

**AWM4**

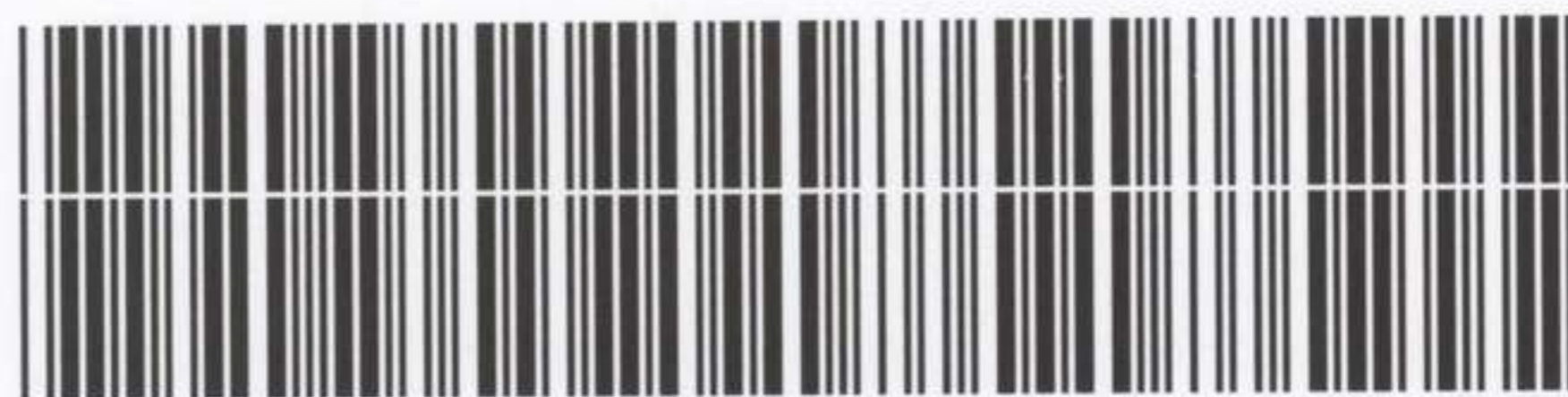
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/46/48

**Title:** 3rd Australian Field Ambulance

December 1918



AWM4-26/46/48

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
DUPLICATE.  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

No. 3 Aust. Field Ambulance.

FOR

DECEMBER. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling.....

Signature of Officer Commanding [Signature] MAJOR.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
BEUGNIES. SHEET. 57A. E 24 + 30.	DEC. 1 <sup>st</sup>	09.30 - 12.30	<p>Review of 1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Division by H.M. King George V accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Prince Albert. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust. Fld. Ambce. proceeded by route to march to CENSE A LONGE (VALENCIENNES 12/5 L. 45 90.) where the review took place.</p> <p>Four personnel of the Unit proceeded on leave to Australia; These included I/R.Q. M.S. Fry. R.H. D.C.M., M.M., Capt. Watts. N.I. and two other ranks.</p> <p>Capt. J. Lovel reported for duty with this Unit.</p> <p>Weather continued very wet which made it almost impossible to carry out a systematic scheme of Recreational Training.</p> <p>Major H.H. Willis proceeded to new area allotted to 3<sup>rd</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde. to arrange billeting accommodation.</p> <p>A Bathing Parade was held at the Baths at the Glass Factory. SARE POTERIES. Fuel was provided for this purpose from woods in the neighbourhood.</p> <p>Capt. A.J.R. Robinson proceeded to 2<sup>nd</sup> Tunnelling Coy. A.D.F. to take over the duties of R.M.O. (Authority A.D.M.S. memo. 0347/95) vice Capt. Purves M.C.</p> <p>Major Willis proceeded to Chatelet (Nr. Charleroi) to arranged billeting accommodation for members of the unit and to reserve a suitable building to be used as a Brigade Rest Station for the accommodation of fifty patients.</p> <p>W.O. Gray. F.W. D.C.M. arrived to take over the duties as Warrant Officer.</p>	End
		2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>		
		6 <sup>th</sup>		
		7 <sup>th</sup>		

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
BEUGNIES.			vice. W. O. Garland transferred to 10 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Ambce. as Hon. Lieut. and Quartermaster (Authority. A. I. F. List 411 d. 19/11/18).
"	8 <sup>th</sup>		Weather fine
"	9 <sup>th</sup>		Weather again very wet. Another Bathing Parade to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust Div. Baths at SARRS POTERIES. held at 14.00
			Capt. Purves (M.C.) reported for duty from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. Tunnelling Coy. vice Capt. A. J. R. Robinson transferred
			Arrangements were made for an Orderly from this Unit to be in attendance at the Baths and to report all men who were suffering from skin trouble. He was also provided with ointment for the treatment of such cases advised for treatment by the R. M. O. of the Battalion.
"	11 <sup>th</sup>		G. O. C., 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division inspected the billets occupied by this Unit at 11.00
"	12 <sup>th</sup>		The Educational Officer appointed for duty with Ambulances of 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Division visited the Unit and gave a lecture outlining the A. I. F. Education Scheme and the proposed methods under consideration for the Demobilisation and the Repatriation of the A. I. F. Forces now in France and England.
			Weather again very wet.
"	13 <sup>th</sup>		Weather continued very wet. Major A. Debate was held during the evening in the Class Room on the Subject "Should the teaching of Sexual Matters be taught in Schools". For the affirmative - Capt. J. Love supported by

Enid

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
BEUGNIES.	14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	<p>Pt. R. Barlow. B.A. + L/Cpl. McNeill. The Opposition was led by Major H.A. Willis who was supported by L/Cpl. Wright and Pt. D.C. Jackson M.A. Lt. Col. D.D. Leade, D.S.O. occupied the Chair. There was a large attendance of members of the Unit and much interest taken in the strong arguments put forth both by the Ministry and Opposition. On the vote being put to the meeting the Opposition was defeated by a large majority. Major Rutledge and Capt. Hayes and 5 Other Ranks proceeded to new station at Chatelet.</p>
			<p>Weather again very wet</p>
	15 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Preparations made for move on 17<sup>th</sup> inst. The weather was very showery and cold during the morning but cleared during the afternoon.</p>
	16 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Preparations completed for move to new area. The personnel were chiefly engaged in loading the wagons. Weather conditions improved and it looked as though fine weather might be expected for the march.</p>
	17 <sup>th</sup>		<p>Reveille was blown at 06.00. Breakfast 06.30. 2 Blankets per man were carried on the G.S. Wagon, lent by S.A.A. Section for this purpose. Fall in sounded at 08.05 and the Ambulance moved out of Beugnies at 08.10 to join "C" Bde. Group at 08.30 in accordance with Bde. Order. During the night heavy rains fell and the roads were in a very bad condition for marching and for transport generally.</p>
			<p>Owing to the shortage of Ambce. Cars due to breakages, no car was</p>

End

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	DEC		<p>available for collection of patients on line of march. The sick were collected from 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> + 12<sup>th</sup> Bns. Div. Engineers, at SOLRE LE CHATEAU + the PIONEERS at Hestrud before the move, and collected at BEUGNIES. The most serious cases were evacuated direct by Ambce. car to CHARLEROI and the remainder transferred to the Ambulance Wagon which followed the Brigade to Barbenccon when they were transferred to Ambce. car sent down from CHATELET, and evacuated to C.C.S. This route taken by Brigade was through SOLRE LE CHATEAU, HESTRUD, GRANDIEUX, SOLRE-ST. GERY to BARBENCON. The usual halt of an hour was allowed for dinner between 12.00 + 13.00. The Ambulance arrived at the Billet at 14.20. This was a large farm which provided accommodation for the whole of the Ambulance.</p>	
BARBENCON	18 <sup>th</sup>	09.10	<p>The Ambulance again moved off to join the Bde. Group. The weather was very stormy with a heavy driving rain. The route chosen was through WALCOURT-TOMBOIS to THY-LE-CHATEAU. Time of Arrival 14.30.</p>	SHEET NAMUR 8. 4.D.82.67.
	19 <sup>th</sup>	08.00	<p>The last stage of the move was commenced at 08.00 and the route taken was through SOMZEE, TARCENNE, GERPINNES. ACOT. to CHATELET. Time of arrival</p> <p>Shortly after 9 a.m. the sky cleared and the weather was clear and bright for the march but the roads were in a very bad condition for marching. The same procedure for collection and evacuation of patients was carried out on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> as at Beugnies on 17<sup>th</sup>.</p>	End

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>An earlier move to Chatelet was anticipated but this was postponed from early in the month until the 17<sup>th</sup>. As soon as the building for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde Rest Station had been allotted, an advance party was sent forward to make preparations for the receiving of patients as soon as the Division commenced the move. Patients were thus admitted from the whole of the Division. As rations had to be sent from Beugnies for this advanced party advantage was taken of the car accommodation to get as many personnel forward as possible.</p> <p>The Billet chosen for the Rest Station is a large and commodious chateau situated in one of the main thoroughfares of Chatelet 144 Rue de la Station. The tent subdivisions were found billeting accommodation in the chateau and the Bearers &amp; Transport subdivisions in houses in close proximity.</p> <p>An empty house was taken for use as canteen, Barber's Shop, for Boot maker and the upstairs rooms set aside for use as Library and Educational Rooms.</p>	See plan
CHATELET	20 <sup>th</sup>		The weather continued fine. Personnel were chiefly occupied in unloading the wagons and preparing Rest Station.	
	21 <sup>st</sup>		Weather again fine during the day but heavy rains fell during the evening. Major H. S. Willis, a member of this Unit was transferred to London for duty and struck off the strength of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Aust. Fld. Ambce.	
	22 <sup>nd</sup>		Showery weather prevailed during the day.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHARLERET	23 <sup>rd</sup>	10.30	A Bathing Parade was held to 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. Baths. Weather again very showery. Preparations were made for the decoration of the Wards for Xmas.	
	24 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Inspection of Rest Station by G.O.C. 1 <sup>st</sup> Aust. Div. accompanied by A.D.M.S. The weather improved during the day but heavy rains fell during the evening.	
	25 <sup>th</sup>		A few flakes of snow fell during the morning but the day was beautiful and fine though cold. The wards and patients' dining hall were tastefully decorated with ivy & laurel and various coloured flaps & paper. An excellent dinner was provided consisting of Soup, Roast Mutton & Vegetables, Plum Pudding and Brandy Sauce, Jelly and Mustard, Cakes, Dried Fruits, Biscuits, Chocolate and Sweets. Crackers. An expenditure of 2/6 per head was allowed by the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross and Xmas Boxes were provided for all patients by the Australian Comforts Fund.	
	26 <sup>th</sup>	18.00	Capt. D.L. Barlow M.C. left the Unit to take up duties in England. In accordance with Divisional Order Xmas Day & Boxing Day were observed as Holidays as far as Military Training was concerned.	End 5



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CHATELET.	26 <sup>th</sup>		The day was fine throughout but very cold.	
	27 <sup>th</sup>		The weather was very wet and cold.	
	28 <sup>th</sup>		Weather continued wet and cold. Eight Other Ranks who embarked during first six months of 1915 returned to Australia.	
	29 <sup>th</sup>		Weather showery. Lt. Col. D. D. Gads D.S.O, Commanding Officer of this Unit since Dec. 1917 and Major J. W. Flood proceeded to England prior to returning to Australia.	
	30 <sup>th</sup>		Morning fine. Four members of this Unit, L/Cpl. Rixon, Pte. Archdall, Pte. Dixon and Pte Dobbins were presented with their medals by H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, in the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Pde. Concert Hall, Rue du Calvaire, CHARLEROI.	
	31 <sup>st</sup>		15 Other Ranks were allowed to witness this presentation. Weather dull and threatening.	
			<p style="text-align: center;">Exh. 111 A 10</p>	
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p><i>To the troops and are doing every thing in their power to give entertainment to the soldiers and make their stay in this district as comfortable and enjoyable as possible.</i></p>	

*End*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information								Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Table showing differences in Strength between 1<sup>st</sup> + 31<sup>st</sup> of December 1918</i>											
			ON STRENGTH 1/12/18.		STRUCK off STRENGTH.		REINFORCEMENTS		EFFECTIVE STR. 31-12-18.		
			OFF.	O.R's	OFF.	O.R's	OFF.	O.R's	OFF.	O.R's.	
EFFECTIVE STRENGTH 1/12/18.			9	187	-	-	-	-	-	-	
EVACUATED. SICK.			-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	
TRANSFERRED.			-	-	<sup>a</sup> 4	14	-	-	-	-	
1914-1915 MEN RET <sup>d</sup> TO AUST.			-	-	<sup>b</sup> 2	13	-	-	-	-	
REINFORCEMENTS.			-	-	-	-	<sup>c</sup> 2	1	-	-	
EFFECTIVE STRENGTH 31/12/18.			-	-	-	-	-	-	5	159	
			9	187	6	29	2	1	5	159	
<p>(a) includes Capt. Hayes W.J. Capt. Barlow D.L.(M.C.) Major Willis W.H. Capt. Robinson A.J.R.</p> <p>(b) includes Lt. Col. D.D. Gade D.S.O. Major Flood J.W.</p> <p>(c) includes Capt. A.W. Purves M.C. " J. Love.</p>											

*End*

WAR DIARY.

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of

THIRD AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

FOR

DECEMBER 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

NO.	SUBJECT.
1	Hospital Diets during the week.
2.	Sketch Diagram showing arrangements of Kits in Billets.
3.	Plan of 3rd Aust. Fld. Ambce. Billeting Area
4.	Plan of Building occupied by 3rd Aust. Fld. Ambce. for Rest Station. (No. 144 Rue de la Station, CHATELET) a. Basement. b. 1st Floor c. 2nd. Floor.
5.	Graph showing:- 1. Scabies ) Cases admitted to Venereal ) 3rd Aust. Fld. Ambce. Influenza ) during December 1918. 2. Total admissions ) during the " evacuations ) month of " remaining ) December 1918.
6.	Special Movement Order dated 17/12/18
7.	Training Syllabus for week ending Dec. 15th.
8.	Training Syllabus for week ending Jan 4th, 1919.

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

THIRD AUSTRALIAN BRIGADE REST STATION.

HOSPITAL FULL DIETS FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 30th. 1918.

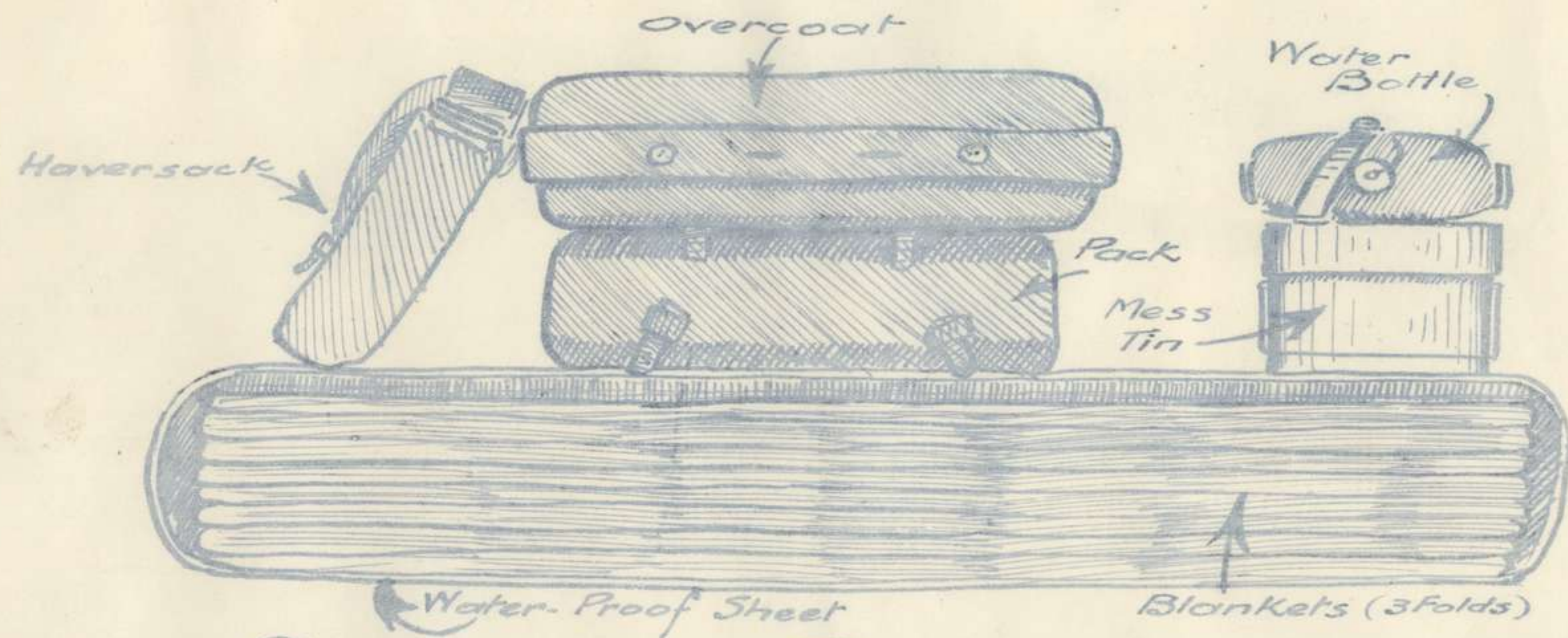
LIGHT DIETS AS ORDERED BY M.O.

	BREAKFAST	DINNER	TEA	SUPPER,
MONDAY	Porridge Milk Boiled Ham Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Roast Beef Vegetables Bread Pudding Tea.	Bread Butter Jam. Welsh Rarebit Tea.	Cheese Biscuits Tea.
TUESDAY	Porridge Milk Boiled Bacon Bread Butter Tea.	Irish Stew Vegetables Sago Pudding Tea.	Jelly and Custard Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Bread Butter Cheese Cocoa.
WEDNESDAY	Bread Milk Fried Bacon Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Baked Meat Pie Sago Pudding Tea.	Corned Beef Pickles Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Biscuits Cheese Tea.
THURSDAY	Porridge Milk Curried M & V Bread Butter Jam Coffee.	Boiled Meat Onion Sauce Bread Butter Pudding Tea.	Arrowroot Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Bread Butter Cheese Coffee.
FRIDAY	Semolina Milk Boiled Bacon Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Roast Beef Vegetables Bread Custard Tea.	Fruit Custard Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Biscuits Cheese Cocoa.
SATURDAY	Porridge Milk Fried Bacon Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Irish Stew Vegetables Date Pudding Tea.	Sardines Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Bread Butter Cheese Cocoa.
SUNDAY	Porridge Milk Boiled Ham Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Roast Beef Vegetables Bread Pudding Tea.	<del>Ham &amp; Butter</del> Corn Flour Bread Butter Jam Tea.	Cheese Biscuits Coffee.

*L. G. Wade*

Lieut. Colonel.  
AAMC.

Commanding No. 3 Australian Field Ambulance.

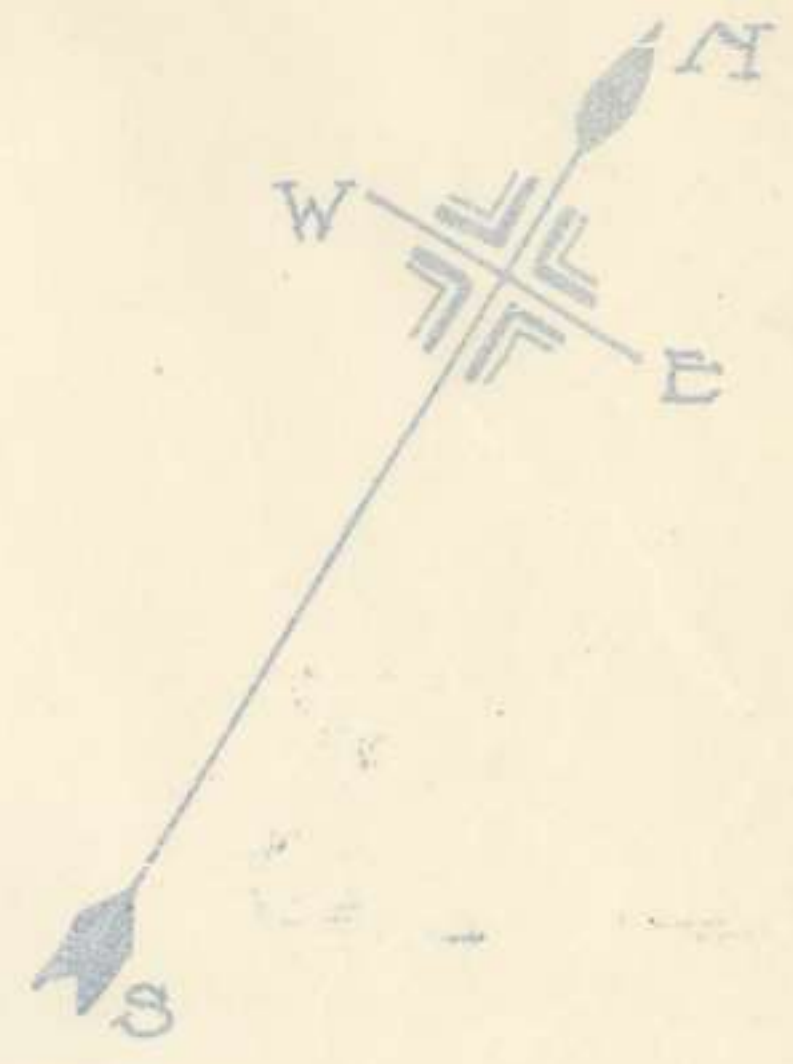


SKETCH DIAGRAM SHOWING  
ARRANGEMENT OF KIT.

COMMUNE

NOTE: Numbers of Billets occupied by 3<sup>rd</sup> A.F. Amb. shown in BROWN

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RUE DU COLLEGE

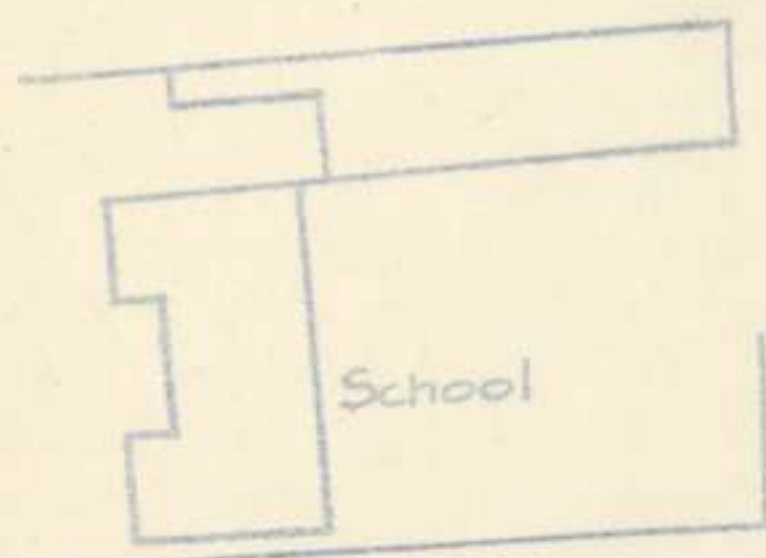
RUE DE LA STATION

RUE DE LA CHAPELLE

RUE DES NERVIENS

RUE DE LA BLANCHISSERIE

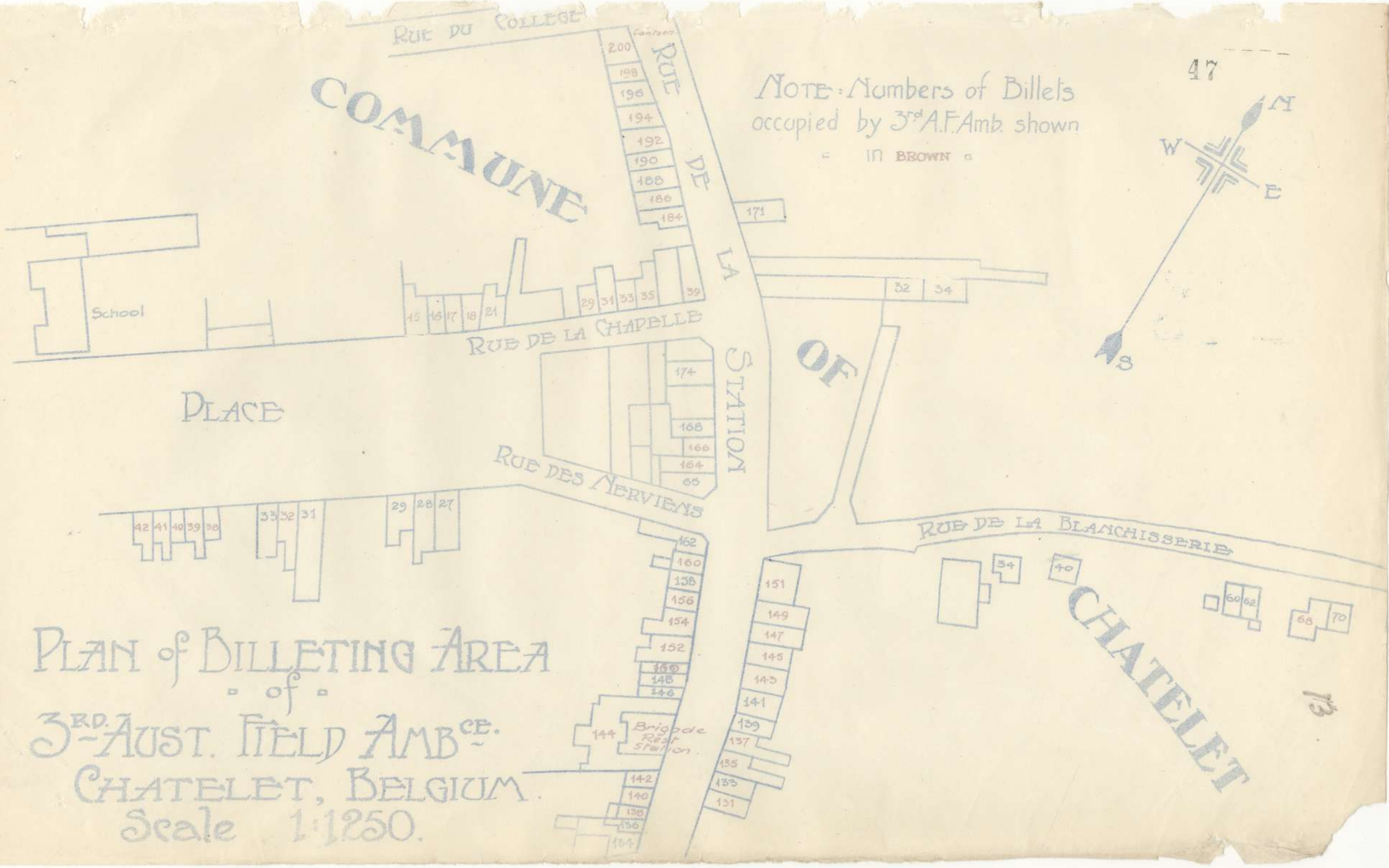
CHATELET



PLACE

OF

PLAN of BILLETING AREA of 3<sup>RD</sup> AUST. FIELD AMB<sup>CE</sup>. CHATELET, BELGIUM. Scale 1:1250.



Brigade Rest Station

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PLAN OF No. 144 RUE de la STATION.

CHATELAIN.

Fig I

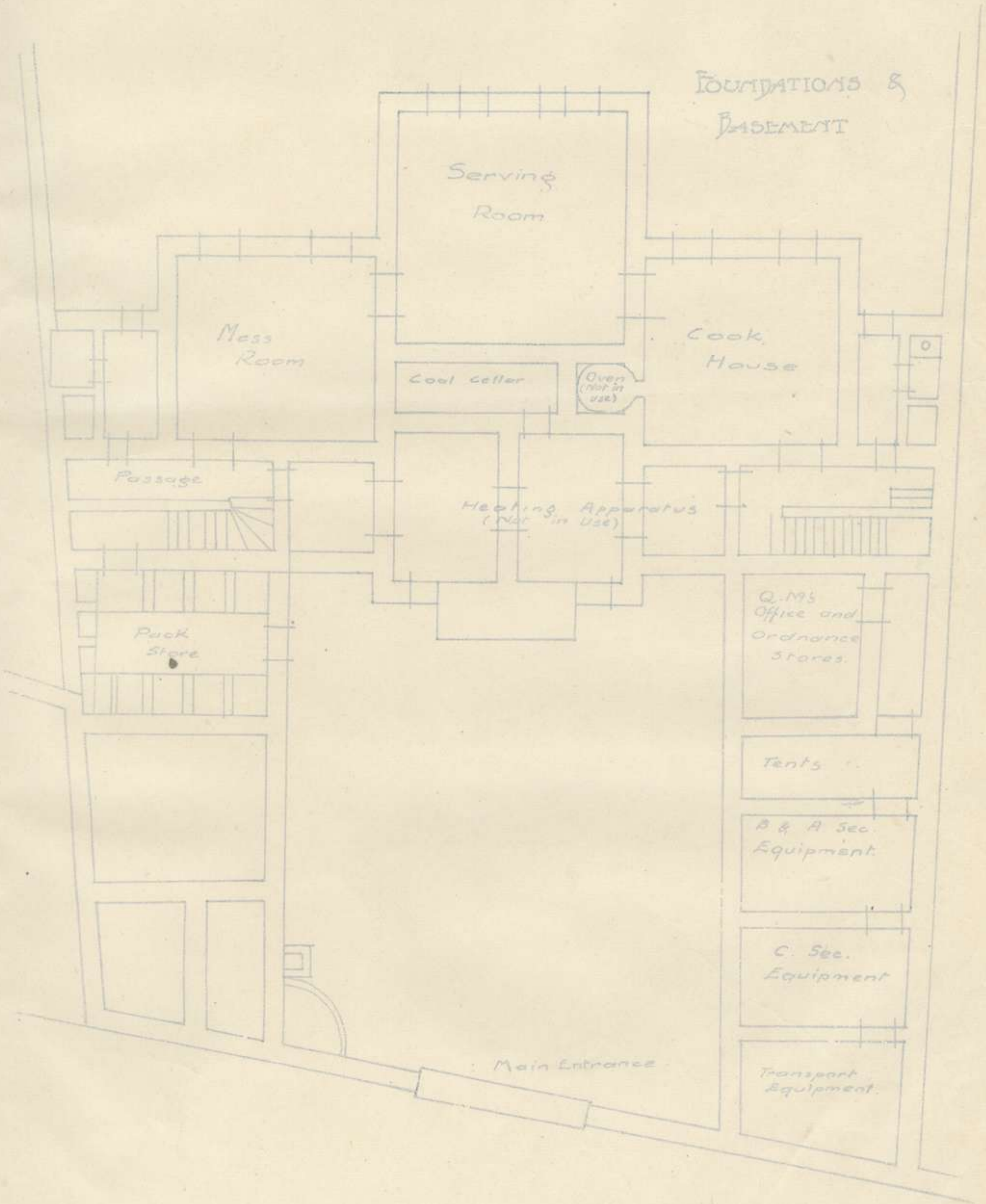




Fig II

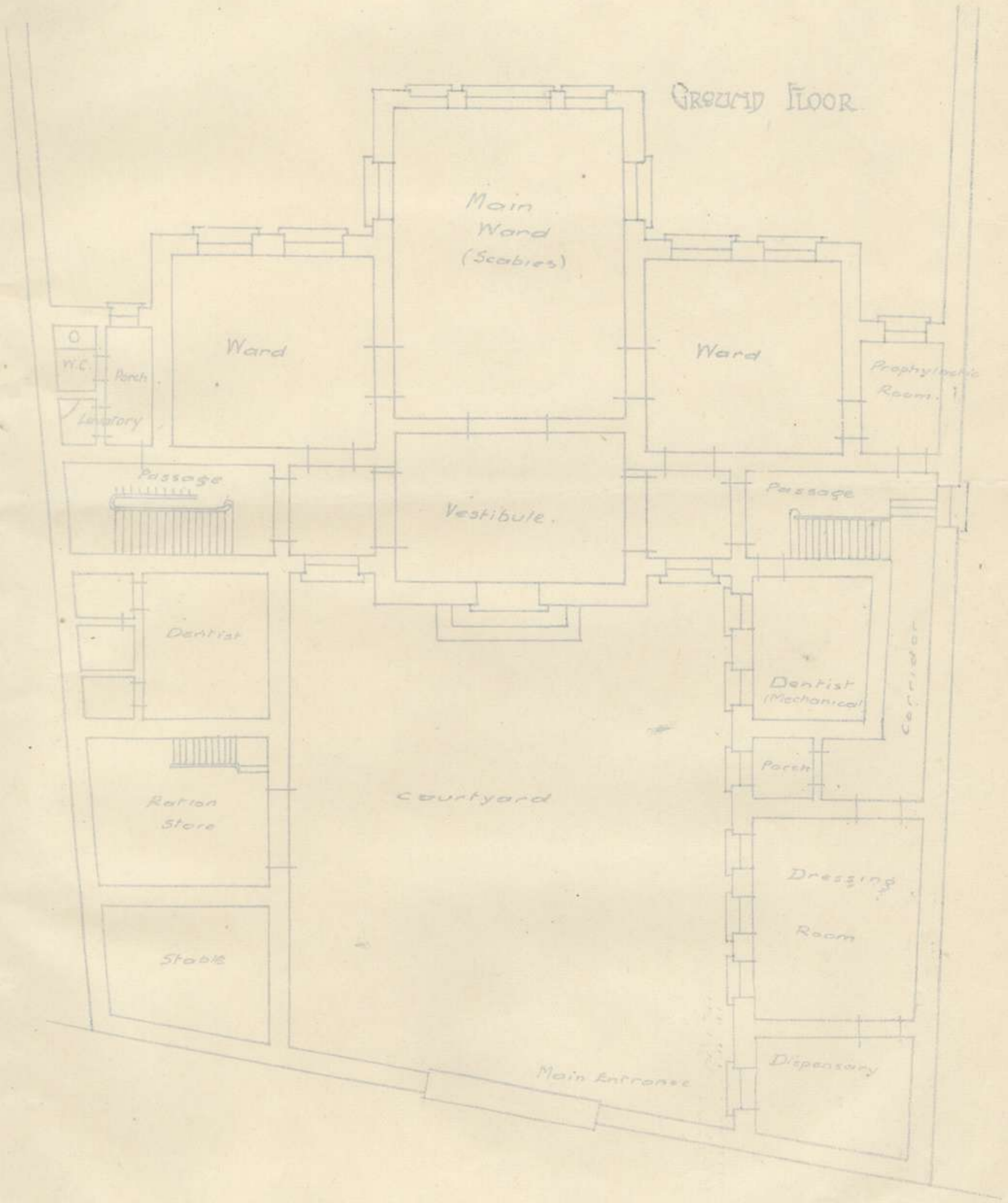
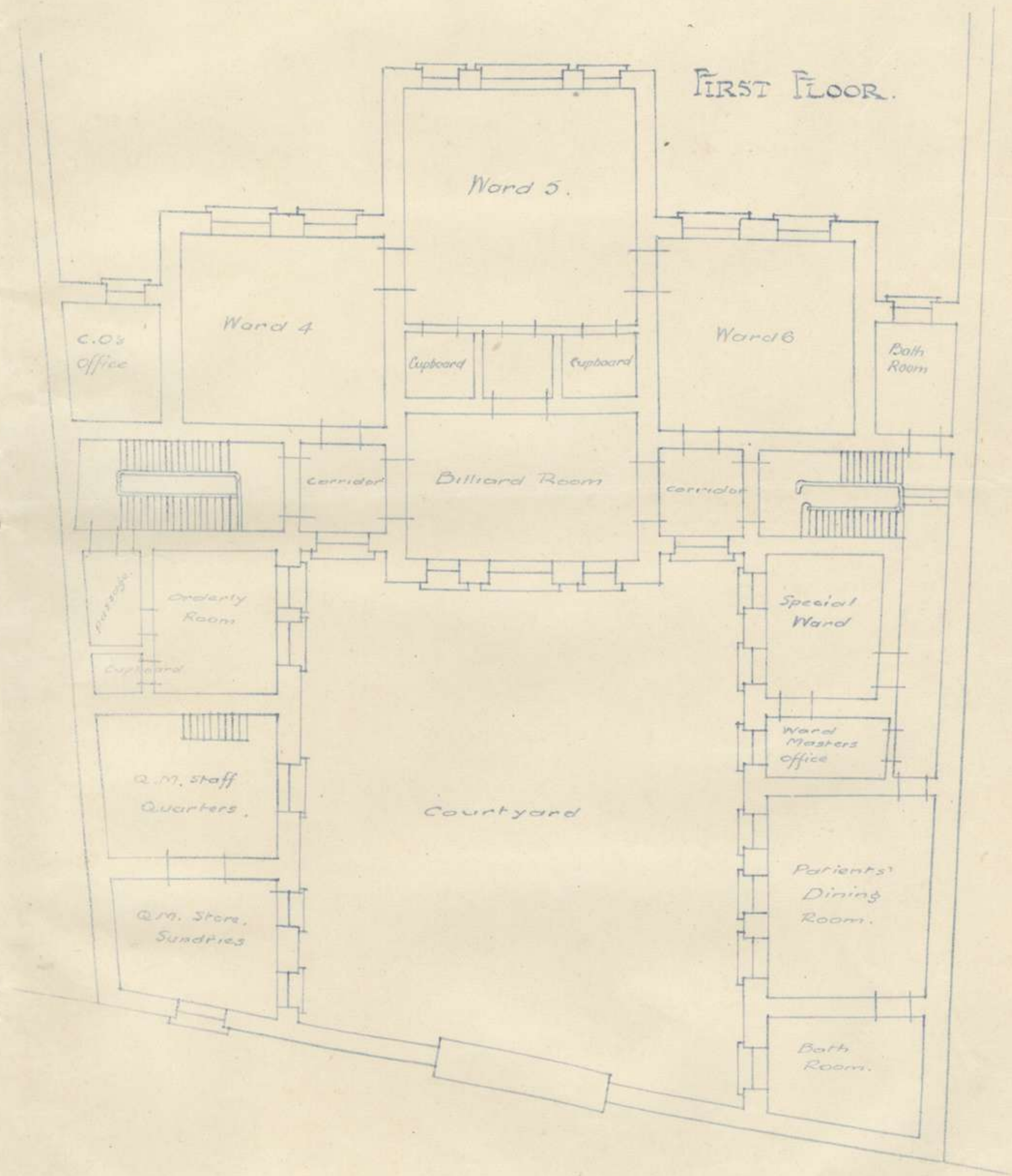


Fig III

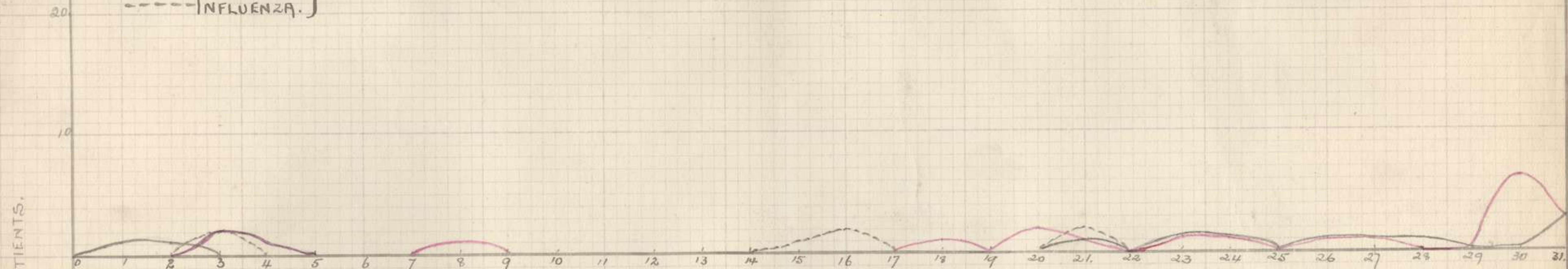
FIRST FLOOR.



GRAPH 1. SHOWING.

— SCABIES  
 — VENEREAL.  
 - - - INFLUENZA.

CASES ADMITTED DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.



GRAPH 2. SHOWING

— TOTAL ADMISSIONS  
 - - - " EVACUATIONS.  
 — " REMAINING

DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.



N.B. From 1<sup>st</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> Patients Admitted + Patients Evacuated coincide.

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THIRD AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.  
THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.  
MOVEMENT ORDER BY

17/12/18

Lieut. Colonel D. D. CADE, D. S. O., Commanding No. 3 Aust. Field Ambulance.

SHEET NAMUR 3

1. The 3rd Aust. Field Ambulance and 2nd Aust. Sanitary Section, in "C" Infantry Brigade Group, will march on the 17th inst. to the CHATELET AREA in three stages in accordance with 3rd Bde. Orders.
2. The following distances will be maintained:-  
     Between Unit and Transport 25 yards  
     Between other Units 25 yards
3. Transport will accompany the Unit. Cooker will move in rear of personnel.
4. DRESS:- Full marching order less blankets and steel helmets.
5. Major Willis, Mons. Minster, S/Sgt. Mc. Donald, & Sergt. Clarke will form billeting party and will proceed by Sunbeam Car to CHATELET, when the Unit moves off.  
     S/Sgt. Mc. Donald will remain at BARBENCOURT. Sergt. Clarke at THY - le - CHATEAU to guide Ambulance to its billets.
6. The following routine will be observed on 17th inst.

REVEILLE	06.00
BREAKFAST	06.30
FALL IN	08.05
MOVE OFF	08.10

*D. D. Cade* Lieut. Colonel,  
 A. A. M. C.,  
 Commanding No. 3 Aust. Field Ambulance.

DISTRIBUTION:-

- MAJOR WILLIS  
 OFFICER'S MESS  
 TRANSPORT OFFICER  
 WARRANT OFFICER  
 SERGT. M. T.  
 O. C. No. 2 Aust. San. Sect.

SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 15th, 1918.  
+++++

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
- 10.30	ROUTE MARCH MjWILLIS in charge	DAILY WEATHER MjFLOOD i/c.	PERMITTING. Mj. Willis i/c.	Mj. FLOOD i/c.	MjWILLIS i/c.	MjFLOOD i/c.	C.Os. Inspect. Church Parade
10.30-11.30	Weekly Medical Inspec.	Demons. in water testing	ditto	Lecture on subject	Lecture to be arranged	Lecture	
p.m.	Recreational training and amusement to be arranged by Mjr. WATCH.						

*Maude* Lieut. Colonel.

C.O. No. 3 Australian Field Ambulance

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SYLLABUS OF TRAINING FOR WEEK ENDING.

JANUARY 3rd. 1919.

	Sat. 28th	Sun 29th	MON 30th	Tues 31	Wed 1	Thur 2nd.	Fri. 3rd.
WAKE UP	7 am	"	"	"	"	"	"
BREAKFAST	7.45am	"	8 "	"	"	"	"
GRADE DUTY MARCH MILITARY TRAINING	9 am to 11 am	"	10-11 am Weekly Medical Inspection	"	"	"	"
DINNER	12 noon	"	"	"	"	"	"
CO. PARADE	1.30 pm	"	"	"	"	"	"
PTA	4.30pm	"	"	"	"	"	"
REST POST	9.30pm	"	"	"	"	"	"
PT POST	10 pm	"	"	"	"	"	"
RETS OUT.	10.15 pm	"	"	"	"	"	"

SYLLABUS OF EDUCATIONAL TRAINING IS BEING  
ISSUED SEPARATELY.

*A. Wade*

Lieut. Colonel.  
AMC

Commanding No. 3 Australian Field Ambulance