

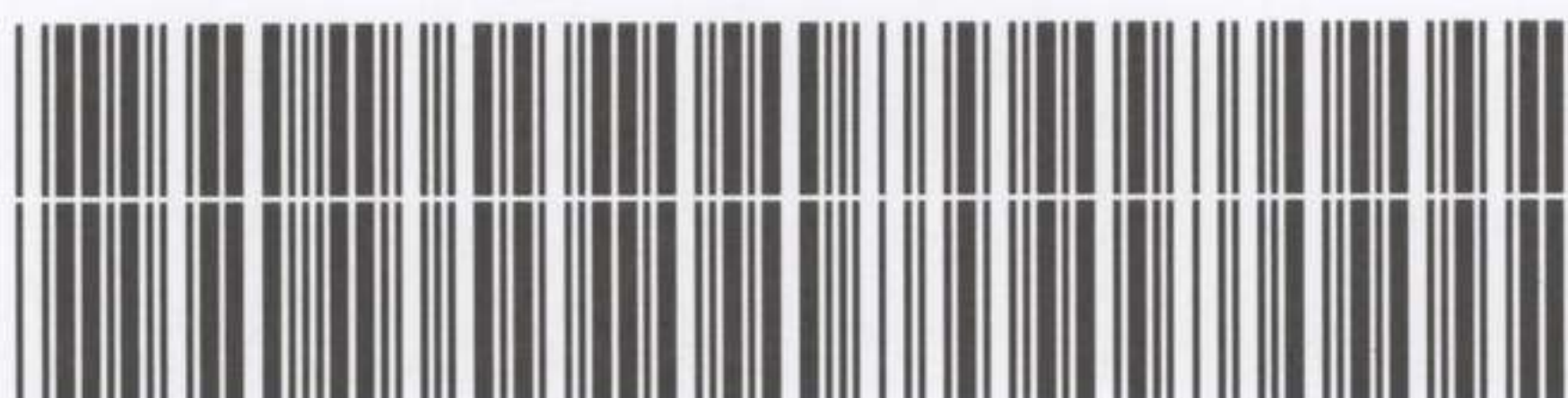
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/19/22

Title: Assistant Director of Medical
Services, 2nd Australian Division

October 1917



AWM4-26/19/22

Confidential - Original.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SMYTHE CAMP Sheet 28 H 21 d 62	1917 October 1 st		Narrative report of Medical Arrangements in recent operations	A, B, C, D, E, F
	October 11 th			
	10 th		News received from D.H.Q.: Col: A. E. Shepherd C.O. 8 th Aust 3 rd Ant to be A.D.M.S. 2 nd Australian Division vice Col: A. Sutton returning to Australia Lieut. Col. F. H. Makins 7 th Aust 3 rd Ant assumed command 8 th Aust 3 rd Ant.	
STEENVOORDE	11 th		A.D.M.S. office closed at Smythe Camp at 10 a.m. reopened at same hour at Steenvoorde	
	12 th		Col. A. Sutton proceeded to A.I.B. Headquarters London.	
	13 th		Alteration in posting of medical officers Capt A. R. Lawrence reinforcement office reported for duty posted 6 th Aust Field Ant.	G
	17 th		Conference of R.M.O.'s of Division held at Headquarters on Trench Foot - notes on Conference attached.	H.
	20 th		Majr E. A. H. Russell 6 th Aust 3 rd Ant to be Lieut. Col. transferred No. 3 A.G.H. W. E. L. A. Browther 14 th Aust 3 rd Ant to be Lieut. Col. & C.O. 5 th Aust 3 rd Ant	
<div data-bbox="107 1504 427 1787" data-label="Text"> <p>A. D. M. S., 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.</p> </div>				<div data-bbox="2252 1697 2967 1850" data-label="Text"> <p>W. Shepherd Col Adms 2 Aust. Division</p> </div>

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
STEENVOORDE	Oct	20 th	Memo from D.D.M.S. to detail 25 men for duty at A.D.S. YPRES. from 22 nd - 24 th . 7 th Ant & Ant instructed to comply.	
		21 st	A.D.M.S. attended Conference of A.D.M.S. at D.D.M.S. 1 st ANZAC.	
		22 nd	D.D.M.S. instructs that Tent Sub. div to report 15 th Ant & Ant. Sheet 28 I q c 6.6 by 24 th ant	
			A.A.M.C. order No. 1 issued	I
		23	Capt J. J. Rowan 6 th Ant & Ant to be R.M.O. 24 th Battalion vice Capt L. L. McMahon to 6 th Ant	
			Medical Instructions No. 42 by D.D.M.S. 1 st ANZAC received reference relief of A.A.M.C. 5 th Ant D- by 2 nd Ant D-	
			2 nd Ant DHP order No. 150 received reference relief of 5 th Ant D-.	
		24	A.A.M.C. order No. 2 issued.	J.
		25	Instruction received from D.D.M.S. to detail one tent sub. div. for duty at No. 2 Canadian C.C.S. 6 th Ant detailed to see tent sub. div.	
			Enemy shelled 2 nd D- Rest Station Sheet 28 G 15 c 2.9. Casualties 1 Sgt & killed 14 OR ^{wounded} 7 th Ant also a number of patients.	
A. D. M. S., 2nd AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.			W. Shepherd A.D.M.S. 2 Ant Division	

65

FORWARD EVACUATION OF WOUNDED (2ND. AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL AREA).

On the night of 1st. October 1917 the 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance took charge of the evacuation of the wounded from the 2nd. Australian Divisional Front. This movement was not merely a take over from a Unit in front for, owing to the Divisional front being side moved to the left on that night and the previous occupants of that front also moving left, there were no existing place to take over.

Owing to the formation of the ground and the recent heavy fighting, there was no natural cover or suitable place of accommodation for stretcher bearers or dressing stations. The only cover possible was in the various concrete block houses built by the enemy during his occupation of the ground. These block houses were naturally greatly in demand by all branches of the forces, and as the number of these block houses was limited, and many of them already destroyed by our shell fire, or half full of water, the remaining serviceable ones were taken over for Brigade Headquarters, Battalion Headquarters, Company Headquarters, Signal Posts and A.A.M.C. Posts. All these buildings were absolutely full and a large number of men took refuge behind the concrete wall, digging themselves in, and making what cover they could.

The Ambulance Officers had reconnoitred the ground on the day previous to taking over, and decided on the probable lines of evacuation. From BIRR X ROADS to ANZAC RIDGE, in front of WESTHOEK Ridge the only suitable line of block houses for evacuation of most of the right of our Area was along the extreme right border of the 2nd. Australian Divisional area, and therefore on the extreme left of the 1st. Division which was on our immediate right. This line of block houses was claimed by both Divisions and there was great doubt as to which Division really owned it however by a process of mutual give and take the two Divisions finally worked together. As the 1st. Aust. Divn. took over twenty four hours before the 2nd. Aust. Divn. they naturally filled all available houses. The three Main Posts to be held by the two Divisions in conjunction were at BELLEWAARDE-WESTHOEK and THE TUNNELS, the two former being respectively a system of dug-outs made by former A.A.M.C. Units, and a block house, the latter being a series of three concrete covered steel cupolas made by the Germans.

When the 2nd. Aust. Divn stretcher bearers arrived at BELLEWAARDE the post was fully occupied by 1st. Aust. Divn., but six men were left ~~XXXX~~ there. The same thing occurred at WESTHOEK. The main body were placed at THE TUNNELS but a few squads were posted at the block house in front of ANZAC Ridge, this being ~~XXXX~~ the only 2nd. Aust. Divn R.A.P. whose position we knew. This Post called "IDEAL HOUSE" was occupied by the 23rd. Battalion R.M.O. and by a 1st. Divn. M.O. and ~~XXXX~~ their details, and used as a Dressing Stn by them. As the interior was about ten by twelve feet there was not much room. Outside this block house were several squads of 1st. Divisional bearers, various men from other Units taking shelter so it was with the greatest difficulty that our squads could find any place at all to rest in, but some of our men occupied a neighbouring shell hole. When it is remembered that the enemy marked these "Pill boxes" for artillery and the heavy nature of that artillery used (mostly 5.9 H.E.) it will be seen ~~XXX~~ how precarious was the position of these bearers. During that night (1/2nd. October) we got in touch with another R.A.P. in the reserve Area and placed squads there. Next morning October 2nd. we got in touch with other R.A.P.'s and established stretcher bearers with them, and also established various Relay Posts. This was not an easy matter as no provision ~~XXX~~ whatever had been made for stretcher bearers. From this time onwards we kept in touch with the R.M.O.'s and cleared their cases. There were then two lines of evacuation, one on the left flank and one on the right flank, both meeting at WESTHOEK. At that time this was necessary for two reasons, namely :- (1) There was no communications between the right and left Brigade R.A.P.'s in the advanced area. (2) There was no middle line of evacuation then available.

On 8th. October we were able to cut out the right line of evacuation, concentrate on the left line of evacuation, and evacuate to the YPRES ZONNEBEKE ROAD, instead of as formerly via WESTHOEK-BELLEWAARDE and YPRES-MENIN ROAD. This necessitated a ~~XXXXXX~~ reformation of Relay Posts near ZONNEBEKE and also at the other end of the line, towards where the horse ambulances joined with the hand stretchers.

The main features of the evacuations line formation were (A) the formation of new Posts at the time of taking over. (B) the formation of fresh posts and closing up of some already occupied by us, as the Military situation developed. (C) the formation of a complete new line of evacuations, in place of two previously used, so soon as military conditions allowed.

EVACUATION

SITUATION :- As far as the hand carried cases were concerned everything on the whole proceeded smoothly. At times, as is inevitable there were temporary congestions but these were never serious and by the aid of extra men from Battalions in the front line, working parties returning from advanced area, enemy prisoners pressed into service of the days when captured, and by most strenuous effort of our bearers the wounded were cleared in a really excellent manner. The only serious block was at a R.A.P. in the front line on the Railway east of ZONNEBEKE where cases were held up for twelve hours owing to the heavy barrage fire on the Railway line, the only way out. There was also difficulty in maintaining communication with the horse ambulances and on several occasions cases collected at the wagon head, and had to be hand carried to the motors.

NATURE OF CARRIES :- The work of the bearers was exceedingly heavy and difficult. In the early part of the operations for several days there were no duck boards, and carries where duck boards were only single width. At times these carries were terrible, the mud in many cases was up to the knees, generally above the ankles and when half dry was very tenacious; after slight rain was very slippery; the shell holes were large and honeycombed the ground. One carry was especially bad viz. one in front of the brick kiln where the bearers had to wade through a swamp. These conditions made stretcher bearing an exceedingly arduous and difficult proceeding in the daytime, and at night at times, an utter impossibility. The work was so heavy that for a large part of the time six men had to carry one stretcher, and even then they rapidly became exhausted. Added to this the shell fire of 5.9 shells which at times and at various places was heavy, made the arduous work also a severe mental strain.

STRETCHER BEARERS :- The stretcher bearers owing to the exceptionally heavy work rapidly became exhausted and were absolutely so after 24 hours work. Roughly speaking they were relieved every twenty four hours, but some thirty six and some forty eight hour shifts were done. Both parties of infantry and also trained ambulance stretcher bearers were used. About two hundred bearers were constantly at work. More frequent reliefs would have made matters easier but owing to the numerical shortness of the men this was impossible. No praise could be too high for the way the bearers doggedly kept to their work, notwithstanding their extreme exhaustion. The Infantry bearers if possible suffered more than the Ambulance men, as their shoulders were not hardened to the use of stretcher handles.

SUPPLIES :- Blankets, stretchers, splints, dressings etc. were fed up to the Advanced Posts from the Wagon Head by returning squads from Relay to Relay. It was a difficult manner to keep this string constant right up to the line, as the more tired the bearers became the less inclined were they to burden themselves on the return journey, but notwithstanding this the forward R.A.P.'s were kept supplied and their wants attended to. Large numbers of stretchers and blankets passed up the line continuously. Cases leaving the Advanced Posts with one blanket were often supplied with an additional one or two at Posts nearer the Wagon Head. A good many blankets and stretchers were at various places destroyed by shell fire, or lost or other reasons. They were generally left in small dumps along the line in the open. Rations were received daily and sent up the line there was no stint of these and the bearers were well supplied. At times there was a shortage of water to some extent but never for long.

GERMAN PRISONERS were used freely on the day of capture, both to carry wounded and to carry back blankets and stretchers. They did good work and were a tremendous assistance. They ~~did good work~~ were kept working until nearly six p.m. and were fed.

AID POSTS :- R.M.O's. and Ambulance Officers had to make their own arrangements with regard to these. On a request from Ambulance officers two small splinter proof shelters were put in by the engineers, but apart from that all posts had to be found and made by ourselves. If the question of A.M.C. posts were considered before an attack and if Engineers would build suitable places where none exist, sometime previously, and this could easily be done, it would considerably diminish A.M.C. casualties, and casualties among the wounded. Unless ~~the wounded~~ absolutely necessary it is both futile and grossly unfair for stretcher bearers and A.M.C. workers to either be left out in the open without adequate cover, or to have to forge their way into already occupied and crowded positions affording shelter. Both of these things happened during the operations.

REGIMENTAL AID POSTS :- These were mainly grouped together in two positions - on the left of the Cordial Factory and on the Right at the Brick Kilns. Both of these places were prepared and converted by the A.A.M.C. The latter especially required alterations by Engineers but each made a splendid R.A.P. capable of sheltering A.M.C. workers and numerous stretcher cases. They were not proof against a direct hit but were splinter proof. In the front of the Brick-Kilns were two R.A.Ps. where cases had to be dressed in the open, and where there was not the slightest accommodation for stretcher-bearers. In front of the ~~xxxxxx~~ Cordial Factory was a R.A.P. for a time, situated in a Railway Cutting which was heavily and constantly shelled, with no accommodation for stretcher-bearers and not much for stretcher cases. This Post was connected with the Cordial Factory by the railway line only and this route was also constantly and freely shelled and sniped. Neither of these posts were suitable for a R.A.P. and in my opinion it would have been better for the cases to have been taken right back to the large posts, where there was shelter. The difficulty was that it was such a long carry from the front line to the Cordial Factory and Brick Kiln, and Battalion men could not be spared.

REGIMENTAL MEDICAL OFFICERS :- The work done by the R.M.O's. was simply magnificent. They worked night and day with cheerfulness overcoming difficulties, handling temporary congestions of wounded, attending to the wounded, either under cover or out in the open with the greatest calmness and bravery, and setting a splendid example of calmness and courage to their men. They kept touch by notes and messages with the Ambulance Headquarters, and rendered every possible assistance to the Ambulance Officers by supervising the stretcher-bearers at their stations.

CASUALTIES :- Casualties amongst the ~~stretcher-bearers~~ Ambulance men were comparatively slight, but the infantry who were acting as bearers suffered more heavily.

Major FURBER who was in charge of Advanced operations for 36 hours was wounded and evacuated.

Sgd. E.L. HUTCHINSON Major.

Appendix "A"6th. Australian Field Amb.

FORMATION	Number of men.	Date of going into line.	Date of coming out of line.
5th. Aust. Fld. Amb.	78	3-10-17	5-10-17.
6th. do	64	3-10-17	5-10-17
7th. do "A"	37	3-10-17	5-10-17
12th. A. Fld. Amb.	97	4-10-17	5-10-17
8th. do	76	5-10-17	7-10-17
7th. do "B"	40	5-10-17	7-10-17
15th. Inf. Bgde.	75	5-10-17	9-10-17
7th. Aust. Fld. Amb.	26	6-10-17	9-10-17
5th. do	36	7-10-17	9-10-17
6th. do	50	7-10-17	9-10-17
7th. do	16	8-10-17	11-10-17
7th. do	30	9-10-17	11-10-17
5th. do	29	9-10-17	11-10-17
Reinf. A. A. M. C.	34	9-10-17	11-10-17
7th. A. I. Bde.	50	9-10-17	10-10-17
7th. do	35	9-10-17	10-10-17
7th. do	15	10-10-17	10-10-17
6th. Aust. Fld. Amb.	44	10-10-17	11-10-17

6th. Australian Field Ambulance.

13th. October 1917.

From O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb.
To A.D.M.S. 2nd. Australian Division.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the evacuation of wounded from the area occupied by the 2nd. Aust. Div., on the stretcher cases of the 1st. ANZAC from Motor Ambulance loading point, on the treatment of stretcher cases at A.D.S. MENIN ROAD and YPRES RAILWAY STATION and entraining of wounded at RAILWAY YPRES during period from 2-10-17 to 11-10-17.

MAP REFERENCE SHEET 28 1 in 40000

The forward area and A.D.S. were taken over at 10 a.m. 2-10-17 and a subsidiary A.D.S. established at YPRES RAILWAY STATION Oct. 3rd. 1917. The area to be cleared was inspected by Major FRASER and myself on 29-9-17. and by Major FURBER and Major HUTCHINSON on 30-9-17. The fact that the Division was "side-slipping" to the left very much increased the difficulties of the evacuation. The condition of the YPRES - ROULERS Road and the lack of cover on the left flank decided us to evacuate down the Right flank to WESTHOEK Ridge and down the centre to WESTHOEK via KIT & KAT and then by wagon or hand carry to BIRR X ROADS, thence by Motor Ambulance to A.D.S.

The posts on the right flank were held in conjunction with the 1st. Aust. Div.. Major HUTCHINSON was put in charge of the forward evacuation with Capt. BEALE to assist him, Major FURBER controlled the A.D.S. MENIN ROAD Capt. FRANCIS 5th. Aust. Field Amb. the A.D.S. at RAILWAY STATION YPRES, Major DUNN 7th. Aust. Field Amb. was appointed entraining officer.

Major HUTCHINSON went up on the night 1-2nd. October with the infantry bearers who had been thoughtfully lent us to relieve as much as possible the A.A.M.C. Stretcher Bearers who had not recovered from the fatigue and strain of the previous tour of duty while attached to the 5th. Australian Division. He established relays of Bearers at :-

Right Flank

R.A.P. 23rd. Battalion situated at IDEAL HOUSE on the Eastern slope of ANZAC RIDGE J.3.c.

TUNNELS J.2.d.1.4.

WESTHOEK J.7.d.8.8.

BELLEWAARDE J.7.a.4.3.

Left Flank

HANNEBEKE WOOD J.2 central

Railway Dump D.26.c.1.3.

and sent up large supplies of blankets, stretchers, splints, dressings and medical comforts to the R.A.P. and to his Relay Post. These stores were sent up by Wagon as far as possible sometimes to J.7.d.8.8. at others to J.7.a.4.3. or BIRR X ROADS, they were then sent up by pack horse or hand carry to required place. Dumps were made at J.7.d.8.8., J.3.c.1.8., J.7.a.4.3., J.2.d.1.4., and D.26.c.1.3.

Before the action on 4-10-17 ⁷⁵⁰ blankets, 500 stretchers, 20 leg and arm splints, 20 ~~THOMAS~~ Thomas splints were sent to J.7.d.8.8. and distributed to Forward Posts as follows :- also 5 suspension bars

J.5.c.1.8. 200 blankets and 100 stretchers.

D.26.c.1.3. 100 " " 50 "

J.7.d.8.8. 350 " " 100 "

J.2.d.1.4. 100 " " 50 "

J.7.a.4.3. 100 " " 50 "

making a total of 850 blankets and 350 stretchers to feed the forward area. Unfortunately the three main dumps J.3.c.1.8., J.7.d.8.8. and J.7.a.4.3. had to be left in the open and suffered considerably from shell fire which at times and especially on the after-noon of the 3-10-17 was extremely heavy and a great number were destroyed.

However on 4-10-17 a constant and liberal stream was sent up & sufficient for the stretcher cases.

The 1st. & 2nd. Australian Divisions shared the right flank evacuation and this saved a lot of labour as the two Divisions were able to be fed by the one stream. This prevented a careful check of stores even if men could be spared to do so but ensured all wounded being provided for and as the stream of stretcher cases was very rapid owing to great use being made of German prisoners proved very useful. The Infantry bearers were replaced by A.A.M.C. after-noon 3-10-17 and special squads of 24 stretcher bearers each were sent forward with a stretcher or two blankets to every man to the R.A.P.'s of the first wave. This plan was carried out on every occasion that bearers were sent in to relieve or reinforce. The attached appendix 'A' shows the movements of bearers 3-10-17 to night 10/11th. October 1917. The fine weather prevailing up to night 4/5th. October made the evacuation easy and rapid as the following figures shew :-

Cases evacuated to C.C.S. from A.D.S., MENIN ROAD on 4/10/17 :-

8 a.m. to 12 noon	216.
12 noon to 4.10 p.m.	326
Total	532
4.10 p.m. to 9 p.m.	96
TOTAL	628

Showing that the field of battle was entirely cleared within 10 hours of the beginning of the attack.

On October 6th. Major FURBER and Captain BROWN relieved Major HUTCHINSON and Captain BEALE and plan were made to abandon the Right Flank entirely and to evacuate entirely down the left flank and to push wagons up the YPRES-ROULERS ROAD as far as possible.

This became necessary as the Division has taken over more ground on their left. Major FURBER was wounded morning 8-10-17 and Major HUTCHINSON replaced him. The whole line of evacuation was changed and the following posts manned by the evening 8-10-17 and morning of 9-10-17 :-

D.29.a.1.5.
 D.28.b.7.5.
 D.28.b.9.1.
 D.22.c.0.2.
 D.21.d.0.2.
 D.27.a.3.5.
 D.27.c.2.5.
 D.26.c.1.3.
 D.25.d.1.9. (Loading Point).

At D.25.d.1.9. and D.26.c.1.3. the Engineers had put in two shelters which were completed by the evening 8-10-17.

Stores were sent up 11 day and night 8-9th. October in all 350 blankets and 50 stretchers, by road to the Loading Point D.25d.1.9. and thence by hand carry to Forward Positions. A great proportion of the stores on the right flank were carried across country to the line. This used up the greater part of the surplus as the continued wet, cold weather had made it necessary to put more than two blankets on a patient, sometimes 4 or even 5 were used, numbers had been lost by shell fire, through being lost in the mud, which by this time was becoming terrible, and many wet, muddy or blood soaked blankets had been sent to Salvage. By the fore-sight of the Staff a good supply of good blankets had been made available and there was just enough to see us through although there were very few to hand over. The evacuation during 8-10-17 to 11-10-17 was made extremely difficult owing to the mud which in all parts was ankle deep and many places knee and even waist deep. In the forward parts of the line of evacuation 8, 10 and even 12 men were required to carry one stretcher and the men became rapidly exhausted. Carrying at night became almost impossible as the darkness was intense and even in daylight it was difficult to pick a track amongst the shell holes. The YPRES-ROULERS ROAD was very much congested and the wagons could only get up slowly to the loading Point. A large number of ground sheets were sent up to the forward area from 5-10-17 onwards to cover the wounded and proved of great service in protecting them from the wet and cold.

On one or two occasions the WESTHOEK-BELLEWAARDE CIRCUIT was rendered impossible from enemy shell fire and wheeled stretchers were collected from all the Ambulances of the 2nd. Australian Division and proved of very great value. The work of the Ambulance wagons was much

- 3 -

much hampered by the congestion on the roads, hostile shell fire which damaged the roads especially on the plank road from BIRR X ROADS round BELLEWAARDE and WESTGOEK CIRCUITS. The rain made these roads very slippery and four horses were required for each wagon, several horses were killed and wounded and three drivers wounded. The motor ambulances did excellent work between BIRR X ROADS and the A.D.S. and along the YPRES-ROULERS ROAD from a spot east of POTIJZE to the A.D.S. Railway Stn., padded G.S. wagons were also used.

All water and rations had to be packed or carried to bearers but in spite of great difficulties hot food was frequently sent up in receptacles packed in hay or straw and hot food containers. The work at the A.D.S. was of the ordinary routine type but great time was saved by having all cases examined in the road and classified as 'A' 'B' or 'C'. This allowed a large number being sent direct to C.C.S. or to the Ambulance train at the YPRES STATION.

Only those cases requiring fresh dressings, re-splinting or those suffering from shock or threatened haemorrhage were brought in and attended to.

The Ambulance train took some stretcher cases but the work of the train has already been reported on by Major DUNN, 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance. The following points have been brought out in the later engagements :-

1. That the stretcher bearers of a Division are insufficient to cope with the casualties of a modern battle especially in wet weather and were there is a long carry.
2. The line of evacuation requires careful survey and shelters which should be at least splinter proof built at various points along the line to shelter bearers and permit of holding a certain number of patients and to be used as Depots for Medical Stores. This latter point is emphasised by the fact that a large amount of stores have been destroyed by hostile shelling and rendered unserviceable by the weather.
3. Two Divisions should not share the line of Posts if this can be avoided as it absolutely prevents proper checking of stores.
4. An arrangement should be made with C.C.S.'s whereby after an action the excess blankets, ground sheets, hot water bottles, splints, suspension bars etc. which during a rush cannot be accurately counted or collected are returned automatically to the A.D.S. this would prevent many of the shortages which at present occur.
5. Light Railways should be made available to carry wounded on return trips. The delay in return of trucks would be small, and the convenience great. On the 4th. October 1917 the Railway put down during the night up to ANZAC was of great value, and many wounded evacuated down it.
6. Duck board track should be kept for foot traffic only, and should not be used for pack animals. The duck Board track via KIT AND KAT was rendered almost useless owing to the pack animals using it and breaking it.
7. Tracks should be kept for stretcher bearers and walking wounded if possible.

(signed) A. H. MOSELEY, Lt.Col.,

O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

A. D. M. S.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.

Headquarters,
15th. October 1917.

To,
2nd. Aust. Div. H.Q.
D.D.M.S. 1st. ANZAC,

No. 28/150

The following narrative report of Medical Arrangements in the recent operations is forwarded for your information.

On Sept. 27th. 1917 information was received that the 2nd. Aust. Div. would shortly take over the front line from the 4th. Aust. Div. and the Division on their left with a readjustment of Divisional boundaries. The A.D.M.S. 4th. Aust. Div. was visited the same day and information obtained regarding existing medical arrangements for the Divisional front. O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. was warned to prepare to take over medical arrangements.

On 28th. Sept. O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. and D.A.D.M.S. made a preliminary reconnaissance of the area, and particularly in respect to the roads and tracks. The practical possibility of pushing horse wagons up to ANZAC Ridge was recognised provided weather conditions held good.

Further reconnaissance of the area were made on succeeding days by Field Ambulance Officers.

The A.D.M.S. attended a conference of A.D's.M.S. with D.D.M.S. 1st. ANZAC regarding pending operations on Sept. 28th.

2nd. Aust. Div. Order No. 142 and Medical Instructions No. 37 by D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac were received on Sept. 29th. concerning taking over the line on 2nd. October.

A.D.M.S. of Division in the line on the left was visited on 30th. inst. with regard to taking over this portion of the Medical Arrangements but it was found that the 3rd. Aust. Div. was not yet in command of the sector. It was then discovered that 1st. Aust. Div. on taking over from 4th. Aust. Div. on 1st. October was adopting the line of evacuation complete of 4th. Aust. Div., the posts of which were alternately in both 2nd. and 1st. Aust. Div. areas. This line of evacuation was the only one available for 2nd. Aust. Div., as the new area contained no road and practically no shelter. The A.D.M.S. 1st. Aust. Div. was visited and agreement made that the one line of evacuation would be used in common by both Divisions.

A.A.M.C. Order No. 96 was issued at 3 p.m. on October 1st.

A.D.M.S. 3rd. Aust. Div. was visited on 1st. inst. and final arrangements made for medical arrangements of new area to be taken over.

Preliminary instructions of 2nd. Aust. Div. for an attack to be made on 'S' day were received on October 1st.. Medical Arrangements Preliminary Instructions were issued on October 2nd.

On the afternoon of October 2nd. D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac sent a/D.A.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac to confer with O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. direct concerning evacuation of stretcher cases by Ambulance train at YPRES. In Medical Instructions No. 38 d/2-10-17., D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac placed responsibility for this new method of evacuation to C.C.S. on O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb.

A.A.M.C. Order No. 97 giving final instructions for Medical Arrangements for the attack was issued on October 3rd.

Up to this time infantry men detailed by D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac had been used as bearers at Field Ambulance Posts in order to rest A.A.M.C. bearers of the Division who had been used in previous operations of the 20th. and 26th. September and succeeding days, and were consequently exhausted. These infantry bearers were relieved on the night of the 3rd. inst. by A.A.M.C. bearers and battle disposition made.

It had been arranged that motor ambulance cars should work to WESTHOEK by the single way circuit plank road, and that horse wagons or Ford cars should be pushed out beyond this if possible. Rain fell during the night, and an experimental trip on the plank road was attempted by a Ford car. The road was found to be too slippery to

- 2 -

be practicable for ambulance cars. Horse wagons were therefore placed on this route to clear wounded of both 1st. and 2nd. Aust. Divisions from WESTHOEK, and the idea of using wagons further forward was abandoned. Motor ambulance cars worked as far as BIRR X ROADS on the MENIN ROAD.

After the attack opened at 6.10 a.m. on 4th. inst. stretcher cases came in rapidly, the evacuation being greatly assisted by the employment of prisoners of war as bearers. This rapid evacuation continued until the late afternoon, when prisoners of war were withdrawn to Corps Cages. From this time cases began to accumulate at WESTHOEK as the congestion of traffic on the single way road greatly delayed the evacuation by horse ambulance wagon. The wagon route was then shortened by confining the trip to the BELLEWAARDE circuit and extra bearers requested by from D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac by both 1st. and 2nd. Aust. Divisions to clear the accumulation cases to the BELLEWAARDE Loading Post. Bearers were sent to 1st. Aust. Div. and effectually dealt with the situation.

During the 4th. inst. the R.A.P. of the Right Brigade moved forward from ANZAC Ridge to the BRICK KILN near ZONNEBEKE, on the left only one R.M.O. ~~MOVED FORWARD~~ moved forward a short distance as no cover could be found on this side. Major HUTCHINSON in command of bearers in forward posts kept touch with R.A.P.'s. and moved up bearers as required. In spite of the difficult state of the ground in consequence of continual rain, the battle field was cleared before dark set in.

The 12th. Aust. Field Amb. bearers in reserve were moved up to reinforce the left line of evacuation on the 4th. inst.

Major CRAIG R.M.O. 22nd. Battalion was wounded on the morning of the 4th. inst.

On the 5th. inst. a considerable number of casualties caused by enemy shelling were coming through and the 8th. Aust. Field Amb. bearers were moved up to reinforce the right line of evacuation the R.M.O. now being established at Sheet 28 D.27.a.2.4. to the West of ZONNEBEKE.

On the night 5th./6th. October 75 infantry bearers of 5th. Aust. Div. were posted on the line of evacuation in relief of exhausted A.A.M.C. bearers who had been working from the commencement of operations.

On the 6th. inst. a visit was made to forward ~~posts~~ posts and R.A.P.'s. and the practicability recognised of combining left and right routes of evacuation and working out on to the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road. This was a quiet day. The R.M.O. of the 19th. Battalion was wounded. Major FURBER relieved Major HUTCHINSON in command of forward posts on the same ~~day~~ evening.

On 6th. inst. Preliminary Instructions were received regarding the Division taking over a further sector to the left, and making an attack on a future date.

The A.D.M.S. 66th. Division was visited the same afternoon regarding use of ZONNEBEKE - YPRES Road as a route of evacuation without result.

The A.D.M.S. 2nd. Aust. Div. made a personal reconnaissance of the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road with the O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. on the 7th. inst. The A.D.M.S. 66th. Division was visited the same morning and permission of G.O.C. 66th. Division obtained for Field Ambulance wagons of 2nd. Aust. Div. to use the road, and for a wagon loading post to be constructed on the road at Sheet 28 D.25.d.1.9. by 2nd. Aust. Div. Engineers. Arrangements were then made with Division and with the C.R.E. for this loading post to be built, for a bearer post to be constructed at D.27.a.8.3. near ZONNEBEKE, and for shelter to be erected near the ambulance post D.26.c.1.3. intended to become the Advanced ~~Brassington Station~~ Collecting Station.

Medical Arrangements Preliminary Instructions were issued the same day. Major FURBER was wounded on the evening of the 7th. inst. and Major HUTCHINSON once more went forward and took command of forward posts.

A.D.M.S. 2nd. Aust. Div. attended conference of A.D.S.M.S. with D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac on the 8th. inst. when it was decided that O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. should open a Reserve A.D.S. at YPRES Railway Station at once to receive cases for the new route.

- 5 -

All A.A.M.C. bearers of other Divisions had now been withdrawn from the Division under instructions of D.D.M.S. and the Division provided 100 infantry bearers in their place. On the evening of the 8th. inst. 75 infantry bearers of 5th. Aust. Div. were withdrawn from the line, and tired bearers of A.A.M.C. 2nd. Aust. Div. with 100 fresh infantry bearers were alone available for a very difficult evacuation. Battle dispositions of bearers were made on the night of 8th. inst. A complete block of traffic on the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road for the part of the night hindered the posting of wagons on that route.

After the attack at 5.30 a.m. on the night (9th.) inst. cases came back very slowly, as the carry was a long and difficult one, and when loaded on wagons on the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road progress was slow. The first stretcher cases arrived by the new route at 1 p.m. and after that they came in steadily.

Congestion of stretcher cases occurred at times at posts on the line of evacuation but at no time did the evacuation break down. The work of the bearers who carried on, exhausted before commencement of the new offensive, and working under increasingly difficult conditions was beyond praise.

Major HUTCHINSON 6th. Aust. Field Amb. and Capt. BROWN 7th. Aust. Field Amb. were unflagging in their supervision of the bearers encouraging them continually all along the line, directing them to cope with local emergencies.

A.A.M.C. Order No. 99 giving instructions regarding relief of A.A.M.C. 2nd. Aust. Div. by A.A.M.C. 4th. Aust. Div. was issued on 9th. inst.

Cases continued to come down continually on the 10th. inst. but the line of evacuation was kept clear.

Relief by 4th. Aust. Div. was successfully carried out on the night 10th./11th. inst.

Detailed reports of operations by O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. is attached.

DEDUCTIONS

The recent operations at present under review have shown more strongly than usual a fact that has been experienced in every offensive operation in France.

1. The establishment of a Field Ambulance is founded on the requirements of open warfare experienced in the Boer war. The result is a heterogeneous unit which comprises a hospital unit, a bearer unit, a mechanical transport unit, and a horse transport unit.
2. The only officers in this complex formation are medical officers. The training of medical officers before joining this first line formation is usually nil as regards military education. The professional medical man is made an officer ex officio and there is no special training for officers sent to Field Ambulances. Reinforcement officers are drafted indiscriminately to purely hospital units or to Field Ambulances. The result is that officers in Field Ambulances have to gain their experience after arrival at the front. Further, having gained this experience and having become of value in command of men, a fully qualified professional man does the duty of an infantry subaltern, or transport officer, usually less efficiently than a junior trained officer of combatant units. Men of the stamp of the officers mentioned by name in the report are naturally capable men in any capacity and are by no means the rule. Further, Medical Officers are so frequently detailed ~~away~~ ^{from} their unit for special medical duty that they rarely know the men of their command.
3. The Bearer Divisions of Field Ambulances of a Division are totally inadequate to deal with the high percentage of casualties which result from offensive operations of modern warfare. Battle disposition absorbs all available bearers of Divisional A.A.M.C. units. After 24 hours these men are exhausted and other units must be called upon. By borrowing A.A.M.C. bearers of another division the whole of the A.A.M.C. bearers of a Corps are quickly exhausted.

- 4 -

4. A return to the old bearer companies or the formation of a bearer Battalion with infantry officers trained in first aid in a Division would solve these difficulties.

In active operations the Division will ^{then} always have sufficient trained men available to evacuate the wounded and these men will work under the direction of trained military officers whom they know.

Medical officers could then be reserved for professional duties in which they are qualified.

A. Shepherd

Colonel,
A.D.M.S.

2nd. Australian Division.

SECRET

Copy No.....

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONHeadquarters,
1st. October 1917.A. A. M. C. ORDER No. 96 BY COLONEL ALFRED SUTTON C.M.G.Map Reference Sheet 28 1 in 40000.

In accordance with 2nd. Aust. Div. Order No. 142 d/28-9-17
2nd. Aust. Div. will take over from 3rd. Aust. Div. and 1st. Aust. Div.
the front line from the YPRES ROULER to ROMULUS WOOD. Railway

In accordance with D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac instructions No. 37
dated 28-9-17. The following Medical dispositions will be made.

1. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will be responsible for the evacuation of the wounded from Divisional Area, and for the evacuation of all stretcher cases of the Corps Front from the A.D.S..
2. One tent sub-division 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will take over Amb Post. at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER H.24.c.5.9. from 4th. Aust. Field Amb. Movement to be completed by 10 a.m. October 1st.
3. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will relieve 14th. Aust. Field Amb. at A.D.S. Seriously Wounded Cases MENIN ROAD I.9.c.9.6. Movement to be completed by 10 a.m. October 2nd. Details to be arranged by Ambulance Commanders At the same time an emergency station will be formed in YPRES RAMPARTS I.7.d.3.0.
4. For the purpose of evacuating the Divisional Front Ambulance Posts will be established by O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. at the following points. Movement to be completed by 10 a.m. on October 2nd.

The TUNNELS	J.2d.1.4.) These Posts may be held in common with A.A.M.C. 1st. Aust. Div.
WESTHOECK	J.7.d.8.8.	
BELLEWAARDE RIDGE	J.7.a.4.3.	
SIMONS POST	J.12.c.8.7.	
BIRR X ROADS	J.17.d.2.8.	
5. R.A.P.'s. at present exist in Divisional Area at the following locations :-

ANZAC RIDGE	J.3.c.1.8.	to be taken over from 1st. Aust. Div.
HANNEBECK WOOD	J.2. central	" " " " 3rd. " "
RAILWAY DUMP	D.26.c.1.3.)

O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will gain touch with these posts. If R.H.O.s. establish Aid Posts elsewhere they will immediately notify the nearest Ambulance Post.
6. For the purpose of establishing and clearing forward posts until October 3rd. 150 infantry will report to O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER at 9p.m. October 1st.
7. For the purpose of carrying on the Divisional evacuation the following details will be placed at the disposal of the O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. from 12 noon October 1st.

From 5th. Aust. Field Amb.

2 Tent sub-divisions	and Bearer Division
3 Horse Amb. wagons) with drivers and teams
5 G.S. wagons	
1 Water Cart	

All available ambulance cars with drivers and orderlies except one Daimler car.

P. T. O.

- 2 -

7. (Continued) From 7th. Aust. Field Amb.

Bearer Division

3 Horse Amb. wagons

5 G.S. Wagons

1 water cart

} With drivers and teams.

All available ambulance cars with drivers and orderlies except one Daihler and one Ford Car

8. Headquarters and tent division 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will remain in charge of 2nd. Aust. D.R.S. WARATAH CAMP G.15.c.2.8..

Headquarters and one tent sub-division 5th. Aust. Field Amb. will remain at RENINGHELST G.34.b.1.1..

9. 4th. Dental Section will rejoin 6th. Aust. Field Amb. and open Dental Office for urgent work at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER on October 2nd. 22nd. and 24th. Dental Sections will be established at D.R.S. WARATAH CAMP on the same day.

10. Copies of receipts for stores taken over in above move will be forwarded to this office in duplicate.

11. A C K N O W L E D G E.

H. Smith
Major,
for A.D.M.S.,
2nd. Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	}	War Diary
	2		
	3.		
	4.	Headquarters	'G'
	5.	"	'A.C.'
	6.	D.M.S. 2nd. Army	
	7.	D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac	
	8.	5th. Aust. Field Amb.	
	9.	6th. "	" "
	10.	7th. "	" "
	11.	5th. A.I. Brigade	
	12.	6th. do	
	13.	7th. do	
	14.	C.R.A. 2nd. Aust. Div.	
	15.	C.R.E. do	
	16.	2nd. Aust. Pion. Batt.	
	17.	2nd. Aust. Div. Train	
	18.	A.D.M.S. 1st. Aust. Div.	
	19.	A.D.M.S. 3rd. Aust. Div.	
	20.	A.D.M.S. 4th. Aust. Div.	
	21.	A.D.M.S. 5th. Aust. Div.	
	22.	2nd. Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.	
	23.	A.P.M. 2nd. Aust. Div.	
	24.	File	

Appendix B

B

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Headquarters,
1st. October 1917.

AMENDMENT No.1 to A.A.M.C. Order No.96

Reference para. 4

For SIMONS POST J.12.c.8.7.
BIRR X ROADS J.17.d.2.8.

Read SIMONS POST I.12.c.8.7.
BIRR X ROADS I.17.b.2.8.

A.D.M.S. office will close at RENINGHELST at 10 a.m. on
2nd. October and open at SMYTH CAMP H.21.d.6.2. at the same hour.

Copy to all recipients of
A.A.M.C. Order No.96

ayud Sutton Colonel,
A.D.M.S.
2nd. Australian Division.

SECRET

18

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Headquarters,
2nd. October 1917.

Appendix No. C
A. D. M. S.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.

No. 28/106

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPERATIONS

PRELIMINARY INSTRUCTIONS.

O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will post not less than six bearer squads with R.H.O's. of Battalions in the first wave not later than 9 p.m. on zero night. These men will carry not less than twenty stretchers and twenty blankets with them.

In addition to stocking present R.A.P.s., bags of dressings of convenient size will be prepared and supplied to each R.A.P. to equip more advanced R.A.P.

A plentiful supply of Thomas's and other splints will similarly be provided for R.A.P's.

Dumps of not less than 100 stretchers and 100 blankets will be sent forward to ANZAC RIDGE POST J.3.C.1.9. This dump will be maintained during the action. If it falls below 50 immediate steps will be taken to renew the full supply. Stretchers and blankets will be laid in inconspicuous small scattered groups.

Advance dumps of not less than 100 stretchers and 100 blankets will be prepared in the same way at WESTHORPE RIDGE J.7.b.8.8.

O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance will forward to this office not later than 12 noon on 3rd. inst. a full statement of the proposed disposition of officers and men in preparation for the attack:

1. Disposition of officers and command of each.
2. Number of bearers posted at each relay.
3. Name of H.C.O's. to be posted at each relay post and responsible for bearer rosters.
4. Number of reserve bearers and location.
5. Proposed system of reliefs.

O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance will be responsible for clearing all stretcher cases to A.D.S. MENIN ROAD from the farthest point to which motor ambulance cars can work.

This will probably be from WESTHORPE RIDGE J.7.b.9.4. but may only be so from BELLEWAARDE RIDGE J.7.a.4.3.

If circumstances permit cars will be pushed forward along main WESTHORPE ZONNEBEKE ROAD by O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance.

For the above purpose an allocation of cars from other Divisions will be made to O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance.

Horsed ambulance wagons will be retained by each Division for its own use on forward tracks etc.

If horse wagons however have to be substituted for cars on BELLEWAARDE ROAD CIRCUIT, O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will call upon O.C. 1st. Aust. Field Amb. for use of horse wagons of 1st. Aust. Div.

Alfred Sutton Colonel,
A.D.M.S.,
2nd. Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION :-

B.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac	5th. Aust. Inf. Brigade
B.D.C. 2nd. Aust. Div.	6th. do
O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb.	7th. do
A.D.M.S. 1st. Aust. Div.	

FIRST AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND ARMY CORPS

MEDICAL INSTRUCTIONS No. 38

1. The following additional Medical arrangements will be made for "S" day Operations.

2. The A.D.M.S. 2nd. Australian Division. will have at his disposal a convoy formed of eight large ambulance cars and three Forts from each of the two Divisions in the front line. These will be available under his orders for the evacuation of all stretcher cases of both divisions in the line.

A reserve of sixteen large ambulance cars, formed by eight from the 4th. and eight from 5th. Australian Divisions will be held at the Corps Main Dressing Station Sheet 28 .H.27.C.S.S. These cars will report at C.M.D.S. at 4 p.m. 3-10-17, and will be at the disposal of A.D.M.S. 2nd. Aust. Div.

4. Each Division in line will use its own horse transport for evacuation of its own stretcher cases, whenever circumstances render evacuation by Motor ambulances impossible.

5. The A.D.M.S. 2nd. Australian Division will arrange to place one tent sub-division at EPRES RAILWAY STATION on afternoon 3rd. October. It will act as an Entraining Centre for such stretcher cases and walking wounded as may be sent here to be despatched to Casualty Clearing Station by Ambulance Trains; and will be under the orders of the C.O. the Field Ambulance conducting the evacuation of stretcher cases.

ii All necessary equipment for cases requiring redressing before being entrained and all medical comforts will be provided by the A.D.M.S. 2nd. Australian Division.

iii Any extra personnel required for entraining centre will be provided by utilizing the services of 28 P.R. men from the Corps Main Dressing Station, and A.D.M.S. 1st. Australian Division will provide an extra tent sub-division if required.

6. When the time table of trains permits, stretcher cases not requiring attention at the Advanced Dressing Station I.S.C.S.S. or whose condition does not demand evacuation by motor ambulance direct to Casualty Clearing Station will be sent on to this entraining centre, without being taken out at the A.D.S. The transport officer at the Advanced Dressing Station will keep himself in touch with the times of trains and regulate his despatch of wounded by ambulance car direct to C.C.S. or to train accordingly.

H.Q. 1st. Anzac
2nd. October 1917

***** :

Sgt. G.C. WATKINS
Colonel,
D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac

D.D.M.S. 1st.ANZAC M 2/73

The A.D.M.S.
2nd.Australian Division

1. A regular ambulance train will start at 9.30 a.m. from the Broad Gauge Railway Ipswich Station, and will continue convey both lying and sitting cases up to a maximum of 400 to the Casualty Clearing Stations REMY GROUP.
2. Patients will not be taken off stretchers. The stretcher will be placed upon wire mattresses in the compartments.
3. These trains will run every two hours, and there will be three R.A.M.C. permanent orderlies to look after train equipment.
4. A Medical Officer will be detailed by A.D.M.S. 1st.Aust. Division. This officer will be given any personnel deemed necessary. He will be responsible for seeing that stretchers and blankets are returned from Casualty Clearing Stations, and should be furnished with the necessary medical comforts.
5. The train journey should take under one hour.
6. Whilst guarding against the accumulation of patients to an excessive extent, every advantage should be taken of the train service as a means of evacuation.
7. This service, will, it is hoped, eliminate the Corps Main Dressing Station at H.27.C.S.S. Sheet 28 except for passed and local cases.

H.Q. 1st.ANZAC
3rd.October 1917.

Sgt. C.C.MANIFOLD Colonel
D.D.M.S. 1st.ANZAC

65
SECRET.

Copy No.....

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.Appendix **D**Headquarters,
3rd. SMD. October 1917.A.A.M.C. ORDER NO. 97 BY COLONEL ALFRED SUTTON, C.M.C.Map reference Sheet 28, J in 40,000.

In accordance with 2nd. Aust. Divn. Order No. 143 d/3-10-17.

1. 2nd. Australian Division will attack on 'S' day. 6th. Aust. Inf. Bde. will attack on right. 7th. Aust. Inf. Bde will attack on RIGHT left of Divisional front.

2. Medical disposition at commencement of attack will be :-

<u>R.A.P.'s.</u>		<u>Relay Posts.</u>	
Left Bde. Railway Dump D.26.c.1.3.	-	KIT AND KAT J.3.d.3.7.	
Right Bde. ANZAC Ridge	-	The TUNNELS J.2.c.8.5.	WESTHOECK RIDGE J.7.b.8.8.
Reserve R.A.P. R.M.O. 23rd. Bn. HENNEBECK WOOD J.3.a.8.2.	-	CLARKES POST J.2.c. Cent.	BELLEWAARDE RIDGE J.7.a.4.3.

A.D.S.
MENIN ROAD I.o.c.9.6.

3. O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance will be responsible for :-

- a. Evacuation wounded from Divisional Front.
- b. Evacuation of stretcher cases from 1st. ANZAC Corps front from WESTHOECK RIDGE if possible, otherwise from BELLEWAARDE RIDGE if possible, by car. For this purpose Corps allotment of cars will be placed at his disposal in accordance with D.D.M.S. instructions attached. These cars will also be sent forward to ANZAC RIDGE if possible via. WESTHOECK-ZONNEBEKE road by O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb.
- c. For evacuation REM of stretcher cases from A.D.S., MENIN ROAD to C.C.S. by M.A.C. car and by ambulance train in accordance with D.D.M.S. orders attached.

4. O.C. 1st. Aust. Field Ambulance will be responsible for evacuation of walking wounded of Corps Front from A.D.S. to C.C.S. or ambulance train.

5. Hosed transport of A.A.M.C. 2nd. Aust. Divn will be used to assist evacuation of wounded of this division. Horse ambulance wagons will be used between ANZAC RIDGE Post and WESTHOECK if circumstances permit.

Should WESTHOECK and BELLEWAARDE road circuits become impassable, horse transport will be sent forward by 6th. Brigade track leaving BELLEWAARDE ROAD at I.12.d.3.9. via the RECTORY to CROSS ROADS J.1.d.9.4. cases from left Brigade may then be loaded there, cases from right Bde. will be loaded at CLARKES POST at J.2.c. Central.

6. During operations on 'S' day R.M.O. of 26th. Battalion on left R.M.O. 22nd. Battalion on right will move forward to R.A.P. to be selected. O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance will keep touch and reinforce bearers as required.

65
7. On the day following operations it is possible that R.A.P.'s will be formed in the region of MOULIN FARM on left and near ENBOT FARM on the right.

O.C. 6th.Aust.Field Ambulance will reorganise line of evacuation as required to suit developments.

8. Of A.A.M.C., 2nd.Aust.Divn. 2 bearer divisions will be stationed at Posts, or in immediate reserve, forward of WESTHOECK RIDGE and half a bearer division will be posted in reserve at XPRES RAMPARTS or RAILWAY WOOD.

Two bearer Divisions will be made available by D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC as required by O.C. 6th.Aust.Field Ambulance.

9. O.C. 6th.Aust.Field Ambulance will form forward dump of stretchers, blankets, and dressings at BRIGADE R.A.P.'s on 'R' night ~~and half~~

* and half a bearer division will be posted at WESTHOECK RIDGE and posted behind this.

COLONEL,

A.D.M.S., 2ND. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

DISTRIBUTION :-

- Copy No. 1. WAR Diary.
2. D.D.M.S., 1st.ANZAC.
3. Headquarters 2nd.Aust.Divn.
4. O.C. 6th.Aust.Field Amb.
5. 5th.Aust.Inf.Bde.
6. 6th. Do.
7. 7th. Do.
8. A.D.M.S., 1st.Aust.Divn.

65
SECRET

Appendix **E**

23

Copy No. 3

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Headquarters,
8th. October 1917.

A. A. M. C. ORDER No.98 BY COLONEL ALFRED SUTTON C.M.G.

MAP REFERENCE - SHEET 28 1 in 40000.

1. In accordance with 2nd.Aust.Div. Order No.147 dated 6-10-17 2nd.Aust.Div. will attack on "X" day.

6th.Aust.Inf.Brigade will attack on the Right, 5th.Aust.Inf. Brigade on the Left of the Divisional Front. 7th.Aust.Inf.Brigade will be in reserve.

Headquarters of Brigades at zero hour will be as follows :-

6th.Aust.Inf.Brigade	SANS SOUCI
5th. " " "	D.22.d.1.4.
7th. " " "	D.26.c.1.3.

2. O.C. 6th.Aust.Field Amb. with headquarters at MENIN ROAD I.9.c.9.6. will be responsible for :-

- (1) Evacuation of wounded from Divisional Front to A.D.S. MENIN ROAD or Reserve A.D.S. MENIN Station.
- (2) Dressing and evacuation of stretcher cases of Corps Front at and from A.D.S. I.9.c.9.6.
- (3) Dressing of stretcher cases at Reserve A.D.S. YPRES RAILWAY STATION I.7.c.5.2.
- (4) Evacuation of wounded from YPRES RAILWAY STATION by Ambulance Train or M.A.C. car to C.C.S..

3. Route of evacuation will be as follows :-

A STRETCHER CASES.

Right Brigade R.A.P's.
D.29.a.1.5.
D.28.b.7.5.

Left Brigade R.A.P.
D.22.c.0.2.

↓
BRICK KILN
D.27.b.9.1.

↓
Relay Post D.27.a.8.3.

↓
Adv. Collecting Station D.26.c.1.3

↓
Wagon Loading Post D.25.d.1.9.

↓
Reserve A.D.S. YPRES STATION.

Alternative route from Advanced *Collecting* Station D.26.c.1.3. will be by Relay Post KIT & KAT J.1.d.3.8. to Wagon Loading Post BELLEWAARDE RIDGE J.7.a.4.3.

B WALKING WOUNDED

By Duck board track via SANS SOUCI, KIT & KAT, RAILWAY WOOD and by RIFLE FARM ROAD to A.D.S. Walking Wounded (1st.Aust.Field Amb.) I.9.c.8.6.

Walking wounded posts will be established at KIT & KAT J.1.d.3.8. and CLARKE'S Post J.2.c. central.

4. Immediate reserve of Bearers will be held at CLARKE'S Post J.2.c. central and the TUNNELS J.2.c.8.5.

5. Advanced Dump of stretchers, dressings, blankets, and comforts will be maintained at D.26.c.1.3.

6. Stretcher cases will be carried by bearers to Ambulance Wagon Posts, there loaded on horse ambulance wagons and transferred to motor ambulance wagons at first opportunity. Ambulance wagons and cars using YPRES-ZONNEBEKE road will be parked off the main road and stringent precautions will be taken to avoid blocking traffic.

7. If possible wagons will be pushed forward on ZONNEBEKE road towards Ambulance Post at D.27.a.8.3. and stretcher cases carried direct from the latter Post to wagons.

8. For the purpose of the above evacuation O.C. 6th.Aust. Field Ambulance will have at his disposal in addition to his own Unit :-

- a. Bearer divisions and ambulance wagons and cars of 5th. & 7th. Aust. Field Ambulances.
- b. Two Tent Sub-divisions 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance.
- c. 100 Infantrymen who will report at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER at 9 p.m. on 8th. inst.
- d. A reserve of 16 ambulance cars of 4th. & 5th. Aust. Divns. are held at Corps Main Dressing Station, H.27.c.3.8. under instructions of D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC.

9. A C K N O W L E D G E.

A. D. M. S. COLONEL,

Distribution :-

A.D.M.S., 2ND. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

- Copy No. 1.)
 2.) War Diary.
 3.)
 4. Headquarters 'G'.
 5. " 'AQ' Adv.
 6. " 'AQ' Rear.
 7. D.M.S., 2nd. Army.
 8. D.D.M.S., 1st. ANZAC.
 9. 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance.
 10. 6th. Do.
 11. 7th. Do.
 12. 5th. Aust. Inf. Bde.
 13. 6th. Do.
 14. 7th. Do.
 15. C.R.A., 2nd. Aust. Divn.
 16. C.R.E., 2nd. Do.
 17. 2nd. Aust. Pioneer Bttn.
 18. 2nd. Aust. Div. Train.
 19. 2nd. Aust. Div. Signal Coy.
 20. A.P.M., 2nd. Aust. Divn.
 21. A.D.M.S., 1st. Aust. Divn.
 22. A.D.M.S., 4th. Aust. Divn.
 23. A.D.M.S., 5th. Aust. Divn.
 24. A.D.M.S., 66th. Division.
 25. File.

65
SECRET

25

Copy No. 2....

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Appendix **F**

Headquarters,
9th. October 1917.

A. A. M. G. ORDER No. 99 BY COLONEL ALFRED SUTTON C.M.G.

Map Reference Sheets 27 and 28 1 in 40000.

1. In accordance with 2nd. Aust. Div. Order No. 148 dated 8-10-17. 2nd. Aust. Div. will be relieved by 4th. Aust. Div. on night 10th./11th. of October.
2. In accordance with Medical Instructions No. 40 dated 8-10-17 by D.D.M.S. 1st. ANZAC the following medical rearrangements will be made.
3. Nos. 12 and 13 Aust. Field Ambulances with attached bearer division and transport of 4th. Aust. Div. will relieve 3th. Aust. Field Amb. and attached details of other units and transport of 2nd. Aust. Div. complete.
 - (a) In Line of Evacuation from the Divisional Front.
 - (b) At A.D.S. Stretcher Cases MENIN ROAD I.9.c.9.6.
 - (c) At Reserve A.D.S. and Entraining Centre YPRES I.7.c.6.5.
 - (d) At BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER H.24.a.4.9.Details will be arranged by Field Ambulance Commanders. Movement to be completed by 10 a.m. October 11th. 1917.
4. On relief Bearer Division 5th. Aust. Field Amb. will move to WARATAH CAMP G.15.c.2.9.
Bearer Division 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will move to the SCHOOL HOUSE, RENINGHELST, G.54.b.1.1.
Two tent subdivisions 5th. Aust. Field Amb. and H.T. and M.T. 5th. and 7th. Aust. Field Ambulances will rejoin their respective Units.
Infantry attached as bearers to 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will be sent to report 7th. Aust. Inf. Bde. at YPRES Inf. Barracks at 7 p.m. 10-10-17.
5. On relief 6th. Aust. Field Amb. complete will move to STEENVOORDE Central Area (7th. Aust. Inf. Bde.) on 11th. inst. and will arrange to collect sick of Division in that area.
6. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will move from Front area with Field Amb. equipment only. Ambulance stretcher carriages of the Division will be sent to the SCHOOL HOUSE, RENINGHELST.
7. 5th. Aust. Field Amb. will relieve 7th. Aust. Field Amb. at Div. Rest Station WARATAH CAMP on 11th. October. On relief 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will move to the SCHOOL HOUSE, RENINGHELST.
8. Bearer Division 5th. Aust. Field Amb. at WARATAH CAMP, and Bearer Division 7th. Aust. Field Amb. at the SCHOOL HOUSE, RENINGHELST will be placed at the Disposal of D.D.M.S. 1st. ANZAC.
9. No. 22 Dental Unit will remain at WARATAH CAMP. No. 4 and No. 24 Dental Sections will join 6th. Aust. Field Amb. at STEENVOORDE on Oct. 12th. and will open Dental Office there.
10. Receipts for all stores handed over and taken over in the above moves will be forwarded to this office in duplicate.
11. A.D.M.S. office will close at SMYTH CAMP at 10 a.m. October 11th. and reopen at STEENVOORDE at the same hour.
12. A C K N O W L E D G E.

P.T.O.

Alfred Sutton
COLONEL,
A.D.M.S. 2nd. Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION :-

- | | | |
|----------|----|--------------------------|
| Copy No. | 1 |) |
| | 2 |) War Diary |
| | 3 |) |
| | 4 | Headquarters 'G' |
| | 5 | " 'A.Q.' Adv. |
| | 6 | " 'A.Q.' Rear |
| | 7 | D.M.S. 2nd Army. |
| | 8 | D.D.M.S. 1st Anzac |
| | 9 | 5th Aust. Field Amb. |
| | 10 | 6th. do |
| | 11 | 7th. do |
| | 12 | 5th Aust. Inf. Bde. |
| | 13 | 6th. do |
| | 14 | 7th. do |
| | 15 | C.R.A. 2nd Aust. Div. |
| | 16 | C.R.E. do |
| | 17 | 2nd Aust. Pion. Batt. |
| | 18 | 2nd Aust. Div. Train |
| | 19 | 2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy. |
| | 20 | A.P.M. 2nd Aust. Div. |
| | 21 | A.D.M.S. 1st Aust. Div. |
| | 22 | A.D.M.S. 4th Aust. Div. |
| | 23 | A.D.M.S. 5th Aust. Div. |
| | 24 | A.D.M.S. 6th Division. |
| | 25 | Town Major STEINVOORDE. |
| | 26 | File. |

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters.
13th Oct 1917.

To.
D.D.M.S. 1st Anzac
A.A.G. A.I.F.
2nd Aust D.H.Q.
5th Aust Inftry Bde
6th --- do ---
O.C. 19th Battn.
" ~~22~~ 22 "
" 24 "
" 2nd Aust Div Train
" 5th Aust Field Amb.
" 6th Aust Field Amb.

Appendix *G*

The following alterations in the posting of Medical Officers in the division will take place on 16th inst.

Capt DAVIS.C.I. 5th Aust Field Amb to be R.M.O. 2nd Aust Div Train vice Capt PORTER J.R. who is posted to 19th Battn.

Capt McMAHON L.L 6th Aust Field Amb. to be R.M.O. 22nd Battn vice Major MUIRHEAD J.R. evacuated wounded.

Capt STEVENS P.A. 6th Aust Field Amb to be R.M.O. 22nd Battn vice Major Craig W.B. evacuated wounded.

O.C. 6th Aust Field Amb will arrange transport.

SIGNED. A.E.SHEPHERD.
Colonel.

A.D.M.S.
2nd Aust Division

Notes of conference A.D.M.S. 2nd.Australian Division 17-10-17.

S.T.A.F. and Trench Feet.
Injuries in War PF 112 - 114.

Appendix

French Hypothesis of Mould with camphor and soda as
specific remedies

1. IN REST G.R.O. 1275 - Foot powder now substituted for oil.
Responsibility of Platoon Officer and R.M.O. for

- (a) Foot Drill - Inspection)
 Massage)) daily
 Use of powder)
- (b) Supervision of chiropodist of company
- (c) Fitting of boots, boots mended and dubbined regularly.
- (d) Provision for drying socks.
- (e) Warm foot baths.

(a) Avoid mechanical interference with circulation.
Puttees not to be worn, sand bags not to be tied tightly.
Boot laces not tied behind boot, trousers and underpants not tightly tied.
Socks fixed to pants with safety pins to prevent rucking of sock.

(b) General Precautions
Final washing of feet, chiropody and use of powder at Brigade treatment depot just before going up to the trenches.
Gum boots put on in shelter before duck boards finish.
Provision for drying gumboots sorting into sizes and withdrawing leaky boots.
Provision for supplying hot food twice daily at least.

- (1) By hot food containers.
- (2) By Tommy Cookers- Issue - Comforts - Regimental Funds.
- (3) By improvised heaters.

Candles wrapped in sacking in tiers
In Trenches

Slush Lamps
Charcoal and coke braziers in support.

Daily exercise of men under supervision in dry section of trench made by coffer damming if necessary, duckboards and pumps if practicable.
24 hour relief of men in outpost shell holes.

Daily inspection of feet by Platoon Officer and Company Chiropodist and supervision of :-

- (1) Massage, men working in pairs.
- (2) Rubbing in powder after wiping feet dry.
- (3) Dry socks dusted with powder, one pair in pocket, one pair coming up with next rations in water-proof bags.
- (4) Leaky gum boots withdrawn for repair and replaced.

PROPHYLAXISIN THE LINE (Continued)(d) Early Treatment.

Provision at Battalion R.A.P. - Chiropodist, hot foot bath, dry socks, dry gum boots for immediate treatment of any man whose feet show signs of commencing trouble.

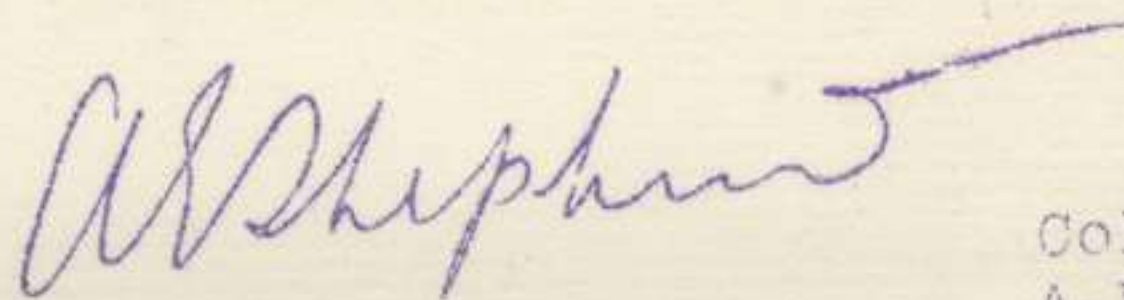
If possible provision of accommodation at R.A.P. for a small number of very slight cases to be kept under treatment by R.M.O.

REPORT

Each man evacuated with trench foot will be carefully questioned, and full report filled in for enquiry into efficiency of precautions taken.

SECRET³SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAppendix **I**Headquarters,
22nd. October 1917.A. A. M. C. ORDER No.1 BY COLONEL A.E.SHEPHERDMap reference - Sheets 27 and 28 1 in 40000

1. C.O. 3th.Aust.Field Ambuln ce will detail a tent sub-division to report to 10th.C.C.S. to relieve the tent sub-division of 7th.Aust.Field Amb. now at 10 C.C.S.. Movement to be complete by 10 a.m. 23-10-17.
2. When relieved Tent sub-division of 7th.Aust.Field Amb. will report back to its unit at RENINCHELST, C.O. 7th.Aust. Field Ambulance to provide transport.
3. C.O. 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance will detail a tent sub-division to report to C.O. 15th.Aust.Field Ambulance at A.D.S. I.9.c.6.6. by 9 a.m. 24-10-17. Medical and surgical equipment will accompany.
4. Tent sub-division of 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance now at C.H.D.S. (H.27.c.2.8.) will report back to its unit at 8 a.m. 24-10-17. C.O. 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance will provide transport.
5. ACKNOWLEDGE.


Colonel,
A.D.M.S.
2nd.Australian Division.DISTRIBUTION :-

Copy No.	1)	
	2)	War Diary
	3)	
	4	7th.Aust.Field Amb.
	5	5th. do
	6	6th. do
	7	D.M.S. Second Army
	8	D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac
	9	2nd.Aust.D.H.Q. "G"
	10	" " " "A.Q."
	11	A.D.M.S. 1st.Aust.Div.
	12	A.D.M.S. 4th.Aust.Div.
	13	A.D.M.S. 5th.Aust.Div.
	14	10th. C.C.S.
	15	2nd.Aust.Div. Train
	16	A.P.M. 2nd.Aust.Div.
	17	File

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Appendix

Headquarters,
24th. October 1917.

A. A. M. C. ORDER No. 2 BY COLONEL A.E. SHEPHERD A.D.M.S.

Reference Maps : Sheets 27 and 28 1/40000.

1. In accordance with 2nd. Aust. Div. Order No. 150 dated 23rd. October and 1st. Anzac Medical Instructions No. 42, the following Medical Arrangements will be made.
2. C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will take over A.D.S. I.S.C. 9.3. for stretcher cases and walking wounded and all forward posts from 15th. Aust. Field Amb. Relief to be completed by 10 a.m. 28-10-17. Details to be arranged by Field Ambulance Commanders.
The Bearer Division of 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance will be at disposal of C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. from 9 a.m. 27-10-17.
C.O. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will take over SCHOOL HOUSE at RENINGHELEST from 7th. Aust. Field Amb. (G.34.b.1.1.) on 28-10-17. Relief to be completed by 10 a.m.
3. Three large ambulance cars of 5th. and 6th. Aust. Field Ambulances will report to C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance at A.D.S. by 10 a.m. 28th. October 1917.
All Horse ambulances of 5th. and 6th. Aust. Field Amb. each with two four horse teams will report to CHATEAU HENDRIQUES H.23.c.6.0. by 8 a.m. on 28-10-17.
4. C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will take over from 15th. Aust. Field Amb. Reserve Bearer Post, ESPLANADE DUGOUTS YPRES I.7.d.2.6., and transport lines and Rear H.Q. CHATEAU HENDRIQUES H.23.c.3.0. Two large huts at the RAMPARTS for reserve bearers.
5. C.O. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. will make with H.Q. 6th. A.I. Brigade the necessary arrangements for collection of sick on route march 27-10-17. and whilst the Brigade is in OUDERDON and DICKEBUSCH areas.
6. Lists, in duplicate, of all stores, equipment &c taken over will be forwarded to this office within 24 hours after relief.
7. C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will forward, on 29th. inst., disposition report giving officers, N.C.Os. and men at each post and system of reliefs.
8. A daily return of Blankets and Stretchers at A.D.S. and all Forward Posts will be forwarded to this office.
9. 7th. A.I. Brigade will move to SWAN AREA on 26-10-17. and into line on 27th. October 1917.
5th. A.I. Brigade will move to DICKEBUSCH AREA on 27-10-17. and to Support Brigade Area on 28-10-17.
6th. A.I. Brigade will move to OUDERDON AREA on 27-10-17. and to DICKEBUSCH AREA on 28-10-17.
C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will arrange to collect sick from 5th. A.I. Brigade whilst the Brigade is in DICKEBUSCH AREA and from 7th. A.I. Brigade in SWAN AREA.
10. Attention is directed to D.D.S. 1st. ANZAC Medical Arrangements, Operations No. 6 dated 20-10-17.
11. Report of completion of reliefs will be forwarded to this office by wire.
12. A.D.M.S. office will close at STEENVOORDE at 10 a.m. 28-10-17 and reopen at LILLE GATE, YPRES, at the same hour.
13. ACKNOWLEDGE.

A. E. Shepherd

Colonel,
A.D.M.S.

P. T. O.

2nd. Australian Division

DISTRIBUTION :

Copy No.	1	}	War Diary
	2		
	3		
	4		Headquarters "G"
	5		" " "A.Q."
	6		D.M.S. 2nd Army
	7		D.D.M.S. 1st ANZAC
	8		5th Aust. Field Amb.
	9		6th. do
	10		7th. do
	11		5th Aust. Inf. Brigade
	12		6th. do
	13		7th. do
	14		A.D.M.S. 1st Aust. Div.
	15		A.D.M.S. 4th Aust. Div.
	16		A.D.M.S. 5th Aust. Div.
	17		2nd Aust. Div. Train
	18		2nd Aust. Div. Sig. Coy.
	19		2nd Aust. Pioneer Battalion
	20		C.R.E. 2nd Aust. Div.
	21		C.R.A. 2nd Aust. Div.
	22		A.P.M. 2nd Aust. Div.
	23		File
	24		Spare

NOMINAL ROLL OF HONOURS AND AWARDS FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 1917.

NAME	RANK	UNIT	AWARD.	DATE
Pte 3146-	ELMORE S.	6th Fld Amb	Bar to M.M.	7/10/17
do 14320	WEARNE A.J.	do	M.M.	do
do 14316	SMITH V.L.	do	M.M.	do
do 13046	WAY J.L.	do	M.M.	do
do 16187	OWEN S.D.	do	M.M.	do
do 16195	WHITEOAK P.R.	do	M.M.	do
do 7867	GRAVES L.J.	do	M.M.	do
do 62	MOWAT W.D.	do	M.M.	do
do 3215	PATERSON R.K.	do	M.M.	do
L/Cpl 6315	FLOYD T.H.	do	M.M.	do
Pte 7902	SANDERS A.B.	do	M.M.	do
do 16791	LOWES T.D.	do	M.M.	do
L/Cpl 6564	CRISP H.F.	do	M.M.	9/10/17
Dvr 2928	HAYWARD R.E.	5th do	M.M.	13/10/17
L/Cpl 6931	HAMILTON F.G.	7th do	Bar to M.M.	21/10/17
do 2920	BENSON H.	5th do	M.M.	do
Pte 8994	WASSON J.M.S.	do	M.M.	do
do 2888	RAY A.	do	M.M.	do
do 2873	HOPE G.	do	M.M.	do
do 6012	ABERDEEN M.C.	do	M.M.	do
do 2782	McCEFFERY H.G.	do	M.M.	do
do 16698	PICKING A.S.H.	do	M.M.	do
do 116	CONNORS J.H.	do	M.M.	do
do 8754	CHADWICK J.I.	do	M.M.	do
do 102	OLIVER F.O.	do	M.M.	do
Cpl 1799	SYMONS E.T.	6th do	M.M.	do
L/Cpl 6031	ESTE W.E.	do	M.M.	do
Pte 3572	NICHOLAS H.R.	7th do	M.M.	do
Sgt 3699	TROOPE A.	do	M.M.	do
Pte 1674	SAKER E.	do	M.M.	do
L/Cpl 8432	THORPE V.V.	do	M.M.	do
Sgt 3706	KIDMAN E. (att)	do	M.M.	do
(K Sup Coy)				
Sgt/Mjr 11	CLARKE E.	6th do	D.C.M.	28/10/17
Major	McMASTER R.W. (R.M.O.)	17th Btn	D.S.D.	30/10/17
do	CRAIG W.B.	do	22nd do	D.S.O.
do	HAILES W.A.	do	20th do	D.S.O.
Capt	BROWN J.H.B.	7th F. Amb.	M.C.	do

Appendix *L*

LIST SHOWING NUMBER OF SICK EVACUATIONS FOR MONTH

-OF OCTOBER 1917-

<u>DATE.</u>	<u>NUMBER.</u>
1	25
2	32
3	26
4	43
5	39
6	37
7	41
8	46
9	108
10	92
11	29
12	32
13	12
14	18
15	24
16	29
17	33
18	13
19	24
20	17
21	28
22	19
23	20
24	26
25	44
26	42
27	35
28	37
29	40
30	37
31	45

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

A. D. M. S.,
2nd AUSTRALIAN
DIVISION.

Headquarters,
15th. October 1917.

To,
2nd. Aust. Div. H. Q.
D. D. M. S. 1st. ANZAC,

B102

No. 28/150

The following narrative report of Medical Arrangements in the recent operations is forwarded for your information.

On Sept. 27th. 1917 information was received that the 2nd. Aust. Div. would shortly take over the front line from the 4th. Aust. Div. and the Division on their left with a readjustment of Divisional boundaries. The A. D. M. S. 4th. Aust. Div. was visited the same day and information obtained regarding existing medical arrangements for the Divisional front. O. C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. was warned to prepare to take over medical arrangements.

On 28th. Sept. O. C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. and D. A. D. M. S. made a preliminary reconnaissance of the area, and particularly in respect to the roads and tracks. The practical possibility of pushing horse wagons up to ANZAC Ridge was recognised provided weather conditions held good.

Further reconnaissance of the area were made on succeeding days by Field Ambulance Officers.

The A. D. M. S. attended a conference of A. D. S. M. S. with D. D. M. S. 1st. ANZAC regarding pending operations on Sept. 28th.

2nd. Aust. Div. Order No. 142 and Medical Instructions No. 37 by D. D. M. S. 1st. Anzac were received on Sept. 29th. concerning taking over the line on 2nd. October.

A. D. M. S. of Division in the line on the left was visited on 30th. inst. with regard to taking over this portion of the Medical Arrangements but it was found that the 3rd. Aust. Div. was not yet in command of the sector. It was then discovered that 1st. Aust. Div. on taking over from 4th. Aust. Div. on 1st. October was adopting the line of evacuation complete of 4th. Aust. Div., the posts of which were alternately in both 2nd. and 1st. Aust. Div. areas. This line of evacuation was the only one available for 2nd. Aust. Div., as the new area contained no road and practically no shelter. The A. D. M. S. 1st. Aust. Div. was visited and agreement made that the one line of evacuation would be used in common by both Divisions.

A. A. M. C. Order No. 96 was issued at 3 p.m. on October 1st.

A. D. M. S. 3rd. Aust. Div. was visited on 1st. inst. and final arrangements made for medical arrangements of new area to be taken over.

Preliminary instructions of 2nd. Aust. Div. for an attack to be made on 'S' day were received on October 1st.. Medical Arrangements Preliminary Instructions were issued on October 2nd.

On the afternoon of October 2nd. D. D. M. S. 1st. Anzac sent a/ D. A. D. M. S. 1st. Anzac to confer with O. C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. direct concerning evacuation of stretcher cases by Ambulance train at YPRES. In Medical Instructions No. 38 d/2-10-17., D. D. M. S. 1st. Anzac placed responsibility for this new method of evacuation to O. C. S. on O. C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb.

A. A. M. C. Order No. 97 giving final instructions for Medical Arrangements for the attack was issued on October 3rd.

Up to this time infantry men detailed by D. D. M. S. 1st. Anzac had been used as bearers at Field Ambulance Posts in order to rest A. A. M. C. bearers of the Division who had been used in previous operations of the 20th. and 26th. September and succeeding days, and were consequently exhausted. These infantry bearers were relieved on the night of the 3rd. inst. by A. A. M. C. bearers and battle disposition made.

It had been arranged that motor ambulance cars should work to WESTHOEK by the single way circuit plank road, and that horse wagons or Ford cars should be pushed out beyond this if possible. Rain fell during the night, and an experimental trip on the plank road was attempted by a Ford car. The road was found to be too slippery to

DDMS
B152

be practicable for ambulance cars. Horse wagons were therefore placed on this route to clear wounded of both 1st. and 2nd. Aust. Divisions from WESTHOEK, and the idea of using wagons further forward was abandoned. Motor ambulance cars worked as far as BIRR X ROADS on the MENIN ROAD.

After the attack opened at 6.10 a.m. on 4th. inst. stretcher cases came in rapidly, the evacuation being greatly assisted by the employment of prisoners of war as bearers. This rapid evacuation continued until the late afternoon, when prisoners of war were withdrawn to Corps Cages. From this time cases began to accumulate at WESTHOEK as the congestion of traffic on the single way road greatly delayed the evacuation by horse ambulance wagon. The wagon route was then shortened by confining the trip to the BELLEWAARDE circuit and extra bearers requested by from D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac by both 1st. and 2nd. Aust. Divisions to clear the accumulated cases to the BELLEWAARDE Loading Post. Bearers were sent to 1st. Aust. Div. and effectually dealt with the situation.

During the 4th. inst. the R.A.P. of the Right Brigade moved forward from ANZAC Ridge to the BRICK KILN near ZONNEBEKE, on the Left only one R.M.O. ~~MOVED FORWARD~~ moved forward a short distance as no cover could be found on this side. Major HUTCHINSON in command of bearers in forward posts kept touch with R.A.P.'s. and moved up bearers as required. In spite of the difficult state of the ground in consequence of continual rain, the battle field was cleared before dark set in.

The 12th. Aust. Field Amb. bearers in reserve were moved up to reinforce the left line of evacuation on the 4th. inst.

Major CRAIG R.M.O. 22nd. Battalion was wounded on the morning of the 4th. inst.

On the 5th. inst. a considerable number of casualties caused by enemy shelling were coming through and the 8th. Aust. Field Amb. bearers were moved up to reinforce the right line of evacuation the R.M.O. now being established at Sheet 28 D.27.a.2.4. to the West of ZONNEBEKE.

On the night 5th./6th. October 75 infantry bearers of 5th. Aust. Div. were posted on the line of evacuation in relief of exhausted A.A.M.C. bearers who had been working from the commencement of operations.

On the 6th. inst. a visit was made to forward ~~XXXX~~ posts and R.A.P.'s. and the practicability recognised of combining left and right routes of evacuation and working out on to the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road. This was a quite day. The R.M.O. of the 19th. Battalion was wounded. Major FURBER relieved Major HUTCHINSON in command of forward posts on the same ~~day~~ evening.

On 6th. inst. Preliminary Instructions were received regarding the Division taking over a further sector to the left, and making an attack on a future date.

The A.D.M.S. 66th. Division was visited the same afternoon regarding use of ZONNEBEKE - YPRES Road as a route of evacuation without result.

The A.D.M.S. 2nd. Aust. Div. made a personal reconnaissance of the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road with the O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. on the 7th. inst. The A.D.M.S. 66th. Division was visited the same morning and permission of G.O.C. 66th. Division obtained for Field Ambulance wagons of 2nd. Aust. Div. to use the road, and for a wagon loading post to be constructed on the road at Sheet 28 D.25.d.1.9. by 2nd. Aust. Div. Engineers. Arrangements were then made with Division and with the C.R.E. for this loading post to be built, for a bearer post to be constructed at D.27.a.8.3. near ZONNEBEKE, and for shelter to be erected near the ambulance post D.26.c.1.3. intended to become the Advanced ~~Passing Station~~ Collecting Station.

Medical Arrangements Preliminary Instructions were issued the same day. Major FURBER was wounded on the evening of the 7th. inst. and Major HUTCHINSON once more went forward and took command of forward posts.

A.D.M.S. 2nd. Aust. Div. attended conference of A.D.S.M.S. with D.D.M.S. 1st. Anzac on the 8th. inst. when it was decided that O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. should open a Reserve A.D.S. at YPRES Railway Station at once to receive cases for the new route.

All A.A.M.C. bearers of other Divisions had now been withdrawn from the Division under instructions of D.D.M.S. and the Division provided 100 infantry bearers in their place. On the evening of the 8th. inst. 75 infantry bearers of 5th. Aust. Div. were withdrawn from the line, and tired bearers of A.A.M.C. 2nd. Aust. Div. with 100 fresh infantry bearers were alone available for a very difficult evacuation. Battle dispositions of bearers were made on the night of 8th. inst. A complete block of traffic on the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road for the part of the night hindered the posting of wagons on that route.

After the attack at 5.20 a.m. on the ninth (9th.) inst. cases came back very slowly, as the carry was a long and difficult one, and when loaded on wagons on the YPRES - ZONNEBEKE Road progress was slow. The first stretcher cases arrived by the new route at 1 p.m. and after that they came in steadily.

Congestion of stretcher cases occurred at times at posts on the line of evacuation but at no time did the evacuation break down. The work of the bearers who carried on, exhausted before commencement of the new offensive and working under increasingly difficult conditions was beyond praise.

Major HUTCHINSON 6th. Aust. Field Amb. and Capt. BROWN 7th. Aust. Field Amb. were unflagging in their supervision of the bearers encouraging them continually all along the line, directing them to cope with local emergencies.

A.A.M.C. Order No. 99 giving instructions regarding relief of A.A.M.C. 2nd. Aust. Div. by A.A.M.C. 4th. Aust. Div. was issued on 9th. inst.

Cases continued to come down continually on the 10th. inst. but the line of evacuation was kept clear.

Relief by 4th. Aust. Div. was successfully carried out on the night 10th./11th. inst.

Detailed report of operations by O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. is attached.

DEDUCTIONS

The recent operations at present under review have shewn more strongly than usual a fact that has been experienced in every offensive operation in France.

1. The establishment of a Field Ambulance is founded on the requirements of open warfare experienced in the Boer war. The result is a heterogeneous unit which comprises a hospital unit, a bearer unit, a mechanical transport unit, and a horse transport unit.
2. The only officers in this complex formation are medical officers. The training of medical officers before joining this first line formation is usually nil as regards military education. The professional medical man is made an officer ex officio and there is no special training for officers sent to Field Ambulances. Reinforcement officers are drafted indiscriminately to purely hospital units or to Field Ambulances. The result is that officers in Field Ambulances have to gain their experience after arrival at the front. Further, having gained this experience and having become of value in command of men, a fully qualified professional man does the duty of an infantry subaltern, or transport officer, usually less efficiently than a junior trained officer of combatant units. Men of the stamp of the officers mentioned by name in the report are naturally capable men in any capacity and are by no means the rule.
Further, Medical Officers are so frequently detailed ~~for other~~ ~~than~~ from their unit for special medical duty that they rarely know the men of their command.
3. The Bearer Divisions of Field Ambulances of a Division are totally inadequate to deal with the high percentage of casualties which result from offensive operations of modern warfare.
Battle disposition absorbs all available bearers of Divisional A.A.M.C. units. After 24 hours these men are exhausted and other units must be called upon. By borrowing A.A.M.C. bearers of another division the whole of the A.A.M.C. bearers of a Corps are quickly exhausted.

DDM 13/10/2

4. A return to the old bearer companies or the formation of a bearer Battalion with infantry officers trained in first aid in a Division would solve these difficulties.

In active operations the Division will always have sufficient trained men available to evacuate the wounded and these men will work under the direction of trained military officers whom they know.

Medical officers could then be reserved for professional duties in which they are qualified.

Al Shephard

Colonel,
A.D.M.S.,
2nd. Australian Division.