

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

Chaplains

Item number: 6/5/11

Title: Senior Chaplain, Methodist,
Headquarters AIF, London

November 1918



AWM4-6/5/11

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	455	Remarks and references to Appendices
Chaplain	W. S. Bath		<p>No 4 Command. Huddersfield. Statistics:- Church Parades 3. average attendance 250. Voluntary Services 2. Average 300. Bible Classes 2. Open Discussions 2. Church Services 2. Hospital Visits 2. During the month this Chaplain was away on leave & also contracted influenza. His work was interfered with to a very great extent by the influenza epidemic & by special parades of men leaving the camp.</p>		
Chaplain	A. P. Bladen		<p>No 1 Hospital Auxiliary Hospital. Harefield. Statistics:- Voluntary Services 8. Holy Communion 4. Approximate number of visits paid to patients 6000. Burials 5. This Chaplain reports that he carried out the routine duties as outlined in previous reports that he distributed papers, magazines New Testaments etc & also preached a great deal of business for men who were unable to get to London to attend to it themselves.</p>		
Chaplain	W. Glen Clarke		<p>6. Station. Burials 5. Correspondence heavy. Statistics:- Services 6. Burials 5. Correspondence heavy. On the 8th of November he went once again moved forward & established himself on a new site on the 12th. Since that time a great influx of influenza patients came in & the Chaplain was kept very busy. The 6 of 6 table fell ill & the whole of his work was undertaken by this Chaplain in addition to his own. Following on the evening of the Armistice a combined thanksgiving service was conducted & was very well attended. A Unit celebration in the form of a dinner & concert was arranged on the following Tuesday. This Chaplain takes a great interest in sport & has been instrumental in organizing two football teams which are contributing very greatly to the enjoyment of the staff. He has also established a Recreation & Reading Room which is largely used & greatly appreciated.</p>		
Chaplain	F. J. Beverdon		<p>R. B. A. A. Huddersfield. Church Parades 3. Holy Communion 3. Voluntary Services 4. Sing Songs 4. Impromptu Concerts 1. Thanksgiving Service 1. Fellowship meetings 8. Farewells to Drafts 3. Arranged Sports 2. Meetings of Brigade Sports Committee 5. This Chaplain reports a very busy month. As President of the Regimental Institute he averaged 1000 ft per week by visiting companies and supervised the</p>		

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WAR DIARY

Chaplain's Department

Army Form C. 2118.

or

Senior Methodist Chaplain

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Summary of Events and Information

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Remarks and references to Appendices

Chaplain F. J. Cleveidon, Continued

buffets which were opened on Godford station to provide men on outgoing drafts with free cocoa & cake. He also exercised oversight of the Regimental Institutes. As President of the sports committee he attended & presided at 8 Committee meetings. The business that was done was to arrange two sports meetings to direct the three football competitions & to direct the impromptu concerts. A concert party was also formed. This Chaplain plays in the Australian Rules Football team. The religious side of his work was well attended to & he was able to help a great number of the men with advice & aid. He finds that he is increasingly sought after by the men as he becomes known in the camp & is able by virtue of his position to be of very considerable assistance to many. He & his wife make a practice of inviting about a dozen men to their home, three a week & this has opened the way to the hearts of the lads. He preaches in the village chapel every second Sunday & after every Sunday evening service. He takes charge of the institute & runs a daily service. When advice was required he is in consultation with the Y.M.C.A. secretary held a thanksgiving service at the Hut which was largely attended.

Chaplain H. C. Francis, D. S. M. 12th Australian Light Horse, Palestine

The report of the Chaplain embraces the month of October, during which period the Regiment was in & around Damascus. There was very much sickness among the troops & a great portion of his time was taken up with visiting the various hospitals. The squadrons were camped some distance apart & they were regularly visited. A Sick Bay for the sick of the Regiment was established by the A. C. M. what had previously been a Bureau Hospital. In this work the Chaplain assisted himself until he was attacked by cholera himself & became a patient. He administered 2 Church Parades, 2 Holy Communion. (Religious services were few & difficult to get owing to the scattered nature of the unit.) Burials 6. Visits to Hospitals 36. A great amount of milk, comforts, etc. were obtained by this Chaplain & distributed to the patients.

Chaplain H. C. Foreman, 1st Lt. B. Sutton Veny.

For the first week of the month this Chaplain was at No 3 D. S. H. Aberville. The Hospital was very full as sickness was heavy. There were many deaths & the number of serious cases was great. The usual routine work was carried out. For the remainder of the month this Chaplain was either travelling or on leave. He reached the 1st D. S. on the 29th & has now taken up work there.

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Chaplain R. Langan	4 th		<p><u>Dunrovenal Hoops (4th A.M.G. Bn)</u> Statistics:- Church Parades 3, Voluntary services 3, Lectures 3. This Chaplain is Chairman of the Battalion Sports Committee & as such is well in touch with the sporting life of the Battalion. Football has been the chief recreation indulged in & the sports committee has seen to it that a number of matches were arranged & facilities provided for the men to enjoy themselves. The Recreation Rooms are under the control of the Chaplain & are proving a great boon to the men. They are supplied with equipment by the Y.M.C.A. as an Educational Officer has been appointed all of the work along this line which was under the control of the Chaplain, has been passed on to him.</p>	473
Chaplain H. Green.	14 th		<p><u>Bugade.</u> Statistics:- Church Parades 6, Units reached - 56th Batt, 14th Field Amb, 14th L.T.M.B. Voluntary services 3, Lantern Service 1, Entertainments 6, Thanksgiving service 1 This Chaplain joined the Battalion on the 30th of October & was received by all with the utmost warmth & affection as he had previously been a company commander with the 55th Battalion. He immediately entered into the work with his accustomed vigour & with great acceptance. He established a new Reading & Writing Rooms & supplied free cocoa each night to the 55th Battalion. The equipment & cocoa was the gift of the Y.M.C.A. as no Education Officer had been appointed he organized a new voluntary education classes. The subjects comprised French, English, Mathematics & Book-keeping. The classes were well attended and their moral effect was excellent as the school practically emptied the entertainments.</p>	
Chaplain H. J. Heath	15 th		<p><u>B. Hurdwood.</u> Statistics:- Church Parades 6, Voluntary services 2, Combined service 1 This Chaplain carried on with his work at Hurdwood until the 25th of the month when he left to join up with the 26th Battalion France. He regularly visited the men & was indefatigable in his attentions to them. A great deal of personal work was undertaken by him & carried out very successfully.</p>	

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Chaplain F. Humphrey
26th Battalion

Statistics:- Church Parades 7. Communion celebrations 4. Voluntary services 3. Fellowship meetings 2. This Chaplain reports that his work has gone along on the usual lines & that the interest of the men has been well sustained. During the month special Thanksgiving services were held for the signing of the armistice & a deep feeling of gratitude was manifested by all. Chaplain Saul visited the Brigade on special evangelistic mission & was welcomed by great crowds & his services were fraught with rich blessing. The Senior Methodist Chaplain also paid a visit to the Battalion & much cheered them all by his presence. The Brigade was moving from place to place during the month & any settled work was rendered difficult. The usual routine work was carried out & the Chaplain's ministry of helpfulness was adequately discharged. The Bandmen, managed by him, carried on its work & as the Battalion was in the area of the Hun occupation the goods provided were beyond price owing to the scarcity of eatables. The turnover for the month was 12,000 boxes.

Chaplain C. J. Jenkins
No 2 Command Depot. Weymouth.

Statistics:- Church Parades 12. Communion services 4. This Chaplain reports that his work has gone on as usual. There has been a great diminution of sickness & hospital visitation as a consequence has not been so constant. Owing to the illness of one of the neighbouring padres, this Chaplain took charge of his religious services & carried them out for the month. A feature of his work is the farewelling of the men who are embarking for Australia & it involves a great amount of time as such movements of troops are continually taking place.

Chaplain F. Lewis
3rd A. B. H. Abbeville.

Statistics:- Services 4. Funerals 6. Week-night services 2. This Chaplain commenced his duties at the Hospital on the 7th of the month & has been preparing the ground for his permanent work.

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Senior Methodist Chaplain

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Chaplain	F. Lewis		<p>continued. During the first weeks of the month, owing to the influenza epidemic, no gatherings of men were permitted by all religious sources. Later on they were recommended and efforts are being made to commence a Liturgy & Debating Society as well as the week night religious meetings. A special Thanksgiving Parade service was held on the Sunday following the signing of the armistice & was splendidly attended. The greater portion of the work consists of sick visitation & personal ministry to the patients. This has been carried out thoroughly during the month.</p>	473
Chaplain	A. A. Mills	M.C.	<p>41st Battalion. Statistics: - Church Parades 8. Voluntary services 4. Lectures 4. Special Parades 1. This chaplain reports that the Bugable was in the one area for the month & thus he was able to have regular & well attended church parades & voluntary services. Two parades were held every Sunday averaging respectively 500 & 200 in attendance. The voluntary services averages 50. On the anniversary of the landing of the 41st Battalion in France (Nov 25th) a special church parade was held & it took the form of a Thanksgiving service & was greatly appreciated & well attended. The canteen which is managed by this chaplain performed its usual work of usefulness during the month. P.M.C. reading & writing rooms are run in connection with the canteen & about 300 men use them every evening. Free cocoa, the gift of the P.M.C.A. is distributed during the hours 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. This chaplain has been placed in charge of the sporting & recreation materials & he sees to the supply & exercises oversight of our everything which comes under this heading. He has arranged lectures during the month & the average attendance has been 120. As a result of the movement in connection with Demobilization & Education, this chaplain has been appointed to an administrative office & has had several assistants provided to enable him to carry out the extra work entailed. Literature from the Comforts Fund & P.M.C.A. has been regularly distributed & is greatly appreciated, as is also the small library which the P.M.C.A.</p>	
Chaplain	W. Mills	Robson	<p>46th Battalion. Statistics: - Church Parades 5. Communion services 4. Bible classes 9. Voluntary services 4</p>	

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Chaplain	W. Mills	Robison,	<p>continued. The Chaplain reports that the work of the month from his point of view was rendered somewhat difficult owing to the continual moves. Church Parades, Voluntary Services & Celebrations of Holy Communion were regularly held. On one occasion a French Protestant Church was placed at the disposal of the Padre & a splendid service was held. During the month, as circumstances permitted, cricket tournaments, debates & lectures were arranged. On the evening of the cessation of hostilities a thanksgiving service was held & was entered into very heartily by the men.</p>		
Chaplain	S. W. Patten-	drough.	<p>2nd Battalion. Statistics: - Church Parades 2. Holy Communion 2. Voluntary Services 4. Devotional Meetings 3. Correspondence 15. Thanksgiving service 1. During the month the Battalion was more or less on the road & any settled religious work was rendered impossible. The Chaplain arranged for & supervised the distribution of free cocoa & cigarettes at the various detaining centres & also arranged several entertainments during the month.</p>		
Chaplain	H. E. Cosser	M.M.	<p>This Chaplain was gazetted from the A.A.M.C. to the Chaplain's Department during the month & was given leave after which he was temporarily appointed to visit hospitals in the London area pending his transfer to St. Hans. He found that the men were greatly appreciative of the visit of an Australian Padre.</p>		
Chaplain	E. B. Bond	3 rd Army	<p>Brigade A.F.A. Statistics: Church Parades 3. Voluntary Services 4. Bible Classes 4. This Chaplain established a Recreation Room for the use of the men & supervised the running of it during the three weeks that the Brigade was settled. He also took his share in the arrangements for the sport of the men. The concluding weeks of the month was spent on the march & very little work of a religious nature was possible.</p>		

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Chaplain J. J. Webb	2 nd Aust	4. A. Brigade.	<p>Statistics: - Church Parades 3. Voluntary Services 3</p> <p>This Chaplain reports that he carried out the usual work of providing recreation & amusement in conjunction with the Y.M.C.A.; that he obtained quantities of literature & distributed them among the men & that he carried out the usual personal work entailed in a Chaplain's duty. He also answered a large number of enquiries concerning casualties.</p> <p>The last week of the month was spent on the road into Belgium.</p>		
Chaplain J. S. Lophthorne	No 2	A. S. Hospital	<p>This Chaplain reports that the work of the month was very heavy owing to both malaria & pneumonia patients being in great numbers in the hospital. He carried out the usual duties of ward visitation & discharged his various other duties to the best of his ability.</p> <p>In the Venereal Block of the Hospital, in conjunction with the C of C Chaplain, he conducts a weekly song service & also a weekly debate. These are greatly appreciated by these men who are cut off from the outside world.</p> <p>He does a great deal of agency work for the men such as collecting cabled money, sending cables off, writing letters, making purchases etc.</p> <p>He arranged three concerts for the month at the Hospital.</p> <p>Statistics. Services 8. Bible Classes 8. 1 Thanksgiving service.</p>		
Chaplain V. R. Bradbury M.C.	Littlemoor	Camp.	<p>Statistics: Church Parades 4. Voluntary Services 4. Communion services 4. 1 Thanksgiving service.</p> <p>This Chaplain reports that his work has gone on along the usual routine & that the various branches have been attended to along similar lines as previously reported in detail.</p>		

Appendices

Incidents supplied by Chaplain W. Mills Robson
46th Battalion

Strength & Tenderness

During the struggle to capture Villers Bretonneux, a pair of swallows built their nest in a large room connected with a brewery, where they hatched their young. When the town fell into the hands of the Australians, this building was taken for an A.D.S. The room was converted into a Q.M. store. The birds, thus disturbed, left their young. Going into the room early one morning I saw a digger mounted on a ladder with a charge stick of paper in his hand to which many flies were adhering. With the aid of a saw the digger was busily feeding the hungry fledglings. In reply to a question, the charge fester fester said: "Poor little beggars, we must give 'em a chance".

The Mule is a stupid thing nevertheless our drivers become very attached to their "dorks". Recently one of our transport mules was seriously injured. The Vet. tried hard to save him without avail. Finally it was decided to shoot the animal & put him out of his misery. A rifle was secured. Just before the shot was fired the driver said: "Hold on, mate, let me get away, I don't want to see him shot!" Another driver, going up to the front, had two mules killed by a shell. With the assistance of his mates they were duly buried by the roadside. Over the mound the driver had erected a wooden cross with the inscription.

"HERE LIE TWO B ——— GOOD DONKS.

R. I. P.