

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/51/31

Title: 8th Australian Field Ambulance

August 1918



AWM4-26/51/31

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ORIGINAL.

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~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th Aust Field Ambulance

FOR

AUGUST 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

A R Clayton Lt Col

Signature of Officer Commanding

A R Clayton Lt Col

WAR DIARY

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Vol IV

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7th Aust Field Amb

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	AUG 1		The Ambulance complete marched out from PETIT CAMON, To Bois de MAY near ALLONVILLE. It was necessary for the men to bivouac, 2 operating and 2 bell tents were erected for the housing of a few patients. The A.D.M.S visited the camp.	
	2		The Unit was paid on this day.	
	3		The classes in connection with the Educational Scheme were resumed in a shed in the fields.	
	4		CAPTAIN WOODWARD } rejoined the unit from the 5th Div Corp Gas Detachment 1257 Lt Sglt LAMBOURNE } CAPT CHRISTIE } proceeded to Aust Corp Gas School L/C BARTON }	
	5		Secret Orders were received for the unit to move, at a moment's notice for an unknown destination, at 6 pm ^{3 officers} 108 bearings in the charge of Capt Brown moved off in battle order, to OZ. 7. 62. (Ambulance) at 7 pm. The tent divisions, moved off for NZ 6. 7. 7. (7th Aust Field Ambulance). The Motor Ambulances (2) were decharged, to the charge of CAPT. FAY (M.C.) at NZ 6. 7. 13. The (3) horse Ambulances were detached to the L.C. of the 7th Field Amb at NZ 6. 7. 13.	
	6		The whole unit rested for the day in a copse. The 1st Dentin Unit in charge of Capt B. Rude, reported to the 5th Aust Div Rein Day for duty.	
	7		The whole unit still resting, with orders to move at a moment's notice.	

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Vol IV Page 44

5th Field Ambulance

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1918			
	Aug 8.		Orders were received at 8.40 am, and the tent divisions proceeded to the White Chateau to establish a W.W.P.S. (see appendix for report on this station), and up to 2.30 pm 8 officers & 112 O.R. had been dressed and evacuated, 48 of whom were Germans. At 2.35 pm this station became an M.P.S.	No 1
	9		No 10182 L/C G.A. HILLS (M.M.) was killed in action, and was buried in the vicinity of HARBONNIERES. No 8202 Pk ER ONLEY was evacuated to B.C.S. with a wound in the abdomen from which he died at the Victoria War C.C.S. on the 11th Aug. No 6628 H/C R. HALL evacuated wounded to B.C.S. No 1257 Sgt BINGER B.T. } were wounded but remained on duty. No 6649 Pk NIXON A.D. } No 4715 Pk CATHRO H. evacuated wounded to B.C.S.	
	10		At M.P.S. as per report attached	
	11		The bearer division (30ff 104 O.R.) reported back to the unit.	
	12		M.P.S. orders received to hand over the station to the B.O. of the 5th Field Ambulance, and to stand by.	
	13		The whole unit proceeded for a wood v. 23. & 4. in reserve to await orders. The Germans having made some very nice dug outs, and not being able to destroy them in their hurried retreat, the members of this unit were comfortably housed. Capt Howard reported back from both Batt.	
	14		Capt Woodward rejoined the unit from 29th Batt. Resting in the woods awaiting orders	A.R.B.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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5th Aust Field Ambulance

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Sheet 627
Q 26 983.

Aug 15

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No 666 Lt Ross. J. } promoted to the rank of Lfc.
 No 1396 3 Lt Morcombe (MM) }
 resting in the woods awaiting orders. During the night there was considerable hostile shelling, in the vicinity one of our horse being slightly wounded.
 The unit marched out at 9 am to take up the A.P.S. and forward posts, at Q 26 C 66. Headquarters, at MORCOURT and at Q 30 C 43. MAJOR NORTH in charge of the A.P.S. at MORCOURT CAPT. BARRISKILL in charge of the A.P.S. at Q 30, and Lt Mc Fayden in charge of the A.M. store and horse transport at P. 30, Personnel as per distribution report attached.
 Owing to hostile shelling of the main road the Headquarters camp site was moved 500 yards north. Nothing of interest to report from the forward posts, everything going satisfactorily. Casualties light. Total number of evacuation being 12 sick and 41 wounded.
 R Sector, during the early hours of the morning there was a constant rain of shrapnel as the result of heavy shelling during the night. The A.P.S. of the 5th Aus Division was conducted round the forward posts of this sector and shown over the forward posts the A.P.S. (This was a 6.6 recently captured from the Germans nothing of interest to report from H. qrs. ML)

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WAR DIARY

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 1679 Q 76 H 83	1918 Aug 18		The number of evacuations on this sector being 8 sick and 22 wounded L Sector. The Motor despatch rider reported at the left 475 for duty the 60 AM for water the 475 and forward post during the morning no and the 747ms 5th and down in the afternoon situation generally quiet. Evacuations being 11 sick 10 wounded.	
	19		R Sector. Considerable hostile shelling in this area by heavy calibre guns, nothing of interest to report. Evacuations on this sector were 20 sick and 18 wounded Left Sector. MAJOR JAMES (747ms) with an officer detailed by the CR 6 visited the wagon loading post at MERICOVRI with a view to constructing a new 475, promising to start work tomorrow	
	20		intermittent shelling of CERISY. MERICOVRI Road during the day No of evacuations being 10 sick and 7 wounded R. Sector. The 60 water 475 and all forward posts and found everything proceeding satisfactorily, nothing unusual to report. Col M H POWNEY 750 (47ms) visited 475 No of evacuations 10 sick and 7 wounded	ML

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 67	1918 Aug 20		<p>Left Sector Capt E. WOODWARD reported at the lfr of 7.5 S/Sgt JOHN MOORE transferred to No 32 Section transport section The A.P.M.S. & R.A.P.M.S. 1st Aust Div. a front Co. BRENDAN '6.0 1st Aust Field Amb visited all the posts shelling during the last 24 hours very quiet evacuation being 9 sick & 5 wounded R Sector. Capt BRENDAN & Major McKellop visited all the posts on this sector also A.P.M.S. every thing proceeding satisfactorily, attention quiet evacuation for the day being 8 sick & 9 wounded L Sector since 7 am in the morning the evening shelling active around MORCOURT & MENCOURT Posts. evacuations for the past 24 hours being 8 sick & 8 wounded 1st Field Ambulance took over the A.P.M.S. and forward posts the bearers reporting back to HQs during the evening and evacuated for the night.</p>	
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		23		
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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8th Aust Field Ambulance

Place	Date 1918	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Q26. A22	Aug 26 27		<p>Resting</p> <p>The Unit marched out at 1pm and bivouaced during the night in some old german trenches in the field, at Q26. A22, under orders to move forward at a moment's notice.</p> <p>The bearer division, having marched out earlier in the morning and reporting to the various battalions of the 8th Brigade, the anticipated attack having been cancelled, the bearers returned to their unit during the night.</p>	
	28		<p>standing by awaiting orders</p>	
	29		<p>Received orders at 11 am to take over M.T.S at Q26. A83 from the 15th Field Ambulance. This was completed by 12 noon, a section tent division undertaking day duties and C section night duties. Three officers and 90 bearers marched out at 6pm to report to 8th Bde Hqs at M30 A33 in charge of MAJOR NORTH. at 8pm orders received from HQ M.S 5th Aust Division to close M.T.S and hold 2 tent divisions in readiness to move at a moment's notice.</p>	
	30		<p>Awaiting orders; orders received at 3pm for Unit to move per busses for CHAPPY. (G27. C37) this destination was reached at 4.30pm. The transport section moved out, and arrived at destination about 8.15pm. HQ was in working order by 10pm</p>	
	31		<p>M.T.S opened at 10 am cases cases steadily coming in all day. MAJOR PEARCE in charge of 5th Div Surgical team reported for duty. The day was cloudy and light rain fell during the evening.</p>	

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APPENDIX

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WAR DIARY

OF

8th Aust Field Ambulance

FOR

August 1918 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	Main Dressing station Report
2	Distribution Report

N. D. Clayton Lt Col
 608th Aust Field Ambulance

A.D.M.S.

5th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

AUGUST 10th 1918.

MAIN DRESSING STATION --- REPORT.

1. RECOUNTAL OF PLAN.

This Ambulance was in reserve. Tent sub-divisions were waiting on Y day at N.26.d.1.3. to proceed to the vicinity of Villers Bretonneux to form a W.W.D.S. on receipt of orders from A.D.M.S. 2nd Australian Division and at the same place to form a M.D.S. on receipt of orders from A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division.

- (a) Bearers. Three officers and 112 O.R. were detached with the C.O. 15th Aust. Field Ambulance on the night of 5 - 6th and proceeded to the vicinity of Aubigny.
- (b) Motor Ambulances. The 7 cars were detached on the night of 5 - 6th to the charge of Captain Fay, M.C., - O.C. 2nd & 5th Divisional Motor Ambulance Transport - at N.26.d.1.3.
- (c) Horse Ambulances. The three wagons were detached on the night of the 5th to the C.O. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance at N.26.d.1.3.

2. RECOUNTAL OF ACTUAL EVENTS.

Bearers, Motor Ambulances and Horse Ambulances were despatched to time and reported to various commands.

Tent sub-divisions (3). Orders were received at N.26.d.1.3. at 8 40 am on 8/8/18 to proceed to White Chateau and establish a W.W.D.S. Personnel were conveyed with a supply of dressings etc. by ambulance cars returning from the M.D.S. and started a W.W.D.S. in a suitable barn which had to be cleaned out on arrival. The remainder of the dressings arrived with the Horse Transport at 10 30 am. As soon as the W.W.D.S. was established notification was sent to A.D.M.S. 5th Aust. Division, to O.C. W.W.D.S. at N.28.d.0.3., also to Motor Posts and O.C. Forward Evacuations. A sentry was stationed on the road in front of the Chateau to divert cases to this Station. All the walking wounded after being recorded and dressed were evacuated by returning ammunition lorries to St.ACHEUL M.D.S. until arrival of M.A.C. lorries which then evacuated them to the Corps Relay Post at Rivery - there was no difficulty of evacuation of walking wounded cases. Up to 2 30 pm 8 Officers and 110 O.R. had been dressed and evacuated, 48 of whom were Germans. At 2 15 pm, on receipt of orders from A.D.M.S. 5th Aust. Division this Station became the M.D.S. but in addition kept open a W.W.D.S. as cases continued to arrive but the latter was closed at 8 30 pm. Notifications of the conversion to M.D.S. were sent to the O.C. M.D.S. St.ACHEUL, O.C. Motor Posts and O.C. Forward Evacuations. Coincident with the conversion to M.D.S. the Command passed from C.O. 5th Aust. Field Ambulance to C.O. 8th Aust. Field Ambulance. Roster of duties were drawn up for M.O.'s. and tent divisions of both Ambulances and the C.O. 5th Aust. Field Ambulance was placed in charge of Dressing and Evacuation of stretcher cases.

The evacuation, after becoming M.D.S., was difficult until midnight and was mainly carried out by the Divisional motor ambulances which did excellent service. At first the evacuations were to C.C.S. Vignacourt but as the distance was so great and cars so few, patients had to be dropped at M.D.S. St.ACHEUL where there was ample accommodation. Notification of the immediate despatch of M.A.C. cars from St.ACHEUL M.D.S. was received at 3 30 pm - one car arrived at 4 15 pm, the next at 5 45 pm and by 6 30 pm only 4 cars had reached here. This accounted for a piling up of 70 cases for 5 hours - these cases were sheltered in tents and trench shelters and kept warm with blankets. During the evening more M.A.C. cars

continued

arrived and by 10 30 pm the evacuation was completed and easily maintained throughout the night.

Attention must be drawn to the fact that the M.A.C. cars which came were not properly equipped with blankets or stretchers, some arrived without such equipment, others had only 1 stretcher or 2 blankets. The orderlies said that the C.C.S. could not supply them - such a state of affairs caused a serious depletion in stocks at a forward post and cannot be tolerated. The personnel of the M.A.C. cars also reported without rations.

Up till midnight of the 8th there were dressed and evacuated
 at W.W.D.S. 8 Officers, 110 O.R.
 at M.D.S. 25 " 404 "
 Of these there were 3 Officers and 143 O.R. Germans. In addition
 1 Officer and 27 O.R. were evacuated sick.

On the 8th day (9th inst.) cases continued to arrive steadily and were easily coped with until 4 pm - as the number of evacuations was small there was an abundance of M.A.C. cars. At 5 30 pm a fresh rush of casualties began to come in and continued all night. Owing to the great distance to C.C.S.'s the cases again piled up although the M.A.C. service was good (cars doing 118 trips). At 12 noon today (10th inst.) the evacuations were still behind hand but the number is ~~now~~ now being rapidly decreased, there being only 20 P.O.W. cases to evacuate.

The work at the M.D.S. was very seriously handicapped by the arrival at 4 pm (on 9th inst.) of 360 cases of Canadians who came in returning empty motor lorries from an area around WINGCOURT (W.12 & 13.) and GUILLAUCOURT (W.14.) - the drivers of these lorries stated that they were told to take them to the M.D.S. on the Amiens Road and therefore brought them here. These cases were all recorded, dressed and sent by returning empty lorries to the Corps Relay Post at Rivery, as no instructions had been received as to the disposal. These cases were disposed of by 10 pm. Canadians from the same area are still arriving (10th inst. 11 30 am.) but not in large numbers and are being disposed of as above. I communicated with the A.D.M.S. last night (9th inst.) in reference to the evacuation of these Canadian cases and he advised to send them to DAOURS - this was impossible as the returning lorries would not leave their beaten tracks. Throughout, a good supply of A.F.S., dressings, splints, has been maintained.

At 11 30 am the blood transfusion team reported for duty.

The burials to date have numbered 18 British, 12 German.

Hot cocoa and biscuits were supplied by the Y.M.C.A. for all the cases through this M.D.S.

3. DEDUCTIONS.

(a) Medical arrangements had been fully explained and were quite easily carried out.

(b) It is easy to convert an A.D.S. and W.W.D.S. into an M.D.S. with present Ambulance equipment.

(c) Cases should receive operative treatment much more quickly, the C.C.S.'s are much too far away. *(being 32 Miles away)*

(d) M.A.C. cars totally inadequate while C.C.S. is so far away.

(e) Railway service for the evacuation of wounded is most necessary.

(f) Advanced Depot Medical Stores too far away.

(g) Forward evacuations good and cases well attended to.

(h) Reciprocal exchange of stretchers and blankets at C.C.S. very unsatisfactory.

A. R. Clayton Lt. Colonel,
 C.O. 8th Australian Field Ambulance.

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 MAIN DRESSING STATION AT WHITE CHATEAU.

CASES.
 27555555 treated and evacuated 8-10 august.1918.

APPENDIX

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Division	Date	Officers	Other Ranks	Total.
	<u>August.</u>			
1st. Aust	8th.	.	.	.
	9 "	19	181	
	10 "	21	204	40 off 385 O/R
2nd Aust	8 "	7	12	
	9 "	14	125	
	10 "		23	21 " 190 "
3rd Aust	8th	1	8	
	9 "	1	5	2 " 13 "
4th. Aust	8 "		66	
	9 "		18	
	10 "		3	87
5th Aust	8 "	6	108	
	9	17	125	
	10		12	23 " 245 "
British	8 "	6	94	
	9 "	7	58	
	10 "	2	13	15 " 165 "
Aust Corps	8 "		1	
	9 "		7	
	10 "		1	9 "
Canadians	8 "		16	
	9 "	1	351	
	10 "		21	1 " 388 "
French	10 "		2	2 "
Chinese	10 "		14	14 "
P.O.W.	8 "	11	182	
	9 "	2	29	
	10 "	3	50	16 " 261 "
		118	1759	118 1759

J. G. ...
 Lt. Colonel.
 C.O. 8th. Aust. Field Ambulance.

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APPENDIX

I II

EIGHTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

WALKING WOUNDED DRESSING STATION. 8/8/1918.

2nd Aust. Division	2 Officers	24 Other Ranks.
3rd " "		3 " "
4th " "		1 " "
5th " "	1 "	18 " "
British	1 "	12 " "
P.O.W.	4 "	52 " "
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	8	110

DISTRIBUTION REPORT OF 8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

APPENDIX

19-8-18.

Post	Map Location Sheet 62D.	Blan-kets	Stret-chers.	Amb.Pers at Posts	Amb.Pers wanted.	Wheel Cars.	Evacuation Routes.
R.A.P(2)	R.25.c.2.5.	12	10	4	O.R. Nil	1	Carry across country, then wheelers to A.D.S.
R.A.P(1)	R.25.d.8.5.	10	10	8		1	
R.A.P(3)	R.19.c.9.2.	10	10	8		1	
Rt.A.D.S	Q.26.a.8.3.	40	56	2	Off 22 "	2	Main Rd.
A.D.S. H.Q.	Q.26.a.8.3.	32	46	5	"101 "	3	Main Rd.
Transport	P.30.a.8.2.		36		31 "		
Q.M.Store	P.30.c.8.4.124			1	" 10 "		
<hr/>							
R.A.P. 59th Batt.	R.1.d.4.4.	13	10	4	"		Carry to 60th Batt.R.A.P.
R.A.P. 57th Batt.	R.1.c.8.8.	20	10	4			do
R.A.P. 60th Batt.	Q.6.c.9.9.	12	10	4	"		Car to A.D.S.
C.L.P.	Q.6.c.9.9.			13		1	do
R.A.P. 58th Batt.	Q.18.c.7.6.20		10	4			Carry across to Rd then by Car.
A.D.S.(Lt)	Q.16.a.5.8.81	48		2	" 26	3 6	Main Rd.

374 256

Includes Mob.Tables of 180 Blankets and 36 Stretchers.

A R Clayton Lt.Colonel
 C.O. 8th Aust.Field Ambulance.