

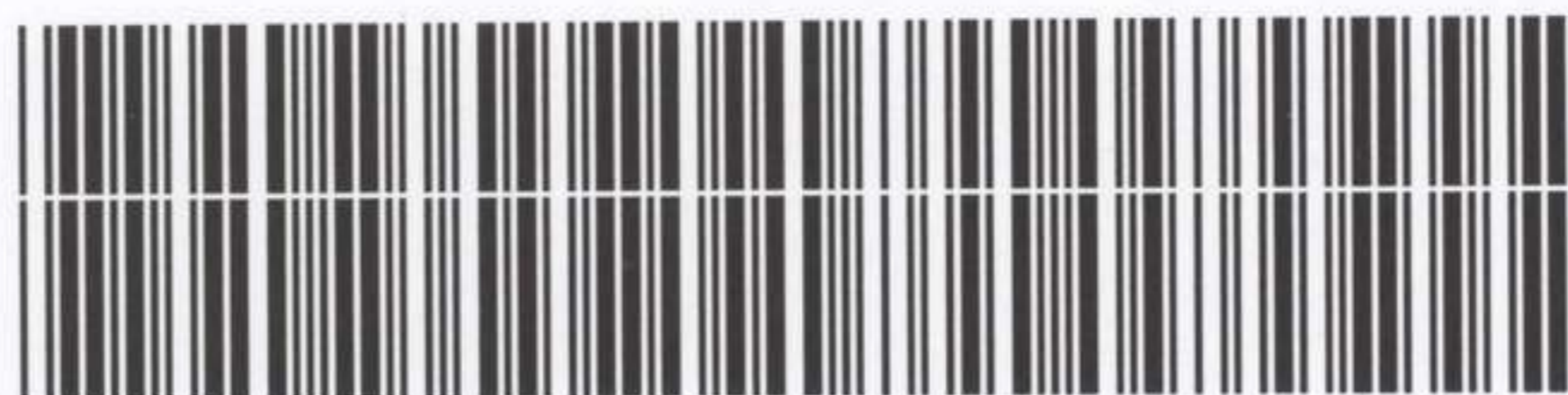
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/52/18

**Title:** 9th Australian Field Ambulance

September 1918



AWM4-26/52/18

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

*9th Aust. Field Ambulance*

FOR

*September 1918*



*Gunningham*

*P. W. Bond Major*  
~~*Alan J. Polley*~~ *Lt.-Col.*  
*O.C., 9th. Field Ambulance, A.I.F.*

Signature of Officer compiling

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Alan J. Polley - Lt.-Col.*  
*O.C., 9th. Field Ambulance, A.I.F.*

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 161

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 02C G.8.d.2.5.	1/9/1918		<p>Few cases at intervals during night. At 9 a.m. the day's rush commenced. Owing to long distance to C.C.S. (i.e.VECQUEMONT) and congested traffic at portions of route, some difficulty in clearing of cases was experienced. The detailing of 5 M.A.C. cars to clear cases from 10th Field Ambulance A.D.S. CURLU left us shorter than ever, and at one stage for about an hour during the afternoon and despite 10 extra M.A.C. cars having reported for duty at our request, a large number of cases were waiting evacuation. About 5 p.m. all cases were clear with the exception of a number of German wounded prisoners. These were all clear by 7 p.m. In all 545 cases were admitted during the day, including 103 wounded Germans. The greater number of cases were from the 2nd &amp; 5th Australian Divisions and had, through some misunderstanding been evacuated to us in error.</p> <p>Major SMYTH left on ENGLISH leave. 16 Bearers reported back from 10th Aust. Field Ambulance.</p>	L.W.B.
-do-	2/9/1918		<p>Bright morning. C.O. No. 45 Dental Unit with Staff &amp; equipment reported from CHIPILLY. Lance Corporal HOLLAND &amp; 2 men were detailed as Holding Party at CHIPILLY. One German R.M.O's cart; one R.M.O's First Aid Outfit; Oxygen Cylinder &amp; Mask complete; and one German Machine Gun forwarded to War Museum Collecting Depot CORBIE. Foden Lorry reported for duty. Balance of Bearers reported back from 10th Aust. Field Ambulance.</p> <p>2 p.m. Personnel issued with web equipment in lieu of old pattern. A.A.M.C. Order No. 67 received; - M.D.S. to close at 9 a.m. 3/9/18; orders were issued accordingly. Few cases came in during the day. At 10 p.m. wire received from ADMS to continue present Medical arrangements. Private DUBOIS proceeded on leave to XXX NICE.</p>	L.W.B.
-do-	3/9/1918		<p>Still carrying on as M.D.S. &amp; W.W.D.S. Few cases coming in. 2 captured German Horses sent to Mobile Veterinary Section.</p>	L.W.B.
-do-	4/9/1918		<p>a.m. Instructions received from A.D.M.S. to close M.D.S. at noon. Bright morning. noon. M.D.S. closed. Resuscitation team under Major NORTH returned to 11th Field Ambulance. W.W.D.S. closed and personnel of 10th Field Ambulance returned to their Unit. Opened brigade Hospital. Few cases received. For evacuation purposes arranged for 6 M.A.C. cars to remain at post. Wagons were packed in readiness for further moves.</p>	L.W.B.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C-2118.

61

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C G.8.d.2.5.	5-9-1918	<p></p> <p>5 p.m.</p> <p>6 p.m.</p> <p>do</p> <p>7 p.m.</p>	<p>Warning Notice from A.D.M.S. 3.30 a.m. and A.A.M.C. Order No. 68 received at 3.30 a.m.                      150 Stretchers &amp; 250 Blankets sent to 11th Field Ambulance.                      2 Horses drawn Ambulances &amp; 1 Talbot sent to 11th Field Ambulance.                      Few cases received from Brigade during day.</p> <p>A.A.M.C. Order No. 69 received. Preparations made for move.                      A.D.M.S. Instruction SM 18/9/29 received, re Bearer Subdivisions moving with Brigades.                      Heavy thunderstorm.</p> <p>Bearer Subdivisions under Major FITZPATRICK with Captains BRIDGE &amp; WEBB, 1 G.S. Wagon Limber Wagon and 1 Water Cart proceeded to CURLU for duty with 11th Field Ambulance. Night dark and roads very muddy. No. 4909 Private ATWILL R. accidentally injured on road and returned to Unit and evacuated to C.C.S. 40 Blankets and 36 <del>40</del> Stretchers were sent to Major MAILER at H.5.c.7.2.</p>	L.W.B.
-do-	6-9-18	<p>4 a.m.</p> <p>9 a.m.</p> <p>11.15 a.m.</p> <p>4.30 p.m.</p>	<p>Telegraphic instructions from A.D.M.S. received to prepare to open M.D.S. at HALLE.</p> <p>Major BOND &amp; Captain SAMSON left at dawn to locate site for M.D.S. at HALLE; returned at 8 a.m. Two Talbots <del>xxxxRxxx</del> sent to 11th Field Ambulance.</p> <p>Captain SAMSON with Sergeant MOONEY &amp; 4 men proceeded by car to prepare M.D.S. at HALLE (I.19.b.2.4.).</p> <p>"A", "B" and "C" Section Tent Subdivisions under Major BARTRAM M.C. marched out from G.8.d.2.5.. Arrived at HALLE 4.15 p.m. The weather was warm and the personnel were more or less <del>xxxx</del> fatigued on arrival.</p> <p>Horse Transport under W.O. CREBERT moved out half an hour later and joined column en route.</p> <p>A.D.M.S. advised that M.D.S. had been opened. The Dressing Station situated in old farm which had been damaged to great extent by shell fire. It had been used apparently by the enemy as a Map Centre for great numbers of trench maps were littered about the grounds.</p> <p>A.A.M.C. Order No. 70 received.                      Few cases coming in from line.                      At night enemy aircraft active; no damage done in immediate vicinity.</p> <p>A.D.M.S. advises that site selected had been already selected as 1st Aust. Divisional Headquarters; arrangements were made however for the Dressing Station to remain and the 1st Division would take over when we vacated it; in the meantime 3 Hospital Marquees and 6 Bell Tents being loaned to their Camp Commandant for their use.</p>	L.W.B.

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161

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Sheet 62C I.19.b.2.4.	7-9-1918		Bright morning- afternoon warm. 1st & 4th Division asked that we clear their cases. Very few cases coming through. Visit from D.A.D.M.S. of Division. Sergeant ROSS G.R. evacuated "sick" to C.C.S. S. Sgt SOUTHAM & Pte WATSON reported back from ENGLISH leave. At night very heavy enemy air activity. Bombs dropped in vicinity of Headquarters, D.A.D.M.S. Major W. VICKERS D.S.O. wounded and evacuated through this Station to C.C.S.	L.W.B.
-do-	8-9-1918		Dull morning- showery weather. Major BOND visited A.D.M.S. (A.M). Major BARTRAM M.C. detached as Acting D.A.D.M.S. Captain WEBB recalled from Bearers Post.	L.W.B.
-do-	9-9-1918	11 a.m.	Bombing during night. No damage in vicinity of camp. Quiet day. M.D.D.M.S. Australian Corps visited the Dressing Station. A.A.M.C. Order No. 71 received. Instructions issued to Q.M. to send all Medical Stores and equipment in excess of Mobilization Stores to 1st Australian Field Ambulance at M.D.S. BUIRE by 4 p.m. 10-9-1918. Wet night. Rain came through billets roofs at every conceivable spot; the Dressing Room became very wet.	L.W.B.
-do-	10-9-1918		Lorry despatched to SUZANNE to collect surplus Medical Stores dumped there. Surplus stores Stretchers & Blankets at M.D.S packed and despatched to 1st Field Ambulance at BUIRE. Major BOND visited A.D.M.S. , also went to site at CURLU: At CURLU found that 9th Brigade were moving to this area- wired A.D.M.S. accordingly and received verbal intimation that the move of Unit to CURLU in accordance with A.A.M.C. Order No. 71 would be cancelled and an amended order issued. <del>Very few</del> Few cases coming through. Clearing 1st, 3rd & 4th Australian Divisions.	L.W.B.
-do-	11-9-1918		Bright morning. Major BOND visited A.D.M.S. to obtain information in regard to move as the amended order had not been received at 9 a.m. Returned at 9.30 a.m. with instructions that Unit remain at I.19.b.2.4. and establish Brigade Hospital there. Instructions issued to No. 45 Dental Unit to report at I.19.b.2.4. with dental equipment. Resuscitation team under Major NORTH reported back to 11th Field Ambulance; Foden Berry sent to 10th Field Ambulance. Loading party attached to M.D.S. during recent operations returned to Reinforcement Staging Depot. Brigade Hospital established at I.19.b.2.4.	L.W.B.

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WAR DIARY

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1918

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Sheet 62C I. 19. b. 2. 4.			<p>Total patients passed through M. D. S. HALLS --period 6/9/18 to noon 11-9-18 were as follows--</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1st Australian Division</td> <td>67</td> <td>4th Australian Division</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd " "</td> <td>6</td> <td>5th " "</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd " "</td> <td>226</td> <td>Australian Corps</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>B. E. F.</td> <td>61</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Prisoners of War</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>TOTAL</b></td> <td><b>402</b></td> </tr> </table>	1st Australian Division	67	4th Australian Division	24	2nd " "	6	5th " "	1	3rd " "	226	Australian Corps	12			B. E. F.	61			Prisoners of War	5			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>402</b>	
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-do-	12/9/1918	11 p.m.	<p>Brigade order received in regard to 9th Brigade moving from CURLU to this Area-- the 9th Field Ambulance Bearers to move at 10.45 a.m. 12/9/1918.</p>	L.W.B.																								
-do-	12/9/18	11 a.m. 1 p.m.	<p>Bright, nippy morning. Showery weather during day. A. D. M. S. visited Unit, and held Medical Board on several men of Battalions. Bearers under Major FITZPATRICK &amp; Captain BRIDGE with G. S. Limbered Wagon &amp; Water Cart marched in. Few patients. Sergeant BATTEN from 3rd Aust. M. T. Co. reported for duty vice Sergeant WHITE C. H. to report back to 3rd A. M. T. Coy. Lance Corporal HARBER promoted temporary Corporal Cook vice CHALLIS evacuated "sick". Wet night. Arrangements made with Staff Captain 9th Brigade for R. M. O's. to advise us before 10 a.m. each day by telephone if they have any cases for evacuation.</p>	L.W.B.																								
-do-	13/9/18		<p>Sergeant WHITE reported to 3rd Aust. M. T. Coy. Very few cases of sick from Brigade. Outbreak of Mumps at B. I. W. camp at I. 21. a. reported to A. D. M. S. Private LEE F. reported back for duty from Hospital. During night about 11 p.m. 2 Bosche planes brought down. One in flames. Both brought down by our aircraft.</p>	L.W.B.																								
-do-	14/9/18		<p>Bright morning. Personnel busy cleaning up grounds, and re-roofing billets. Very few cases received. Captain LEAVER reported back for duty from 41st Battalion.</p>	L.W.B.																								

# WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C I. 19. b. 2. 4.	15/9/18		Bright, warm day. Personnel paid. Muster-parade at 2 p.m.; personnel examined in regard to Web equipment. Very few cases of sick admitted.	R. W. B.
-do-	16/9/18		Dull morning. Early morning parade- physical drill commenced. Squad drill during morning. Afternoon- football match between two teams from Unit. Divisional Routine Orders received advising that Military Medal for Gallantry displayed during operations 8th/12th August 1918, had been awarded to- No. 15001 Private HARE L. G.; No. 13013 Private TUFFY H. J.; and No. 18363 H. Drv. WAGSTAFF G. D. A. Heavy rain storm accompanied by thunder & lightning during night; roof blown off one of the buildings at billets. Few cases of sick admitted.	R. W. B.
-do-	17/9/1918	9.30 a.m.	Morning bright and fresh. Early morning parade-physical drill; "B" & "C" Sections under Captain LEAVER bathing parade to PERONNE Baths. Fance dress dance held in large room at Billets at night; great enthusiasm shown and event passed off very satisfactorily; the costumes, some borrowed from neighbouring Pierrot troupes, others improvised being excellent. Rain during night.	R. W. B.
-do-	18/9/18		Bright morning. Everything very quiet. Morning parade- tent pitching.	R. W. B.
-do-	19/9/18	p.m.	Dull, windy morning. Early morning parade-physical drill; morning- Gas drill. Cricket match played against 34th Battalion; 34th winning by 70 runs. Major BOND visited A. D. M. S. in evening.	R. W. B.
-do-	20/9/1918	2 p.m.	Dull morning. Morning parade- 7 a.m. Physical Drill; 9.30 a.m. Squad & Company Drill Football match with 34th Battalion- 34th winning by 6 to 3. Evening on invitation 100 of personnel <del>xxxxxxxxxx</del> visited entertainment of 1st Divisional Pierrot Troupe, "Sentimental Blokes".	R. W. B.

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161

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Sheet 62C I.19.b.2.4.	21/9/18		Morning fresh, windy. Parade- instruction in application of Thomas' Splintw. Nine reinforcements reported for duty. Very little doing. Evening- second party of 100 visited entertainment of Sentimental Blokes,	L.W.B.
-do-	22/9/1918		Dull morning- Showery weather during day. Evening- Divisional Pierrot troupe gave entertainment to Unit in room at billets.	L.W.B.
-do-	23/9/1918	a.m.	Fresh bright morning. Parade- squad drill. Medical Board held at Unit on 6 men of 34th Battalion and 1 man from 33rd Battalion. Major BOND visited A.D.M.S. office. Afternoon very little doing; men playing cricket & football. Few cases of sickness. Captain FOOTE, No.45 Dental Unit reported back from English leave.	L.W.B.
-do-	24/9/1918	1.30 p.m. 3.30 p.m. P.M. P.M.	Bright morning. Parade- early morning- physical drill; morning- Tent pitching. Ptes SIGGERS & BLAKENEY proceeded on leave to PARIS. 1.30 p.m. Horse Transport under Captain BRIDGE marched out on training Route March- route Sheet 62C I.19.b.2.4. to I.14.c.6.3. thence to CLERY-SUR-SOMME H.6.d.5.0. thence FOULLAUCOURT I.3.c.1.4.; thence PERONNE Rd to I.22.d.7.8.; through PERONNE to I.27.b.1.4.; thence PERONNE-CLERY SUR SOMME Rd. to I.14.c.6.3. to I.19.b.2.4. a distance of about 12 kilometres. 3.30 p.m. "B" Section Water Cart whilst returning from water point was overturned through horses bolting after driver had been dislodged through jolt from shell hole in road. The water duties orderly Pte MARKWELL was injured when cart capsized, and was evacuated to C.C.S. P.M. Unit Football team played 3rd D.A.C. football, winning by 6 to Nil. P.M. Concert rendered by Unit personnel in billets. Captain C.M. SAMSON M.C. promoted Major as from 10/9/18. Captain R.L. KENIHAN M.C. transferred to 11th Field Ambulance as from 24/9/18. Captain M.H.O. SULLIVAN taken on strength of Unit from Reinforcements on 24/9/18, and 11th <del>Field</del> Field Ambulance on 24/9/18. Captain W.J. BINNS transferred as R.M.O. 3rd Battalion as from 1/8/18.	L.W.B.



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Sheet 62C I. 19. b. 2. 4.	25/9/18		Rain during night. Morning bright. Captain O'SULLIVAN reported for duty. Afternoon- Unit played 33rd Battalion football but were beaten 11--5. Very few cases coming through and little doing. <i>Rxxxxxxak</i> Training- 7 a.m. Physical drill. 9.30 a.m. Gas Drill & Squad Drill.	<i>L. U. b.</i>
- do -	26/9/18	9.30 a.m.	Bright morning. Horse transport marched out on route march over same roads as on 24/9/18. Captain BRIDGE in charge of parade.	<i>L. U. B.</i>
		10 a.m.	Medical Board held on men of 33rd & 34th Battalion. Telephone message received to effect that "B" Section Tent Subdivision under Major SMYTH be prepared to move at an hour's notice to open Corps Relay Post.	
		3 p.m.	Confirmatory message received. "B" Section Tent & Transport Subdivisions prepared to move.	
		6 p.m.	A.D.M.S. Conference with C.Os. 9 <sup>th</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulances at 9 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Headquarters	<i>my</i>
		9 p.m.	Lt Col. JOLLEY reported back from English leave & resumed Command. P.Ts ADAMS & CARTER reported back & 4 men proceeded on leave.	<i>my</i>
- do -	27/9/18	Bright morning	Lt Col. JOLLEY visited 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulances.	
		10 a.m.	A.A.M.C. Order No. 72 also Medical Instruction No. 1 received. Arrangements made to collect 5 Pack Saddles & 5 Water Carriers from D.A.D.O.S. in order to form 9 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance Pack Train.	<i>my</i>
		1.15 p.m.	150 Petrol Tins collected from Divisional Train & 83 Water Bottles from D.A.D.O.S. 150 Stretches & 300 Blankets made available from 3 <sup>rd</sup> M.A.C. - BUSSU.	
		2 p.m.	Major BOND & Major SAMSON proceeded to Headquarters.	
		5 p.m.	Conference of C.Os. Ambulances at A.D.M.S. office.	
- do -	28/9/18		A.A.M.C. Order No. 73 received. Instructions issued to all concerned as per Special Orders 1 & 2 and also scheme of evacuation (copies attached). Major SMYTH with Captain LEAVER and "B" Section Tent & Transport Subdivisions proceeded to VILLERS-FAYCON to establish Working Wounded Relay Post. C.O. with Majors BOND & SAMSON visited vicinity of ST EMILE. Returned 3.30 p.m.	<i>my</i>
		10 a.m.		
		11 a.m.		

*Alant Jolley*

7

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

161

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Sheet 62C F.19.a.2.4.	28/9/18	7pm	Horse & Mechanical Transport proceeded to ST EMILE. Mobilisation stores only carried; surplus stores & packs etc being dumped at Divisional Dump, PERONNE.	my
		9pm	Captain FOOTE with personnel & equipment of No. 45 DENTAL UNIT proceeded to 3rd Divisional Reinforcement Wing, PERONNE.	
	29/9/18	12:30am	Headquarters moved to ST EMILE. Tent Subdivisions 'A' & 'C' Sections under Major BOND marched out, arriving at ST EMILE - Sheet 62C. F.19.a.2.6 at 6 a.m.	my
Sheet 62C F.19.a.2.6.	29/9/18	9am	C.O. Major SAMSON proceeded to reconnoitre vicinity of BONY. Large numbers of wounded coming through American Field Ambulance, ST EMILE. CORPORAL DWEN evacuated WOUNDED.	
		12:30 p.m.	A.D.M.S. in conference with C.Os. Ambulances.	my
		2pm	C.O. visited vicinity of BONY.	
		---	Brigade Continuation Movement Order received advising that 9th Brigade in Reserve in line.	
		3:30pm	Pack team 9th Field Ambulance under Sergeant MEADOWS whilst proceeding to A.D.S. with Blankets, Dressings, Water etc was shelled & came under machine gun fire on road up, and Driver N.C.G. ROBERTS was killed, also 1 Horse was killed, 1 wounded & the other three bolted & it is believed were killed. Sergeant MEADOWS reported back to Headquarters & reported the mishap.	my
		---	Water was sent by car to A.D.S.	
		---	Two Dressers, Despatch Rider & one Q.M. representative were sent to report to Major SAMSON at A.D.S. - RONSSOY.	
		---	Heavy shelling of roads from A.D.S. also in neighbourhood of Headquarters.	
		2d-	No. 16087 Pte WEBB A.D. - 10th Field Ambulance reported Wounded.	
		---	L/Cpl CAMPBELL, 10th Field Ambulance reported Wounded.	

Alan J. Kelly

9

161

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C F.19.a.2.6	29/9/18	p.m.	<p>Large number of wounded coming through Motor Loading Post established at RONSSOY. Trouble experienced with cars and as a result an accumulation of stretchers and <del>stretchers</del> walking wounded at RONSSOY M.L.P. The trouble with cars was caused by the fact that the M.D.S. was established where an American Field Ambulance had an A.D.S. &amp; as the M.A.C. people recognised the position of an A.D.S., and the MAC cars would not clear cases from the 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. consequently there was a congestion of cases at 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance &amp; O.C. 11<sup>th</sup> placed his 'Talbot' cars on to clear them. This meant a shortage of 5 cars clearing from M.L.P. &amp; the night being dark &amp; wet and there heavy traffic on the road cases some accumulated at M.L.P.</p> <p>Word was received that vicinity of M.L.P. was being shelled with H.E. and Gas, and urgent appeal was made for cars. Arrangements were made with 11<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance and further cars were relieved from MDS work and despatched.</p> <p>A party of Tent Subdivision men were despatched to M.L.P. to assist in shifting and loading patients and in a short time all was reported clear. C.O. reported back from line at 4.30 a.m.</p> <p><u>Casualties</u> - Ptes MILTON &amp; HARROD of 9<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance reported Wounded &amp; Ptes COX RWL, &amp; MACEY H.J. 9<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance "Gassed".</p> <p>10<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance - No. 16181 Pte CHALMERS J. "Killed in Action"</p> <p>Ptes WEBB H.D., BARTLETT G.O., C/pt CODY W - CAMPBELL H.T. "Wounded"</p> <p>Ptes HINVEST A.B.H., CLOUGH H., DAWSON G. "Gassed"</p> <p><u>General</u> - Ptes ADAMS H.A. and D.W. PALMER R.C. reported back from English leave.</p>	<p>Co. 1<sup>st</sup> had permission from Co. 9<sup>th</sup> to utilize his cars to clear M.D.S.</p>
		8.30pm		
		12.30pm		

Alan J. Volley

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Sheet 62c F. 19. a. 2. 6.	30/9/18	9.30 am	<p>Heavy rain during night - morning clearing up but windy and cold.</p> <p>ADMS visited the C.O.</p> <p>9th Brigade R.A.P. moved forward and Bearers Subdivisions under Major FITZPATRICK established at F. 29. b. 9. 9. All forward evacuations reported clear.</p> <p>M.A.C. cars now attached to M.D.S. ST EMILE. Several of Ambulance cars knocked <del>down</del> about by shell fire on roads.</p> <p>Instructions were issued for cars to run on half hourly circuit between Motor Loading Post &amp; Relay Post. Steady stream of patients.</p> <p>Raining intermittently. C.O. visited O.Co. forward evacuations &amp; found everything going well.</p>	my
		P.M.		
		2/2 30/9/18		

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Lt.-Col.  
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10