

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

Chaplains

Item number: 6/4/7

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

April 1918



AWM4-6/4/7

O. R. D. Chaplain

WAR DIARY

By

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,

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.

APRIL, 1918.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Page 1.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>EGYPT</u>	1-30	April, 1918.	Rev R. C. Turner (Congl) 3rd L. H. Bgde (9th A. L. H. Regt). During the month Mr Turner got a good working knowledge of his new unit and was able to conduct thirteen services - parades, voluntary, communion & Bible Class. In addition services were conducted for the 4th L. H. Brigade during the absence of the padre. Considering that the Brigades were much on the move during the month this is an excellent record. Periodicals were distributed, a few books lent & ambulances & receiving stations were visited.	
<u>FRANCE</u>	1-30		Chaplain R. C. Henry (S. Army) 1st Division (4th Bn) found his ordinary work almost impossible owing to the hurried movements due to the big offensive during the month. A few services were held; hot coffee, etc, was provided at night & early morning wherever possible; help rendered at advanced dressing stations; & a great deal of personal work carried on.	
	1-30		Chaplain S. T. Walden, M.A. (Ch of Christ), 13th Bgde (50th Bn) had his work greatly hampered for above reasons, but he was able to do a great deal for individuals & was able in a much modified form to carry on his Brigade Canteen work.	
	1-30		Chaplain S. P. Cutties, (Ch of Christ) 3rd Pioneer Bn, spent nearly all the month in the line; was engaged as Divisional Burial Officer in selecting sites for & establishing cemeteries. His time was largely occupied with burials & much of the work was carried out under heavy shell fire. This work was also carried out in part for other Divisions operating in the same area. Correspondence as the result of this work has been exceptionally heavy. Services were not possible. The advanced dressing stations were visited & hot drinks supplied to the wounded.	
	1-30		Chaplain B. Oranles, (S Army) 5th Pioneer Bn, was greatly hampered in his work for the reasons already given above. He was also daily expecting to be relieved, yet he was enabled to render a full month's faithful service, chiefly along personal lines and in providing hot drinks for working parties & serving the interests of men wounded at the front.	

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WAR DIARY SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
or
AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY FORCE.
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE (Contd)	1-30		Rev. H. S. Perkins, (Congl.), 2nd Div. Troops (11th Battalion, 4th Bn. 4th Bde) found himself involved in hurried movements during the month. At an entraining station he managed a free cocoa stall which was most valuable to entraining troops, as a single man he felt more free to run risks & so was able to carry out a good deal of valuable work under fire in the front line. Communion services were held in dugouts. He was able also to minister to the 40th Battalion, & write over forty letters in connection with this extra ministry.	
	1-30		Rev. S. E. Dorman (Baptist) 1st A.C.C.S. Had three moves in a fortnight. Kept erect bunk & pitch camp. For six days & nights worked in the operating theatre, snatching only 8 hours sleep during the period; on one occasion dug graves himself. Worked as anaesthetist. 8 services were held during the month, with an additional Memorial Service on Anzac Day. In his report Mr Dorman pays a tribute to the Medical Officers this Coy & colleague. Copy attached <u>Appendix I.</u>	
	1-30		Chaplain H. A. Procter, M.A. (Ch of Christ) 3rd A.C.C.S. Found outlets for his engineering skill during the month; attending in every way possible to the social, spiritual & physical needs of the troops. A copy of his concise report is attached as <u>Appendix II.</u>	
	1-30		Chaplain A. E. Forbes R.C.M. (Ch of Christ) Left No 3 Camp, Park House, & commenced work at the A.I.D. France on the 3rd April. Worked in co-operation with other Free Church Chaplains. Three Church Parades, 5 Voluntary Services, & one Anzac Day Service were conducted. Assisted in providing & distributing comforts & blankets out going drafts & conducted short services for them, followed by celebration of holy communion. Thirteen visits were paid to the local hospitals & much other useful work carried out.	
	1-30		Rev. F. T. Bowring, B.A. (Congl) Australian Corps Reinforcement Camp. Work has been somewhat hampered during the period owing to the movements arising from the big offensive. Men were not in the Camp for long & therefore personnel was constantly changing, often within 24 hours. Services were held, comforts & literature distributed & much good work accomplished. Mr Bowring worked also at adjacent Casualty Clearing Station during April.	

O.P.D. Chaplain

WAR DIARY

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.

Army Form C. 2118.

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April 1918

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Page 3.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
UNITED KINGDOM	1-29		Rev. J. Robertson, (Baptist), Pioneer Training Bor., conducted four Church Parades with an attendance of 1200 + four Voluntary Services at which 800 men attended. 68 answers to letters of enquiry from men in the lines were written, 93 private interviews given; Church Association with 13 teams organised + managed; special Angas Day service conducted (Attendance 500); visits made to local hotels in Westminster in the interests of the troops. An unsavoury character was warned to leave the district by the Civil Authorities on the padre's invitation. He left the Camp for overseas on the 29th, being posted to the Aus. Convalescent Camp, Le Havre. Report attached Appen. II.	
	1-30		Rev. W. N. Funnison, B.A. (Cong.) was on leave on returning from France for the first 12 days. He then proceeded to No. 3 Camp, Parkhouse, to do duty until his relief arrives. He then proceeds to Australia for the termination of his appointment, his resignation having been accepted & return approved by the G.O.C. Two Church Parades were held each Sunday morning, voluntary services in the evening, + Mr. Funnison addressed the special Angas Day service. Nature rambles on the lines inaugurated at A.D.B.H. by Chaplains Fawcett + Funnison has been organised here on Sunday afternoons to the pleasure + profit of those fathering a son.	
	19th		"Sergeant" E. J. Harwood, Salvation Army Secretary, who has rendered magnificent Secretarial Service at Westham Camp, No. 2 Command Depot, was "attested" as a Chaplain vice "Drames" on the 19th + on the 29th proceeded overseas to relieve Chaplain B. Drames at the 5th Pioneer Battalion.	
	29th		Rev. H. A. Pyke (Baptist) No. 2 Command Depot (Venerable Citadel) saw several hundred men leave for Australia during the month. This is the first full month during which the new triplicate form drawn up by the Senior Chaplain, O.P.D., A.I.F., has been in use. It is now in use by all Free Church Chaplains who in any way serve troops proceeding to Australia. A record of each case is kept on the butt in the book; the second portion is sent direct to the minister nearest to whom the soldier expects to reside; while the third portion is given to the soldier to carry to the parson as an "Introduction". The form proved most acceptable to a great number of home going troops during the month. A copy is attached to this diary as an appendix + IV.	
	1-30		Church Parades + Voluntary Services were conducted + a special combined service arranged on Angas Day.	

O.P.D. Chaplain

WAR DIARY

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

Page 4.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
JEWISH PALESTINE	1918 April 1st to May 5th		Rev S. J. Freedman, B.A., Hebrew Chaplain, visited Camps & units in the Field in Egypt & Palestine during the month, reaching Monrovia Camp in readiness for embarkation to Australia on May 5th. A detailed report is not yet to hand, but much good was accomplished. Jewish records continue to be kept at the O.P.D. Senior Chaplain's Office as administrative. Hoops & many Jews were visited by him & by Rev L. Isaacs in hospital, etc. during the month. The work in A.I.F. Reports was carried on by the "accrued representative" Mr. Harold Roscoe. A copy of these reports for four months, with appendices, showing very fine work, is attached as Appendix V.	
UNITED KINGDOM	April 1-30		Rev F. J. Miles, D.S.O., Senior Chaplain, O.P.D., A.I.F., attended the usual conference of Senior Chaplains on April 2nd, when the work of the month was arranged in co-operation with his colleagues. The usual routine & administrative work was attended to, a tremendous correspondence conducted. The letters of enquiry from Australia are particularly heavy in this department owing largely to the miles having been with the Force from its birth in August 1914. Arrangements for the appointment of Mr. Harewood to relieve Chaplain B. Brames called for a good deal of time & attention during the month. Lewes Detention Barracks was visited & all special cases undergoing particular punishment, the sick, the O.P.D.'s (only 2) & Jews (1) visited. St. Dunstan's Hostel for the Blind was visited twice during the month. Our boys are doing splendidly there. Mr. Miles was chosen by his colleagues to deliver the address at the United Australian & New Zealand Anzac Day Memorial Service at the Carbal Hall. About 2,500 worshippers attended including the High Commissioners, etc. The service was arranged by the Senior Chaplains in consultation & in conference with & under instructions from the Commandant. The latter is greatly to be praised for the fine interest he takes in all that makes for the moral well-being of the troops; especially for the provision made by him on this & the previous Anzac Day. Special cases were visited at the 3rd A.A. Hptk early in the month. Other hospitals visited include Grayhewell War, Chickster (60 Australian patients seen); 5th Southern General - 12 Sections at Portsmouth, Earlsford & all of Wight (373); Royal Victoria, Welsh & Red Cross, Netley (150); Southampton University (12); Woking (19); 4th Canadian General, Basinstoke (8); Winchester Military (4); 1st New Zealand General, Broadhurst (2); Royal Victoria, Portsmouth, & Branches at Portsmouth - (194). Many administrative matters in other departments were arranged on return, resulting from enquiries & statements made by patients seen in every instance & these matters ended satisfactorily.	

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

April 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- | | |
|------|---|
| ✓ I. | Rev. E. S. Dormant's report. |
| II. | Chaplain H. A. Procter's — do. |
| III. | Rev. J. Robertson — do. |
| IV. | Copy of Triplicate Form used to ensure proper welcome to & assistance of troops returning to Australia. |

Chaplain's Report

March - April 1918.

Appendix I. April 1918 Report

Sirs.

BENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.

I. AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE

I must commence with an apology for the non arrival of my April report owing to the exigencies of the war.

During the month of March we carried on as usual until the 6th Sunday March 3rd.

7 a.m.	Communion	29.
6 p.m.	Gospel Service	84

On March 6th I went on special leave to Paris leaving Rev. Bro. Lead as Locum Tenens. Returned from Paris 15th found that the D.M.S. had requested all Officers to take English 14 days leave during the month. As movement order was through it was necessary for me to start off at once which I did. I spent 14 days in England & Scotland. Arrived back to the Unit on Apr. 2 to find camp struck & all on the move for Hondigen (our new position) arrived at. " & immediately threw myself into the work of re-creating the new camp.

7
Took charge of a fatigue party & began
erecting Messen Huts for hospital purpose
for a week. worked on when we began to
receive again. Immediately went into
the Op. Ward & assisted in the work.

As Medical Officers were short handed
& every man available for surgery addressing
I qualified as an anaesthetist & began
duty in the theatre. For 6 days & nights
I spent my time in the theatre & about the
wards. Working only 8 hours rest in 6
nights. Thoroughly renewed from my
leave. My health & strength stood the
strain. In the midst of our successes
came the order to evacuate & march
off to a new position.

By night 31. dead & had to dig the
graves myself with aid of a party.
Helped evacuate the wounded & then
marched off to B — 15 miles distance
We arrived at our new position thoroughly
weary & deprived of all our belongings
except the knifeto necessaries we
could carry.

After 2 hours sleep on the grass
I began work about the camp &
assisted to put our new canvas camp
in order.

3

When we began receiving again. I was placed on the Staff as a qualified anaesthetist when necessary spent 12 hours per day & often more in the Theatre. This does not interfere with my spiritual duties for, I am given added opportunities to get near much with the patients before the operation & also after the work is complete. My new work adds responsibility & lengthen the hours but enlarges the opportunity.

Services.

April 7.	Communion	9
	Gospel Service	23. (9 women)
" 14	Communion	4
	Gospel Service	16
" 21	Communion	8
	Gospel Service	27.
" 28.	Communion	11.
	Gospel Service	26.

April 25. Anzac Day we held a United Memorial Service at which I gave the Address.

Rev Mr. Griffith leading the service.

Have personal letters; distributed comforts
Acts as Red Cross & N.W.S. agent.
written 183 letters for patients.

Guarded 2 men.

During the two months under review I have again & again been placed under a deep debt of gratitude to Rev. Mr. Conyette & J. E. Pade for his willing help in locating my own patients & his brotherly concern at all times.

My health is splendid again & I face May with renewed strength & vigor.

Have captured 11 for Christ during April.

With warmest regards

Faithfully, yours

S. S. Norman

C.F. O.P.D. A.I.F.

As one would like to put on record the wonderful skill, the unwavering devotion & unflinching fidelity of the medical officer of the unit during a special season of stress & strain.

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN H.A. PROCTER M.A. FOR MARCH AND APRIL 1918

Appendix II to April report of SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.

On my return to my Unit after the expiration of Special Leave, I found that there were few casualties arriving at our C.C.S. Unfortunately this was not long to continue, for with the return of fine weather came increasing numbers of wounded men. The usual routine of work was carried out. I met the men as they came in, and supplied drinks to the thirsty, soup to the hungry, and cigarettes to those not too badly hurt. At times when the receiving tent was full, I found this was the best service I could render. It was neither the time nor place to speak on religious matters. I waited until they were ready to be operated on, and then while they waited for the operation, I occupied their attention with Spiritual matters, and endeavoured to allay any fear concerning the approaching operation. For all who desired, I wrote a letter to the home folk and I am sorry to say that frequently the messages I sent were the last words of brave men. I feel sure that this service, judging from letters received, was appreciated by the relatives at home. During these periods of stress when every man was busy I assisted the Doctors by holding down struggling men, or holding up limbs during an amputation. Later on I began to learn how to give anaesthetics because I felt that perhaps during a big rush, I might be able to release a doctor if I were a competent Anaesthetist.

Another thing I took upon myself was to arrange for a hot supper for the Operating Surgeons at 12 o'clock every night. I supervised the orderlies and saw that the Medical Officers had everything nice after a heavy night's work. Every day I made the usual tour of the Wards and endeavoured to brighten the lives of the wounded who were waiting to be sent down to the Base.

During the month of April we were subjected to shell fire and on suitable nights the German planes came over our lines. I am pleased to say that they did not drop any bombs on our camp but the shell fire was very unnerving, one 9.2 high velocity shell exploded within 20 yards of our mess tent and pieces were found in our enclosure. In a field quite close to use the shells were constantly falling. Evidently the Germans were searching for an Aerodrome and we were getting shelled by mistake. The noise of these explosions day after day produced rather bad effects on the patients, so after the German Northern Attacks it was decided that we should move back to ~~Esquelbasq~~. Of course I don't know what the reason really was but I surmise that the former location was getting rather too hot but whatever the underlying motive was, word was given and we commenced to pack up. Doctors, Padres, men all helped to move the camp. I made an apparatus for drawing the iron stakes in extra quick time and superintended its use. On the 16th April we moved out and again every man helped to set up the new camp. My job was to repair the steam cooker; being an old engineer I was able to put in a complete set of boiler tubes and the men soon were able to get hot food. In less than a week, our Casualty Clearing Station was ready to receive patients, but we had to wait another four days before they came to us. Then they came in a great rush. As many as Six hundred passed through in a day. But here again perfect organisation enabled everything to be done smoothly and well. At times I helped in the distribution of soup and drinks, at others I was Stretcher bearing, or assisting in the Operating Theatre. Sometimes I did not get to bed until 3 o'clock in the morning but as I thought of the greater sacrifices of the wounded, I was able to carry on with renewed vigour during these days of stress. Since our arrival at *here*

11.
~~Esquelbecq~~ we have not been able to hold our usual Sunday Services for the last two weeks. Up to this time I am pleased to report that the parade services, both voluntary and compulsory were splendidly attended. Our evening service attracted Officers and men and seemed to be appreciated. I am pleased to report that I have been able to organize a service of lectures on educational and social subjects. I gave the first lecture of "America" and we are waiting for a lull in the casualties for the others.

During March and April I officiated at ³¹funerals.

Henry A Procter

Chaplain

No. 3 Aust. Cas. Clg. Stn.

Report for Senior Chaplain F. J. Miles D.S.O.
for month of April 1918

During month I conducted 4 Church parades with an aggregate attendance of 1200. Four services at which the attendance was 800. Letters written 68 ~~to~~ all manner to men in the lines. Private interviews 93.

Having acted as chairman of Y M C A football League during the season I was appointed chairman of Y M C A Cricket Association. He constituted this latter — drew up rules & organised fixtures for 13 entering teams.

Assistance was given on Anzac Day with the sports at which I was timekeeper. On this morning a united parade was held at which there were 500 officers and men. Numerous decisions for Christ were made during the month. I paid 3 visits every week to hotels in the neighbourhood during the evenings when every hotel in Warminster was visited by me in the interests of the men.

On making representation to Civil Authority an undesirable character was warned & she left the district. At the service on Anzac Day I was detailed to give the address. On April 29 I left my work behind at the Pioneer Training Bat. and reported on Tuesday 30 April at A. G. B. D. France.

Signed Joshua Robertson

Chaplain O.P.D.
France

3.5.18

Appendix III - April Report of
SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

CHAPLAIN'S DEPT., A.I.F.

Date.....

(Regl. No.)

(Rank)

(Name).....

(Unit).....

Australian Address.....

Commended to the Rev.....

By

50Bks.3/18-10006

CHAPLAIN'S DEPARTMENT, A.I.F.

Date.....

The Rev.

I commend to your pastoral care (Regl.
No.).....(Rank).....

(Name) of (Unit)
..... who will probably shortly
proceed to Australia and whose Australian address
will probably be.....

While on active service with the A.I.F. he has been—

Baptised.....

A regular communicant

A regular attendant at:

Parade services.....

Voluntary services

Signed.....C.F.

CHAPLAIN'S DEPARTMENT, A.I.F.

Date.....

To (Regl. No.) (Rank)

(Name)

(Unit)

I have heartily commended you to the Rev....

of

on your return to Australia. Kindly hand this
"Introduction" to him. He will do anything within
his power to assist you in your settlement in the
Homeland.

Signed.....C.F.

Approved by
Aprie Brain
SENIOR CHAPLAIN O.P.D.
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL
A.I.F.

Telephones { GERRARD 1323 } ADMINISTRATIVE
" " 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
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.

The National Council,
Australian Y.M.C.A.
Elizabeth House,
Elizabeth Street,
Melbourne.

*Appendix V to
Monthly Diary
for April, 1918*
SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you report covering the operations of my department during the past four months.

During this period I have continued my concentrated attention to Salisbury Plain with a few visits to other areas including London and Weymouth.

I am able to say that the effectiveness of the department has grown increasingly, and I believe forms a very important factor in the life of the Australian Jewish troops stationed in England, so much so that the idea of my transfer to France has become a matter of the future. Although my personal desire is to effectively serve my men in France, yet I realise that to in any way reduce the amount of service rendered at this end would be a thousand pities, and I am prepared to continue here pending the developement of any movement which may compel a change.

Divine Services.

Three regular services are held weekly. One at Warminster at 2-30 on Saturday afternoons and two on Sunday mornings, at Durrington and Bulford, at which the Jewish Chaplain officiates.

Other services are held by him at regular intervals in other Camps, and I have attended Weymouth on several occasions and there held services for the men in the Convalescent Depot awaiting return to Australia.

These services are regularly announced in Orders through out all Commands concerned.

Passover.

During the period under review, the Festival of Passover occurred, and the Army Council issued an instruction granting Jewish troops in the United Kingdom leave from the 27th to the 31st March inclusive. I immediately placed myself in touch with the G.O.C. commanding A.I.F. in the United Kingdom, and was fortunately able to extend this to include the 1st April. The direction and control of the whole matter of granting this leave was again graciously left in my hands by Headquarters.

A special Nominal Roll was called for showing approximately 200 men affected by this order. I was able to secure certain privileges which made the leave easier for the men. Attached circular letter was sent to each man, and I personally met the great bulk of them prior to their departure and assisted them with advice and guidance respecting their leave.

I was also able, by means of a small private fund referred to elsewhere, to assist many men financially. I had made up my mind that no man should be denied his leave for want of his fare and accommodation whilst in London. I was able to, through the Jewish Naval and Military Club, find accommodation for a number of men in financial difficulties.

This Club proved a great boon to these men without relatives or friends in London; and the splendid services of Mr Mocatta, Chairman, and Mrs Brighton, Leader of the Lady Workers, is worthy of the sincerest thanks of Australian Jewry. Provision had been made for Seder services and meals on both nights. I personally was present the first night, and about 45 men sat down to Seder and supper.

A correspondent to the "Jewish Chronicle" refers to the occasion as follows:-

"Many a Jewish home in the provinces, colonies, and America will be gladdened when they learn from their soldier sons, and brothers of the Seder services they attended at the Jewish Naval & Military Association Hostel, 113a Tottenham Court Road,

for the large number of provincial and overseas men who participated in the ceremony, and the bountiful repast provided, will assuredly mention this in their letters. No gathering this Passover could have been more impressive than this party of khaki men from various parts of the globe. Most of the guests were accommodated throughout their short leave in homely fashion on the premises; but as the limited space did not permit of all sleeping at the club, arrangements were made for their comfort near by, whilst some of the Committee managed to obtain private hospitality for the some of the visitors. This is the third Pesach that has been celebrated at this hostel, and nothing could have been more completely satisfactory nor anything more fully appreciated. This must be of immense gratification to the Committee and helpers of the only Society working for the benefit of Jewish soldiers, while not forgetting the claims of their Christian comrades excepting at Festival periods."

During the whole of the leave I was in constant attendance, both at this Club and at my own Headquarters, where I was able to meet and assist a great number of men. I was able to direct and accompany them to synagogues and services. The whole 'stunt' worked smoothly and satisfactorily, and gave general satisfaction to all concerned.

These services were rendered equally to New Zealand troops.

I have every reason to be gratified at the result, and thankful to the military authorities for the consideration which was given to these special Jewish requirements particularly as the leave coincided with the German offensive in France.

ellowship Meetings.

These have been continued regularly on the following programme:-

Mondays	3 meetings, Longbridge Deverill, Sutton Veny, Heytesbury.
Tuesdays	Hurdnett.
Wednesdays	Codford.
Thursdays	2 meetings. Sling (M.I. Forces) & Parkhouse.
Friday.	Fovant.

These with the Saturday and Sunday services enable me to cover the whole Camps on the Plain having A.I.F. Forces, once a week.

The meetings are well attended, and a pleasant hour or two is spent, and in most cases refreshments provided. All are held in the Y.M.C.A. Huts and every facility is granted me for holding them in comfort. These meetings are fairly permanently fixed on the above basis, and most of the men know of the

times and places, and the variations caused by the frequent changes of Camps does not now affect these meetings as previously. It is quite a usual thing for new men in Camp to attend these meetings without being notified as they are now generally known over the whole area.

The value of these meetings is unboubted and form a special point of contact between me and the men.

Personal Service.

The close personal touch which enables me to act as Guide, Philosopher, and Friend to all the men with whom I come in contact, is the chief value of the service I render.

The need of the sympathetic touch is so great in these troops, that this department of my work is to me the most important and I create every opportunity of ~~the~~ seeing the men personally.

Hospitals and Casualties.

I still visit all Jewish men in Hospital in Camp, and write constantly to men in Hospital in other areas. I am advised each week from France of the Jewish Casualties and each week from the Jewish War Services of the arrivals in hospital in the United Kingdom.

I immediately communicate with the men concerned, and where necessary supply them with cigarettes and other comforts and with reading matter.

Hospitality.

I have been able to considerably extend my activities in this direction through the very generous financial assistance voluntarily given me by ~~my~~ good friends in Australia and England.

In appreciation of the efforts of the Australian Y.M.C.A. in the direction of my department, a few Australian Jewish residents in London subscribed the sum of £240:10:, mainly to

place a motor at my disposal to facilitate my work travelling over the very large area occupied by Australian troops. The following is a list of subscribers, and I cannot express my adequate thanks to Mr and Mrs Edward Michaelis and Mr and Mrs Louis Jacobs, all of St Kilda, for their generous and whole-hearted sympathy and assistance which they have rendered to me in connection with my work generally.

	£	s	d
Michael Mallenstein & Co.	50	-	0
Mr & Mrs Louis Jacobs.	50	-	0
Mrs Edward Michaelis.	25	-	0
Mr & Mrs B.D. Cohen.	20	-	0
Mr Woolf Harris.	15	-	0
Mr & Mrs Nevill B. Cohen.	10	-	10
Mrs Baruch.	10	-	10
Mr & Mrs J.D. Marks.	5	-	5
Mr A. Kaye.	5	-	5
Mr Moss Davis.	5	-	5
Mr Isaacs.	5	-	5
Mr Walter Gollin.	5	-	0
Mr Leslie Harris.	5	-	0
Lieutenant A.L. Michaelis.	5	-	0
Mr L.H. Nathan.	5	-	0
Mr G.R. Levy.	5	-	0
Mr H.D. Cohen.	3	-	3
Mr O. Levy.	3	-	0
Mrs Gerald Joseph.	2	-	2
Mrs B.W. Levy.	2	-	2
Mr Manney Jacobs.	1	-	1
Mr Percy Phillips.	1	-	1
A Friend.	1	-	1
	£240	-	10

Cheque for this amount paid to Headquarters. Amounts received other than above and retained by me:-

	£	s	d
Mrs P.H. Moses.	10	-	0
New Zealand Soldier.	10	-	0
Mrs Shunshine.	1	-	0
	£21	0	0

I have already spent over this amount £2-14-8 making £23-14-8 advanced in various directions.

A good deal of this money comes back and is sent out in other directions.

£200 of the above amount was paid to the Accountant towards the cost of a car and the balance remains as a Hospitality Fund for the purpose of assistance to distressed soldiers, hospital comforts, and assistance to impecunious men at times of High Festival leave.

Over and above this amount I have received £10: from friends in Australia, and have ^{been} ~~been~~ advised by Mrs P.H. Moses

of a further remittance of £23: which has come in from Sydney. I have also received £1: from an appreciative friend in London, and a cheque for £10: from a New Zealand soldier prior to his departure for France. ~~A copy of his covering letter is attached hereto.~~

These sums are all used for the purpose stated above.

Correspondence.

This department of my work has increased enormously, and the full time of one typist is occupied in this work. I am in constant communication with men throughout France and the United Kingdom, and I find that more particularly with these men in France it is a great source of comfort and pleasure to them.

I still continue the practice of writing to the relatives in Australia of all men whom I meet, and keep them advised from time to time of their mens' welfare. Apart from these letters I send a Post Card after every Fellowship Meeting to Australia, indicating that I have just seen their son, husband, brother or friend as the case may be. Sample of card attached hereto.

I also write letters of condolence to the relatives of those men who have died or been killed.

Enquiries.

I am constantly attending to enquiries from all quarters, Australian relatives, as well as men in France and England, respecting ~~innumerable~~ innumerable points of information.

These cover the interviewing of boys as^{to} why they have not written home, the whereabouts and condition of men in France and England, the ascertaining of the position and securing photographs of graves in France, the appeal for assistance of ~~men~~ mothers desiring to prevent hasty and ill-considered marriages, etc, etc.

This office has become a Central Bureau of general Jewish information and redirection office for correspondence and

(7)

parcels, and in fact now it has become quite a medium between Australian Jewry and the men, and between the men in England and in France.

When time allows, full statistics of this work will be compiled.

Statistics.

These are still being recorded, but no time has been left me for tabulation. Roughly there are always on the Plain comprising English and Colonial about one thousand Jewish men, and during the 12 months I have come into personal or indirect contact with approximately 1000 Australian Troops.

Information is being collected which will be of importance and value for compiling permanent records after the war.

Publication and printed matter.

Jewish publications are distributed freely amongst troops. These consist of, (1) An official Khaki Jewish Prayer Book, (2) Book of Jewish Thoughts, (3) Jewish Version of the Psalms, and (4) Paul Goodman's "History of the Jews".

I am also arranging at the present moment, to get a supply from the Chief Rabbi of Jewish Bibles for distribution.

The Prayer Book is produced by the Jewish War Services Committee under the authority from the War Office, and the other publications are produced by the Chief Rabbi. All are for free distribution, and during the period under review, I have distributed many hundreds; no man is left without.

"The Jewish Thoughts" is a magnificent production, and is in itself a Chaplaincy Department. I have found no better department of Jewish Service that tends to sustain and exhilarate the Jewish spirit and Pride of Faith and Race than this publication, and am sure it has been a source of moral comfort and strength to many thousands of Jewish troops.

These publications are produced by the Chief Rabbi from funds privately subscribed and in view of the fact that

Australian Jewish Troops have made full use of these, I submitted to my Executive a suggestion that they might consider the question of making a grant to the Chief Rabbi to enable him to continue the production of this excellent work, and they graciously responded by voting £150: for this purpose.

I attach also copies of other printed matter issued comprising:-
 Syllabus Card.
 Registration Card.
 Locality Card. (Jewish Naval & Military Club)
 Advice Cards. (1) from France. (2) from England.
 Divine Service and Fellowship Cards.

besides which, large quantities of general Y.M.C.A. printed matter and publications.

International Jewish Hospitality League.

I have felt for a considerable time that there was need of some London Central Bureau which would form a clearing house of all Jewish War Services, and which would specifically deal with the needs of Overseas Jewish troops whilst in London.

I have submitted a draft scheme of my proposal to an influential London Jewish Committee, and the proposal has been received with enthusiasm. It is the intention, if formed, to incorporate it into the International Hospitality League of the American, English, Australian, and New Zealand Y.M.C.As.

I have also submitted the tentative scheme to Mr Bavin, organising secretary of the above, and he has welcomed the idea. The operation is now in process of formation, and I hope to be able to report fully a little later as to its creation and effective operations.

I attach hereto draft of these proposed operations.

Major Freedman.

It is with extreme regret that I have to report the return to Australia of the Anzac Jewish Chaplain, Major the Reverend D.I. Freedman C.F. His work amongst the troops during the 2½ years on active service in Egypt, Gallipoli and France had been of such a character that he had endeared himself to all

Jewish members of the Forces, and indeed had become a tower of strength on their behalf with the Military authorities both here and in France.

The urgent call of his congregation however, was alone responsible for him relinquishing his task, which I know was a labour of love. He shirked no difficulty or danger to minister to the needs of his men, and he has left in their hearts an indelible love and affection, which has been to me an inspiration in the work that I have endeavoured to carry out in this sphere of operations.

He has returned to Australia via Egypt and Palestine, and has been granted the special privilege of visiting Jerusalem en route.

His successor, the Reverend J. Danglow of St Kilda is expected to arrive some time in May, and his advent is looked forward to by myself and the men with eagerness. The Jewish troops have indeed been fortunate in having had the services of two such men placed at their disposal.

I reported fully in December last on the special visit which Chaplain Freedman paid to the troops in the United Kingdom. He returned to France, but prior to his departure for Australia I was able to have him with me again on the Plain for a week-end visitation.

On Friday, February 15th we held a service at Parkhouse Camp in the Y.M.C.A. and on Saturday morning, service was held at Hurdcott, and Saturday afternoon at Sutton Veny. These were well attended, and at the conclusion of each service a very pleasant hour was spent with the men.

I visited London on two or three occasions during his stay there pending embarkation, and was able to discuss many aspects of our work to the mutual advantage of myself and the men. One result being the closer co-operation between my department here and the Senior Chaplain O.P.D. who is nominally

the head of the Jewish Chaplains' Department. Major Miles has been of considerable assistance and help to me in my official connection with the military machine. I have been able to secure through him, the assistance of Major Freedman's orderly, Private Laurie Isaacs, who, pending the arrival of the new Chaplain has been placed in charge of the Jewish Records at A.I.F. Administrative Headquarters, London. He pays frequent visits to me at Salisbury, and is of considerable help to me in my work.

On Major Freedman's departure from England, a farewell letter was written by him to the Jewish troops and copy of which is attached hereto. I am now in the midst of sending a copy of same to every man.

Before leaving, I was privileged to attend an official farewell gathering at the Chief Rabbis, and the Chaplains spoke very highly of Mr Freedman's work.

On the same evening a very pleasant function of a similar character was held in the Jewish Naval & Military Club, when the A.I.F. Jewish boys in London Headquarters attended supper to extend their good wishes to Mr Freedman. The Chief Rabbi and Mrs Hartz were present, Major and Mrs Lipson, Major & Mrs Schonfield, Captain Hirsch, Mr Mocatta, Mrs Brighton, Mr & Mrs Louis Jacobs, Mr Edward Michaelis, and several other visitors. A very happy gathering terminated in speeches of good will.

Chaplains' Department.

For many months I have endeavoured to obtain the appointment of a ~~full~~ resident Chaplain for Salisbury Plain, and am glad to be able to report that my efforts in this direction have met with success, and that this appointment has been made in the person of the Reverend Captain W. Goldston, who took up his duties here during February.

He is stationed in Salisbury, and I have been able to be of some assistance to him in his work amongst the troops.

This has relieved me of the care of the British troops on the Plain numbering about 700, and has also enabled me to hand over the conduct of services to Mr Goldston, as I feel that it is not my function to continue these whilst there is a qualified and official Chaplain within the district. In consequence I have been able to devote a great deal more time to the personal side of my work.

During this period also we have had several visits from the Senior Jewish Chaplain in the United Kingdom, Major the Revd S. Lipson. At his invitation I was able to attend an important conference of Jewish Chaplains, held at Birmingham on March 1st, attended by the Chaplains and officiating clergymen operating in the United Kingdom.

It was an inspiring and instructive conference presided over by the Senior Chaplain, and I considered it a distinct privilege to be present. All aspects of the Jewish Chaplains work amongst troops were discussed and papers were read dealing with:-

- (1) Religious work amongst troops.
- (2) Comforts and requirements.
- (3) Inter-relations of Chaplains.
- (4) "Moral Cowardice".

The full Press account of this conference is attached hereto.

Jewish War Services Committee.

I still co-operate fully with this Committee through the

Senior Chaplain, although my direct contact with them now is not so close^{as}, prior to the appointment of their own Chaplain in this area.

During this period Major Schonfield, the Officer in charge of Administration was transferred to control the London Depot of the Jewish Regiment, and Lieutenant Price has taken his place.

I have been in communication with Major Adler, Senior Jewish Chaplain in France on matters affecting the troops in France.

I am also in constant touch with Captain D.Hirsch who has temporarily taken on the control of Australian interests in France pending the arrival of the Reverend Mr Danglow.

Jewish Naval & Military Association.

This Club is gaining in popularity amongst Australian Troops, and is rendering splendid ~~xx~~ service within its limited capacity, particularly to Overseas Troops.

I have been able to do a fair amount of publicity work for it and have produced the attached locality card for circulation.

Special mention should be made of Mr Mocatta, Chairman and Mrs Brighton, Leader of the Lady Workers, for their whole hearted devotion to this particular Jewish service.

A.I.F.

I have received from every department kindly courtesy and consideration, which has enabled me to conduct my work with facility and ease, and has in consequence, been to the advantage of the men concerned.

I am keeping the Senior Chaplain O.P.D., Major Miles advised of my work, and use his office for a great deal of official correspondence work that is required.

Private L.Issacs who is attached thereto for Jewish Records is at my disposal as required.

Z.E.F.

The whole of my services are devoted to the members of the New Zealand Forces in the same way as they are applied to Australians, and I have received from New Zealand authorities and their Y.M.C.A. all the assistance and consideration that I should desire.

British National Council.

I have been able to receive continued sympathy and assistance from the B.N.C. and have had the whole of their organisation assisting me in every direction when I have desired their co-operation

General Y.M.C.A. Services.

In January last I felt that there was a call to give a hand in the enormous work which was being formed by the Association on Salisbury Plain.

I knew that the question of Man Power was an important factor in the developement of our work, and after mature consideration as to whether my offer would affect my particular departmental work, I submitted to London Headquarters the suggestion that I should be used for general services as well as specific Jewish work.

The London Executive excepted this offer and appointed me as Headquarters Secretary of the administration work on Salisbury Plain. ^{have} ~~the~~ position which I, since occupied. This has necessitated constant application, but I am glad to be able to report that it has in no way interfered with the effectiveness of my Jewish work.

I shall report separately respecting this new office.

Conclusion.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I beg to offer my gratitude and thanks for your continued confidence, and to extend to you my cordial and fraternal greetings.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

Harold Boas

Australian T.M.C.A. Officer,

PM/ABM

CONFERENCE AT BIRMINGHAM.

IMPORTANT ADDRESSES.

On the suggestion of the Rev. Vivian Simmons, C.F., and seconded and carried into effect by the Senior Chaplain for the Home Forces, the Rev. S. Lipson, a Conference was convened of all the clergy engaged in military work, who in this country alone number twenty-six. The meeting was held on Wednesday week at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, where, through the good offices of the Rev. A. Cohen, the visitors enjoyed the hospitality of the Congregation. The Rev. Walter Levin acted as Secretary to the Conference. Four short papers were read as bases of discussion, and every clergyman present took part in the discussion that ensued.

The following members were present:—

Rabbi B. I. Cohen, the Revs. S. Lipson, S.C.F., Home Forces, N. Goldston, C.F., M. Abrahams, S. Frampton, J. Phillips, A. Cohen, M. Wolfe, H. Jerevitch, H. Shandel, and D. Wasserzug, and Mr. Boas, Australian Y.M.C.A. Representative.

The Chief Rabbi sent a telegram in which he said:—

Be assured of my best wishes success of Conference. Under your energetic guidance it must lead to greater efficiency in the important national work which is performed by Chaplains and officiating clergymen. May God bless the labours of Conference and all the loyal labourers.

Letters were also received from the Revs. A. A. Green and E. F. Phillips, and Major Schonfield.

RELIGIOUS WORK AMONG THE TROOPS.

The proceedings were opened with a prayer spoken by the Rev. S. Lipson, and the Conference was addressed by the Rev. M. Abrahams, of Leeds. The Rev. S. FRAMPTON presided. He read a paper in which he dealt with the question of "Religious Work Among the Troops." The soldiers' services, he said, should partake as much as possible of the character of a home service. The lads they ministered to were extremely susceptible to home influences, and whatsoever reminded them of the old fire-side greatly appealed to them. Nothing gratified them more than the old traditional melodies, which awoke memories of their early family life; the Reader, therefore, could not chant too many of these inspiring hymns. Surrounded by so many influences which were calculated to make them forget their Jewish origin, it was necessary to keep alive in these lads their Jewish consciousness. For this purpose there was no better agent than their history—both Biblical and post-Biblical. A most anxious question was how to deal with the soldier when demobilised. He had no fear as to the moral effects of the war on the future.

In the discussion which followed, considerable attention was given to the question of compulsory as against voluntary attendance at the services, the general consensus of opinion being in favour of compulsory attendance in the interests of the soldiers themselves.

At this stage of the proceedings the Rev. S. LIPSON announced that, with the approval of the meeting, he proposed sending telegrams in answer to the greetings and friendly messages which he had received from the Chief Rabbi, the Senior Chaplain in France, and from the local Y.M.C.A.

COMFORTS AND REQUIREMENTS.

The Rev. A. COHEN dealt with the subject of "Comforts and Requirements of the Troops." Regarding the question of "Kashruth," an extremely vexed question in view of the large number of orthodox young men who had been conscripted, he was not sure that all had been done in this matter that was possible. He suggested that greater facilities should be obtained by the Jewish War Services Committee from the War Office for transfers to the "Judeans." In big Jewish centres such as Clipstone, Jewish huts might with advantage be erected. He recognised the danger of segregation, but that was a danger which with time and proper management would right itself. With regard to the literature that was being distributed, he was of opinion that though very valuable, it ran the risk of being too academic. What was required was some form of literature that would especially appeal to young men cut off from the main current of communal life. He, therefore, advocated the publication and distribution of a sheet containing the latest news as well as periodically a popular article. Such a sheet would be of the greatest service in keeping Jewish lads in touch with their people.

INTER-RELATIONS OF CHAPLAINS.

At this stage the Conference was interrupted for luncheon, when the members were introduced to the Warden and Treasurer of the Congregation, Messrs. I. L. Jacobs and A. A. Jacobs, to whom and to the Congregation suitable recognition was paid after the repast for their generous and characteristic hospitality. After the resumption of the Conference, the next subject was initiated by the Rev. V. Simmons, who spoke on "Officiating Clergymen and their Relations to the Troops and other Denominations." In respect of Hospital visiting, he advocated enlisting the services of local effort, such as the officers or N.C.O.'s stationed in the Camp. A union of such workers might eventually lead to the formation of what he would like to call a "Jewish Pals' Visiting League." He quite appreciated the value of the Jewish literature which had been published; but what was needed in addition were lectures and recreation providers. While the clergy were giving unstintingly of their time and effort for the welfare of the lads in camp, he felt that the parents of these lads were not doing as much as they might in support of the work. Their labours were greatly handicapped for want of money. With more

money they could carry out many schemes for the religious and material good of the soldiers which at present had to be left in abeyance. In some camps the Jewish units were so widely scattered that it was impossible to organise services without local aid. In these circumstances he had found the comradeship and goodfellowship of the Christian clergy of the utmost use. It was of paramount importance to cultivate the friendship of non-Jews, for only by a more intimate acquaintance could the false views entertained respecting Jews be removed. Addresses ought to be given to soldiers of all denominations. A lecture delivered in a breezy popular style to an audience of non-Jewish soldiers would do more to dispel prejudice than hundreds of protests and tons of leaflets.

"MORAL COWARDICE" AMONG JEWISH SOLDIERS.

The last paper was by the Rev. WALTER LEVIN, setting forth an officiating clergyman's experiences and the problems arising therefrom. He complained of the lack of support which he had received from Jewish officers, a want of communal spirit which was in most cases prompted by pure moral cowardice. To disguise his Judaism the Jewish officer frequently marched with his men to church, or where he did not do lip service to the church he declared himself a "Fire worshipper." Saturday services had proved unsuccessful, as they caused resentment among soldiers of other denominations who thought that the Jews were receiving more privileges than they. The services were unsuccessful, too, because the Jewish boys unfortunately often abused their privileges. The most important question which faced them was that of reconstruction after the war. There were many questions hitherto held sacrosanct which were now under suspicion. The ministry must take the initiative in heightening and deepening the Jewish spirit, in emphasising the things in religion that matter, even though some of their most deeply cherished beliefs had to suffer. The question they had to consider was, after the war, what would there be for Jewry? and what should we get from Jewry? The fate of Judaism in England was trembling in the balance. What was needed was a courageous statesmanship that would be directed by a higher conception of what Judaism meant to the world than had hitherto been the case.

The Rev. H. SHANDEL presented a report of his work since his appointment as an assistant chaplain in 1915.

The Rev. S. LIPSON summed up the labours of the Conference. He said that he would take note of the many useful suggestions that had been made. It would have been impossible for him to carry on his work without the help of his colleagues. He would endeavour to see that more literature in the shape of special leaflets and a regular journal were published, that a Special Committee on reconstruction after the war should be formed, and, if possible, insist that a Congress of the Jewries of the world be called to go into all the questions which must affect us as Jews after the war was over. This must be done at once. It was no use waiting till it was "too late." The question of the supply of special Jewish huts was a difficult one, and he quite understood the difficulties which were pointed out by the Rev. S. Frampton.

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FIRST DRAFT OF PROPOSED SCHEME FOR THE
FORMATION OF A JEWISH INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY LEAGUE
LONDON.

Proposed by
Mr Harold Boas,
Jewish Representative,
A.I.F. Depots in U.K.

CTS. *foim*
The proposal is to ~~establish~~ in London a committee for the purpose of establishing a Jewish centre of information, guidance, and assistance for all Jewish Troops in the U.K., setting out specifically to cater for the needs of those Troops visiting London, who have neither friends nor relations on whom to rely: more especially overseas Troops from America, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

The proposal will in no way overlap existing Jewish War Services, but it is desirable it shall form a "Clearing House" for these existing Services, and will act as a medium by, and through which soldiers will get into touch, and make use of these Services. It will act as Guide, Philosopher and Friend, will be entirely unofficial, and will deal with every aspect, private and official, of the Jewish soldiers life.

E. Although centered in London for essentially London work, its operations can extend throughout every Camp in the U.K. and to all the main provincial Cities, which are visited by Troops on leave, or which have large military hospitals. The attachment to these outside centres made by representation referred to later.

Its aim will be to foster and preserve the Jewish Spirit, by providing:-

- (1) SERVICE. A close personal, sympathetic, Jewish touch with individual men.
- (2) INFORMATION. Giving information relative to all Jewish concerns and interests in the U.K. Religious, Social, Industrial etc.
- (3) EDUCATION. By the dissemination of Jewish literature.

To provide a central Bureau in a prominent London thoroughfare, central to the gateway whereby most soldiers come to, and leave London, - (Waterloo) and that most frequently used by overseas Troops, - The Strand.

To collect and disseminate all forms of Jewish and general information.

To provide at the Bureau a rest, reading and writing room, and a social and intellextual centre, pervaded but not obtruded with a religious atmosphere and spirit.

To undertake and carry out guide parties to objects of special Jewish interest.

To provide reception of, and hospitality to Troops on leave in Jewish homes, particularly during the important Festivals.

To undertake the visiting of every Jewish man in Hospital, and the provision of comforts if necessary.

The dissemination throughout all Camps of Jewish literature.

The setting up of a correspondence with all Jewish Troops, and if possible the production and distribution of a Jewish Camp Journal.

The providing for and granting of practical assistance where necessary to distressed Jewish soldiers.

The securing of prominent Jewish Lecturers for the Centre and the Camps.

SONELL. The Committee controlling this scheme should be comprised of a small but enthusiastic body of ladies and gentlemen of not more than 12, six of whom should form an inner Executive, who should be prepared to devote all their time to the conduct of the concern.

It should have in co-operation with it, a large constituency of "60 Workers" prepared to:-

- (a) Undertake certain hours of duty at the Bureau.
- (b) To undertake hospital visitations.
- (c) To undertake leadership of guide parties.
- (d) General service and assistance.

These co-workers also to be organised in the Provinces for work:-

- (1) In Camps or Towns adjacent thereto.
- (2) In the main Cities of the Provinces.

AFF. The Bureau should start with at least, one Jewish lady typist.

One Jewish gentleman secretary.

Both voluntary, if possible.

And a Jewish soldier (discharged or disabled) orderly.

The old Australian Y.M.C.A. Head quarters in the Shand. at present their Store is now being prepared for the above purpose. It will shortly be opened as the Jewish Hospitality League Centre

J. J. Miles

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

25/18.

Australian Imperial Force,
FRANCE.

To my Comrades,

It has been my privilege on many fronts to perform the services of Jewish Chaplain to the members of the Australian Imperial Force, and now at the urgent request of my congregation I am returning to Australia.

I am being succeeded by the Reverend J. Danglow. M.A., of St. Kilda, who, I am sure, will receive a warm welcome from all the Troops. Pending his arrival, the duties in France will be taken over by the Revd. D. Hirsch, Jewish Chaplain to the British Forces.

In the United Kingdom, Mr. Harold Boas, the Jewish Representative of the Australian Y.M.C.A. will continue to be your guide and friend.

In bidding you farewell I am filled with a sense of gratitude at having been permitted to serve you. It has been from the first, a source of pride to me to be associated with you. You belong to the great Commonwealth which has taken its place by the side of the Mother Country and which is so heroically playing its part in the high and sacred cause of liberty and civilization. I have watched you closely and am proud of the way in which you have helped to uphold not only the fame of Australia, but also the good name of your own people.

I leave you with the most earnest prayers that very soon the peace which will make the Freedom of the World secure will be won, and that you may be permitted to return to your loved ones with the consciousness that you have each nobly striven to do your duty.

May the blessing of Heaven rest with you in all your undertakings. May God guard and keep you always.

(Signed) D.I. Freedman. C.F.

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

news
mess at
ad. H. G. G. +
mess from me
chaplain's keep
J.D.M.

Telephones { GERRARD 1323 } ADMINISTRATIVE
 " 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

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.

Dear Friend,

I thought that you would like to know that I have just seen or communicated with your son in Camp just prior to and during Passover leave.

We were fortunately able to secure for the Jewish boys six days leave for this occasion, and all the boys with the exception of three or four unfortunate cases who were in isolation for measles, were able to take advantage of same.

The attached circular letter was sent to each man, and I personally saw the great bulk of them prior to their departure, and assisted them with advice and guidance, and was also able fortunately to help many men financially to take advantage of the leave. This financial assistance came from a few very kind friends in Australia.

I had made up my mind that no man should be denied his leave for want of his fare and accommodation whilst in London, and I was able to do this through the medium of the Jewish Naval & Military Club. This Club proved a great boon to those men without relatives or friends in London, and the special thanks of Australian Jewry is due to Mr Mocatta, the President, and the Committee for their splendid services to all Overseas Troops.

Provision had been made for the Seder services and meals on both nights, and all meals during Passover period were strictly Kosher. I personally was present on the first night. A correspondent to the Jewish Chronicle refers to the occasion as follows:-

"Many a Jewish home in the provinces, colonies, and America will be gladdened when they learn from their soldier sons and brothers of the Seder services they attended at the Jewish Naval & Military Association Hostel, 113a, Tottenham Court Road, for the large number of provincial and overseas men who participated in the ceremony, and the bountiful repast provided, will assuredly mention this in their letters. No gathering this Passover could have been more impressive than this party of khaki men from various parts of the globe. Most of the guests were accommodated throughout their short leave in homely fashion on the premises, but as the limited space did not permit of all sleeping at the Club, arrangements were made for their comfort near by, whilst some of the Committee managed to obtain private hospitality for some of the visitors"

During the whole of the leave I was in constant attendance, both at this club, and at my own Headquarters, where I was able to meet and assist a great number of the men. I was able to direct and accompany ~~xxxxx~~ them to Synagogues and Services. The whole "stunt" worked smoothly and satisfactorily, and gave general satisfaction to all concerned

I have every reason to be gratified at the result, and thankful to the Military Authorities for the consideration which was given to these special Jewish requirements, particularly as the leave coincided with the great German offensive in France. Assuring you of my continued interest in the welfare of your boys.

From March 24th 1918.
Jewish Representative, A.I.F. Depots in the U.K.

To
Commanding Officer,
Australian Provost Corps, Bhurtpore, Tidworth.

Sir,

Granting of leave to Officers and Men of the Jewish Faith
to attend Festivals of Passover.
(Reference Routine Orders 4086a of 18/3/18, 4110a of
20/3/18 and Routine Orders of this date.)

I submit herewith in conformity with these Orders, the Nominal Roll of Officers and Men of the Jewish Faith under your command who are entitled to above leave; i.e. from 8 a.m. March 27th to 12 midnight April 1st.

The following is a copy of the Order reference to these Nominal Rolls:-

1. Leave to be granted in accordance with above Orders to all Officers and Men of the Jewish Faith.
2. Commanding Officers will be advised on Monday, March 25th of all Officers and Men under their command who are entitled to this leave.
3. Individual applications for this leave will not be necessary, but special leave passes to be granted in accordance with above list.
4. Any applications received from Officers and Men other than in the lists above referred to are to be submitted for approval of Mr Harold Boas, Australian Y.M.C.A. Officer, 60 Catherine St, Salisbury Telephone 72, and leave shall be granted in accordance with his recommendation.
5. Usual Concession Warrants to be granted in all cases.
6. In all cases, matters for decision respecting this leave should be referred to Mr Boas.

In view of changes which may have occurred in the personell of your Camp since these Nominal Rolls were secured, I should be glad if you would advise me of any cases where men are entitled to this leave but whose names are not contained on the attached Roll.

In view of the importance of the men reaching their destinations at 6 p.m. at the latest, I should be grateful if every facility could be given to enable them to secure passes in good time to enable them to leave Camp at the earliest possible moment.

Your sympathetic consideration will be highly esteemed.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Faithfully yours,

Australian Y.M.C.A. Officer.

Dear Comrade.

I am enclosing a little card containing general information about Y.M.C.A. services to Troops when in London, and also some information regarding my own particular Jewish Department which I trust you will be able to keep on you and use to your advantage as occasion arises.

I send it to you with this letter conveying my best wishes for you in this New Year. with the deepest wish that our best hope will be fulfilled in that this War shall have ceased ere we reach another year, and that we all may be able to proceed to our homes in dear old sunny Australia.

I want you to realise that this particular Jewish department is a creation of the Australian Y.M.C.A., and that my services and the organisation of the whole movement, is at your disposal in any shape or form in which true Service can be rendered to you in any field in which you may be operating.

As you know I am confining my operations to the United Kingdom, but even whilst you may be in France you may through the Australian Y.M.C.A. or direct seek my advice and assistance.

You will also find in France our Anzac Chaplain who will at all times be prepared to do anything within his power to assist and help you. To facilitate this work it is necessary to have as complete and up-to-date a record as possible, and I shall always be glad to receive from you any information regarding your movements, whether on the Field, in Hospital or in Camp. By this means I can keep in close touch with you, and it not only may prove of service to you but is often useful information for relatives and friends who are daily seeking information regarding men in the Forces.

I have hopes that the statistics I am now collecting will be the means of establishing a record of Australian Jewish War Services of which we shall all as Jews be proud.

I would therefore ask you to fill in a Registration Card if enclosed and return it to me, and I shall be glad also if you can advise me of any distinctions or promotions which may have come your way, and I am anxious to collect the photo of every man in the A.I.F., so if you have one to spare you might let me have it. I intend to have these published at a latter date book form together with a biographical sketch of each man's work and record of all other Jewish services.

I am enclosing the copy of a letter sent by our Anzac Jewish Chaplain to my own Headquarters which will give you an idea of the extent to which the Australian Y.M.C.A. is prepared to assist you.

I trust that you will make full use of the services at your disposal
With best of good wishes,

Yours very cordially,