

AWM4
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1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

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

December 1918



AWM4-26/19/36

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

A. D. M. S. 2. AUSTRALIAN DIV.

FOR

DECEMBER 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

W. A. C. for Col.

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. A. C. for Col.

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.

65

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cartignhes.	6/12/18.		Lt.Colonel CROWTHER C.O. 5th Aust Field Amb. reported at D.H.Q. 11 a.m. and took over duties of A/A.D.M.S. - Usual boarding in the forenoon (3 cases) D.A.D.M.S. went to Sanitary Section No 1. in reference to sanitary precautions to be taken in new area owing to prevalence of Enteric - Circular memo to all Medical Officers of the Division in reference to details to be forwarded to A.D.M.S. with all cases for boarding. <i>Greater memo to all M.O's re prevalence of Typhoid.</i>	
	7/12/18.		D.A.D.M.S. to 22nd Battn, and thoroughly inspected all sanitation etc, and expressed himself as very satisfied with what he had seen. Major BARBOUR called to see A.D.M.S. in reference to transfer to ENGLAND, in order to arrange for an A.I.F. Eleven to tour England next summer.	
	8/12/18.		By car this morning at the G.O.C's command to No 61 G.C.S. to see General MARTIN. The General is still very ill with a fresh attack of Broncho Pneumonia. A very quiet day otherwise at D.H.Q.	
	9/12/18.		A very even mornings work boarding cases 19 in all - and mostly men who have been unable to keep up route marches. - Visited No XXXXXX 1 Sanitary Section who has now been to CHARLEROI area in reference to reported cases of typhoid fever. He reports exclusive cases at CHARLEROI itself but surrounding villages have no cases.	
	10/12/18		A very quiet day at D.H.Q. 1 case for boarding. Corps applied to for extra typhoid vaccine (T.A.B.) Car supplied to 18th Battn for billeting and educational purposes. D.D.M.S. R.O. No 10 reference move to CHARLEROI area received.	

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2110.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
11/12/18.			A very quiet day at D.H.Q. Div memo(A.D.M.S.) in reference to move of Division and precautions in CHARLEROI area drafted. To MAUBEURGE to American Red Cross in reference to disposal of civilian cases.	
12/12/18.			Memo from D.H.Q. that Major MUIRHEAD is to be O.C. 5th Aust Field Amb and T/Lt.Col. vice Lt.Col. CROWTHER to Australia. D.A.D.M.S. to CHARLEROI area in reference to prophylactic measures - T.A.B. obtained (64 bottles) 6 cases for boarding.	
13/12/18			<i>Lt. Col. A. M. Wilson D.S.O. 7th Amb. A.D.M.S.</i> Lt.Col.W.E.L.H. Crowther departed for Australia. A letter was sent to the G.O.C. of the Division pointing out the great prevalence of V.D. in the new area and making various suggestions re combating the disease. The weather was very unsettled and mainly light misty rain throughout the day. Major Beamish was detailed by the C.O. 5th Aust Fld.Amb. acting under instruction from A.D.M.S. to select suitable sites for "Blue light" establishments in CHARLEROI. Major Wall D.A.D.M.S. accompanied him.	
14/12/18.			After A great deal of trouble Major Beamish and Major Wall found two very suitable sites for Blue light establishments No 3 Place du centre, Ground floor of the Bourse. All arrangements were made to get the place in going order. A.A.M.C.order 47 issued. Instructions for the move were drawn up and issued. Also instructions to R.M.Os. concerning the health of troops and sanitation in the new area.	

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
15/12/18			Capt. Lawrence was instructed to proceed to CHARLEROI with the view of prospecting th place in order tp ascertain if it were possible for the R.M.O's of the Division to obtain any Clinical or Dissecting experience.	
16/12/18.			Notes received from Major BEAMISH stating that the Blue Lights were in operation, also a preliminary note from Captain LAWRENCE giving a report of his work. Apparently it will be very difficult to get any dissecting material.	
17/12/18.			Division on the move, fortunately the weather was not very bad, a bit showery. The G.O.C. expressed himself as well satisfied with the general turn out of the Ambulances, especially the 6th, and suggested various improvements which might be made. The 5/6/7 Field Ambs. occupied the following places during the night. AVESNELLES, SOLRE-le-CHATEAU, ECLAILES. The C.O. 6th Aust Field Ambulance reported that he had located a dump of German Stretchers at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU. The D.A.D.M.S. made arrangements to collect.	
18/12/18.			The Division continued marching. The weather was very showery during the day. At night the 5/6/7th Field Ambulances occupied the following places. SURY. BARBENSON. COUSOTRE.	
19/12/18.			Divisional Headquarters were transferred from CARTIGNIES to MARCINELLE a suburb of CHARLEROI The Division continued to march the weather still being very unsettled. The 5/6/7th Field Ambulances at night occupied the following places. BARBENSON. WALCOURT. THUIN. The D.A.D.M.S attended a conference at Corps Headquarters. The 2nd Division wished to arrange Post graduate and dissecting courses at BRUSSELS University but it did not meet with the approval	

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WAR DIARY

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 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			of D.D.M.S. as it was outside the Army Area.	
MARCINELLE.	20/12/18.		The Division completed their march and all Units arrived at the Billeting areas soon after midday. 5/6/7th Aust Field Ambulances occupied the following places. WALCOURT NALLINES and MONT-sur-MARCHIENNE. The Ambulances were all visited on their arrival by the A.D.M.S. and D.A.D.M.S. The 6th Field Ambulance billets were not nearly so satisfactory as the 5th and 7th. All units received a very warm welcome from the inhabitants of the districts in which they are billeted. All 5/6/7th Field Ambs. had good locations for their hospitals each being able to accommodate 50 patients.	
	21/12/18.		During the march a large number of men were carried, and a letter was sent to the G.O.C. referring to the matter, also the figures of cases evacuated and carried were submitted	
	22/12/18		A wet dull day. Large number of men are reporting for treatment at the Blue Light places in CHARLEROI. 168 being recorded on this day.	
	23/12/18.		Colonel SHEPHERD reported back from leave.	
	24/12/18.		As Colonel BARBOUR (D.D.M.S.) is on leave any Medical matters of importance at Aust Corps must be referred to Colonel SHEPHERD. Visited 6th Aust Field Amb. and 6th B.H.Q.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

WAR DIARY

OF

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

FOR

DECEMBER

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

- 1 SANITARY PRECAUTIONS OWING TO PREVALENCE OF
TYPHOID.
- 2 MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS IN CHARLEROI AREA.
- 3 SANITATION IN NEW AREA.
- 4 A.A.M.C. ORDER NO 49.
- 5 MONTHLY SANITARY REPORT.

14/168

T.O. 5/6/7th Aust Field Amb.
D.C. 1st Aust San Section.
All R.M.O's 2nd Aust Division.

prevalent
Typhoid is : in this area, the same is to be
expected in the CHARLEROI Area, which is one of the most thickly
populated localities of BELGIUM.

The following action must be taken by all R.H.O's.

1.Immediately

- (a) Inspection of all paybooks, and performance of T.A.B. Inoculation when required.

- (b) Lectures of warning to all ranks indicating the urgency of the situation laying stress on following dangers :-

Drinking unchlorinated water.

unsealed

fresh milk.

Using civilian latrines.

Leaving food or eating utensils exposed to the open air.

11. Routine Daily inspection of billets and cookhouses, without
intermission.

Stringent supervision of water supplies and chlorination.

The main infected agents are flies, fingers, faeces, and food.

111. On arrival at new area immediately get into touch with Area Commandant and Maire, enquiring for the existence of Infectious disease in past or present. Get the Unit water carts working at once.

1V. On diagnosing civilian cases. Procedure as laid down in 4th Army Standing Orders 175 883.

This is the first occasion on which the Division has found itself face to face with epidemic Typhoid. It will be a test of our sanitary Discipline.

Myrowther

Lt.Colonel.
A/A.D.M.S.
2nd Aust Division.

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SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
11th. December 1918

5th. Aust. Field Amb.
6th. do
7th. do
All R.M.Os. 2nd. Aust. Div.

In accordance with Medical Instructions Routine No. 18 by D.D.M.S. Aust. Corps, the following arrangements will come into force in CHARLEROI area :-

1. In accordance with A.A.M.C. S.O. Sect. 11 para. 8 each ambulance will be prepared to retain the sick of their respective Brigade Groups who are likely to be well within 10 days. R.M.Os. will establish Rest Posts within units in which cases likely to be well within 2 or 3 days will be treated.
2. Ambulance Commanders will endeavour to obtain comfort of a high standard for patients, such as provision of beds, extra blankets, medical comforts, etc.
3. R.M.Os. are responsible that Blue Light depots are established in their respective units and that this fact is brought to the notice of all men.
4. C.O. 5th. Aust. Field Amb. will arrange to establish a Blue Light depot in CHARLEROI. Particulars will be notified later.
5. C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will be prepared to treat all cases of scabies in the Division.
6. Ambulance Commanders will render all possible assistance to R.M.Os. of their respective groups in carrying out above instructions.
7. Attention is drawn to Aust. Corps Routine Order No. Q. 219.

M. Henderson

2nd. Australian Division.

Lieut.-Colonel,
A / A.D.M.S.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
14th. December 1918

5th. Aust. Field Amb.
6th. do
7th. do
All R.M.Os. 2nd. Aust. Div.,

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

14/173

1. R.M.Os. will pay greatest attention to sanitation in the new area as Typhoid is endemic, though no cases are reported at present.
2. The construction of latrines is already in hand and it is hoped that large public latrines will be in existence on arrival in the new area. Indents will be submitted immediately on arrival in the new area.
Men will be warned against using civilian latrines.
3. R.M.Os. will arrange to have all water tested in the vicinity of their billeting areas and have same properly marked.
4. Cases of Foot and Mouth Disease (Apth.ous Fievre) have been reported in this area though none at present, any suspicion of a case of this nature occurring amongst civilians or cattle in this area will be notified to this office immediately.
6. R.M.Os. will arrange with ambulance commanders direct for the evacuation of men on the march and also for the carriage of a limited number.
5. In the CHARLEROI area are living about 400 prostitutes "legitimised" by the Belgian authorities. These women are subjected to a fortnightly examination by a Belgian doctor and are supplied with regist ration cards. As far as can be ascertained there is not a very large proportion of V.D. amongst these women.
The greatest danger is from the "unregistered" prostitutes who frequent the streets. Large numbers of these women have venereal disease and they are not subjected to any medical examination. Many of them have been placed into a special hospital by the Belgian authorities as they have infected soldiers who have been able to identify them. About 200 of these women have already been segregated. During the German occupation of the town, no attempt was made to deal with these women and very little supervision was exercised over the German soldiers suffering from venereal disease.
All troops so far billeted in this area have suffered severely from the ravages of the disease and at present there are many cases in the C.C.S. set apart for venereal cases.
In view of the above factors it is extremely desirable that energetic steps should be taken to prevent the spread of the disease amongst the troops of the Division.

P. T. O.

2.

The following suggestions are made :-

1. A vigorous propropaganda should be conducted amongst the men pointing out the great dangers of contracting V.D. in CHARLEROI, especially from unregistered women.
2. Special steps should be taken to ensure that all men report to the "Blue Light" places immediately after undergoing risk of infection, delay of a few hours is fatal to the success of the treatment.
3. The greatly increased risk through men combining their sexual pleasures with alcohol.
4. The immediate establishment of "Blue Light" places in the new area and the communication to all ranks of the location of these "Blue Light" places in CHARLEROI.
5. The great value of 'French Letters' as a preventative of venereal disease.

G. M. Wilson.

Lieut.-Colonel
A / A.D.M.S.

2nd. Australian Division.

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

Headquarters,
14th. December 1918

A. A. M. C. ORDER No. 47.

1. The 2nd. Aust. Div. will move to the CHARLEROT area commencing on 17th. December 1918.
2. The Field Ambulances will move with their respective Brigades. Special arrangements have been made for the 1st. Aust. Sanitary Section.
3. The C.Os. Field Ambulances will arrange to clear sick of their Brigade group during the march. Also they will arrange to carry daily a limited number of men who are unable to march with their units. The three horse ambulances under a Medical Officer will travel at the rear of each Brigade column and pick up "authorised" stragglers. Any men unable to march or cases requiring evacuation to the C.C.S. will be transferred to 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance daily before 10 a.m. The C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will arrange disposal of these men daily - cases unable to march and slightly sick will be carried through to CHARLEROT where a Temp. Hospital will be opened. Daily location of 7th. Aust. Field Amb. will be notified later.
4. C.O. 5th. Aust. Field Amb. will arrange for evacuation of sick of 2nd. Aust. Div. Artillery group. One large car will be detached with the R.M.O. of 5th. Artillery Brigade.
5. Ambulance Commanders will arrange for accommodation of 50 patients on arrival in new area.
6. Dental Units will open immediately on arrival at new area.
7. Attention is directed toward notes on march discipline issued to Ambulances this month.
8. A.D.M.S. office will close at CARTIGNIES at 1000 on 19th. December and will open at MARCINELLE at same date and hour.
9. Field Ambulances acknowledge.

A. M. Wilson Lieut.-Colonel,
a/ A.D.M.S.
2nd. Australian Division.

DISTRIBUTION :- Normal.

A.D.M.S.	a.m.w.
D.A.D.M.S.	W

SECOND AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

MONTHLY SANITARY REPORT FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918.

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PHYSIQUE. Good.

BILLETS Before leave CARTIGNIES Area it was recommended that the PETIT FAYT area be put out of bounds as a billeting area for further troops.

In CHARLEROI Area billets are now ample and comfortable.

On arrival of 20th Battalion at DAUSSOIR the R.M.O. condemned the Village on account of inadequacy of billets, general filthiness of the town, and presence of "Foot and Mouth Disease" The Battalion moved to PRY two days later.

CLOTHING Supply and quality satisfactory.

FOOD AND WATER Rations have improved markedly.

Water Sources numerous and quality good: chlorination is mostly by standardised solution at cookhouses owing to very scattered billeting.

LATRINES were constructed at RANCE before arrival of Division. Great difficulty is being experienced in procuring sheet iron, hessian and buckets. Laters are necessary in many areas as water is struck at 2 feet.

BATHS have been established in each Infantry Brigade Area and in Artillery Area.

DISINFECTIO Foden is still under supervision of Major HUTCHINSON DSO. Generally speaking the Artillery responded very incompletely to the Syllabus drawn up for them. Foden wasted considerable time in their Area.

HEALTH OF TROOPS, Excellent. There was some Influenza at beginning of month but now it has died out.

Two cases of Mumps have occurred in last week.
(1 in 6th A.F.A.Bde. 1 in 28th Battalion.)

SICK FOR THE MONTH.

Admissions
560

Evacuations
469

Scabies admitted.
14

P.U.O. Admtd.
167

P.U.O. Evac.
123

Diarrhoea. No remarks.

V.D. England still supplies 50% of the cases. Two Blue Light Depots for prophylaxis were installed in CHARLEROI three days before Division arrived and are working well.

There is difficulty in procuring Calomel ointment, though Calomel cream is available.

Where contracted. U.K. 25, Paris.3, Amiens.6, Rouen.1, Bertacourt.2, St Ouen.3, St Saviour.2, Ailly sur Somme.1, St Souplet.1, Pernois.1, Bouloigne.1, Flexicourt.3, St Saviour.1, Vignacourt.1, Prisches.1, Charleroi.1, Relapse 13, No information 3.

V.D.admitted. 69. Gonorrhoea. 36. Syphilis 11, Chancre 6, Sore on Penis 6, Epididymitis (VD) 6, Venereal Warts 1, Orchitis (VD) 1, Gleet 1, Inflammation of R.Vasdeferus (? VD) 1.

Headquarters.
1/1/19.

A. D. H. S.
Colonel.
A.D.H.S.
2nd Aust Division.

Monthly War Duty Report Dec 1918
2nd Australian Pioneer Bn.

To A.D.M.S. 2nd Australian Div.

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During the month of December the unit occupied various billets some more comfortable and clean than others.

The billets occupied since 20th Dec have been in the majority of instances very comfortable, billets being in close proximity to Chauvin.

General health of unit for the month was good, although evacuations to Hospital were higher than normal due to evacuation of men not fit to do the working. Evacuations were as follows:

Other Cause	16
Venereal Disease	2
Dysentery	1
P.V.D.	11
Accidental injuries	4
Total	34



During the month the men were bathed and issued with clean clothes, blankets were also fumigated.

2.1.19 R.H. Hudson Major.

2nd Aust. Machine Gun Bn.

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War Diary - December.

The first half of the month was spent in the Pisches Area: here no material was available for the construction of latines.

Typhoid fever was prevalent among civilians and over one inoculation were brought up to date.

Upon 17:12:18th left the Pisches area and after four days marching arrived at Ives Gomezée in the Charlovi area.

The marches were short and most of the men who were unable to march all the way either had unsuitable boots or boots which were worn out there being a shortage of boots and of grindery.

In the village of Ives Gomezée most of the men have very good bullets and the general health of the unit is good.

So far material for the construction of suitable latines is not available.

Delay in getting baths & clean clothes for the men was marked J. F. Patheby.

3:1:19.

Russ Monthly War Diary 65
4th A. F. A. Bde December 1918

Dec. 1st Routine. Pte Sibthorpe reported from 5th Austn Field Ambce to replace Pte Emanuel (believed sick in hospital in U.K.) Water Detail 10th Bty. Shortage of Boots in Bde considerably relieved by supplies obtained from D.A.D.S. 2nd Austn Divn.

Dec 2nd Arrangements made for Enr Farmer 104th Bty to take on duties of Chiropodist in that Battery. Enr Farmer had been acting temporarily in that capacity. Weather cold and fine.

Dec. 3rd Pte Emanuel returned from Hospital and leave in U.K. (Water Detail 10th Bty).

Dec 4th Rain almost all day. Pte Emanuel being desirous to return to 5th F. Ambce furnished with memo to CO. Ambce asking him if agreeable to permit Pte Sibthorpe to remain as Water Detail in his place. In spite of Dental Officer having spent some time in the Brigade last month there are a number of men still reporting for Dental treatment and after consultation with D.O. decided to ascertain as far as possible the number of men in the Bde still requiring treatment.

Outbreak of Influenza in 11th Bty, six cases having reported.

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Dec 5th. Improvement in Influenza cases marked

Dec 7th. Memo forwarded to Bde H.Q. pointing out insanitary conditions developing in Battery areas with exception of 10th Bty. Personnel not using latrines etc. Also newspapers scattered about. Request made that these matters

be remedied. Dental cases in Bde requiring treatment numbered 56. B.C. notified
Dec 8-10th. Inoculation of personnel proceeded with. Insanitary conditions of 12th Bty not improved. Further action, notified to Bty O.C. to be taken unless same rectified at once.

Dec 11th. Rain all day, 12th Bty area cleared

Dec 12th. Continuous rain during day. Inoculations proceeded with.

Dec 13th. Several cases of an apparently pyrexial influenza reporting. Symptoms similar in all ways to usual form of Influenza with exception of no rise in temp. being noted.

Dec 14th. Officers of Div Artillery reported to Bde H.Q. in P.M. and the B.C. Div. General Rosenthal spoke about educational training in the new Area. Men to have opportunities for working in works at Charlton. He also spoke about prevalence of V.D. in the area and referred

at some length to matter in
 ADMS Memo NO 14/173 of 14/12/18⁶⁵
 Dec 15 visit made to ADMS office and
 following matters reported to
 (1) application made for a larger
 supply of drugs especially
 those req'd in V.D. work. & the
 given as at present incidents
 are being cut down to such
 an extent that it is difficult
 to carry on treatment at even
 the Daily Sick parades where the
 average number attending is only
 approx 15 per day for the Brigade
 (2) Shortage of supplies of boots
 causing men to be wearing
 worn out boots for days and
 even weeks before repairs could
 be done
 (3) Shortage of rations, while not
 acute same could be increased
 with advantage to the health of the men.
 Dec 17th Ambce car for evacⁿ of sick
 from the arty group reported to RMO.
 5th A.F.A. Bde
 Dec 18th Bde moved off by road at
 9.45 am. arriving at Solre-le-Chateau
 at 2.30 pm. Rained most of the day
 1 case of P.U.O. evac^d by Ambce car
 to No 47 CCS at Mauberge, 2 cases
 carried to Solre-le-Chateau.
 Brigade billeted in German Hospital

22nd

to obtain supplies of drugs
urgently required, only a
small quantity available
20 men with very bad boots
(from 11th Bty) paraded to C.O.
Bde for his inspection. Action
promised by him to try and
remedy this.

Dec. 23 Bill inspection & suggestions
made for removal of debris
etc. Shortage of disinfectants
in the Brigade despite incidents
having been submitted before
arrival in area. Latrine accom.
improvised until incidents
previously submitted are
satisfied.

Dec. 24th Lecture to personnel of
10th Bty on Venereal Disease and
advising use of Blue Light Reports
19 men found in Bty with worn out boots
Inspection of billets.

Dec. 25th Lecture to personnel of 11th
Bty on Venereal Disease etc.

Dec. 26th Lecture on V.D. to 12th Bty personnel

Dec. 27th Inspection & Presentation of
Medals to 2nd Light Div Artillery
by H.H. The Prince of Wales
at Division.

Dec. 28th Lecture on V.D. etc to
10th Bty personnel.

Dec. 29th Latrine seating arrived

but requiring nailing together
for which nails required to be 65
indentured for, causing further
delay in obtaining proper
latrine seating accommodation
Dec 30th. R.A.P. visited by D.A.D.M.S.
2nd Austn Divn in P.M.

Matters concerning health of
troops, sanitation, scarcity of
drugs, discussed.

One room at R.A.P. with copper and
big tub in it made available
for bathing of H.Q. personnel

Dec 31st. Ambulance car from 5th Austn
Field Ambce under orders from
A.D.M.S. 2nd Austn Divn reported
to R.M.O. 4th A.F. A. Bde for clearing
of Sick from Divl Artillery Group
The previous car attached to
R.M.O. 5th A.F. A. Bde for this purpose
having been sent to workshops

H. D. Fisher Capt.

R.M.O. 4th A.F. A. Bde

1/1/19

To ADMS, 2nd Austn Divn. 65
From RMO, 4th A.F.A. Bde.

Herewith attached RMO's
monthly report and
war diary for December 1918

H. D. Herlapt.

1/1/19.

RMO, 4th A.F.A. Bde

RMO's monthly report. 65

4th A.F.A. Bde

December 1918

Health of troops. This can only be
considered as having been fair
Influenza of a mild nature
has been in evidence particularly
so in the 11th Bty in spite of
all precautions having been
taken to prevent spread.

In no case has the disease been
serious, at the most 3 days
no duty, and a day or so light duty.
In many cases it seemed of pyrexial
in character.

Sore feet have been rather a
worry but there were mainly
caused by the bad state of
boots in the Brigade, as referred
to later. Under the present conditions
it should not be necessary
for chiropodists to play as large
a part as they have had to do
during the month.

Coughs and colds have increased
largely towards the end of
the month along with the
wet weather. The scarcity of
drugs has made it impossible

to treat many of these cases. 65
aid posts while at Cartignies it was
found more convenient to have
the sick parades of the 10th 11th
and 104th Bkies at the 104th Bty and
the sick parade of the 12th Bty
at their own lines. The Brigade
H.Q. post being used as a sort of
Base Depot.

Cases for evacuation were cleared
by the 6th Austn F. Ambce.

Several civilians were treated
while in this area.

On arrival at Thuin an empty
house was allotted by the
area commandant for the
Brigade Aid Post and Blue
light Depot. One room for
chiropodist and baths for a
limited number of men.

One room for medical inspections
and a third room for early
treatment. Rooms upstairs
which could at any time
be turned into a hospital.
The Blue light Depot is open day
and night, an orderly sleeping
at all times on the premises.
This has been made use of
and no cases of V.D. traceable

Having been contracted in the area have reported.

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The post has been cleared of sick by Ambulance car attached to R.M.O. 5th A.F.A. Bde for clearing of cases from the Div Artillery. Lectures on V.D and the value of early treatment methods were given to the personnel of each battery in turn. Locations given of Blue Light Depots in Charleroi and in Thion itself, arrangements having been made with R.M.O. of 2nd Bde and 5th A.F.A. Bde that these depots to be open to all troops. Locations also published in B.R.O. and notices posted.

Sanitation Cartignies French type latrines were used as no seating accommodation was available. Some difficulty occurred early in the month owing to battery areas not being kept clean. Action was taken and I don't think any area has been left cleaner than the Cartignies area when the 4th Bde moved out.

manure was disposed of by

means of dumps
 Thun area. In spite of incidents
 having been submitted about
 2 weeks previously it was
 not until 29th Inst that latrine
 seats came to hand and then
 it was found that material
 was necessary to make them
 fly proof as they were only
 frame-works which had to
 be nailed together. Nails are
 now ordered for, Russian having
 previously been ordered for.
 This all necessitated further
 delay before proper seats are
 obtained. At present trench
 type are used in some cases
 and in others where schools
 etc are being used as billets
 the existing latrines are
 being used. Manure is being taken over
 by neighbouring farmers.
 Sanitation is being carried
 out by Bde and civil authorities
 who cart away refuse.
 A dump for incineration is
 being formed under supervision
 of Sanitary Section.
 Water This is obtained from
 wells tested by Bde and
 Sanitary Section - chlorinated.

Kitchens are up to standards.
An increase in rations has
been noted towards the
latter end of the month.

Boots There has been considerable
trouble regarding poor state
of boots in the Bde. On examination
of one battery at parade
20 men were found to be in
possession of boots in a hopeless
condition. These men were
paraded to the A.P.O. Bde. Another
battery showed 19 men in a
similar condition.

Boot makers and kits are in
each battery and the conditions
are on the improve but
the greatest difficulty has
been experienced by batteries
in obtaining supplies of leather
and new boots.

I am satisfied that the condition
was not in any way due to
laziness of the Bde. incidents
seen in many cases to have
been ignored and it was
not until a row was made
that these poor were able
to be drawn. The result has
been that the number of

men with sore feet has been greater in the Bde this winter to date than I saw during the whole of last winter when fighting was on with trench warfare. Cases have not been serious in any way but they sufficient to incapacitate many men for the time being. Foot powder for treatment was practically unobtainable.

Scarcity of Drugs. During the month the greatest difficulty has been experienced in securing drugs. Supplies necessary for Blue Light Depots almost became exhausted on more than one occasion. For 5 days no drugs were available for treating ordinary catarrhal conditions in spite of indents having been regularly submitted and personal application made for supplies ~~for~~ ambulances.

Fumigation of blankets. A considerable proportion of the Bde blankets were passed through the Toden Lorry towards the end of the month.

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Baths and Clean Clothes. There has been little opportunity for obtaining these but proper baths have now been made available.

Inoculations This was brought up to 100% for the Bde during the month with the exception of any men on leave who may have required same.

Sick Parades During. Besides the Bde sick those of 20th Aust. 1st Austn Mobile Veterinary Bureau Station and 238 Coy. R.E. have been attended to.

Recreation. Football has been the main pastime. Inter Bty and Bde competitions in Australian Rules, Rugby, and Soccer are in progress.

The Y.M.C.A. has a large building at its disposal in the town and is being made good by the men.

Concerts and dances are frequently held in the Hotel de Ville.

I wish to thank Bde H.Q. Staff for their assistance at all times during the month.

McDisher Capt.
Lieut. 4th A.F.A. Bde

War Diary 65
for the month of December 1918
by
Medical Officer 20th Battalion A.I.F.

At the commencement of the month the 20th Battalion was at Beaurupaire and remained there until the 17th December.

As the area around Beaurupaire and Carteguis was a bad one for Typhoid Fever, the inoculations for the month were done early and the T.A.B. inoculations brought up to 100%.

Acute V.D. cases (Gonorrhoea) continued to progress favourably and several cases were discharged without any symptoms of the disease being present. When possible, these cases were first given the scaling up treatment and the slight discharge that

2. 65
remained usually at the end of the fourth day was treated by Permanganate of Potash irrigations of gradually increasing strength. Practically all acute cases were well at end of a fortnight.

Capt Baldwin of the 5th Field Ambulance who had been relieving M.O. 20th Batty, rejoined the Ambulance on the 10th Dec. as the M.O. returned from leave to South of France.

The weather was rather cold and rainy. The ground became very water-logged and the latrine had to be dug shallow.

The men's bibles were fairly comfortable, plenty of straw being available for them. Football matches, hockey and educational classes kept them busy. The quantity of the food ration increased as a result of complaints made by D.M.

On the morning of the 17th December, the Battalion left Beaurepaire with the Brigade Group and marched to Avesnelles, near Avesnes. This was the first day of a four day's march to the Charleroi area and the march was about 15 Kilometres. On arriving at Avesnelles a foot inspection was held by all Platoon commanders and men requiring treatment for blisters, ingrowing toenails etc, etc, were paraded to the R. A. P. There were not many sore feet, numbers of men had their feet bathed and powdered with Tale and Camphor powder.

During the strenuous fight in guard room in the evening between two prisoners, one of them required seven stitches in various parts of his face. Next morning, the 18th, the Battalion moved off about 9 a.m. to march to SIVRY. Several men who would

not have been able to finish the remaining three days' marching were evacuated through the 7th Field Ambulance to C.C.S. at Charleroi. The long march to Sivry of about 22 Kilometres was done with only one man falling out for the Horse Ambulance which was in the rear. Lunch was eaten at a midday halt, after which we pushed on and crossed the Belgian border a couple of Kilos from Sivry. The usual foot inspections were held and the night spent at Sivry. Several men were given slips for the Horse Ambulance the next day when we marched about 10 Kilometres to Solre St Léry.

On the 20th, the final day of the march was done and about 15 Kilometres covered. About six or seven men had to be conveyed on

the Horse Ambulance. Daussois was reached about 1 p.m. and turned out to be a very dirty village and the men's billets were very uncomfortable. Some cases of Foot and Mouth disease were discovered.

A report was made to Brigade about the condition and surroundings of the billets and as a result the Battalion was moved on the 23rd to the villages of Puy and Chastres, the B Company being in the latter only.

A suitable R.A.P. was obtained in Puy, a Blue Light room was opened in A Company, which was fairly central, and a couple of rooms were set aside near the R.A.P. for a Battalion Hospital. As there have been no men sick enough for admission to this Battalion Hospital, it has not yet

been opened.

One A.M.C. man was placed with B Company to attend to their water carts and look after dressings. A small blue light room was opened there also for the Company.

Lathes for the Battalion area were requisitioned for and obtained.

The usual construction work around kitchens was carried out. Towards the end of the month the weather became warmer and a good deal of rain fell. There was very little sickness amongst the men.

Two cases of acute Gonorrhoea developed, one contracted in V.K. and the other at Beaufort.

Two men, specially trained to give Prophylactic treatment and Actual treatment for Gonorrhoea attend to the Blue Light work.

attend to the Blue Light work.

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~~CD Palmer~~

~~B. M. O. 20th Batt
A. I. F.~~

Medical War Diaries 65

18th Batt A.I.F. 28/11/18 - 28/12/18

11/10-29th Batt still at Prisches - Billets
Clean now in a sanitary
Condition - Water being drawn
from a well in village - Water
requires 1 1/2 scoops bleaching
powder per cart - Men's feet
again in good Condition -
Dysentery still prevalent
amongst transport personnel
All having prophylactic doses
of quinine.

Dec 1st Water being now drawn from
a stinking loony in
Cartipries.

Dec 3rd Baths now established in
Prisches. C & W Corp bathed & given
clean change of clothing today.

Dec 4th Case of enteric fever amongst
French Civilians - Evacuated.
This Field Ambulance - location
whipped to Town Major & house
placed out of bounds.

Dec 5th A B. H. Corp bathed & given
clean change of clothing
today - Health of troops good -
Vegetable ration very small
or none procurable locally.

REC
10/10

B & C Corp. bathed today - Clean
change of clothing provided -
Clothing is clean & of good
heavy quality - Health of
the men good small sick
parades & no disease prevailing
Rations good in quality &
quantity but still a great
shortage in vegetables

Nov 11th A & B. Corps bathed today
& given clean clothing.

Nov 17th Bn moved to Avesnelles -
Weather bad - March done
in good time - One man
carried by field ambulance - One
man fell out in front -
Arrived in billets 2 pm. & hot
meal provided at once

Nov 18th Sick parade 6.30 am - few
sore feet - at 9 am. Bn moved
off & marched to Livry - 3101
midday meal taken en
route at 11.50 am - Livry
reached 3.30 pm

Nov 19th Sick parade 6.30 am - no
sick - few blistered feet -
Bn moved off at 9.30 & marched
to Brakencom - Hot meal

DEC

~~Nov 20~~

soon after arrival.
 Marched to Walcott. Distance
 13 Kilos - no men fell out
 en route. Billets reached
 mid day, hot meal provided.
 Billets poor - down in most
 unsanitary condition.

~~Nov 21~~21st

Parties put on cleaning
 billets removing accumulated
 filth.

~~Nov 22~~22nd

Fatigue parties still cleaning.
 Latrines being made. Shaws
 purchased for Billets. Potatoes,
 cabbage, beans & carrots
 bought locally, then being
 fed well.

~~Nov 20~~20th

BW inspected by Prince of
 Wales. Medals presented -
 health of troops good - no
 prevailing disease.

~~Nov 23~~23rd

Sunday. Rum ration
 morning & afternoon. Beer
 for men - Good dinner with
 plenty of vegetables.

~~Nov 27~~27th

Application made for
 Todens lorry to disinfect
 blankets - men in need of

bath - Good baths left by Germans
in town - not yet in working
order.

DEC.

Nov 28

Area occupied by Bn now in
a sanitary condition - All Corp.
provided with fly proof
latrines & urine pits - Human
excreta all removed from
Bn area & all refuse burned.

W. G. Supplemental

Rm 18th Bn

Walcourt

28.12.18.

From DEC 1st to 17th the Battalion remained at Basse Boulogne. The Companies were billeted far apart but all had clean warm accommodation. The health of the troops remained good. Some billeted had wells & pumps handy to their cookhouses. In these cases the cooks were daily issued with Bleaching solution. The remaining cookhouses were supplied by water cart from a good stream which was frequently tested.

Latrine accommodation was unsatisfactory. No boxes were available so the pit and rail was used. Much trouble was occasioned by the casual sanitary methods of the civilians. On the 17th Dec. the Battalion marched out and arrived at Valinnes-Haies on 20th. billeting en route at Solre le Chateau, Denlie & Walumont the latter two being in Belgium. Weather conditions - cold, rain & wind - combined with unsatisfactory food made this march very exhausting to the men tho' only 40 Kilo were covered in four days.

Valinnes-Haies is a scattered village but the sanitary condition of the village is better than most. Troops are billeted in good rooms which are weather proof many of them having good stoves also. Attitude of the Belgians towards the soldiers is most hospitable and a large number of soldiers have availed themselves of this fact and are living in private houses. Health of the troops is excellent. Influenza cases are

on the decline and the number of cases of Boils and similar complaints is also much less than formerly.

The number of civilians suffering from Scabies is large and it is expected that many Soldiers will contract this disease tho' the facilities available for Bathing & Changing clothes will operate favourably.

Lathrine arrangements are seriously hampered by shortage of Iron Sheet piling & Raige and also by the sodden nature of the ground.

J. I. Daniel bap.