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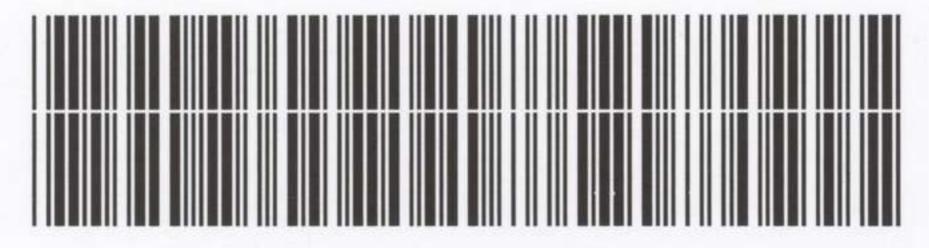
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/45/28

Title: 2nd Australian Field Ambulance

January 1918



AWM4-26/45/28

18,000-12/1 -\$723

ORIGINAL. DUPLICATE. TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

FIELD AMBULANCE.

FOR

Signature of Officer compiling

Aug. Imp. Feres.

Signature of Officer Commanding

Aus. Imp. Foros.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL RCDIG1013323 WAR DIARY

CHURCHEN CERSIANARY

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD A BULANCE.

Army Form C. 2118.

	repared i		cript. Title pages (Erase heading not required.)	
Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks a references Appendic
.D.S.		8.	The 1st Australian Divisional Front is being evacuated by this Ambulance, and the cases are approximately equally distributed between the M.D.S. and the A.D.S. KANDAHAR FARM at	tenon
11	2/1/1	8.	T.10.b.8.7. Capt.LILFORD is temporarily attached from 3rd Australian Field Ambulance.	tren
"	11		Capt.W.K. FLOOK is transferred from 5th Aust.Inf. Bn. to the 1st Aust.Pioneer Bn.as R.M.O. Capt.T.R.E.DAVIS is posted to the 5th Aust.Inf.Bn. temporarily as R.M.O.	How
11	$\frac{3}{1}$		Extra messing is being issued to all men of the Unit from Regimental Funds. A Nissen but has been taken down and re-assembled near the readway at the M.D.S. and is	Han
			being used as a Dressing Room for Cassed cases. In this Dressing Room patients elething is removed and placed on a special Salvage Dump outside, while the patient is sponged with a solution of bicarbonate of soda to neutralise the effect of the gas. Special attention is paid	Han
			to the washing of the eyes, and the spraying of the throat. The patient is then dressed in a suit of pyjamas, and evacuated as a stretcher case.	
"	5/1/1	8.	Improvements are being carried out at all posts and stations. Dugouts are being made gas-proof, Advanced Dressing Stations are being camouflaged, and the interiors of the cupola	Hen
"	6/1/1	8.	Dressing rooms are being painted white. The camouflaging of the entrance to the A.D.S. WYTSCHAETE is almost complete, and the horse ambulance wagon, water cart, and Ford ambulance car can now park under this camouflage, and	Han
11	7/1/1	8.	they are consequently free from the danger of hostile observation. The duckboards which the M.D.S. has on all tracks, have become very slippery during the frosty weather, necessitating wire netting being nailed down on them. This has overcome the	Hen
11	8/1/1	8.	danger of slipping. An iron cupola is being erected for use as a dressing room, but the construction is being	yen
			held up a few days owing to the inability to procure bolts, and accessories. nsts. No entries.	John
11	15/1/	18.	Major M.G. SUTTON was posted temporarily to the 2nd Aust-Field Artillery Bde. as R.M.O. Capt.T.R.E. DAVIS rejoined from 5th Aust.Inf.Bn.	
	п		A proposal was put forward to build an Advanced Dressing Station for one (1) Section of a Field Ambulance on the MESSINES - WYTSCHAETE RIDGE, by tunnelling underground. Specifications	Hen
tt	19		were put forward, but nothing was done. A rapid thaw and rain after the frost did much damage to the dugouts and defensive works.	Ston
			at all posts and stations. At the M.D.S. two dressing rooms were flooded owing to faulty drainage. Work was commenced to set this matter right.	
*			D. D. & L., London, E.C.	

Army Form C. 2118.

WAR DIARY

2ND

AUSTRALIAN

FIELD AMBULANCE.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II, and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
I.D.S. V.29.a.2			well in hand.	HONOH W
11	17/1/		Work still going forward.	TEL
H	18/1/	18.	Medical arrangements for a defence scheme necessitating 1,000 casualties were submitted to A.D.M.S. 1st Aust.Division, as set forth in appendix No.1.	Hon
W.	19/1/		10 stretcher bearers of the 1st Aust.Field Ambulance were returned to their unit under orders from A.D.M.S.1st Aust.Division.	HON
11	20/1/		Capt.S.O. COWEN and Capt.E.M. McCAFFREY proceeded to the Corps School for Medical Officers.	Arch tro
11	22/1/			Hen
11	23/1/		No entry.	
18			No entry.	Ha
11	24/1/		No entry. Extra messing was again issued to the men. The number of cases coming through are very low,	wer.
	25/1/	18.	the majority of them being sick.	
17	26/1/	10	No entry.	ACA
11				sen
11	27/1/		No entry. 10 of the 1st, and 21 of the 3rd Aust-Field Ambulance stretcher bearers rejained their res-	
	28/1/	10 .	pective units under instructions from A.D.M.S.lst Aust.Division. These stretcher bearers had	
			been held at the A.D.S. KANDAHAR FARM and the M.D.S. YONGE ST. respectively, as reserve bearers.	New
			been neid at the A.D.S. MANDAHAR PARM and the M.D.S. TUNGE SI. Pespectively, as reserve bearers.	
	1- 1-		Capt.S.O. COWEN and Capt.E.M.McCAFFREY rejoined from the Corps Medical School.	h
**	29/1/	18.	Capt. LILFORD rejoined the 3rd Aust.Field Ambulance under instructions from A.D.M.S. 1st Aust.	Doh
			Division. Capt.E.M.McCAFFREY is posted to the 6th Bn.A.I.F. as R.M.C. temporarily.	
11	39/1/	18.	Orders were received from A.D.M.S.lst Aust.Division for handing over the M.D.S. and the forward stations and posts to the 14th Aust.Field Ambulance. Appendix No.2.	Sich
19	30/1/	18.	Arrangements are being made for the forthing cominh handover, and lists of Area and Station	How
	00/-/			
		-	coming unit, two copies are forwarded to A.D.M.S.lst Aust.Division., one copy is handed to the incoming unit, and one copy is retained.	
			Incoming unit, and one copy is retained.	
	31st.		The 14th Aust.Field Ambulance took over the administration of the M.D.S. andFerward Posts	Hen
			from this unit before 10 a.m. This Ambulance then marched out to BAILLEUL, and took over the	Alon
			D.R.S. Rue de MUSEE, BAILLEUL, from the 11th Aust-Field Ambulance.	
11	11		Annended is a report by Lieut-Colonel W.E. KAY. Appendix No.3.	4
			During the month 1 Officer 8 O.R's. were taken on the strength from Reinforcements.	蓋
			During the month 1 dilited of rejoined from Hospital.	1
				-4
			THE THE THE THE CONTRACT WITH	
		95	D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt W8c9/M1672 50,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14	\$\sigma_0

WAR DIARY

OF

2º australian Qued auchlance

FOR

January 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

Defence Scheme medical anaugements fran attack soansing 1000 Casualties.

Special Order in Handing over the MDS. Youge St. and Goward Stations & taking own the D.R.S. BAILLEUL

Noko on Front Line Evacuations from 17/12/17 to 31/1/18.



APPENDIX

Appendix No.

to

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE WAR DIARY.

18.1.18.

To :-

A.D.M.S.lst Aust.Divn.

Addendum to my 48/3.

Reference my 48/3, d/24/12/17, re Defence Scheme.

On again reviewing my 48/3, d/24/12/17, I realize that the trip to C.C.S. is much longer than I anticipated, taking approximately two hours.

This will increase the amount of motor transport needed to evacuate the wounded in the event of a large number of casual-ties occurring.

I consider the number of cars asked for to be sufficient for the stretcher cases anticipated. This leaves no room for walking wounded. Might I therefore suggest the following scheme;

In the event of this attack occurring, the Division should arrange for four motor lorries to be sent to each of the 1st and 3rd Field Ambulances respectively to pick up the Bearers, and drop those of the 1st Field Ambulance at the A.D.S.KANDAHAR FARM, and those of the 3rd Field Ambulance at this MAIN DRESSING STATION, and that these lerries should then be retained, 4 at KANDAHAR, and 4 at the MAIN DRESSING STATION for the Evacuation of walking wounded to C.C.S. or D.R.S.

18.1.18.

C.O. 2nd Aust.Field Ambulance.



APPENDIX No.

War Diary. Ar

In reply please quote 48/3.

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

24th December 1917.

To :A.D.M.S.lst Aust.Divn.

Examination of the present scheme of Evacuation from the Front held by the 1st Aust.Division, reveals the fact that we are working with the absolute minimum of men and material, and that our reserves are dangerously small. I am therefore forwarding to you the following lists:-, No.1 being the Extras. in men and material which I consider necessary to carry on the present Evacuations with a safe reserve in case we have an increase in the number of casualties due to any cause while still holding the line as at present.

List No.2. being the Extras in men and material which I consider necessary in case of a German attack involving 1,000

casualties to our Division.

List No.1. IMMEDIATE REQUIRMENTS FOR PRESENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

BEARERS.

20 for A.D.S. KANDAHAR FARM.

20 for M.D.S. YONGE ST.

To be held in reserve and not used unless necessary.

STRETCHERS. 100 (50 for each Sector.).

RAILWAY TRUCKS. These are gradually collecting in sufficient mumbers, but, I would like to have four (4) trucks, to be built by the C.R.E. with superstructures to carry four (4) stretcher cases, and a rainproof roof and curtain sides. This would protect patients against the weather on their long trip down to the A.D.S.

List No.2. MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEFENCE SCHEME.

In case of a German attack on the present front held by 1st Australian Division involving 1,000 casualties.

In order to cope with any attack involving heavy casualties to our Division, I consider the following to be necessary in addition to the present material at my disposal.

(a) BLANKETS. 2,000. (b) STRETCHERS. 500.

(c) BEARERS. 200. (one hundred (100) to be sent by motor wagon immediately to report to KANDAHAR FARM A.D.S. for disposal). And the other hundred (100) to be sent by car to M.D.S. YONGE ST. for duty on the left Sector.

(d) TRAMWAY TRUCKS. Thirty (30). This would allow for four (4) trucks to be moving at a time on each Relay where Tramway

Evacuation is used.

ON THE LEFT SECTOR. RAVINE WOOD LINE - 9 trucks.

ON THE RIGHT SECTOR.LEFT R.A.P. LINE. - 12 "

RIGHT R.A.P.LINE. - 9 "



(Page No.2).



These would be bespoken and set aside is possible by the Officer in Charge of Railways for these Sectors, only to be called on if necessary.

(c) MOTOR AMBULANCES. From attake other Ambulances of the Division four (4) for Forward Evacuation.

(2 to the M.D.S. YONGE ST.).

(2 to KANDAHAR FM. A.D.S.).

From the M.A.C. - 12.

(6 to the M.D.S. YONGE ST.).

(6 to the KANDAHAR FM.A.D.S.).

ALTERNATE ROUTES FOR EVACUATION.

(a) RIGHT BRIGADE SECTOR.

From Right R.A.P. a short track could be found if our tram line was destroyed, by evacuation through the 2nd Division A.D.S. Cases being carried or pushed on the tramline down the DOUVE VALLEY to U.S.b.O.2., and thence by Horse Wagon up the road to the A.D.S. situated near U.14.a.5.4. This road is quite well preserved and fit for any kind of wheeled traffic at present.

If the tram line remained intact, the quickest route to our present A.D.S. KANDAHAR FARM, is to evacuate all the way down the DOUVE VALLEY by tram line to WULVERGHEM (T.5.d.8.3.) where arrangements are being made at present to form a post sufficient to hold 12 cases awaiting motor transport to the A.D.S. This is slightly longer than the present route via BOYLE'S FARM, but cuts out hand carriage and is therefore quicker.

From the Left R.A.P. on this sector the present route of tramway evacuation is long and round about, and it would be shorter to carry from FANNY'S POST (0.33.a.6.4.) to WHIZZBANG (0.27.c.3.0) and thence to WYTSCHAETE A.D.S. Walking wounded would be directed down the track to MESSINES ROAD about 0.32.d.1.2. and thence past BOYLE'S FARM to KANDAHAR.

The present scheme of evacuation on this Sector is, I consider the best and quickest possible. In case of the tram line being blown up, the evacuation would be by hand carry, and wheeled stretcher from RAVINE WOOD via CABARET CORNER to ESTAMINET CORNER to WYTSCHAETE, the squad at present at ONRAET FARM being moved to ESTAMINET CORNER and given wheeled stretchers. There are so many good duckboard walks and roads in good order in this Sector that any number of alternate routes are possible if one place is more heavily shelled than another, and could all be availed of during any enemy attack.

A.D.S. WYTSCHAETE appears to me to be in a position which would be heavily shelled during an enemy attack as it is on the Main Road to this Sector, and is in direct line with the guns. I am of the opinion that it would be easier to run cars and Horse Ambulance wagons to loading posts forward of WYTSCHKETE RIDGE, and then evacuate direct to M.D.S. YONGE ST. by which means we would have less casualties than by loading and unloading patients in a spot which seems almost certain to be subjected to an enemy barrage in case of attack.



(Sgd) W.E. KAY. Lieut-Colonel., C.O. 2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

APPENDIX NO. TO 2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE WAR DIARY.

LEFT BRIGADE SECTOR.

1. RAVINE.R.A.P.

12 Men, 3 Trollies,

20 Stretchers, 40 Blankets.

1000 yds.trolly push to

Establishment as above.

1200 yds. Trolly Push to

Same as above.

1300 yds, Trelly Push to

A.D.S. WYTSCCHAETE.

20 Bearers, 300 Blankets,

100 Stretchers,

2 Horsed Ambs., 2 Sunbeams.

M.D.S. YONGE STREET.

40 Bearers, 500 Blankets,
300 Stretchers.
Cars; 8 M.A.C., 2 Fords.

2. VERNE ROAD.R.A.P.

20 Bearers, 5 Wheeled Stretchers.

20 Stretchers, 40 Blankets.

1200 Yds. wheeling to A.D.S.

3. CABIN HILL R.A.P.

12 Bezzes, 20 Stretchers.

40 Blankets.

300 Yds. Push to

WHIZZBANG.

16 Bearers, 20 Stretchers.

40 Blankets.

700 Yds. Carry to

LUMM FARM.

500

500

500

Blankets, 2 Wheelers. 1000 Yds. to A.D.S.

RIGHT BRIGADE SECTOR.

1. BONDS POST R.A.P.

16 Men, 4 Trllies,

20 Stretchers, 40 Blankets.

1200 Yds. Push te

Same as above.

1200 Yds. Push to

Same as above.
700 Yds. Carry to

BOYLE'S FARM.

1 N.C.O., 4 Men(leading)

20 Stretchers, 40 Blankets.

2.MOLLY'S POST.R.A.P.

16 Men, 20 Stretchers,

40 Blankets.

700 Yds. Carry to

FANNY'S POST.

16 Men, 20 Stretchers
40 Blankets, 4 Trollies.
1200 Yds. Push to

SWAINE'S POST.

Same as above.

750 Yds Push) to

300 Yds Carry)

BOYLE'S FARM.

1 Hersed Amb., 2 Sunbeam Cars.

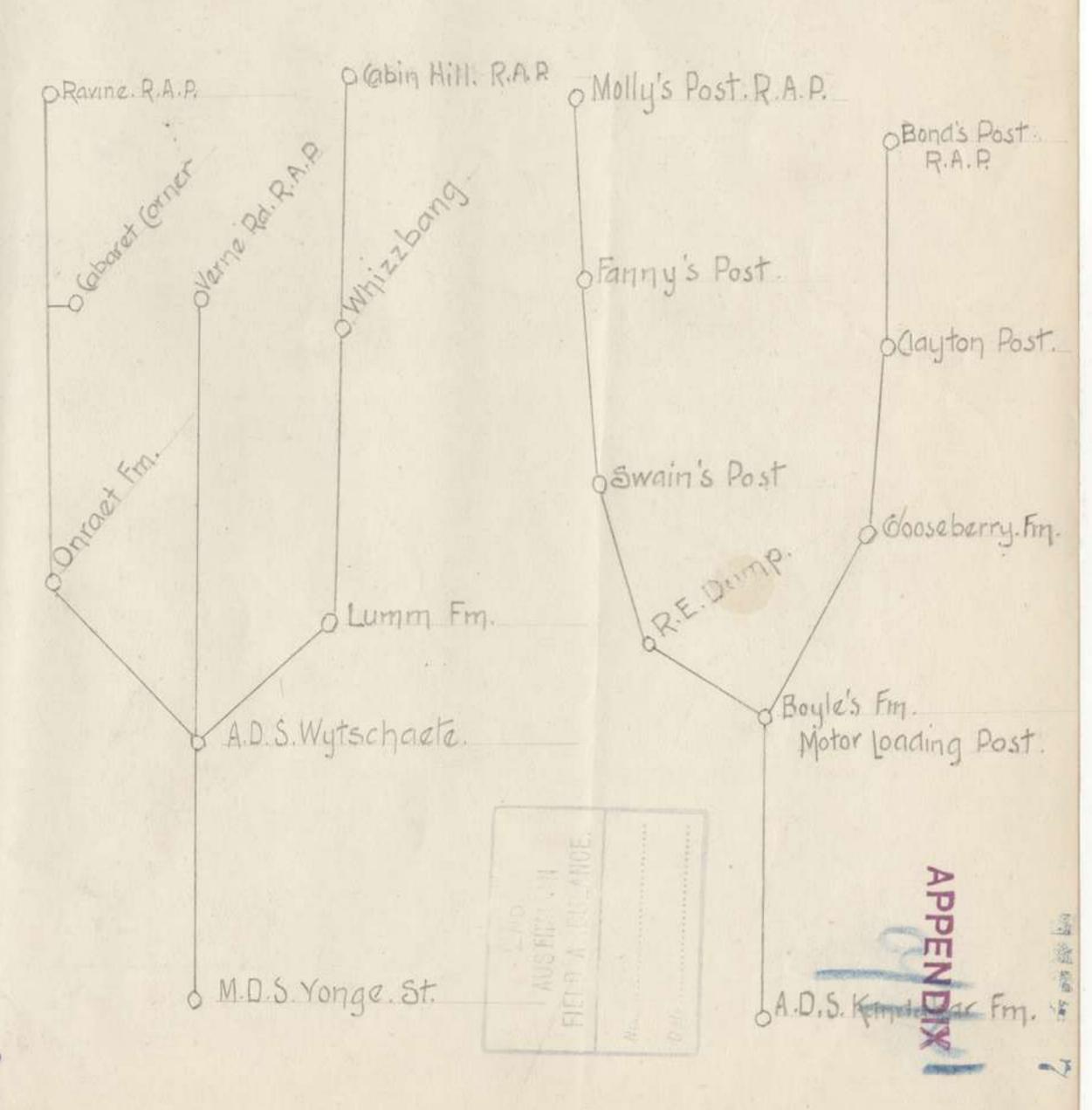
1 Miles to

KANDAHAR FARM.A.D.S.

2 40 Men, 500 Blankets,
500 Blankets, 150 Stretchers,
7 M.A.C. Cars.

DIAGRAM OF ROUTES OF EVACUATION.

TO ILLUSTRATE DEFENCE SCHEME DURING ENEMY ATTACK.



APPENDIX NO. / to 2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE WAR DIARY.

RIGHT BRIGADE SECTOR.

1. BOND'S POST.

4 Men, 2 Trollies. 8 Stretchers, 16 Blankets. 1200 yds push to

CLAYTON'S POST.

4 Men, 2Trellies.

8 Stretchers, 20 Blankets.
1200 ydspush te.

GOOSEBERRY FARM.

Same as above.

1300 yds, Trelley push to

BOYLE'S FARM.

1 N.C.O. 2 Men.

12 Stretchers, 20 Blankets.

1 Sunbeam Amb. Car.

2. R.A.P. MOLLY'S POST2

4 Men, 4 Stretchers.

16 Blankets.

500 yds carry to

FANNY'S POST.

4 Men, 2 Trellies.

4 Stretchers, 16 Blankets.
1200 yds push to

SWAINE'S FARM.

4 Men, 2 Trellies.

4 Stretchers, 16 blankets.

1300 yds push to

R.E. DUMP. Same as above.

700 yds push & 300 yds carry to

BOYLE'S FARM.

1 miles to A.D.S.KANDAHAR FM.

3 Officers & 12 Bearers.

LEFT BRIGADE SECTOR.

1. R.A.P. RAVINE.

4 Men. 10 Stretchers, 16 Blankets. 2 Trollies. 1000 yds push to

CABARET CORNER. (same as above).
1200 yds. push to

ONRAET FARM. (same as above.)
1000 yds push to

A.D.S.WYTSCHAETE.

2 Officers.16 Men.

120 Blankets, 40 Stretchers.

2. R.A.P. VERNE ROAD.

4 Men, 10 Stretchers.

16 Blankets, 1 Wheeled Stretcher.

1500 yds to A.D.S.by Road.

3. R.A.P. CABIN HILL.

4 Men, 8 Stretchers.

15 Blankets. 300 yds carry to

WHIZZBANG. 4 Men.

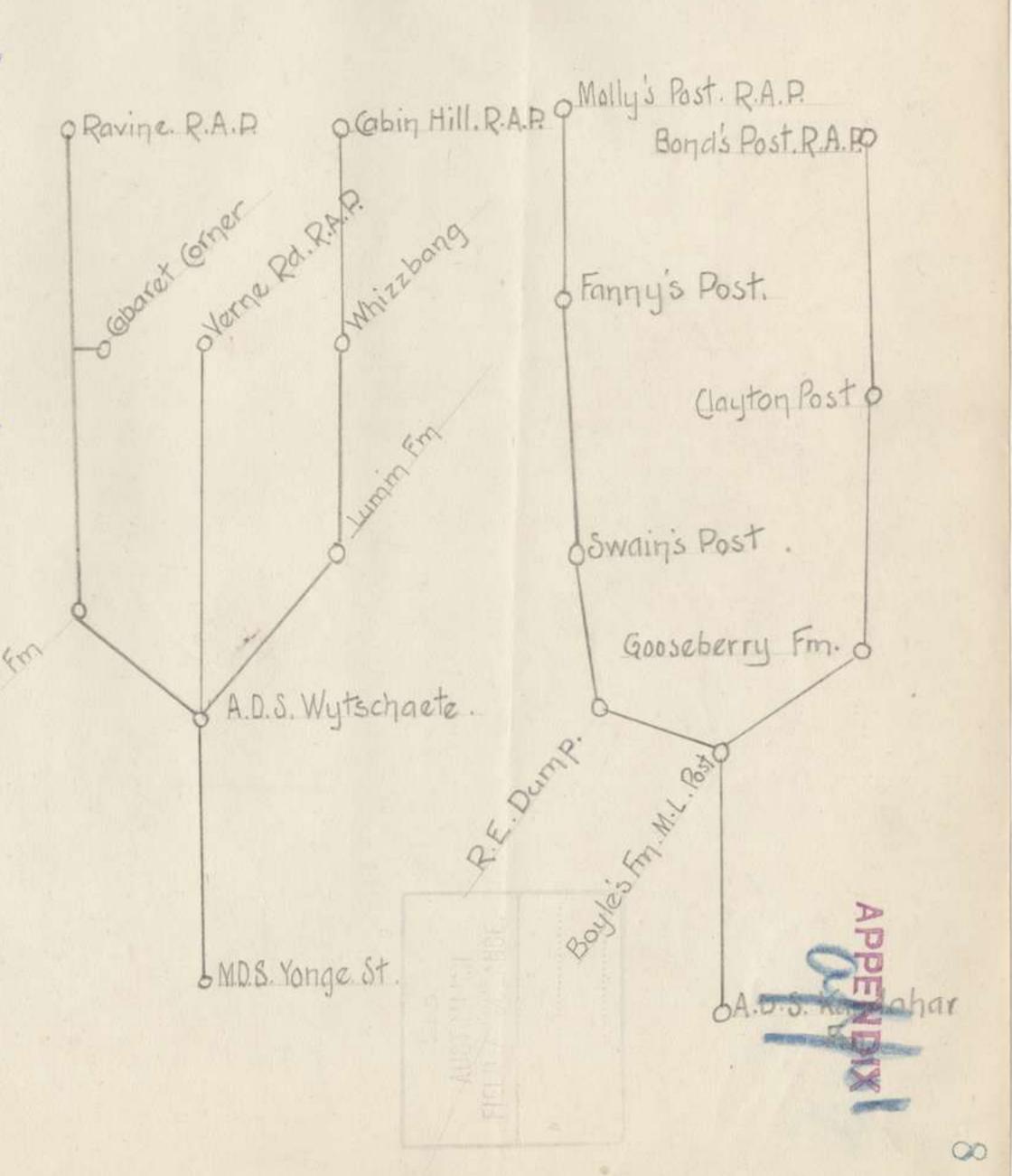
10 Stretchers, 16 Blankets.

700 yds hand carry to

LUMM FARM.1 N.C.O. 8 Men. 12 Stretchers, 16 Blankets. 1000 yds carry or wheel to

A.D.S.WYTSCHAETE.

DIAGRAM OF PRESENT ROUTES OF EVACUATION
UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

SECRET.

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

SPECIAL

ORDER.

Lieut-Celenel.W.E. KAY. C.O., By 29th January 1918.

In accordance with instructions from A.D.M.S. 1st Australian Division, the 2nd Australian Field Ambulance will meve out of the Main Dressing Station, Yenge St, in two parties.

1. An Advance Party in charge of Majer. H.C. NOTT will meve out of the Main Dressing Station, Yenge St, at 7 a.m. on 30.1.18. Blankets to be relled in waterpreef sheets, and brought en parade. Unexpended pertien of 24 hours rations to be carried. Daily routine for this party will be as fellows :-

5.30 a.m. Reveille 6.0 Breakfast 7.0 Meve Off

"B" Section Transport will move to the Divisional Rest Station, Bailleul, on the same day, moving independently, leaving M.D.S. Yenge St, at 8.30 a.m.

Bearers on relief from Forward Posts will report to the M.D.S. Yenge St., and preceed to the D.R.S.Bailleul, in charge of Capt.R.A.R. GREEN, leaving at 1 p.m.

2. "C" Section in charge of Major. E. W. GUTTERIDGE, will proceed independently from Kandahar Farm to the D.R.S.Bailleul, accompanied by its own Transport, moving out at 8 a.m. on 31.1.18. Triplicate receipts of handing over will be sent to the

M.D.S. Yenge St. en evening ef 30th.inst. The remainder of the Ambulance will preceed by route march to Bailleul D.R.S. from the M.D.S. Yonge St. leaving at 8.a.m. on 31.1.18.

Routine for personnel at M.D.S. for that date will be :-

....6.30 a.m. Reveille Breakfast7.0 Meve Off8.0

Transport will move independently in charge of W.O. MANSELL frem Daylight Corner, meving off at 8.a.m.

29.1.18.

(Sgd) W.E. KAY. Lieut-Colonel., C.O. 2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

NOTES ON FRONT LINE EVACUATION.

From 17th December 1917 till 31st January 1918.

The 2nd Australian Field Ambulance took over the evacuation of the Front Line from the 8th Australian Field Ambulance on 17th Dec. 1917 and handed over to the 14th Australian Field Ambulance on the 31st January 1918, after having been evacuating the Sick and Wounded of the 1st Australian Division in the Front Line during the period of 6 weeks.

On taking over one was struck by the vast extent of the frontage held, and by the small number of A.M.C.Personnel employed to evacuate this big frontage. For instance the Divisional Frontage was about 6,000 yards long, and the A.D.S. WYTSCHAETE about 4,000 yards, and the A.D.S. KANDAHAR FARM 5,000 yards behind the Front Line, yet this area was easily evacuated by using the Bearers

of one (1) Ambulance only.

The main scheme of evacuation may be epitomised thus:

H.Q. of the Ambulance was at M.D.S. YONGE St.N.29.a.2.7.

and this was fed nominally by two A.D.S's, one at WYTSCHAETE, 0 19.

d.2.8., and one at KANDAHAR FARM, T.10.b.8.7. In reality the

A.D.S. at KANDAHAR FARM evacuated direct to C.C.S. and D.R.S, and

carried on as a separate concern to the M.D.S., but sending all

records to the M.D.S. to be consolidated.

The attached diagram will explain this, and one can see that the Front Line naturally divided itself into two Sectors with

different lines of evacuation.

(1) A frontage of 4,000 yards in front of WYTSCHAETE

held by one Brigade, and having 3 R.A.P's.

(2) A frontage of 2,000 yards in front of KANDAHAR FARM

held by another Brigade, and having 2 R.A.P's.

The evacuation on three out of the five lines leading from R.A.P. to A.D.S. was by light tramway, each post being provided with two push trollies. We were thus arks enabled to keep very few men on the lines, 4 men every 1,200 yards being an average on the tram lines. On only two of our posts did we have at any time more than 4 men, and on these posts we had 8, as they served two lines of evacuation. Of course, the condition of the Warfare carried on on our front accounted for the meagre staff with which we were able to hold the posts. The Divisional Front was at no time very active, and casualties were few and as far between, varying from nil to 20 per day. Our Unit for instance, held this position with only 3 wounded and 4 gassed.

The comparative peace which reigned on this front, enabled the troops in the line to live a life of ease compared with the experiences they had during the last winter. Men in the Front trenches were in duckboarded and revetted strongholds, and even the

outposts had two hot meals per day served out to them.

The weather on the whole was favourable, and although we had several weeks of hard frost, yet we had not many trench feet. Of course, this was due to several causes, not the least of which was the energy and thoroughness with which anti-trench foot measures were carried out, this having been made a matter of Regimental discipline. The camphor soap and powder treatment of feet was adopted, and men were given dry socks, and supplied freely with small quantities of soap and powder done up in thin paper packets and urged to use them concientiously. The responsibility of seeing this done devolved on the combatant Officers, the R.M.O. acting merely in an advisory capacity.

Diarrhoea was one of the most common complaints, and in some cases developed into true dysentery, which later on was found to be bacillary in type, the Flexner Bacillous being isolated from the stools. I am led to believe, however, that our Division was not so prone to this disease as many others who has preceded us. The disease was water-borne, the valley of the Douve being the

S (2)

commonest location of the victims.

The fact that the front was fairly quiet and that the conditions under which the troops who held the front line lived were fairly comfortable, is evidenced by the fact that after a spell of six weeks in the line in the depth of winter the men were in fairly good condition and in excellent spirits when they were relieved.

The position itself, occupied during this period by our Division, was one of great interest, both historically and viewed as a panorama. The division front extended from east and south of Messines Ridge to north and east of Wytschaete Ridge, and one moved about in full view of the Hun, protected in places by camouflage. For this reason movement in forward areas by daylight was much restricted and one could easily see why the enemy was satisfied to keep so quiet on this front where we saw the immense advantages in observation and tactical strength, that our position gave us.

We handed over on 31st Jan. 1918 to the same division from which we took over (the 5th Australian) and marched out

to take over the D.R.S. in Rue de Musee, Bailleul.

C.O. 2nd Australian Field Ambulance.