

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/45/32

Title: 2nd Australian Field Ambulance

May 1918



AWM4-26/45/32

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ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

"2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE."

FOR

MONTH OF MAY 1918. 191

Signature of Officer compiling

W. Roy

Lt. Col.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Evans

Lt. Col.

C.O. 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance.

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
HAZEBROUK. 27/V.21.b.4.4.	1/5/18.		Ambulance standing to in reserve for 1st Aust.Div.. Small local sick parades. cursory shelling of far back areas resulted in a few shells falling near our billets and horse-lines. No casualties.	work
do.	2/5/18		Preliminary orders from A.D.M.S. received from re selection of site for D.R.S. and Scabies Station. Several sites were selected, but no final selection made. Owing to enemy shelling during last night our horse-lines were today moved to V 15.a.4.1. There were no casualties.	work
do	3/5/18		To conform to 2nd Bde. orders our horse-lines were today moved to 27/V 1.d.9.3. Intermittent shelling today in area of H.Q.	work
do.	4/5/18		No finality having been arrived at re site for D.R.S., the unit today moved to billets with H.Q. at U 5.a.9.3., where 3 farms were occupied. Evacuating of sick from units in support continues. Systematic disciplinary action and recreational training commenced.	work
27/U 5.a.9.3:	5/5/18		No entry.	
27/U 5.a.9.3:	6/5/18		Capt E.M. McCaffrey detached to 17th Bn. Nthld. Fusiliers as Temp. R.M.O.. Authority today received from A.D.M.S. to set up D.R.S. in present location. Work today could not be commenced on account of wet weather. 5 O.R.s received as reinforcements, all old members of unit rejoining from hosp.	work
do	7/5/18.		Horse-lines today moved up alongside H.Q.. Barn at U 5.a.9.3. partly evacuated and converted to sick ward for D.R.S.. Personnel were billeted in neighbouring farm. Marquees today procured from A.D.S. (1st Aust. F. Amb.) and set up in screened position to accommodate Scabies Patients. 1st batch of patients arrived at midday, and were accommodated. Billeting arrangements altered to conform to Station site.	work
do.	8/5/18.		By today accommodation was completed to receive 40 patients, and was quickly filled. Baths saved from R.E. premises in HAZEBROUK set up for treatment of scabies patients. For water supply and method of treatment see Appendix. 1.	work
do.	9/5/18.		During last night 1 casualty sustained by M.G. bullet from hostile plane. Work on station continued. Duckboards are being procured from Ambulance site in LA KREULE. D.R.S. is now holding 32 patients, and 33 scabies besides are under treatment.	work
	10 & 11/5/18.		no entry.	
do.	12/5/18.		D.D.M.S., XVth Corps visited the station and investigated the method of scabies treatment. D.R.S. now holding 44, and Scabies 74 patients.	work

D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt W809/M1672 50,000 4/17 Sch 52a Forms/C/2118/14

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sh.27. U.5.a.9.3.	13.5.18.		Medical Inspection Post at Sh.36a.C.18.c.1.3. in reserve Bde. Area taken over from 1st Aust. Field Ambulance, cars being today returned from detachment to 1st Aust. Field Ambulance are attached to this post for evacuation of sick and for urgent calls. This Ambulance is still evacuating from most units in support area as well.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	16.5.18.		Capt. DAVIS. T.R.E. rejoined from 2nd Army Reinforcement Working Party. D.R.S. 50 and Scabies 67 patients. This Ambulance now clearing sick only from Reserve Bde. (1st Bde), and 1st Aust. Divisional Train.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	18.5.18.		3rd Aust. Inf. Bde having moved to Reserve Area today, evacuation was continued from this Bde.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	22.5.18.		Site chosen by C.O. in Reserve Bde. Area for D.R.S. To act as M.D.S. in case of emergency. Reported site to A.D.M.S. 1st Aust. Division in writing.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	"		Capt. HAINS. C.C. taken on strength today. Orders received warning of impending German attack. All precautions taken for assembly of personnel and movement of equipment if required to support in any direction were perfected. No move to suggested new site so far.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	"		Capt. GREEN R.A.R. evacuated to C.C.S. today Sick (with septic finger).	<i>W.M.</i>
"	23.5.18.		Capt. McCAFFREY. E.M. rejoined from temporary attachment as R.M.O. to 17th Bn. Northumberland Fusiliers.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	25.5.18.		Work put in hand for placing of bed-racks in barn at present used as a ward to increase D.R.S. accommodation. Personnel who were billeted there were accommodated in marquees. All personnel standing by in anticipation of general attack by enemy. All ranks spend every afternoon in recreational training, Cricket, Hockey, Etc.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	26.5.18- 30.5.18.		No entry.	<i>W.M.</i>
"	31.5.18.		G.O.C. 1st Aust. Div., accompanied by A.D.M.S., visited the Station Today.	

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WAR DIARY

OF

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

FOR

MONTH OF MAY ~~XXX~~

1918.

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
★ A	COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.
1.	REPORT ON WORK OF SCABIES STATION.
2.	REPORT OF M.O. i/c. 1st AUST.D.R.S.
3.	QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT.
4.	DENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT.
5.	HORSED TRANSPORT REPORT.

APPENDIX A.

May 1918.

COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Our month may roughly be divided into two periods:-

(a) 1st - 6th, when we were doing nothing, and waiting under desultory fire to act as a divisional reserve in billets just to the North of HAZEBROUK and :-

(b) 6th - End of Month, when we have been running a Scabies and D.R. Station at 27/ U 5. a.9.3..

During the period (a) the state of affairs in the line was too uncertain to justify the formation of such permanent institutions as D.R.S.s, and although at the instigation of the A.D.M.S. I went out on four different occasions and found suitable sites for a D.R.S., it was not until the 6th that we were able to obtain the necessary permission to occupy any of these and begin taking in patients.

During the time the personnel were given ordinary drill and training and held in readiness for any call, not being allowed to go far from their billets. This was very irksome for both men and officers, and we were all glad when the time came to do something definite. During this first period and again during the latter period we have had two cars with one officer attached collecting sick from units in support and reserve areas.

During the period (b) we have been running a D.R.S. and Scabies Station. The scabies part of the station was the most important of the two, as the complaint had been increasing during the month of April, while we had been travelling to the SOMME and back, and then holding the line in front of HAZEBROUK, in which period the men have not had opportunities of obtaining regular baths and changes of underclothing. The disease consequently was very prevalent in the division.

However, one of the most satisfactory results in scabies treatment that I have yet seen has been obtained in this station, and although on the 13th we had the large number of 84 scabies patients, we have now only 31, at which low figure the division has remained for some time. The men have responded well to treatment, and uncomplicated cases have been returned to duty in an average of 7 days. (vide Appendix 1)

At first the D.R.S. was only a secondary consideration, and we had accommodation for only 40 patients, but since our successful campaign against the scabies we have increased our D.R.S. accommodation to 73, making our total patients in hand generally about 100. The incidence of disease and the results of treatment are well outlined in Appendix 2.

We have received patients from 1st and 3rd F. Ambulances at A.D.S. and M.D.S. respectively, and admit daily direct from the brigade in reserve area, whose sick we evacuate. We evacuate cases to No 2 and 15 C.C.S. at EBLINGHEM mainly, but many special diseases have to go to special hospitals, so that our cars have had plenty to do during the month distributing these cases.

As regards the unit personnel their ways have fallen among pleasant places since coming to the present site, and although during the stay outside HAZEBROUK they were subjected to an irritating long-range fire with nothing to do to distract their attention they have had a pleasant time since coming to the present location, where every afternoon has been devoted to sports. Inter-section cricket matches have aroused the greatest enthusiasm, and a forthcoming Sports Meeting promises to be well patronised.

All the men are in fine fettle, and well equipped and well fitted out. The Horses Transport are in good order.

I regret that during the month Captain GREEN.R.A.R. was evacuated with a septic finger. I wish to place on record my appreciation of his work while with the unit. He was a most efficient officer with a long and varied military experience, and could fill any position in the Ambulance with equal ease.

The end of the month still finds us administering the D.R.S. and Scabies Station,

(sgd) W.E.Kay. Lt.Col.
C.O. 2nd Australian Field Amb.

APPENDIX. 1. *appendix 1.5*REPORT ON WORK OF SCABIES STATION.

On 7/5/18 orders came from A.D.M.S. to establish a Scabies Station, which was established and in working order by midday on the 8th., on the afternoon of which 21 patients received their first day's treatment.

The station consisted in the beginning of 4 Hospital Marquees (small), 1 Operating Tent for personnel, and 1 Bell Tent for dispensary. Two of the hospital marquees were used as wards, and each contained 24 stretchers on the ground; one was used as a pack store and admission room, and the remaining one was the bath tent.

The bath tent was completely floored with duck boards, and contained 4 wooden baths (salved from HAZEBROUK,) forms, and a dressing table. A portion of this tent was walled off with blankets, forming a small enclosure where dirty clothes were withdrawn, and clean clothes issued. All treatment was carried out in this tent. The bath water was obtained from a pond, and boiled in 5 Soyer stoves.

The routine treatment was as follows:-

1st Day.

The patient, having been admitted to D.R.S. and his equipment etc. stored, was taken to the pack store at the Scabies Station, where his pants, tunic and puttees were taken from him. He then went into the bath tent and stripped, handing in his dirty underclothes, and being issued with clean change of underclothing and pyjamas. He was then inspected by the M.O., and then had a bath, in which he scrubbed himself thoroughly with soft soap and a nail-brush. Then he rubbed Ung. Sulphuris all over his body and limbs, and put on his clean clothes.

2nd Day.

Same as 1st day, but Ung. Sulphuris applied night and morning.

3rd Day.

Same as 1st day. Ung. Sulphuris applied in morning only.

4th Day.

Hot bath without scrubbing.

5th Day.

Hot bath in morning, and application of Ung. Hydrarg. Ammon. Dil. On this day the M.O. again examined the patient before the bath, and if cured the patient was marked for discharge next day, or if necessary any special treatment was ordered.

Subsequent Days.

The patient was examined every morning and discharged when cured.

Unless discharged on the 6th day, the patient was usually put on Sol. Calaminae twice a day over the entire body and limbs, until the itching ceased and the spots were obviously clearing up.

Complications.

About 15% of cases were complicated by the appearance on ~~the~~ or about the 5th day or later of a "treatment rash". This consisted of a punctate itching or burning rash, appearing on the flexor surfaces and sometimes over the abdomen and inner surface of the thighs - probably a Sulphur Dermatitis. This rash usually cleared up under treatment of a few days with Sol Calaminae twice a day and no baths. Sol Plumbi cum Opio in a few cases gave relief, but on the whole was unsatisfactory, though tried in many cases. Ung. Zinc. Ox. was tried without any success. The sulphur Ointment has lately been diluted by the addition of 33% of soft soap, but it is too early to note any diminution in the appearance of the rash. For exzematous rashes with a weeping surface Ung. Zinc. Ox. gave good results.

The routine treatment for Impetigo gave excellent results, and was as follows:-

Twice a day the scabs and crusts were completely swabbed off with hot water, the surfaces then swabbed with Sol Hydrarg. Perchlor. 1/6000, and then the application of Ung. Hydrarg. Ammon. Dil..

Furunculosis was treated as usual by fomentations.

On the whole very good results were obtained with the treatment. Between 7/5/18 and 30/5/18 157 patients were admitted, of which 31 remain under treatment to date.

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appendix. 1. 6

Appendix No. 1. (Continued).

On the whole very good results were obtained with the treatment. Between 7.5.18 and 30.5.18, 157 patients were admitted, of which 31 remain under treatment to date.

Of the remainder, 100 were discharged cured, and 16 transferred to D.R.S., cured of Scabies but with diagnosis as follows :-

13 Furunculosis, 1 P.U.O, 1 Synovitis, and 1 Debility.

10 cases were sent on to C.C.S. either with severe Furunculosis, (5 cases) or some concurrent trouble as follows :-

Cellulitis Feet 1, Synovitis 1, Balanitis 1, and P.U.O. 2.

In the case of those discharged cured, the average length of treatment was 7½ days, made up as follows :-

1	patient	received	treatment	for	15	days.
4	"	"	"	"	14	"
2	"	"	"	"	13	"
3	"	"	"	"	12	"
7	"	"	"	"	11	"
3	"	"	"	"	10	"
6	"	"	"	"	9	"
9	"	"	"	"	8	"
16	"	"	"	"	7	"
22	"	"	"	"	6	"
25	"	"	"	"	5	"
1	"	"	"	"	4	"
1	"	"	"	"	3	"

With the object of explaining the idea of the routine treatment to the patients and obtaining their intelligent co-operation, the following notice was printed and put up in prominent positions in the wards and bath tent :-

SCABIES.

Scabies are tiny little insects. The male infests the clothes; the female burrows into the skin and lays eggs. This is what causes the itchy little pimples. Later on the scratching brings on Eczeme, Boils, and other skin troubles.

The treatment consists in scrubbing yourself in the bath as thoroughly as possible with soap, the object being to open up the burrows and expose the insects to the action of the sulphur ointment which you rub all over you after the bath.

Therefore to get rid of the insects SCRUB YOURSELF HARD AND THOROUGHLY, especially the itchy areas, and then rub ointment ALL OVER YOUR BODY AND LIMBS.

31.5.18.

(Sgd) H.C. NOTT, Major.
O.C."B" Section - 2nd Aust.Fld.Amb.

to

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE WAR DIARY FOR MONTH OF MAY1918REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER IN CHARGE OF FIRST AUSTRALIAN
DIVISIONAL REST STATION.

Orders having been received by 2nd AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE to open and operate a Divisional Rest Station at Sheet 27.U.5.a.9.3., the first patients were admitted on 7th May 1918.

ACCOMMODATION.

On 7th May the available accommodation consisted of portion of a large barn partially divided into three sections by low wooden walls. The division was made more complete by the use of hessian, so that two wards and a central section were separated off.

"A" Ward 33 ft x 30 ft, was provided with 27 stretchers.
"B" " 33 ft x 12 ft, " " " 15 "

The central portion which had a door at each end, was converted into a 33 ft x 14 ft Dressing Room. One entrance was blocked up, and at that end was placed a table equipped with surgical and medical appliances from the panniers of "A" Section.

The panniers themselves were ranged along the walls as seats. A small table was placed near the other door, and was used by the admitting clerk as an office desk.

A Packstore, 10 ft x 5 ft, was constructed of hessian just outside the door of the barn. It was capable of holding 100 packs and rifles. One General Cookhouse, in which the cooks of "A" and "B" Sections with their staff (6 men in all) worked, supplied the needs of both D.R.S. and Scabies Station patients as well as the personnel of both sections of the Field Ambulance.

Latrines were dug, and seats, supplied by the 2nd Aust. Sanitary Section, placed in position. One seat was reserved for Diarrhoea patients.

An Ablution Bench was erected near a pond, and a special bowl was reserved for Diarrhoea patients. Bathing facilities were supplied at the Scabies Station by arrangement with Major.H.C. NOTT who was in charge of that Station.

Fire buckets were kept in convenient places, and were frequently inspected.

A Dining Room was also made available, 2 tables seating 36 patients were obtained, and meals taken in two batches.

Three blankets per man were issued.

A Bell Tent was erected in the adjoining paddock, and was used for Dental Patients and as overflow accommodation.

Patients marked "For Discharge" to Unit were usually put in this tent on the night before discharge.

The Staff was divided into Day Staff and Night Staff.

DAY STAFF.

Wardmaster	Sergt. CHRISTIE. A.
"A" Ward Orderlies	Pte. KELLETT.
) " PAYNE. P.
"B" " ") " LAIDLAW. H. G.
) " WINDOW. B. E.

DRESSERS. (4) L/Cpl. LAMBSMITH, Ptes. WAPLES, DARLEY, and DAVIS.

PACKSTORE. Pte. STICKLAND. A & D CLERK. Pte. FIELDER.

NIGHT STAFF.

Ward Master L.Cpl. WESTLE, G.
 A & D Clerk L.Cpl. BROOKS. Ward Orderlies. Pte. GLAISHER.
 " GRIGG, D.D.

ROUTINE.

Day Staff on duty from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Reveille. 7 a.m.
 Staff Breakfast 8 a.m.
 Patients' " 8.30 a.m.
 (Orderlies wash up and clean wards.)
 Local Sick Parade. 9 a.m.
 (Rations drawn for patients discharged to duty, who are
 then inspected by Orderly Officer.)
 M.O.'s Round and Inspection. 10 a.m.
 Patients' Dinner. 12 noon.
 Staff " 12.30 p.m.
 (Orderlies wash up and clean wards.)
 Evacuations to C.C.S. 2 p.m.
 (Patients for discharge to units for following day draw
 kit from Pack Store, and get deficiencies replaced from
 Q.M.'s Store.)
 Dry Rations 4 p.m.
 Patients' Tea 4 p.m.
 Staff " 4.30 p.m.
 (Orderlies Wash up and clean wards ready to hand over to
 Night Staff.)

Night Staff.

Patients' Supper 7 p.m.
 M.O.'s Round 8.30 p.m.
 Lights Out 9.30 p.m.

Throughout the night Orderlies attend patients and cut up dry rations for breakfast.

Patients are admitted :-

- a. Transferred from M.D.S. 3rd Aust. F.Amb.
- b. Direct from battalions in reserve locally. (An ambulance car visits reserve battalions' R.A.P.s every morning, and brings back patients recommended for evacuation by R.M.O.)
- c. Direct local casualties.

a. & b. usually arrive about noon; c. at any time. The patients are all seen by me and classified either for admission or evacuation. All patients have F.M. cards made out. Cases for admission have notes on their condition entered on these cards, and also the treatment. The patients are then bathed, given clean underclothing, and admitted to the wards. Once a week on Wednesdays all patients have a hot bath, and issue of clean clothing. Recreation is provided in the way of literature and games. In fine weather the wards are emptied, and the stretchers are placed out in the large paddock adjoining the D.R.S.

Patients for Evacuation, are sent away in 2nd Aust. F.Amb. cars at 2 p.m. and are distributed according to A.D.M.S. instruction.

Patients for Discharge to Units draw their kit from the pack store the previous afternoon, and deficiencies in kit are made up at the Q.M.'s store. They are inspected by the Orderly Officer before departure the following morning, and given written instructions as to their destination.

Classification of Diseases treated in D.R.S. see attached table.

The injuries treated were mostly of a minor character, sprained ankles and contusions obtained in recreational training accounting for by far the greater number.

Suppurative Infections. Impetigo and Boils were often secondary to an infection with Scabies. The number of septic abrasions of feet treated was satisfactorily low. One case of Trench Foot was evacuated.

Pyrexia. The limited accommodation at first made it necessary to evacuate a large number of these cases. The influenza cases were sent to a special hospital (No 17 C.C.S.), but since the 27th May when the new ward was opened at the D.R.S. it has been possible to treat these cases locally with good results. The average duration in hospital of influenza cases is 6 days. A certain number classified P.U.O. conformed to the influenza type. Definite relapses of a Trench Fever type also occurred, and no patient classified P.U.O. was discharged till 6 days normal temperature with return to full duty, and general aspect of improving health had precluded the likelihood of a recurrence.

(Appendix 2 Continued)

Respiratory Diseases. Most cases of Laryngitis had a history of exposure to gas and were evacuated immediately. Two very mild cases, (one classified under another heading) made great improvement under open air conditions obtaining at the D.R.S.

Gastro-Intestinal Diseases. Diarrhoea cases were held for about 48 hours for observation. Any patients not improving within this period were evacuated to C.C.S.. Several cases sent in with this diagnosis showed no symptoms of Diarrhoea after admission.

Debility. Under this heading were included some cases of debility and neurasthenia. Good results were obtained in these cases by the new conditions under which the patients found themselves.

Venereal Cases were evacuated immediately to No.4 Stationary Hospital at Arques.

Miscellaneous. 1 Myalgia, 1 Malaria, and 1 D.A.H. were cured and returned to duty. The other cases (13) under this heading included Inguinal Hernia and cases unsuitable for treatment in a D.R.S..

Exclusive of Imperial Troops and Dental Patients, 236 patients were admitted to D.R.S. between 7th and 30th of May. Of these 82 were discharged to duty, 100 were sent on to C.C.S., after a longer or shorter period of treatment, and 54 remain in hospital, of whom a large percentage will be fit for duty within a week.

(Sgd) Fred Lovegrove. Major.
2nd Australian Field Ambulance.

Table of Classifications attached.



(Appendix 2 Continued.)

CLASSIFICATION OF DISEASES TREATED IN D.R.S. (AUSTRALIANS ONLY)
(Exclusive of Dental Cases.)

Diseases	Number	Returned to Duty	No. of Days in D.R.S.	to CCS	Days in DBB	Remaining in Hospital	Days in Hospital
Injuries (Dislocations)	2	-	-	1	1	1	16
(Sprains.)	35	9	53	20	27	26	31
(Contusions.)	8	6	36	2	13		
Suppurative (Boils)	34	11	77	16	25	7	29
(Septic Feet)	8	3	29	4	4	1	13
Infections (Whitlow.)	4	2	31	2	2	-	-
(Impetigo)	8	1	11	4	6	3	5
Pyrexia. (Influenza)	19	9	52	3	13	7	33
(P.U.O.)	35	12	89	8	38	15	69
Respiratory Tract. (Tonsillitis)	13	5	29	5	10	3	24
(Bronchitis)	4	1	4	2	2	1	5
(Laryngitis)	8			7	8	1	11
Digestive Tract (Gastritis)	3	2	19	1	3	-	-
(Diarrhoea)	18	8	36	6	14	4	23
Debility	18	10	51	5	15	3	14
Venereal (Gonorrhoea)	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
(Syphilis)	2	-	-	2	2	-	-
Miscellaneous.	16	3	9	11	11	2	9
Totals	236	82	526	100	195	54	282

Consolidation.

236 patients were passed through books;
of these - 82 returned to duty in total of 526 days - average of 6.4 days
100 were sent to C.C.S. after total of 195 days, - an average of 1.9 days.
54 remained in D.R.S. with a total of 282 days, - an average of 4.6 days.



APPENDIX 3.

May, 1918.

QUARTERMASTERS REPORT.

The conditions of warfare having become more settled during the past month, supplies were more readily obtainable.

Percentage of rations issued from A.S.C. as compared to the ration scale has been well maintained. In fact, the average of the bread issue- apart from the rations for patients, which should be 100%, - has been as much as two to a loaf, instead of three, giving an average for the month of 72%.

Fresh meat has been slightly above the average, being 61%, besides full supplies of tinned commodities.

As regards the tea issue, I would like to suggest that for the period of mid-summer, say from April 15 to June 30, the issue be slightly reduced, and lime-juice issued in lieu for consumption at the mid-day meal.

Medical comforts, such as extra milk, sugar, custard powder, jelly crystals, tinned and dried fruits, flour, oatmeal, arrowroot, coffee, cocoa, etc., have been drawn from the Field Supply Depot to supplement the ordinary rations for issue to the patients. Three cases of eggs have also been drawn from the latter depot, originally issued by the 'National Egg Collection for the Wounded Society', and issued to patients only. These are a great acquisition to the dietary and much appreciated. Unfortunately they are not often obtainable for patients so near the front line as a D.R.S.

A plentiful supply of clean clothes has been obtainable both for patients and personnel. We have been fortunate in having a good supply of water, and consequently have had no difficulty in providing baths for the men.

All scabies patients have been bathed daily, and D.R.S. patients and personnel have increased the number up to as many as 170 in one day, for which clean clothes have always been on hand. A good stock of pyjamas has been obtained from the Australian Branch, B.R.C.S., which has been used for hospital patients. The washing of these and towels has been done by men detailed from the unit.

Ordnance Supplies have not denoted any shortage, no difficulty being experienced in having indents filled.

As regards Ambulance Equipment, particularly taking into consideration present conditions of warfare, or even conditions prevailing in France, I suggest that there are many items on the establishment of a Field Ambulance that could very readily be dispensed with. For instance, in the Transport Section the following articles are now never used:-

Mallets heel peg.	6
Mauls. G.S. heads	3
Pegs picketing with rope loop	32
Posts picket 2½ feet	32
Ropes heel, Mark V	7
Ropes heel large	6
Helves maul 34½"	6
Pads surcingle	45
Packsaddlery G.S.:-	
Bags entrenching tool	3
Covers 6' x 6'	9

Another item of weight and bulk that could easily be dispensed with is:- Panniers Medical Comforts 6. Reason:- A case each of the more serviceable comforts, such as brandy, coffee & milk, milk, etc., can always be carried on the ration wagon whilst on the move. Furthermore, additional supplies of medical comforts can readily be obtained from Field Supply Depots, which are invariably within reasonable distance of the line.

And then there is the Pannier Equipment that calls for revision. The following items are never used now, and to my mind could easily be dispensed with:-

Hooks reaping small	9
Lanterns tent distinguishing	6
" folding	3
Needles darning	300
Boxes dubbin	3
Lanterns bullseye	36
Covers tin 6½"	60
Balances spring 4lb	3

APPENDIX 3 (CONTINUED).

Stools close, nets of 4	6
Cases bolster tent	150
Tow carbolised lbs.	60
Flags signal Army	12
" " poles	12

Spring Balances (2 per section) could without inconvenience be reduced to 1 per section.

Furthermore, we have a Supplementary Equipment Table, "Appendix 51". Of this the following items are never required:-

Reserve Dressing Boxes.	6
Reserve Fld. Med. Panniers.	
	Sets. 1
Field Fracture Boxes.	3

The following items could be reduced as shown:-

Surgical Haversacks	from 21 to 10.
Water Bottles	" 21 " 10

Tarpaulins 20' x 15', 3.- would be a welcome addition to the establishment, as they are frequently required as shelters for cookhouses etc.

I would suggest that Schools of Instruction for Q.M.s be held from time to time, and possibly for Q.M.S.s, in as much as new matters are forever cropping up in which the Q.M. with advantage could have instruction, and which would eventually reflect to the advantage of the army in general.

(Sgd.) Reg. Rutter.
Capt & Q.M.



2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. WAR DIARY.APPENDIX 4.

May. 1918.

DENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

On 4/5/18 the Ambulance joined the D.R.S., and the Dental Unit was able to commence serious work. S.Sgt. BARTON and Pte PONSFORD, who had been at No.1 Aust. C.C.S. for some time reported back to the unit on 9/5/18. S.Sgt, CROME.H.F. reported to the Unit on 22/5/18, vice PROVE wounded.

A factor which impeded the work to a certain extent was the lack of accommodation of any form carried for the use of the Dental Unit. No billets being available we were dependant altogether upon what accommodation could be provided by the Ambulance after their own requirements had been fulfilled.

The necessity, in connection with dental work, for good lighting, shelter from the weather, freedom from draughts, etc., would seem to warrant the issue to Dental Units for their use under such conditions, of a suitably designed tent or portable hut. This would make Dental Units quite independent as regards accommodation, and at the same time make working conditions at all times fairly comfortable.

A feature of the work during the past month was the number of dentures brought in for repair. This was more or less to be expected owing to the length of time since any settled dental work has been possible. Remarkably few cases of Ulcerative Gingivitis reported at the D.R.S. during the month. This may possibly be due to the fact that the Dental Unit from the 1st F.Amb. has been attached to the Brigade in rest, and may be treating such cases there.

Men from each brigade of the 1st Aust. Division were attended during the month, and also a number of men from the Northumberland Fusiliers Labour Battalion.

(Sgd) Arthur Douglass. Capt.
No 3 Aust. Dental Unit,
att. 2nd Aust. Field Ambulance.



HORSED TRANSPORT REPORT.

On 1/5/18 the whole of the Horsed Transport were in open standings in a grass paddock in 27/ V 21.b.7.3.. The standings were good and well sheltered by trees and hedges. At 10.30 p.m. that night hostile shelling resulted in several shells falling very near the lines. As a precautionary measure temporary lines were erected at a farm at V 15.a.4.1., about $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile away. Horses and personnel were moved to there and settled down by 11.30 p.m.. Three men were left behind in the old location as waggon guard. On 2/5/18 the whole of the transport lines were established at this location.

These standings were good and well sheltered. As billeting accommodation was lacking, the personnel were housed in temporary shelters, covered with tarpaulins.

At midday on 3/5/18 further shelling took place, one shell falling in a pond alongside the lines, but fortunately there were no casualties. The horses were moved out of danger, and later in the day the whole of the Transport lines were again moved to new standings at V.l.d.9.3., Here we remained till 7/1/18, when we moved up to our present standings alongside H?Q. at U.5.a.9.3.

On arrival we found the standings very wet. They have since been formed and drained, and banked with earth as a protection against bombing, and are now in good condition. There was little or no accommodation at this location for the farrier or harness, but we have since procured enough material and erected a farrier's shop and harness room.

During the month we have averaged 4 teams on the road daily, The remainder of the horses were exercised and grazed daily.

During the night of the 14th a L.D. mare was kicked below the stifle, the injury necessitating veterinary treatment. We managed to obviate evacuation, and the mare is now fit for duty. The only other case of sickness in the lines was a H.D. mare with a small abscess under the jaw, since recovered.

The whole of the horses are well shod, and in good condition.

During the month new wheels and raves were recovered from Ordnance, and the two G.S. waggons which were issued last month in a doubtful condition were repaired. All vehicles are now in good order and fit for the road.

After $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of constant use the harness is showing signs of wear, and is requiring a lot of attention. Stitching and general repairs are being done in the unit by the saddler.

(Sgd) G.H. Mansell. W.O.
for Transport Officer,
2nd Australian Field Ambulance.