

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/36/1

Title: Senior Medical Officer, Australian
Base Depots, France

June 1917 - May 1918



AWM4-26/36/1

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18/2/18

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

S.M.O. Australian Base Depots. France

FOR

period 1st July 1917 to 31st May 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

[Signature]

Lieut-Colonel,

S.M.O. Australian Base Depots.
A.A.M.C.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

SENIOR MEDICAL
OFFICER,
AUSTRALIAN
BASE DEPOTS.

Army Form C. 2118.

804

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
Havre.	26/6/17.		<p>Major S. R. Burston, A.A.M.C., reported from 11th Australian Field Ambulance for duty as Senior Medical Officer, Australian Base Depots, and to have the temporary rank of Lieut-Colonel whilst holding the position.</p> <p>On this date the following was the Medical establishment of the Australian Base Depots--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Medical Officer; 1 Staff Sergeant Dispenser; 5 A.A.M.C. Orderlies. <p>The medical personnel was as follows--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A.G.B.D. -- Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C. 1st A.D.B.D.,, Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C. 2nd A.D.B.D.-- Captain E.N. Docker, A.A.M.C. 3rd A.D.B.D.-- Captain F.M. Purchas, A.A.M.C. 4th A.D.B.D.-- Major L. Cowlshaw, A.A.M.C. 5th A.D.B.D.-- Captain F.N. Rodda, A.A.M.C. <p>There was also a Dental Staff for the Australian Base Depots consisting of 5 Dental Officers and 12 Staff Sergeant Mechanics, and 5 Dental Orderlies. These were established in a special Hut built in the grounds of the 2nd A.D.B.D., but the personnel were attached for discipline and rations to the A.G.B.D., and were under the administration of the S.M.O.</p> <p>The Dental Officers were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Captain E.F. Molle, Senior Dental Officer. Captain C.H. Terry, Captain C.P. Heatley, Captain W.E.G. Caulfield, Captain W.R. Bailey. <p>At the time of taking over, Major Cowlshaw had been appointed by D.D.M.S., Havre, to act as S.M.O., Australian Base Depots, working under the direction of the S.M.O., Harfleur. All returns, correspondence, &c., to D.D.M.S., Havre, from S.M.O., Australian Base Depots, were forwarded through S.M.O., Harfleur. (Major A.A. Meaden,,D.S.O., R.A.M.C., A.I.D. Havre and S.M.O., Harfleur). The D.D.M.S., Havre, instructed that this procedure should still continue but it was considered that this caused unnecessary delay in correspondence, also the fact was pointed out that Lieut-Colonel Burston was a senior Officer to Major Meaden, and it was then arranged that the S.M.O., Australian Base Depots, should be directly responsible to the D.D.M.S. Havre, for the medical services of the Australian Base Depots, and that all correspondence should pass direct between the S.M.O. Australian Base Depots and D.D.M.S., Havre, except such correspondence as concerned Major Meaden in his capacity as A.I.D., Havre.</p>	

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H a v r e .			<p>2.</p> <p>Standing Orders for Medical Officers, Australian Base Depots were made out and published on 11/7/17. (Copy attached, Appendix 1.)</p> <p>Routine Orders until now had been published weekly by Major Cowlshaw. From 7th July onwards, they were published daily.</p> <p>The Standing Medical Board assembled as detailed in the Standing Orders for reclassification of "P.B." and "T.B." personnel, the Boards consisting of 3 Medical Officers--</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. President, -- Senior Medical Officer; 2. M.O. i/c. Depot, and another Medical Officer detailed by the S.M.O. as Members. <p>The Board proceedings were made out in triplicate on A.F.W. 3339, and one copy was forwarded to the Orderly Room concerned, one copy to the A.I.D., Havre, and one copy to the S.M.O.'s Office.</p> <p>The Returns furnished from this Office are detailed in Appendix 2, a copy of the pro formas attached.</p>	*
	15/7/17.		<p>C.O., E.F. Canteens, Havre, agreed to E.F. Canteen in 3rd A.D.B.D. Camp to be used as a Detention Hospital. This was a private arrangement between the C.O., 3rd A.D.B.D. and C.O., E.F. Canteens.</p> <p>The Canteen was equipped with Hospital beds and stores already supplied by the Australian Branch, B.R.C.S., and already in man the possession of the different Base Depots, and 50 beds were fitted up in the Hospital.</p> <p>Captain Purchas took over duty as M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital in addition to his duty as M.O. i/c. 3rd A.D.B.D.</p> <p>The Staff of the Hospital consisted of--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Corporal, A.A.M.C. Three Privates, A.A.M.C., and Two "P.B." Cooks attached from 3rd A.D.B.D. <p>Standing Orders were made out. Copy attached, Appendix 3.</p>	*
	16/7/17.		<p>Authority was obtained for the establishment of the Detention Hospital for the Australian Base Depots, and for the issue of 15 Hospital Marquees, large. (Authority H.Q., L. of C. D.L. 1041/AA/4.</p> <p>As it was only considered necessary to have an establishment of 100 beds, only 8 marquees would be necessary. It was laid down that only minor cases which were likely to become fit for duty again within from 4 to 6 days were to be admitted into this Hospital.</p> <p>This Hospital was established in order to prevent unnecessary wastage. Formerly men with minor ailments had to be evacuated to General Hospitals and were away from their units for at least 3 weeks.</p>	*

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H a v r e.	18/7/17.		<p>3.</p> <p>Reference Detention Hospital.</p> <p>It was considered advisable to draw 8 of the Hospital Marquees authorised in case at any time the E.F. Canteen should be required for other purposes. These were accordingly indented for.</p>	
	28/7/17.		<p>Letter written to C.O., A.G.B.D. as follows--</p> <p>"I shall be glad if you will bring the following matter before the Commanding Officers of the Australian Base Depots at the next C.O.'s conference.</p> <p>There are a certain number of men in all the Depots appearing before the Standing Medical Board, who, though not yet fit for Bullring Training, require graduated training in order to render them, eventually, fit to undergo the Bullring course.</p> <p>"It has been the custom of the Board to classify these men 'T.B. Training'.</p> <p>"At present the position is most unsatisfactory and the men so classified almost invariably appear before the Board the following week, either not improved, or, more often, in a worse condition than on the previous occasion.</p> <p>"The explanation of this is, I think, that one or two things seem to happen to them after classification as 'T.B. Training', viz.,</p> <p>1. They are sent the following day to the Bullring, and the sudden change from "Light Duty being too great, they collapse within two or three days and their "disability, instead of being improved, is considerably aggravated.</p> <p>2. They are left of 'Light Duty' and consequently there is practically no "improvement in their condition when they next appear before the Board.</p> <p>"Could it be arranged that an Officer or Warrant Officer (on the staff of one of the "Depots) who has some knowledge of Physical Training, be detailed permanently to take "charge of these men.</p> <p>"The 'T.B. Training' men from all Depots could be paraded at stated hours daily, and, "under his direction, be given light physical exercises and short route marches.</p> <p>"If this could be arranged, I am of the opinion that, a considerable number of men "could be made fit for General Service, who at the present become 'P.B.' purely through "lack of proper training.</p> <p>"The Adjutant of the Central Training Camp has informed me that he will be glad to "give the Officer or Warrant Officer, selected for the position, a short course of "instruction in physical training before he takes up the work."</p>	
	28/7/17.		Major L. Cowlshaw, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 10 days' Leave of Absence.	
	29/7/17-		Eight Hospital Marquees supplied for Australian Detention Hospital.	

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I a v r e.			<p>Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during ^{4.}the month of July, 1917--</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Number boarded.</td> <td>Classified--</td> <td>"A"</td> <td>"T.B."</td> <td>"P.B."</td> <td>"P.U."</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1360</td> <td></td> <td>546</td> <td>299</td> <td>653</td> <td>62</td> </tr> </table> <p>Total number arriving on draft from Overseas for Month of July, 1917 --- 5685</p> <p>Number found Unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots -- 88</p>	Number boarded.	Classified--	"A"	"T.B."	"P.B."	"P.U."	1360		546	299	653	62	
Number boarded.	Classified--	"A"	"T.B."	"P.B."	"P.U."											
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H a v r e.	1/8/17.		Lieut. R. W. Adamson was selected to take charge of "T.B. Training men."	
	3/8/17.		Captain F.M. Purchas, A.A.M.C., marched out to report to D.M.S., A.I.F., London. Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C., detailed to carry out duties as M.O. i/c. 3rd & 4th A.D.B.D. and Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., to be M.O. i/c. A.G.B.D. and 1st A.D.B.D. Captain E.N.R. Docker to act as M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital in addition to his other duties.	
	10/8/17.		Major L. Cowlshaw, A.A.M.C., returned from leave and resumed duty as M.O. i/c. 3rd and 4th A.D.B.D., also M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital. Captain H. Holland to resume duty as M.O. i/c. A.G.B.D., and Captain Withington as M.O. i/c. 1st A.D.B.D.	
	17/8/17.		Major L. Cowlshaw, A.A.M.C., marched out to report to D.M.S., A.I.F., London. Captain Docker to be MO i/c. Detention Hospital.	
	18/8/17.		Captain S.T. Appleford, A.A.M.C., was temporarily attached from A.G.B.D., as M.O. i/c. 3rd A.D.B.D. Captain J.S. Mackay, A.A.M.C., do. do. do. as M.O. i/c. 4th A.D.B.D.	
	20/8/17.		Captain E.F. Molle, marched out to report to A.D.M.S., 2nd Anzac Corps.	
	21/8/17.		Captain C.H. Terry appointed to act as Senior Dental Officer, vice Captain Molle, marched out.	
	22/8/17.		Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C., marched in and took up duty as M.O. i/c. 3rd A.D.B.D. Captain Appleford returned to A.G.B.D. Captain J.L. Ross-Soden, A.A.M.C., marched in and took up duty as M.O. i/c. 4th A.D.B.D. AND Detention Hospital. Captain J.S. Mackay returned to A.G.B.D.	
	28/8/17.		Captains. J.S. Campbell and F.A. James, A.A.M.C., reported from 2nd A.G.H., and were provisionally posted for duty with the A.G.B.D. Captain K. A. McLean, A.A.M.C., marched in from 17th Australian Field Ambulance.	
	30/8/18.		Captains J.S. Campbell and F.A. James, A.A.M.C., marched out to report to D.D.M.S., Boulogne.	
			Summary of men and N.C.Os. boarded during the month of August, 1917--	
			Number Boarded	Classified "A" "T.B." "P.B." "P.U."
			1414	251 668 21

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			<p>6.</p> <p>Total number arriving on draft from Overseas for the month of August, 1917-- 5473.</p> <p>Number found Unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas.-- 48.</p>	

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H a v r e.	7/9/17.		Office of S.M.O., Australian Base Depots, Establishment approved for 1 Sgt & 2 Privates. AIF Order 7/9/17.													
	9/9/17.		Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 10 days' leave of absence to U.K. Captain McLean posted for temporary duty as M.O. i/c. 1st. A.D.B.D.													
	15/9/17.		Captain W.E.G. Caulfield, Dental Officer, was evacuated to Hospital.													
	19/9/17.		Captain F.N. Rodda, A.A.M.C., marched out to 1st Australian Division. Captain K.A. McLean, A.A.M.C., transferred for duty as M.O. i/c. 5th A.D.B.D., and Captain E.N.R. Docker took over duty as M.O. i/c. 1st A.D.B.D. in addition to his own, during Captain Withington's absence on leave.													
	25/9/17.		Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., returned from leave, and resumed duty as M.O. i/c. 1st A.D.B.D.													
	28/9/17.		Captain S.E. Wilcox marched in from U.K. for duty at Dental Clinic.													
	29/9/17.		Captain W.R. Bailey marched out to report to D.M.S., A.I.F., London.													
Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during the month of September, 1917--																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number boarded</th> <th>Classified--</th> <th>"A"</th> <th>"T.B."</th> <th>"P.B."</th> <th>"P.U."</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1139</td> <td></td> <td>210</td> <td>242</td> <td>650</td> <td>37</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Number boarded	Classified--	"A"	"T.B."	"P.B."	"P.U."	1139		210	242	650	37
Number boarded	Classified--	"A"	"T.B."	"P.B."	"P.U."											
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Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas-- 58.																
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			8.																																					
a v r e.	2/10/17.		A.I.F. Order promoting Major (temp. Lieut-Colonel) S. R. Burston, A.A.M.C., to the Substantive Rank of Lieut-Colonel. Lieut-Colonel S. R. Burston, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 10 days' leave of absence to U.K. Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., to be Acting S.M.O. during Lieut-Colonel Burston's absence on leave. Captain W.E.G. Caulfield returned from Hospital.																																					
	10/10/17.		1633, Cpl. Clarke, T.W., AAMC, and 16192 Pte. Trathan, G.F., A.A.M.C. transferred from A.G.B.D. to strength of S.M.O., Australian Base Depots.																																					
	15/10/17.		Lieut-Colonel S. R. Burston, A.A.M.C., returned from leave of absence and resumed duty as S.M.O., Australian Base Depots.																																					
	28/10/17.		No. 7786, Pte. Stuart-Clyde, J., A.A.M.C., transferred from A.G.B.D. to S.M.Os. Office to complete establishment.																																					
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			9.															
H a v r e.	8/11/17.		Captain J.L. Ross-Soden, A.A.M.C., marched out to report to A.D.M.S., 3rd Australian Division. Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C., detailed to carry out duties of M.O. i/c. 4th A.D.B.D. in addition to his own. Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., to be M.O.i/c. Detention Hospital.															
	9/11/17.		Captain C.H. Terry, Senior Dental Officer, was proceeded on 14 days ¹ leave of absence to U.K. Captain C.P. Heatley to act as S.D.O. during Captain Terry's absence.															
	18/11/17.		Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., marched in from A.D.M.S., 3rd Australian Division and was posted for duty as M.O. i/c. 4th A.D.B.D.															
	27/11/17.		Captain C.H. Terry returned from leave of absence and took up duty as Senior Dental Officer.															
	28/11/17.		It has been found necessary to increase the staff of the Detention Hospital, and in order to have it put on a definite basis, a request was forwarded to the D.M.S., A.I.F., for the following establishment to be authorised-- 1 Staff Sergeant Dispenser; 1 Corporal, A.A.M.C. 8 Privates, A.A.M.C. for nursing and general duties. (Personnel to be "P.B." only). Pending a decision by the D.M.S., A.I.F., this establishment was obtained by getting the necessary personnel temporarily attached from the A.G.B.D.															
	30/11/17.		Captain C.P. Heatley marched out to 4th Division Australian Field Artillery.															
			Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during the month of November-- <table><tr><td><u>Number boarded.</u></td><td><u>Classified--</u></td><td><u>"A"</u></td><td><u>"T.B."</u></td><td><u>"P.B."</u></td><td><u>"P.U."</u></td></tr><tr><td>1363</td><td></td><td>319</td><td>250</td><td>741</td><td>53.</td></tr></table> Total number of reinforcements arriving on draft from Overseas for month of November-- 7023. Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas-- 29.	<u>Number boarded.</u>	<u>Classified--</u>	<u>"A"</u>	<u>"T.B."</u>	<u>"P.B."</u>	<u>"P.U."</u>	1363		319	250	741	53.			
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	392		211	2	9	170.												
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			10.	
H a v r e.	4/12/17.		No. 2945, S.Sgt. Longville, T.W., A.A.M.C., promoted to the Rank of Hon. Lieutenant and posted for duty with the 1st A.G.H.	
	8/12/17		Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 14 days* leave of absence to U.K. Captain K.A. McLean, A.A.M.C., marched out to report to A.D.M.S., 3rd Australian Division. Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C., to carry out the duties of M.O. i/c. 5th A.D.B.D. in addition to his own as M.O. i/c. 2nd A.D.B.D. During the absence on leave of Major Blaubaum, XXXX Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C., to be M.O. i/c. 3rd and 4th A.D.B.Ds. Major E.F. Molle marched in from 4th Division Australian Field Artillery and took over duty as Senior Dental Officer.	
	15/12/17.		In accordance with O.C. Reinforcements No. 9892/9 of 12/12/17, amalgamation of Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 A.D.B.Ds. took place. The new single Depot formed was located in Camps 20 and 21 under the command of Lieut-Colonel W.K.S. Mackenzie, D.S.O.. This amalgamated Depot is to be called the Australian Infantry Base Depot. The A.A.M.C. establishment of this Depot was 1 Medical Officer, 1 Staff Sergeant Dispenser, and 5 Privates.	
	16/12/17.		The following Routine Order was published by the Senior Medical Officer-- "Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C., to be M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital. "Captain K. Vickery, A.A.M.C., having reported his arrival is posted for duty to the A.G.B.D. "Owing to the reorganisation of the Australian Base Depots, the following changes will in the postings and duties of Medical Officers and A.A.M.C. Details will take effect from 13/12/17. "Medical Officers. Captain R. C. Withington, A.A.M.C., to be M.O. i/c. A.I.B.D. Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C., and Captain Clark, A.A.M.C., to be attached for duty to the A.I.B.D. "A.A.M.C. Details. The A.A.M.C. Details of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Base Depots will be temporarily attached for duty to the A.I.B.D. "Dispensers. Staff Sergeant Davidson, A.A.M.C., to be Staff Sergeant Dispenser, A.I.B.D. and to be in charge of Central Dispensary. Staff Sergeant Smith, A.T., A.A.M.C., to be Dispenser Australian Detention Hospital.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			11.	
H a v r e.	16/12/17.		<p>"<u>Clerks.</u> Acting Corporals Douglas, J.W., and West, H.J., A.A.M.C., to act as Clerks to M.O. i/c A.I.B.D.</p> <p>"<u>Sick Parades.</u> A.G.B.D. The Sick parade of the A.G.B.D. will be held as usual in the Medical Hut, Camp 23 A.I.B.D. The sick parade of the A.I.B.D. will be held in the Medical Hut, Camp 20.</p> <p>"<u>Medical Records.</u> All Medical Records of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Australian Base Depots to be handed into M.O. i/c. A.I.B.D.</p>	
	17/12/17.		<p>The following letter was sent to D.A.A.G., Anzac Section 3rd Echelon, G.H.Q.</p> <p>"Reference reorganisation of Australian Base Depots.</p> <p>"1. <u>Medical Officers.</u> In my opinion the establishment of Medical Officers as laid down in "O.C. Reinforcements No. 9892/9 of 12/12/17, viz, 1 per Depot is insufficient for the efficient working of the Medical Services of these Depots for the following reasons:-</p> <p>(a) Besides the duties of R.M.O., the Depot Medical Officers have to do duty as members of the Australian Standing Medical Board. This Board consists of the S.M.O. and 2 Medical Officers. Until the reorganisation of the Depots took place, the Board sat five mornings per week and one afternoon for the purpose of boarding "P.B." and "T.B." N.C.Os. and men of the various Depots. During the past 8 months, 82 Officers and 8933 Other Ranks have been classified by the above Board. With the establishment laid down, it it will be necessary for the two Medical Officers to be members of every Board, and in my opinion, they will not have sufficient time to give proper attention to their other duties.</p> <p>(b) I have established in connection with the Australian Base Depots a Detention Hospital with an establishment of 100 beds. (Authority D.G./B/479/2 "K" dated 31/10/17.) The care of the patients in this Hospital takes up a considerable amount of the time of one of the Depot Medical Officers.</p> <p>I should be glad therefore if authority could be granted for me to retain temporarily four Medical Officers for duty in these Depots to be allotted as under:-</p> <p>A.G.B.D. 1 Medical Officer. A.I.B.D. *3 Medical Officers.</p> <p>*One of these to also do duty as M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital.</p>	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices															
			12.																
H a v r e	17/12/17.		<p>"Medical Officers at present under my administration have been provisionally posted for duty as follows--</p> <table><tr><td>(A.G.B.D. ...</td><td>Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C.</td></tr><tr><td>(do. ...</td><td>Captain K. Vickery, A.A.M.C.</td></tr><tr><td>(A.I.B.D. ...</td><td>Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C.</td></tr><tr><td>(do. ...</td><td>Captain R. C. Withington, A.A.M.C.</td></tr><tr><td>(do. ...</td><td>*Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C.</td></tr><tr><td>(do. ...</td><td>Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C.</td></tr></table> <p>* This Officer is doing duty as M.O. 1/c. Australian Detention Hospital.</p> <p>"(2) <u>A.A.M.C. Personnel. Other Ranks.</u></p> <p><u>Staff Sergeant Dispensers.</u></p> <p>The only "P.B." Staff Sergeant Dispenser is E.R. Staff Sergeant Davidson, D.M. late Dispenser to the 3rd A.D.B.D. I should be glad of your instructions as to whether this N.C.O. is to be retained as Staff Sergeant Dispenser, A.I.B.D., or whether one of the 'A' Class Substantive Staff Sergeants should be appointed to the position. E.R. B.Sgt. Davidson has held the position of Staff Sergeant Dispenser to the 3rd A.D.B.D. for the past 12 months, and has carried out his duties most efficiently. He is a qualified Dispenser. His Substantive Rank is Private.</p> <p><u>Clerks.</u></p> <p>It is essential that one of the A.A.M.C. Details should be a Clerk and in my opinion, he should have the rank of Corporal, as his duties entail a considerable amount of extra work and responsibility.</p> <p><u>Privates.</u></p> <p>5 'P.B.' Privates will be selected from the Details of the late Divisional Base Depots, and the remaining personnel transferred to the A.G.B.D.</p> <p>"(3) <u>Detention Hospital,</u></p> <p>Application was been made to D.M.S., A.I.F., for the following establishment to be granted for the Australian Detention Hospital--</p> <table><tr><td>1 Staff Sergeant or Sergeant:</td></tr><tr><td>1 Corporal:</td></tr><tr><td>8 Privates.</td></tr></table> <p>The personnel to be 'P.B.' Pending authorisation of this establishment, could authority be granted please for me to retain above personnel for the Detention Hospital."</p>	(A.G.B.D. ...	Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C.	(do. ...	Captain K. Vickery, A.A.M.C.	(A.I.B.D. ...	Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C.	(do. ...	Captain R. C. Withington, A.A.M.C.	(do. ...	*Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C.	(do. ...	Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C.	1 Staff Sergeant or Sergeant:	1 Corporal:	8 Privates.	
(A.G.B.D. ...	Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C.																		
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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H a v r e.	18/12/17.		13. Major E.F. Molle proceeded on leave to U.K. Captain C.H. Terry took up duty as @/Senior Dental Officer.	
	20/12/17.		The following Routine Order was published-- "Medical Boards. The following are the new arrangements for boarding N.C.Os. and men of "the Australian Base Depots-- "P.B.' Boards. The 'P.B.' N.C.Os. and men of the A.I.B.D. and A.G.B.D. will parade before it "the Standing Medical Board at the Medical Hut, A.I.B.D., at 10-30 a.m. on the first Friday "of each month. "T.B.' Boards. 'T.B.' N.C.Os. and men of the Australian Base Depots will parade before "the Standing Medical Board at 10-30 a.m. on the undermentioned days-- Mondays: ... Nos. 1 and 2 Companies; Tuesdays; ... Nos. 3 and 4 Companies; Wednesdays; ... A. G. B. D. Thursdays; ... No. 5 Company. "Dental Boards. N.C.Os. and men who are to appear before the Dental Board will parade at the "Dental Clinic, Camp 23, at 2 p.m. on the undermentioned days-- Wednesdays: --- A.G.B.D. Fridays. --- A.I.B.D. "All men parading to the Dental Board must be in possession of their Pay Books."	
	22/12/17.		Lieut-Colonel S. Roy Burston was evacuated to No. 2 General Hospital suffering from Appendicitis.	
	23/12/17.		Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., took up duty as A/S.M.O. Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 14 days' leave of absence to U.K.	
	24/12/17.		Major C.H. Terry, marched out to report to D.M.S., A.I.F., London. Captain S.E. Wilcox took up duty temporarily as Senior Dental Officer. Captain K. Vickery, A.A.M.C., to act as M.O. i/c. A.G.B.D. during Captain Holland's absence on leave	
	25/12/17.		Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., returned from leave of absence to U.K. and took over the duties of Acting S.M.O. from Captain Withington.	
	26/12/17.		<div data-bbox="646 1776 1370 1802" data-label="Text"> <p>A7002. Wt. 1128 9/11293 750.000 1/17. D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C2118/14</p> </div> Captain D.S. Hall reported his arrival from D.M.S. London.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																						
H a v r e.	30/12/17.		<p>14.</p> <p>Major K.V. Blogg reported his arrival from 3rd Australian Field Ambulance and took up duty as Senior Dental Officer, Australian Base Depots.</p> <p>Summary of H.C.Os. and men boarded during the month of December, 1917--</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number boarded.</th> <th>Classified "A"</th> <th>"T.B."</th> <th>"P.B."</th> <th>"F.U."</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>885</td> <td>161</td> <td>184</td> <td>522</td> <td>18</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total number of reinforcements arriving on draft from Overseas for the month of December 1917-- 5069</p> <p>Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas---22</p> <p>Result of T.B. Training--</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number that have done training.</th> <th>Number boarded.</th> <th>"A"</th> <th>Classified- "T.B. Training"</th> <th>"T.B."</th> <th>"P.B."</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>452</td> <td>419</td> <td>220</td> <td>2</td> <td>11</td> <td>186.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Number boarded.	Classified "A"	"T.B."	"P.B."	"F.U."	885	161	184	522	18	Number that have done training.	Number boarded.	"A"	Classified- "T.B. Training"	"T.B."	"P.B."	452	419	220	2	11	186.	
Number boarded.	Classified "A"	"T.B."	"P.B."	"F.U."																						
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices												
Havre.	15/12/17		<p>14 b.</p> <p>ADDENDUM contd.</p> <p>"category they should be placed under.</p> <p>"Since the scheme was started, 304 men have passed through Lieut. Adamson's hands, and the</p> <p>"results, on reclassification by the Standing Medical Board are as under--</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>"A" Class</td> <td>...</td> <td>...</td> <td>170 men = 56%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"P.B."</td> <td>...</td> <td>...</td> <td>117 men = 38.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>"T.B." (for further period of 1 week)</td> <td>...</td> <td>...</td> <td>17 men = 5.5%</td> </tr> </table> <p>"This I consider is a most satisfactory result, as, in my opinion, the great majority</p> <p>"of the men who become "A" class on reclassification, would break down immediately if sent</p> <p>"to the front in the condition in which they arrived in these Depots."</p>	"A" Class	170 men = 56%	"P.B."	117 men = 38.5%	"T.B." (for further period of 1 week)	17 men = 5.5%	
"A" Class	170 men = 56%													
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H a v r e.	7/1/18.		15. Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 14 days' leave of absence to U.K.	
	11/1/18.		Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C., returned from leave of absence to U.K. and resumed duty as M.O. i/c. A.G.B.D. Captain K. Vickery, A.A.M.C., transferred from A.G.B.D., and posted for duty with A.I.B.D.	
	15/1/18.		The following Routine Order was published-- "Sanitation. Medical Officers in charge of Depots are reminded that they are responsible in an "advisory capacity for the sanitation of their Depots. In accordance with the Specialist "Sanitary Officer's request, a Sanitary Report will be sent by Medical Officers in charge of "Depots to this Office by 12 noon each Wednesday. This report will state-- 1. Condition of latrines. 2. General condition of Camp and surroundings. 3. Suggestions, if any, for the improvement of the Camp site, and any material required for this purpose.	
	19/1/18.		Captain W.E.G. Caulfield marched out to 2nd A.C.C.S.	
	23/1/18.		Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C., returned from leave of absence to U.K.	
			Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during the month of January, 1918. Number boarded. Classified "A" "T.B." "P.B." "P.U." 1002 174 350 360 118 Total number of reinforcements arriving on draft from Overseas during Janua ry, 1918--- 6506 Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas-- 15 Result of "T.B." Training Number that have done training. Number boarded. Classified "A" "T.B.Trng" "T.B." "P.B." 551 522 260 16 20 226.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			18.	
H a v r e.	3/2/18.		Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C., marched out on 4 days' leave of absence to Paris. Captain K. Vickery detailed to carry out the duties of M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital during absence on leave of Captain Docker.	
	4/2/18.		Captain N.E. Lockhart marched in from U.K.	
	8/2/18.		Captain E.N.R. Docker returned from leave to Paris and resumed duty as M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital.	
	12/2/18.		New classification of personnel brought into vogue in accordance with G.R.O. 2959 of 15/12/17.	
	17/2/18.		Captain F.G. Hooten reported his arrival from U.K.	
	19/2/18.		Captain E.N.R. Docker, A.A.M.C., marched out to 1st. A.G.H. Captain A. Clark, A.A.M.C., marched out to 3rd A.G.H. Captain K. Vickery, A.A.M.C., detailed to carry out the duties of M.O. i/c. Detention Hospital vice Captain Docker.	
	26/2/18.		Captain S.R. Wilcox, marched out to 14th Australian Field Ambulance.	
			Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during the month of February, 1918--	
			Number boarded. Classified "A" "T.B." "Pi, Bii or Biii." "E"	
			596 118 168 307 5	
			Total number of reinforcements arriving on draft from Overseas during February, 1918-- 4275	
			Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas.-- 5.	
			Result of 3282 "T.B." Training.	
			Number that have done training. Number boarded. "A" "T.B. Trng." "T.B." "B" class.	
			604 584 292 7 29 256.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Havre.	4/3/18.		17. Lieut-Colonel S. Roy Burston, D.S.O., A.A.M.C., reported his arrival from England to resume duty as S.M.O., Australian Base Depots. Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., posted for duty with A.I.B.D.	
	6/3/18.		Captain H. Holland, A.A.M.C., marched out to 2nd A.G.H. Captain H.F. Vickery, A.A.M.C., to be M.O. i/c. A.G.B.D. vice Captain Holland marched out.	
	11/3/18.		Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 7 days' leave of absence to Paris.	
	17/3/18.		Owing to the outbreak of Small Pox in England the following Base Routine Order was published (B.R.O. No. 239 of 15/3/18) and republished in S.M.O.'s Routine Order No. 262 -- "Officers and other ranks who have not been vaccinated since 1913 should be revaccinated as early as possible. In order to secure as little dislocation of duties as possible "Officers Commanding Units should co-operate in this matter with the Officer in Medical charge of the Unit. With this object in view Officers Commanding Units will submit "Nominal Rolls of Officers and W.Os. N.C.Os. and men due for revaccination to the Medical Officer concerned. That Officer will then arrange for the revaccination to gradually be carried out. Officers and other ranks who joined the service during the present emergency and have been vaccinated since date of joining will not be affected by this Order."	
	19/3/18.		Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., returned from leave to Paris.	
	24/3/18.		Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 14 days' leave of absence to Marseilles.	
	28/3/18.		The following copy of letter to H.Q., L.of C. Area was received-- "1. Please refer to your A.H. 5885/23 of 24/3/18. "2. With reference to the approval given by the Adjutant General in his AG 3029(0) of 27/2/18 for the formation of an Australian Convalescent Depot at Havre on the establishment as laid down in No. 575/121/France/724 War Office (SD2) dated 3/7/17, Part VIIa. War Establishment with the addition of 10 cooks as authorised in War Office letter 121/France/1383 (SD2) dated 12/12/17, the G.O.C. A.I.F. on the recommendation of the D.M.S., A.I.F. has approved of the following appointments and transfers of Officers--	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			18.	
Havre.	28/3/18.		<p>"Lieut-Colonel. Lieut-Colonel S.R. Burston, D.S.O., S.M.O. Australian Base Depots, Havre; and to remain S.M.O., Australian Base Depots.</p> <p>"(b) 3 Captains. One to be drawn from each Australian Base General Hospital. The D.G.M.S. G.H.Q. has accordingly been asked to detail these officers.</p> <p>"(c) Adjutant & Q.M. Captain C.A. Oxley from 3rd Australian General Hospital. Instructions have been issued for this Officer to proceed to Havre.</p> <p>"(d) 2 P.B. Officers. to act as Censors. Action has been taken by H.Q. A.I.F. to provide these Officers.</p> <p>3. The D.M.S., A.I.F., is making arrangements for the supply of the Dental Unit, and exact details will be communicated later.</p> <p>4. Other Ranks. Practically the whole of the other ranks required are now assembled at the Australian Base Depots, Havre, in readiness to take up duty when required.</p> <p>5. In view of the foregoing could the necessary arrangements be made for the formation of the Depot to be completed and this office to be advised of action taken.</p> <p>(Sgd) J.W.DONNELLY, Major, D.A.A.G., for Major General, D.A.G.</p>	
	31/3/18.		<p>The following letter was despatched in reply to D.M.S., L.of C. M7/1/18 of 29/3/18, asking whether the Convalescent Depot was ready to function--</p> <p>"The Convalescent Depot is not yet ready to function, as none of the officer personnel have reported yet.</p> <p>"The following is the present position as regards the Convalescent Depot--</p> <p>(a) Personnel.</p> <p>1. Medical Officers. None have so far reported for duty.</p> <p>2. Adjutant & Q.M. Hon. Captain C.A. Oxley has not yet reported.</p>	19

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices								
Havre.	31/3/18.		<p>19.</p> <p>(a) <u>Personnel</u> (contd).</p> <p>3. <u>Other Ranks.</u> These have all been provisionally selected with the exception of--</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Barber</td><td>1;</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tailor,</td><td>1;</td></tr> <tr> <td>Shoemaker</td><td>1;</td></tr> <tr> <td>*Cooks,</td><td>9;</td></tr> </table> <p>*There are no "B" class Cooks available in the Base Depots at present. I would suggest that authority be obtained to appoint "A" class men temporarily until the necessary "B" class personnel can be procured.</p> <p>All "B" class personnel who have been xxx selected are at present assembled at No. 4 Convalescent Depot for instructional purposes.</p> <p>(b) <u>SITE.</u> I understand that the area allotted for the Convalescent Depot is Camp 23 and part of 22 lying east of the road leading to the A.G.B.D. This area is quite inadequate, as there would be undue congestion of the tents, and absolutely no space for a parade ground.</p> <p>The Australian Y.M.C.A. have just completed a large and very well equipped Gymnasium in the part of Camp 22 lying west of the road leading to the A.G.B.D. In my opinion it is essential that the whole of Camps 22 and 23 be allotted to the Convalescent Depot. There would then be sufficient space to erect the tents without undue crowding also ample room would be provided for a good parade ground.</p> <p>(c) <u>Accommodation.</u> It has been decided that the accommodation supplied will be Tents, C.S.L. (vide C.R. Base H.Q. No. 04562/1/ of 18/3/18). About 300 of these tents have already been erected. From a Medical point of view I consider Single Bell Tents quite unsuitable for a Convalescent Depot. I strongly recommend that this matter be reconsidered and that Hospital Marquees be substituted for Bell Tents."</p>	Barber	1;	Tailor,	1;	Shoemaker	1;	*Cooks,	9;	
Barber	1;											
Tailor,	1;											
Shoemaker	1;											
*Cooks,	9;											

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			<p>29.</p> <p>Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during the Month of March, 1918--</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number boarded--</th> <th>Classified.</th> <th>"A"</th> <th>Bii (period)</th> <th>"Bi,Bii,Biii."</th> <th>"E"</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>828</td> <td></td> <td>88</td> <td>129</td> <td>590</td> <td>21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Total number of reinforcements arriving on draft from Overseas during March, 1918-- 4850</p> <p>Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas.--- 23.</p> <p>Result of "T.B. Training".</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number that have done training.</th> <th>Number boarded.</th> <th>"A"</th> <th>Classified. "Bii(period)"</th> <th>"B" class.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>684</td> <td>656</td> <td>328</td> <td>18-</td> <td>310.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>.....</p> <p>Total number of N.C.Os. and men boarded since 1st July, 1917-- 9835.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Number classified--</th> <th>"A"</th> <th>"T.B." or Bii(period).</th> <th>"P.B." or "B" class.</th> <th>"P.U."</th> <th>"E".</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>2191</td> <td>2223</td> <td>5061</td> <td>336.</td> <td>24.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>.....</p> <p>Number of Reinforcements arrived from Overseas since 1st August, 1917--- 47,388</p> <p>Number found unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots, since 1/8/17--- 245.</p> <p>As will be seen from the above figures the general standard of Reinforcements arriving from Overseas has been most satisfactory. Regarding the unfits, a great number of these state on arrival that they have been on "B" class work, such as Batmen, Clerks, &c., in England for varying periods, and have suddenly been taken from this work and sent overseas in order to bring the draft up to the number required.</p> <p>There is is only the men's word for the above statement, but it is so commonly made by men found unfit on arrival here that it would appear that it is correct.</p>	Number boarded--	Classified.	"A"	Bii (period)	"Bi,Bii,Biii."	"E"	828		88	129	590	21	Number that have done training.	Number boarded.	"A"	Classified. "Bii(period)"	"B" class.	684	656	328	18-	310.	Number classified--	"A"	"T.B." or Bii(period).	"P.B." or "B" class.	"P.U."	"E".		2191	2223	5061	336.	24.	<p>*Appendix 4 comprises a detailed list of N.C.Os. & men boarded since 1/7/17</p>
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H a v r e.	2/4/18.		Q.M. and Hon. Captain C.A. Oxley reported his arrival for duty as Adjutant and Quartermaster with the First Australian Convalescent Depot from 3rd Australian General Hospital.	
	5/4/18.		Major H.R.J. Harris, A.A.M.C., reported for duty with the First Australian Convalescent Depot from 2nd A.G.H. AND was temporarily attached to the A.I.B.D. Captain S.B. Jago, A.A.M.C. (Dental) marched in from England for duty at the Dental Hut, Australian Base Depots.	
	7/4/18.		Major J. C. Wells, A.A.M.C., reported from 1st A.G.H. for duty with the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot, and was temporarily attached to the A.G.B.D. Captain R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., returned from 14 days' leave of absence to Marseilles.	
	9/4/18.		Major I. Blaubaum, A.A.M.C., appointed M. O., i/c. Australian Infantry Base Depot.	
	15/4/18.		Captain G.C. Harper reported his arrival from 1st A.G.H. for duty with the 1st Australian Convalescent Depot and was temporarily attached to the A.G.B.D.	
	16/4/18.		Office of S.M.O., Australian Base Depots moved from Camp 20 to Camp 23.	
	18/4/18.		Lieut-Colonel S.R. Burston, D.S.O., A.A.M.C., took over duty as C.O., 1st Australian Convalescent Depot in addition to his duties as S.M.O., Australian Base Depots. Major J.C. Wells, A.A.M.C., marched out to rejoin the 1st A.G.H.	
	20/4/18.		Major H.R.J. Harris, A.A.M.C., marched out to rejoin 2nd A.G.H.	
	22/4/18.		Nos. 99, 100, 101, and 102 Dental Units being unable to proceed to the front were temporarily attached to the Dental Hut for duty. The following Officers were thus temporarily taken on the strength-- <div> <div>Captain W.G. Robinson,</div> <div>Captain E. Yule,</div> <div>Captain E.M. Gawley,</div> <div>Captain H.T.S. Donaldson,</div> <div>No. 99 Dental Unit;</div> <div>No. 100 do.</div> <div>No. 101 do.</div> <div>No. 102 do.</div> </div>	

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Havre.	22/5/18.		<p>Major Day, S.O.A.D.S., France, visited the Depots, and in consultation with him it was decided that the old system that was in force last year should be returned to, during the present emergency at the Front, viz., that only those men who parade to the Medical Officer of their Depot requiring Dental treatment and whom he considers unfit to carry on without that treatment are to be treated. This should immediately bring the number of men awaiting Dental treatment down to quite normal figures, and the Dental Staff should be able to cope with the work satisfactorily.</p> <p>Reference large number of men for Dental treatment.</p> <p>During the past 3 months there has been a great accumulation of men awaiting Dental treatment. This is primarily due to the fact that during January last, Lieut-Colonel Marshall, S.O.A.D.S., A.I.F. and Major Day, S.O.A.D.S., France, visited these Bases and formulated a scheme whereby every casual marching into the Base was to be Dentally inspected, and every man requiring Dental treatment was to be treated and a certificate sent to the S.O.A.D.S., France, weekly that the casuals marching into the Depot had been inspected and those requiring Dental treatment had been treated, and that all drafts leaving for the Front were Dentally fit.</p> <p>This was during the period that Major Blaubaum was Acting S.M.O. The scheme was quite workable during the Winter months when only 30 to 50 casuals marched in per day but it was apparent that as soon as any fighting commenced and casualties started to increase it would be quite hopeless.</p> <p>During the past 2 months the number of Casuals marching into the Depots has been averaging over 150 a day, consequently in spite of the fact that 4 extra Dental Units were temporarily attached for duty they were not able to cope with the work, therefore instructions were given to the S.D.O. to only detain men for dental treatment who were quite unable to carry on in their present condition. This reduced the number of men kept in the Base for Dental treatment very considerably and the Dental Staff has now been reduced again to 5 Units.</p>	
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Havre.	8/5/18.		Captain N.E. Lockhart, A.A.M.C. Dental Services, marched out to Hospital for evacuation to U.K.	
	15/5/18.		Lieut-General Sir Arthur T. Sloggett, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., K.C.V.O., Director General of Medical Services, France, visited the Base Depots and Australian Detention Hospital, and expressed himself well satisfied with the Medical Services of the Australian Base Depots, and said that the Australian Detention Hospital was the best of its kind in France.	
	20/5/18.		Major Day, S.O. A.D.S., France, arrived to make enquiries re large numbers of men requiring Dental treatment in Base Depots.	
	21/5/18.		Colonel Barber, D.S.O., V.D., D.D.M.S., Australian Corps, visited the Base Depots under instructions from G.O.C., A.I.F. in order to inquire into the extraordinary large number of men shown as "Sick" and "Light Duty" on the returns submitted from the A.I.B.D. It was pointed out that these returns did not in any way correspond with the Medical returns received in this Office, and that there was practically no sickness in the Base Depots, also that the number of men on 'Light Duty' was not more than might reasonably reasonably be expected. After interviewing the C.O., A.I.B.D., it was apparent that numbers of men had been shown as sick on their returns without Medical authority, and that about 70% of the men shown in their Daily Return of Strength as unfit to proceed to the front for medical reasons were in reality "A" class men, and there was no medical reason why they should not proceed to the front. Some time previously a note was sent to the C.Os. A.F.B.D. and A.I.B.D. asking them to forward to this Office a copy of their daily return of strength in order that the figures shown on that might be checked over with the figures received in this Office and if there were any discrepancies, the C.O. concerned could be notified. This request was complied with immediately by by the C.O., A.G.B.D., but the C.O., A.I.B.D. refused it on the grounds that the S.M.O. was placing himself in a position of authority over him. (This matter has now been arranged). For this reason it was not possible to keep any check on the returns rendered by the A.I.B.D. Sanitary Arrangements Colonel Barber also inspected the medical and sanitary arrangements of both Depots, also the Australian Detention Hospital.	
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