

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/50/15

**Title:** 7th Australian Field Ambulance

May 1917



AWM4-26/50/15

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

1<sup>st</sup> Australian Field Staff.

VOLUME 16

1284

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.

Page 1

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vauks L.T.C.	1/5/17		Clear 2 <sup>nd</sup> Airborne front.	
"	2/5/17		" " " Capt Jones + 91 OR. of 14 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff attached. Issued special order in view of operations on 3 <sup>rd</sup> May.	
"	3/5/17		At 3 am. Capt Brown in charge of substitute magsons moved magsos post from C.14 central to C.9.d.5-8. on Longatto Morail Rd. Capt Sharney placed in charge of Advanced Collecty post C.10.c.77. Capt Larnan 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff, attached was in charge of Post C.9.d.7-7. Capt Lases 6 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff, attached in charge of subsidiary A.P.S. C.26.b.4.5. Beares were posted at R.A.P.s along railway in C.5. a.b. & d; 6 squads for each of <del>with</del> the 8 assault battalions. No hit occurred in the evacuation of wounded from R.A.P.s to main dressing stations. 3 officers + 86 beares of 2 <sup>nd</sup> of <del>the</del> reported at 7 am from C. sect where they had arrived the night before. 3 officers + 96 beares reported later in day. Both these were put into line.	
"	4/5/17		In the early morning Major Linnick was transferred from the command of the reserve section as no advance appeared likely & was placed in charge of the Advanced Collecty Post. Casualties of beares up to noon 4/5/17. Two killed, one died of wounds, 59 wounded. Capt Brown wounded. One officer + 55 OR. reported 11 am.	
"	5/5/17		Action still continuing. One officer + 93 OR. reported at 11 pm from 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff, also 1 officer and 83 beares from 15 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff. Casualties till noon. one killed, 19 wounded.	
"	6/5/17		Suicided beares of 4 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff. to Advanced Collecty post where Major Linnick posted them. 5 <sup>th</sup> Beares + 14 <sup>th</sup> Field Staff. Casualties till noon. Six killed, 1 D of W. 30 wounded.	

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Artillery

1284

Page 11

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaulx	1/5/17		Action continues. Beavers of 15 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery sent up to line. Beavers of 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Field Artillery had all been relieved of this morning for at least 90 hours back to HQ of 7 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. Casualties to noon 4 killed & 13 wounded.	
Vaulx	2/5/17		Action continues. Reported that 8 <sup>th</sup> Field Artillery would take over. Conducted Major Bondy round area & arranged for take over. Casualties to noon one killed & 7 wounded.	
Beccardel	22/5/17		Reported back from 4 <sup>th</sup> C.C.S. & took over command at Rest Station	
"	23/5/17		Rest Station (2 <sup>nd</sup> Div) Beccardel	
"	24/5/17		" " " "	<del>Capt Stoney taken on strength dated 2/5/17</del>
"	25/5/17		" " " "	<del>" Harper " " " "</del>
"	26/5/17		" " " "	
"	27/5/17		" " " "	
"	28/5/17		" " " "	
"	29/5/17		" " " "	
"	30/5/17		" " " "	
"	31/5/17		" " " "	

Capt Harper temporarily detached to 26<sup>th</sup> Bn

J. J. ...

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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance 1284  
page 111

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Vaucluse.	8/5/17	5 pm	Lieut. Col. J. J. Black accidentally injured by a bolting horse & handed over command of A. D. S. to Major F. H. Martin. 5 <sup>th</sup> Beavers relieved by 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
	9.5.17		Lieut. Col. J. J. Black evacuated to C. G. S. Enemy shelled vicinity of A. D. S. about 12.30 p.m.; one shell (shrapnel) into one of the dressing tents. No casualties.	
		7.50hr	Beaver division of 7 <sup>th</sup> relieved by 8 <sup>th</sup> at A. D. S.	
		10 hr	Beaver division of 7 <sup>th</sup> relieved by 15 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.	
		10.50hr	Major Conrich relieved by Major Bond of 8 <sup>th</sup> F. Amb. casualties to noon. 3 killed & wounded.	
	10.5.17	7.30am	15 & 14 Beavers sent into forward area	
		10am	Handed over to Col. Shepherd, 8 <sup>th</sup> F. Ambulance. Major J. Kenney, Capt. A. J. Mollison & C section sent subdivisions detached for duty with 8 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.	
		1.15hr	Arrived Beaver Camp near Contalmaison. X. 17. b.	
	11-5-17		At Beaver Camp.	
	12-5-17		"	
	13-5-17	11.55hr	Took over rest station, Becondel from 4 <sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance at	
	14-5-17		Capt. J. J. Power struck off strength, transferred as R. M. O. 25 <sup>th</sup> Inf. B. M. dated 1.1.17	
	15-5-17		at Becondel rest station.	
	16-5-17		Capt. J. A. Shanahan taken on strength. dated 7.4.17	
			Capt. J. C. M. Harper taken on strength superannuated to establishment. dated 15.3.17	
			on reporting back from Officers Rest Station. Warloy.	
	20-5-17		Capt. J. J. Kenney to be major dated 27.4.17 A. D. F. list no 177. Lieut. R. Fraser, 24 <sup>th</sup> Aero. Dental section to be Capt. dated 17.4.17 A. D. F. list no 175.	
			Major Kenney & Capt. A. J. Mollison & C. Sect. sent subdivision reported back from duty with 8 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance.	
	22-5-17		Lieut. Col. J. J. Black reported from Officers Rest Camp Warloy & resumed command.	
			Capt. J. H. O. Brown reported from Officers Rest Camp Warloy	

A5834 Wt. W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D. D. & L. Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13.

F. H. Martin  
Major

33

REPORT OF OFFICER IN CHARGE OF ADVANCED DRESSING STATION .

On 27-4-17 I formed an Advanced Dressing Station in the Sunken Road at ~~Kross~~ C.20. d.2.8. with a Tent Subdivision of "B" Section, 7th. Aust. Fld. Ambce. The A.D.S. consisted of an elephant iron hut and on the following days had a large shelter built capable of holding 12 stretchers.

Horse Ambulance Wagons brought cases to this point where I had the Motor Ambulances of the 2nd. Australian Division under my charge and patients were transferred to these latter vehicles here, after being dressed if necessary.

All patients were seen by a Medical Officer and necessary dressings were done. I also had a buffet installed and all patients that were in a suitable state were fed.

I cannot speak too highly of the work done by both Medical Officers and personnel of the Tent Subdivision under me and also by the Drivers, both Horse and Motor Transport and the men engaged in transferring patients from horse to motor Ambulances.

I was relieved by Major Nott of 2nd. Field Ambce on 7-5-17 and returned to Headquarters .

On the evening of 8-5-17 Lt. Col. J.J. Black was injured by a horse and I thereupon took charge of the 7th. Field Ambce. and continued in charge of Advanced Area until relieved by 8th. Field Ambulance at 10 a.m. on 10-5-17.

During this time no alterations were made in the mode of evacuation. Major Bond of 8th. Fld. Ambce. relieved Major Conrick on the evening of 9-5-17.

On the morning of 9-5-17 the enemy shelled the vicinity of the Main Dressing Station putting one shell into one of the Dressing Tents.

(Signed) *F. H. Watson*  
Major.

*Major Watson  
Capt Shaw  
Kept copy*

1284

" C.20.d.2.8. direct.

From 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. 186 wounded Australians and 13 wounded P.O.W. passed through.

From 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. 14 wounded Australians and 31 wounded P.O.W. passed through.

Since then evacuations have been very few. Thirty all told Australians & Germans have passed through.

There was no congestion at any point. Capts. Voss Fraser and Kenny were over the whole area at various times during the operation and visited the R.A.P's.

(Sgd.) J.J. Black Lt. Col.  
C.O. 7th. Aust. Field Ambce.

Date 16th. April 1917  
Time 10 a.m.

16-4-17. The extra bearers who were sent up on 15-4-17 were withdrawn and a four days' tour of duty for bearers arranged- 4 days on and 8 days off.

26-4-17. Capt. Voss, 5th. Fld. Amb., in charge of bearers in the line was wounded while visiting R.A.P's. The loss of Capt. Voss' services at this stage was very unfortunate as his fearlessness and capacity for hard work would have been of the greatest use in later operations.

28-4-17. The A.D.S. was moved to C. 20 d 2.8. but H.Q. 7th. Field Amb. remained at I.l.c 3.3. with the Transport, resting Bearers and Q.M. Stores. The A.D.S. consisted of some small dug-outs and an iron hut (shrapnel proof). Major Makin was placed in charge with his Tent Subdivision.

A subsidiary A.D.S. was formed on the LAGNICOURT Rd. at ~~next to~~ C. 26 b. 9.5. to clear 2nd. Brigade whose R.A.P's. were around LAGNICOURT. A Wagon Post was also placed near C. 22 Central but had to be moved several times on account of shelling.

30-4-17. Capt. Kenny became sick and Transport was taken over by Capt. Brown.

2-5-17. Special Order and Appendix issued by 7th. A. Fld. Amb. is attached.  
Capt. Jose and a Division of Bearers of 14th. Aust. Fld. Amb. reported.

Major Nott, two Officers and a Division of Bearers from 2nd. Australian Field Amb. reported at H.16 d. and were moved to VAILX at 7 a.m. the following morning.

At 9 p.m. the redistribution of personnel according to the attached Special Order was complete

3-5-17. When fighting commenced on the morning of 3-5-17 the disposition was as follows:

H.Q. 7th. Fld. Amb. I.l.c. RR. 3.3.	C.O.
	Q.M. Capt. Blacklock
	O.i/c. Transport, Capt. Brown
	Part of "A" Sect. Tent Subdiv.
A.D.S.	C. 20. d. 2.8. Major Makin,
	Capt. Jose, 14th. F. Amb
	Capt. Rowan, 6th. do.
	Capt. Bateman, 5th. do.
	"B" Section Tent Subdivision

Right Flank A.D.S.	C. 26. b. 9.5. Capt. Fraser, 6th. F. A.
	Part of "A" Sect. 7th. F.A. Subdiv.
	C. 10. c. 7.7. Capt. Shanasy,
	Capt. Stevens, 6th. F.A.

Advanced Collecting Post, on NOEUIL-BULLEMCOURT Rd.

(3)

Wagon Loading Post on  
NOREUIL-LONGETTE RD.

Capt. Farrar 5th. Aust. Fld. Amb.

"C" Section Tent Sub-Div. were in reserve under Major Conrick at H.16.d.

All Bearers of 5th., 6th., 7th. and 14th. Fld. Amb. were in the R.A.P.'s. or on the Bearer line.

All Ambulance Wagons of the Division and all available G.S. Wagons and those attached were running to the NOREUIL-LONGETTE Rd. with the exception of 2 Amb. Wagons to the 2nd. brigade LAGNICOURT.

All the Motor Amb. Cars of the Division and those attached from 1st., 2nd. and 3rd. Fld. Amb. were clearing from the A.D.S. to the M.D.S.I.I.c.

The evacuation was carried out without any hitch until between 3 and 4 p.m. when the Wagon Loading Post had to be moved back about 200 yards from the NOREUIL-LONGETTE Rd. owing to the heavy shelling of the road and the proportion of overs. The Post had been shelled since 11 a.m. but could not be moved back until the rush had subsided.

The morale of the stretcher-bearers was remarkable. Though casualties were heavy and the shelling was intense there was no hesitation.

Heavy shelling tends to immobilise bearers usually but on this occasion the tendency was absent; also there were no instances of shell-shock.

In the afternoon Capts. Field, Bell and Hay and the Bearers of 3rd. Fld. Amb. reported.

By evening all the Bearers of 2nd. and 3rd. Fld. Amb. were in the line also and local relief of tired Bearers was arranged by Capt. Shanasy- the Bearers resting in the Sunken Rd. at C.9.d. and C.10.c.

At 8 p.m. Capt. Farrar who had been working in the open under very heavy fire was relieved by Capt. Cockburn of 2nd. Fld. Amb. Capt. Farrar's work was done under very dangerous conditions with great coolness.

4-5-17. As the Advance was evidently not going to be of great extent there was no necessity for Major Conrick's Section to be in reserve so he was sent up to take charge of the Advanced Collecting Post at C.10.c.

Capt. Dunn who had just returned from Hospital was placed in charge of "C" Section.

The arranging for reliefs for Bearers was very difficult at this time as the stream of wounded did not decrease and all our Bearers were knocking up.

Our casualties to noon were 3 dead & 59 wounded.

In the afternoon Capt. Brown was wounded slightly while assisting at the Wagon Loading Post.

Capt. Brown had done invaluable work in controlling the Horse Transport and had shown great enterprise and coolness under fire.

Capt. Shanasy was then placed in charge of the Horse Transport

This Officer's conduct was exemplary both when in charge of the Advanced Collecting Post and when in charge of the Horse Transport.

Capt. Hunt and two Sub-Divisions of Bearers of 1st. Fld. Amb. reported about mid-day and were sent up in the evening and relieved 2nd. Div Bearers.

Capt. Field relieved Capt. Cockburn at the Wagon Loading Post.

5-5-17. The condition of the Bearers became worse during the morning & at mid-day there had been further casualties of 1 killed and 19 wounded.

In the afternoon I reported that a complete relief of Bearers was necessary. In response to this Capt. Powell and the Bearers of the 4th. Fld. Amb. and Capt. Minty, Capt. Young and the Bearers of 15th. Fld. Amb. reported at 11 p.m.

On the afternoon of 5-5-17 one Tent Sub-Div. and the Bearers

1284

of the 2/2nd. Home Counties Fld. Amb. reported and were placed in charge of the evacuation of their Brigade in front of LEIGH COURT, thus freeing Capt. Fraser and 40 comparatively fresh bearers who at once proceeded to report to Major Conrick at the Advanced Collecting Post, C. 10 c.  
Capt. Bell relieved Capt. Field at Wagon Loading Post.

6-5-17. Soon after midnight I took Capt. Powell and the bearers of the 4th. Fld. Amb. to the Advanced Collecting Post where Major Conrick took charge of them and relieved about double their number of tired bearers.

During the day Capt. Minty and the bearers of the 15th. Fld. Amb. relieved the rest of the tired bearers.

Further casualties to mid-day were 7 killed and 30 wounded. This ~~increase~~ increase was due to an H.E. shell getting amongst the 2nd. Field Ambulance bearers at an R.A.P. on the afternoon of 6-5-17.

Relief was now arranged on the scale of one day in and two out. Major Makin was relieved by Major Nott at the A.D.S. at 7 p.m.

7-5-17. Casualties up to noon - 7 killed and 13 wounded.

8-5-17. Col. Shepherd and Major Bond of 8th. Fld. Amb. arrived to arrange take over. In the afternoon I showed Major Bond round the area and when returning from the right A.D.S. was knocked down by a horse and handed over command to Major Makin. Casualties to mid-day were 1 killed and 7 wounded.

Total casualties from 13-4-17 to 10-5-17,		
7th. Aust. Fld. Amb.	5 killed.	31 wounded,
Attached personnel	18 do.	105 do.

Major Conrick from 4-5-17 onwards did extraordinarily good work. Though living in a dug-out, only shrapnel proof, and obtaining little sleep he was always an inspiration to men and Officers. His work in organising the reliefs of bearers made the continuation of the evacuation a success. On numerous occasions he personally conducted fresh men to their posts when others became casualties under intense fire.

If it were possible to pick out from my own and the attached Officers, who all did excellent work, any, I would like to mention Capts. Brown, Shanasy, Farrar (5th. Fld. Amb.), Hunt (1st. Fld. Amb.), and May (3rd. Fld. Amb.), and Capt Fraser (6th. Fld. Amb.)

Sergts. Schwab, Bice, Kidman, (wounded), Troope, Ellis (6th. Fld. Amb.), Ling (5th. Fld. Amb.), Corpals. Martine, McAuliffe, (wounded), and L.Cpl. Bagshaw were noticeably brave and cool.

An extremely high standard of valour was set by the bearers a number of whose names have been submitted for honours for acts of bravery. Perhaps the conduct of No. 3662, Pte. K.F. Dowling, 7th. Fld. Amb., stands out.

The rationing of the Unit and attached personnel was very difficult. Capt. Blacklock showed great ability and tirelessness in carrying out the rationing, sometimes in a position of considerable danger.

*Sept J. Dawson*  
L'COL.

O/C 7th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE



1284

Report of Officer in charge of Forward Collecting Post at C.10.c.7.7.  
From 3-5-17 to 9-5-17

At 12 mid-night on 3rd. May 1917 I took charge of the above station from capt J.A. Shanasy, 7th. Field Ambulance,

Our Offensive had begun early that morning and the bearers had had heavy work.

The different R.A.P's were, for convenience, grouped together for the posting of squads, with a Sergeant in charge at each group.

At the beginning of my tour of duty they were as follows:

<u>1st. R.A.P. group. C.4.b.6.7. (Railway Embankment)</u>	
21st., 22nd., 23rd., 24th., 28th. Bns.-	<u>16 squads</u>
<u>2nd. R.A.P. group. C.5.b.4.7.</u>	
17th., 18th. Bns.	<u>10 squads</u>
<u>3rd. R.A.P. group. C.5.d.6.6. (Railway Embankment)</u>	
19th., 20th. Bns.	<u>12 squads</u>
<u>1st. Relay Post. (Serving 1st. R.A.P. group)</u>	
C.4.d.4.1.	<u>4 squads</u>
<u>Forward Collecting Post. C.10.c.7.7.</u>	<u>6 squads</u>
to carry patients to <u>Wagon Post</u> at C.9.d.Ctl.	
<u>Wagon Post. C.9.d. Central (to load wagons)</u>	<u>2 squads</u>

These were the dispositions as I took over, but the number of squads is probably not quite accurate, as casualties and weariness had depleted some.

Two days later on 5th. May, 1917, I formed a relay post - called 2nd. relay post - at C.11.a.2.8. where the road past a knocked out Tank crossed a trench, held as reserve there by the 27th. Bn.

This post was occupied for 24 hours only, but being found dangerous (5 casualties were suffered here) I removed it, 24 hours later, to C.11. a.6.3. in a more forward reserve trench held by the 26th. Bn. at that time and well off the road past the Tank, and further down the slope of the hill towards the QUEANT-NORMUIL valley.

This relay post, known afterwards as the 2nd. relay post was to serve the 2nd. and 3rd. R.A.P. groups and was the safest position I could get for it: also, though it entailed a carry from the 2nd. & 3rd. R.A.P. groups across fields, it kept clear of the road above mentioned which passed from F.C.P. to the embankment at C.5. Central which road was at all times under heavy enemy barrage fire.

It was found that most of our patients were coming from the 1st. & 2nd. R.A.P's. and so I reduced the number of squads at the 3rd. R.A.P. to six, on about 5-5-17. I later reduced the number to two squads, after forming the 2nd. relay post.

On 5-5-17 the disposition of squads was :

1st. R.A.P.	14 squads
2nd. R.A.P.	9 "
3rd. R.A.P.	6 "
1st Relay	4 "
F.C.P.	6 " plus 2 squads in reserve
Wagon post	2 "

These men were now very tired and it was necessary to give them frequent rests. After consultation with Lt. Col. J.J. Black, Major K. Fry, the D.A.D.M.S. 2nd. Div. we decided to give a complete relief right through and for this purpose 80 men of 4th. Fld. Amb. under Capt. Powell and 80 men of 15th. Fld. Amb. under Capt. Minty were posted. The relieved men were then sent back to the M.D.S. for 24 hours complete rest. All the bearers got this rest, at least, and some had more than 24 hours. The O.C. 7th. Fld. Amb. then sent them forward to the F.C.P. as required.

As there was no great cover at the R.A.P's for bearers, I further gradually reduced the number of squads at each, keeping always 4 squads, at least, in reserve at the F.C.P. for

emergency. I also always had around the Wagon Post Dug-out about 15 to 18 Squads in further reserve, ready to supply any further relief next morning; they rested there during the night.

On 7th., 8th., and 9th. May the dispositions were:

1st. R.A.P	4 squads,
2nd. R.A.P	8-10 squads,
3rd. R.A.P	2-4 squads,
1st. Relay	6 squads,
2nd. Relay	4 squads,
F.C.P.	6 squads plus 4 squads in reserve,
Wagon Post	2 squads

It will thus be seen that the number of squads at the R.A.P's. was gradually reduced from 3rd. May to 9th. May and the above were the dispositions when I handed over to Major Bond of the 8th. Fld. Ambce. on 9th. May, 1917.

On the 8th. May Capt. H.M. Willis of the 5th. Battalion informed me that he had formed a R.A.P. at O.G. 1, about ~~U.29.~~ U.29. a.7:7. I therefore detailed two squads to report to him there to carry from that point to the 1st. R.A.P. and then be relayed. Dressings, splints etc. were supplied to the R.M.O's from the F.C.P. as the distance back to the A.D.S. was too far. A buffet was also conducted at the F.C.P. and proved of great service. Some of the adjacent Battalion cooks were of great help in making tea until our own cook was installed.

Captain J.W. Blacklock of the 7th. Field Ambce. who had charge of the supply of rations did his duty conscientiously and well.

I wish to thank Major Brownell of the 27th. Bn. and afterwards Captain J.J. Power of the 25th. Bn. whose R.A.P. ~~was~~ used as a Forward Collecting Post. Their courtesy and help in many ways were most appreciated.

Capt. Hunt of the 1st. Fld. Ambce. and Capt. May of 3rd. Fld. Ambce. were especially helpful in posting squads to the R.A.P.'s. under heavy fire, in doing dressings and in helping in all ways at the F.C.P.

In only less degree were the services in a similar capacity appreciated of Capt. Powell, 4th. Fld. Ambce., Capt. Minty, 5th. Fld. Ambce., and Capt. Alex. Fraser 6th. Fld. Ambce.

The morale of the N.C.O's and bearers of all the Ambulances - 9 in number - which came under my direction, was excellent. One has only to compare their splendid work and results, with the very dangerous and fatiguing conditions, at that time.

The lines of evacuation from R.A.P's. back to the Wagon Post were practically under direct observation at all times, and usually heavily shelled, day and night. Besides the N.C.O's and men of Ambulances other than the 7th. Fld. Ambce., for whom special recommendations have been sent the following names

I specially recommend to your notice:

	Sgt. Addison,	1st. (?) Fld. Ambce.
	Sgt. Stewart,	2nd. Fld. Ambce.
	Sgt. Campbell	5th. Fld. Ambce.
	Sgt. Thomas	6th. Fld. Ambce. <del>also</del>
also	Sgt. Schwab,	7th. Fld. Ambce.
	Sgt. Bice	do.
	Sgt. Kidman	do.
	Cpl. McAuliffe	do.
	L.Cpl. Morris	do.
	L.Cpl. Coutts	do.
	Ptes. Dowding	do.
	Watson T.	do.
	Bullions	do.
	Hamilton R.G.	do.

1284

(3)

Ptes. Maguire	7th. Field Ambce.
" Rowley	do.
Helmore	do.
Taylor P.	do.
Elliot	do.
Pettersson	do.

The following is a type of bravery and devotion to duty:  
 A H.E. shell burst amongst a relief squad proceeding to an R.A.P. Two men -Angel and Jarmain- were knocked over; one was killed outright, the other died soon after. Pte. DOWDING after being knocked over, rushed at once to the relief of the abovenamed men. Another shell burst near him, temporarily blinding him, but on the second attempt he reached his comrades though several other shells fell near him, scattering pieces about. He was joined later and assisted by another man, Pte. WATSON. There escape from death was miraculous. On returning to the F.C.P. it was found that Pte. WATSON was suffering from shell concussion and was evacuated. Pte. DOWDING after 10 minutes rest, resumed duty and went forward to the R.A.P. again passing through heavy enemy barrage fire.

At 10 p.m. on the night of May 9th, 17. I handed over the direction of the forward Collecting Post to Major L. Bond of the 8th. Field Ambulance.

(Signed) *H. J. Currie*  
 Major

*Major Currie*

1284  
Report on Operations from 2-6-17 Onwards.  
7th. Australian Field Ambulance.

Evacuation from 2nd. Division Area (Left Flank.)

- 2-5-17. At 9 p.m. one Ambulance Wagon was posted at Wagon Loading Post (C.9.d.s.s.) on the NOUVEAU-LONGPONT Rd.
- 3-5-17 At 3 a.m. I moved from H.D.S. with 10 Ambulance Wagons and 10 G.S. Wagons (each fitted up to carry 5 stretcher cases).  
 Arriving at Wagon Loading Post at 3-30 a.m. I posted the Wagons about 200 yards short of the Sunken Rd. In about half an hour the rush of stretcher cases commenced and the Wagons were then moved right to the Sunken Rd. (C.9.d.s.s.). From that time onwards until about 4 p.m. the Wagons loading at this point were able to take away stretcher cases as fast as they arrived, tho' they were fully extended to do so.  
 The Wagons carried to A.D.S. (C.20.d.s.s.) whence they returned to Wagon Loading Post.  
 The Wagon Loading Post was shelled intermittently throughout the day, severly between 10 and 12 p.m. No casualties were sustained by our personnel at this point, with the exception of one horse wounded.  
 At 4 p.m., the rush having subsided somewhat, I withdrew the 10 G.S. Wagons, keeping them at A.D.S. (C.20.d.s.s.) in case of emergency. I also moved the Wagon Loading Post about 200 yards back from the NOUVEAU-LONGPONT Rd., the risk of having them in the original position being not now justified.  
 At 8 p.m. a complete relief of horses and wagons took place.
- 4-5-17 A steady stream of stretcher cases still continuing I kept 10 Ambulance Wagons still in action, a complete relief of horses and drivers taking place at 8 a.m. Ambulance Wagons were now kept back behind the crest of the hill, one wagon only advancing to Wagon Loading Post as required.  
 At 4 p.m. the Loading Post was heavily shelled but no casualties were sustained. At about 6 p.m. the Loading Post was again heavily shelled. Fortunately there was no wagon there at the time. ~~W.K.~~  
 Sgt. Ling (5th. Fld. Amb.) here did excellent work as he had done on the previous day, setting a splendid example of coolness to his bearers.  
 I then moved the Loading Post about 400 yards farther back to a point about 100 yards away from the track, which the enemy had evidently ~~W.K.~~ fanged well on to.  
 Having been slightly wounded at Loading Post I returned to H.D.S. and was evacuated.  
 All the drivers and wagon orderlies worked splendidly, showing no hesitation in taking their wagons forward into the danger zone  
 Sgt. Troope, 7th. Fld. Amb., did splendid work as senior N.C.O. of a somewhat complicated Transport Section.  
 L/Cpl. Bagshaw, 7th. Fld. Amb., also did excellent work, both being ~~W.K.~~ <sup>exigently</sup> under heavy fire.  
 A Water Cart was taken to Wagon Loading Post being refilled twice daily. This proved of great service to our personnel and to the wounded.

The evacuation from 2nd. Brigade Area (right flank).

- 3-5-17 At 3 a.m. two (2) Ambulance Wagons left H.D.S. and were posted at (C.22.d.s.s.).  
 As there were very few casualties from this Area, these proved amply sufficient.  
 They carried direct to H.D.S. and were relieved twice daily at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. respectively.

J.M. Brown. Captain  
 Transport Officer

1284

Appendix

12

Horse Transport Used by 7th. Australian Field Ambulance 3-5-17 & After.

<u>Ambulance</u>	<u>Personnel</u>	<u>Horses</u>	<u>Ambulance Wagons</u>	<u>G.S. Wagons.</u>
7th.	1Sgt. 16	Dvrs. 26	3	4
6th.	3	" 6	3	5
5th.	1Sgt. 7	" 14	3	5
8th.	5	" 10	2	-
14th.	2 Sgts. 7	" 14	1	-
2nd.	1Sgt. 6	" 12	-	-
4th.	2	" 4	-	-
12th.	2	" 4	-	-
13th.	2	" 4	-	-
<hr/>				
Total	5 Sgts. 50	Dvrs. 94	12	14

*J.M. Mowbray* Captain  
 Transport Officer.