

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

Chaplains

Item number: 6/4/6

Title: Senior Chaplain, Other Protestant
Denominations, Headquarters AIF,
London

March 1918



AWM4-6/4/6

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. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

MARCH, 1918 (Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	March 1-31		<p><u>JEWISH CHAPLAINCY SERVICE.</u></p> <p>The Rev. D. J. Freedman B.A., Hebrew Chaplain, left London for Egypt + Palestine on March 6th, where he is visiting A.I.F. troops of his faith + order; after completing which duty he proceeds to Australia for discharge. He arrived in Egypt on Nov. 23rd + at Gallipoli on Dec 9th, 1915, + has been at the Front ever since. He has thus completed considerably more than two years service at the actual Front + has rendered excellent service. The Senior Chaplain, O.P.D., has sent him a letter of thanks for the fine service that he has rendered, copy of which is attached as</p> <p>The Rev. D. Hirsch, Jewish Chaplain to the B.E.F. (4th Army) has kindly consented to serve our troops in France during the interregnum (Mr. Freedman's relief will not leave Melbourne before the end of April). Arrangements were made for Mr. Hirsch to come to Administrative Head Quarters to consult Mr. Freedman + the Senior Chaplain, O.P.D.; when Nominal Rolls, etc, were supplied to enable him to carry on. During this first month of his work he has been in touch with Jewish members of the A.I.F. in France as follows: - at Corps Hdqs 24; 1st Divn 54; 2nd Divn 70; 3rd Divn 57; 4th Divn 53; 5th Divn 46; numbering 304 in all. This is surely most satisfactory service, seeing that Mr. Hirsch has his own British work to attend to. He submitted a complete roll of the names, etc, of these men. All Jews with the A.I.F. are provided with properly addressed postcards enabling them to notify the Jewish Chaplain as to their location; a copy is given to every Jew leaving A.I.F. depots in U.K. for overseas. See</p>	<p>Appendix I</p> <p>Appendix II</p> <p>after</p>

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (AS 204) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Form C/2118/14

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

March 1915 - Page 2

UNITED
KINGDOM

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1915 March 1-31.		<p>after consulting Mr Freeman, the Jewish War Service Committee, etc, the O.P.D. Senior Chaplain applied on the 22nd February last for special Passover Leave to be granted to Jewish members of the A.I.F. at Administrative Headquarters in A.I.F. Depots in U.K. This was granted from Wed, 27th March to Monday 1st April.</p> <p>Mr Harold Boas, Australian Y.M.C.A. Jewish Secretary, who, on the recommendation of the S.C.F., O.P.D., was appointed "accredited representative of the Hebrew Chaplain in A.I.F. Depots in U.K." (Auth: - D.A.G.; A.I.F.; 39/475.) bore the burden of making the necessary arrangements, with the assistance of a clerk from this office & the co-operation of Senior Chaplain Miles. Each individual Jew was communicated with & complete arrangements were made. Accommodation in London was provided, chiefly at the Jewish Naval & Military Club; Seder Services were arranged; & a large number of private homes were hospitably thrown open to our boys. Everything that the Australian Y.M.C.A. & its representatives could do to ensure these lads suitably spending the Passover season was done. I attach a copy of the letter sent out by Mr Boas, re: need at these HQs as</p> <p>This all meant a great amount of work as there were 175 men of the Jewish Faith in the Depots and 27 at these Headquarters. Though only despatched on April 9th, it may be more convenient to add here, that a letter has been sent to the next of kin of all the men who participated in the Passover leave & services. This letter indicated what had been done for these lads & may indirectly aid recruiting among the Jews in Australia.</p> <p>The copy of a card issued to all Jews in A.I.F. Depots, attached to this diary as</p> <p>The Senior Chaplain, O.P.D., may be pardoned adding that such service abundantly justifies the appointment of Mr Boas.</p>	Appendix III.
				Appendix IV

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A8004) Wt W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/14

J.P.D. Chaplain

WAR DIARY SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
or by AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Army Form C. 2118.

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March, 1918

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
France	March		<p>owing to the heavy fighting during the month & the consequent movements of units at the front it is not easy to write a full, detailed report of each chaplain's work. a fuller report of the work of chaplains at the front will be submitted in next month's diary.</p> <p>Chaplain G.T. Walden, M.A., (Ch of Christ), 13th Inf Bde (50th Bn). Services were conducted as occasion offered & caution work carried out as far as movement would allow.</p> <p>Chaplain J.P. Cutliss, (Ch of Christ) 3rd Pioneer Bn, was with the unit in rest area early in the month & subsequently served with the unit & as Divisional Burial Officer in the front area. In the former spots were arranged, shelter bearers were instructed & services held, in the latter individual work only was possible. McCutliss was appointed a temporary third class chaplain under the provisions of order 12677 on the 1st March.</p> <p>Rev. W.N. Gurney B.A. (Congl.) appointed temporary third class chaplain under A.I.F. order 12677 on 1st March. Served at A.S. B. D. until 26th March on which day he was transferred to England. During the month Parade & Voluntary Services were conducted, the distribution of comforts was carried on, nature study rambles were conducted on Sunday afternoons, & hospital work carried out.</p> <p>Chaplain P. Orames, (S. Army) 5th Pioneer Bn, was appointed temporary 3rd Class Chaplain on 1st March under the provisions of A.I.F. order 12677. Unit much on the move during the month, but services were conducted & caution & comfort work carried on as far as practicable.</p> <p>Rev. H.S. Perkins, (Congl.) 2nd Divl Troops (11th Batty, 4th A.F.A. Bde). Football & Cricket matches were arranged, a concert conducted & other sports managed. Excellent services were conducted & service rendered to other units. Heavy shelling was experienced during the month & an interesting Easter communion service was conducted in a dug out in the front line.</p> <p>Chaplain H.A. Drocker, M.A. (Ch of Christ), 3rd A.C.S., was truly engaged during the month in manifold services, helping in the operating theatre, administering anaesthetics, providing hot suppers, & carrying on individual work.</p>	

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O.P.D. Chaplain

WAR DIARY
or

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Army Form C. 2118.

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March 1918

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>France</u>	1-31		Chaplain R. C. Henry, (S. Army), 1st Division (4th Bn) was busily engaged during the month in conducting services on Sundays & week nights, providing entertainments, and managing coffee stall. Later in the month took his turn with other Brigade Chaplains in working at the Forward Dressing Station.	
	1-31		Rev. S. S. Dorman, (Baptist), 1st a.c.c., conducting services, etc, during the early days of the month & news was on leave in Paris & England.	
	1-31		Rev. F. V. Dowling, B.A. (Congl.), Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp, conducted services, distributed comforts, periodicals, etc. Troops are only in the Camp for a few hours or days, so that there can be no continuity of service with the same personnel.	
<u>EGYPT</u>	1-31		Rev. R. C. Turney (Congl.) moved from No 2, A.S.H. to the 3rd Light Horse Brigade on Mar. 13th & was attached to the 9th A.F.H. up to the 12th work was carried on as during the previous month. From the 13th Mr. Turney was engaged in getting to know the personnel in the Brigade, conducting 3 Parades & 7 Voluntary services, 5 Bible Classes & 3 Communion Services, visiting the Field Ambulance & Casualty Clearing Station.	
<u>UNITED KINGDOM</u>	1-31		Rev. H. A. Tyke (Baptist) No. 2. Command Depot, Yenne Citadel, reports good services in numbers & interest during the month, distribution of periodicals, circulation of Library Books, providing entertainments & visiting the sick in hospital.	
	1-31		Rev. J. Robertson, (Baptist) 1st Training Brigade, was especially busy with Football fixtures & other sports, conducting services on Sundays & week nights & arranging entertainments & providing reading matter for the men.	
	1-31		Chaplain A. E. Forbes, D.C.M. (C of Christ) No 3 Camp, Park House, conducted 11 services in all during the month, & entered heartily into the provision of entertainments, comforts & periodicals for the men in camp.	

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O.P.D. Chaplain
 March 1918
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WAR DIARY

or

by


INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.R.D.
 AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Army Form C. 2118.

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UNITED KINGDOM	1918	1-31	<p>Senior Chaplain the Rev. J. J. Miles, D.S.O., was engaged on administrative work. Among other things arranged for the relief of Chaplain B. Orames for return to Australia. Recommended that the Rev. W. H. Furnon be permitted to resign return to Australia on the arrival of his relief, the latter being catered for. Engaged on Durlough Hospital work on several days. Visited the Lewis Detention Barracks, particularly seeing O.P.D. + Jewish men, those who were sick + others undergoing special punishment. Hospitals visited included the 20th Southern General, Swinport Military, Ecker Military, Ecker War Hospital, County of Middlesex, Queens - Sidcup, Duchess of Connaught - Taplow, Shorncliffe Military, Dover Military; seeing a total of nearly 500 Australian patients. It should be understood that in most cases there are several sections of a hospital covering a foot deal of ground, e.g. there are 8 hospitals at Ecker the auxiliaries are found as far away as Torquay, where there are 2 hospitals under the Ecker War Hospital Command. Obviously this takes more time + travelling than a mere list of names + numbers would suggest. The expense + trouble are fully repaid by the gratitude + gladness of the patients, who are greatly delighted to meet a representative of the A.I.F. + to feel that they are not forgotten at H.Q. One is able also to help the men in many ways + to serve them in connection with the various departments other than the actual chaplaincy.</p>	
				

COPY

FJM/HIS

Appendix I

6
SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

A

1st March, 8

My Dear Mr. Freedman,

On the eve of your departure for Egypt and Palestine en route to Australia, I feel constrained to write you these lines of most hearty appreciation of the very fine service that you have rendered to the men of your own faith and order in the A.I.F. Your unremitting attention to their spiritual needs, your unflagging energy in visiting them, your care of detail and your personal regard for each individual, have endeared you to all the Jewish members of this Force. The letters you have written to the relatives of the boys, while they have no doubt been a heavy burden to you, have carried great blessing in their train.

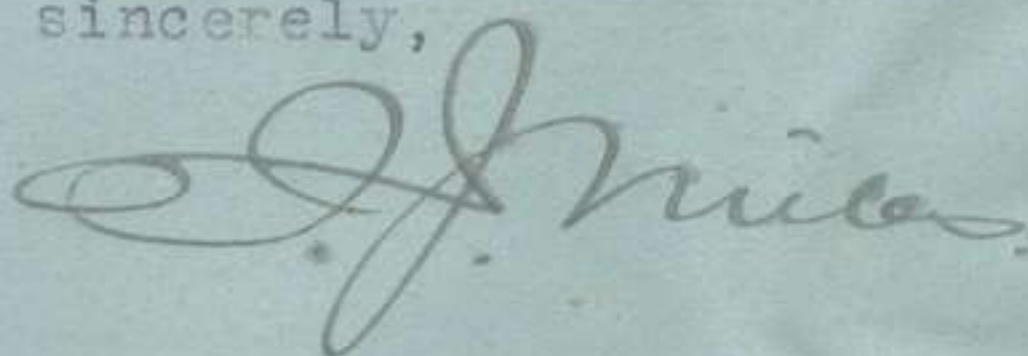
Your work has necessarily been more arduous than that of a Christian Chaplain residing with one unit because you have had to cover the whole of the five Divisions in the Field, with the Hospitals, Base Depots and Training Camps. The Americans have a quaint saying to the effect that "The man who spreads himself out too thin doesn't make much of a dent in any one place." This however, has been falsified in your case for, though you have had to spread your efforts over the whole Force, your impact has been deeply felt upon every unit and on each individual life.

I pray that journeying mercies may be granted unto you, that you may be greatly blessed in ministering to the men of your faith in Egypt and Palestine and that yours may be a very happy reunion indeed with your loved ones in the Sunny South land.

I count it one of the greatest privileges of this campaign to have been able to renew my old-time friendship and fellowship with you, and I trust that in God's good time and way, I may again be privileged to associate with you in His service in Australia.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,



Senior Chaplain (O.P.D.)
Administrative Headquarters,
A.I.F., LONDON.

Appendix III.

7

Name _____

Department Chaplaincy

Room No. _____

Copies 300

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.A.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Headquarters.
Aldwych Theatre
Drury Lane London.
Cables:
AUSTYMCA, London.
Telegrams AUSTYMCA.
ESTRAND. LONDON.

THE AUSTRALIAN Y.M.C.A.

WITH THE

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

Jewish Department.
HAROLD BOAS,
Jewish Representative,
A.I.F. Depots in U.K.
(Authority D.A.G. A.I.F. 39/475).

Headquarters:
Salisbury Plain Area
60, Catherine Street,
SALISBURY.
Telephone. 72
March 18th 1918.

Dear Comrade,

Re the forthcoming leave in connection with the Passover.

Leave has been granted for 8 days, as from and including Wednesday March 27th. Details of this leave will be published in Orders.

It is regretted that it is not possible that leave could be granted for the full period of the Passover, but you will I am sure, realise with me that the exigencies of the service these days should be our first consideration.

At this particular and critical period in the history of the present war, we must all realise that any leave whatever is a distinct privilege, and I feel sure that you will all be satisfied with the endeavour of the military authorities to consider the religious needs of the Jewish men of the forces.

It will not be necessary to apply personally for this leave, but all that you will be required to do is to apply for your pass during the 25th or 26th instant. In the event of any hitch in connection therewith I should be immediately informed at the above address, and necessary action will be taken.

During the leave I shall be stationed in London at the Head Quarters of the Australian Y.M.C.A. Aldwych Theatre, Drury Lane, where I will be pleased to welcome all Australian Jewish Troops, and render advice, guidance and assistance.

Arrangements are being made in London for extension of hospitality to any Jewish Troops who have no relations or friends with whom they could go during the Passover. I shall be glad to learn from you immediately if you desire me to find such accommodation for you.

I would particularly bring under your notice, the very excellent Club premises at your disposal in the Jewish Naval & Military Club, 113a Tottenham Court Road. Here, accommodation and Kosher food will be provided at exceptionally low prices, and services will be held on both the first and second nights Seder, when you are particularly requested to attend if you have no home or friends to go to. Please let me know if you wish to be present on these two occasions. I shall be in attendance, and will also be at this Club a good deal during the leave.

P. T. O.

Appendix III.

SENIOR CHIEF PLAIN, O.P.D.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

(Gerrard 1323)Administrativo
phones(" 1324)Headquarters
(" 2315 Aldwych Y.M.C.A. Theatre
(" (Theatre only).

Headquarters.
Aldwych Theatre
Drury Lane London.
Cables:
AUSTYMCA, London.
Telegrams AUSTYMCA.
ESTRAND. LONDON.

THE AUSTRALIAN Y.M.C.A.

WITH THE

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P. T. O.

The telephone number of the Club is Museum 1176, the telephone number of my Headquarters, London, is Gerrard 1323, and the telegraphic address of the latter will be "Boas, Austymca, London." My telegraphic address at the above address is "Boas, Austymca, Salisbury" and my telephone number is Salisbury 72.

Any information required regarding synagogue and services, I shall be most happy to give you on application.

In conclusion I desire to say that I feel a very high sense of satisfaction and appreciation at this further evidence of the thoughtful regard which has always been extended by those in authority for the religious requirements of the Jewish men in His Majesty's Forces, and I trust that you will assist me to reciprocate by shewing every consideration to the needs of the Army at this most critical period of its existence, by being perfectly satisfied with the concessions which have been granted you and a strict religious sense of the obligation which has been placed upon you to comply to the very letter of the passes which will be issued to you.

In this direction you have my fullest confidence.

As in the past, so I hope to continue always at your entire service.

With kindest regards.

Yours very cordially and fraternally,

HAROLD BOAS.

Jewish Representative.
Australian Y.M.C.A. Officer