

AWM4

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

Baths & Laundries

Item number: 18/1/1 Part 1

Title: Australian Corps Baths and Laundries

June 1916 - April 1918



AWM4-18/1/1PART1

BATHS OFFICER,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.
No.
Date

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War Diary

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps.

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19

From the time of arrival of the Australians in France until August 1916 no attempt seems to have been made to go in for Baths & Laundries on a large scale.

From time to time Divisions had Baths at which men might get clean garments in exchange for dirty as long as the stock of clean lasted but stocks (supplied as they were from small Divisional Laundries) were so limited that the clean clothing was seldom sufficient to go round. In those days every man was supposed to carry a spare set of underclothing plus an extra pair of socks, making 3 pairs in all - one pair worn & two pairs carried

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Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

The Outterstone Baths & Laundries were first started by the 1st Aust Division and we were able to bathe the whole division there but in those days although we strongly advocated for taking the 2nd suit of underclothing we were not allowed.

A small reserve was allowed the Division which was wholly inadequate. As none of the Brigades were in the line the men were able to wash their own clothing & so the necessity for large issues of underclothing was not felt.

Above is a note signed by
Lt. Col. Summerville. & dated
16/6/18

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Baths & Laundry - Australian Corps

1916
June 11th

The 46th Bn arrived at Outtersteene from Marseilles on June 11th & I will remember our pleasure on being marched to the Outtersteene Baths on the warm afternoon of

1916
June 26th

June 26th to find that there was a certain amount of clean under-clothing there for us. It had been washed at the adjoining Laundry by French & Belgian women.

Baths & Laundry were managed by one of the 4th Aust Divth Field Ambulances.

From then until September, however, we heard no more of Baths or clean clothing in the 4th Div.

During the Somme Offensive of July - Aug 1916 it was found that practically all the spare clothing carried by the troops was either

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lost or thrown away, and new had to be issued when refitting units after their tour in the line

This was very wasteful as the clothing was frequently worn only once before being lost, and very unsatisfactory as men who had lost their ^{share} under-clothing had to wait a considerable time for a re-issue

1916
Aug 17

On Aug. 17th, two hours after arriving at Warloy from Poyières I received an order to report to Hd. Qrs. 1st A. N. B. A. C. which was then at Contay. Brig. Gen. Carruther's D. A. & Q. M. G. 1st Army C. then drove me through Amiens to Cagny-les-Amiens where there was a large

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Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

large linen-bleaching
 Factory, L'Usine Deneux
 Freres, managed by
 M. Adolbert Deneux

This place had three
 or four washing machines
 and had been doing
 washing for the Hotels
 in Amiens, for two
 of the large French
 Hospitals in Amiens,
 and for the 1st Imperial
 Division.

A contract had been
 made whereby washing
 was to be done for
 the Corps at, as well
 as for ^{the} remainder, the
 following prices

shirts	25 centimes each
Vests or singlets	25 " "
drawers or underpants	20 " "
socks	10 " per pair
towels	10 " each

a reduction of 33 1/3 %
 was to be made if
 coal at the rate of
 1 ton per 2000 pieces washed
 and all

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

and all necessary labour
was ^{to be} supplied by Corps.

I am not sure of the
foregoing figures as I
have none of the papers
by me but they can
be verified by reference
to Q 1st Army & Laundry
file (bagging) which
has been sent to
the Base.

The Laundry being
at that time in
the French army
area, none of the
French people spoke
English, so the
first trouble was
to learn French well
enough for business
purposes.

Coal was the next
trouble, as the first
couple of trucks
being lost in the
Longean yards for
about a fortnight.
After that we had
the coal

Date

The coal sent down regularly by motor lorry.

I had a dozen of my own NCO's & men with me.

The first few consignments of clothing which were sent down were not disinfected & the whole place became verminous. Arrangements were soon made however, to have it disinfected before it was sent down and after that we had no further trouble with lice.

1916
Sept 17

I remained at Bagmy till September 17th when the Canadian Corps took over and I rejoined the 46th Bn ~~at~~ near Renny belt.

During the month at Bagmy the ~~Australian~~ 1st Army Corps washed only about 5000 pieces of clothing.

Date

1917
Oct 30

of clothing.

When in Bagnacourt on 30th Oct. I received orders to proceed to Bagny again with INCO & 10 men

The place had, in the meantime, increased its output of working considerably and for the week ending Nov 5th 37,376 pieces of clean clothing were delivered to various Divisions.

There were however five Imperial Divisions - 1, 11, 15, 33 & 50 - and 1 Canadian Div., all working more or less separately & it was necessary to thoroughly reorganise the place in order to get the best results.

After interviewing Q's of the Divisions concerned it was arranged that I should manage

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Wash & Laundries - Australian Corps

should manage all the British washing done in the Establishment and deliver an equal quantity of clothing weekly to each Division, the 1st Army ac counting as four Divs.

All transport of clothing was by motor lorry.

The quantities of clothing delivered weekly until Dec 17th 1916 were as follows, a pair of socks counting as one piece

	Total pieces delivered	pieces delivered to 1 st ANZAC.
Week ending Nov 5 th 1916	37,376	2,000
" " " 12 th	45,450	9,400
" " " 19 th	65,010	20,450
" " " 26 th	72,639	25,614
" " " Dec 3 rd	59,643	13,273
" " " 10 th	57,159	31,180
" " " 17 th	63,570	22,450

The varying proportion given to 1st ANZAC was due to the coming and going of various Divisions when the

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AUSTRALIAN BORDERS
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Bath & Laundry - Australian Corps (9) 10

When the output of the Laundry rose to 60,000 pieces per week great difficulty was experienced in drying the clothing as the weather from about Nov 20th 1917 to March 13th 1918 made it absolutely impossible to dry anything outside.

To help to overcome this difficulty the whole of the "Serre" at L'Epineette, M. Deneud residence was converted into a drying room by pruning all the vines & erecting longitudinal cables & 2 rows of short cross wires.

The "Serre" was a large glass forcing house about 200 yards long and 7 yards wide. When converted into a drying room it held about 9,000 shirts at a time. As the 1st Army A.C. required about 60,000 pieces of clothing each week it became evident that we

Wash & Laundry - Australian Corps

that we should have to double the output of Bagmy Laundry or make an additional contract elsewhere

For the former purpose

I was given leave of absence for three days to Paris on Dec 31st

1916
 Dec 31

There I interviewed the Director of the firm Jéneau Freres, a Capitaine Cavallion, at the French Ministry of War and he agreed to duplicate the washing and wringing machinery

Owing to the great difficulty in obtaining rail transport these additions were gradual being finally completed in March 1917.

The whole factory which was still doing its linen work was driven by one engine and 2 boilers which required much more coal than was ~~was~~ ~~supplied~~ supplied by the various Divisions
 shortage of

Baths & Laundry - Australian Corps

Shortage of rail transport rendered it impossible for many weeks, for the garrison to get forward its own supplies of coal & it was only by dint of its buying up a dump of the cleanings from locomotive fire boxes & mining that with the coal supplied by the various Divisions that the factory was enabled to keep going.

Many times we had to stop work for from 12 to 24 hours owing to lack of fuel.

One night a small German bomb split the wall of the engine room, but no serious damage was done.

1917
Feb 3rd

On Feb 3rd every dirty garment was washed & a holiday given to the troops as transport

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

as transport on the roads was interrupted by the sudden frost having caused the radiators on so many lorries to burst

1917
Feb 18th

On Feb 18th thaw precautions were introduced, and road transport was suspended for about a week, so that again we had to stop work owing to shortage of dirty clothing.

About this time we completed a very large outdoor drying shed in the factory grounds cutting up 8 large sycamore trees under the manager's direction for the purpose.

Miles of wire were also erected both in the grounds of the factory and in those of Lt Epinette, Mr. Deneau's residence, in readiness for the

Baths & Laundry - Australian Corps

for the fine weather
when open air drying
would again become
possible

By the middle of
March the Laundry
was turning out the
desired quantity of
120,000 pieces of clean
clothing weekly,
between 60,000 & 70,000
of which went
to 1st ANZAC.

This working, although
not so good as that
~~at~~ which we have
since turned out from
hand laundries, was quite
passable, and very
much better than that
turned out by Pont de Metz
or 5th Army Laundry,
Abbeville.

1917
Jan 16th

A contract had also
been made on Jan 16th
with M. Dewas of
Amiens at 10 centimes
per piece washed
plus the following
24 tons of coal, 1350 KOs sel. solvay
90%, and 450 KOs liquid ammonia
per 50,000 pieces of clothing washed
from this

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

From this source the Corps received about 40,000 to 50,000 pieces of clothing weekly, but the washing was very badly done. The establishment was one which existed for the conversion of old woollen & cotton garments into stuff suitable for the manufacture of velvet.

1917
March

The German retirement from the Somme in March made it impossible to continue the contracts at Bagny & Pont-de-Méry owing to the great distance of these laundries from the troops and the scarcity of transport.

see
appendix
11917
April 4

Both contracts were therefore concluded and I left Bagny on April 4th but the small laundry at Neilly, where a certain number of

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Baths & Laundries — Australian Corps

number of Frenchwomen were employed, was kept going temporarily. This laundry was under the charge of Capt Trousselot who also had charge of the various Corps Baths — Heilly, Flenelles, Montauban etc. — and was responsible for the supply of clean clothing.

Meanwhile 5th Army had instituted a laundry at Abbeville, which was to be able to cope with all the requirements of the Army.

Each Division was to have an officer stationed at Railhead to whom dirty clothing would be delivered by units with first line transport. The officer would supervise the disinfection, packing, trucking, and consigning of the dirty clothing to the Army Laundry, and would receive and distribute the clean in exchange.

see
appendix
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1917
April
6th

On April 6th I reported to 4th Aust Div. H. Q. near "The Monument" Bapaume, and was sent to Railhead at Achiet-le-Grand as Divisional

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PLATOON OFFICER,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

War Diary

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Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps.

1917
April 7th

1917
April 11th

Platoon Officer on
April 7th

Received orders to move
to Bapaume. I took
most of my men along
on foot after loading
all our Bath gear,
clothing etc onto a
truck at Achiet-le-Grand.

Cpl Hereltine & a
couple of men were
left in this truck
with rations, and orders
to travel with the
truck wherever it
went & get it to
Bapaume as soon as
possible.

After a couple of days
delay at Achiet-le-
Grand it was attached
to a train bound for
Bapaume when a
delayed German mine
blew the Railway line
up, & it had to wait
another day till the
damage was repaired.

When the truck
reached Bapaume I
had gone on to Bayentin
-le-Petit. at Bapaume
Cpl Hereltine

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

Cpl Neseltine experienced another misfortune — the engine drawing his truck got a direct hit from an armour piercing H.V. shell, and more time was wasted waiting for another engine.

The truck was then taken down to Romescamp and arrived at Bayentuille-Petit on April 16th

1917
April 16

April 13

I moved to Bayentuille-Petit & the Foden-Thresh Disinfector arrived the same day.

Here we got the new army Laundry scheme working. First-line transports brought the clothing from the units to me. It was then disinfected, sorted, packed trucked & dispatched as soon as possible.

April 24

Moved to Albert and in addition to the disinfection & dispatch of clothing we established Baths for

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

Baths for the use of men going on leave.

These consisted of Sawyer's stoves for heating the water & barrels cut in halves for the men to bathe in. The men were issued with clean clothing & any live lice were brushed off their uniforms.

This very crude process was the forerunner of the present delousing system. Each man was now issued with a new uniform, hat, puttees, & boots when necessary, & sent on leave ~~looking~~ decently dressed, and armed with a certificate signed by the A.A.M.C. N.C.O. in Bath stating that the man was free from lice. He also carried a certificate signed by his Bn. M.O. stating that

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stating that he was free from Scabies.

Returning again to the Laundry at Abbeville, we experienced great difficulty in getting clothing back promptly - trucks taking 14 ~~to~~ 18 days to return. The working was very bad, the counts were unreliable and none of the clothing was mended.

1917
May 15th

Embarked at Albert with 50th Bn. at 8.30 p.m. and reached Caestre at noon on May 16th.

We were now in II ANZAC and Laundries & Baths were looked after by A.D.O.S. - not as in 1st ANZAC by Q directly.

I remained with Hd. Qrs 4th Aust Div at Bailllevill till May 21st when I moved to Outtersteene & made arrangements to engage women and

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

women and start the
 Outbushene Laundry

1917
 May 22

24,000 pieces of clothing
 arrived from Abberville
 Laundry and all had
 to be dried in the
 open air as they were
 damp - some quite wet.

In addition many of
 these garments were
 very imperfectly washed
 and covered with dead
 lice, besides being
 unmended ~~and~~ unfolded
 & badly counted.

May 25

The Outbushene Baths
 were put into operation
 on 25th May doing 80
 men per hour.

~~May 25~~

The Laundry commenced
 work with about
 50 women on May 25th.

May 26

A few structural
 alterations were made
 today & the Baths made
 capable of doing
 240 men per hour, and
 that number were
 actually put through.
 Look over

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

1917
June 1st

Took over Palmer Baths & Laundry on June 1st as there was a great concentration of troops in preparation for the attack on Messines we had to bathe 300 men an hour at Palmer Baths. These Baths did nearly 3000 men a day for 10 days.

Only 4th Aust Div men were given clothing however, as it was as much as the Laundry could do to work for that Div.

Practically all units of 4th Aust Div received Baths & changes of clothing immediately after coming out from Messines.

Reported to 4th Aust D. N. Q. and arranged to take over Steenwerck Baths & Pont-de-Mitte Laundry (the one on the south side of the main Baillone-argument Road).

No. 1698.

1917
June 20th

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

No 1698 Pte Macnish
49th Bn AIF was ac-
cidentally killed on
June 20th. He fell off
a gun when coming out
from Baillou

June 21st

Arranged to start
Outterstene Baths &
Laundry again

June 25th

Outterstene Laundry
and Steenwerck Baths
started today

June 24th

A large H.V. shell
landed in the Church
beside Palmer Baths
today, killing many
civilians, mostly women.

Aug 10th

Took over Baths at
Dranoupe

Aug 14th

Took over Laundry at
Dranoupe. (The whole
of the Baths & Laundry
premises were in a most
filthy & insanitary
condition.) Not a
single drain (except the
ones for waste water)
existed round the
whole establishment
and the only drain in the

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in the neighbourhood conveyed practically pure urine (the soakage from troop latrines & urinals further up) into the very pond of the little stream from which the Bath & Laundry water was drawn. The existing dam was just below this pond.

We at once built a new dam above the polluted pond caused all the urinals & latrines to be moved to new sites and (set 60 men to work for a fortnight to clean the whole place up & dig drains)

1917
Aug 21

All civilians were finally cleared out of Port-de-Nippé on 21st Aug and we had no option but to close down the Laundry.

The evacuation of the civilian population was done by the French on account of the heavy shelling

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

heavy shelling. The neighbourhood had been pretty badly knocked about by shell-fire during the previous week & we had 1 man Pte Edwards 4th P.M. Bn wounded & one Pte Lillias 49th ^{P.M. Bn} killed.

1 11" shell fell in the yard of the Laundry.

The ~~new~~ new Zealand Divisional Laundry was wrecked about this time by an 11" shell. Several of our women were killed also but not while at work.

1917
 Aug 21st

Coop over Palmer
 Baths & Laundry

Sept 1st

4th Coy ^{was transferred to 1st ANZAC and} moved from Ravelsborg to Lagerse & we opened new Baths at Staples.

Sept 5th

Went by lorry to Bony which was 4th D.H.Q. in the new rest area. No Laundry facilities whatever existed in this area so we brought 1 complete change for the Division.

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AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

War Diary

25-26

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

The Division by lorry from Palmer Laundry, and established a clothing Depot at Ermy and tub Baths at Bony & Lisbony - the latter being run by the 4th Brigade 13th Brigade at making them had a shower set & we established a clothing exchange there also.

We also established Baths in Bourcy for the men going on leave. The tubs we borrowed from the local Brewery. Thus hot baths were available for men going on leave as at Albert. Half a dozen flat irons were also kept hot & with them men's tunics & breeches were ironed to kill the lice in the cases where new clothing was not issued. As before boots etc were ironed when considered necessary.

Sept 19

4th Aust Div moved back from

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1917
Sept 21st

back from rest and again
took over Outpost scene
Baths & Laundry

Received a wire to
report to Hd Qrs
1st ANZAC at Hoograth^{aaf}
to organise Baths &
Laundries on a Corps basis

The most important records I found were the ^{see} ~~the~~ ^{appendices} ~~the~~ ^{2A} ~~the~~ ^{2B}
proceedings of conference on the lice problem
Owing principally to the
fact that under Divisional

arrangements for Baths &
Laundries Corps Troops had
scarcely been looked after
at all, 1st ANZAC had
decided to organise
the Baths & Laundries
in the new Reninghelst
- Ypres area as a Corps
concern. (This was done

except that 5th Aust
Div continued to run
the Laundry at Outpost
which had meanwhile been
handed over to them
by 4th Aust Div.

Corps took over Reninghelst
& Hopouke Steam Laundries
and continued to draw
clothing from a civilian
Laundry

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laundry at Malo-les-Bains near Dunkerque under arrangement with 1st Aust Div who had a contract there

Organisation

all the Baths & Laundries were ~~now~~ arranged into groups & managed from my office at Hd. Qrs, each Bath & Laundry sending in a return to me at the end of the week

see appendix 3

see appendix 4 & 5

Improvements

at Reninghelst Laundry a third disinfecting chamber was built thus liberating the Foden-Thresh Disinfector which had previously been used there in conjunction with 2 steam chambers. The drying rooms at both Hopouvre & Reninghelst laundries were very poor. In anticipation of the cold weather we ordered

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

we altered one drying room at Reninghelst - the work being completed about 10th Nov, a few days before the Corps left the area.

These drying rooms were worked by using a fan to drive air over a steam-heated radiator into the rooms.

The alterations were as follows

- ① The room was lined & fitted with a ceiling in $\frac{1}{2}$ " matchwood 4" of sawdust was put between the lining & the iron walls of the building & 6" of sawdust was placed on top of the ceiling. This was done to retain the heat
- ② The hot air was introduced into the room along a small passage-way running

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

running the full length of the room & furnished with small doors or ports capable of being opened and closed, instead of the existing single large port in the corner of the room. Control over the direction of the hot air draught was thus obtained.

③ The outlets for the air from this room were made at floor level in order to carry away, not water vapour, but condensed vapour in the form of very small particles of water, which, being heavier than air, sink to the floor level.

This is much more economical of heat than the top ventilation method.

④ A system of 3" x 1" x 6' wooden

Dasks & Laundry - Australian Corps

wooden battens was installed for hanging the clothing.

This allowed much more clothing to be put in the room at one time.

(5) The air to be driven over the radiator was drawn from a funnel placed over the furnace instead of from outside as formerly. This was found to be a very great improvement especially in frosty weather, as in this way the air was partly heated before ^{see} reaching the radiator. ^{appendix} 6

Result. The immediate result of the alterations to this room was that we got almost 3 times ~~th~~ as much clothing as formerly dried per 24 hours.

The other

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

The other room was altered in the same way later on by the XXII Corps

at Hopoube a new road was built round the Laundry to enable lorries to pull in Baths used were Steenevoorde, Hopoube, Reninghelst, Cornwall, Winnipeg, Haligan.

Corps built one at Vijverhoek, 3rd Pioneers, at Belgian Chateau, 2nd Pioneers, at Swan Chateau, 4th Div, near Lille Gate, Ypres, & 5th Div, in Rue St Elizabeth, Ypres, but none of them had any facilities for delousing men.

All were gradually assimilated into the Corps scheme & clean clothing was supplied by lorry from Hopoube & Reninghelst closets are shown in appendix ^{see appendix} 7
 Lt Smith, 1st Div, Off/c Laundry

Oct 2nd
1917

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

Laundry, Remington
was killed by a bomb
on night of Oct 2nd &
Lt Mackay, 5th Bn. was
sent down in his
place.

Nov-15
1917

Organisation of Baths & Laundries

Handed over all
Baths & Laundries, ^{except Hopouke} to
2nd ANZAC, and moved ~~off~~
to Flêtre. Hopouke was handed
to VIII Corps

see
appendix
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Nov-20
1917

Put in plans for the
alteration of Baillou
Baths to make them
a delousing concern
and also for 3 more
drying rooms at the
Baillou Laundry

Dec 4
1917

First frost of the
season this morning.

Dec 17
1917

First snow of the
season this morning.

When Australian Corps first
took over this area with
Flêtre as Hd Qrs each
division was given control
of the baths in its area
& of 1 laundry.

The Corps retained ~~control~~
direct control of Baillou
baths & laundry only.

The baths

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

The baths at Baillieu were considerably altered and a system of de-lousing the troops' tunics & breeches was brought in

These baths when taken over from VIII Corps were supposed to be capable of bathing 80 men an hour. Hot water was obtained by injecting steam into a tank on the floor. The hot water was put into tubs in which the men washed themselves. The whole place was in a filthy & insanitary condition - for instance there was 2" of filth under the duckboards in the bathroom. The top floor was not in use.

When alterations were complete the baths were capable of bathing & de-lousing 100 men an hour. The men first went upstairs where they undressed in a room heated by

see
appendix

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see
appendix

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Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

heated by a small stove

Here they handed in their various possessions, clothing etc in exchange for various metal checks

see appendix

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They then descended to the bath-room, which had a cement floor & was provided with 18 hot showers. Under each shower was placed a wooden box about 2' x 2' x 6" so that while the man was under the shower his feet would be soaking in hot water.

After coming from the bathroom the man was given a clean towel & then issued with clean underclothing. Then he was given back his tunic & breeches, which had been ironed with hot flat irons to kill the lice, & sent to the lower floor through a chute, & lastly he received his valuables etc, which had also come down

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

Date.....

come down a chute

Very soon, however, dissatisfaction arose as the Corps Troops who were not situated near Baillenc could not regularly obtain clean clothing because divisions washed only enough at their laundries to supply themselves.

A conference of the divisions (1st, 2nd & 3rd) then in the area was called, and it was unanimously decided that the Corps should again take full control of all baths & laundries in the area.

31
12
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Improvements in Laundries.

Clayton disinfectors, which do their work by means of sulphur fumes, were set up at Baillenc & La Breche Laundries.

Two steam chambers were built at Draouthe Laundry. These were worked on the same principle as the 4th Army portable steam disinfectors with the inlet for steam near the top & the outlet for air & extra steam at the bottom.

see
appendices
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11
12

appendix
13

Baths & Laundries — Australian Corps.

When these chambers were completed the last of the Foden-Tresh disinfectors was liberated & enabled like the others to devote the whole of its time to the disinfection of blankets.

Washing benches were in some cases built to replace the tubs which had been so long in use, & were found to be a great improvement, as the women were enabled to do more work in a given time when at a bench than they could when working with a board in a tub.

Proper wringing troughs were devised so that the garments were worked through the trough against the stream of clean water. These troughs were found to give enormously improved results the water which was

see
appendix
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Baths & Laundries — Australian Corps

which was finally squeezed out of the clothing by the wringers being (for the first time in my experience) quite clean. Several mangles (machines wringing) were obtained from Ordnance, and these helped the laundries to deal with the increased output.

New drying rooms were built or old ones adapted, on the Corlett system, at the four laundries which required them, so that eventually all laundries could dry in bad weather the full quantity of clothing which they were capable of washing.

Lines of wire were erected in a systematic way outside the laundries and this enabled us to take advantage of the fine weather whenever it occurred.

The women's wages were made uniform in Belgium

— 40 sh an

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

- 40 centimes an hour and also (on a slightly different scale) in France so that the constant transferring from one Laundry to another was stopped.

Trench tramway was laid about the various laundries, additional storage room built etc.

Some of the forewomen who were not capable were put off and in certain cases the work was differently allotted until at last the laundries began to give satisfactory results.

Results. The output of the laundries was nearly doubled in three weeks (Jan 12th to Feb 2nd) and the cost per garment was lowered from 25 centimes on Jan 12th & 29.5 centimes on Jan 19th to 12.8 centimes on March 30th.

The difference between the costs of running the laundries on Jan 12th and on Feb 16th was £212.13.4 per week.

The difference

see
appendix
15

see
appendix
16
16A
16B

see
appendix
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(39) 40

Date: Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

The difference between the running costs on Jan 12th & on March 16th was £ 476^{..}13^{..}4 per week.

see
appendix
18.

Supply of clothing. ^{clean} Clothing was obtained from three sources

- (a) from G.H.Q. & Army laundries
- (b) from Corps laundries
- (c) new clothing received from Ordnance in exchange for U.S. handed in.

see
appendix
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When Corps took control there was a great deal of dirty clothing in the area. Under control over the whole area very soon enabled us to get these areas of clothing washed locally or sent away by rail to Army & G.H.Q. laundries, so that very soon the amount of clean clothing coming forward surpassed the quantity issued until, on March 30th, practically all the clothing possessed by the Corps (with the exception of

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

exception of a small working stock at the laundries) was washed and the amounts of clean coming forward approximately equaled the amounts issued during the week.

Improvements to Baths

These were undertaken mainly to combat the epidemic of scabies which was assuming serious proportions in the Corps

The system of delousing ^{by means of} by means of hot flat irons was introduced into almost all the baths in the area, the construction being altered or additional buildings being added wherever necessary.

The construction in all cases was such as to allow of the circulation round or through the building of the troops.

Results. although the actual number of cases of scabies was not greatly minimised in the eleven weeks under review, the proportionate

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appendix
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appendix
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OFFICER,
AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

War Diary

Baths & Laundries - Australian Corps

proportionate number was decidedly minimised as between Jan 12th & March 30th an extra Division (the 4th) and about 8,000 Corps Troops were added to the Corps.

The number of men bathed weekly rose from approx 20,000 to approx 30,000 and the proportion whose tunics & breeches were deloused rose from approx 46% to approx 90%. all troops bathed were issued with clean clothing

see
appendix
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Particulars of the Baths & Laundries about a month before handing over to IX Corps are shown in appendices 22 & 23

appen
dices
22
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Handing over statement is also attached

appendix
24

An arrangement for drying gumboots is shown

appendix
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This was run at Brasserie & also at Campusion Corner in connection with the Baths

Australian Corps handed over to IX Corps at 10 a.m. today, but I remained behind to run the baths & laundries temporarily for IX Corps.

3/4/18

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Flebe	3/4/18	10 am.	<p>Australian Corps Hd. Qrs. moved south this morning, the command of the front group forward of Voormeyelle to near Armentiers passing at 10 a.m. to <u>IX</u> Corps.</p> <p>I remained behind with orders to carry on the Batts & Laundries for the benefit of <u>IX</u> Corps until they were ready to take over & then to hand over & hold myself in readiness to move south. (H)</p>	
Flebe	6/4/18	6:30 pm	<p>Received wire to entrain at Caestre on 7th inst with 2nd D.A., carrying 3 days rations, and to endeavour to bring Portable Batts on same train. <u>IX</u> Corps would not consent to Portable Batts being removed, but (H)</p>	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Caestre	7/4/18	9 PM.	I was able to take 2 Bam Douche sets with me Entrained with 2 nd Div. art.	(HW) (HW)
Amiens	8 1/2	10 AM.	Arrived at St Roch & joined A Echelon of Australian Corps at Villers Bocage.	(HW)
Vignacourt	10 1/2	6 PM.	joined B Echelon at Vignacourt	(HW) (HW)
do	17 1/2		Baths are now established at Agnicourt, Behencourt, Baisieux, Heilly, Bonnay, allowiell, and Pont Noyelles.	
			Clean clothing has been obtained by the various Divisions from No 1 area Laundry, abbeville, but the supply from that source is temporarily exhausted.	(HW)
Vignacourt	24 1/2		4 trucks (40,000 pieces) of underclothing arrived from DESVRES today. Baths personnel also arrived at Reinforcement Depot Peruis today.	
do	29 1/2		A clothing store has now been established at Vignacourt where Aust. Corps troops & Reinforcement Camps will be given an initial issue of clothing & afterwards will receive clean in exchange for dirty.	(HW) (HW)
	30 1/2		no further enterprises	(HW)