Ranks.
1st Field Ambulance marched in from BIESMES to billets at CHATELET.
Thereupon 1st and 3rd Field Ambulances were each reduced to Cadre 'B' and W.O. then remaining personnel were transferred to 2nd Field Ambulance.
Clerical work entailed in this transfer was immense and swelling of Officers and Sergrts. mess causing considerable amount of confusion at first, but gradually this somewhat un-wielding. Unit was soon running smoothly again.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET . On the 9th instant No. 16 Quota marched out together with same quota from 1st and 2nd Field Ambulances for embarkation to Australia.

31st March 1919.

1st Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. On the 11th instant sale of horse took place, 25 were disposed of by auction and remainder (7) transferred to 2nd Field Ambulance.
Return of stores as per mob. table was completed.
Canteen ~~accounts~~ accounts finalised and capital balance transferred to regimental Funds trust account.
On the 13th inst. 2000 francs. transferred to 2nd Field Ambulance as 1st pro rata contribution of Regimental funds.
On 31st inst finalising and packing of records complete. Balance of regimental funds transferred to 2nd Field Ambulance.
Cadre moves to reinforcement camp, MARCINELLE. as part of quota No. 27 on 3rd of April.
(Notes on demobilisation of 1st Field Ambulance by the C.O. Lieut. Colonel SIMMONS W.F. contained in original diary as an appendix).

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. On the 15th and 25th horse sales took place. 3rd Dental Unit attached to Australian Graves Detachment for duty.
Report on work of Field Ambulance and report on hospital attached to original diary as an appendix. Also graphs shewing patients admitted and discharged etc to Rest Station.

3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

CHATELET. On the 11th remaining members of this unit will be transferred to No. 2 Australian Field Ambulance therefore becoming more existant with the exception of a party composing the cadre who are taking all records to Horseferry Road, for disposal , reference A.A.M.C. order No 55.
The education department will now be conducted by the 2nd Field Ambulance, the remaining members being transferred to that unit.

April 1919.

2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

On the 4th instant remaining horses on charge to unit handed into A.S.C., thus the horse transport was finally demobilised. On the 7th, personnel of 4th, 12th and 13th Field Ambulances marched in and were taken on attached strength. The unit was now designated "A" Group Field Ambulance and consisted of two sub-groups - A1 which comprised the 1st, 2nd and 3rd and A4 comprising the 4th, 12th and 13th Field Ambulances. Each sub-group was kept separate though sharing the duties of the camp. All ordnance Mob. Table equipment on charge to 2nd Field Ambulance handed into Advance Depot of Medical Stores, deficiencies being duly covered by suspended indents. Colonel Shepherd DSO. now took title of S.M.O. Australian Corps, and Lieut. Colonel MORLET C. DSO. that of S.M.O. "A" Divisional Group.

EXTRACTS FROM R.M.O'S. DIARIES FOR DECEMBER 1918.

Unit.	Extracts.
1st Battn.	<u>Solrele Chateau.</u> The water in this area was chlorinated but it was very difficult to prevent troops from drinking the water from the numerous pumps in the battalion area. The battalion crossed the Belgian border and during the march only one man fell out. A foot inspection was held immediately after the march, there being about 15 with sore feet. On 18.12.18 the Prince of Wales made an unofficial inspection of billets in the battalion area and spoke freely both to officers and men.
3rd Battn.	<u>Belgium.</u> Billets are in very good condition, scattered through the village. Water supply is excellent, it is derived from springs which form the largest source and 4 small wells. The water in all cases has been thoroughly tested and has been found to be of excellent quality. Chloride of lime in the proportion of 1 scoop per 110 gallons is added as a safeguard. The health of the battalion is excellent and the number reporting sick very low. Baths with change of clothes etc. have been provided by the unit in the village and men are able to bathe as often as they like. The food ration appears to be very short, in some cases the bread allowance being 5 to a loaf; the meal and ration in my opinion is insufficient.
4th Battn.	<u>Thy Chateau.</u> The battalion having now reached its final destination, everything possible had to be done to make the men comfortable. The village was clean and healthy but very scattered. There was ample accommodation and an old German bed factory was discovered close by containing some 1,000 beds. Each platoon later had a mess room provided containing tables and chairs also plates and knives. Each company had ovens built in anticipation of Christmas.
5th Battn.	<u>Sars-poteries</u> There is a large percentage of Influenza cases here due no doubt to the inclement weather, as it was impossible to keep always thoroughly dry. There was a marked scarcity of vegetables in the daily ration, otherwise the food was good. Weekly bathing parades were held excellent hot showers being available. Change of clothing has been issued but the last issue was extremely bad, 90% of the clothing issued being verminous and the whole issue was condemned. During the month 160 attended sick parade of which 16% to 20% were Influenza cases.

Unit.

Extracts.

6th Battn.

Sars-poteries. The battalion was reviewed by His Majesty the King. The health of the troops at this stage was excellent. The daily sick parade averaging 2 - 5. Throughout the month the food has been excellent, extra vegetables having been bought with regimental funds. The hot showers are available each morning and the men are more comfortable in their present billets than at any other period of the War.

7th Battn.

Sars-poteries. The month was spent mainly in military training, recreational training and education. Bathing parades and scabies inspection were held throughout the month and an ample supply of clean underclothing was made available. Food was good on the whole and plentiful, the only complaint being a scarcity of fresh vegetables in the latter half of the month. During the month 343 attended sick parade, there being only 2 evacuations to hospital during that period. The troops in their new billets are quite comfortable and contented, every effort having been made to add to their comfort, not only by the officers but also by the civil population.

9th Battn.

Sars-poteries. The men were comfortable although a great deal of work was required at the outset to make their billets sanitary. Three companies were billeted in a large glass factory which was in a filthy condition and much was done to improve these conditions during their stay. Owing to the energy of the Battalion Sports Officer, Lieut. E. L. Alcock, recreation was thoroughly organised and the men materially benefited. A good deal of enthusiasm was displayed and the battalion witnessed several very fine Rugby matches. Here was a very heavy sick parade due to epidemic of Diarrhoea. Coughs and colds were also very prevalent. The health of the men in this area was far from satisfactory.

Diarrhoea. This epidemic was in all probability due to the appalling unsanitary conditions which existed in the village. The water carts were used throughout and food supply was carefully supervised. During the month 70 men reported for treatment, of these, 3 required evacuation. Bronchitis was also fairly prevalent, 9 cases required evacuation from this village. In all 27 men were evacuated, making a very high percentage of evacuations.

Chiropodist. The battalion Chiropodist was very busy in this area and did good work. The men's feet received careful attention and trench foot powder was issued to platoons. Rot inspections and foot drills were instituted in view of march to Chatelet.

Unit.

Extracts.

9th Battn. ctd.

After the day's march 40 men paraded for foot treatment, only 1 required evacuation.

10th Battn.

Chatelet. The rations for the battalion were fair, vegetables were very low, turnips being the only vegetable obtainable locally.

Medical Supplies, have been very difficult to obtain owing to the shortage of supplies received by the 3rd Field Ambulance, but I was fortunately able to carry on with a supply of German Gauze which we had been carrying. An average of 5 cases per day are being held at the R.A.P. Bathing accommodation for the battalion is excellent.

11th Battn.

Beugnies. All this area is a Typhoid area. The water supply is from springs and surface water. The Germans always have had Diarrhoea during their occupation of this area. We drew water from a dam by cart and chlorinated it but still even after we had blocked up a well and a tank in a factory, a certain number of cases of severe Diarrhoea occurred. Typhoid inoculation and medical inspection was carried out during our indefinite stay here. During the battalion march from Beugnies to Chatelet very few of the men dropped out, although the men marched in full order and the roads were very heavy. The final stage of the march was completed ending up over 6 kilos of paved road. 3 men were given a lift on a G.S. wagon, 1 with sprained ankle another with a 'stitch' in his side. The billeting arrangements were excellent and all the men are well lodged, the majority in rooms with beds. Sanitation is easy but material hard to get. Pioneers have reported to No. 2 Sanitary Section and are making latrine seats there. We have already installed 2 four seaters we made for the purpose at Beaugnies and they are roofed with corrugated iron.

Comfort of the men. I cannot remember in 15 months of my career with the battalion ever having been able to secure material to better the men's comfort without a most enthusiastic search for them and in most cases have just secured material by salvage or borrowing and then some other unit comes in in time to enjoy the results of the work of our Pioneers. The reason of this is easy to understand, still it does not make the men's lot any easier. Each unit has a different way of working, some work and some do not and the inclination naturally tends to make the men of the working unit dissatisfied but I have to pay a great debt of gratitude to the battalion pioneers who are excellent craftsmen and hard workers. They probably work more consistently than any other soldier and rarely get visible reward. The health of the men is good and the average sick parade is from 3 - 5 per day with a battalion strength 320. At a similar period last year in the line at Messines I saw from 50 - 60 per day.

Unit.

Extracts.

12th Battn.

Sars-poteries. During the month the rations have been very low and also there has been a large marked scarcity of green vegetables, no potatoes were on issue but small quantities of cabbages, turnips and onions were obtained locally. A foot inspection was held and foot washing was carried out in preparation for three days route march. At the conclusion of this march a foot inspection was held and but for a few exceptions the feet were found to be in good order. Sanitary arrangements as in most of the towns visited are bad, it was necessary to use civilian latrines at first and these are bad in most places. Five four-seater latrines and two two-seater have been built and the use of civilian latrines has been forbidden. The health of the troops during the month was particularly good, sick parades have been very small, notwithstanding the bad weather.

2nd Fld.Art.Bde.

Wattigenies. I was called in to see an old man about 92 who lives in an almost air-tight room. He had broken a bottle which was said to have been left behind by the Germans and the room smelt very strangely of gas. He was given every care and treatment but would not leave the room except to change his clothes. Remained in some distress but settled down later and died. A most remarkable number of Typhoid cases were seen in this small village. Made a very detailed inspection of sanitation, and water cart, cookhouses and billets. As a result I had a set of instructions typed and placed in the cookhouses and gave lecture to the watercartmen. A blue light depot was established in the centre of the village. On the 27th the Prince of Wales drove through the village and spoke to the civil population who had made elaborate preparations for the occasion. The health of the troops during the month has been good and sick parades remarkably small.

EXTRACTS FROM R.M.Os' DIARIES FOR JANUARY, 1919.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

1st Battn.

Gougnies. The health of the troops during the month has been fair. All the water in the village has been tested, it being rather difficult to stop the troops drinking otherwise than from the water cart.

Sick parades at the beginning of the month were heavy, but they gradually eased off.

2nd Battn.

Villers Poterie. Scable cases have been rather frequent, due to the lack of regular bathing, and change of clothing. It would be a decided advantage if the men could be bathed, have a clean change of clothing, and have their blankets fumigated on the same day. The cleanliness of the troops had been better maintained if hot baths had been built near the Battalion billets during the stay of the division in this area. Divional and educational training took up most of the time during the month.

4th Battn.

Acoz. The mens' billets are exceedingly comfortable, each man has a bed, and each platoon has its own mess-room.

The health of the troops during the month has been fair, most of the casualties being scabies, tonsillitis, boils, debility, etc.

5th Battn.

Venereal casualties have been very small, the men taking full advantage of the Blue light depots established in the Battalion, and in Charleroi. Cases of V.D. coming under early treatment, are now rare. Towards the end of the month, there was an epidemic of influenza, several cases being evacuated in a short space of time. This appears to have been checked by insisting upon sufficient ventilation of billets.

Rations have been unsatisfactory on several occasions, particularly in regard to insufficient issue of fresh vegetables, and we have had to purchase vegetables for ourselves.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

5th Battn.
(Contd)

Great difficulty was experienced, at the beginning of the month, in obtaining sufficient medical stores and drugs, etc. to carry on with. This has now been remedied, and all necessary supplies are being obtained.

6th Battn.

Couillet. The health of the troops during the month has been exceedingly good, there being only a few cases of colds etc. V.D. has been practically absent, only about three cases having been reported.

The food has been fairly good and sufficient.

The greatest difficulty has been experienced in procuring supplies of common medicines, such as aspirines, mist tussi, eucalyptus, and No. 4 Tabs.

7th Battn.

Couillet. There has been very little illness during the month. The number of sick parades was 312, and five cases were evacuated from the battalion.

The billets have been excellent, and kept very clean during this period.

Food has been generally good, excepting for the first two weeks, when it was only fair.

Bathing parades are held frequently, also skin inspections.

8th Battn.

Bouffioulx. The health of the troops remains very good, sick parades averaging about six a day. These cases are mostly colds and sore throats. Vincent's Angina is rather prevalent among the troops and civilians alike. There is no great prevalence of influenza, and evacuations to Hospital are very small.

Some great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining drugs and dressings. I have complained to the Ambulance, and still the matter remains stagnant, and not rectified.

A.M.C. details are being rapidly lost, due to repatriation, and in this Battalion, old stretcher bearers are being trained and instructed in anticipation of others leaving.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

8th Battn.
(Contd)

The water supply comes from the main supply of the town, and is drawn from one central point. Surface wells and other supplies have been forbidden.

Food. Recently there has been a shortage of rations, but fortunately with the help of the Company and Regimental Funds, vegetables, etc. have been purchased from the surrounding civilians, and the men are being satisfactorily fed.

9th Battn.

Chatelet. The general health of the Battalion has been good, and in consequence sick parades have been light. 158 men reported for treatment, and of these, 25 of them were evacuated subsequently.

Prevailing Diseases. During the month, nine men reported with venereal disease. Seven contracted the disease at Chatelet, one in Boulogne, and the other in Brussels. Of these cases, six required evacuation.

The cases were as follows:-

Acute Urithritis	-	3
Chronic Urithritis	-	3
Soft sores	-	2
N.Y.D. Syphilis	-	1

One of the seven Urithritis cases was treated by the abottive method with success. All cases of Chronic Urithritis were evacuated for further treatment.

At the Aid Post, a Prophylactic procedure is a 1-5000 Pot,permang. irrigation followed by the use of 33% calomel ointment. Abrasions are treated by carbolic.

A record is kept by the medical orderly of the number of cases reporting for treatment daily. For the last month, it has averaged 67.

P.U.O. During the latter half of the month, there has been a mild epidemic of influenza. This febrile attack resembles that of June and July, 1918, for it is characterised by its short duration, the appearance of bronchitis complications, and the rapid convalescence therefrom.

Twenty-two cases reported for treatment, four of whom required evacuation. This disease is very prevalent amongst the reinforcements, who marched in on 27.1.19. With them, bronchitis complications are more frequent.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

9th Battn.
(Contd)

Furunculosis. Quite a number of men have reported with Furunculosis, and have all responded well to the treatment.

Food. The rations for the month have been light, especially margarine. Nevertheless the food is good, and the Regimental Funds purchased many additions, which made the ration quite a good one. The New Year's Dinner was excellent, and reflects great credit on the cooks.

10th Battn.

Chatelet.

Prevailing Diseases. The prevailing ailments are P.U.O., Coryza, minor accidents, (contusions and abrasions) and scabies. No diarrhoea, only three gonorrhoea cases under treatment. The demand for French letters is steady, and not a great number are availing themselves of the Blue Light. Many use other Blue Light rooms, notably Charleroi and Field Ambulance.

V.D. and Scabies inspections are held frequently. During the month, Lieut-Col. Raffan visited the R.A.P. with the D.A.D.M.S. and M.Os. of the 9th and 12th Battns, and he handed to the R.M.Os. special urethral plug introducer with probe for E.T. of gonorrhoea by silver salt application.

11th Battn.

The health of the men on the whole is good. Scabies is epidemic in a mild form, but the men are bathed, and get clean clothes every week. In spite of this fact about scabies, it is over a month since our blankets were disinfected. The worst case of scabies seen so far, was a member of the battalion (a batman) attached to the 3rd Bn. Hqrs. and these are the people who can spread and maintain disease and always escape attention. This man had secondary septic infectinis, and only on that account was paraded to me.

Venereal disease is marked, and the civilian doctor assures me that all the district is riddled with V.D.S. and V.D.G. Weekly inspections are held on the Unit, but it is hard to get more than 50% of the men present. Each company is addressed, and the number of cases during the week is told them. The risk and penalties are pointed out. The desire of the R.M.O. to help and not hurt them is made clear, and especially the added factor in aid of contrivance, the nearness to him, and the fact that the war is over and men no longer have the old excuses to palliate the crime.

UNIT.

11th Battn.
(Contd.)

1st Aust.
M.G. Batn.

EXTRACTS.

Prophylactics and early reports is always advised, and the men take it well. One man who got V.D.G. says - "I wish I had followed your advice," and another man who had just marched back from London leave told me, very pleased, "I have kept your advice."

Drugs. There was a great difficulty in procuring drugs; our reserve drugs and dressings have had to be used, and they are being exhausted. Complaint was made to the C.O., 3rd Fld. Amb. and the Q.M., and when no result appeared, representations were made to the A.D.M.S., with no results so far. Indents have been repeated again and again, and the report is that there is no supply at the depot, possibly due to the lack of railway accommodation. A small number of men needing surgical attention, before their return to civilian life, had been evacuated in cases where their ailments were not pleasant from before the War.

Bohain. General inspection of billets after sick parade. As regards reparation, the town is in good condition generally, and the effect of shell-fire and mines only shewn by a few destroyed houses, here and there. Very different to Peronne, and St. Quentin. The civilians report sick, but all the inhabitants have a lean and hungry look, and the houses are like those of the poor quarters of the great cities of Australia. Unclean, and ill-furnished, and general sanitary conditions of the North of France are much the same, viz. cleanliness within the houses, but the streets and latrines (which not infrequently appear to be one and the same thing) are absolutely revolting from the point of view of British Sanitary conditions.

The reports of the civilians as to their treatment by the Bosche are all of the usual type, and they are not suggestive of imaginative colouring, but are all given in a rather unemotional, scornful way, like those of people who cannot imagine any further, as all their possible imaginings have been equalled by the past, and they seem to have seen the pettiness, the childishness, and futility of the punishments and requisitions of the Bosche. In these requisitions, all appears to have been included, and it appears to account for the lifelessness and silence of the surrounding countryside and the ill-furnishing of the houses. All has gone! Hens, cows, pigs and horses. Not a sign of these to be seen, and within the houses, the great majority of the sheets and blankets not hidden have been commandeered. All table-linen, metal ornaments, etc. not hidden have been taken. Probably pieces of furniture gone too, for the furnishing of dug-outs.

UNIT.

1st Aust.
M.G.Btn.
(Con.)

EXTRACTS.

Many are the accounts of chairs, tables, etc. broken for mere spite by Der Kommander; of five or ten franc fines, because a couple of hens loaned to them have laid only one egg, and not the two, demanded daily. There have been many prisoners kept working hereabouts by the Bosche, in a compound not far from the town, and against these, the usual high standard of frightfulness appears to have been maintained, most especially against the British. The French, they tried to placate, but for the British, nothing was too bad. The same tale of starvation, torturing, and punishment for trivial offences, beating with rifle butts of ill and strained men, fallen during the attempted performance of their impossible, hard task, which have been witnessed, told and retold by thousands, throughout the campaign. The reading of this never impresses one half as much as its telling by an eye-witness, similarly, how much that must differ from the actual scene of it. A dame mentions casually that she was beaten across the bare back for attempting to give food to a prisoner, - both she and many others. The health of the troops during the month has been very good. There were very few cases of V.D. and owing to the careful supervising of the water supplies, the diarrhoea casualties were practically nil.

1st Aust.
Pnr.Btn.

Charleroi. The men are very comfortable in their billets, every man having a bed. The sick parades are very small, and there is no serious illness. During the month, there was only one case of V.D., the man taking full advantage of the Blue Light depot. Near the end of the month, there was a slight epidemic of influenza, result of which four were evacuated.

2nd Aust.
Fld.Arty.

Morialme. The most remarkable feature of the A.A.M.C. work, was the great fall-off in sick parades, due undoubtedly to the comfortable conditions of moving, in addition to the supplies of boots; comfort funds and Red Cross gifts have been good, and a club has been formed in the old Chateau. The drug supplies have greatly improved. A fair amount of work has been done for the civilians, especially as the local doctor was unable to do all that was required of him under the existing conditions of shortage. Practically no venereal disease has been seen during the month. The sanitation is good, and the health of the troops during the month has been excellent.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

1st Austn.
D.A.C.

The health of the Unit has been good during the past month. There was one case of scarlet fever, and all necessary precautions have been taken. There have been several cases of scarlet fever amongst the civilians of Fromiée - where one of the sections is stationed.

1st Austn.
Div.Train.

Hymiée. The general health of the troops is excellent, and we are housed as civilians, and had no hardships due to the cold. Water was from stand pipes, and one measure of chloride sufficed. The rations for the month were good.

EXTRACTS FROM R.M.Os' DIARIES FOR FEBRUARY, 1919.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

3rd Battn.

Gerpunies. The sanitation and water supply is good. The health of the troops is very good, there being only a few cases of colds, and occasional cases of diarrhoea. Evacuations for the month were fairly high. Four cases of influenza, four of gonorrhoea, two of ? Syphilis, and one of scabies. There has been a fair amount of influenza amongst the civilians in the town with a few deaths, but it has occurred chiefly in one quarter, and the men have been taken away as far as possible from that locality, and the number of cases among the troops were very small.

9th Battn.

Chatelet.

General Health. The health of the men has been good.

Influenza. The influenza epidemic has proved troublesome. Six cases were isolated as soon as possible, with good results. The civilians seem to be the cause of infection in most cases. Twenty-three men reported with this disease during the month, five of whom required evacuation. Pulmonary complications were not common.

Venereal Disease. Despite precautions, V.D. was much too prevalent in the Battalion.

- (a) Penile Abrasions. The cases of penile abrasions and sores were immediately evacuated for Bacteriological examination the Saline dressing having been applied. Thirteen men reported with these abrasions or sores, and were all evacuated.
- (b) Gonorrhoea. Thirteen men reported with acute gonorrhoea during the month, most of these men contracted the disease in Chatelet and Chatelinau and 50% of them had used early treatment. Three of these cases required evacuation, the remainder being suitable cases for the abortive treatment were treated by the massage plug method, as laid down by Lieut-Col. Raffan. Thirteen cases in all have been treated by this method, and twelve have terminated successfully. The best results were obtained with 3% Argylol and the average number of plugs introduced was four or five.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

9th Battn.
(Contd)

Scabies. There has been an increase in the number of cases of scabies; probably the civilians are the source of infection. Six cases required evacuation to the 3rd Field Ambulance.

Bronchitis. Nine cases reported for treatment, eight of whom were evacuated. Most of these cases were men of recent reinforcements.

Sanitation and Hygiene, has been satisfactory. All refuse is carried away daily to the local refuse dump and the environs of the cookhouse have received special attention.

Baths. All companies are bathed weekly, and are issued with clean underclothing. Blankets were last fumigated on 28.12.18.

11th/12th Btns.

Chatelet. During the month, the health of the men has been satisfactory. Influenza made its appearance again, but these Battalions were not greatly affected and not many cases were evacuated. Cases were isolated immediately, and kept in bed while active symptoms were manifest. A good period of convalescence was given, and all cases treated are apparently quite recovered. There has been ten cases of scabies treated during the month from the two Battalions. Blankets are urgently in need of disinfection. The last disinfection took place at the end of December, 1918.

There is a general complaint at present among the men that clothes issued at baths are not adequately washed. I have not inspected the last two issues, but inspected the issue at the beginning of the month, and the clothes looked dirty in many cases. There is also a complaint that there is not sufficient underclothing to accommodate all the men bathing. The matter has been brought before the Q.M. who is furnishing a report.

There has been a decrease in the number of venereal cases, there being about eighteen cases under treatment at present from the two battalions. Most of these are responding to the treatment, but a few will have to be evacuated. All the men state they have had wash outs and most of them have used calomel ointment. The majority of cases contracted at Charleroi.

During the month, 240 men reported sick, and 20 were evacuated.

UNIT.

EXTRACTS.

1st Austln.
M.G.Bn.

Pont de Loup. All the men are in comfortable billets, and many, possibly the majority, in beds and sheets, etc. in the usual Belgian dirty condition. I can foresee more sickness than there has been here-to-fore, especially respiratory, on account of the hot non-ventilated condition of all the houses. At the beginning of the month, sick parades were heavy, but gradually eased off.

2nd Austln.
Fld.Art.

Morialle. The general health of the troops has been excellent during the month, and whereas there has been a considerable amount of influenza, in some cases followed by death amongst the civilians, the troops have practically escaped. The sick parades have been small, mostly cases of slight bronchial trouble. Medical supplies for the month have been excellent.

1st Austln.
Div.Trn.

Hymiee. The chief feature of interest was the epidemic of influenza. The onset was sudden, and the temperature from 101 to 104. Severe headaches, pains generalised over the body. Loss of appetite, sometimes with vomiting and bile. Diarrhoea was present in some cases. By the third day, all fever was passed, and in a normal case, a man could resume work on the 7th or 8th day. A good dose of calomel (4 gr.) at the start, is beneficial.