AWM4

Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

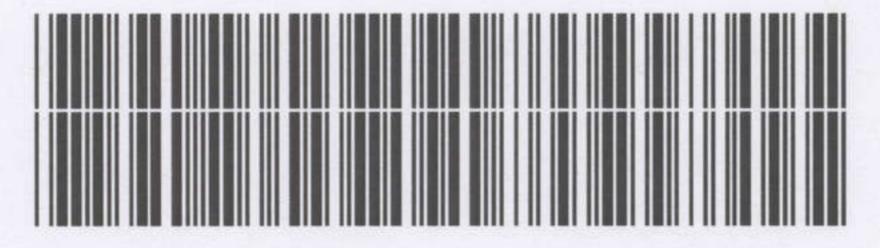
Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/18/9

Title: Assistant Director of Medical

Services, 1st Australian Division

August 1915



AWM4-26/18/9

Two hour Duny Broks formany

WAR DIARY

A. G'S OFFICE AT THE BASE

Army Form C. 2118.

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

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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29 SEP. 1915.
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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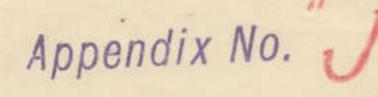
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FIRST AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DIVISIONAL HEAD QUARTERS, ANZAC, 14th August 1915.

A. D. M. S.

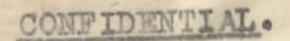
1st Australian Division.

deep appreciation of the gallant and untiring work done under most trying circumstances by all ranks of the A. A. M. C. of the Division during the action at Lone Pine from 6th to 9th August 1915. The conduct of the Corps has on this as on all previous occasions. been in keeping with the reputation established by them during the landing operations in April, and it is with the greatest pleasure that the G.O.C., on behalf of the Division, takes this opportunity of thanking the members of the Corps under your command for their successful and self sacrificing efforts.

The G.O.C. desires that you will convey the above message to the units under your command in an early issue of your Corps Orders.

Hellihaus D.A.A. and Q.M.G.

Appendix No.



A. A. & Q. M. G.

I have the honor to state for the information of G.O.C. Eirst Australian Division, that I am compelled to report unfavourably upon the state of health of the division under his This day 18.8.25. I inspected 350 sick, who paraded command. in the lines of 5 Battalions, and found that in the wast majority of cases the illness complained of by the men was genuine, and in many cases serious. I found that repeated attacks of Dysenteric Diarrhoea with its consequent marked Amaemia had produced a very serious change in the vascular system, many of them suffering from shortness of breath on exertion, fast irregular pulse, accompanied by a marked listlessness. strongly of opinion that the number of men being evacuated will rapidly increase as many that I examined have only been kept on duty by invalid diet, stimulants, and the fact that R.M.O's have been instructed by me that owing to the exigency of the situation men must not be evacuated unless absolutely unfit for any duty.

The men require a good long rest and unless they get it soon many of them will suffer permanent ill-effects and be unfit for further active service for at least one year. Many are physical wrecks, but in the majority of cases would react to nutriment. I called for reports from the R. M. O's and forward extracts from their reports.

The number off duty in No. 1 & 3...... 197. Field Ambulances. The number off duty in the lines...... 529.

18th August, 1915.

Colonel. A.D.M.S. 1st Aust. Divsn.



EXTRACTS OF MAIN POINTS FROM REPORTS OF R. M. O.'S RE HEALTH OF MEMBERS OF THEIR UNITS.

State of health is coincident with length of service. Ist Battalion.

20% have been here from April 25th. These

are jaded and below normal condition. (b). 34% have been here 14 days and are fit.

(c). The remaining 34% have been here varying periods and health is normal.

2nd Battalion. Proportion of sick is very large. Diarrhoea due to fly infection is very prevalent. Generally speaking the men are below par.

Health of Battalion is very bad. Sick parade for past 3rd Battalion. few weeks runs 40-50 most of whom are genuinely sick. A About 20% of these should be in bed. Diarrhoea, Dysentry, and Influential Bronchitis predominate. The 16 weeks in trenches has affected themr morale and to avoid disaster suggest a complete spell.

General health unsatisfactory. On 18-8-15 179 reported 4th Battalion. sick.

Health unsatisfactory. Battalion has had 68 days in the 5th Battalion. trenches. Average sick parade for that period 50-60. Gastro-enteritis is chief complaint and febrile cases are common. Officers have had so little sleep that in many cases they perform their work with difficulty.

Health-generally poor. Men not ill but lack engargy. At 6th Battalion. least 25% have Diarrhoea, and aproportion of these pass blood.

Sick parade 60-70:20% of strength. They come off duty in 7th pattalion. the trenches knocked up and I predict a great decrease in theeffective strength of the Battalion before long.

General health poor and becoming progressively worse. 8th Battalion. Cause- Continued work, heat, and Diarrhoea. With about 150 exceptions all are exhausted physically and could not stand a continued strain. The general run-down renders them liable to disease and slow to recover. Cases of Diarrhoea.....419 " Dysentry 92

Diarrhoga and Influenza pre malent. 30 men parade at in-9th Battalion. ertals with insufficient teeth causing indigestion. Men returning from Lemnos after IO-I4 days spell soon get sick again. Men frequently faint at their posts. General state of health has gone down rapidly during past 15 days. 63 men sent away since August 14th.

General health far from satisfactory, except with re-10th Battalion. inforcements or men returned from Mospital. Average off duty 40-50. "I have never seen men out of Hospital looking so ill as a large proportion of the men here do". 11th Battalion.

General health rapidly becoming worse. Resistance of men to disease is greatly reduced and sickness hangs to them. Sick parades for past 10 days range from 90-147 with 61-90 off duty or on light duties. "-the shortness of breath, pallor, weak runing pulse, and the necessity for frequent restsall these symptoms in men who have been in many cases Farmers, Timber Hewers, Miners, etc., used to roughing it show a deterioration which is alarming and rapidly increasing. Not one-third would stand 48 hours strenuous fighting.

12th Battalion.

Average sick parade for past 7 days equal 72 out of 554 effective men. Diarrhoea, debility and anaemia most prevalent. General health bad. Few men able to stand so long physical exertion and many will shortly be unfit for further service.

4th Lt. Horse Regiment. Sick Parade averages 50. Chief complaints diarrhoea, influenza, septic sores. Average number off duty 35.

5th Lt. Horse Regiment. Health far from satisfactory. Men have little reserve energy. Diarrhbea and Influenza weaken the men and they are not fit to march far or fight long although fewer fatigues and better rations have improved the health upon what it was six weeks ago.

6th Lt. Horse Regiment. Majority of men run down. Diarrhoea and Dysentry are common and influenza has appeared.

7th Lt. Horse Regiment.

Health not satisfactory and the men are weak from diarrhgea and influenza. Average number off duty is 35 out of total 376.

Divisional Train.

Number of sick steadily increasing and many men are anaemic.

2nd. Field Arty. Brigade.

Health generally speaking is good., except for some mental apathy.

3rd. Field Arty. Brigade.

A high percentage report sick in many cases due to bad teeth causing digestive troubles. Resisting power of men is very low.

DRAFT MEMORANDUM ON HYGIENE FOR INSERTION IN ROUTINE ORDERS TO INCOMING TROOPS.

The attention of officers commanding units is directed to Field Service Regulations Part2, paragraphs 82-84 (1909) and it is incumbent upon them to see that these principles are strictly adhered to.

and untidy in his personal habits, then the task of keeping the area occupied by the Unit in a wholesome condition is almost an impossible one. The strictest supervision should then be maintained so that each company, each section, and each individual soldier is continually held responsible for the cleanliness of its and his lines.

Disposal of Excreta :- Latrines must be constructed immediately on arrival at area allotted to unit. Owing to the limited area available the shallow trench is not to be used. One of two systems is to be maintained.

(I). The deep latrine trench 6-8 feet deep and 2 ft. 6 in. wide with a low rail seat about I8 inches high above the front edge of the trench from which seat hang sheets of biscuit tin to prevent soiling of the ground with urine.

Any disinfectant available at the Supply Depot is to be liberally used in the trench and the less eafth is used to cover excreta the longer will the latrine last. It should be filled in when the excreta comes to within 2 feet of the ground level.

or (2). The pail system may be adopted using biscuit tins which should be placed within a wooden box with seat down when not in use. These pails are to be emptied into deep pits and the excreta covered with a layer of earth. These tins are liable to leak and should then be discarded. Dilute Cresol should be placed in the tins after they are emptied. Urine tins should be easily accessible to men in fire trenches but

should never be kept in fire tranches but always in off-shoots of communication trenches. The urine tins are to be emptied in into deep pits.

Disposal of Food Refuse: - As far as possible e wreything should be burnt in prepared incinerators. All tins should first be burnt and then either buried or collected into a neat heap. There should be but little liquid refuse and this mainly from cooks' lines near by which there should be a pit periodically disinfected for reception of same.

Protection of Food and Water. Quarter Masters'. Stores should be protected from flies by flyproof netting which is available at Ordnance Depot. The only water for drinking purposes is imported water which is pumped into storage tanks at different places, Water from wells is not to be used for drinking.

Cleaning up Areas used for Bivouacs:- Units evacuating must before departure see that the area occupied by them is being left in a sanitary condition. All refuse must be collected and either buried or burnt, Matrines and urinals must be filled in. Medical Officers of incoming units should report to A. D. M. S. for special instructions.

A.H. Tebbut, Major,

of DAD n.S. Golonol.

23-8-15. Pr. A. D. M. S., Ist Aust. Division.

Ist. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters, August 30th, 1915.

From A. D. M. S., Ist Aust. Div..

To D. A. & Q. M. G., A.N. Z.A.C..

I have the honour to report, acting under instructions from G. O. C., A. N. Z. A. C., I inspected the Dominion of New Zealand Hospital Ship Maheno on August 27th, 1915

She has accommodation for 350 cot cases and IOO cases on deck. The staff, all specially selected New Zealanders, consists of Officers 7, Nurses I4, and others 6I.

She is well equipped with all the most modern fittings having Operating Rooms(2), X Ray Room, Laundry, Isolation, and Observation Wards.

The public substribed £40000 for the purpose of poviding complete equipment and fitting. The work was carried out entirely by Dominion labour.

Many small comforts are provided for patients which one would only expect in a first class hospital on shore, for instance a small library in each ward. I would like to see a good library established in every hospital ship, with a good attendant in charge who would visit all cot cases every day to ascertain if they required reading material. For a long voyage this would be essential and would have more effect in hastening the recovery of patients than the Dispensary upon which so much time and money is usually spent.

Objections.

- I. "Double Deck Cots" as it is impossible to carry out surgical treatment or mursing efficiently.
- 2. A few single or double wards should be provided in every well appointed hospital ship for the use of very senior

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officers who are dangerously ill.

3. Quarters provided for N. C. O.'s and men are inadequate.

Colonel,

A. D. M. S., Ist Aust. Division.

Ist AUSTRALIAN DIVISION:

Headquarters, Sept, 3rd, 1915.

From A. D. M. S., Ist Aust. Div.
To D. M. S., M. E. F.,

for the Ist Australian Division per week during the winter months. The estimate is based on the quantities approved for issue to Field Ambulances and Regimental Medical Officers for three weeks taken at random during the last three months.

As the estimate for spirits required for the winter could not be justifiably based on the quantities used in the very hot months just ended I have made a separate estimate for them.

Cornflour Arrowroot Rice Barley Oatmeal Milk Meat Ext. Pea Soup Calves Foot Jelly	100	lbs " tins pkts "		Brandy Whisky Port Stout	30 bot 30 20 20	tles	
Eggs Chicken Lime Juice Taploca Sago	2000 120 50 100 100	tins pints lbs)	Rarely at	railable a	t Suppl:	y Depo	t.

In the above estimate no provision has been made for the non-evacuation for considerable periods from the Field Ambulances owing to the fact that, as present constituted, they will not be in abosition to accommodate one patient after the onset of wet or cold weather.

As I am informed that one month's reserve supply of rations is to be placed on the beach, the same provision should apply to medical comforts.

Colonel,

A. D. M. S., Ist Aust. Division.

Ist AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters, August 30th, 1915.

From A. D. M. S., Ist Aust. Div.

To D. A. & Q.M.G., A.N.Z.A.C.

I have the honour to report

I. After having interview with you this morning I saw Lt-Colonel Giblin who informed me that he had received instructions from D. M. S., M. E. F. to consult with G. O. C., A. N. Z. A. C. in reference to providing for evacuation and accommodation of Army Corps wounded and sick, consequently I have not taken any further action in the matter.

No 2 Field Ambulance was unfortunately destroyed but I am quite certain that it contained the following statement:
" We arrived at Mudros, went alongside Franconia' told to get on her and wafted, whether we like it or not, to England."

It seems to me incredible that serious and slight cases are not sorted at Mudros and hospital ships proceeding to England should tertainly not take away slight cases, unless some provision is made for their early return.

April, who asked that he might be permitted to proceed to transport in Anzac Cove for the purpose of getting a meal and a wash with a few hours' rest to pull his nerves together. I believe he proceeded to England and I am informed, has not yet returned. In my opinion one of the

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first duties of a D. M. S. representing Australia would be

Ia. To advise that an urgent cable be sent to England and Malta requesting that all A. I. F. officers and men fit for duty should be sent back at first available opportunity.

- Ib. That Medical Boards be held on all officers and men in England and Malta(who are not actually confined to bed or physically unable to present themselves), every I4 days and proceedings forwarded.
- 2. All A. I. F. in Egypt who are not on duty should be compelled to appear every I4 days before a Medical Board compose of A. A. M. C. officers, unless actually confined to bed or medical certificate from O. C. Hospital that they are physically unfit to do so.
- officer or man should be sent west of Malta, with possible exception of those cases declarde by a Medical Board as unfit for further service.

Colonel,

A. D. M. S., Ist Australian Division.

1st Australian Division. Skarguarters August 31th, 1915.

From A.D.M.S., 1st Aust. Div. 20 D. A. & Q. M.G., A. N. Z. A. C.

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I have the honour to report that acting upon instructions received from GOC, A. N. Z. A.C., I am of opinion that it is necessary for an officer to be immobilisely appointed D.D. M. S. Anzac who will be responsible for making the necessary

provisions for housing and evacuating the sick and wounded

I would urge this appointment because the duties attached to it are not only very urgent but are absolutely essential to protect the sich and wounded during the approaching winter. The officer would require to devote the whole of his time to this work, as he will be called upon to select sites and advise what units would be required to provide the necessary accommodation and it is quite probable that he may Consider that arrangements should be made for 4000 instead of 2000

In the event of stress of weather preventing evacuation for ay a period of seven days, it will be essential so make provision, not only for housing, but also for operative work, nursing of serious surgical and medical cases, and treatment of infectious cases. Judging by the Condition of many of the officers and men at anyac, I think that

accommodation for atleast 2000 will be necessary

I have now over 600 Officers and men who are being Areated in their dug-outs behind the lines, and 130 in N. I and 3 Field Ambulances where they are only protected from the sun the event of fifty foints of rain it will be decessary to unmediately evacuate Them all.

(Signed) N. R. House Colonel, A.D. M.S., 1st Aust. Division