

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

Chaplains

**Item number:** 6/5/12

**Title:** Senior Chaplain, Methodist,  
Headquarters AIF, London

December 1918



AWM4-6/5/12



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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Chaplain's Department Army Form C. 2118.  
Senior Methodist Chaplain  
December 1918

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|------------------------------|------|------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Chaplain V. R. Bradbury M.C. |      |            | <p>Littlemoor Camp Weymouth.</p> <p>Statistics:- Church Parades 4. Voluntary services 4. Communion 4.</p> <p>This Chaplain reports nothing new in the line of his work. He carried out all the duties allotted to him as Chaplain &amp; his report is substantially the same as previous ones.</p>  | -473                                 |
| Chaplain F. Clay Brewer      | 59th | Battalion. | <p>Statistics:- Church Parades 4. Voluntary services 4. Communion 4.</p> <p>This Chaplain reports that his Battalion is settled in the village of Simovsic and that the billets are very scattered entailing much travelling as he goes about his work.</p> <p>As the nearest Y.M.C.A. is three miles away he has opened a branch in the village &amp; superintends &amp; has practically equipped it. The Y.M.C.A. supply writing material and what literature they can spare. The place is used for Reading, Writing &amp; Recreation.</p> <p>He is Entertainment Representative on the Central Board of Control of the Battalion &amp; discharges his duties in this office very faithfully. He has organized a concert party which gives an entertainment weekly &amp; it is expected that a bi-weekly programme will soon be submitted.</p> <p>He has established a library which is exceedingly well patronized. He has regularly visited them in their billets and assisted them in every way in his power.</p> <p>He reports that the men are becoming somewhat restless in anticipation of demobilization. In this spirit an antagonistic factor is not in the air. He in company with all the other officers is doing what he can to give the men something to do so that they do not long lean upon their toes and has met with a very great measure of success.</p> |                                      |
| Chaplain W. Glen Clarke      |      | 2nd A.C.S. | <p>This Chaplain reports that at the beginning of the month the Co. Chaplain left for Australia &amp; that since that time he has ministered to all the Protestant</p>  |                                      |

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Chaplain's Department

Army Form C. 2118.

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| Chaplain W. Glen Clarke.    | Continued.                          |      | <p>The month has been very busy with numerous admissions. Much correspondence has been entailed on behalf of sick men &amp; in giving particulars to the relatives of those who have died. He conducted funerals to the number of 25.</p> <p>At Christmas eve provision was made for the entertainment of the men &amp; very thing passed off splendidly.</p> <p>Church Parades &amp; Voluntary services were conducted every Sunday &amp; at the request of the Principal Chaplain, 5th British Division, he has arranged to conduct Parades for the men of the Divisional Headquarters at A.H.</p>   |     |                                      |
| Chaplain H. C. Foreman M.A. | 1st Training Battalion Sutton Veny. |      | <p>Statistics: Church Parades 6. Holy Communion 4. Voluntary Services 6. Week-night services 4. Evening Prayer in the Y.M.C.A. Hut every evening.</p> <p>All of the 600 or more C.O.F.C. patients in the Sutton Veny Hospital were visited by this Chaplain every week &amp; special care was given to the dangerously ill cases. Some literature &amp; some hospital comforts have been distributed.</p> <p>This Chaplain had charge of the Xmas arrangements for entertaining the patients in the hospital &amp; arranged four concerts in all.</p> <p>He is assisting in the educational work of the unit &amp; expects to undertake lecturing engagements in the near future.</p> <p>He reports that all work is difficult just now owing to the fact that the soldiers are intensely interested in one thing only - the idea of going home. A spirit of unrest possesses all ranks &amp; continued systematic work is very difficult.</p> |     |                                      |
| Chaplain F. J. Beverdon     | R. B. A. A. Haylesbury.             |      | <p>Statistics: Church Parades 4. Voluntary Services 4. Bible Classes 4. Funerals 2. Impromptu concerts 4. Xmas Service 1. Drafts farewelled 2.</p> <p>At the beginning of the month this Chaplain took charge of the Y.M.C.A. Hut at Haylesbury. Realizing that such a position offered unsurpassed opportunities for his work as a Padre, he submitted a proposal to the authorities of the Y.M.C.A. as a result of which he was appointed that Leader with an assistant &amp; since then has been running the Hut.</p>   |     |                                      |

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Chaplain F. J. Cleverdon. continued.

The experiment has turned out a decided success and the combination of Y.M.C.A. secretary and padre appears to be one of the most wise combinations possible especially when, as in this case, the Padre is also President of the sports committee & P.D. His first move was to have a stadium built in sections to fit in one corner of the Hut & two big boxing contests for prizes valued at £60 were run during the month. These proved a tremendous draw & upwards of 800 men were spectators at each meeting. During each week three picture shows are given in the Hut. Owing to the big crowds which gather, in order to procure seats or an advantageous position, it is necessary for the men to assemble an hour or so before the time of starting. To cater for these men & to relieve the monotony of waiting, he runs an impromptu concert before the pictures start & gives small prizes to the performers. It is hard to say now which are the most popular, the pictures or the concerts. During the month the Jesters gave a concert in aid of the S.O.C.'s Fund & this Chaplain attended to the financial arrangements, a profit of £16 was made. He was also his own friend on a loud martial rose. He acts as Assistant Education Officer & is able to help the men greatly in this regard. He is being continually consulted by men on all subjects. An average of 30 men a day interview him. As President of the Sports Committee he attends to the details of sport in the camp & sees to the provision of materials. He took the chair at 5 Comm. Hill meetings and in addition to the Boxing contests ran a Paper Chase & P.Y. Competitions. He has done a great deal of personal religious work among the men, besides conducting the Bible classes, the Fellowship Meetings & the Song services in the Hut.

Chaplain R. Furgan

4th Divisional Troops (4th A.M.G. Bn.)

Statistics:- Church Parades 4, Voluntary Services 3, Xmas Service 1, Bible classes 4, Lectures 3, Holy Communion 3. This Chaplain reports that he is working in co-operation with the Education Officer & that in addition to the usual classes they have arranged a number of lectures. He has been appointed a Divisional Lecturer & have delivered three on "The Palestine Campaign" & "Egypt". He has charge of the Y.M.C.A. Hut with his Batt. Cocoa is distributed gratis from a bill of literature, stationery & games are provided. A lending library has also been established.

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Chaplain H. Green

55<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Statistics: - Church Parades 9. Voluntary Services 7. Devotional Meetings 12.  
This chaplain reports a busy month. He has organized debates on religious or social questions with very excellent results. He has provided the means of indoor recreation & has arranged dances, card parties, tournaments, etc. of which have had an excellent effect in helping the men employed & entertained. He has also assisted in the development & carrying out of all the outdoor sports which were possible.  
The religious work, he reports, has been well maintained.

Chaplain H. S. Heath

26<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Statistics: - Church Parades 6. Voluntary Services 3. Cross Service 1. The units reacted have been the following - 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> Battalions, 4<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.  
The unit to which this chaplain is attached is billeted near Charleroi & are very comfortably situated. The people of the district gave the troops a great welcome & supply much amusement for them.  
The Salvation Army in the suburb are providing a social centre for the men of the 27<sup>th</sup> Battalion & this chaplain is working in with them. Recreational facilities are also provided at the Steading Rente and a hall has been set apart for a gymnasium.  
He assists in the administration of these places.  
He reports that the behaviour of the men has been excellent.

Chaplain C. J. Jenkins

Westham Camp, Weymouth

Statistics: - Church Parades 8. Voluntary Services 4. Communion 4. Lectures 4.  
This chaplain reports a very busy month mainly owing to the departure of troops to Australia & the arrival of men from France & the various depots. He makes a practice of personally seeing every draft off & when he found a case good, he visits the man individually. He maintains his hospital visitation and regularly visits the men in the wards. He has conducted a weekly lecture to the men in the hospital & it has been received with great enthusiasm.  
He distributes a great quantity of literature to the men who are journeying to Australia.



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*Chaplain J. A. Gauld.*

*A. G. B. D. Havre.*

*Statistics: - Church Parades 5. Voluntary services 5. Devotions 73. Pleasant Sunday afternoons 3. Lectures 1. Fellowship 2. Lending services 2. Xmas services 3. Watchnight service 1. Farewelling drafts 2. Hospital Visitation 4. Prison Visitation 4. Excursions 1. Eucharistic adoration 1. Funerals 12. This chaplain carried on with his unique work throughout the month and as usual, found much favour with the men. He pays a great tribute to the G. M. C. A. for the arrangements they made for the entertainment of the troops during the Christmas season. He reckons that the hospitality which the men received at the hands of the G. M. C. A. will never be forgotten. As the above statistics show, this chaplain is indefatigable about his duties. He carries out his various stunts & conducts services whenever he has an opportunity. In addition to his own Depot work he regularly visits the W. A. A. C. Camp & enters the girls' club & holds services too. The V. D. Hospital, the Prison, & the Convalescent Camp receive a great deal of attention & his work there is greatly appreciated.*

*Chaplain G. Humphrey 3rd Training Brigade. Hurdcott.*

*12th*

*Statistics: - 2 Church Parades. 1 Voluntary service. This chaplain reports that he was relieved at the 27th Battalion by Chaplain Heath on the 6th December & immediately reported to A. J. F. Headquarters where he was given leave for 14 days. At the expiration of that time he was posted to the above unit & has now commenced his work there.*

*Chaplain G. J. Perry*

*3rd Div Troops 8th & 9th A. B.*

*Statistics. 4. Voluntary services. Bible classes 8. Special Xmas & New Year's Day services. This chaplain reports that the men of his unit are comfortably billeted in a town five miles from Naumburg & that they are making the best of the conditions there. Sport has been introduced into the unit on account of the weather & it has been possible to arrange an occasional football match. He visits two casualty clearing stations near Naumburg & goes to all the Australians in them. He reports that now the men are so near a town, very little interest is taken in the educational classes which have been formed.*

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| <del>Chaplain</del> G. W. Paddendrygh.      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |      | <p><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion.</u><br/>           Statistics:- Church Parades 4. Communion services 3. Voluntary services 4<br/>           Letters written 13.<br/>           This Chaplain reports that sports have been regularly held &amp; during the time that the Battalion was at Sobri. le. Station evening amusements were well provided. At present the Brigade is located at Villis-Pothere, near Charleroi, but nothing of importance with regard to evening amusement or recreation is possible owing to the lack of any tall or suitable bar.</p>  | -473                                 |
| <del>Chaplain</del> M. R. Moley             | 2 <sup>nd</sup> |      | <p><u>2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Brigade. Palestine.</u><br/>           This Chaplain reports for the months of November &amp; December:- 8 Voluntary services, 8 Holy Communion celebrations. Devotional meetings were held every evening for the month of November; during December they were suspended owing to the fact that the units were very scattered. A Thanksgiving service (United) was held a few days subsequent to Armistice Day. 1 Xmas Day service.<br/>           He arranged entertainments and formed &amp; managed a Brigade concert party. He was appointed representative to the Brigade Sports Committee. He acted a permanent umpire for the cricket competition &amp; was regularly appointed judge at the sports meetings. He visited all the sick of his regiment when they were in hospital and did what he could for them there. He worked in conjunction with the A.M.C.A. secretary as much as was possible.<br/>           He formed a Debating Society &amp; under his Presidency some interesting debates were held. A very interesting trial by jury was also staged.<br/>           He obtained a great amount of comforts from the Comforts Fund &amp; distributed them to the men.</p> |                                      |
| <del>Chaplain</del> W. C. Francis. D. C. M. | 4 <sup>th</sup> |      | <p><u>4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse Brigade. Palestine.</u><br/>           This Chaplain reports for the months of November &amp; December.<br/>           Statistics:- Voluntary services 7. Holy Communion 5. Burials 23<br/>           Letters 39.<br/>           During a period of twenty days this Chaplain lived at one of the Hospitals and during that time acted as Padre to the patients with very great acceptance. He was kept very busy with burials, ward visitations &amp; all the manifold activities of Hospital work.</p>   |                                      |



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| Chaplain W. C. Francis D. C. Ill. |      |      | <p>condemned. For a few days he was confined to Hospital with Malaria &amp; after convalescence he returned to his unit. He deplores the absence of any Y.M.C.A. hut or equipment as it limits his activities enormously. He made the most of the opportunities which were afforded &amp; thus gave much help to the men. He is a member of the Regimental Sports Committee &amp; carries out the duties devolving upon him. He established a Recreation Fund during December, equipped it &amp; it is now in full swing. In connection with the educational scheme he conducts a class on Motor Engineering 3 times a week. The religious work was much interfered with by the weather &amp; the lack of equipment but very helpful &amp; inspiring services were held. A thanksgiving service was held after Armistice day &amp; was attended by a large proportion of the Brigade officers &amp; men.</p> |                                      |
| Chaplain A. S. Laphore            |      |      | <p>No 2 Australian Stationary Hospital. Palestine. Egypt. Statistics: - Voluntary Services 4. Church Parades 4. 1 Thanksgiving Service. Communion services 4. Funerals 3. Week night Devotional Meetings 4. This Chaplain reports that the work at the Hospital has gone on as usual. The duties have been particularly heavy owing to the prevalence of pneumonia &amp; chest complaints. The wards are regularly visited &amp; an infinite variety of service is rendered to the patients. He regularly visits the V.D. Compound &amp; devotes 3 evenings a week to the men there also a Sunday evening service is held. He reports that the work is becoming difficult owing to the restlessness of the men's minds during the enforced idleness &amp; uncertainty, coupled with the longing for home.</p>  |                                      |
| Chaplain J. A. Jeffery            |      |      | <p>23rd Battalion. Report for November &amp; December. Statistics: - 6 Church Parades. 4 Communion Services. This Chaplain reports that religious &amp; entertainment were limited by lack of accommodation &amp; lighting facilities. He opened a recreation hut which was well attended. He ran the canteen during November but handed it over to another officer during December. He distributed a great quantity of comforts from the A. C. F. &amp; saw to the free distribution of hot cocoa &amp; other things that were given by the Y.M.C.A. He cooperates with the Y.M.C.A. Secretary &amp; also assists in sports.</p>  |                                      |



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Chaplain F. B. Lewis  
 3<sup>rd</sup> A. S. H. Ableville - Week night services 4. Fellowship Meetings 4  
 Statistics: - Funerals 10. Week night services 4. Fellowship Meetings 4  
 Church Parades 1. Voluntary services 4.  
 This chaplain reports that the number of patients is steadily decreasing & that his work is thus lessening. He discharges the usual work of Ward visitations & ministry to the patients & is always at their service. He attends to the religious needs of the staff & meets with an encouraging response.  
 In conjunction with the R. C. Chaplain he has inaugurated a literary and Debating Society which is very popular. Xmas celebrations were very thoroughly carried out in the Hospital & he took a great part in the arrangements. He has been appointed officer in charge of the demobilization forms etc & carries out the duties to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Chaplain W. Mills Robson  
 46<sup>th</sup> Battalion  
 Statistics: - Church Parades 5. Voluntary Services 3. Public Services 1.  
 Continual movement has interfered considerably with the religious & entertainment work of this chaplain. He has however established a Reading & Writing Room at every place where they were instituted & at these centres coffee & cocoa provided gratis by the Y.M.C.A. has been distributed. At Despret-sur-Boise where they are now settled for an indefinite period an entertainment hall has been obtained, a limited supply of literature has been secured & a small library has been formed. Arrangements have been made for a series of concerts, lectures & debates for the coming month. This chaplain has been very active in this matter. In connection with the Educational Scheme he conducts Reading, Writing and Arithmetic classes & has a class for Divinity students also.

Chaplain H. B. Bosser M.M.  
 A. S. B. D. Le Havre  
 The early part of the month was spent by this chaplain in Hospital Visitation in & around London. An average of a hospital a day was visited & he reports that the patients were delighted to see him. He arrived at the A. S. B. D. on Xmas Day & immediately commenced work. He conducted two services on the Sunday, spent two afternoons at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, travelled during drafts & distributed comforts & in every way contributed his share of the work which the others are doing.

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
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