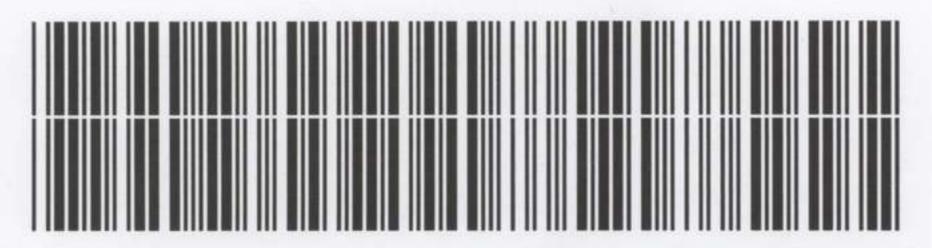
AWM4 Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries, 1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/45/40

Title: 2nd Australian Field Ambulance

January 1919



AWM4-26/45/40

ORIGINAL.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

FOR

Signature of Officer compiling land Lit.Col.

Signature of Officer Commanding 0.0. 2nd Aus.

RCDIG1013334 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

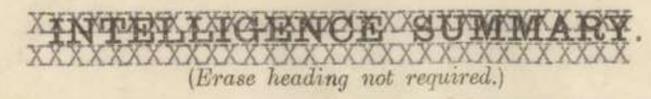
WAR DIARY

JANUARY 1919

Army Form C. 2118.

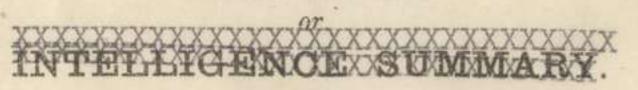
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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.



TRY D'HAIES Sth Weather improved. C.O. reported back from 10 days Paris Leave. Warning Circular received from Aus. Corps to the effect that many horses were being stolen from Australian units, and that ragorous precautions should be taken accordingly. Written instructions immediately to M.O. Horse Transport and posted in all stables re safeguarding of horses. Two horses (heavy draughts) were stolen during the night from small stable which accommodated four horses only. Oring to scattered nature of billets, horses had to be divided between seven stables, widely separated. It was therefore found impossible to provide plauets at night for all horses. This was to a large extent, compensated for by arrangements being made for drivers to sleep actually in the stable occupied by their horses and stable doors locked at night when such was possible. Although two drivers were actually sleeping in the stable building, darm disclosed the fact that the two best horses in the Unit had been removed from one of these stables during the night, horse rugs being spread upon the stable floor as mats to muffle the sounds of hoofs. During this night, also, two detachable rims and spare tyres were removed from Sunbeam motor ambulances and stolen. These cars were parked in a lane, against the wall of the billet occupied by the drivers. Thefts were immediately reported to A.P.M. & A.D.M.S. At M. 18.00 a third horse was stolen, this time from another stable. The horses had just been fed, and the drivers were seated in the loft at the top of a ladder in the stable immediately above the horses, every movement of which could be clearly heard. Ten minutes after feeding the horses, the drivers descended the ladder to lock the stable door; and then discovered that one horse had disappeared. Its feed was scarcely touched, whereas that of the other horses was
partly consumed. The horse had therefore been quietly removed from the stables immediately after the driver who fed them had mounted the ladder. The woods and surrounding country were immediately scoured, without success. Every available man was immediately detailed to patrol the village throughout the night. Officers took shifts, two being armed and dressed throughout the entire night, and every effort was made to trace and capture the thieves, but without success. Enquiry into all circumstances of thefts was held by C.O. Meantime mounted men scoured neighbouring woods and searched for tracks or other clues. A small deserted hut was discovered near a bush track in the woods two miles from camp. There were horse tracks and remnants of fresh hay

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.



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Place Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RY D'HAIES Janu 10th	t	Military Police recalled and replaced by a guard of 10 Infantry supplied by 2nd Bde. All state of be permanently guarded and village patrolled during hours of darkness. Major Jones posted as fficer in charge Guards & Piquets. Billets inspected by Gen. Heane, Brigadier 2nd Infy. Bde, was pressed satisfaction.	ho
11th		Two Sumbeam cars evacuated from Workshops to Base. Three Sumbeam cars in Workshops. One For ar detailed to Div. Educ. Officer, Only one Ford car thus available for ambulance work.	a lly
13th		Shortage of motor transport somewhat relieved by liberation of one car from Workshop	140
14th	В	Blue Light Establishment at Leave Club, Brusselles inspected by ADMS., who expressed satis for this establishment and the one situated in Charleroi are doing excellent work, and attending	action.
15th	2	A Court Of Enquiry consisting of Lieut.Col. Herrod, C.M.G., D.S.O. 7th Bn. Pres.; Major Sutt and Field Amb, Lieut. Swallow, 7th Battn, sat in billets of 2nd Field Amb. to enquire into circu tances surrounding loss of horses on charge to 2nd Aus. Field Amb. Enquiry commenced at 10.00	136
	a	nd lasted until 18.00.	Co.
17th 18th	DS	A new Sumbeam car taken on strength in lieu of one of the two evacuated to Base. RMOs. of 2nd A.I.Bde. assembled at H.Q. 2nd Field Amb. and were addressed by Colonel Barber, O. DDMS, Aus. Corps. Demobolization of M.Os. of A.A.M.C. was fully discussed and much light th	to Owner
	on T on sy	the question of Post Graduate work in England for those whose return to Aus. is voluntarily de his question which had been the subject of many rumors, is one that had occasioned much specula the part of those interested. Col. Barber, as is his wont in dealing with his officers, gave mpathetic hearing to all questioners and removed many doubts and misgivings of individual offi	layed.
26th	8.8	to future movements. Bitterly cold and snowing. Unit in billets.	0.
27th		Conference of Quartermasters of 1st Div. to discuss Demobolization of equipment and wagons. tended by Lieut. Butterworth and R.Q.M.S.	Ule
28th		Bitterly cold and frosty. Capt. Robinson admitted to hospital while on leave to England and ruck off strength.	(6
3 Ot	h	RMOs. of 2nd A.I.Bde. assembled at Headquarters 2nd Field Amb. and were addressed on Prophylax a early treatment of Venereal Disease by Col. Raffan, AAMC., from Bulford Venereal Hospital.	is G
			l
		D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A10266) Wt W5300/P713 750,000 2/18 Sch. 52 Forms/C2118/16.	

WAR DIARY

06

OF

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

FOR

JANUARY

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LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.		Subject.
VI.	Report of	Commanding Officer
I.,	11	Quartermaster
II.	11	Transport Officer (Horse)
III.	11	" (Motor)
IV/.	11	Officer in charge Hospital
VII.	11	Educational Officer
V.	Graphs.	

TAR DIARY 1919

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

APPENDIX VI.

REPORT OF

COMMANDING OFFICER

The month of January has been a most uneventful one as regards

The unit has been in billets at LOUVERVAL throughout, and all ranks have been patiently awaiting the commencement of Demobolization. This period of waiting has been a very trying one. The enforced inactivity coincided to wretched weather, and the uncertainty which has existed as to how each man's case would be dealt with by the Department of Demobolization and Repatriation, naturally giving rise to much restlessness.

All ranks have behaved splendidly, and have not given the slighest t

It is to be hoped now that the Demobolization machinery is in working trouble, in spite of trying circumstances. working order, that there will be a minimum of hitches and difficulties, which must prove infinitely trying to men who have waited their turn with such patience and good feeling.

CC.O. 2nd Aus. Field Ambulance.

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. Report of Q U A R T E R M A S T E R

APPENDIX NO. I

On the First of this month orders were received from A.D.M.S. to return to Ordnance all the Mobolization Stores, Surgical and Medical Equipment for "C" Section. These stores were returned on 5th Jan. and receipts for them obtained.

On the 2nd Jan. Corps Headquarters issued a circular to all units instructing them to indent for stores under four different categories. These were rendered on 14th Jan. with a certificate stating that the stores had been inspected and indents for shortages had been submitted to complete stores as laid down in Mobolization Store Table.

The rations for this month have been good, on the whole, the supplies for the latter part of the month showing an improvement

on the former.

The Australian Comforts Fund supplied the Unit in their usual generous manner with cocoa, sugar, milk, oxo, puddings, fruit, tobacco, cigarettes, custard powder, and playing cards, which were much appreciated by the personnel of the unit.

We have drawn from the Aus. Red Cross Society, pyjamas, jam, biscuits, cigarettes, Bengers Food, and reading matter for the patients.

No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining stores, etc., from Ordnance and clean clothing from the Divisional Baths Officer.

WAR DIARY.

(Sgd.) D.C.BUTTERWORTH, Q.M. & Hon Lieut.

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. REPORT OF TRANSPORT OFFICER

APPENDIX NO. II

HORSE TRANSPORT

The Unit remained, during the whole of the month, at TRY D'HAIES. The Walk horses were at first distributed among nine stables in the village, but later, owing to reduced numbers, were concentrated in

four stables. During the month the Ambulance was reduced to two sections and one ambulance wagon, one limbered wagon, one water cart, and six sets of harness were returned to Ordnance Stores. Four heavy draught and one light draught horse were evacuated suffering from mange on 7.1.19. Three horses were missing from the stables on 8th inst. A Board has since been held to investigate this loss. Two light draught horses were handed over to 1st Coy. Div. Engineers on 22nd inst. There was thus, at the end of the month, a shortage of one heavy draught horse.

The condition of the horses has, on the whole, been good. The food supply, though light, has, owing to the fact that the horses were in warm stables, been sufficient. Vehicles have required no major

repairs. The harness has been in good condition.

A field cooker has been attached from 5th Battalion during the past two months. This has been of very great use to the unit. It would improve the efficiency and increase the mobility of a Field Ambulance if a Field Cooker westemade part of the establishment.

The horses have been classified by a Board during the month with a view to their dispsal on demobolization. By this classification they are branded as follows: - X - 9 horses; Y - 7 horses; Z - 19 horses.

The work of the transport has been light owing to the fact that the unit remained in the one place. A certain amount of work was done, such as collecting refuse from the area occupied and drawing additional supplies by the Unit for its own use and for the use of the hospital.

Transport Officer

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. REPORT OF TRANSPORT OFFICER. MOTOR TRANSPORT

APPENDIX NO. III.

The Unit has remained, for the whole of the month, in the village of TRY D'HAIES. The following cars have been sent to Workshops for repairs during the month: Sunbeams No. 24068, No. 24071, No. 24063 and Ford No. 9396. Of these Sunbeam No. 24068 was evacuated. At the end of the month two Sunbeams and two Fords were with the Unit, two Sunbeams were in Workshops and one Sunbeam had been evacuated.

The principal work of the motor transport during the month has been the collecting of sick from the Brigade and evacuating cases from the unit hospital to the C.C.S., Charleroi. In addition Medical Stores and Red Cross Stores have been collected and trips incidental to the work of the unit have been made. Considering the actual amount of work done, the difficulties in keeping the cars running have been very great, due to the bad condition of the carsand the poor quality of the work turned out by the workshops.

(Sgd) J.T.JONES, Major Heansport Officer.

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

APPENDIX NO. IV

REPORT OF

OFFICER IN CHARGE OF HOSPITAL.

The Brigade Rest Station has been maintained during the month and has continued to justify its existence in so far as out off a total of 93 patients admitted, 43 (or nearly 50%) were discharged to duty without having to go beyond the Divisional area. The attached graph shows clearly the number of cases admitted, discharged to duty, and evacuated to C.C.S. in the station during the month.

The incidence of influenza in the Brigade Group was, at the beginning of the month, almost nil., and continued to be so until the last week when the number of cases increased, doubtless on account of the change of the weather, for the worse, and its accompanying cold.

Up till the 23rd of the month therekwere 12 cases of influenza admitted, six of whom were discharged to duty and six evacuated to C.C.S., while during the last eight days there were 17 admittances six discharged to duty and three evacuated to C.C.S.

However, the cases have not been so severe as during previous months, most of the cases being uncomplicated and showing only the usual malaise, headache, backache, and slight catarrhal symptoms and becoming fit for discharge to their units within a week. The type of cases evacuated to C.C.S. have been those with high temperature os showing signs of broncho pneumonia.

Of the 64 other patients many have been admitted while undergoing treatment for pyorrhoea or gingivitis by the Dental Officer, Capt. Gatehouse. A few with gonorrhoea, primary syphilis, otitis, and similar conditions Ameurable within 10 days to a fortnight, in such a station, were merely passed on to C.C.S., while the remainder, comprising such cases as furunculosis, tonsillitis, gastritis, etc., were treated successfully within the station.

.. (Sgd) M. G. SUTTON, Major Officer in charge of Hospital

2ND AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL OFFICER

APPENDIX VII

During the month of Jan. 1919, classes have been held in the following

Arithmetic, Algebra, Book-keeping, Building Construction, Carpentry subjects:and Cabinet Making, French (Elementary and Advanced), English, Motor

Mechanics, and Shorthand.

Further classes in General Farming and First Aid (St. Johns Ambulance

Course) are on the eve of commencement.

The highest weekly enrolment for the month was 67, but has dropped to 36, attendance 32, owing to the fict that Building construction had been disbanded, whilst Book-keeping, French and English have been temporarily disbanded. The instructors in these subjects having left the unit, either for duty elsewhere or are to be returned as University Students. Moreover attendance of classes was affected by necessary guard duty, crankit resultant of horse-stealing in the neighbourhood. New instructors, MOENE however, are being appointed to these classes temporarily disbanded, and an increase in enrolment and attendance is expected immediately.

Provision is being made for members of the unit to visit local industries in Charleroi and the might neighbouring districts, and about 35 have made application for non-military employment (Educational, Technical Commercial, Professional and Agricultural) in England. These applications

are at present under consideration.

The following members have left the Unit during the month for Educa-

tional purposes :-

1. Dvr. Ashworth H.W. now attached to the London Office of Messrs Michaelis & Hallenstein for experience. He was previously employed by this firm in Australia.

2. Pte. Dougharty D.H. to Halifax Technical College for the purpose

of studying wool-classing.

To Corps Central School, Rue:-Ptes. Payne, P.J., Hayward E.C., Good C.H.S., Cole, W.R., and Jacobsen L.

To Australia:-S/Sgts. Narik A, Williams R, and Pte. Barber A. (University Students)

> (Sgd.) F.W.A. Lowe, Lieut. E.O. 1st Aus. Div. AAMC.

