

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/46/40

Title: 3rd Australian Field Ambulance

April 1918



AWM4-26/46/40

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
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TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

N^o 3 AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBCE.

FOR

APRIL 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. G. ... Lt. Col.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. G. ... Lt. Colonel.

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WAR DIARY


or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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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
A.D.S. Voormezele	1/4/15	- 8	<p>Day particularly quiet. Enemy shells fell in camp precincts; no damage sustained.</p> <p>Gases evacuated for 24 hrs. ending 31.1.4.18. Off. NIL. 12 Sick, 2 Wounded 2 (Gassed. S.).</p> <p>Personnel of 2nd A. I. Amb. attached to this unit were returned to their own unit today. Orders also received from A.D.S. to return 18th I. Amb. to Hoograf tomorrow.</p> <p>14th E. amb. bearers who were doing forward work on WYTSCHAETE sector were relieved by Clection bearers.</p>	
H. D. S.	2/4/15	- 8	<p>Quiet day. 18th A. I. Amb. ^{personnel} returned to their unit by 08.00 this morning, proceeding to join 18th A. I. Amb. at Hoograf.</p> <p>Gases passed thro' A.D.S. for 24 hours ending midnight 1/2nd. Officers 1 Sick 1 Gassed (Shell). O.R. 8 Sick, 2 wounded 1 Gassed (Shell).</p>	
H. D. S.	3/4/15	- 8	<p>Day quiet. Gases passed thro' A.D.S. for 24 hours ending midnight 2/3rd. Officers</p> <p>advance parties of incoming Iels ambulances arrived and proceeded to forward post on VOORMEZELE and WYTSCHAETE sectors. The South African Field Ambulance (9th Division) took over the VOORMEZELE sector & the 62nd Iels ambulance (R.A.M.C) (21st Division) took over the WYTSCHAETE sector.</p> <p>Co. South African Field Amb visited VOORMEZELE and Co. 62nd F. amb R.A.M.C visited WYTSCHAETE & made preliminary preparations for taking over tomorrow in accordance with a.c.m.c order No 35 by A.D.S. 1st Aust Div</p> <p>Mon order</p>	<p>off</p> 

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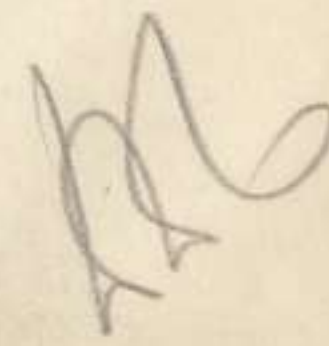
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>VOORMESELE & WYTSCHAETE. On line of march to CAESTRE</p>	<p>4/4/18</p>		<p>Hand over completed at times specified in appendix 1. & unit met at Canada Corner at 2pm left that place at 4.30pm in lorries for Caestre vide 3rd Rde order No 90. Unit billeted in chateau adjoining the Railway Station at CAESTRE. Sheet 27 & 32 d 3/1. This chateau has been used in the past by British Medical unit as a Rest Station or Special Hospital & during our stay of two nights in this chateau all were comfortably housed.</p>	
<p>CAESTRE</p>	<p>5/4/18.</p>		<p>Unit rested in chateau at CAESTRE & personnel bathed nearby. Sick from 3rd A.S. Rde collected and cleared. Capt Mitchell rose N.C.O left as billeting party for new area.</p>	
<p>CAESTRE and on Train to AMIENS & march from AMIENS to ST SAUVEUR</p>	<p>6/4/18.</p>		<p>Left by train at 9.25 am for the Somme area and arrived at AMIENS at 8 pm and immediately debarked at ST ROCHE Stationed and after unloading wagons & being issued with a hot drink of Cocoa by the Australian Comfort Fund the unit marched to ST SAUVEUR and arrived there at midnight after a march of Eleven kilometres raining heavily practically during the whole march. Unit conducted to billets by billeting party and by 1 am all were billeted & contented. The Motor Ambulances which left CAESTRE this morning had already reached St Sauveur before our arrival.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST SAUVEUR	7/4/18 9/4/18		Resting at ST SAUVEUR. Foot inspection & personnel paid at night Sick from 3 rd A.D. Bde collected and evacuated to DOULLENS.	
ST SAUVEUR & on march to FLESSELLES	9/4/18		Had an early lunch and left ST SAUVEUR at 12.30pm and marched to FLESSELLES arriving at 3.30pm. Straw purchased from Regimental Park to make personnel comfortable as we are now holding only one blanket per man and the nights are rather chilly. Sick from 3 rd A.D. Bde collected & evacuated prior to leaving ST. SAUVEUR. & evacuated to VIGNACOURT The unit is comfortably billeted in this village although the personnel are somewhat scattered.	
FLESSELLES	10/4/18		Sick from 3 rd Aust Inf Bde collected and evacuated to VIGNACOURT. Route march to NAOURS in morning and football in afternoon.	
FLESSELLES	11/4/18		Sick from 3 rd Aust Inf Bde collected and evacuated to VIGNACOURT Unit standing by and packed ready to move if required, at an hours notice.	
FLESSELLES & bivouaced on FLESSELLES - AMIENS MAIN ROAD.	12/4/18		Left FLESSELLES at 11.30am & marched to a spot about 3 miles from AMIENS and bivouaced in a field by the roadside until midnight. Commencing about 10pm, the enemy bombed AMIENS and villages in the vicinity of our bivouacing area for about 1 1/2 hours. W.O. Telfer Sgt Hankin (Horse transport) were riding back from AMIENS station whether they had taken transport when they were bombed both being wounded, one riding back having to be destroyed and the other evacuated. W.O. Telfer Sgt Hankin were brought back to unit & wounds dressed.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bivouac on FISELLES - AMIENS ROAD	12/4/18		<p>In an adjoining village about the same time. Driver Birch was killed by an enemy bomb & Pte Hickman wounded. Pte Hickman was brought to camp and dressed & evacuated with WO Zeller & Sgt Hankin to VIGNACOURT - The body of Driver Birch was also sent to VIGNACOURT for burial. During this enemy raid Sunbeam Ambulance 24070 was in AMIENS & a bomb fell on a house which the Amb Car was passing causing portion of the building to fall on the ambulance car & destroy same. Fortunately - with the exception of a few scratches the driver was uninjured.</p>	
AMIENS and on troop train to Northern Area.	13/4/18.		<p>Drinks of hot tea was provided for personnel at 1.30am & the unit moved out for Amiens to entrain at 2am arriving at a reserve near the station about 4.30am. Shortly after our arrival and just as dawn was beginning to break the enemy subjected the station vicinity to heavy shellfire at the same time enemy aircraft commenced to bomb the town & suburbs from a fairly low altitude.</p> <p>A Field Coy of Aust Engrs had one other rank killed & two wounded, also one horse killed within 20 yards of our assembly by a shell which blew down a huge brick chimney stack about 60 yards away - one of our horses was wounded & fortunately no personnel were injured. The unit was immediately moved away about 300 yards under cover of a bank to await entraining which was delayed owing to a break in the railway line. Whilst waiting here tea was made & the unit breakfasted.</p>	

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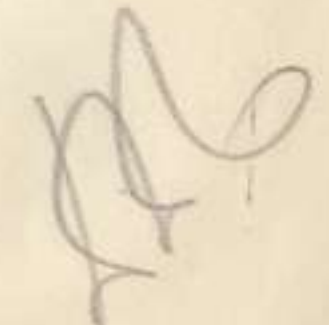
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Amiens and on troop train to Northern Area. HAZEBROUCK	13/4/18		Finally embarked at 10.30am and left at 11am for the Northern Area & arrived at HONDEGHEM and detained at 5am and marched 3 kilometres to billets on the outskirts of HAZEBROUCK on the main Hazebrouck - Hondeghem road.	
HAZEBROUCK	14/4/18		Rested at HAZEBROUCK during the day comfortably housed in deserted houses & quarters of personnel of II Army A.E. workshops which had been vacated. Here we found baths & it was not long before the whole unit had a hot plunge bath. Lt Col Roscoe was wounded in buttock by a shell splinter. Lt Col Abraham Butler DSO Officer supervising compilation of same historical war records date Co. of this unit took up his quarters with us for a few days.	
HAZEBROUCK	17/4/18.		Capt Lelford detailed for duty with 3rd A.S. Bde nucleus battalion. Sick from Brigade collected & evacuated to EBBLINGHEM. Intermittent shelling in our vicinity during daytime & about 10.30pm shells commenced to fall in very close proximity to personnel quarters. Personnel were scattered until shelling subsided then sent to cellars to sleep - during the early hours of the following morning one shell burst in building in which some of the personnel had previously been sleeping.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
HAZEBROUCK AREA	16/4		Shelling town of HAZEBROUCK & many shells falling in vicinity of camp. Horse lines moved and about 11 am 2 shells burst about 80 yards from horses wounding 4 horses & slightly wounding one driver. The horse lines were then moved about 3/4 mile further back towards HONDEGHEM a number of casualties occurring in HAZEBROUCK were treated and cleared.	
do	17/4		The following message received from Adm 1 st Aust Division at 11:10 am "Establish a Main Dressing Station with one section of your ambulance at sheet 27 V 19 C 0/6. aca Report completion aca" Action complete under Major SAVAGE proceeded to site mentioned and formed a Main Dressing Station in a large barn and had same opened, received patients by 6 pm.	
do	18/4		The following cases passed through Clection at main D.S. from 6 pm 17/4/18 to noon 18/4/18. Officers 2 sick. Other Ranks 2 sick 40 wounded, all evacuated to group of Cels at EBBLINGHEM. Gassed centre for treatment of gassed cases formed at main D.S. by Clection. No. 5 Dental unit and Officer commanding proceeded to 1 st aca at BLENDECQUES by order of Adm 1 st Aust Div.	
HAZEBROUCK AREA and ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL	19/4		Received instructions from 3 rd Aust Div Rde to move but Adm 1 st Aust Div overruled. The following were lined 10 pm 18/4/18 received at 9 am from Adm 1 st Aust Div. "3 rd Aust F. amb (less 1 Section) will move to ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL tomorrow and take over the Main D.S. there from 87 th Field Ambulance R.A.M.C. aca. move to be completed by 12 noon aca" The ambulance less Clection which remained at M.O.S (V 19 C 0/6) moved out from HAZEBROUCK (27 V 22 C 3/6) arriving at M.O.S ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL (sheet 27 P 22 D 8/8) at 12 noon.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL	19/4.		<p>Advance party preceded main body of unit thus enabling take over to be completed by 12 noon. Gas centre formed at MOS by the erection of two operating tents. Evacuating to group of CEs at ARNEKE</p> <p>The following wire received from Adms 1st Aust Div</p> <p>"MOS at V19 C 0/6 sheet 27 will be closed today at 6pm and handed over to a F Amb of 31st Div if desired by them and personnel will rejoin your unit thereafter." aad.</p> <p>Clection handed over at 6pm to an ambulance of 31st Div & thence proceeded to join unit arriving at Nais D. d at 8pm.</p> <p>The following cases passed through clection from noon yesterday to 6pm today Officers 1 wounded Other Ranks 13 sick 8 wounded.</p>	
do	20/4		<p>Main Dressing Station at ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL in full swing</p> <p>The following cases passed through for 24 hours ending noon.</p> <p>Officers Nil Other Ranks sick 16 wounded 7. all Evac to CEs.</p> <p>Instructions received from Adms 1st Aust Div to evacuate all infectious cases to N.Z.S.H at BOURG near WISQUES</p>	
do	21/4		<p>The following cases passed through for 24 hours ending midday.</p> <p>Officers 3 Sick 3 wounded Other Ranks 35 sick 40 wounded. 1 Rank died & 2 wounded returned to duty - all other to CEs.</p> <p>at 6pm order received from Adms 1st Aust Division to evacuate to group of CEs at EBBLINGHEM.</p> <p>The following is our evacuation.</p> <p>all sick wounded P.C.F to EBBLINGHEM group of CEs</p> <p>all French troops to 44 CEs at ARNEKE</p> <p>all infectious cases to New Zealand Stationary Hospital at BOURG</p> <p>all self inflicted wounds to No. 3 Aust CEs at ESQUELBECK</p>	<p>22</p>

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Place.	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL	22/4.	-	<p>The following casualties passed through for 24 hours ended noon Sick 3 officers 47 Other Ranks wounded, 1 officer + 60 other ranks. - 1 other Rank died and 5 other ranks (wounded) returned to duty, all other evacuated to CCS. The town of ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL was shelled, about 6pm but the only casualty was a very old lady suffering from S.W. ankle she was treated and evacuated to French civil hospital at ST OMER</p>	
	23/4.		<p>The following casualties passed through for 24 hours ended noon. Sick 2 officers 41 other Ranks all evacuated to CCS. Wounded, 3 Officers 54 Other Ranks. 2 other Ranks (W) died, 2 O.Rs (W) Retd. to duty. all others evacuated to CCS. In accordance with a communication received from Co. 1st F. Amb. I held one bearer subsection in readiness to proceed to forward area if required. - They were not called on. Heavy bombing attacks in back area at night but no bombs fell near M.D.S.</p>	
	24/4		<p>The following casualties passed through M.D.S. for 24 hours ended noon. Officers 3 Sick + 38 Other Ranks all evacuated to CCS Wounded 5 Officers + 57 Other Ranks. 1 O.R. (W) died, 1 O.R. (W) to duty. all other evacuated to CCS. About 6 am the wounded commenced to arrive in large numbers but no congestion occurred + we were able to cope with the rush with the assistance of 2 extra M.A.C. cars. 2 char. ambulances were requisitioned to clear walking wounded but the station was practically clear before they arrived -</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL	25/4		<p>The following casualties passed through M.B.S for 24 hours ended noon Officers 2 sick 2 wounded, ORanks 38 sick 102 wounded, 4 ORanks (W) died 1 (W) treated, returned to duty, all others evacuated to C.E.S. Included in these figures are 5 gassed cases. As regards personnel of unit all in good health & afternoons are devoted to recreational training</p>	
	26/4		<p>The following casualties passed through M.B.S for 24 hours ended noon, Officers 4 sick 2 wounded. ORanks 44 sick 80 wounded, 2 ORanks (W) died 1 ORank (W) treated returned to duty. Included in this total are 54 gassed cases. all gassed cases had been undressed & put in pyjamas at A.D.S (1st amb).</p>	
	27/4		<p>The following casualties passed through M.B.S for 24 hours ended noon Officers 1 sick 3 wounded. ORanks 39 sick 60 wounded, 1 OR (W) treated and returned to duty - all others evacuated to C.E.S. Included in this total are 23 gassed cases.</p>	
	28/4		<p>The following casualties passed through M.B.S for 24 hours ended noon Officers 2 sick 3 wounded, ORanks 30 sick 24 wounded, 1 officer 4 ORs (W) died and 1 officer 2 ORs (W) treated, and returned to unit. -</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST SYLVESTRE CAPPEL	29/4/18		<p>2000. casualties passed thro' M.D.S. for 24 hours ending noon: Officers 1 sick & wounded. Ranks 47 sick 56 wounded. 3 O.R. (wounded) were treated and returned to duty. Amb. 283 from A.D.M.S. 18th Aust. Div. was received at 5.45 pm 2/24th. "Arrange to send ONE Beaver Section to report for duty with 18th Aust 2 Amb. tomorrow at 7 pm. to A.D.S. CAESTRE." "B" Sec. Beaver Subdivision have been warned for duty and are standing by.</p>	
	30/4/18		<p>2000. casualties passed thro' M.D.S. for 24 hours ending noon: Officers 2 sick 3 wounded. Ranks 37 sick 28 wounded. Capt. Young, with 38 Beavers proceeded to 18th A.F.A.M.B. for duty in forward area. Amb. 103 was received from A.D.M.S. 18th Aust. Div. reading: "Arrange to move M.D.S. & all your personnel from present to farm at 27/v. 6. C.S.I. this afternoon. Report completion." "C" Sec. complete moved out at 3 pm. as advance party, & established M.D.S. at new position. Remainder of unit moved out later in the evening, the move being completed by 8.30 p.m. The new position was in occupation by Artillery, who allowed the Ambulance to utilize portion of their barn as a M.D.S. As the site was unsatisfactory I made an inspection of the neighbourhood & selected a farm with a splendid paddock suitable to accommodate unit personnel & transport, provided tent all erected. Location of prospective Station is 27/v. 9. B. 2. 6 and the unit will occupy it tomorrow, 1st May.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St. Symastie Capped.	30/4/18		<p>CO's Comments on events that have occurred during the last month.</p> <p>General Remarks</p> <p>For in the month of April has been punctuated by a rapid succession of moves, the unit having been in no less than seven different camps within the short period of 30 days. These moves have been attended at times with much discomfort; as for instance, when we arrived at a late hour at St. Roch and had to march five miles through a continuous drizzle of rain to our billets at St. Saviour, and again, when leaving the Somme and while waiting for subsistence at St. Roch, we suffered moral casualties both in men and horses from enemy fire and bombs. Yet, notwithstanding all their temporary discomfort, it has given me the opportunity of knowing at a closer estimate of the excellent temper and spirit of the unit for I cannot recollect having heard or known of any complaint or murmur during the whole of this trying month. It all goes to show, however, several years ago, the foundation of this unit was well and truly laid. The conduct of the men has been most exemplary, for while opportunities for looting and desertions have not been lacking, there has been little or nothing to complain of in this respect. The unit, as a whole, has displayed such the proper spirit in refraining from damage or otherwise interfering with the property of the unfortunate people who have been compelled to abandon it. While we were running about the work done by the Ambulance was gradually well apart from the usual collecting of sick from the Brigade.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Stryker's Coppul	30/4/18		<p>It was not until the 17th of the month that we were ordered to open up a U.S. in the neighbourhood of St Stryker's. This was done by 'C' Section under the Command of Major Savage.</p> <p>On the 19th of April we received order to take over the U.S. at St Stryker's Coppul from the 8th I. Amul. R.A.M.C. at which location we remained until the 30th.</p> <p><u>Remarks re Personnel</u></p> <p>(1) <u>Health</u> The health of the personnel has been very satisfactory during the month only 3 men having been evacuated sick. The men fortunately had the opportunity of getting hot baths both at St Stryker's and St Stryker's Coppul. Rations have, as usual, been very good and have been supplemented from time to time by the purchase of potatoes with money from the Regimental Funds.</p> <p>(2) <u>Casualties</u> Considering the nature of our work during the month (i.e. seeing that our bases were not in the line at any time), our casualties were rather high. We had one (1) O.R. killed and 5 O.R. wounded.</p> <p>(3) <u>Strength</u> The strength of the Ambulance on April 1st was:- Officers 12. O.R. 217. Red Cross 8. Draft Horses 36 On April 30th it was:- Officers 11. O.R. 218. Red Cross 5. Draft Horses 33</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																												
St Symon's Cottrell.	30/4/18		<p>The casualties among the horses very rather heavy, 1 being killed by enemy action and 7 others wounded, while two (2) were evacuated sick.</p> <p>One transport car was also severely damaged by an enemy bomb in a shell in Amiens and has to be evacuated. The driver of this car, in some mysterious way, escaped injury.</p> <p><u>Patients</u></p> <p>The number of patients that have passed through the ambulance both for the month is as follows:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Australian Troop</td> <td>Officers</td> <td>47</td> <td>O.R.</td> <td>884</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Troops</td> <td>"</td> <td>14</td> <td>"</td> <td>274</td> </tr> <tr> <td>French</td> <td>"</td> <td>Nil</td> <td>"</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Prisoners of War</td> <td>"</td> <td>2</td> <td>"</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table> <p>Deaths that have occurred at M.D.S. are as follows:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>At M.D.S.</td> <td>Off. Nil</td> <td>O.R.</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Recovered from A.D.S.</td> <td>" 2</td> <td>"</td> <td>13</td> </tr> </table> <p>Dressing dressings have been:- P.V.O, Scarfs - other skin dressings, Knives and clippers. Of Impulsion dressings there have been 5 cases of measles and 1 of Mumps.</p>	Australian Troop	Officers	47	O.R.	884	Other Troops	"	14	"	274	French	"	Nil	"	9	Prisoners of War	"	2	"	6	At M.D.S.	Off. Nil	O.R.	2	Recovered from A.D.S.	" 2	"	13	
Australian Troop	Officers	47	O.R.	884																												
Other Troops	"	14	"	274																												
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Prisoners of War	"	2	"	6																												
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Recovered from A.D.S.	" 2	"	13																													

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<i>St Albans Cottrell</i>	<i>30/4/18.</i>		<p><i>Method of Evacuation.</i></p> <p><i>Patients were brought to MDS from ADS by means of our own cars working between the two stations and from MDS to CES by MTC cars, which were, if the necessity arose, to be supplemented by motor buses for carriage of walking wounded.</i></p>	

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WAR DIARY

OF

No 3 AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

FOR

APRIL 1918**LIST OF APPENDICES.**

No.

Subject.

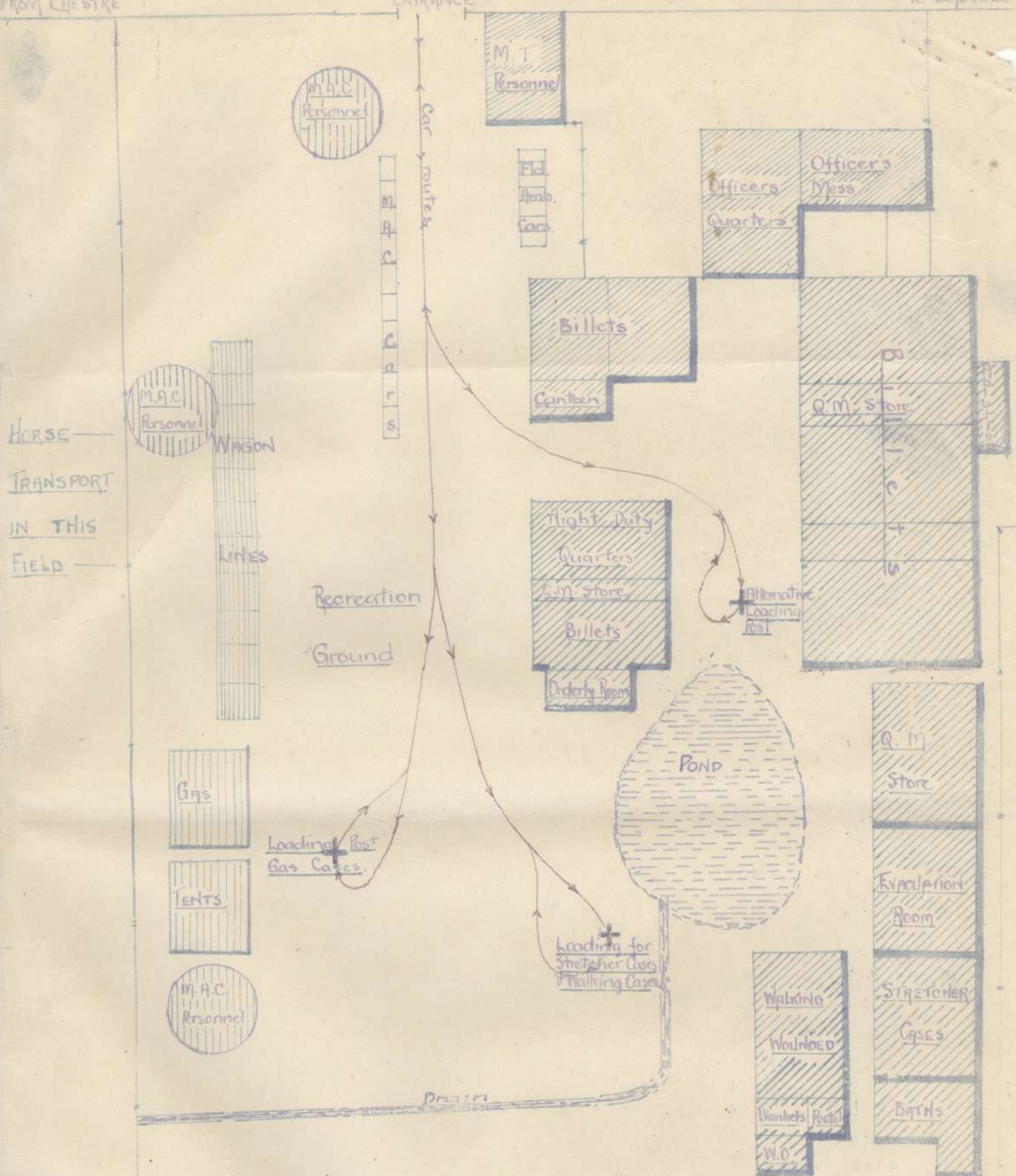
1.

Main Dressing Station at
ST. SYLVESTER CAPPEL

47
FROM CAESTRE

MAIN ROAD

APPENDIX 16
to CASSELL



No. 3 AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE
 MAIN DRESSING STN.
 AT
 ST SYLVESTER CASSELL
 APRIL 1918
 Not to Scale

Latrine Latrine Latrines Incinerator