

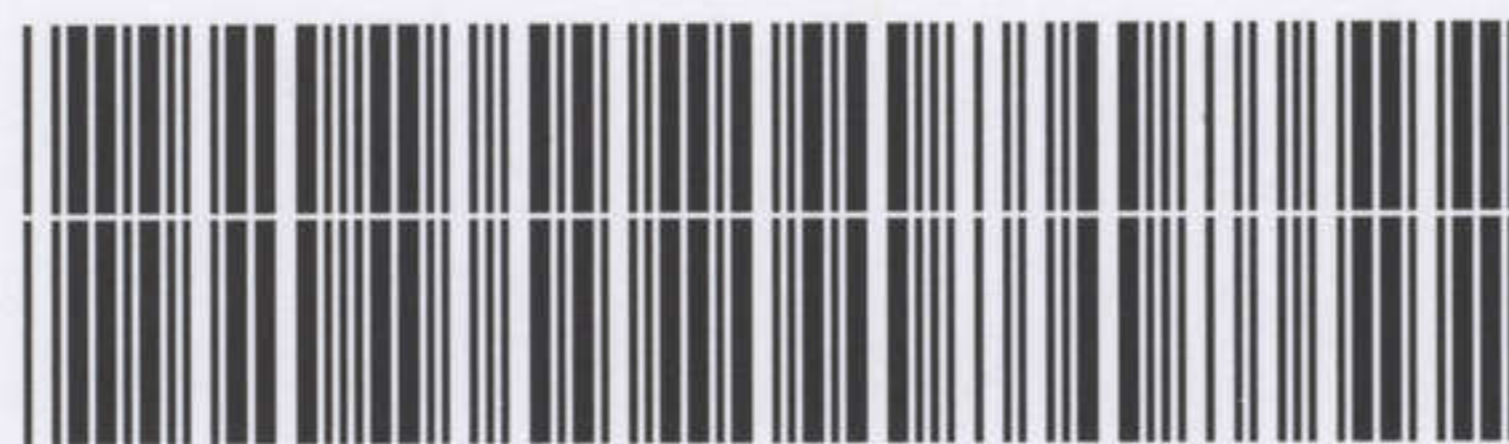
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/6/7

Title: Director of Medical Services, Second
Army

October 1916



AWM4-26/6/7

Confidential



was - Diary

Dr. S. G. ...

Vol 22

from 1st October 1916 to 31st October 1916

(volume 22)

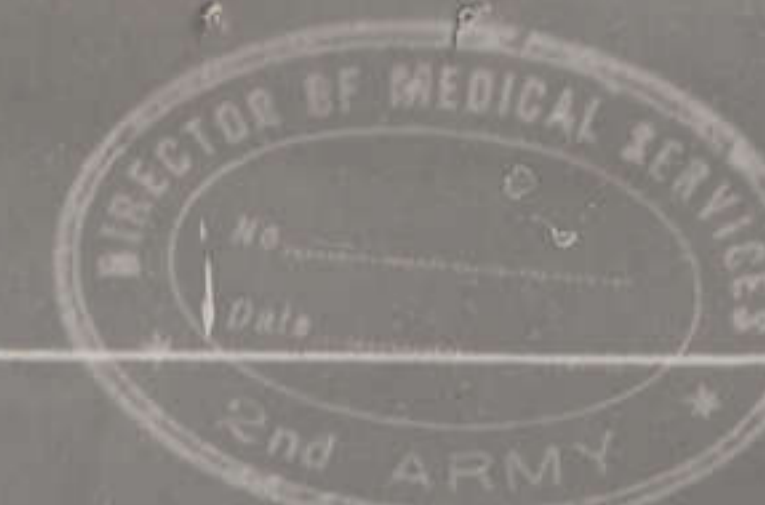
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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																
AZEBOUCK	1916.																			
	Oct.																			
	1st		<p>Fairly bright day - colder. Second Army front normal, except for some heavy shelling in the afternoon of ARMENTIERES. The following Corps and Divisions form the Second Army and are holding the line in the order given below:-</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>-- VIII. Corps.</u></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>I. ANZ. Corps.</u></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>IX. Corps.</u></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>II. ANZ. Corps.</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>38th Welsh Division.</td> <td>2/Aus. Division.</td> <td>16th Division.</td> <td>34th Division.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>29th Division.</td> <td>1/Aus. Division.</td> <td>36th Division.</td> <td>5/Aus. Division.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>4/Aus. Division.</td> <td>7th Division.</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p>4th Canadian Division at present in the Second Army Rest area with Headquarters at TILQUES North West of ST.OMER, 19th Division training in IX. Corps Rest Area. Evacuated to the Base :- 437.</p>	<u>-- VIII. Corps.</u>	<u>I. ANZ. Corps.</u>	<u>IX. Corps.</u>	<u>II. ANZ. Corps.</u>	38th Welsh Division.	2/Aus. Division.	16th Division.	34th Division.	29th Division.	1/Aus. Division.	36th Division.	5/Aus. Division.		4/Aus. Division.	7th Division.		
	<u>-- VIII. Corps.</u>	<u>I. ANZ. Corps.</u>	<u>IX. Corps.</u>	<u>II. ANZ. Corps.</u>																
	38th Welsh Division.	2/Aus. Division.	16th Division.	34th Division.																
29th Division.	1/Aus. Division.	36th Division.	5/Aus. Division.																	
	4/Aus. Division.	7th Division.																		
2nd		<p>Very wet day. Second Army front normal. 55th Division start detraining today at HOUPOUTRE, ESQNELBECK, and PROVEN for VIII. Corps. D.M.S. inspected the Casualty Clearing Stations at REMY SIDING and No. 46 at MENDINGHEM. Evacuated to the Base:- NIL.</p>																		
3rd		<p>Dull day - showers. Second Army front quiet. 4th Canadian Division entrain at AUDRUICK, ST.OMER and ARQUES for Reserve Army. Evacuated to the Base :- 507.</p>																		
4th		<p>Dull day - rain at times. Second Army front quiet. During the last 4 weeks ending October 2nd there have been 55 cases of Diphtheria in the Army and 40 carriers have been found, 27 of these cases and the 40 carriers were from the 51st Division which arrived in the area in August with Diphtheria. A careful examination for carriers was made and those found were evacuated to the Base. During the last few days some cases have occurred in the 19th Division. Energetic steps are being taken to stamp out the disease. D.M.S. visited BAILLEUL and called on the A.Ds M.S. 36th, 7th Divisions, he also inspected No. 5 (Canadian) Mobile Laboratory in its new position in a hut opposite the Asylum at BAILLEUL. The hut has proved much more satisfactory for a laboratory than the room in the school. The D.M.S. also inspected the Prisoners of War Camp at BAILLEUL. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>																		
5th		<p>Dull day - heavy rain in the evening. Second Army front very quiet. Following recommendations sent to "A" branch in reference to outbreak of Diphtheria. That the Estaminets used by the Troops should be put out of bounds unless proper arrangements were made for the washing</p>																		

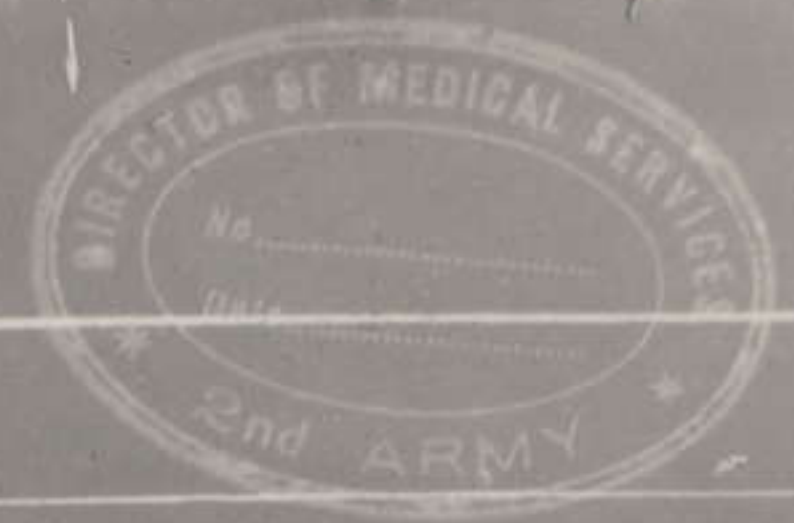
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HAZEBROUCK	1918 Oct. 5th		<p>continued/ and disinfecting of tumblers and drinking vessels. This arrangement to consist of washing in boiling water and a second time in water containing Pot. Permang. and the vessels to be allowed to dry - not to be dried with a cloth owing to the usual dirty condition of cloths used for this purpose. Estaminets to be inspected regularly by Medical Officers. Milk not to be sold to the troops in the affected area. 19th Division started to entrain today for FOURTH ARMY. Owing to the frequent break down of the Vidange apparatus and the time taken to repair it, and to the amount of work required to be done being very large, a strong recommendation has been this day sent to "O" for the purchase of a new machine. D.M.S. held a conference of Officers i/c Bacteriological Laboratories, D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) and the Consulting Physician to discuss the measures to be taken to combat the spread of Diphtheria. Evacuated to the Base :- 466.</p>	
	6th		<p>Dull day - windy at night. Second Army front quiet. No. 46 Casualty Clearing Station at MENDINGHEM opened to receive patients yesterday morning. To begin with only cases from the left Division VIII. Corps front and the Division of the VIII. Corps in Rest to send patients to MENDINGHEM. 29th Division start entraining tonight for Reserve Army. Letter to "Q" recommending that a water pipe line be laid on to the Chateau Elizabeth, POPERINGHE from the MONT DES CATS water supply, which runs quite close. The Chateau Elizabeth is still being used by the Belgian Artillery attached to the British Army as a kind of Casualty Clearing Station for Belgian Sick and Wounded. Tanks have already been set up by the Belgians so that all that is required is to lay on a pipe line. D.A.D.M.S. inspected No. 46 Casualty Clearing Station and the 2nd Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL</p>	
	7th		<p>Dull day - heavy rain at times. Inspection made of the ZILLEBEKE Lake yesterday by the officer i/c No. 4 Mobile Laboratory with a view to reporting as to the suitability of the water for drinking purposes. It is suggested that a pipe line should be laid from the lake to supply the trenches and also if necessary a part of YPRES with drinking water. Report sent to Second Army C.E. that provided channels were made, or existing channels enlarged to carry off the water which flows from the German lines and so prevent it from entering the lake, the water in the lake would be able to sediment and would provide a good supply of water which could be used after chlorination. The suggestion to take water from the west end of the lake could then be carried out and there would be a good yield. Evacuated to the Base :- 466.</p>	

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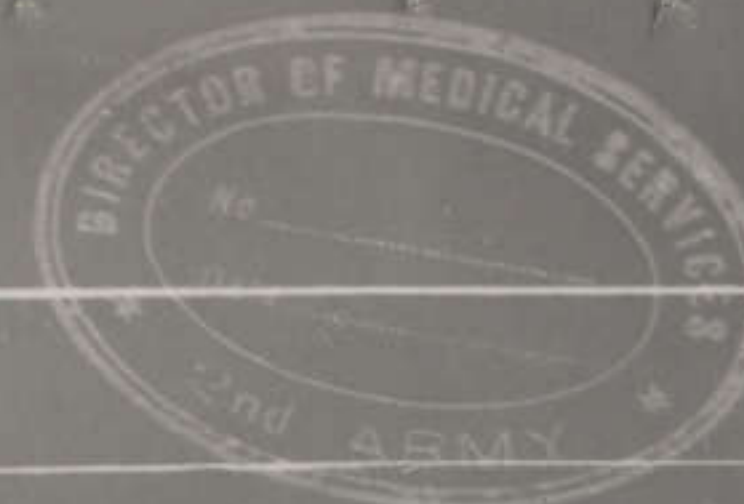
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HAZEBROUCK.	1916. Oct 8th		<p>Dull day - Mild. Second Army front normal. Second Army issued orders to IX. Corps and II. ANZAC that all Estaminets in their area are to be put out of bounds unless the proper arrangements exist for washing glasses and drinking vessels. This order was issued in order to prevent the spread of Diphtheria which has occurred amongst the Troops in this Area. Estaminets to be again put in bounds as soon as Medical Officers can say that the proper facilities for the washing of glasses exist. This Order also applies to Canteens and the Y.M.C.A. The Troops in this area have been prohibited from buying milk from Estaminets and farms. Letter to "Q" recommending that Motor Water carts be sanctioned for Motor Ambulance Convoys. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	
	9th		<p>Dull day but fine. Second Army front normal. D.M.S. visited the 4th Australian Division Headquarters at RENINGHELST and inspected the Field Ambulance there. D.A.D.M.S. visited YPRES and inspected the Prison. The cellars are used as an Advanced Dressing Station of the 55th Division. They are roomy, clean and lighted by electricity, these cellars are also used by the Church Army as a Recreation room for the men but are available for patients when required. He also inspected the Dressing Stations at the Mill at Vlamertinghe and the Red House at BRANDHOEK. Disinfecting plants have been established at the baths at Neuve Eglise and Dranoutre and are now functioning satisfactory. No fresh cases of diphtheria have been reported for last few days and it is noted that the epidemic is well in hand. Evacuated to the Base:- 353.</p>	
	10th		<p>Fine bright day - colder. Second Army front very quiet, only 37 casualties reported during last 24 hours. D.M.S. inspected Officers' Hospital, HAZEBROUCK, No. 12 Casualty Clearing Station, II. ANZAC Officers Rest Station at LA MOTTE, No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station at ESTAIRES, 34th Divisional Rest Station at LESTRADE,, 5th Australian Rest Station at NOUVEAU MONDE, Headquarters 5th Australian Division, No. 2 Australian Casualty Clearing Station, 36th Divisional Rest Station, 4th Australian Divisional Rest Station at WIPPENHOEK, and 1st Australian Divisional Rest Station at REMY, also No. 10 Casualty Clearing Station and No. 46 Casualty Clearing Station at MENDINGHEM. Evacuated to the Base :- 443.</p>	6/11

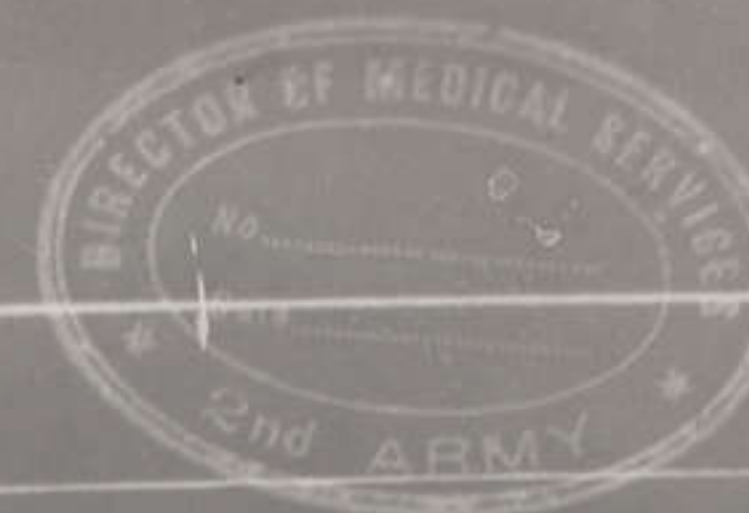
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1916. Oct. 11th		<p>Bright fine day - colder. Second Army front normal. The Army Commander accompanied by the D.M.S. inspected the following Divisional Rest Stations, 34th, 36th, 1st Australian, and Officers' Rest Station, II. ANZAC, and the following Casualty Clearing Stations, No. 12, 1st and 2nd Australian, 10, 17, 3rd Canadian and 46. The Army Commander appeared very satisfied with his inspection. The following are the arrangements made with regard to closing Estaminets in the IX. & II. ANZAC areas in order to prevent the spread of Diphtheria and come into force at once. All Estaminets in this area are to be considered out of bounds until such time as they have provided the prescribed washing and disinfecting arrangements and have been inspected and passed as satisfactory by a Medical Officer, when a notice is to be put up "OPEN TO BRITISH TROOPS".</p> <p>Evacuated to the Base:- 443.</p>	
	12th		<p>Windy day - not cold. Second Army front normal. New Zealand Division arrived in the Second Army area for II. ANZAC. Circular issued to all Corps and Divisions with reference to the management of Divisional Rest Stations.</p> <p>Evacuated to the Base :- 445.</p>	
	13th		<p>Dull day - windy at times. Number of wounded has slightly increased for the last 24 hours due to several raids on the enemy trenches. Otherwise Second Army front quiet. D.M.S. visited Hilhoek the Divisional Rest Station of the 55th Division, especially in reference to the condition of the road leading to it. He found that arrangements were being made to lay a sleeper road on stone so that it is hoped that it will be suitable for traffic during the winter in wet weather. 1st Australian Division moving from the front line to the Second Army training area. 5th Australian Division handing over to New Zealand Division and preparing to leave the Second Army for Fourth Army. D.A.D.M.S. (Sanitation) visited the front line trenches of the 16th Division and part of the 36th Division. The trenches and dug-outs were in a satisfactory sanitary condition and considerably improved since last winter. In a number of places the trench boards are raised from 12 to 15 inches to provide good drainage. Practically all latrines are fly proof.</p> <p>Evacuated to the Base:- 508.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK.	1916. Oct. 14th		<p>Fine day - quite cold. Second Army front normal with the exception of numerous raids carried out on various parts of the front. A large majority were successful and our Casualties were slight. Proposed sites for special Hospitals for men of coloured labour battalions submitted to "Q" with a view to arrangements being made. Sites are at Sheet 27 L.23.a. and sheet 36 A.13 d.7.7. No Ambulance train in the area.</p>	
	15th		<p>Bright seasonable day - much colder. Second Army front quiet. Ambulance train evacuated patients from 46 Casualty Clearing Station, MENDINGHEM, near PROVEN today for first time. It afterwards went by the new Military line to REMY SIDING. Everything went off well. 23rd Division detrained today at HOPOUTRE, ETC, for I. ANZAC. Recommendations sent to "Q" with a view to having the "Marchands des Bieres" supervised by the French and Belgian authorities. Many cases are being sent into Casualty Clearing Stations as Suspected Dysentery - cases which on admission show no symptoms. Special attention being given to these cases in the Mobile Laboratories. Evacuated to the Base:- 445.</p>	
	16th		<p>Cold day. Second Army front quiet. Case of smallpox from 7th Innis. Fusiliers, 16th Division, notified from No. 7 General Hospital where he had been for several days. Instructions issued as to vaccination, segregation of contacts, etc. D.A.D.M.S. proceeded on leave of absence, Captain A.D. Stirling, R.A.M.C., acting. 47th Division joined Second Army, (I. ANZAC) from FOURTH ARMY. Evacuated to the Base:- 508.</p>	
	17th		<p>Cold day - heavy rain at night. Second Army front quiet. The patient suffering from smallpox reported from No. 7 General Hospital had not been away from front area for over three weeks. Source of infection not yet determined. 5th Australian Division left Second Army - entraining at BAILLEUL. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	
	18th		<p>Cold day - very heavy rain at night. Second Army front quiet. D.M.S. visited R.F.C. Camp at BOISDINGHEM, with reference to provision of a suitable water supply. He also visited the R.O.D. Camp at BOURE. Circular issued to all Corps and Casualty Clearing Stations as result of letter received from Belgian Minister of the Interior, asking that our medical Officers should only attend civil patients in cases of urgency and when</p>	

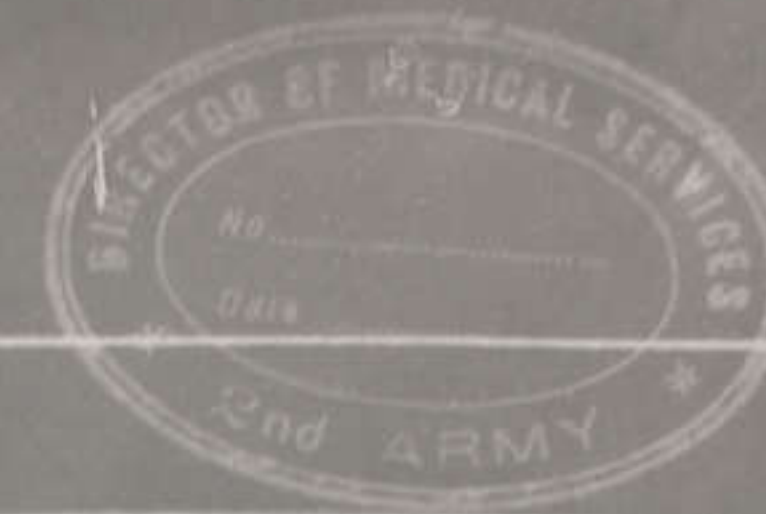
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK	1916.		(continued).	
	Oct.		military conditions prevented their calling a civil practitioner. Letter issued to all Corps informing them of the conditions laid down with regard to sending civil patients to hospital.	
	18th		Evacuated to the Base :- 357.	H
	19th		Cold day, with frequent heavy showers. The A.D.M.S., 41st Division reported his arrival in this area from FOURTH ARMY. No Ambulance train in the area. 30 cases evacuated to the Base by Barge.	H
	20th		Colder day, but bright and fine. The D.M.S. visited A.D.M.S., New Zealand Division, and G.O.C., New Zealand Division. He afterwards visited the New Zealand Divisional Rest Station at NOUVEAU MONDE, near ESTAIRES; the huts which have been erected from odd material are not very satisfactory and the provision of more suitable huts is urgently required. 1st Australian Division entrained for FOURTH ARMY. Circular issued re MICHELHAM Convalescent Home for Officers, which opens on November 1st at CAP MARTIN. Evacuated to the Base:- 451.	H
	21st		Very cold day, but bright sunshine in the afternoon. Second Army front quiet, although there was a fairly heavy bombardment during the night. D.M.S. accompanied by D.D.M.S. VIII. Corps and Officer i/c, No. 4 Mobile Laboratory inspected the following:- POPERINGHE Baths - recommendations made to have proper treatment plant for the waste water. Camp at BRANDHOEK. H.7.c.5.8, 1/4th South Lancs - complaint made as to difficulty with frozen meat during cold weather - not sufficiently thawed. B. Camp at G.6.d. 4.2 Sheet 28, 6th Liverpool Regt. C. Camp at A.30 c.9.2, 7th Liverpools. O. Camp at A.30 b. 3.0., 5th Liverpools. - water for washing has to be used over and over again - some better arrangement was recommended 38th Divisional Baths at A.30, central, then inspected along with A.D.M.S., Division and his Sanitary Officer - arrangements satisfactory. A Camp occupied by 13th Royal Welsh Fusiliers was then inspected - drainage satisfactory but roadway adjoining requires to be drained. E. Camp: occupied by a Battalion of Royal Welsh Fusiliers (1st London Welsh), then inspected 27 of the Huts - were leaking - new felting urgently required.	

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HAZEBROUCK.	1916.			
	Oct.			
	21st		<p>(continued) Draft of 90 men were inspected. 38th Divisional Training Camp at A.9.b. 9.1 and P. Camp at A.15 d., then inspected installation for treatment of ablution water required. One case trench foot reported from 2nd Australian Division. Evacuated to the Base :+ NIL.</p>	
	22nd		<p>Bright cold frosty day. Second Army front quiet. Four Medical Officers from Casualty Clearing Stations sent to RESERVE ARMY for temporary duty. D.M.S., visited D.D.M.S. I ANZAC with reference to the prospective handing over to X. Corps. He also visited No. 2 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station which is nearing completion - stoves, etc are available. The O.C., No. 2 Canadian Advanced Depot of Medical Stores was visited with reference to arrangements in the hut now completed. It was decided to accommodate the personnel, car, etc with No. 2 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station. Evacuated to the Base :-:389.</p>	
	23rd		<p>Fine mild day . Army front quiet. The D.M.S. visited A.H.Q. to discuss the question of Hospitals for South African Labour Battalions. It was decided to form a Hospital camp in the field adjoining No. 15 Casualty Clearing Station. Arrangements are being made to have the work taken in hand at once. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.</p>	
24th		<p>Mild day with rain. Second Army front quiet. During the last week 107 cases of dysentery have been notified. These have mostly occurred in Divisions lately arrived from the SOMME area. 2nd Australian Division left for FOURTH ARMY. Three Nursing Sisters arrived for duty with No. 46 Casualty Clearing Station. One case Trench Foot, Evacuated to the Base :- 421. (New Zea. Division).</p>		
25th		<p>Mild day, with rain. Front very quiet, only 20 wounded reported yesterday. Office of D.D.M.S., X. Corps opened at ABEELE. A New Australian Dental Section arrived and was attached to No. 1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station, the one previously with this Casualty Clearing Station proceeds to H.Q. I. ANZAC. One case of trench foot reported from New Zealand Division. Evacuated to the Base:- 506.</p>		

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HAZEBROUCK.	1918			
	Oct.			
	26th		<p>Milder day - slight rain in morning. Second Army front quiet - only 20 wounded reported in preceding 24 hours. Headquarters I. ANZAC left for FOURTH ARMY. Captain M. Coplans, R.A.M.C.(T.F) appointed D.A.D.M.S.(Sanitation) Second Army vice Major J.A. Amyot, C.A.M.C., to England for duty. D.A.D.M.S. returned from leave of absence. Notes on arrangements at Casualty Clearing Stations in the SOMME area during the recent fighting by Surgeon-General Sir Anthony Bowlby issued to all Corps and Casualty Clearing Stations. 4th Australian Division entrained for Fourth Army. 3 Cases of Trench Foot notified. No Ambulance train in the area. The case of smallpox reported on the 17th October is now reported as a case of suppurating Cheiropomphlyx. D.M.S. inspected the Officers Hospital and the Casualty Clearing Stations in HAZEBROUCK. The cubicles are being removed from the large upper ward of No. 12 Casualty Clearing Station (Petit Seminaire); this will considerably increase the accommodation and allow of much better ventilation. Evacuated to the Base:- NIL</p>	
		27th	<p>Fine in the morning - heavy rain in the afternoon. Second Army front normal. D.A.D.M.S. Sanitation made an inspection of the billets at POPERINGHE, accompanied by the Town Major and Sanitary Officer, POPERINGHE. He found the Sanitary condition not very satisfactory, some of the roofs of the billets were leaking. The condition of the billets has been brought to the notice of the Corps concerned. He also inspected STEENVOORDE and was quite satisfied with Sanitary arrangements. The attention of the X. Corps has been brought to this condition. Evacuated to the Base"- 412.</p>	
		28th	<p>Rain at times - dull day. Second Army front quiet. D.M.S. accompanied by the D.D.M.S., II ANZAC made an inspection of the Rest Camps in the Corps area. He inspected quarters occupied by the 152nd Brigade, R.F.A., & B. Battery, also those occupied by No. 4 Section, D.A.C., the 1st New Zealand Field Ambulance, BAC ST MAUR and the billets of the 3rd New Zealand Battalion. The 102nd Field Ambulance at Fort Rompu was also inspected. The condition under which the units were living was satisfactory being mostly in billets; a few minor recommendations were made to be carried out by the D.D.M.S. and Engineers. Evacuated to the Base by Ambulance Barge:- 30.</p>	

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HAZEBROUCK	1916. Oct. 29th		Dull day - rain at times. Second Army front very quiet. A few cases of Trench Foot are now reported daily. D.M.S. proceeded to POPERINGHE and inspected a billet which had been reported on unfavourably by the Sanitary Officer. He interviewed the Town Major and the O.C., Unit concerned and arranged for the cellar to be closed and not used for Troops. Evacuated to the Base:- 416.	
	30th		Wet day - rather cold. Second Army front quiet. D.M.S. accompanied by D.A.D.M.S. (San) visited billets in POPERINGHE and the the Field Ambulance at Road Farm 2/1st W. Lancs Field Ambulance. Afterwards he inspected the Mill at VLAMERTINGHE (71st Field Ambulance) and then proceeded to the Asylum Cellars at YPRES, occupied as Dressing Stations, by 71st Field Ambulance and 2/1st Wessex Field Ambulance. The cellars require to be lime washed. He then proceeded via OUDERDOM to RENINGHELST where the A.D.M.S., 41st Division was visited. D.M.S. then visited the A.D.M.S., 23rd Division and also saw the D.A. & Q.M.G., 23rd Division with reference to billeting in POPERINGHE. It is understood that no more troops are to be billeted in the town. Lieut-Colonels Pritchard and Stock, South African Medical Service visited the D.M.S. with reference to arrangements for hospitals for South African Native labour. Evacuated to the Base :- NIL.	
	31st		Dull day with some sun and heavy showers at times. Second Army front normal. D.M.S. Accompanied by the D.D.M.S., IX. Corps visited the Camps occupied by the troops of the IX Corps when in rest, and also the Field Ambulances of the Corps. He was not quite satisfied with his inspection and informed the D.D.M.S., of the Corps he considered the condition of the Camp would be greatly improved if a proper system of drainage was introduced. He also inspected the German Prisoners of War Camp at BAILLEUL and found that the condition of the Camp had been improved since his last inspection. Evacuated to the Base;;;- 267.	
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The position of Divisions on SECOND ARMY front on 31/10/18 1 st shown on APPENDIX I.				
<p style="text-align: right;"><i>Surgeon General</i> <i>D.M.S. Second Army</i></p>				

DISPOSITIONS OF DIVISIONS

OCT 31

754
M

BELGIAN ARMY

VIII
CORPS

38th DIV

POPERINGHE

55th DIV

YPRES

23rd DIV.

X
CORPS

47th DIV.

41st DIV.

IX
CORPS

16th DIV

BAILLEUL

25th DIV.

36th DIV

2nd
ANZAC

7th DIV.

FRANK'S
FORCE.

RIVER LYS

NEW ZEALAND
DIV.

ARMENTIERES

34th DIV.



1st ARMY