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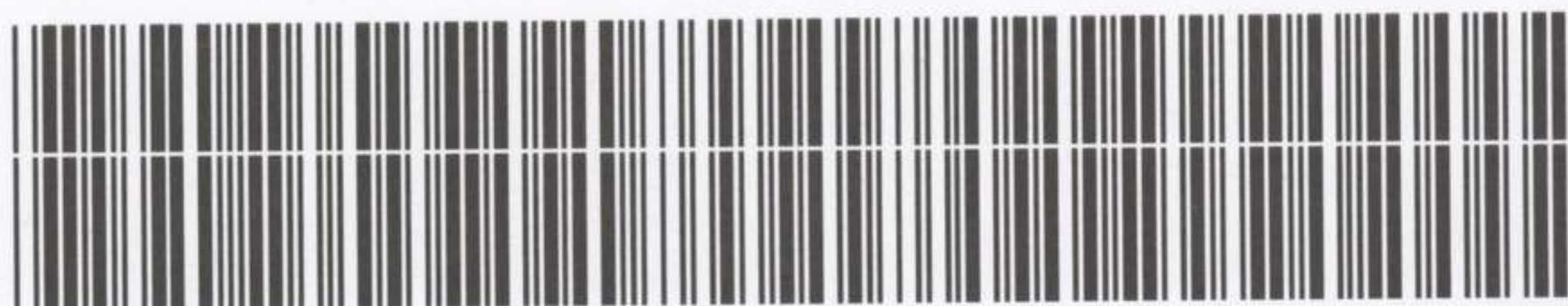
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/19/29 Part 2

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

May 1918 duplicate



AWM4-26/19/29PART2

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

MAY.

1918

Signature of Officer compiling

A. Shephard

*Col
ADMS*

Signature of Officer Commanding

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CONFIDENTIAL
ORIGINAL

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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2nd Div A.D. 17.3.
May - Aug

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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
BEAUCOURT	1st.		Cold and Dull. A.D.M.S. and D.A.D.M.S. 47th. Division arrived, details of handing over arranged. Handing over file forwarded and receipt obtained. Ambulance reliefs were carried out without incident G.O.C. 55th. Brigade forwarded a memo. to G Branch thanking 2nd. Aust Div. for the able co-operation of all units in connection with the relief of 7th. A.I. Brigades ie. 55th. Field Amb. relieved 5th. Aust. Field Amb.	
BERTANGLES	2nd.		Perfect sunny day. H.Q. move to BERTANGLES completed 10.30 a.m. Capt. F.H. BEARE reinforcement officer reported for duty and posted to 5th. Aust. Field Amb.	
	3rd.		Hot sultry day very oppressive. Visited 5th., 6th. and 7th. Aust. Field Ambs. and Brigades. Found all comfortably settled 5th. Aust. Field Amb. at MONTIGNY, 6th. Aust Field Amb. at QUERRIEU, 7th. Aust. Field Amb. at RIVERY. Details of relief of 5th., 6th., and 7th. Aust. Field Amb. and moves to new location were carried out without special incident.	
	4th.		Fine all day. Considerable difficulty has been experienced to ensure that R.M.Os. newly appointed are conversant with the details of their duties. To obviate this I made arrangements with the S.M.T.O. to have the attached pamphlet printed "Instructions to Medical Officers" so that each officer can have a copy. It has taken 7 months to get these printed, the main cause of delay being that Corps wished to issue a pamphlet for all Divisions but did not arrive at a definite decision. Instructions received for Div. H.Q. to move to ALLONVILLE on 5-5-18. 5th. A.I. Bde. group (with 5th. Aust. Field Amb.) less 18th. Battalion received instructions to move from MONTIGNY to ALLONVILLE. Capt PATRICK and Capt WISH 5th. Aust. Field Amb. laid up with acute influenza apparently contracted at BAIZIEUX where 15 cases of influenza from 28th. Battalion were contracted a few days ago. The H.Q. of the Division has been established very comfortably in BERTANGLES Chateau.	A

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ALLONVILLE	5th.	2pm	Move to ALLONVILLE Chateau - A.D.M.S. Office 2 rooms where we were established when last here. Move of 5th.A.I.Brigade group to ALLONVILLE completed without incident. 5th.Aust.Field Ambulance stationed in old Hangars close to the Chateau. Visited 5th.Aust.Field Amb. and found them comfortably settled. Weather variable but cold occasional showers. Warning order issued to Field Ambulances that Division would probably take over from 3rd.Aust.Division on 10-5-18.	
	6th.		Fine but dull - not cold - no wind. 7 cases evacuated from 20th.A.I.Battalion similar to influenza cases of 5th.Aust.Field Amb. and 18th.A.I.Battalion. Arranged with No.20 C.C.S. to retain P.U.O. case and establish diagnosis between influenza, Trench Fever. C.C.S. reported that that cases were influenza.	
	7th.		Showery. Visited 3rd.Aust. Div. and arranged details of taking over. Visited M.D.S. and 6th.Aust.Field Amb. Cases have been sent to C.C.S. by 6th.Aust.Field Amb. with Tourniquet applied. Issued instructions for this to be stopped.	
	8th.		Fine day with little wind. Corps Medical Instructions No. 19 received 2nd.Aust.Div. Order No. 187 received. In accordance with above A.A.M.C. Order No. 19 issued. D.A.D.M.S. visited forward Medical Posts of 3rd.Aust.Div. Sector. Influenza on the increase, am afraid there will be a large number of infectives. Arrangements being made to retain such cases likely to be unfit for duty within 3 days - others must go to C.C.S.	B
	9th.		Warm and sunny day. Visited 7th.A.I.Brigade re Influenza cases and arranged with C.O. 7th, Aust.Field Amb. to select site for Div. Collecting Station so as to keep cases up to 48 hours and so prevent wastage. Visited PETIT CAMON 3rd.Aust. Div. Collecting Station - no suitable building - patients being accommodated in bell tents. <i>Medical Arrangements issued for this sector</i>	C

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	10th.		<p>Fine sunny day. Visited No.13 Adv. Depot Med. Stores and arranged for drawing of ammonia capsules which Ambulances have been unable to draw. Inspected 2nd. Aust. Div Staging Camp near FLESSHELLES and arranged for Medical attention by Ambulance Post of 4th. Aust. Div. Instructions issued for 7th. Aust. Field Amb. to take over D.C.S. at PETIT CAMON on 11-5-18. and to retain cases for 12 hours. Cases able to walk and likely to be well in 48 hours to be retained by the Ambulance.</p> <p>May villages on the SOMME are very insanitary and as the various Divisions are a very short time in occupation no continuous scheme of sanitation is possible. To obviate this instructions as per appendix D were issued and a copy sent to D.D.M.S. asking if some such system could be laid down for all Divisions.</p>	D
	11th.		<p>Fine but dull. Took over from A.D.M.S. 3rd Aust. Div. at 9.30 a.m. all Medical reliefs reported complete without incident. Div. H.Q. in Chateau ST. GRATIEN and comfortably housed. Report concerning high incidence of sickness in Batts during last fortnight</p>	E
	12th.		<p>Cold and rainy. strong S.W. wind. Visited M.D.S. near QUERRIEU, A.D.S. FRANVILLERS MONNAY Road and D.C.S. at PETIT CAMON and found all in good working order. M.D.S. 5th. Aust. Field Amb. situated in Chateau and stables with very good accommodation but little protection from shell fire. No shelling has yet come near this site. Baths are in existence and scabies are treated here for 48 hours.</p> <p>A.D.S. 6th. Aust. Field Amb. tent accommodation only at present, personnel accommodation in dugouts in side of bank. Deep dug out for patients being constructed by Engineers and should be completed in a few days.</p> <p>Influenza is still very prevalent especially in 5th and 7th A.I. Brigades. Copy of report attached.</p> <p>Changes in officers see appendix</p>	F
	13th.		<p>Cold and wet. Scheme of Sanitary assistance to Area Commandants referred to on 10-5-18 was vetoed by D.D.M.S. as an interference with Army instructions that O.C. Sanitary Section would be medical adviser of Area Commandants. Area Commandants and Sanitary Section Commanders that I have spoken to all agree that such a scheme would be of assistance especially by providing</p>	

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	13th.	Cont.	additional inspectors. Sanitary Officers have very large areas embracing many villages and it is impossible for them to make sufficient inspections. The scheme worked well in PLOEGSTERT area where all the Area Commandants were under Divisional Control. Influenza epidemic still in evidence and I am afraid that with warmer weather and consequent dust nuisance that the epidemic may assume big proportions. memo in appendix G issued to R.M.Os.	G.
	14th.		Fine and sunny - ground drying rapidly little wind. Major W.K. INGLIS reinforcement officer reported for duty and posted to 5th. Aust. Field Amb. supernumary to establishment.	
	15th.		Major A.P. DRUMMOND reported for duty as Medical Officer Div. Reinforcement wing to be attached 7th. Aust. Field Amb. and available for duty when called upon by P.D.M.S.	
	16th.		Fine and warm. Visited A.D.S. and Forward Medical Posts. Dugout shelters at A.D.S. and Motor wagon posts are making good progress, should be ready for use within a few days. As there has been a good deal of shelling just west of MERICOURT on the main road, arrangements have been made for a Motor Post just south of the village which enables ambulances to avoid the shelled road. It is considered that with more active operations MERICOURT would receive great attention from the enemy. Problem :- It is stated that a number of men in the Battalions who have rendered excellent service have become war worn and of little use to the Battalion. These men are not cases for boarding on medical grounds. Other cases are sent for boarding by R.M.Os. on the grounds of "Mental Weakness" with history of past epilepsy, dull intellect etc. which cannot be dealt with on Medical Grounds. The Unit Commanders agree that these cases are of no use to them but they show no reason for sending them to the Base. Reference sanitation of villages and co-operation of O.Cs. Units and R.M.Os. with Town Majors and O.C. Sanitary Sections. My 29/51 has been withdrawn and attached arrangements made. Visited Town Major ST. GRATIEN explained scheme and inspected part of the village with him making suggestions for improvement. At the start of the war it was realised that the war would last several years and it seems a pity that arrangements were not made to systematically	H

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	16th.	Cont.	impress ^{me} the sanitary arrangements of villages as it is certain that most of these villages will be modernised after the war. For instance drainage is into a central village pond or ponds and each yard is arranged for all fluid to drain into central midden below the road level. A great source of danger would be removed if ponds and middens were filled in and fresh drainage system inaugurated with systematic removal of refuse. This would not be possible all at once and probably at first the French people would greatly object. In fact one can trace this action taking place as a common sense matter at the present time in portions of some villages.	
	17th.		Fine and warm. Visited A.D.S. and forward medical Posts and found all in good order and all preparations made for an offensive which will probably be made in the next few days by the Division. Major F.P. McMAHON 7th. Aust. Field Amb. evacuated sick.	
	18th.		Fine and sunny. Attack on Ville sur Ancre fixed for 2 a.m. 19th. inst. One extra tent sub-division and extra blankets and Amb. Cars ordered to report to A.D.S. Vicinity of M.D.S. shelled on 17th. and 18th. shell landing within 60 yards. A gun position put within 70 yards of this station probably has been spotted - a protest put in to Division and also D.D.M.S.. Gun positions emplacements also being made close to A.D.S. - protest made. Major W.R. INGLIS attached 5th. Aust. Field Amb. to be R.M.O 2nd. Aust. Div. Reinf. Wing and Major DRUMMOND will be super. to establishment. 7th. Aust. Field Amb.	
	19th.		Fine and warm. Attack took place at 2 a.m. this morning and all objectives were gained, VILLE sur-ANCHE mopped up, the first wounded arrived at M.D.S. at 5 a.m. and continued without hitch till evening, 7 Officers and 263 O.R. casualties passed through and in addition 10 Off. and 7 O.R. prisoners. In following them to the XXXXXXXXXXXX then shell emplacements - cooperation of No. 100 and 1000th. Light Inf. battalions to assist in the The 100th. Light Inf. Battalion has been making suggestions for improvement. At the start of inst. 100th. Light Inf. Battalion and 100th. Light Inf. Battalion inst. 100th. Light Inf. Battalion and 100th. Light Inf. Battalion	

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	20th.		Fine and warm. Walking Wounded prisoners have arrived at M.d.S. without a guard and are sent on in lorries without a guard. Drew attention of D.H.Q. to the matter and stated A.A.M.C. would take no responsibility in the matter.	
	21st.		<p>Fine and warm. General SMYTHE left to take charge of 58th. Division. Gen. ROSENTHAL took over 2nd. Australian Division. Gen. SMYTHE has always taken a keen interest in A.A.M.C. and has always given great assistance. To economise use of Motor Ambulances and also to systemise the method of collecting drugs etc from Adv. Depot of Med. Stores the attached scheme was issued to all Field Ambulances and R.M.Os.</p> <p>It is considered that Medical Officers A.I.F. could obtain more general experience than is at present the case. The majority of younger M.Os. have had little experience of hospital practice and no civil practice experience. In addition their medical course has been cut short by one year and extra facilities arranged for passing the examination. The matter requires careful consideration as these men will be the standby for :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The present war. (b) Possible future wars. (c) Civil and government practice in Australia after the war. <p>The younger men will be the backbone of the A.A.M.C. in future war as most of the older men will be too old. It is therefore important to give these men an opportunity of gaining experience in C.C.Ss. and General Hospital as soon as they can be spared from the Field. There is no chance of improving medical and surgical knowledge to any extent whilst R.M.Os. and with Field Ambulances and consequently they get out of touch with medical work. In my opinion a regular system of exchange from Field to Base and vice versa could easily be arranged and would tend to greater efficiency of the medical service during the war and prove of great value to the Commonwealth after the war. It is considered that the early great success of the A.I.F. Medical Service in this war was greatly due to the fact that the majority of our Australian Medical Officers were good all round men who were surgeons as well as physicians and had been accustomed to tackle any case that came along within reason.</p> <p>Capt. CHESCHI C₂ was evacuated sick memo. sent to 5th. Aust. Field Amb. to detail Major INGLIS to report Reinforcement Camp.</p>	
	22nd.		Fine and warm.	

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	23rd.		Very warm, strong N.W. wind with cloud of dust, very unpleasant. Major J.J. POWER D.S.O. R.M.O. 25th.A.I.Battalion evacuated gassed. Major F.L. BIGNELL 6th.Aust. Field Amb. evacuated gassed.	
	24th.		Cold showery. Conference of M.Os. 6th.A.I.Bde. held at A.D.M.S. Office. Duties of M.Os. and relation of R.M.O. to Battalion Commander discussed.	
	25th.		Fine and sunny day Corps Commander with D.D.M.S. inspected M.D.S. (5th.Aust.Field Amb.) and expressed himself satisfied with arrangements. Gen. BIRDWOOD took this opportunity to say farewell to the 5th.Aust.Field Amb. Officers. Div. Commander with A.D.M.S. inspected A.D.S. (6th.Aust.Field Amb.) and D.C.S. (7th.Aust.Field Amb.) The latter unit had a formal parade of the whole unit with transport. The turnout was excellent.	
	26th.		To obviate unnecessary delay in obtaining drugs and other Medical and Surgical Supplies the system outlined in this office was instituted and appears to be working well. Units report any special delay to this office and so I am kept informed of any shortage at Adv.D Depot of Med. stores.	I
	27th.		Fine and sunny. Influenza epidemic seems to be dying out. Very few cases reporting now. In two instances friction has occurred between R.M.O. and C.O. Unit which has necessitated the removal of the R.M.O. as the matter had gone too far for good work to be continued. In each case there were faults on both sides due to R.M.O. not maintaining the dignity of his position and in one case to the C.O. not recognising the position of R.M.O. as his adviser. Both cases were carefully considered and placed before the Brigadier who took steps to prevent recurrence of any similar incident with the succeeding R.M.O. In both cases the C.O. clearly recognises that the R.M.O. had carried out his duties excellently and the matter was largely a personal one. Another case came to my ears yesterday in which the C.O. told the R.M.O. that he must deal with the adjutant. I informed R.M.O. that he would deal with the C.O. direct and inform me of any further friction.	

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	27th.	Cont.	Many of the cookhouses : Batt., Bde, and Unit H.Q. are not so good as they might be. The attached instructions were issued and will be published in D.R.Os.	J
	28th.		Fine and sunny. It is considered that the loop road north of CORBIE may be cut off by shell fire so as to be impossible for evacuation of casualties during the bombardment. As this concerns the 5th.Aust.Div. as well, I saw A.D.M.S. 5th.Aust.Div. and decided to recommend increased dugout accommodation along VAUX road at J.19.c.6.3. Major S.V. APPLEBYARD D.S.O. and Capt. R.P. BARBER reinforcement officers reported for duty and were posted to 5th. and 6th.Aust.Field Ambs. respectively.	
	29th.		Fine and sunny. X Ray coil salvaged from BUIRE C.C.S. condition very good - instructions as to disposal asked from D.D.M.S. Capt. C.G. TEMPLEMAN R.M.O. 18th.A.I.Battalion evacuated gassed. Capt. C.I. DAVIS 5th.Aust.Field Amb. acting R.M.O.	
	30th.		Fine and sunny.	
	31st.		Fine and sunny. A.D.M.S., D.A.D.M.S. Majors A.T. DUNLOP 5th.Aust.Field Amb. F.L. BIGNELL 6th.Aust.Field Amb. and Capt. J.C.M. HARPER R.M.O. 28th.A.I.Battalion Mentioned in Despatches. <i>Scheme of evacuation of sick wounded issued.</i> <i>Sick Wastage Returns.</i> <i>Monthly Sanitation Report.</i> <i>List of men sent to Base for Boarding</i> <i>Remarks on Casualties</i> <i>A.A.M.C. Casualties</i>	K L M N O P