

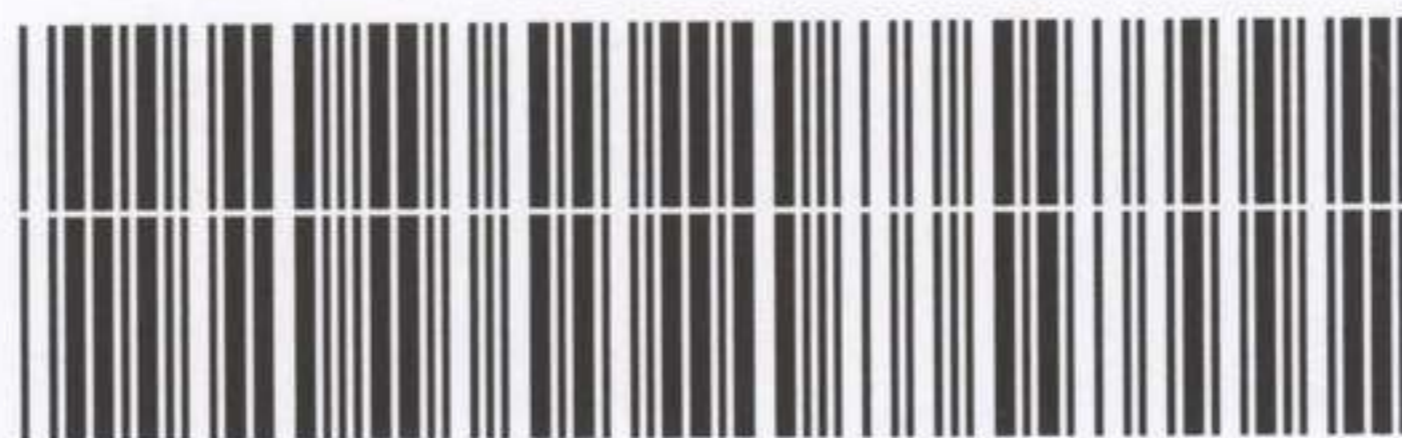
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Chaplains

Item number: 6/4/8

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

May 1918



AWM4-6/4/8

O.P.D. Chaplains
 MAY, 1918
 Page 1.

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

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>EGYPT</u>	May, 1918 1-30		<p>Rev R.C. Turner (Cong), (3rd Lt. H. Bogue - 9th A.L. H. Regt) accompanied his unit while engaged on forward operations, the "shut" entry on May 4th. The work was strenuous & the Brigade somewhat scattered, making the notification & conduct of burial especially difficult on returning to the Jordan Valley the Brigade was allotted to scattered defensive positions where their activities were so strenuous that no Parade Services were held until the last Sunday in the month. Heat intense: flies, etc, very troublesome. Visitation regularly carried on & literature distributed to men in the line. Comforts also carried to them. While the report lacks statistical & spectacular details there is indication that beneath modesty of expression one may read of much work in the way of personal contact & communion with the men, often at personal risk.</p> <p>Rev D.J. Freedman B.A. (Hebrew) completed his itinerary of visitation of all troops of the Jewish Faith in Egypt & Palestine - to which he was sent on 6/3/18 - and marched into Moascar Camp on the 5th May, serving the troops at Camp & the Hospitals at Imaileya until 19th May when he embarked for Australia for the termination there of his appointment. Copy of letter of thanks for his excellent services was attached to the March Diary as Appendix I. Mr. Freedman's visit has been greatly appreciated. Any Jewish Chaplain returning to Australia should be sent in the same way.</p>	
<u>FRANCE</u>			<p>Chaplain R.C. Henry (Catholic Army) (1st Brigade - 4th Battalion) had many changes during the month. While in the trenches Mr Henry rode back several times to the Casualty Clearing Stations in order to visit the wounded. The Advanced Dressing Stations were regularly visited. Comforts & literature were distributed. Late in the month the Brigade was given a brief respite - Mr Henry arranged & conducted a Brigade Church Parade. Sports & Concerts were held & the next period improved.</p>	

O.P.D. Chaplain

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	1-30	1918	<p>Chaplain G.T. Walden, M.A. (Church of Christ) - (13th Brigade - 50th Battalion) states that the Superintendent of the American Y.M.C.A. & a Committee member of the Army & Navy Leisur Club in Paris both told him that Australians on leave were the "best gentlemen" that visited them. This happened when Mr Walden was in Paris purchasing stores for the Brigade Canteens. Services had been interfered with during recent operations but a few men have been gathered from time to time for a brief service. Such short seasons of communion are very helpful. A number of communion services were held. Bibles & German Lieutenant brought down by our Flying Corps. Comfort papers & Testaments were distributed. During three months ending May the canteens managed by this chaplain sold 218,660 Francs worth of goods & during one short interval out of twelve furnished prizes for sports valued at £1500.</p>	
Continued	1-30		<p>Chaplain G.P. Cuttiss, (Church of Christ) - (3rd Pioneer Bn). Except for three days the whole month was spent in the Forward Area. Several new cemeteries were opened & all within the area were controlled. All burials were managed by this chaplain, the others & graves in the area having been passed. Mr Cuttiss was lightly gassed but was able to carry on. No Church Parades or services have been held but much personal work has been carried on. It seems strange that while several of this Officer's assistants have received decorations, mainly on his recommendations, no recognition of his work as D.P.O. has yet been made. I attach copy of one of his D.P.O. reports to Div. as Appendix I.</p>	Appendix I.
	1-30		<p>Chaplain E.T. Harewood (Salv. Army) (5th Pioneer Battalion) was instructed during the early part of the month by Chaplain B. Orames, whom he was relieving, to attach this papers first report as it serves to point the lesson that wherever possible a Chaplain should stay with his unit for at least a week after the arrival of his relief in order to help him. Such a month's work would have been quite impossible to Harewood except on the basis of Orames' experience.</p>	Appendix II.

O.P.D. Chaplain's
 May 1918
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FRANCE (Contd)	1-3		Rev H. S. Perkins, (Coyl) - (20th Div. Troops - 11th Battery, A.T.A) farewelled, as his return to Australia for termination of his appointment has been approved by the G.O.C. AIF.	
	1-30		Rev. S. E. Dorman (Baptist) - (1st A.C.C.S.) sent his usual fully detailed report, revealing his common routine of service for his own & surrounding units. It cannot be fairly summarized so I appended it. Mr Dorman is due to go on to a fighting unit but I hesitate to mark him as he is doing rendering such splendid service & the whole staff of the 1st A.C.C.S. plead for him to remain. Report attached as	appendix M.
	1-30		Chaplain H. A. Procter, B.A. (Church of Christ) - (2nd A.C.C.S.) has had a quiet month. Many American wounded had passed through the Station, which has been the clearing centre for the Second Army, & these had been made to feel that Australians welcomed them to the fray. The usual routine of visitation, letter writing, paper & comfort provision, had been followed. Concerts, sports & inter-unit cricket matches were arranged. Mr Procter's inventive genius & desire to help has again found an outlet. Major Lockwood, D.S.O. M.C., recently exhibited at a Parisian Congress of Army Surgeons a Retractor for use in severe chest cases which obviates the necessity of cutting one or more ribs. This instrument was designed & made by Mr Procter.	
	1-30		Chaplain A. E. Forbes, D.C.M., (Church of Christ) - (A.I.B.D.) was waiting at Harve in readiness to proceed up the line. Put in a full month's work in cooperation with the Rev. J. G. Gault. Service conducted. Farewell meetings held for troops going to the front & comforts distributed. Hospitals visited in conjunction with other padres at this base.	
	1-30		Rev. F. V. Dowling, B.A. (Coyl) - (Ans. Corps. Reinforcement Camp) conducted the usual routine of services, work in cooperation with the ans. Y.M.C.A. in conjunction with the other padres. As the personnel passing thro' this camp only stays a few hours the padre's work is very difficult to perform & even more so to tabulate.	er

opp Chaplain
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE (Cont ^d)	1-30	May 1918	<p>Rev. J. Robertson, (Baptist) - (Aus. Convalescent Camp, La Havre) - reports 1902 in attendance at Voluntary Services during the month. A Fellowship Class is held every evening except Sunday & Wednesday, when Mr Robertson alternates with the Padre at the A.G.P.D. attendance - 318. Four Church parades conducted - aggregate attendance - 1453. The men stay in this camp for 6 weeks or more. The Padre encourages personal visits. Over 200 men visited his quarters during the month. Mr Robertson shares with Mr Faull the Nature Rambles previously described in monthly diaries. 700 men accompanied the Padre on one day during May. Twenty-three visits were paid to the Observation Hospital. 160 men took part in a Luchre Tournament arranged by the Chaplain. Henry a great sport he is the right man for this depot work & has fully justified the departure made by posting him there. Copy of this report is attached as Appendix IV.</p>	
UNITED KINGDOM	1-30		<p>Rev. W. N. Gussow, (Congl) - (No 3 Camp, Parkhouse) - conducted Parate Services every Sunday morning, Voluntary Services on Sunday afternoons & evenings, with very satisfactory attendances. Sports were arranged & successfully carried through for the Convalescent Depot. Mr Gussow, while awaiting transport to Australia, is conducting at this Camp the informal walks & talks on the lines of those that Padre Faull & he conducted at the A.I.B.D.</p>	
	16-30		<p>Chaplain B. Orames (Sabr. Army) reported from France after handing over to Mr Harewood, on the 16th, & was from fourteen days leave of absence.</p>	
	4-30		<p>Rev. H. S. Perkins (Congl) reported from France on the 4th, was from fourteen days leave, & marched into No 2 Command Depot for duty there until posted to a transport for Australia on the 20th, & served in co-operation with Mr Pyke until the end of the month.</p>	

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O.P.D. Chaplain

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
UNITED KINGDOM (Contd)	1-30	May 19/18	<p>Rev H.A. Ryne (Baptist) No 2 Command Depot - Vane Citadel. Number of troops in camp reduced but the usual routine work followed. A great number of forms for new going to Australia (Appendix IV - April, 1918, Diary) were issued during the month. The home going troops seem to greatly appreciate this new provision.</p>	
	14th		<p>The Rev P.C. Wieland (Congl) a "Voyage Only" Chaplain who was granted his discharge in this country was on this date granted permission to wear his Chaplain's Uniform in order to facilitate his voluntary labour in visiting Auss^o patients in the hospitals in the Midlands & the North. The A.I.F. incurs no expense in connection with this arrangement.</p>	
	1-30	May 18/18	<p>Rev F. J. Miles, D.S.O.; S.C.F.; O.P.D.; A.I.F. was engaged in routine administrative work during the month. Lewis Detention Barracks visited. Address delivered to all troops. Special cases seen in private room. All undergoing special punishment or sick personally visited. Lectured to YMCA at the Little Theatre on the 6th & represented Australia at F.C. Council, Annual Assembly on the 7th.</p>	
	1-30	6th	<p>Visited the chaplains at No 2 Command Depot & found everything satisfactory. Paid two visits to St Dunstan's Hostel for the Blind, seeing about 30 Australian patients. Arranged visitation of Jewish wounded in London hospitals. Attended to sundry matters in connection with the Hospitalities & Furlough Department. Hospitals visited during the month included 2nd Northern Genl Leeds; East Leeds War; 1st Northern Genl Newcastle; Northumberland War; Sunderland War; Burnaby; Keighley; Catterick; Huddersfield War; 2nd Northern Genl; Scarborough; Carrington War; Nottingham; 5th Northern Genl Leicester; Bethnal Genl; Shaftesbury; Carrington War; Nottingham; 5th Northern Genl Leicester; Bethnal Genl; Green Military; City of London Military; Clapton; Edmonton General; Mile End Military; Hampstead Military; Flying Officers Hptly; and all the Auxiliaries of these hospitals in which there were Australian patients - 560 for the month. In addition personal visits were made by Mr Miles or he sent other chaplains to several wounded men on the D.D. or S.D. lists at various hospitals</p>	
			<p style="text-align: right;">F. J. Miles.</p>	

D. A. A. G.,

3RD AUST. DIVISION.

Reporting that a general reconnaissance of ground in the vicinity of Sheet 62d - 0.26 - 27 - 28 - 32 - 33 - 34 was made by me; also superficial inspection of VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

I found that Cemetery given as near VILLERS BRETONNEUX - Sheet 62d - 0.28.c.6.7 is not suitable as a Burials Plot. It is situated in a depression and the graves are sunk into the side thereof. I have decided, therefore, to establish a cemetery about 200 yards EAST of hollow. There are about two graves at that place. Scattered over the area referred to above, there are a large number of isolated graves, many of which are not marked in any way; others are marked by sticks to which are attached identity discs. Many bodies are barely covered; this obtains, especially along the foot of the railway embankment.

I have no knowledge of the conditions under which these burials were carried out, but it would appear that no systematic effort was made to centralise burials. A more unsatisfactory state of affairs would be difficult to imagine.

In some of the cellars in VILLERS BRETONNEUX, enemy dead are practically nude, and in an advanced stage of decomposition. These will be disposed of as early as possible.

May I point out that the constant change in the personnel of the Burials Section makes my work very difficult. I do not wonder that men prefer to be in the trenches, rather than be engaged in the work of Burials, which, under existing conditions, is the least to be desired of all Military Service. It is essential for health, morale and sentimental reasons that more regard be given to carrying out of all burials under active service conditions.

G. W. Peat
3RD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION, A. I. F. D.E.O.,

F I E L D,

24/5/1918. O.

*Appendix I to
May, 1918, War Diary 9*

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

7

To The
Senior Chaplain (Major F. Miles D.S.O.) O.P.D.
A.I.F. Administrative H.Q.

London *Appendix II*

May 1918, handwriting of SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
Monthly Report for May from AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.
Chap. Capt. R. J. Harwood 5th Division 10th. Brigade

1. Church Services and Voluntary Services.

While at Le Havre during the first week of the month I conducted several voluntary services in the Salvation Army "Flannel Book" Hut there. Fifty men were present on each occasion, they listened well and took keen interest.

While at the Reinforcement Wing I had the pleasure of conducting an O.P.D. Church Parade attended by 20 Officers and 300 other ranks A.I.F. and 8 Officers and about 200 other ranks B.E.F. Excellent service. So far since joining this unit I have not been able to have Church Services as we are in the fighting zone and the Chaplains are kept up on important work.

A week ago I commenced "Family Services" in

✓ I ~~could~~ my ~~chugout~~ at 9pm. for ~~the~~ men attached to H.P. Details. Six attend and deeply appreciate the Scripture Reading, and opportunity of praying together. I find the complete prayer exercise most helpful.

2. Canteen Work.

This is entirely managed by an officer appointed by the C.O.

3. Amusement & Recreation.

As former impossible, Companies scattered.

4. Work in cooperation with Y.M.C.A. etc.

Last Sunday night by invitation I attended and addressed a gathering arranged by the Y.M.C.A. in a covered-in courtyard at the rear of the premises they were using in Daour. The crowd present, singing excellent. Address on "The amazing Grace of Christ" listened to very well. I did enjoy the service and it was easy to speak to such an audience. About 2 AM. next morning a shell struck the corner of the courtyard and it is "no-go" any more service there.

5. Distribution of Literature

Unfortunately I find literature absolutely

2/5 improvable. News of any organization that would send me a quantity regularly would be very welcome.

6. Visits to Battalion companies.

I am making this one of the main features of my work. I spend the main portion of my day with one or other of the four companies. As you know the Germans are generally well scattered. At present one company is 4 miles from H.Q. and within a mile of the front line, another is 2 miles away along the Somme scattered in little parties guarding bridges; another company is doing certain work just outside Villers-Bretonneux. The third is in the day time on a small ridge sheltered from observation. The fourth is in dug in near H.Q. and is on varied work. This means considerable pushing about on foot and on the cycle to spend each day with a company in turn. However I am abundantly repaid for my labours - the expressed appreciation of the men.

Unfortunately it means the constant wearing of my steel helmet, which is not a comfortable nor light form of headgear. Anywhere in

4/ This area shells and bombs are the order of the day and night. A few days ago an aerial torpedo made a tremendous hole 60 yds from my dugout. Shells have been very close when visiting the men also.

7 Hospital Visitation.

None to do.

8 Burials.

Deeply regret to report that at 10 P.M. on the 20th I had the sad duty of burying 3 of my boys in the Ambiguous Cemetery 3 miles behind the line. Killed at 2 A.M. same morning by a shell. Crosses erected few days later.

I find the work very strenuous, but am very happy in the opportunities presented for real Christian service to our wounded men.

Yours for Christ & Duty.

Amos J. Harwood

Gadre.

Chaplain's Report

May

Sydney E. Dorman
O.P.D.

Appendix II to
War diary for
Iris. May, 1918, of

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

During the month of May our
C.I.S. has devoted most of its energy
to consolidating its present position.
Fortunately our receptions have been
reduced to the minimum & everybody
has experienced a time of rest &
comparative quiet; this has enabled
me to organise more thoroughly for the
coming days of strenuous service.
Services.

The morning Communion service
has proved a time of spiritual uplift
& we have had the joy of a steady
growth in numbers.

May. 5th (16) 12th (19) 19th (20)
" 26th (24)

Sisters, officers & men have made a
new dedication of themselves.

Of the 24 last Sunday 9 were
converts & restorations for the month
V. P. patients & attached men were

2/
reached + are included among the converts.

The Evening Service has grown in leaps + bounds as many men on camp leave have returned or remained on camp in order to be present.

May 5	37.
12	41
19	54
26	60.

The 60 include practically every available O.P.R. sister + other patients in the unit. Ward. Duties.

Three times daily I have visited the wards + remained in close touch with the patients. 7 of whom were led to Christ. No deaths have taken place among my patients.

Magazines, papers + libraries have been collected (wangled) + kept in daily circulation.

The O. Co has given me a Swiss cottage (tent) for a church tent + daily reading, writing + music have been regularly available to the men.

My library now consists of 400 portable books with 71 regular readers.

3
 Have reorganised the branch of N.M.C.A.
 & personally attended to all duties which
 has included the equipping of the unit
 with cricket materials, also equipping
 combatant units resting within easy
 distance.

Have visited the "Arches" &
 search light positions around & got into
 personal touch with the men there
 arranging services where practicable
 & organise including odd men to
 attend our Services at the C.C.S.
 Have passed letters in hand with the
 other P.O.s. Two of whom were removed
 to other spheres during the month.

Have organised, equipped & arranged
 for Tennis during the month & obtained
 leave to use a splendid court nearby.
 Discovered, visited & dispersed communion
 to a civilian family of Protestants in
 the village. The only communion they have
 had during 20 years. & yet they are
 genuine Protestants daily witnessing
 in the midst of Catholicism.

A huge correspondence has been
 maintained to England to relatives of
 patients; to Australia & elsewhere
 254 letters for patients & in answer to

4
 vacancies re sick & deceased men
 have lifted some of the burden
 from the shoulders of a sick mess
 secretary by attending to his duties
 for the month.

Am thankful to report good health
 although much disturbed & broken
 sleep on account of raids.
 Had the misfortune to dislocate a
 finger of my left hand but hope
 to discard the splint in about a
 week. After a year on active
 service I would like to emphasize
 to the home authorities the necessity
 of selecting strong, robust, adaptable
 young men for future vacancies
 This life is a continuous strain &
 a constant source of surprise which
 means rapid adjustment.

A ladie needs to be young
 say not over 30, evangelistic;
 adept at personal dealing & a manly
 straight fellow. All the failures I have
 noted have been, ecclesiastic, pedants
 and unevangelical.

Have been associated with 4 different
 R.C. & 3 different Regt. Chaplains

5
 since Nov. 1917. Do feel somewhat competent
 to offer an opinion.

My affectionate sympathy goes out to
 your Major who ruled in the sad loss
 of their boy Grant. To know him was
 to love him & even here one has
 heart expressions of his sterling worth.

We face June full of great hope
 along with greater victories & more
 spiritual growth.

With warmest regards

I am
 Sincerely yours

S. E. Gorman

Report for Senior Chaplain O.P.D.
for May from J Robertson. 7.6.18

Appendix IV

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

May 18. War I reported at Australian Convalescent Dept
on or about May 3rd and the following is a report of work
done till 31.5.17.

Voluntary Services conducted by me on Wednesday & Sunday
evenings of with total attendance of 1902. - Yellow ship class
which is held each evening except Sunday & Wednesday which
take alternately with padre from A.G.B.D. numbered 13 with total
attendance of 318. Church parades each Sunday & held with
total attendance of 1453. Thus the month's totals in this way
24 services with aggregate attendance of 3673. Numerous
decisions have been recorded - one Sunday night there were 8.

I encourage the men to visit me privately for advice &
in one morning alone I had 20 such calls & the total for the
month was over 200 private visits for various reasons.

In conjunction with Padre Gault of A.G.B.D. I arrange
visits to woods &c on Sunday afternoons & on week days. One day
there were 700 men at one of these outings. Mother's Day was made
specialty of & 300 men visited the wood & some wrote messages
to their mothers which I forwarded on.

To the small hospital (protection) I paid 23 visits
& four to the Quai D'Iscales Hospital. I arranged for a cricket
tournament for the men at which there were 160 present & were
entertained for 2 hours & expressed a wish for another

On the removal of Padre MacCaulay from the A.G. B.D. I became responsible for the Service with draughts until Padre Gray arrived.

During the absence of the Red Cross Officer for 3 days I supervised the Hut.

157 letters were written during the month to friends & relatives of Soldiers & 500 letters censored. We have now an official censor so I am relieved of that duty.

I have been asked to act as Judge for our sports & have been made supervisor of Quicket arrangements in the camp. It is generally understood that in the Cavalier camp where they have pictures for every day this involves a great deal of work & time.

Usually I am greatly impressed with the splendid old of service here which I am stretching every nerve to use advantageously. Anything that will keep the men busy in a harmless way we arrange and thus help to check the temptation to the A.N.L. & engage in the one privileged game of Housley - Housley.

Signed
J Robertson