

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/21/17

Title: Assistant Director of Medical
Services, 4th Australian Division

October 1917



AWM4-26/21/17

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.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A. D. M. S.
4TH
AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. _____
Date _____

Army Form C. 2118.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SMYTHE CAMP. STEENVOORDE	Oct. 1917.			
	1st.		A.D.M.S. Office moved from SMYTHE CAMP Sheet 28. H 21. d6. 2. and opened STEENVOORDE 12 Noon.	
	2nd.		Inspected 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance at 4th. Aus. Div. Rest Station, van Schier FARM Sheet 28. Issued ANALYSIS of SICK WASTAGE for Sept Sept. Copy Attached. G 21. c5. 8.	
	3rd.		Inspected 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance at J29. 29 .1. Sheet 28.	
	4th.		Conference with R.M.O's at 4th. Aus. Infantry Brigade Headquarters, near STEENVOORDE.	
	5th.		Inspected 13th. Aus. Field Ambulance Sheet 27. K27. 20 . 2.	
	6th.		Conference with R.M.O's. 12th. 13th. Aus. Infantry Brigades at 12th. Aus. Infantry Bde. H Qrs.	
	8th.		Inspected "C" Section 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance attached 12th. Aus. Infantry Brigade.	
	8th.		Attended conference of A.Ds.M.S. at D.D.M.S. 1st. ANZAC Office.	
			Issued circular on "Sick Wastage". Copy attached.	
	9th.		Conferred with C.O's. Field Ambulances at A.D.M.S. Office Steenvoorde re coming operations.	
			Issued A.A.M.C. Order No. 72. Copy attached.	
	10th.		D.A.D.M.S. visited forward R.A.Ps. and A.D.S. MENIN ROAD. (See copy of Medical Arrangements attached)	
	11th.		A.D.M.S. Office moved from STEENVOORDE and opened RAMPARTS, YPRES. Sheet 28. I 14. b1. 8.	
	12th.		D.A.D.M.S. visited Relay Posts. (See Medical Arrangements copy attached)	
	13th.		Issued Medical Arrangements 4th. Aus. Division. Copy attached.	
	14th.		D.A.D.M.S. visited R.A.P's. and Relay Posts.	
	15th.		Inspected ENTRAINING POST, YPRES. A.D.S. also A.D.S. MENIN ROAD.	
	16th.		Inspected Motor Ambulance Post "Crater" ZONNEBEEKE Rd. and A.D.S. WALKING WOUNDED MEYNIN Road.	
	17th.		Issued Map. "Scheme of Evacuation for Wounded" 4th. Aus. Division. Copy attached.	
			Inspected 4th. Aus. Divisional Rest Station, also Belgian Battery Corner Post.	
	18th.		Changes in Medical Officers. Copy attached.	
			Inspected A.D.S. MENIN ROAD and A.D.S. YPRES.	
	20th.		Formed Div. Collecting Stn., BELGIAN BATTERY CNR. & inspected same. Inspected Bde. Wagon lines & advised C.O. be appointed for same, which was done. Issued narrative of Med. Operations conducted by 4th. Aus. Div., Sept. 23rd. to Oct. 20th. 1917, copy attached.	
	21st.		Issued A.A.M.C. Order No. 73, copy attached. Severe shelling around YPRES A.D.S. I. 7. c. 6. 7. & number of men killed & wounded in vicinity. 2 M.A.C. Cars injured. Arranged with D.D.M.S. to form a reserve Dressing Stn. about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in rear for use in event of present A.D.S. becoming untenable.	
	c		ZONNEBEEKE Rd. blocked between Motor & Wagon Loading Post by burning ammunition Lorry Wagons, this obstruction was cleared away after about 2 hours.	
	21st.		Inspected A.D.S. Entraining Centre YPRES and Div Coll. Stn. Belgian Battery Corner.	
	23rd.		Issued A.A.M.C. Order NO. 74, copy attached. Attended conference at D.D.M.S. Office. Protested against Tent Sub-Divisions being detached to C.C.S. just when most required by Division in line.	

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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

Army Form C. 2118.

A. D. M. S.,

4TH

AUSTRALIAN DIV.

No.

Sub

Place	Date	Hour	Continued. (2).	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RAMPARTS YPRES.	Oct. 1917.				
	23		also pointed out the unnecessary delay in forwarding N.C.O's. and reinforcements and unsuitability of men and N.C.Os. forwarded as reinforcements to Field Medical Units.		
	24		A.D.M.S. Office closed Ramparts YPRES I.14.b.1.8. and opened Scottish Lines 12 noon (G.23.d.9.7. Sheet 28.		
	25		Endeavoured without success to obtain portable Baths for use in BOMY Area. Corps has been requested to supply same.		
	26		A.D.M.S. Office closed Scottish Lines G23. a 9. 7. (Sheet 28) and opened BOMY 5p.m. Sheet 5A. HAZEBROUCK.		
	27th.		A.D.M.S. visited First Army with reference to Medical Arrangements BOMY AREA. D.A.D.M.S. visited 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance ERNY St JULIEN with reference to accommodation for patients etc.		
	28th.		Visited 4th. Aus. Infantry Brigade Headquarters with reference to Baths and disinfection of Blankets.		
	29th.		Inspected 13th. Aus. Field Ambulance VINCLY.		
	30th.		Inspected 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance ECQUIRRE.		
	31st.		Issued Changes in Medical Officers. Copy attached.		
			October 31st. 1917. 10pm.	Colonel, A.D.M.S., 4th. Australian Division.	

APPENDIX.



4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

The following postings of Medical Officers of 4th. Aus. Division will take place as from 2/10/1917.

NAME.	FROM	TO	Remarks.
Capt. G.R.MERRILLEES	Reinforcements	13th. Aus. F. Amb.	Vice Major H.W.F. MITCHELL, M.C. to
Major H.W.F.MITCHELL M.C.	13th. Aus. F. Ambulance.	No. 2. A.G.H. Authority 148/504	No. 2. Aus. G. Hospital. 1st. ANZAC 23/9/17.
Capt. P.B.SEWELL	12th. Aus. F. Ambulance.	50th. Aus. Inf. Bn.	Vice-Capt. POWELL Vice Capt. H. POWELL, M.C.
Capt. E.L.MORGAN	Reinforcements	12th. Aus. F. Amb.	
Capt. H.POWELL, M.C.	50th. Aus. Inf. Bn.	No. 3. Aus. G. Hospital.	Authority 148/504 as above.

1/10/1917.

[Signature]
Colonel,
A.D.M.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

Copies to :-

- C.O., 12th. Aus. F. Ambulance.
- " " 13th. Aus. F. Ambulance.
- D.A.G., A.I.F., 1st. ANZAC.
- D.A.A.G., 4th. Aus. Division.
- D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC.
- O.C., 50th. Aus. Inf. Bn.
- War Diary (3)
- Office File.

4th. Australian Division.

Analysis of Sick Wastage by Units:
From 1st. to 30th. September 1917 inclusive.

	<u>To C.C.S.</u>	<u>Venereal Disease.</u>
13th. Battalion	53	3
14th. Battalion	66	4
15th. Battalion	65	2
16th. Battalion	46	7
4th. H.G.Coy.	12	3
4th. A.L.T.H.B.	1	-
	---	---
Total.	243	19
45th. Battalion	30	4
46th. Battalion	31	5
47th. Battalion	26	2
48th. Battalion	38	4
12th. H.G.Coy.	7	-
12th. A.L.T.H.B.	6	-
12th. Bde. H.Qrs.	1	-
Total.	--- 139	--- 15
49th. Battalion	38	2
50th. Battalion	37	3
51st. Battalion	42	6
52nd. Battalion	58	9
13th. H.G.Coy.	12	5
13th. A.L.T.H.B.	2	-
13th. Bde. H.Qrs.	1	-
	--- 190	--- 25
10th. A.F.A. Bde. *	10	1
11th. A.F.A. Bde. *	5	1
4th. D.A.C. *	8	1
	--- 23	--- 3
4th. Pioneer Bn.	42	9
4th. Div. Train	11	3
4th. Div. Engineers	24	6
4th. Div. Signal Coy.	9	1
4th. Div. H.Qrs.	6	-
4th. Div. Sub. Park	1	-
4th. Div. Pack Troop	1	-
4th. Mob. Vet. Sect.	1	1
4th. Field Ambulance	6	-
12th. Field Ambulance	8	1
13th. Field Ambulance	5	2
	--- 114	--- 23
Total	==== 709	==== 85
Grand Total.	====	====

* One week's figures only.

2/10/1917.

.....

ZSigned) L. W. JEFFRIES.

Major.

For A.D.H.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

Distribution overleaf.

C.O. all Units
GOC 4, 12, 13 Bde
oc. 4, 12, 13 4 Amb
GOC 4 Div
A 4 Div
CRA 4 Div.

13th. Battalion	53		
14th. Battalion	53		
15th. Battalion	53		
16th. Battalion	53		
17th. Battalion	53		
18th. Battalion	53		
19th. Battalion	53		
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95th. Battalion	53		
96th. Battalion	53		
97th. Battalion	53		
98th. Battalion	53		
99th. Battalion	53		
100th. Battalion	53		

... (illegible text) ...

COPY. The following postings of Medical Officers of 4th. Aus. Division are notified:-

Name and Date.	From	To	Remarks.
Capt. BLUMER, G.A. 2/10/17.	12th. Aus. F. Amb.	12th. Aus. Army Field Art. Bde.	Vice Capt. PARKINSON P.S., "Gassed."
Capt. MACKAY, J.S.	Reinforcements	12th. Aus. F. Ambulance.	Vice Capt. BLUMER, G.A.

7/10/1917.

A.D.M.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

Copies to:- D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC
O.C., 12th. Aus. F. Amb.
O.C., 12th. Aus. Army F. Art. Bde.
D.A.G., A.I.F.,
D.A.A.G., 4th. Aus. Division.
War Diary
File.



The principle causes of Sick Wastage from this Division during the Winter 1916/1917 on the SOE were due to the following preventable diseases:-

TRENCH FEET.
 Septic Traumatic Abrasions of Feet.
 TRENCH FETTER.
 SCABIES.
 DIARRHOEA.

Considerable success attended the measures taken by the Division for the prevention of these disorders and it is recommended that they again be put in practice during the coming winter.

TRENCH FEET

Company Officers.

Company and Platoon Officers were instructed to watch the men's feet and send any man exhibiting early signs to the M.O., as if this disorder is taken early, it was proved that it can be cured and the patient returned to the line.

Amo's.

The M.O. at the R.A.P., or if accommodation there was insufficient, the M.O. at the R.A.P. of supporting Bns. of the Brigade, supervise the rubbing of the patients feet by the Stretcher Bearers for about 10 minutes every hour with whale oil, and many cases, which appeared to be very severe, were thus returned to duty the following day.

C.O's.
 Socks Boots.
 Reliefs.
 Lying
 Places.

Insured that every man was supplied with three pairs of dry socks and that Q.M.'s. supplied the men with efficient boots; that the men were provided with hot food and drinks, and were frequently relieved, and that drying places for socks, clothes, and boots were provided.

Div. M.O.

Organised a Sock Exchange, whereby wet socks were collected in sand bags, and returned by Pack Transport to the Sock Exchange, which returned a similar number of dry socks to the Unit.

Prevention.

The men's feet were washed and nails pared and cleaned before going into the line according to the FRENCH METHOD. If this was not available soap and hot water was used and was probably just as effective.

Changing
 Places.

Benches of wood or galvanised iron were erected in the Trenches in order that men might conveniently change their Socks.

Exercise of
 Feet.

Officers were instructed to order men to exercise their feet and not to continue to stand still in one position.

Puttees.

Orders were issued that puttees were to be discarded or worn loose, and that there was to be no constriction of the lower limbs.

SEPTIC TRAUMATIC ABRASIONS OF FEET.

This disorder being due to the entrance of germs into abrasions of the feet was greatly minimised by the above mentioned measures taken for the cleansing of the feet and the attention paid to the condition and fit of boots and provision of new socks in place of those worn out.

P. T. O.

=====

T R E N C H F E V E R.

This disease is due to infection conveyed by the body louse and was minimised by bathing and frequent sterilization of blankets and clothes. The difficulties in view of the shortage of bathing and sterilizing facilities were recognised by C.O.s but C.O.s took every opportunity of carrying out these precautions.

S C A B I E S.

This disease, due to a parasite infecting the skin, was minimised by the same measures as for Trench Fever and the blankets of the infected men were sent to the Field Ambulance with the patients and others given in return.

D I A R R H O E A.

Shell
hole
Water.

Occurred as the result of drinking shell hole water and defective sanitation in forward area. R.M.Os. were instructed to examine the source of all water supplies and the practice of drinking shell hole water was forbidden.

Rubbish. For the disposal of rubbish, it was ordered that in forward areas certain shell holes should be set apart for liquid and solid refuse, marked and covered with earth daily.

EXCRETA. The practice of promiscuous defaecation and urination was prohibited and the latrines and urinals improvised out of materials at hand in appropriate spots.

All the measures mentioned above and overleaf were carried out by Battalion or Brigade arrangements, with the exception of the Sock Exchange and transport of socks, which was carried out under Divisional Arrangements.

(Sgd.) G.W. BARBER,
Colonel,

8/10/1917.

A.D.I.S., 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Copies to:-

- C.O.C., 4th. Aus. Div.
- C.R.A., 4th. " "
- C.Os.C. Brigades.
- "A" & "B" 4th. Aus. Div.
- "C" 4th. Aus. Div.
- A.D.I.S., 1st. ANZAC.
- All C.Os. 4th. Aus. Div.
- All R.Os. 4th. Aus. Div.
- All Adjutants. 4th. Aus. Div.
- War Diary
- File.

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APPENDIX

9

SECRET.

COPY NO. 21

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

A.A.M.C. ORDER NO. 72.

* By *


COL. H. G. V. BAIRD, DSO., A.D.M.S., 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Map Reference Sheet 28. 1/40,000.
do. Sheet 27. 1/40,000.

The 4th. Australian Division will move to GORDON, CANAL and HALIFAX Areas on 9th., 10th. & 11th. insts. and will relieve the 2nd. Australian Division in the Left Sector on the night 10/11th. inst.

1. The 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance will relieve 12th. Aus. Field Amb. at 4th. Aus. Div. Rest Station, Sheet 28. O.S.I.C.S.S. on 10/10/17 and will make arrangements for the evacuation from 4th. & 12th. Aus. Inf. Brigades until their departure from the STERNVOORDE Area.
Bearer Division will move to Belgian Battery Corner on 10/10/17 at 9 a.m. by LORRY where it will be at the disposal of O.C., 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance.
O.C., 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance will detail one Medical Officer with Batmen and F.M. Pannier to report to Commander, 4th. Aus. Div. Wing Corps Reinforcement Camp, CAESTER on 10/10/1917.
One Tent Sub-division with wagons packed will be held in readiness at the D.R.S. to proceed forward on receipt of orders.
2. 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance will relieve a Medical Unit of 2nd. Aus. Division at the A.D.S. for Stretcher Cases, I.S.C.S.S. on Oct. 10/11th. Headquarters will be at Belgian Battery Corner for the present
3. 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance will relieve Medical Units of 2nd. Aus. Division at the Auxiliary Stations for Stretcher Cases and Walking Cases in YPRES and the entraining Centre, YPRES and Belgian Sty. Corner Sites. Headquarters will be at Belgian Sty. corner.
O.C., 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance will be responsible for the evacuation from the Corps Left Sector via YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Rd. to A.D.S. YPRES. If circumstances render this impossible, via WESTHOEK - BELVAARDE Ridge to NIER CROSS Roads to A.D.S. Menin Road, also for local Casualties and sick at Belgian Sty. Corner.
He will have at his disposal the Bearer Divisions of 4th. & 12th. Aus. Field Ambulances, the Motor Transport (less one large Car each) and the Horse-drawn Ambulance Wagons of 4th. & 12th. Aus. F. Ambulances.
4. Details of reliefs to be mutually arranged between Commanders concerned and to be completed by 10 a.m. 11/10/1917.
5. "C" Section, 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance Bearer Division will join the Bearer Division today, 9/10/1917. Tent Sub-division will rejoin its Unit at 4th. D.R.S. on 10/10/1917.
6. O.C., 4th., 12th. & 12th. Aus. Fd. Ambulances will be responsible for the evacuation of their respective Brigades while in GORDON, CANAL & HALIFAX Areas.
7. The Tent Sub-division of the 12th. Aus. Fd. Ambulance at NO. 10 C.O.S. RINK GROUP will be relieved by noon 10/10/17 by a similar Unit of the 2nd. Aus. Division and will then rejoin its Unit.
8. Duplicate Receipts for Stores and Equipment handed and taken over will be forwarded to this Office in duplicate.
9. A.D.M.S. Office closes at STERNVOORDE and opens at SKYTHE camp, S.S.I.C.S.S. at 10 a.m. 11/10/1917.
10. ACKNOWLEDGE.

Done, 9th. October, 1917.
.....



Colonel.

P.T.O.

A.D.M.S., 4th. Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION.

- Copy No. 1. H.E.S., Second Army.
 2. D.P.W.S. 1st. ANZAC.
 3. "G" 4th. Aus. Div.
 4. "A" & "B" 4th. Aus. Div.
 5. C.O., 4th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 6. C.O., 12th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 7. C.O., 15th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 8. C.O., 4th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 9. C.O., 12th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 10. C.O., 15th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 11. C.O., 4th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 12. A.D.M.S., 1st. Aus. Div.
 13. A.D.M.S., 2nd. Aus. Div.
 14. A.D.M.S., 3rd. Aus. Div.
 15. C.O., "G" 4th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 16. C.O., "G" 4th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 17. C.O., "G" 4th. Aus. Div. Amb.
 18. A.D.M.S., 3rd. Aus. Div.
 19. War Diary.
 20. War Diary.
 21. War Diary.
 22. Office File.

1. The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (a) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (b) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (c) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (d) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
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 (m) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
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 (w) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (x) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (y) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:
 (z) The following documents are to be distributed to the following units and personnel:

SECRET,

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS, 4th. Australian Division.

Map Reference Sheet 28. 1/40,000.

LINE HELD:- Left Sector, CORPS FRONT.

F.A.Ps.	Relay Posts.	Motor and Horse Wagon Posts.	Advanced Dressing Stations.	Corps E.D.S.	Div. Rest Station.	Casualty Clearing Stations.	EVACUATION.
D.23.a.2.2. Brick Kiln.	D.27.a.7.3. St. Joseph's Institute.	Wagon Lding Post. D25.d.1.9.	Stretcher Cases. * I.9.c.6.3. (N. of MENIN Road.) For Right Division.			FIFTY GROUP L.23.a.5. Scabies & Opthalmic 50th.C.C.S.	From R.A.Ps. Hand carriage to Wagon Loading Posts, thence by Hosed Ambulance to CRATER on ZONNE-BEKE Road, thence by Car to Entraining Point at YPRES Ry. Station.
	D.2..d.central.		Walking Wounded. Lorry Park. I.7.c.6.7.			Mont-des-Cats.	
22.c.9.0. Cordial Factory.	D.26.c.1.3. Railway Dump.	Motor Lding Post. The Crater. C.29.d.6.1.	Belgian Bty. Cnr. H.24. a.5. 8. Entraining Post & A.D.S. for Stretcher Cases YPRES Railway Station. I.7.c.9.0.	H27.c2.9. Also Gas Centre.	C.21.c.5.8. Van Schier Farm.	Dysentery 50th.C.C.S. BAILLEUL. Belgian Hospital Courthove. F.21. a. Sheet 27.	Walking Wounded to Railway Dump, thence by Duckboards to MENIN Rd. A.D.S. thence to C.C.S. by Lorry.

DISTRIBUTION.

4th. Aus. Field Amb.) 4th. Aus. Div. Rest Station.
- r.2. - G.21.c.5.8.)

12th. Aus. Field Amb. * Advanced Dressing Station,
- r.2. - I.9.c.6.3. * Stretcher Cases- MENIN Road.

13th. Aus. Field Amb. Entraining Post YPRES.
H.Q. I.7.c.6.7. A.D.S. Walking Wounded YPRES.
Belgian Battery Corner Post
and Evacuation from Lino.

DENTAL UNITS. No.19. 4th. Aus. F. Amb.
No.34. 13th. Aus. F. Amb.
No.27. 12th. Aus. Army Field Art. Bde. (Sec Borre)
No.11. 4th. Aus. D.A.C. H.18.b.3.0.

13th. October 1917.

Lorry Park, YPRES.) I.7.c.6.7.
20th. H.A.C. }

Canadian Advanced Depot
Medical Stores. Sheet 27. L.25.a.

No. 1. Mobile Laboratory. Attached 10th. C.C.S.
REMY SIDING.

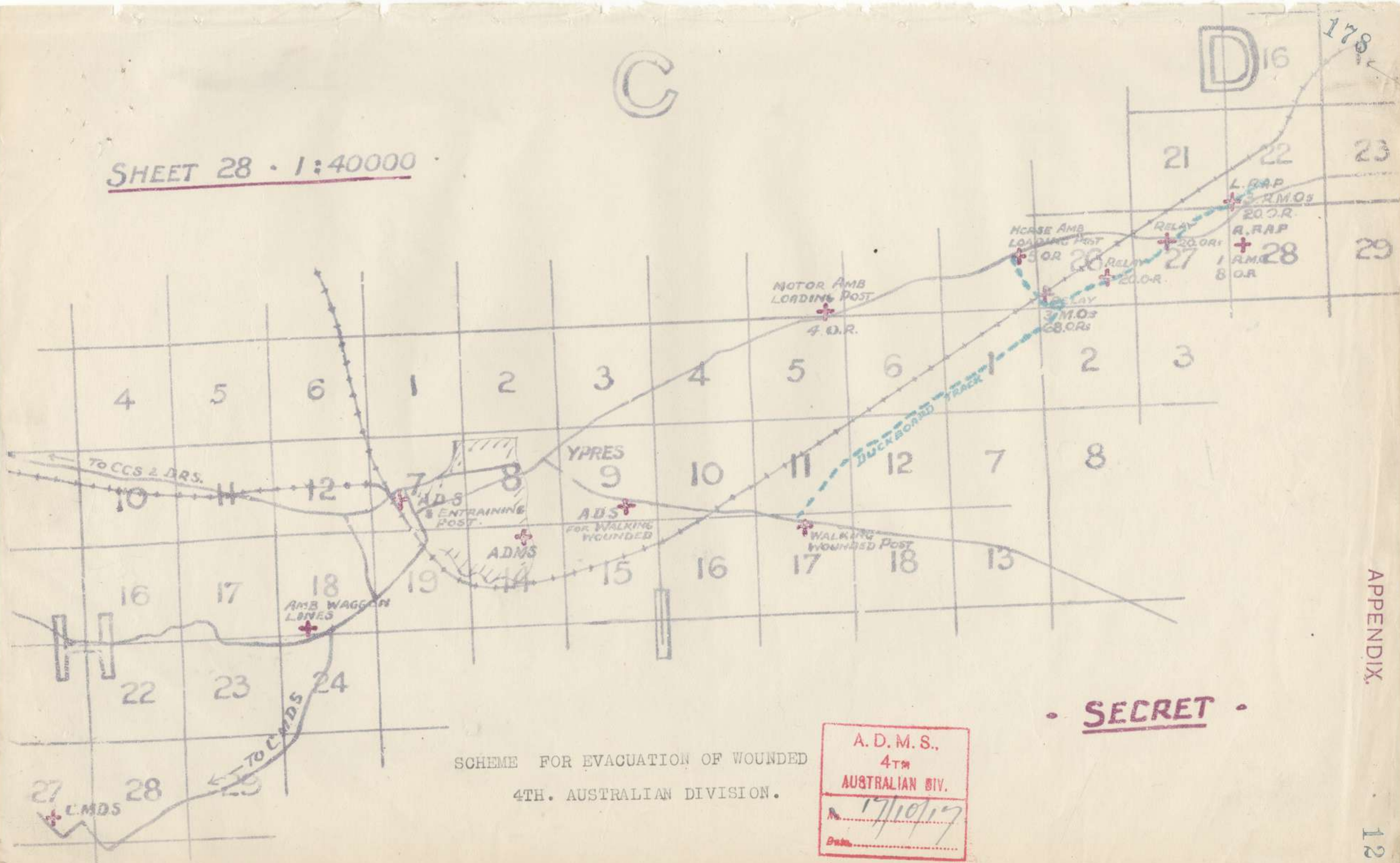
A.D.H.S. Office RAMPARTS YPRES
I.17. b.1.8.

(Sgd.) G.W. BARBER,
Colonel,
A.D.H.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

APPENDIX.

11

SHEET 28 · 1:40000



SCHEME FOR EVACUATION OF WOUNDED
4TH. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.



• SECRET •

APPENDIX.

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APPENDIX.

4th. Australian Division.



The following changes in Medical Officers of 4th. Australian Division will take place from 18th. October, 1917.

Name.	From	To.
Capt. MacGILLICUDDY, C.F.	13th.Aus.f.d.Amb. (Supernumerary to Establishment 17/10/1917 from Reinforcements)	R.M.B., 11th.Aus. Fd. Artillery Bde. vice Capt. S.McLENNAN evacuated sick.

18/10/1917.

Copy to:- D.D.M.S., 1st. Anzac.
O.C., 13th. Aus. Fd. Amb.
O.C. 11th. Aus. F.A. Bde.
H.Q., 4th. Aus. Div.
A.A.G., A.I.F.
War Diary. (3).

(Sgd.) G.W. Barber.
Colonel.
A.D.M.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

NARRATIVE OF MEDICAL OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY 4TH. AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION DURING RECENT ACTIONS. SEPT. 23rd. to OCT. 20th. 1917.

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Sept. 23rd. 4Th. Australian Division relieved 2nd. Aus. Division in the LEFT
/24th. SECTOR of CORPS FRONT.

Before the relief, following the usual practice, the R.M.O's. were interviewed and it was ascertained that their equipment was complete. They were advised as to method of dealing with Trench Feet etc. and as to the best methods of dealing with evacuation of sick and wounded to R.A.P's, particularly as regards the establishment of Advanced R.A.P's. to be used as Relay Posts in accordance with "Standing Orders for A.A.M.C. 4th. Australian Division"; also as to the disposition of Regimental Bearers and A.A.M.C. attached in action.

Field Ambulances were inspected and found to be complete in Equipment. These Units were deficient in personnel due to failure by the Base Depot to forward Reinforcements, although the Reinforcement Demand had been forwarded through the usual channels. One Field Ambulance was minus a Transport Warrant Officer and one a General Duty Warrant Officer, although these Warrant Officers had been demanded for a considerable time. The Transport Warrant Officer did arrive, but it turned out that he was a promoted Staff Sergeant Dispenser, could not ride, and knew nothing about horses, and did not want to. The absence of Warrant Officers and other N.C.O's is apt to interfere very seriously with the efficiency of a Unit, and result in considerable loss of efficiency, due to the want of the necessary supervision of Transport, Equipment etc.

On Sept. 24th. Medical Units were distributed as follows:-

4th. Aus. Field Ambulance.	at	A.D.S. MENIN ROAD, for Walking Wounded of Right and Left Divisions.
13th. Aus. Field Ambulance	at	Corps Main Dressing Stn. DICKEBUSCH.
12th. Aus. Field Ambulance	at	4th. Aus. Div. Rest Stn.

The 4th. Aus. F. Amb., to which was attached the Bearer Division^S of 12th. and 13th. Aus. F. Ambulances, was responsible for evacuation^H from R.A.P's. Evacuations were carried out as per Medical Arrangements 4th. Aus. Division dated 29/9/1917.

Some difficulty was experienced in maintaining Horsed Ambulance Wagons on road from BELLEWAARDE Ridge to BIRR CROSS ROADS, owing to bad state of roads and needs of Artillery.

A Reserve Bearer Division (7th. Aus. F. Amb.) supplied by B.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC. was employed (for 36 hours) to relieve our exhausted bearers.

An Auxiliary A.D.S. for Walking Wounded was formed at Lorry Park, YPRES to relieve congestion at MENIN Road.

30th. Sept./
1st. Oct.

The Division was relieved by 1st. Aus. Division on 30th. Sept./Oct. 1st. and proceeded to billets at STEENVOORDE.

Oct. 10th./
11th.

The Division ~~and R.M.O's.~~ relieved 2nd. Aus. Division in Left Corps Sector. Medical Units and R.M.O's. had made good all deficiencies in Equipment etc., but were still deficient in personnel.

(2)

OCT. 11th.

The positions of Field Ambulances were as follows:-

13th. Aus. F.Amb. at Auxiliary Station for Wounded at YPRES Entraining Post, and A.D.S. for Stretcher Cases, YPRES Railway Station and Belgian Battery Corner Post, and was also responsible for evacuations from line and for this purpose Bearer Divisions 4th. and 12th. Aus. F. Ambulances with transport were attached, also one Tent Subdivision 4th. Aus. F. Ambulance.

12th. Aus. F. Amb. at MENIN ROAD in charge of Stretcher Cases, (Less Bearer Div. and) but here they dealt chiefly with cases (one Tent Subdivision.) of 5th. Aus. Division.

4th. Aus. F. Amb. at 4th. Aus. Div. Rest Station. (Less Bearer Division) (and one Tent Sub Div.)

Evacuations were carried out in accordance with Medical Arrangements, 4th. Aus. Division Oct. 13th. 1917. The Entraining Post was done away with, and Stretcher Cases dealt with at the Walking Wounded Station, YPRES LORRY PARK, where suitable accommodation was provided. It was arranged with A.D.M.S., 3rd. Aus. Division to pool the Divisional Ambulance Cars at the Crater Post, ZONNEBEKE Road and this worked well.

Duckboards were laid down between Railway Dump Post and Horse Wagon Post and completed on 18/10/1917. This will enable us to clear the front with one Bearer Division only, instead of a Bearer Division and a half.

During the Operations it was necessary to apply for, and use 150 Infantry from Reserve Brigade. These men were used for about 24 hours (100 in Line and 50 at the A.D.S's.) and were then returned to their Units.

Two additional Shelters were erected at Horse Wagon Loading Post and were blown up. They are now being rebuilt.

C.R.E. has promised to erect four Shelters at St. JOSEPH'S INSTITUTE RELAY POST. This is urgent as they are required to hold patients, as it is now possible in the event of heavy casualties, to push Horse Ambulance Wagons up to this post.

A Divisional Collecting Station was opened at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER on 19/10/1917. It was impossible to do this sooner owing to lack of personnel.

The following casualties have occurred Sept. 23rd. to Oct. 20th. 1917.

	Officers.	O.Ranks.
4th. Aus.Fd. Amb.	2 Wded.	1 Killed 10 Wded.
12th. do.	1 "	2 " 30 "
13th. do.	-	1 " 6 "
A.A.M.C., Details (Attchd. 4th. F. Amb.)		2 " 3 "
do. " 12th. "	-	" 1 "
do. " 13th. "	-	" 2 "
T O T A L S.	3 Wded.	6 Killed 52 Wded.

A large number of 3rd. Aus. Divisional Stretcher Cases were dealt with, but this nuisance was abated by arrangement with A.D.M.S., 3rd. Aus. Division.

Horsed Ambulance Wagons were very useful but required four Horses per wagon.

Motor Ambulance Cars did good work.

(3)
N O T E S.
=====

- SCABIES. Has increased during last three months due to constant moves of Division. Deficient Bathing accommodation in 2nd. Army and BOMY Areas, and difficulty in obtaining Foden Lorry Disinfector which was frequently required in disinfecting clothes at Corps Laundry and absence of Clayton Disinfectors. A few weeks ago a large increase in cases of P.U.O. was coincident with an increase in Lice due to above conditions.
- Reinforcements. Bearer Divisions should be brought up to strength with suitable men before going into line. N.C.O's should be promptly provided by Base or permission be given to promote.
- SANITATION. Units moving into Staging Areas complain of filthy state of Camps they take over. Wagon Lines are often not properly looked after owing to no C.O. being appointed. The absence of the Divisional Sanitary Section makes it difficult to secure good sanitation.
- Baths. It should be possible to provide three portable Baths (one for each Brigade carried on a Lorry) and thus provide sufficient Bathing facilities.
- D.R.S. Difficulty is experienced in getting necessary accommodation. Field Ambulances are not equipped to deal with the number of cases efficiently and the personnel of Tent Sub-divisions is all that can be spared. If a Stationary Hospital was attached to each Corps this trouble would be overcome. The difficulty in obtaining equipment for D.R.S. when first going into an Area is very great and leads to unnecessary sick wastage.
- A.D.S. It is a mistake, I think, to separate widely Walking Wounded Station from Stretcher Cases A.D.S., as this means additional personnel.
- Tent Sub-Divisions. The detachment of Tent Sub-divisions to C.C.Ss appears to me to be a very bad practice. This personnel is taken away from the Division just when it is most required to form Divisional Collecting Station, Divisional Rest Stations etc.
- C.C.Ss. The shortages in blankets and stretchers is mostly the fault of the C.C.Ss.
- Sick wastage is increased by the C.C.S. sending to Base ^{MANY} men who should be retained at D.R.S. but this was perhaps unavoidable owing to insufficient equipment and accommodation at D.R.S.
- Sick Parades Big parades are held at Belgian Battery Corner including a large proportion of Corps and Army Troops for whom no definite Medical Arrangements seem to be made.
- Horsed Amb. Wagons. Horsed Ambulance Wagons are too heavy, and when their Services are necessary on muddy roads in advance of the Motor Ambulance Posts, always require four horses.
- LORRIES. Were indispensable for rapid evacuation of Walking Wounded.
- Ambulance Train. Proved very successful by relieving congestion at A.D.S.
- A.D.M.S. Office. Owing to the repeated failure of the 2nd. Aus. Division to provide accommodation for their A.D.M.S. and OFFICE at D.H.Q. I have been put to considerable inconvenience in obtaining same when taking over from him.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (1) A.D.S.MENIN ROAD and YPRES are both unsafe and it would be wise to consider the securing of a safer site in the YPRES RAMPARTS for use during coming winter months.
- (2) Issue of ~~congenient~~ packets of Sodium Bicarbonate to all A.M.C. Posts for the immediate treatment of Mustard Gas Cases.
- (3) Orders should be issued that no sick are to be sent to Wagon Lines and an O.C. should be appointed for each Brigade Wagon Lines who would then be responsible for Sanitation etc. and could deal with the numerous stragglers that arrive in the Wagon Lines.
- (4) That all A.D.Ss. or M.D.Ss. (the present A.D.Ss. are really A.D.Ss. with their clerical staff in rear) appoint a Medical Officer to sort out the cases, deal with sick only, and hand over malingerers to the M.P.
- (5) That sufficient accommodation and equipment be made readily available for the rapid formation of Divisional Rest Stations.
The attachment of a C.C.S. or Tented Stationary Hospital (400 beds) equipped with stretchers and blankets, instead of beds and bedding, to a Corps would meet this difficulty and mean economy in Transport, Equipment and Sick Wastage. Such a Unit could move and open up in 48 hours. I have proved this when serving with the 2nd. Aus. Stationary Hospital. Tent Subdivisions of Field Ambulances could then be used to reinforce when it is found necessary to increase the accommodation.

20/10/1917.

Godwin
Colonel,
A.D.M.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

SECRET.

FOURTH AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

COPY NO. 18

A.A.M.C. ORDER No. 73

* Dye

COLONEL G. H. BARNES, D.S.O., A.D.M.S., 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.
Map Reference Sheet No. 1/40,000.

The 4th. Australian Division (less Artillery) will be relieved by 1st. Aus. Division (less Artillery).

1. 18th. Aus. Field Ambulance will be relieved by a Medical Unit of 1st. Aus. Division.
2. 18th. Aus. Field Ambulance will be relieved by a Medical Unit of 5th. Aus. Division.
3. On relief 18th. and 18th. Aus. Field Ambulances will rejoin their respective Brigade Groups.
"B" Section 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance will rejoin its Unit and Reorder Divisions 4th. and 18th. Aus. Field Ambulance will rejoin their Units. All Transport will be returned to their respective Units.
4. Field Ambulances will arrange to clear the sick of their respective Brigades while in back area.
5. Reliefs to be mutually arranged between Commanders concerned and completed by 10a.m. 24/10/1917.
6. O.C., 18th. Aus. Field Ambulance will detail an Ambulance car to accompany 18th. Aus. Infantry Brigade to the SUBURBAN Area on 21/10/17 and the 18th. Aus. Infantry Brigade to Halifax Area on 22/10/1917.
7. Receipts for Stores and Equipment handed over to be forwarded to this office in duplicate.
8. A.D.M.S. Office closes YPRIS RAMPARTS and opens SCOTTISH LINE 22.29.7. 10am. 24/10/17.
9. ACKNOWLEDGE.

21/10/1917.
11.30a.m.

Colonel,
A.D.M.S., 4th. Aus. Division.

DISTRIBUTION

Copy No. 1.	D.M.S., Second Army	12.	O.C., 4th. Aus. Div. Train.
2.	D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC.	13.	O.C., 4th. Aus. Div. Sign.
3.	"G" 4th. Aus. Div.	14.	A.D.M.S., 1st. Aus. Division.
4.	"A" & "Q" 4th. Aus. Div.	15.	" 2nd. " "
5.	O.C., 4th. Aus. F. Amb.	16.	" 3rd. " "
6.	O.C., 18th. Aus. F. Amb.	17.	" 5th. " "
7.	O.C., 18th. Aus. F. Amb.	18.	War Diary
8.	O.C.C., 4th. Aus. Inf. Bde.	19.	War Diary
9.	O.C.C., 18th. Aus. Inf. Bde.	20.	War Diary
10.	O.C.C., 18th. Aus. Inf. Bde.	21.	Office Bldg
11.	O.B.A., 4th. Aus. Division.	22.	Spare.

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SECRET.4th. Australian Division.Copy No. 15.....A.A.M.C. Order No. 74.

by

COLONEL G.W. BARBER, D.S.O., A.D.M.S., 4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Map Reference: Sheet 5A. 1/100,000.
HAZEBROUCK.
Sheet 27. 1/40,000.

4th. Australian Division will move to BOMY AREA.

- (1) Medical Units will move with, and under the orders of, their respective Brigades as follows:-

Date	Unit	Group.
Oct. 25th.	13th. Aus. Field Ambulance	13th. Aus. Inf. Bde. Group "C"
Oct. 26th.	12th. Aus. Field Ambulance	12th. Aus. Inf. Bde. Group "B"
Oct. 27th.	4th. Aus. Field Ambulance	4th. Aus. Inf. Bde. Group "A"

- (2) 4th. Aus. Divisional Rest Station will be closed and handed over to holding party from 5th. Aus. Division on 26/10/1917. Duplicate receipts for Stores and Equipment handed over to be forwarded to this office.
- (3) Tent Subdivision and one Officer 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance at No. 10. C.C.S. and Clerks of 4th. Aus. Division employed at 1st. ANZAC Corps Central Bureau will rejoin their Units under orders of D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC.
- (4) Dental Unit No. 27. will rejoin 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance on 25/10/1917. O.C. 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance will supply Transport.
- (5) A.D.M.S. Office will close at SCOTTISH LINES and open at BOMY Oct. 26th.
- (6) Acknowledge.

25/10/1917.
5. p.m.

Colonel,
A.D.M.S., 4th. Australian Division.

D I S T R I B U T I O N.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| No. 1. D.M.S., Second Army. | 10. G.O.C., 4th. Aus. Inf. Bde. |
| 2. D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC. | 11. G.O.C., 12th. Aus. Inf. Bde. |
| 3. D.M.S., First Army. | 12. G.O.C., 13th. Aus. Inf. Bde. |
| 4. "G" 4th. Aus. Division. | 13. A.D.M.S., 5th. Aus. Division. |
| 5. BA" & BQ" 4th. Aus. Division. | 14. O.C., 4th. Aus. Div. Sigs. |
| 6. O.C., 4th. Aus. Field Ambulance. | 15. War Diary. |
| 7. O.C., 12th. Aus. Field Ambulance. | 16. War Diary. |
| 8. O.C., 13th. Aus. Field Ambulance. | 17. War Diary. |
| 9. O.C., 4th. Aus. Div. Train. | 18. Office File. |

4th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

A. D. M. S.,
4TH
AUSTRALIAN DIV.

The following changes in the posting of Medical Officers of 4th. Australian Division will take place as from 1st. November 1917.

G.O.'s of Field Ambulances will effect these changes as soon as possible; some delay will be inevitable owing to certain Officers being on leave, but changes for purposes of record must be considered to take place as from date mentioned above.

Name		From	To.
Capt. KELLAWAY, C.H.	M.C.	13th. Aus. Inf. Bn.	4th. Aus. F. Ambulance
Capt. ALLEN, G.G.		4th. Aus. F. Amb.	13th. Aus. Inf. Bn.
Capt. JOHNS, J.T.	M.C.	47th. Aus. Inf. Bn.	12th. Aus. F. Amb.
Capt. FARRIE, A.J.		13th. Aus. F. Amb.	47th. Aus. Inf. Bn.
Capt. COLLINS, A.J.		48th. Aus. Inf. Bn.	12TH 13th. Aus. F. Amb.
Capt. BROWN, V.C.	M.C.	18th. Aus. F. Amb.	48th. Aus. Inf. Bn.
Capt. HUNTER, L.J.		10th. Aus. F. Art. Bde.	4th. Aus. F. Amb.
Capt. GUILTY, W.D.		4th. Aus. F. Ambulance	10th. Aus. F. Art. Bde.

G. D. M. S.
Colonel,
A.D.M.S. 4th. Australian Division.

31/10/1917.

Copy to:-

A.A.G., A.I.F.

D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC.

D.M.S., First Army.

G.O.C., 4th. Aus. Inf. Bde.

G.O.C., 12th. Aus. Inf. Bde.

O.C., 4th. Aus. F. Amb.

18th. Aus. F. Amb.

13th. Aus. F. Amb.

O.C., 13th. Aus. Inf. Bn.

47th. Aus. Inf. Bn.

48th. Aus. Inf. Bn.

C.R.A., 4th. Aus. Division.

O.C., 10th. Aus. F. Art. Bde.

D.A.A.G., 4th. Aus. Division.

War Diary (3 copies)

Office.