

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/36/5

**Title:** Senior Medical Officer, Australian  
Base Depots, France

September 1918



AWM4-26/36/5

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF  
SENIOR MEDICAL  
OFFICER,  
AUSTRALIAN  
BASE DEPOTS.

FOR

*September* 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling .....

Signature of Officer Commanding .....

*J. R. Sims*

Lieut-Colonel,

A. I. F.

S.M.O. Australian Base Depots.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

422

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H a v r e.	1/9/18.		<p>It was decided to discontinue the issue of the Daily Routine Orders and in future Orders are only to be issued once a week. Weather: Very fine, warm.</p>	
	2/9/18.		<p>Fine and Mild, but Windy.</p>	
	3/9/18.		<p>Fine and Mild.</p>	
	4/9/18.		<p>Fine and Warm with slight cool breeze.</p>	
	5/9/18.		<p>Fine and warm.</p>	
	6/9/18.		<p>Very fine, sunny and warm. The following letter was received from the Specialist Sanitary Officer with regard to the contamination of the Water Supply to the Australian Camps:-</p> <p>"S.M.O., Aust. Base Depots. The following is the result of this week's water test: 600 Colonies per c.c. "B" Coli in 20 c.c.</p> <p>Will you please issue instructions for all drinking water to be boiled in your area until further instructions." (Sgd) C. M. JONES, Captain, R.A.M.C., a/Specialist Sanitary Officer, Harfleur.</p> <p>Acting on the above the Commandant, Australian Base Depots was asked if the necessary instructions could be issued:</p> <p>To Commandant, Australian Base Depots. "Owing to the contamination of the water supply to the Australian Camps, the Specialist Sanitary Officer states that it is necessary for the drinking water for the troops to be boiled until further notice. Could the necessary instructions be issued please."</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			2.	
H a v r e .	7/9/18.		Thunderstorm. Rain all day.	
	8/9/18.		Heavy thunderstorms all day.	
	9/9/18.		Mild and showery.	
	10/9/18.		Showery.	
	11/9/18.		Thundery. Rain and showery.	
	12/9/18.		Showery. The following telephone message was received from the Specialist Sanitary Officer, Harfleur:- "This week's water test gives the following results:- No Colonies in 50 c.c. No "B" Coli in 50 c.c. Instructions regarding all drinking water are now cancelled." The following letter was then written to the Commandant, Australian Base Depots:-  "Reference my 2279/18 of 6/9/18 re contamination of the water supply to the Australian Camps. The Specialist Sanitary Officer has now cancelled all previous instructions regarding the boiling of water before drinking. For your information, please."	
	13/9/18.		Fine and Mild. Little rain in afternoon.	
	14/9/18.		Showery all day.	
	15/9/18.		Fine, sunny, and warm.	
	16/9/18.		Very warm.	
	17/9/18.		Warm and muggy	

D. D. & L., London, E.C.  
(A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/15 Sch. 82 Forms/C2118/16

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			3.	
H a v r e .	18/9/18.		Muggy and showery.	
	19/9/18.		Dull and showery in the afternoon.	
	20/9/18.		Mild, dull and showery. A.I.F. Order No. 1379 publishing A.I.F. List No. 386 gave the following promotions to date from 10th September, 1918--- Captain R.C. WITHINGTON, A.A.M.C., to be Major; Captain W.L. SMITH, M.C., A.A.M.C., to be Major.	
	21/9/18.		Fine and warm.	
	22/9/18.		Mild, rain.  Captain M.R. FINLAYSON, A.A.M.C., proceeded on 14 days' leave of absence to U.K. During Captain Finlayson's absence on leave Major R.C. Withington, A.A.M.C., was detailed for duty as M.O. i/c. A.G.B.D. in addition to his duties as Member of the Standing Medical Board.	
	23/9/18.		Fine and mild.	
	24/9/18.		Very fine and warm.	
	25/9/18.		Mild and showery in the morning. Fine and warm afternoon.	
	26/9/18.		Fine and mild.	
	27/9/18.		Showery.	
	28/9/18.		Rain all day.	
	29/9/18.		Cool in morning. Cold and showery afternoon.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H a v r e.	29/9/18.		<p style="text-align: center;">4.</p> <p>Major I. BLAUBAUM, A.A.M.C., marched out to report to Taranto en route for Australia thus causing a vacancy on the Standing Medical Board.</p> <p>Major R.C. WITHINGTON, A.A.M.C., was detailed for duty as President and Captain G.C. HARPER, A.A.M.C., as Member of the Standing Medical Board, Australian Base Depots.</p> <p>Major W.L. SMITH, M.C., A.A.M.C., was detailed for duty as M.O. i/c. Australian Base Depots Camp Hospital in addition to his duties as M.O. i/c. A.I.B.D.</p>	
	30/9/18.		<p>Fine and mild.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																														
H a v r e.	September, 1918.		<p style="text-align: center;">5.</p> <p>Summary of N.C.Os. and men boarded during the month of September, 1918--</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; width: 25%;"><u>Number boarded-</u></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 25%;">Classified:</td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 15%;"><u>"A"</u></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 15%;"><u>"B"</u></td> <td style="text-align: center; width: 20%;"><u>"E"</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">953.</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">53.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">900</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> </tr> </table> <p>Number of Reinforcements arriving on draft from Overseas during SEPTEMBER, 1918: <u>2955.</u></p> <p>Number found Unfit on arrival at Australian Base Depots from Overseas: <u>1.</u></p> <p>The following are the returns from the Prophylactic Huts now in use:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">A. G. B. D. &amp; 1st Aust. Con. <u>Depot.</u></th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 15%;">A. I. B. D.</th> <th style="text-align: center; width: 10%;"><u>Total.</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Number of men reported for Prophylactic Treatment during the month.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3302</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1947</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5249.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of cases placed under Early Treatment for Gonorrhoea.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">88</td> <td style="text-align: center;">23</td> <td style="text-align: center;">111.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of cases of Gonorrhoea cured or <del>aborted</del>.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">71</td> <td style="text-align: center;">20</td> <td style="text-align: center;">91.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of cases of Gleet successfully treated.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">--</td> <td style="text-align: center;">75</td> <td style="text-align: center;">75.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS CAMP HOSPITAL. Monthly return showing number of patients admitted and discharged is shown in Appendix 1.</p>	<u>Number boarded-</u>	Classified:	<u>"A"</u>	<u>"B"</u>	<u>"E"</u>	953.		53.	900	--		A. G. B. D. & 1st Aust. Con. <u>Depot.</u>	A. I. B. D.	<u>Total.</u>	Number of men reported for Prophylactic Treatment during the month.	3302	1947	5249.	Number of cases placed under Early Treatment for Gonorrhoea.	88	23	111.	Number of cases of Gonorrhoea cured or <del>aborted</del> .	71	20	91.	Number of cases of Gleet successfully treated.	--	75	75.	Appendix 1.
<u>Number boarded-</u>	Classified:	<u>"A"</u>	<u>"B"</u>	<u>"E"</u>																														
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
H A V R E.	September, 1918.		<p style="text-align: center;">6.</p> <p><u>GRAPHS.</u> The following Graphs are shown in Appendix 2.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of Casuals marching into Australian Base Depots from Hospitals and Convalescent Depots in France, and how classified on inspection by M.O. the following day.</li> <li>2. Number of men boarded in Australian Base Depots and how classified.</li> <li>3. Number of men in Australian Base Depots and number of cases evacuated to Hospital.</li> <li>4. Number of reinforcements arriving at Australian Base Depots from U.K. and number found unfit on arrival.</li> </ol>	Appendix 2.
			<p>Monthly Return showing Number of Venereals and Scabies cases evacuated to Hospital during the month of September, 1918, is shown in Appendix 3.</p>	Appendix 3.
			<p>Monthly Return of N.C.Os. and men sent down from Front by A.Ds. M.S. of Divisions as Unfit for further duty in the Line, during the month of September, 1918, is shown in Appendix 4.</p>	Appendix 4.

*[Handwritten signature]*  
27/9/18



422

# WAR DIARY

OF

SENIOR MEDICAL  
OFFICER,  
AUSTRALIAN  
BASE DEPOTS.

No .....

Date .....

SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS,  
H a v r e, F R A N C E,  
FOR

S E P T E M B E R, 1918.

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject.  |
|-----|---|
| 1.  | Monthly Camp Hospital Return, showing the number of patients admitted and discharged.   |
| 2.  | <u>GRAPHS</u> showing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The number of Casuals marching into Australian Base Depots from Hospitals and Convalescent Depots in France, and how classified on inspection.</li> <li>2. Number of men boarded in Australian Base Depots, and how classified.</li> <li>3. Number of men in Australian Base Depots, and number of cases evacuated to Hospital.</li> <li>4. Number of reinforcements arriving at Australian Base Depots from U.K. and number found unfit on arrival.</li> </ol> |
| 3.  | Monthly return showing number of Venereal and Scabies cases evacuated to Hospital during the month.   |
| 4.  | Monthly return of N.C.Os. and men sent down from Front by A.Ds.M.S. of Divisions as unfit for further service in the line.  |

422

D. D. M. S.,  
H a v r e.

SENIOR MEDICAL  
OFFICER,  
AUSTRALIAN  
BASE DEPOTS.  
*No. Appending 1*

AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS CAMP HOSPITAL.

Return for the month ending 30th. September, 1918.

A.	B.	C.	D.	E.	F.
Remaining in at end of August.	Admitted during month.	Discharged to Duty.	Transferred to Gen.Hosp.	Discharged other than shewn in C or D.	Remaining in at end of September.
34	151	138	10	nil	37

(Sgd)-

S. ROY BURSTON.  
Lieut-Colonel.  
A.A.M.C.

S.M.O. Australian Base Depots.

H a v r e,  
4th. Oct. 1918.

422

# CASUALS MARCHING INTO AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS DURING SEPTEMBER 1918 AND HOW CLASSIFIED.

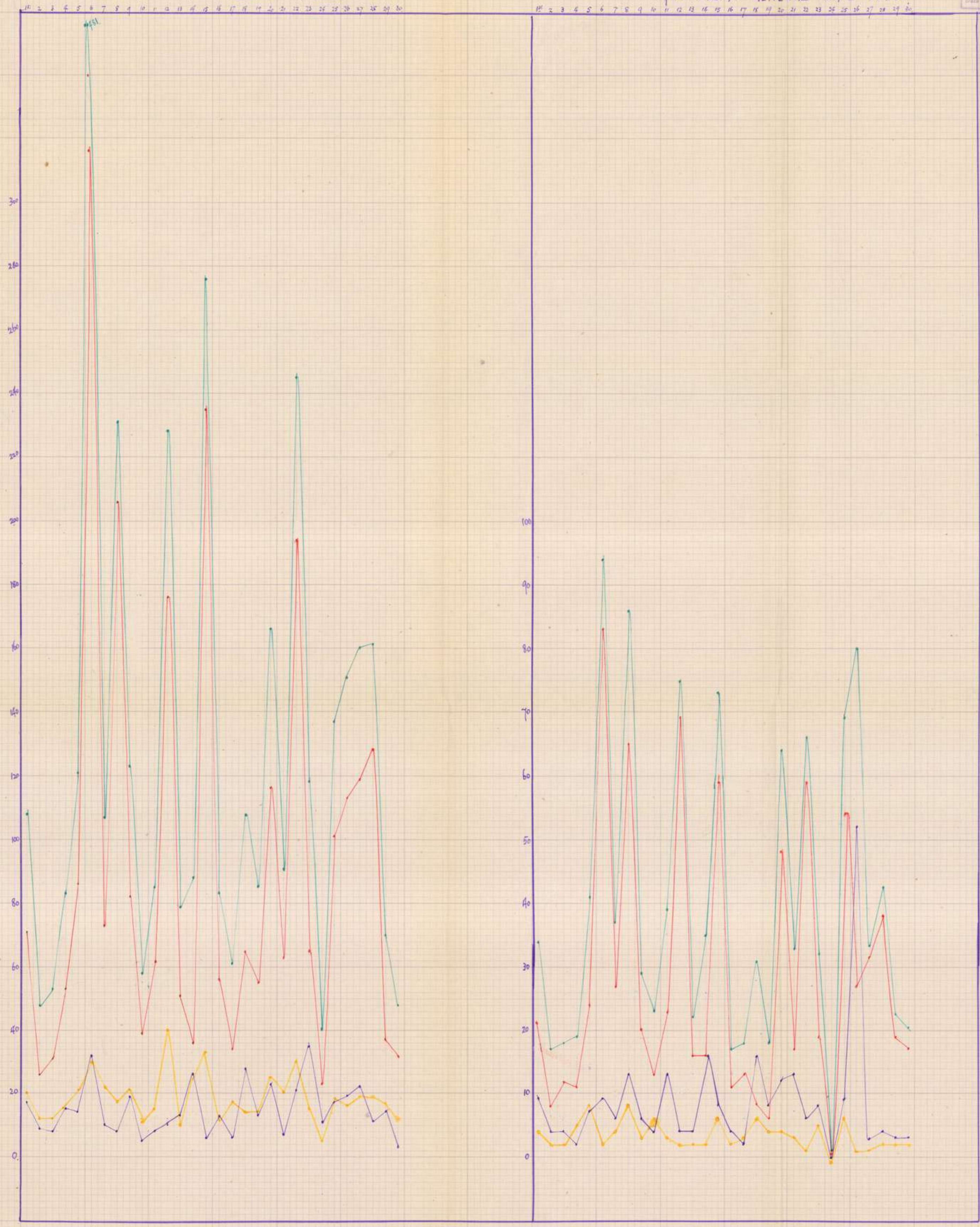
GREEN = TOTAL NUMBER OF CASUALS MARCHING IN.  
PURPLE = NUMBER MARKED FOR MEDICAL BOARD

RED = NUMBER CLASSIFIED 'A' ON EXAMINATION  
YELLOW = NUMBER PUT ON LIGHT DUTY

AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BASE DEPOT.

AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT.

SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS  
Appendix 2  
Date



# NCOs AND MEN BOARDED IN AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS DURING SEPTEMBER-1918.

GREEN = TOTAL NUMBER BOARDED

RED = NUMBER CLASSIFIED "B" CLASS

PURPLE = NUMBER CLASSIFIED "A"

YELLOW = NUMBER CLASSIFIED "E"

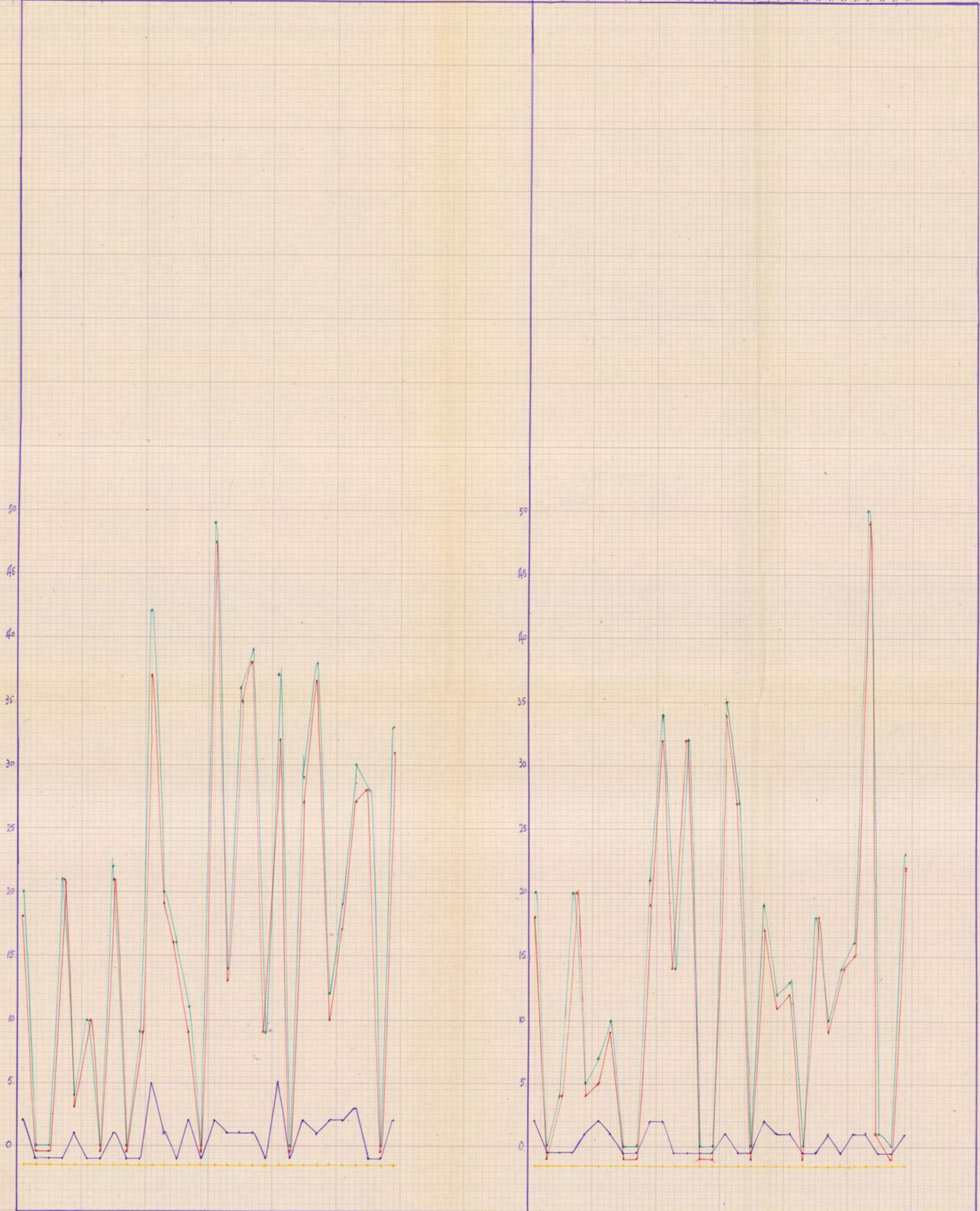
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER,  
 AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS.  
 No. Appendix 2  
 Date 2

## AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BASE DEPOT

## AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT

September 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

September 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30



# NUMBER OF MEN IN AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS AND NUMBER EVACUATED TO HOSPITAL DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER-1918.

SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS. *Appendix 2* Date *3*

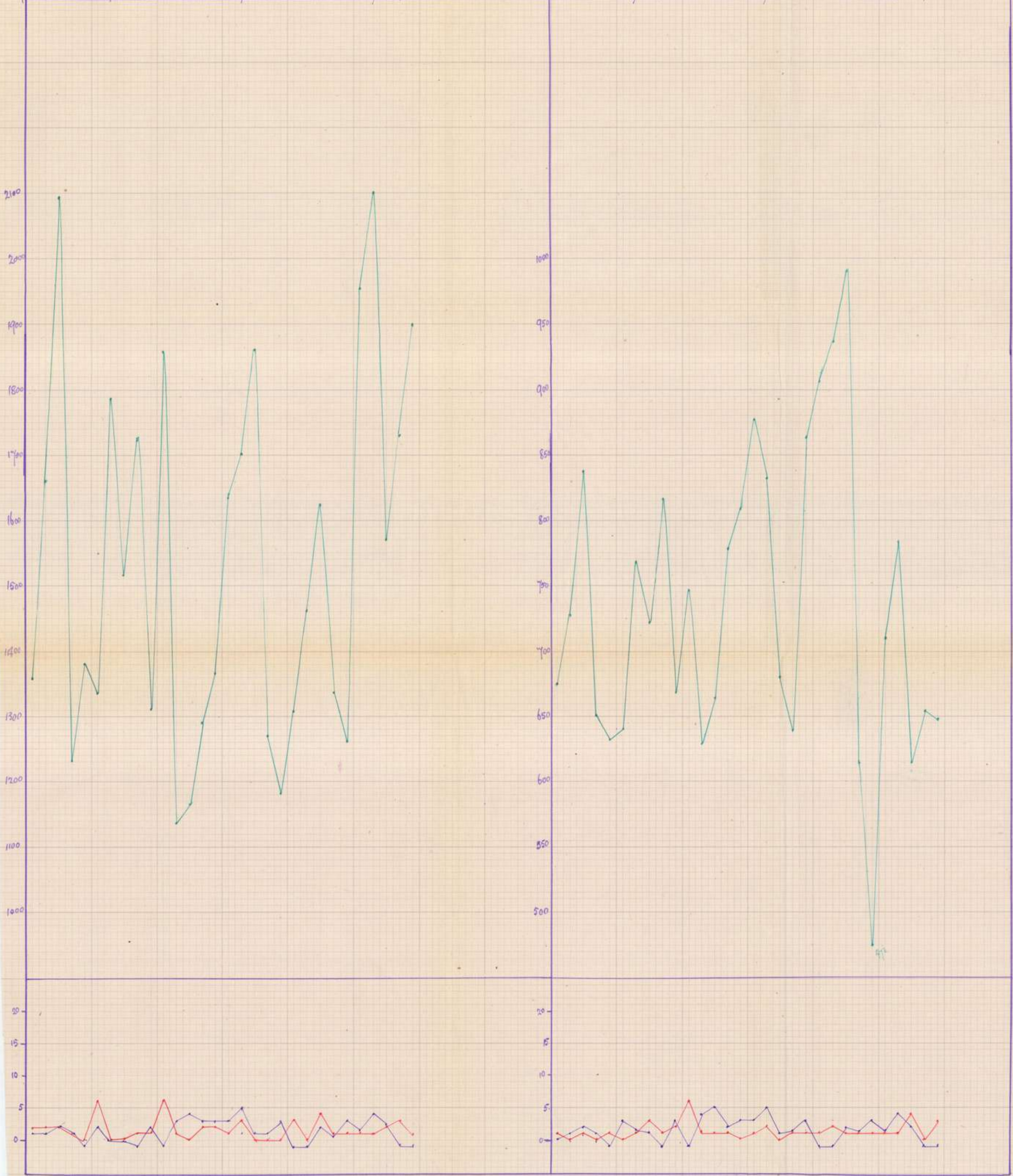
GREEN = TOTAL NUMBER OF MEN IN DEPOT.

RED = NUMBER OF CASES EVACUATED TO HOSPITAL

PURPLE = NO OF VENEREALS TO 39 GEN HQSD.

## September AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BASE DEPOT.

## September AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT.



# NUMBER OF REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVING AT AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS FROM U.K. DURING SEPTEMBER - 1918

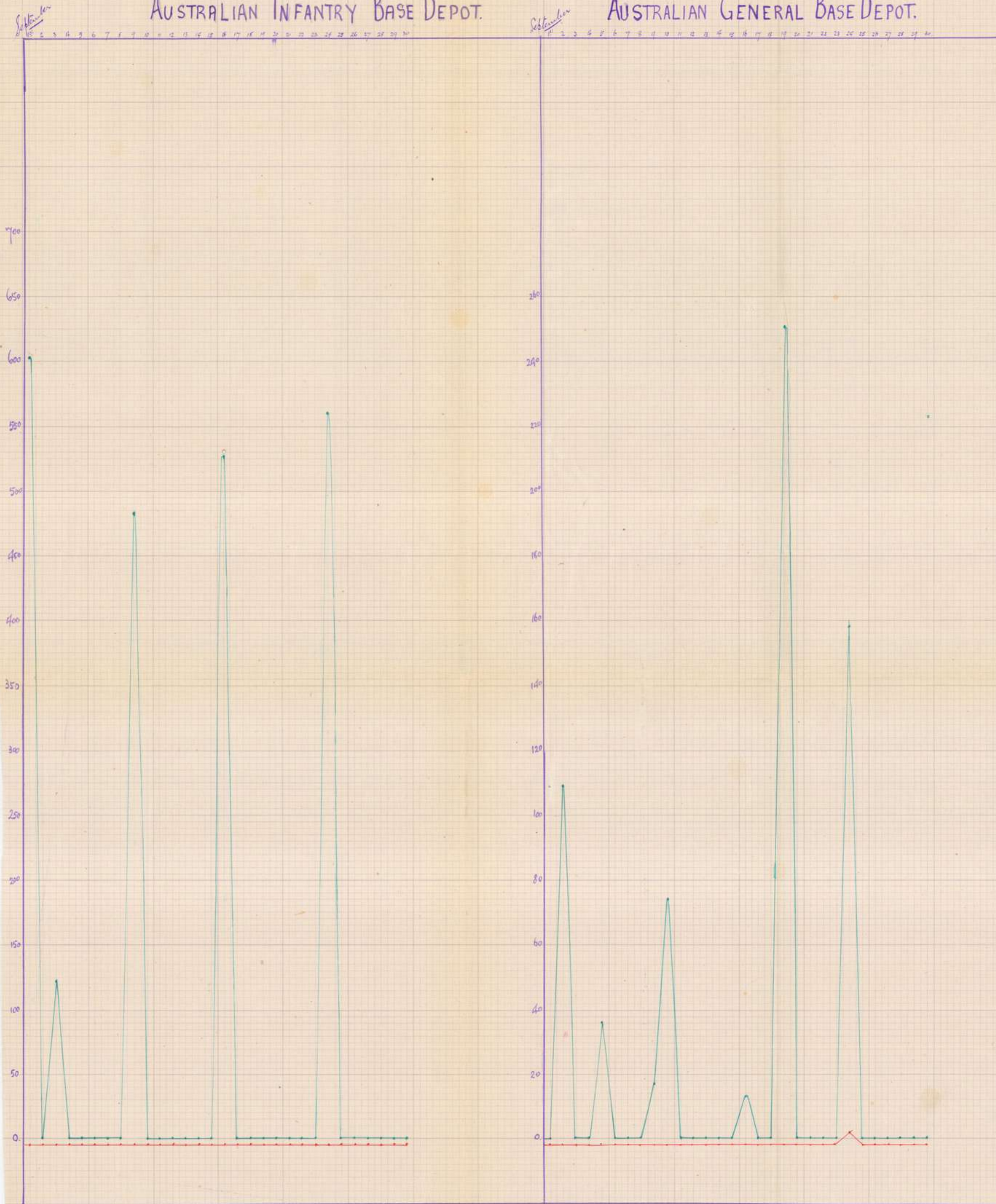
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER  
 AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS  
 No. *Appendix 2*  
 Date *4*

GREEN = TOTAL NUMBER OF REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVING

RED = NUMBER FOUND UNFIT ON INSPECTION ON ARRIVAL

## AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY BASE DEPOT.

## AUSTRALIAN GENERAL BASE DEPOT.



422

S. S. O.,  
H a r f l e u r.

SENIOR MEDICAL  
OFFICER,  
AUSTRALIAN  
BASE DEPOTS.  
*Appendix 3*

AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS.

RETURN OF SCABIES AND VENEREAL DISEASES FOR THE MONTH ENDING 30-9-1918.

Depot.	Gonorrhoea.	Syphilis.	Soft Sore.	Chancre.	Epididimitis.	Scabies.
A.G.B.D.	5	1	1	-	-	1
A.I.B.D.	35	-	3	-	-	1
	40	1	4	-	-	2

(Sgd)-

S. ROY BURSTON.  
Lieut-Colonel.  
A.A.M.C.  
S.M.O. Australian Base Depots.

Rouelles,  
30-9-1918.

AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS, HAVRE.

NOMINAL ROLL OF N.C.Os. AND MEN SENT DOWN BY A.D.'s M.S. OF DIVISIONS AS UNFIT FOR DUTY AT THE FRONT

THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 1918......

422

SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER,  
AUSTRALIAN BASE DEPOTS.

No. *Asprentice*  
Date *3-10-1918*

Sent down by A.D.'s M.S. of--	Number sent down.	HOW DISPOSED OF--							Not yet in Depot.	Total.	Remarks.
		"A"	B.1. " "	B.2. " "	B.3. " "	"E."	Training.	Hospital.			
1st Aus.Div.	8	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	2	8	
2nd Aus.Div.	27	-	8	6	9	-	-	-	4	27	
3rd Aus.Div.	27	-	2	3	16	-	-	-	6	27	
4th Aus.Div.	19	-	4	5	4	-	-	-	6	19	
5th Aus.Div.	19	-	3	3	5	-	-	-	8	19	
Totals.--	100	-	18	18	38	-	-	-	26	100	

(sgd)-

S. ROY BURSTON.....Lieut-Colonel,  
A.A.M.C.

S.M.O. Australian Base Depots, Havre.

H A V R E,  
3-10-1918.