

**AWM4**

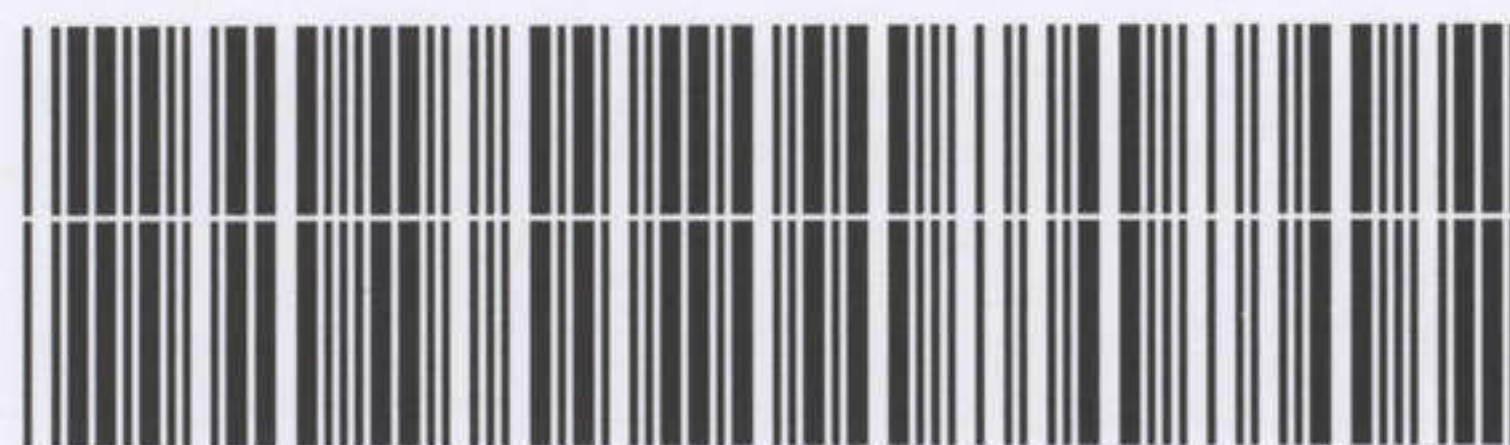
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

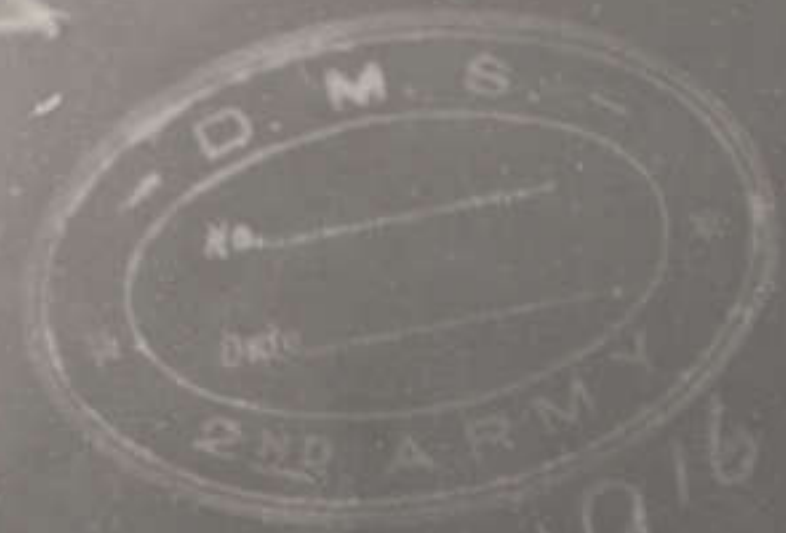
**Item number:** 26/6/6

**Title:** Director of Medical Services, Second  
Army

September 1916



AWM4-26/6/6



8/16 1916

*Confidential*

*War Diary*

*D. M. S. Second Army*

*from 1st Sept 1916 to 30th Sept 1916*

*(Volume 21)*

*Quinn*

*Vol 21*

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMITTEE  
ON  
MILITARY HISTORY

26 OCT 1916

# WAR DIARY

or

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																								
HAZEBROUCK	1916 Sept. 1st		<p>Dull day - occasional showers. Second Army front normal, except that we launched a Gas attack on the enemy 36th Division front with successful results as patrols report the front line enemy trench full of dead. A certain number of casualties occurred amongst our men due to removing the helmet before the Gas had properly cleared away. The gas said to have passed down some of our trenches as well as towards the enemy. D.M.S. visited Clearing Stations in BAILLEUL to see the Gas Cases and then proceeded to CASSEL and called on the Chief Engineer with reference to the Water Supply of HAZEBROUCK which is derived from a deep well at MORBECQUE about 4 kilometres from HAZEBROUCK, distributed by means of pipes. The water on examination was found to contain B. Coli in large numbers, probably due to the fact that the Contractors, in order to overcome a shortage of water, had laid a pipe from the Canal to the Well increased the supply by this means. The whole water supply of HAZEBROUCK is now the subject of consideration. The following are the Divisions in Corps of the Second Army:-</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">VIII. Corps</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(38th</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Canadian</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(4th Can.</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">IX. Corps.</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(19th</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">II</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(51st</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(29th</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">Corps.</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(1/Aus.</td> <td></td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(36th</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">ANZAC</td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(34th</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(4th</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(23rd</td> <td></td> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">(5/Aus.</td> </tr> </table> <p>Holding the line from North to South are:= 38th, 29th, 4th, 4th Can., 19th, 36th, 23rd, 51st, 34th, and 5th Australian. Evacuated to the Base := 363.</p>	VIII. Corps	(38th	Canadian	(4th Can.	IX. Corps.	(19th	II	(51st		(29th	Corps.	(1/Aus.		(36th	ANZAC	(34th		(4th				(23rd		(5/Aus.	
VIII. Corps	(38th	Canadian	(4th Can.	IX. Corps.	(19th	II	(51st																					
	(29th	Corps.	(1/Aus.		(36th	ANZAC	(34th																					
	(4th				(23rd		(5/Aus.																					
	2nd		<p>Dull day but fine. Second Army front normal. The question of the HAZEBROUCK water supply is still under consideration and the C.E. of the Army has been consulted by the D.M.S. and two propositions laid before him :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To make use of water Barges on the canal for purifying the water and be pumped into the main.</li> <li>2. The opening up of a disused deep bore well on the high ground north of the Railway Station said to be able to supply 150,000 gallons a day and closed some two years ago as it was said to contain B. Coli.</li> </ol> <p>It was not decided yet which scheme will be adopted. Letter received from the D.G.M.S. a few days ago in reference to the prevalence of Diarrhoea and bowel complaints in the Expeditionary Force. Investigations have been made by the D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) who finds that Diarrhoea is not epidemic in this Army and that very few cases have occurred. Letter to "A" recommending that the Special Hospital at BOESCHEPE be given up and transferred to No. 15 Casualty Clearing Station owing to the frequent changes of personnel at BOESCHEPE, due to the moving of Field Ambulances which supply it. Army Commander's approval is necessary for this change. D.M.S. visited and inspected No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station and</p>																									



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HAZEBROUCK	2nd Sept.		<p>(continued). then went on to NOUVEAU MONDE and visited the II ANZAC Corps Rest Station for Officers and the new Divisional Rest Station of the 5th Australian Division. This is situated close to the Lys and D.M.S. was not very satisfied with the site as he thought it would be very flooded in the winter months. He then proceeded to SAILLY and called on Colonel Hardy, A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division and discussed water problems with him. He then called on Colonel Bliss, A.D.M.S., 34th Division and went on to STEENWERCK where inspection was made of the 2/1st Highland Field Ambulance, which is the Divisional Rest Station for the 51st Division. He also called on Colonel Fleming, A.D.M.S., 51st Division and then visited TROIS ARBRES, No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station. Evacuated to the Base := 306.</p>	
	3rd		<p>Mild day - westerly wind - slight rain. Second Army front quiet. D.A.D.M.S. visited the new Ambulance train siding at BAILLEUL with reference to the site for a hut and store tent. He also visited Nos 2 and 8 Casualty Clearing Stations and the D.D.M.S. IX. Corps. Headquarters I. ANZAC Corps took over Canadian Corps Area. Headquarters Canadian Corps left for Reserve Army. Class of three days duration completed today by the Chemical adviser, Second Army on defensive gas measures. Class held for the training of Medical Officers, one per Field Ambulance so as to assist Divisional Gas Officers in lecturing and training the Troops how to adjust the smoke helmet and respirator, their care and use. A new pattern respirator (box) is now being issued to the troops in place of old helmet. This respirator gives protection against phosgene. Evacuated to the Base := 514.</p>	
	4th		<p>Dull day - rain at times. Second Army front normal. 15 Shells into POPERINGHE yesterday - 5 British Soldier Casualties. 2nd Canadian Division commence entraining today for RESERVE ARMY. 23rd Division moving into the TILQUES area, one brigade by road, two brigades by tactical train. Captain Coplans, No. 4 Mobile Laboratory ordered to make a water reconnaissance of the front line trenches, starting at the Southern end of the line, at present held by the 5th Australian Division, This reconnaissance ordered as the Medical Authorities 5th Australian Division complained that there was a shortage of water in the area especially in the front line trenches. D.M.S. visited the Casualty Clearing Stations at REMY and called at the Headquarters, 1st Australian Division. Evacuated to the Base: = 333.</p>	

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HAZEBROUCK	1916 Sept 5th		<p>Wet windy day. Second Army front quiet. D.M.S. visited the following Units, i.e. 15th Australian Field Ambulance at NOUVEAU MONDE, the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station, 1st Canadian Casualty Clearing Station, North Midland Casualty Clearing Station, and all the Casualty Clearing Stations at REMY SIDING. He was well satisfied with all. The water purifying plant on a barge on the Lys at Jesus Farm was also inspected and the Laundry at WESTOUTRE. Dr. Dawson Williams arrived in the area last night and accompanied the D.M.S. on his inspection. General Franks' force commenced to function at 8.0 a.m. today. Evacuated to the Base :- 336.</p>	
	6th		<p>Fine autumn day. Second Army front very quiet. D.M.S. visited the D.D.M.S., IX. Corps and the A.D.M.S., 38th Division. He next inspected the Special Hospital, BOESCHEPE and Nos. 10 and 17 Casualty Clearing Stations. 2nd Cavalry Division left the Second Army area. 2nd Australian Division arriving in the Army area for I. ANZAC Corps. Evacuated to the Base:- 243.</p>	
	7th		<p>Bright Autumn day. Second Army front very quiet. D.M.S. inspected the North Midland Casualty Clearing Station at MONT-DES-CATS. 3rd Canadian Division starts entraining today for RESERVE ARMY. Evacuated to the Base :- 273.</p>	
	8th		<p>Bright Autumn day. Second Army front fairly quiet. ARMENTIERES was bombarded last night by the enemy and in the direction of HOLLEBEKE our artillery destroyed a bridge-Head on the YPRES Canal. Circular issued to all Corps with reference to the disposal of cases of defective vision - these in future are to be brought to the Ophthalmic Centre by train. Letter to G.H.Q., recommending the establishment of a dental laboratory at No. 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station to do the Mechanical Dental work of the VIII. Corps. Recommendation sent to "Q" to have two huts provided for Northumbrian Casualty Clearing Station to be built in the court of the Museum building which it is proposed to take over from the French Civil authorities in exchange for the "Veille Sous Prefecture" occupied at present by the Casualty Clearing Station. A deep bore is being put down by the Australian Tunnelling Company at BAILLEUL Station. The well at the Laiterie on the Proven road has finally got down to water in the ground sand. 1,500 gallons per hour by the air method - the screen point has not yet been placed. The water was got after going through 25 feet, approximately, of sand stone in a final depth of 420 feet. Evacuated to the Base :- 273.</p>	



# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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## or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1916 Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Bright warm day. Heavy shelling on Second Army front South of YPRES and in region of ARMENTIERES, particularly by our own guns. D.M.S. held a conference at his Office at 11.0 a.m. Officers attending:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D.D.M.S., VIII. Corps - Colonel Gerrard.</li> <li>D.D.M.S. IX. Corps - Colonel G.B. Wilson,</li> <li>D.A.D.M.S. IX. Corps - Major Brown.</li> <li>D.D.M.S. I. ANZAC - Colonel Manifold.</li> <li>D.D.M.S. II. ANZAC - Colonel R.E. Roth.</li> <li>A.D.M.S. 36th Division.</li> </ul> <p>The following are the points brought up by the D.M.S. and discussed,- Divisions leaving area to leave all equipment behind only take equipment according to Mobilization Store Table. - Equipment for Divisional Rest Stations - Stretchers, 150 per Field Ambulance - Numbers in Divisional Rest Stations for winter - Condition of trenches - Drinking water in Trenches - Officers Rest Stations - Preventive measures, chilled feet - Delay in returning correspondence and forwarding reports, especially contracts for re-engagement. - Use of Motor Ambulance Cars - Officers for the Officers' Hospital to be sent by Passenger train if convenient - Officers required by G.H.Q. for other Armies. D.A.D.M.S.(Sanitation) visited the Esquelbecq - HERZEELE area with reference to a water supply for the troops in the area. There is a plentiful supply of fair quality at a point C.16 d. 8.2 from the Penn Becque. It was suggested that the water purifying plant on lorry now with the 36th Division, might be used in this area. 4th Australian Division for the 1st ANZAC arriving from the South today. Evacuated to Base :- 372.</p>	
	10 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Dull day - very mild. Second Army front very quiet. 23rd Division entrained for the South. D.A.D.M.S. visited Special Hospital, BOESCHEPE and the Casualty Clearing Stations at PROVEN and REMY SIDING. No Ambulance train in the Army area today. D.A.D.M.S.(Sanitation) visited the laundry and bath-house at NEUVE EGLISE with reference to the treatment of the effluent - the establishment at DRANOUTRE was also visited. Arrangements are being made to instal the WESTOUTRE purifying plant at POPOUTRE BATHS. Evacuated to Base :- NIL.</p>	
	11 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Fine Autumn day. Second Army front very quiet. D.M.S. visited No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station ESTAIRES. D.A.D.M.S. consulted with the D.A. &amp; 2 M.G., IX. Corps and the Town Major, BAILLEUL with reference to giving up part of the school building used by No. 2</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1918 Sept 11th		<p>continued/ Casualty Clearing Station and No. 5 (Canadian) Mobile Laboratory. It was decided to accede to the request of the Town Authorities and to give up the part asked for on condition that it is given over in case of necessity for a sudden large number of cases. Arrangements are being made to provide a hut for the laboratory and to reserve ground at the New Ambulance train siding for the reception of sitting cases. D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) consulted with D.A. &amp; Q.M.G. D.A.D.M.S., and an R.E. Officer, 1st ANZAC with reference to the purifying plant for the baths and Laundry at HOPOUTRE. Arrangements made for cleaning out the WESTOUTRE purifying plant for Laundry effluent. Map received from O.C. water patrols IX. Corps showing details of water systems in the area. 11th Brigade including 11th Fd. Ambce left VIII Corps rest area today en Evacuated to the Base :- 387. (route for DUNKERQUE)</p>	
	12th		<p>Mild day - rain at night. Second Army front very quiet. No Ambulance train in the Army area today. During the last 24 hours there were only 35 wounded in the Army. D.A.D.M.S. (sanitation) reports that arrangements are being made with a view to utilizing the water of the Peene Becque for the troops in the HERZEELE area. D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) inspected the Sanitary arrangements at STRAZEELE Station. These were satisfactory. Evacuated to Base :- Nil.</p>	
	13th		<p>Dull day - very heavy rain in the evening. Second Army front remains quiet. D.M.S. visited the D.D.M.S. I. ANZAC and afterwards inspected the Divisional Rest Stations of the Corps - The extra equipment for the Rest Stations had been removed by the last Units thus necessitating re-equipment - arrangements are being made to replace this equipment on inventory and to have it taken on charge by each Unit and handed over on departure. D.A.D.M.S. visited Special Hospital, BOESCHEPE with reference to the transference to No. 15 Casualty Clearing Station. One train sufficient to clear the Army area today. Evacuated to the Base:- 502.</p>	
	14th		<p>Showery day - heavy rain in the evening. Second Army front quiet. D.M.S. had an interview with the Army Commander in the afternoon and discussed Medical problems of the Army Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C.2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1916 Sept 15th		<p>Fine day but dull. Second Army front normal. Ambulance Siding is now complete at BAILLEUL WEST with hut for E.M.O. and telephone and has already been taken into use. Colonel Guise Moores appointed A.D.M.S., Guards Division, Lieut-Colonel B. Watts, A.D.M.S., 29th Division vice Colonel Guise Moores. D.A.D.M.S. visited the 51st Division Headquarters at STEENWERCK, No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station, and 2 and 3 Casualty Clearing Stations at BAILLEUL. (Australian)</p> <p>Evacuated to the Base:- 407.</p>	
	16th		<p>Dull day - rain at times. Second Army front very quiet. D.M.S. called to see the G.O.C., I ANZAC, General Birdwood, also the D.D.M.S.. The visit was especially in reference to the transfer of a dental surgeon from the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station to a Field Ambulance of the ANZAC Corps. No Ambulance train in area today. Captain Cosgrave, R.A.M.C.(S.R) joined the Office of the D.M.S. for instruction. Recommendation sent to "Q" in reference to sites selected for the Washing of Horses suffering from Mange. Two of the sites selected were on the VLETERBEKE, the stream which passes through POPERINGHE and used for washing etc and by the inhabitants for drinking and making beer - alternative sites proposed. The WESTOUTRE water filters for dealing with the effluent from the Laundry is now in working order again. The scheme at HOUPOUTRE for dealing with bath effluent is not yet satisfactory. Special Hospital for Self-Inflicted Wounds moved from BOESCHEPE to No.15</p> <p>Evacuated to the Base :- NIL. (Casualty Clg. Station special building set apart for the purpose.</p>	
	17th		<p>Fine day - cold in afternoon. Second Army front normal - more wounded the last 24 hours due to raids by us on the enemy trenches. 4th Division entraining for the Fourth Army. D.M.S. proceeded on 10 days special leave to England.</p> <p>Evacuated to the Base :- 534.</p>	
	18th		<p>Heavy rain all day. Second Army front very quiet. 7th Division arrive in Second Army area from Fourth Army and is to be administered by the VIII. Corps. Colonel Manifold, D.D.M.S. I. ANZAC, acting for the D.M.S. accompanied by the D.A.D.M.S. inspected Nos. 1, 2 &amp; 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Stations. Chief Engineer is supplying the necessary timber etc to build a hut for No. 5 Mobile Laboratory (Canadian) necessitated as the School room at present occupied by them is required by the French and no other suitable accommodation can be found. Site selected is in a field near the Infectious Hospital, BAILLEUL. The engineers</p>	





# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2418.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ZEBROUCK	1916 Sept 18th		continued/ started today to clear an old bore at HAZEBROUCK Station Goods yard in order to get, if possible, a supply of water for the East part of the Town and for the use of the Military as the present town supply is inadequate and is of bad quality. Evacuated to the Base :- 417.	ht
	19th		Cold showery day. Second Army front normal. D.A.D.M.S. visited the Casualty Clearing Stations at REMY SIDING. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.	ht
	20th		Cold day - heavy showers at times. Second Army front very quiet, only 38 men reported wounded during the last 24 hours. 4th Canadian Division leaving IX. Corps for Second Army Rest area, marching by Brigades. 7th Division join IX. Corps. Evacuated to the Base :- 488.	ht
	21st		Dull day - local showers. Second Army front very quiet. 16th Division from Fourth Army commence to detrain at BAILLEUL Main and West and GODEWAERSVELDE for IX. Corps. 19th Division less artillery has now moved into the Rest area of the IX. Corps for Fourth Army, date to be notified later. D.A.D.M.S. visited the D.D.O.S., and "A" and "Q" Offices especially in reference to the Supply of Acetylene lamps for Regimental Aid Posts. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.	ht
	22nd		Bright dry day. Second Army front normal. Chemical Adviser started a 2½ days class in Defensive Gas measures. 24 Medical Officers detailed to attend in order to have one Medical Officer per Field Ambulance trained to enable him to assist the Divisional Gas Officer in instructing the Troops. Evacuated to the Base :- 480.	ht



BSD - B. M351.22/11 12/15 5000.

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1916. Sept. 23rd		<p>Bright clear day. Second Army front normal. First meeting of the II. ANZAC Water Board held today. It was decided at the meeting to form sub-committees in each Division to consist of the C.R.E., A.D.M.S., and an Officer of the "Q" Branch. These sub-committees to form the Corps Board with a President and representative from the Corps. It was decided at the Board to put in deep wells as soon as possible to supply water for the front line trenches but to meet present demands to sink shallow wells. The deep bore which has just been opened up to the North of HAZEBROUCK Station is now yielding water, pumping is to be carried out for several days and a chemical examination of the water made daily, also a bacteriological examination. The daily examinations show that the water is changing in composition as the pumping goes on, iron and hardness is diminishing, chlorine is necessary. Evacuated to the Base :- 30.</p>	
	24th		<p>Bright day. Second Army front still very quiet. 3rd Brigade of 4th Canadian Division marching from IX. Corps area to join the Division in Second Army rest Area. D.A.D.M.S. and D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) visited the Laiterie at POPERINGHE and found that the bore is completed and is capable of delivering about 1,500 gallons per hour but is not available as the screen for the end of the pipe has not arrived. They then proceeded to No. 46 Casualty Clearing Station and found that two huts were completed and the third nearly complete, the water system is now finished. Medical Officers and Nursing Sisters are being detailed from Second Army Casualty Clearing Stations for temporary duty in the Casualty Clearing Stations of Fourth and Reserve Armies. Evacuated to the Base:- 550.</p>	
	25th		<p>Bright day. Second Army front very quiet, only 35 wounded admitted to Casualty Clearing Stations for 24 hours midday 23rd to midday 24th - no officers wounded. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	
	26th		<p>Bright sunny day - warm. Second Army front normal. Letter to "Q" recommending that authority be given for issue of acetylene lamps, of an approved pattern for use in Regimental Aid Posts, owing to insufficient light given by hurricane lanterns, on the following scale:- 1 per Battalion of Infantry. 1 per Brigade of Artillery. At present one Ambulance train every Second day is enough to clear the Second Army area. Evacuated to the Base :- 518.</p>	

BSD - B. M331.22/11. 12/15. 5000.



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HAZEBROUCK	1916. Sept. 27th		<p>Bright day. Second Army front normal. D.A.D.M.S. visited No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station at ESTAIRES. D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) accompanied by an Engineer Officer and Officer of "Q" branch VIII. Corps and the D.A.D.M.S. VIII. Corps visited yesterday ELSENDAMME and LA PANNE in order to examine and report on the Laundries and baths erected for the Belgian Troops. The visit was made in order that a report as to the working of the Laundry and cost of washing and repair of clothes might be sent to Second Army Headquarters with a view to taking up the question of establishing similar plants in this Army. The disinfection, washing and mending was exceedingly well carried out at a cost of 8 centimes per piece. D.M.S., Returned from Leave. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	
	28th		<p>Bright warm day. Some shelling on Second Army front, our casualties very light, shelling mostly our own guns. Evacuated to the Base :- 528.</p>	<p><i>ft.</i></p>
	29th		<p>Dull day - some heavy rain. Second Army front normal. The enemy put a few shells into ARMENTIERES nearly every afternoon. A disinfecting chamber to be worked by steam from the boiler at the WESTOUTRE baths is near completion. Clayton disinfectors are being supplied on a basis of one per Corps. Enquiries are in progress as to a small outbreak of Diphtheria in the 51st Division. D.M.S. inspected the Field Ambulances of the 16th Division and called on the G.O.C. He also visited the Headquarters IX. Corps. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	<p><i>ft.</i></p>
	30th		<p>Bright warm day. Second Army front normal. D.M.S. inspected the 2nd Australian Casualty Clearing Station at TROIS ARBRES and called to see the A.D.M.S., 34th Division and inspected the Divisional Rest Station at LESTRADE and was very pleased with the arrangements. No. 2 Casualty Clearing Station and No. 5 Mobile Laboratory have now vacated and handed over to the Bailleul Civil Authorities part of the School occupied by them in the Rue St. Vaast. 51st Division entrain today for Reserve Army. Evacuated to the Base :- 476.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----***-----</p>	<p><i>ft.</i></p> <p><i>ft. 10/1/16 10/2/16 10/3/16</i></p>



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Remarks and references to Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Place Date Hour

DISPOSITION OF DIVISIONS

SEPTEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>

645  
57

Belgian Army.

