

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/51/36

Title: 8th Australian Field Ambulance

January 1919



AWM4-26/51/36

CONFIDENTIAL.

226

ORIGINAL COPY.

AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES.

WAR DIARY.

of

8th Australian Field Ambulance.

for

Month of JANUARY 1919.

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Signature of Officer Compiling.....

(Signed) *W. Earnshaw*
Capt.

Signature of Commanding Officer.....

A. R. Clayton Lt Col
C.O. 8 Aust. F. Amb.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

2118

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices			
Sars Poteries	Jan.	1.	0900	<p style="text-align: center;">8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE</p> <p>The weather is fine but dull. It is not cold. There are no parades. Major Mclell- and did his hospital rounds at 1000. He had a busy morning owing to 4 accidents with flares on New Year's Eve. There was a minor operation. The C.O. left for the Ambulance post in Avesnes about 8 kilos distant to hold a sick parade. Capt. WOODWARD and competitors left for the Brigade Sports. Education Officer left for the 15th F.Amb. The C.O. visited the sick civilians in BEUGNIES and SARS POTERIES while most of the members of the Unit go to the Sports. At 1900 in the evening a dance was held in which the men of the Unit and the local damsels took part.</p>			
			1000				
			1030				
			1300				
			1900				
			2.			0930	<p>The day was fine, clear and not cold. The C.O. went to AVESNES to hold sick parade there. Capt. WOODWARD attends the sick in the locality. Car detached to collect civilians with Diphtheria. Major McLELLAND did Hospital rounds at 1030 Four patients were evacuated to C.C.S at MAUBEUGE. News has been received that Capt. WOODWARD is to relieve Capt. CAIRNS at 5th D.A.C. Capt. CAIRNS received an order from "DEMOBAUST" ordering him to go to LONDON.</p>
			1000				
			1030				
			1300				
			1600				
			3.			0900	<p>A motor lorry left for CHARLEROI for Comforts Red Cross & Medical Stores. It also carried two V.D. cases to CHARLEROI and brought back supplies for the Canteen Word has come to hand that the final of the Div. Rugby League Champ. is to be played 4-1-19. Long rounds were made amongst the sick civilians. Major McLELL- AND reports "there are a large number of returning French civilians clamouring to have their houses vacated by the Ambulance".</p>
			1000				
			1400				
			4.			1000	<p>The day is fine and dull. The C.O. did Hospital rounds at 1000. The football team sets out by lorry to SIVRY. Major McLELLAN goes to AVESNES to attend a parade of British Tommies from the R.A.F, Bosche prisoners, etc.</p>
			1100				
			5.			1300	<p>It is a wet day. Major McLELLAND goes to AVESNES. There is a huge sick parade including P.O.W. The C.O. goes to Brigade to attend a conference. Major McLELLAND attends civilian sick and does Hospital rounds. General BIRDWOOD visits the Brigade. One N.C.O. and twenty men went to the Cinema Hall where General BIRDWOOD spoke on Demobilisation. Capt. McFADYEN and Major COPPLESON return to the Unit.</p>
			0900				
			1000				
1600							
6.	1000	<p>It is raining, but warm. Capt. BRITTEN returns from leave to England. Major COPPLESON visits the AVESNES post, and then proceeded to the 15th Field Amb. for duty. The number of sick civilians confined to their homes increases, and so a Ford Car is requisitioned to expedite the visiting.</p>					
1400							

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Place	Date	Hour	8th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Sars. Poteries</i>	<i>Jan 7</i>	0900	<p>It is windy but not cold or raining. The first draft of Original members of the Unit selected selected for return to Australia. Major McLELLAND reports "A conference with a returned civilian for the division of her house". Capt. BRITTEN visits civilian sick from SARS POTERIES. Two heavy draught horses lost by accidental explosion of an embedded shell by SODRE -le- CHATEAU station. The weather is warm, but wet. Drafts of 3 Sgts. & 28 other Ranks left for Aust. General Base Depot HAVRE, on return to Australia. Major McLELLAND goes to AVESNES to hold sick parade for P.O.W. Lieut. CRESWELL leaves for two days in BRUSSELS. The new A.D.M.S Col. FRY. D.S.O. visited the Unit. A Board assembled by the C.O. sat for the purpose of enquiring into loss of two horses. Capt. BRITTEN goes to AVESNES to hold sick parades. "Further arguments with civilians" says Major McLELLAND "take place regarding partitions of their houses and further concessions made by the Unit. Three cases were evacuated to MAUBEUGE. The weather was dull, but not wet or cold. Sgt. EGGINGTON M.M. has been awarded the Belgian "CROIX de GUERRE". Mr FRY the Q.M.S. has been mentioned in despatches. A large civilian sick parade commenced the day. A visit by the A.D.M.S. who stayed to lunch. Corps and Divisional Commanders visited the Unit. Two Sunbeam Amblne. broke down.</p> <p>The weather is fine but not cold. Capt. BRITTEN does extensive civilian rounds. 4 German P.O.W. admitted to Ambulance. Lorry returned from CHARLEROI with Comforts and Red Cross Stores, no Canteen stores available. Four cases evacuated to MAUBEUGE. Visit by Major GUEST who has been awarded the Belgian CROIX de GUERRE</p> <p>The weather is not cold, or wet, but windy. Capt. BRITTEN went to AVESNES post. Ford Car and one more Sunbeam out of action, leaving only one Sunbeam for the work.</p> <p>Capt. EARNSHAW returned to the Unit from the A.D.M.S office. He takes over the duty of attending to the sick civilians. Capt. BRITTEN leaves to take up the duties of R.M.O. 30th Bn., in place of Capt. DOWNER who is away on special leave. Team picked to play Corps (Second) team on the morrow. (Rugby Football).</p> <p>The weather is warm and dull. There is a little rain. Capt. RUSE proceeded on leave to NICE. Capt. EARNSHAW visits AVESNES post. Rugby match. Corps second XV. defeated 8th Brigade team 14 to 3. Major NORTH reported back to Unit after an eventful trip from 3rd A.G.H.</p>	
		1000		
		1400		
		1500		
		8. 0900		
		1000		
		9. 1400		
		9. 0900		
		1400		
		10. 0900		
		1000		
		1200		
		1400		
		11. 0900		
1000				
1200				
1400				
12. 0900				
1000				
13. 1400				
1500				
14. 0900				
1400				
1600				

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Place	Date	Hour	8th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sars. Poteries	Jan 15	0930	<p>A car went to AVESNES to bring back our personnel stationed at the Aid Post, also table, Primus stove etc. On the way back sick, were picked up from the Art. & 31st Bn. There was a great congestion of civilians with divers ailments in the Hospital. A number of fresh cases had also to be billeted. Capt. WOODWARD arrived from 5th D.A.C. offering us for sale an extensive civilian practice as a going concern. Major. McLELLAND performed successfully two minor operations for the removal of Sebaceous cysts. Three cases were evacuated to MAUBEGE. Our fame extends. This morning a French civilian called with a note asking for a doctor to go, to a place halfway between MAUBEGE and SARS POTERIES. At MAUBEGE are two C.C.S'S, two Civilian Hospitals, and M.A.C. Convoy and two civilian doctors. We accordingly referred the bearer of the note to MAUBEGE.</p>	
		1000		
		1600		
	16.	0900 1400 2000 2100	<p>Capt. EARNSHAW held a sick parade of about ten Tommies, 15 Civilians, and a number of men from the 32nd Bn, requiring chat tickets. Rounds of civilians, confined to their homes were done at 1400. A trifling case reported as urgent was attended at 2000 in BEUGNIES. A messenger came reporting of case of Amputation of a leg at WATTIGNIES, about 12 kilos away. Capt. EARNSHAW and Cpl. BARTON went out in a Ford car to the scene of the accident. The patient was in a small room with 11 others. We cleared the room of all but two, although every now and again, one would slip in and have to be removed. The leg was amputated just above the Knee-joint. A eusol dressing was applied. After much persuasion they agreed to the patient's removal to the Hospital. After innumerable farewells and forcible persuasion of one or two to get out of the car, we took the patient to MAUBEGE civilian Hospital. After half an hour's explanation we found a nurse in one of the wards. After another chase we found the Major, and all arrangements were made for an operation. After another half hour it was found that the sterilizer would not work. So then the operation could not be done. We were then requested to take the patient to the 47th C.C.S. where the surgeon said the operation would take place in 20 minutes. time. We reached the Unit the following Morning.</p>	
	17.	0900 1400	<p>Sick parade for Unit and British Labour Coy. was held as usual. In the morning I attended a number of sick civilians in their homes. A lecture was given in the Brigade Cinema Hall by Sgt. KELSEY on the "Discovery of South Australia". There were two hundred and fifty present mostly South Australians. The lecture was much appreciated. The Brigadier General DAVIES visited the Unit this day.</p>	

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Sars. Poteries	Jan. 18	1600	<p>8th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE.</p> <p>The usual routine was carried out through the day. In the afternoon the Unit was favored with a visit from the A.D.M.S. A man was brought in by the Ambulance suffering from shell wounds. It is said that the man, a civilian, made a hobby of investigating the construction of nose caps. One however exploded, taking off his left arm and also causing multiple perforating wounds of the abdomen. It was decided to give him a chance of recovery, however, remote it was and he was placed on the Ambulance with a case of acute appendicitis to be taken to MAUBEUGE. He, however, died on the way and was brought back. One wonders that there are not more accidents of a similar nature, when one sees the children carelessly playing with explosives, while the adults look on and do not interfere.</p> <p>Routine as formerly. A deputation of relatives of a civilian who had passed away through natural causes, came to the Hospital this morning and asked for a certificate of death from natural causes, although we had neither seen the body before or after death. The certificate was refused, but the party required some placating asserting that it was the custom of French doctors, to grant the necessary certificates in such cases. Our insistence on an autopsy decided them to seek further afield. A woman suffering from acute intra-mammary abscess, and refusing formerly to be evacuated, today consented and was evacuated. Consent for the child, having a large raw surface of the chest (following a severe attack of cellulitis) and requiring a skin graft, was indignantly refused.</p> <p>Major NORTH today was warned that he would have to at a future date to superintend a station at JEUMONT for the collection of Venereal cases en route to CHARLEROI C.C.S., and to attend to the ailments of troops billeted in the Area. Capt. DIGGLE at present stationed at JEUMONT for doing Prophylactic treatment, will assist Major NORTH. Capt. NATTRASS together with the personnel of 112th Dental Unit reported for duty to this Unit.</p> <p>Usual routine was carried out. Major McLELLAND is off duty today as he suffering from a bad attack of Migraine. Lieut. ELLIS visited the Unit from Brigade H.Q. with the object of forming a Brigade Concert Party. The Ambulance formerly boasted of a good concert party "The Night Birds-" but like most similar institutions has disappeared, so many of the members having returned to Australia.</p> <p>Capt. WOODS R.M.O. 32nd Bn. reported back from leave today, so Major NORTH will be free for Ambulance duties. A civilian messenger arrived this afternoon reporting a case of wounding by bomb explosion.</p>	
		1700		
		19		1000
		1300		
		1200		
20	1800	0900		
		1100		
		1400		

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Place	Date	Hour	8th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sars. Potesies	Jan 20		<p>He reported that a young man was handling a bomb when it exploded. He was wounded in the thigh, penis, abdominal & thoracic walls. The wounds were dressed and he was evacuated with a case of cystitis to the civilian Hospital at MAUBEUGE. The latter case reported to me two days ago, having been unable to pass urine for 6 days. He gave a history of having had a recent attack of gonorrhoea. His wife had tried to pass previously a gum elastic catheter one millimetre in diameter. He had a slight discharge. I tried to pass a rubber catheter, but failed to pass the ^{UR}genital diaphragm. I then passed a silver catheter and drew off 2/3 of the urine. Blood was intermittently mixed with the urine. I then applied a binder and administered Hexamine. Next day I had again to use a catheter and this time, there was a thick purulent urethral discharge and I suspected pus in the urine, but was unable to ascertain its presence scientifically. I advised evacuation to Hospital and my advice was accepted. The nightly dance in a neighbourly hall continues to be popular among lasses and lads, although the more Senior Officers including the C.O. also attend.</p> <p>Routine as previously. During the day I was called to see a girl who had sprained her ankle dancing the previous night, and who was said to be unable to walk. On visiting the patient I found she had a small purulent blister under foot. I informed her that she must attend as an out patient if she desired treatment. The A.D.M.S passed by the Unit on his way to DOULERS. The Colonel went with me to see a case of acute tonsillitis this afternoon.</p> <p>Routine was the same as usual today. The outpatient department at the Hosp. grows apace. Today I saw a case of acute pyetitis and advised evacuation to Hospital which was refused. I saw Capt. WOODS 32nd Bn. in consultation over a child with severe facial burns (two days) and marked oedema of submaxillary region. I advised evacuation to Hospital, firstly owing to severity of the burns and secondly owing to the possibility of oedema of the vocal cords. The child was evacuated this afternoon. A farewell Ball (29th Bn & 8th F.AMB.) is being held this evening as a send off to a party of men returning to Aust. A woman who was delivered of a child recently (the latter suffering from Gonorrhoeal Ophthalmia) attends and dances unmolested with the soldiers. Her history is generally known. French letters are sold in one of the Brigade Canteens at 1/2 franc a piece.</p>	
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Place	Date	Hour	8th ANST. FIELD AMBULANCE. Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dars. Poteries	Jan 22		<p>Yesterday a case reported with an advanced secondary stage of syphilis. He stated that the rash appeared only two days ago although it obviously had been a week in existence. Yesterday Major NORTH and Capt. NATTRASS (112th D. Unit) set off for JEUMONT which is the centre for collection of venereal cases en route for CHARLEROI. As well as a place for treatment of troops billeted in the surrounding areas. Capt. GIBSON temp. attached to A.S.C. is to take up duties with Major NORTH, while Capt. DIGGLE formerly carrying on at JEUMONT will go the A.S.C. The weather is cold and damp, but there is no rain.</p>	
	23.		<p>Today is an Australian winter's day. There is no wind, but it is pleasantly cold and the sun has been shining all day. Many of the members of the Unit are taking advantage of the light to secure photographs.</p>	
	24.		<p>The A.D.M.S. paid the Unit a visit today. Capt. EARNSHAW conducted him round the Brigade H.Q., 30th Bn. H.Q. & R.M.O., 32nd Bn. & R.M.O. The baths were also inspected. Arrangements were made for Capt. BRITTEN to go to the C.C.S. No. 5, and for the R.M.O. of the 32nd Bn. to do the 30th Bn. sick parades which are very small. Capt. RUSE returned from leave to PARIS in the evening.</p>	
	25.		<p>Capt. BRITTEN left this morning to take up duties at 5th C.C.S. at MAUBEUGE. The work for medical officers is increasing with the process of demobilisation.</p>	
	26.		<p>The weather continues cold, but the sun shines brightly. Sgt. KELSEY gave an interesting lecture on "How to conduct a Meeting". The lecture was largely attended. Snow commenced to fall in the evening.</p>	
	27.		<p>There was a heavy fall of snow during the night. This morning it was ankle deep. Much amusement was created in various parts of the town in snowballing. The Unit was paid this afternoon, 5,500 francs being drawn. The Unit Motor bicycle was stolen during the night.</p>	
	28.		<p>Capt. EARNSHAW went to JEUMONT today to pay the portion of the Unit stationed there. At the completion of the pay all the money was paid out. Capt. VOSS M.C. reported here for duty until Feb. 3rd when he is to conduct a draft to England.</p>	
	29.		<p>The A.D.M.S. and Major McLELLAND went on a tour of inspection to JEUMONT, MAUBEUGE AND AVESNES. Lieut. CRESWELL (E.O.) went to the 15th Field Ambulance.</p>	
	30.		<p>Civilian sickness is again on the increase. Capt. VOSS is relieving Capt. WOODS for the time being, of duty with the 30th Bn. A car being used by the A.D.M.S. was sent to workshop today.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sars. Poteries	Jan 31.		8th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE.	
			<p>Routine as usual. Nothing of importance to report during the day. In the evening Sgt. KELSEY continued his series of lectures on the Early discovery and History of Australia. The subject for his lecture was "QUEENSLAND", there was a good attendance, and the lecture was a very instructive one.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OF

8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

FOR

JANUARY 1919

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	GENERAL REPORT By Lt.Col.A.R.CLAYTON D.S.O.
2.	HOSPITAL DETACHMENT AT JEUMONT. " Major H.M. NORTH.
3.	REPORT ON HOSPITAL " Major H.S. McLELLAND.
4.	REPORT ON MOTOR TRANSPORT. " " " "
5.	GRAPHS.DEPICTING No of PATIENTS. " T/Sgt. EGAN S.B.
6.	REPORT ON 112th DENTAL UNIT. " Capt. NATTRAS J.A. No.112 D.Unit.
7.	QUARTER-MASTER'S REPORT. " Capt. C.H. McFADYEN.
8.	REPORT ON HORSE TRANSPORT. " " " "
9.	EDUCATION SERVICE REPORT. " Lieut. J.R. CRESWELL.
10.	REPORT ON DISPENSARY. " S/Sgt. GROVER E.
11.	DEMOBILISATION. " Sgt. WILLIAMS F.H.
12.	REPORT ON POSTAL WORK " Pte. HERD H.
13.	NEW YEARS' DAY SPORTS. " " McKEE E.
14.	IMPRESSIONS OF "SARS POTERIES" " Cpl. F.H. WATSON.

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8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

GENERAL REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

By Lt.Col.A.R. CLAYTON D.S.O. C.O. 8th Aust.Fld.Amb.

The work of the Ambulance has consisted in the collection of sick from the Brigade, attached Bdes. of Artillery, 3rd M.T. Column and civilians from the surrounding areas; and in the treatment and evacuation of same.

The numbers to be collected and evacuated have not been great, but the bad state of the roads have resulted in numerous breakages of M.T. parts, and has rendered ^{WORK}very difficult. Owing to the lack of these parts which the M.T. Shops could ^{NOT}supply, this Unit has never been able to have more than 2 Sunbeam & 1 Ford cars available for work. The distances to C.C.S. at MAUBEUGE and CHARLEROI are very great (15 & 40kilos).

With free use of Horse Ambulances we have been able to keep pace with the evacuations, but the margin in hand is far too small for safety. Representations have been made for attachment of M.A.C. cars, but none have appeared on the scene. French civilian practice has been very large. There have been numerous evacuations for the more severe diseases, and for accidents from bombs, flares, etc. Two persons died from accidental wounds. Apparently the French civilian is more curious than the Australian soldier regarding the contents of bombs, nose caps, etc.

An average of 15 visits daily have been made to civilians, and 20 have paraded at Hospital for dressings etc. This work has taken up the whole of one M.O.'s time.

RE-ORGANISATION.

The Unit began the year as a 2 Section Ambulance with 54 bearers in each Section. On January 11th these bearers were reduced to the usual 36 bearers which brought Ambulance down to the Original A&B Section. At this time we were still 15 Other Ranks under strength, and 14 O.R. left for JEUMONT to open a Hospital, which was also to act as a staging camp between Divisional Area and CHARLEROI for Eye and V.D. cases. On January 27th another detachment of 1.N.C.O. and two Privates were despatched as A.A.M.C. details to Corp. R.E. Workshops at JEUMONT.

DEMOBILISATION.

On January 8th 3 Sgts. and 29 O.R. left for Australia. Two O.R. left on January 22nd for Early Repatriation. Precedence Roll has been completed. There are still 2 Officers and 58 men left, who embarked from Australia in 1915.

PERSONNEL.

We have been under strength all the month. For some days we had 3 Officers (Medical), but usually 2, and for some time only one. These are in addition to the C.O. Personnel has always remained under strength, as no reinforcements have been received, and there have been regular losses.

We are now 17 O.R. under strength. The Personnel is in great health and comfortably billeted. On January 21st a detachment consisting of Major NORTH, Capt. GIBSON M.C., No. 112 Dental Unit and 14 O.R. left for JEUMONT to open a Hospital which was also to act as a staging camp between Divisional Area and CHARLEROI for Eye and V.D. cases. On January 27th another detachment of 1.N.C.O. and 2 Privates were despatched as A.A.M.C. details to Corp R.E. Workshops JEUMONT.

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

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8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. HOSPITAL DETACHMENT

at JEUMONT. JANUARY 1919.

21-1-19. A detachment consisting of two medical officers, three nursing duties and two general duties men, one clerk, one cook, and two batmen together with 112th Dental Unit were detailed to proceed from Sars Poteries to Jeumont, and establish a Hospital of 20 beds in the Clinique, Rue de la Industrie. The Clinique was found to be a well appointed establishment, being provided with central heating, and water and electric light laid on to all the rooms.

There were also two water closets, clean and in good working order. The building consisted of two floors, each with several large rooms, and an attic. Two suitable rooms on the ground floor were allotted to No. 112 Dental Unit; two others were used as Dressing room and orderly room, and a small room for "Blue Light".

Two other rooms on the ground floor were prepared as wards of 7m & 5 beds respectively. A room on the first floor with a large stove was used as the kitchen and two other rooms set aside as mess room and dormitory for Personnel. There are a number of civilian bedsteads and wooden bedsteads of Military make left behind by the Germans in the Hospital. In addition 19 Iron bedsteads were handed over by the 14th Aust. Field Ambulance; an M.A.C. car attached to 15th Field Ambulance, detachemnt with Corps R.E., was handed over to us. An excellent Garage for two cars was found in the Electrical works opposite the Hospital.

22-1-19. Sick parades were done for Corps R.E., 371 & 374 P.O.W. Coy's. The ASC Coy. at Beaumont was visited and arrangements made to draw rations every 48 hours and convey them by M.A.C. car to Jeumont.

An M.A.C. car reported for duty from 14th Aust. Field Ambulance Beaumont, making two cars attached. As no blankets had been taken over, an urgent message was despatched to C.O. 8th Aust. Field Amb. to this effect.

23-1-19. Car visited R.A.P's. and collected sick from Units shown below
Capt. GIBSON M.C. reported for Duty in place of Capt. DIGGLE who reported to 5th A.A.S.C.

24-1-19. 371st & 374 P.O.W. Coys. were inspected in accordance with instructions from A.D.M.S. and reports furnished.

25-1-19. As no blankets had yet been obtained, and the want of them was causing considerable difficulty in organisation, C.O. 8th Aust. Field Amb. was visited, and twelve blankets obtained.

26-1-19. Two car orderlies reported for Duty on M.A.C. cars. Ten patients were held overnight for first time.

GENERAL.

Sick Parades Daily at 0930. For Corps R.E., 371 & 374 P.O.W. Coy. Units cleared daily:- "K" Siege Park, ERQUELINNES.

23rd R.G.A. Bde. SOLRE -sur- SAMBRE.

25th " " " " "

Corps Mounted Troops HANT-WIHIERS.

76th R.G.A. Bde. MONTIGNIES.

14th R.G.A. Bde. MALAISE.

68th " " LEER- et - FOSTEAU.

Evacuations. General cases to MAUBEGE.

Special (V.D., Eye, Dysentery, & Skin) to CHARLEROI.

For these cases we acted as relay for Ambulances of 5th Aust. Div. For daily rate of evacuations see attached table.

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H. M. Norm

Major.

8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

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8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

REPORT ON HOSPITAL FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

There is little of special interest to report.

In the earlier part of the month sick were collected from the Brigade Groups and also from the 12th, 13th & 14th Artillery Brigades, and the 5th D.A.C. Later the 15th Field Ambulance agreed to collect from the 12th, 13th Bdes. of Artillery and D.A.C. Cases not requiring operation and which were likely to be well again in from ten to fourteen days were retained and the others evacuated to C.C.S. As in December ordinary cases have been sent to MAUBEUGE, and special cases such as Infectious disease and Venereal disease, and diseases of the eyes have been sent to the special centres at CHARLEROI. Graphs are appended to shew admissions, discharges, etc. A prophylactic depot has been maintained in connection with the Hospital.

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J. McCalland

Major.
8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

REPORT ON MOTOR TRANSPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

The motor transport has been able to meet demands made upon it during the month, though with difficulty. The main troubles have been the long distances to be travelled, bad state of the roads, and the extraordinary slowness with which repairs have been executed. This is said to have been due to the difficulty in getting new parts from the Base. The work of the Motor Transport has been as follows :-

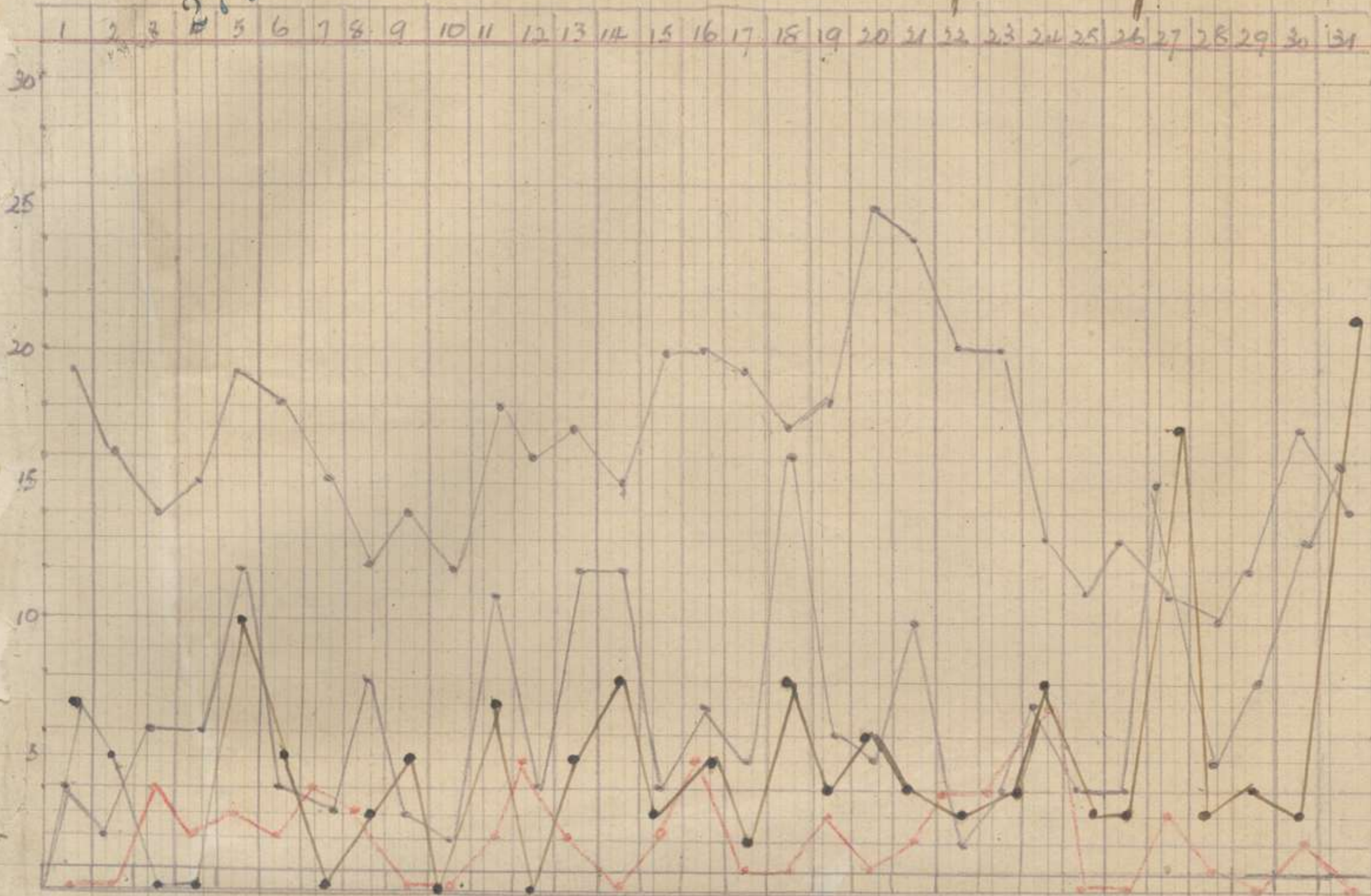
- (1) Daily collection of sick from the Brigade Group and during the first half of the month from the Artillery Group also.
- (2) Collection of sick civilians from time to time.
- (3) Visiting rounds to sick civilians in outlying parts.
- (4) Evacuation to C.C.S. of cases from the Ambulance, and also during the last half of the month, of all cases from the 14th Field Amb. and cases from the 15th Field Ambulance; and evacuation of civilians when necessary.
- (5) Miscellaneous duties such as supplying transport for A.D.M.S.

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J. McCalland

Major,
8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

8th Aust Field Ambulance
 Top Pencil Line denotes Daily Hospital Strength
 Bottom Pencil Line do do Admissions
 Ink Line do do Evacuations
 Red Pencil Line do do Discharges to Duty



REPORT OF 112th DENTAL UNIT ATT. 8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

26-1-19.

This Unit consisting of a Dental Officer, two Staff Sgts and an orderly are attached to the 8th Aust. Field Ambulance and are situated in a Red Cross Hospital at the Town of JEUMONT.

Our amount of work is small owing to the Unit being moved and will be shown in later report .

SURGERY.

Being above the average provided in the Field, being provided with a good light, a writing desk and a heating apparatus, making the room comfortable to work in.

WORKROOM.

A large room with plenty of light and provided with a heating apparatus which is much appreciated by the Staff.

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James Alfred Wattias Capt.
No. 112 Dental Unit.

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8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

QUARTER-MASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

Work during the month has been steady, With a hospital accomodation of an average 30 patients, fair sized stocks of medical comforts are required. In addition to a steady consumption of the latter by Ambulance patients, the affiliated Units draw steadily, necessitating a weekly run to CHARLEROI. Division supplies a lorry for this purpose, and the triple supply depots (Red Cross, A.D.M.S & Comforts R.S.O.) are visited. Personnel comforts have been liberally bestowed through the kindness of Loyal League of Women ADELAIDE, several £20 donations have been spent through A.C.F.; the Unit being supplied with large quantities of Cigarettes and Tobacco, Fruit, Biscuits, etc.

A.S.C. supplies have not been A.1. grade of late, there being a noticable lack of vegetables, and at times butter and jam. However with better facilities for conveyance of supplies we hope for increased supplies of vegetables etc. Mob. Table Equipment has been checked and is ready for Demobilisation. Two sets of harness were lost owing to the accidental explosion of a shell at SOLRE-le-CHATEAU. Enquiry Board proceedings were supplied with indent to D.A.D.O.S. Nothing else has occured to break the dull monotony of awaiting Demobilisation.

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B.H.M. Jadyln Capt.
8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

REPORT ON HORSE TRANSPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

The New Year was opened by returning the demobilised vehicles of "C" Section to D.A.D.O.S. at GRAND RIEU.

One Ambulance Wagon. One Water Cart. & One G.S. Wagon. Limber. fully equipped were delivered and clean receipt taken for same. In accordance with new Mob. Table in which "C" Section is eliminated, the superfluous horses were delivered to Units nominated by Division. An accident occured on 7th January with grave result, a Driver with a pair of horses and G.S. Wagon was sent to SOLRE-le-CHATEAU station yard to collect wood. In the act of pulling in, the leading horse struck a half buried shell (German 5.9) which exploded, and blew both horses and harness to pieces. Fortunately the Driver escaped injury, though the G.S. wagon pole was broken. A fatigue appeared at the scene of accident next morning, to find that overnight, the hungry civilians had stripped both carcasses of all meat. The bones and entrails were interred more to protect the civilian population than from a delicate sense of decency. During the last two weeks, Veterinary and Army remount re-classification boards have visited the stables, and all horses are branded ready for the process of Demobilisation. Frost cogs have been fitted and found extremely useful on the roads during the past few days. Where a man finds walking difficult, the horse with cogs prances along in full confidence. A lack of good Drivers anticipated after next draft of 1915 class men, but early disposal of horses will remove any difficulty. Men are not eager to undertake transport work at this stage.

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B.H.M. Jadyln Capt.
8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

MONTHLY REPORT.

During the month the Educational Scheme has established itself as a leading feature in the life of the Unit and the interest in it has steadily grown. This is particularly so in connection with the Commercial Classes of which Book-keeping calls forth the greatest response and maintains the most consistent attendances.

Sgt. Kelsey's lecture on the "Discovery and early History of Australia" have been well attended and much appreciated. During the month he has dealt with the history of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and W. Australia. These lectures are usually delivered in the local Ecole des Garçons the master of which is sympathetic and assists in every way possible. The room is artificially ^{warmed} a fact which adds to the comfort of the audience. The lecture on S. Australia was illustrated with lantern slides lent by the Agent General for that State, and these slides added greatly to the interest of the lecture, which was given in the Y.M.C.A. Cinema Hall. In addition to members of this Unit it was attended by numbers of men from the Battalions of the 8th Brigade. ~~Y~~ The total attendance was 250.

A Debating Society has been formed within the Ambulance and a number of most interesting and instructive evenings have resulted. To date the programme has included an "Impromptu Speech Night", a Toast List and a debate on the question of "The Nationalisation of Railways". Before the end of the month a lecture upon the subject "How to Preside at, and Conduct a meeting" is to be delivered.

A growing interest in the subject of Economics has resulted in an enlargement of the Study Group which now includes the Padre and a Battalion Y.M.C.A. Representative. The Leader, Cpl. Jones, is encouraged by the attendance and keenness of the students. We regret the departure of Pte. Arthur the leader of the Study Group on Psychology, who has left for Australia in order to continue his studies. Cpl. Jones has taken his place as leader of the Group.

On Tuesday 14th Inst. Sgt. S.H. Henry of the 15th Fld. Amb. gave an interesting lecture on the subject of Criminology.

Although a number of men have returned to Australia there has been an increased attendance at the classes, and the interest in the various subjects is well maintained. A Library which contains a large proportion of standard literature is very well patronised by the members of the Unit. A few new books have recently been added but more are sadly needed. Our orders for books have not come to hand owing to the inability of publishers to supply certain orders, and also to difficulties of transport.

The fact that a number of men anticipate an early departure for Australia rather mitigates against their participation in the classes and it is found that, for the most part, the educational opportunities are availed of chiefly by those who expect to remain with the Unit for some time.

John Howell 2/Lt

Education Officer 5th Div. A.A.M.C.

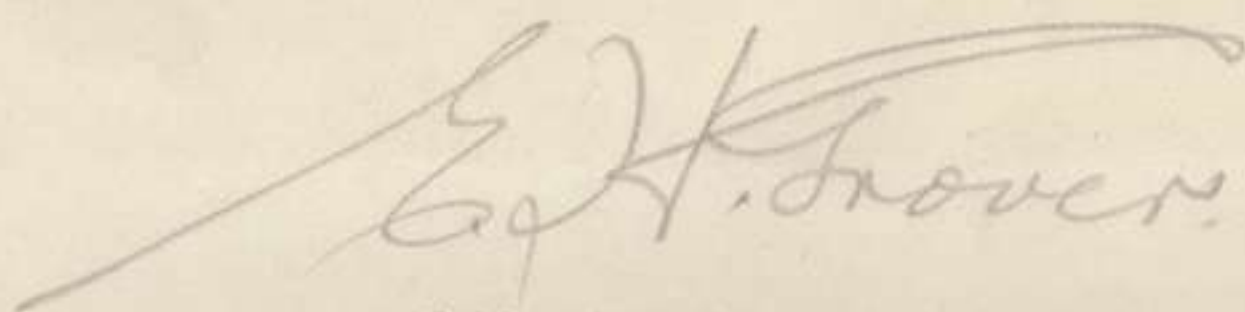
27-1-19.

REPORT ON DISPENSARY.

After the return of our Surplus Medical Stores to 13 Depot, from the dispensary at Biencourt, our first demand from the Battalions was at Busigny on 1st of December. Medicines etc. for urgent use and sick parades were carried in a small German box specially fitted on the top of the dispensary limber, it was easily accessible without disarranging the load. Two gallons of cough mixture and a supply of Eusol were also carried, and available at any period, of the journey.

A few tablets and dressings were supplied to artillery Units prior to our departure for Favril on 7-12-18. We submitted a requisition from Favril and obtained from 14th Depot Medical Stores sufficient supplies to fulfil the requirements of the Batts., in all 7 Units, were supplied before moving on to Sars Poteries on 17-12-18. For the month ending 31-12-18 26 requisitions were supplied. Some difficulty has been experienced in obtaining supplies and in consequence many of the Battalion requisitions had to be considerably reduced, and on one occasion owing to our car breaking down on the disgusting road between Sars Poteries and Charleroi, a delay occurred in supplying. Fourteen different Units submitted requisitions at an early date after our arrival here, these were all rationed and our supply judiciously apportioned. Shortages of Aspirin, Quinine, and dressings caused the greatest inconvenience. 5 lbs of Lintband and 6 lbs of Wool was our first supply from Stores, consequently the Batts. ran short of these. At the end of the month this Unit was instructed to draw the Medical stores for the Division, and a lorry was supplied for the purpose. The arrangements soon assumed a business like aspect, 14th & 15th Field Amb's. were instructed to submit their indents for inclusion by 0900 on Wednesdays, smaller Units on Tuesdays of each week. Goods are drawn on Fridays, 14th & 15th Fld. Amb. supplied on Sundays and other Units on Mondays. All of our Mob. Table medical stores have been again overhauled, cleaned and brought up to strength. For the month ending 31-1-19 36 indents were supplied to R.M.O.'s. The supplies from Stores are very much more satisfactory, although there is still an absolute shortage of Aspirin, Vin Ipecac. & Hydrogen Peroxide. The road to Charleroi is considerably improved, although two days are necessary for the journey, which, in this weather and in a 3 ton lorry, can hardly be considered a joy ride. Early in the New Year 5-1-19, the medical stores of one Section were returned to No. 18 Adv Depot Med. Stores. Under the new establishment, Staff Sgt, STEVENS N.F. was struck off strength and proceeded to A.G.B.D. HAVRE on 14-1-19. The civilian population has demanded quite a deal of attention. Sulphur ointment, Mist. Gent. Alk. & Cough mixture being the commoner requirements. A noticeable feature of this winter is the very limited demand for Trench feet and Chilbain preparations. The dispensary is a very comfortable and well lighted room and work is proceeding with the utmost smoothness.

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S/Sgt.
8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

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8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

DEM OB I L I S A T I O N
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January 1919 saw the first real movement of personnel towards AUSTRALIA under the Demobilisation Scheme, in so far as this Unit is concerned. There was a good deal of comment and excitement amongst the men when the news was first made known that there was to be a draft for Australia " in the near future ". The Unit was asked to nominate 25 Other Ranks. These men were duly selected and the evening before the day of Concentration, viz 7th, a wire was received asking for 6 further nominations. Our total for the draft was therefore 31 and the men selected were those who had embarked from Australia during the year 1915. As the 8th Field Ambulance left Australia in November 1915 this draft included quite a number of the original Unit personnel although a number of men who had joined the Ambulance during its stay in France were selected, transfers from other Units etc.

The draft left the Unit on January 8th and concentrated at the 5th Divisional Reinforcement Wing, BEAUMONT, the men being conveyed from the Camp at SANS POTERIES to BEAUMONT by motor Lorry and an ~~ambulance~~ Ambulance Wagon. The draft entrained for HAVRE on 9-1-19.

This was the only party of any size which left during this month although two men proceeded to ENGLAND for return to Australia, having been granted EARLY REPATRIATION on the ground of being University Students with interrupted studies.

Our total for the month was therefore 33.

The process of Demobilisation has brought about a great deal of extra clerical work and it has been found necessary to increase the Orderly Room staff. As a matter of fact the volume of work is now greater than it was before the Armistice was signed. The compilation of the Unit Precedence Rolls was no mean task and necessitated a great deal of work and the close attention of those engaged in the work. The Rolls are now complete and personnel will, from now onwards, be repatriated according to their position on the Unit Rolls. It came as a surprise to most of us that precedence for repatriation was to be decided on date of enlistment, rather than on date of embarkation. Men who embarked in 1915 will, however, take precedence over those of a later embarkation.

In view of the system of regular Divisional Drafts it is expected that personnel will now be repatriated at regular intervals of every ten days, although it is not known what the extent of the A.A.M.C. allotment for each draft will be.

8th Field Ambulance.

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8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

REPORT ON POSTAL WORK FOR THE PERIODS DEC. 1918 to JAN. 1919.

The 1st of December found the Unit at Busigny. During the period spent there the work of the postal orderly was rather difficult owing to the Brigade Post Office being a distance of 13 miles away, and the job of collecting the mail a tiresome one.

Cars were not always available and the journey had to be undertaken in a G.S.Wagon which meant an all day trip, and darkness had always set in before arriving back. Nearing Christmas, as was to be expected a good deal of mail arrived daily for the Unit, and on one occasion it was midnight before the Postal work was completed.

Leaving Busigny the next stop was at Favril. Here we were fortunate in having the Brigade Post Office not more than a kilo away. The Postal work went along smoothly, the incoming mail being received daily without a break. Some days as many as fifteen bags of letters and parcels arrived. On the 19th Dec. the Unit arrived at Sars Poteries. The first few days no mail was received owing to the congestion of Railways. The Brigade Post Office was situated at Solre le Chateau a distance of about 4½ kilos. When the mail began to come in it was very "light" and continued so for some time, much to the disappointment of all. The places used for the Unit Post Office have always varied in suitability and comfort. Here at Sars Poteries in the outer room of a dwelling house we have a Unit Post Office very suitably and comfortably arranged.

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Postal Orderly. 8th Fld. Ambulance.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY SPORTS.

There was a large attendance of Officers and men at SARS POTERIES to witness the 8th Brigade Sports. The weather was mild, and the air rather chilly. It had rained the previous day, and the ground was heavy, which slightly handicapped the competing athletes. During the day several Horse and Mule races were run, and many Bookmakers were present on the course. There was plenty of betting and keen interest was taken in each event. Each Unit in the Brigade had previously been called upon to contribute money for drinks, and a good quantity of light beer was at the disposal of the troops. Many had more than their share, but this was foreseen, and Units provided limbers for the occasion, and these were used for carrying off the "helpless." The Unit was successful in the mile, which was won easily by Pte MAGGS A.D. and T/Sgt. EGAN S.B. ran second in the 220 yards handicap. It was a very enjoyable day, and an excellent opening for the NEW YEAR.

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E. W. Cree
8th Aust. Field Ambulance

"IMPRESSIONS OF SARRS POTERIES."

After a ten kilo march from Avesnes we arrived at the town that we knew was to be our dwelling place for at least a couple of months, probably for the whole of the winter, and naturally we were all anxious to see what the place actually was like, and what our prospective homes were to be. Were they to be barns, minus half the roofs, that let the snow in on us, as we had the previous winter, or were we to have weather-proof houses? I must admit that we were ageeably surprised and our first impressions of the place were such that the frequent remarks "She'll do me Digger" showed that the troops were well satisfied.

Sarrs Poteries is the name of the town, and, as is usual with most of the names of French towns, the word is pronounced much differently from the way in which it is spelt-- hence "Sarpotray". As to how the town received its name the particulars are very vague, but the consensus of opinion is that it is named after one SARR who started a Pottery many many years ago-- too many in fact for the oldest inhabitant to make a wild guess at. It is situated 200 kilos S.W. of PARIS, and about 10 kilos from the Belgian border, BRUSSELS being 210 kilos distant. The population, before hostilities commenced, numbered 2461, and at the present juncture the total of the civilians is approximately 2300; it is evident the war has not much affected the number of residents. It may be of course that many who left the district on the advance of the Hun have returned, or it may be that German occupation made no difference. The main industry, as one would naturally imagine, is Pottery & Glass making.

The beautiful, clean, white sand, that is so plentiful in the neighbourhood is such as to permit of the best of clear glass being manufactured, as it is in large quantities. Liqueur and Wine glasses, medicine and scent bottles, are the principle products; in addition to this the clay is of a standard that Sarrs Poteries tiles are well known practically throughout the length and breadth of France and Belgium.

The owner and Manager of the largest pottery in the town, John IMBERT, who was very popular both with his employees and the town's folk generally, joined the colours at the outbreak of the War. He was wounded five times and subsequently killed one month before Armistice was signed. The deceased gentleman was the leader of the local Choral Societies, which gained considerable fame by vanquishing all the famous SOLRE, LILLE, and PARIS One-hundred-voiced Choirs-- a record truly to be proud of. The houses made mostly of brick-- a few being built of stone-- are of a standard very much above the average one usually sees in French towns, and there are some very fine Chateaus in the immediate vicinity. The residences generally show that most of the inhabitants are comfortably well off. Electric light is installed throughout the town, and in all the houses, the power being generated at JEUMONT many kilos distant; but, as perhaps one could expect, the whole system was put out of action by the Germans immediately on their arrival in the town on August 25th 1914.

All the brass and copper fittings were confiscated for munitions, and even copper cooking utensils were commandeered from all kitchens in the town for the same purpose. The local post office, established some 13 years ago, is presided over by a Post Mistress with an assistant and two facteurs (Postmen). This has a telephone exchange of some 50 subscribers and a trunk line and telegraphic service direct with PARIS. Rumour has it that Joan-of-Arc periodically attended service in the local church St. PIERRE, an imposing edifice with a spire 110 feet high. The Curé is now entering on his 18th year of service in this church. There are three breweries in the town and one, in addition to making beer, brews cider from apples grown in the district. These facts probably account for the rather large number of Estaminets in the town. Whennone takes into consideration the fact that there are 120 of them one is forced to admit that there is no scarcity of these establishments, and practically every one boasts of a Pianola, worked on the "Penny-in-the-Slot" system, and as there are many mademoiselles who are passionately fond of "Tripping the light fantastic toe" the "Diggers" find no difficulty in putting in their spare time. The inhabitants are proud of their centurion, Madame FELICITE MALTER, now 101 years of age, and still hale and hearty. She has seventy descendents ~~now~~ alive. On the evacuation of the town on November 9th 1918. the Germans thought fit to blow up all bridges and a considerable number of roads. The main road was mined in several places and the subsequent explosions, in addition to playing havoc with the highway, totally destroyed three houses.

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The Railway station was wrecked by mines and the line has been blown up in many places. Huge dumps of Ammunition in the Railway yards go to show that Sars Poteries played a prominent part as an Ammunition distributing centre, and in the vicinity of the station now remain hundreds of vehicles of all types that were used by the Germans for the conveyance of munitions. It is amusing to ^{hear of} ~~note~~ the difference between the arrival and departure of the Germans, bands playing, flags flying, and the soldiers doing their famous goose step, characterise the scene of arrival, but the evacuation, what a difference! they slunk off like whipped dogs- no flags no bands, no goose steps. They drove before, them not soldiers or civilians, but all the horses and cattle belonging to the residents of this town. The ammunition wagons, instead of carrying shells, bombs etc., contained huge crates of stolen poultry. The towns' people, although looking well, bear the mark of the rough treatment they received during the four years of German occupation, and one can imagine the sigh of relief when they saw their much hated temporary masters evacuating, never to return.

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Wakow. Cpl.
8th Australian Field Ambulance