

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/57/19

Title: 14th Australian Field Ambulance

August 1917



AWM4-26/57/19

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 278

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	France Sheet 27 T18 C9.8	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
T18 C9.8 near Eblingen	August 1 st			Bureau made entry for receipt of mild sick, collected from Brigade (14 th) in billeting areas around Eblingen Brigade, and more serious sick after passing through Amb. A.D. Post connected to Gen & Staff Hospital at HAZEBROUCK and ROMER.	A 145
"	4 th			1 Tent Unit in charge of sick, Bureau down and remaining Tent Unit engaged daily in what training can be done without provision of a drill ground, mainly route marches & small	A 145
"	5 th			See Regimental Drill & Tenting for aid to wounded etc. Route March in morning. Bathing Parade in afternoon.	A 145
"	6 th			'B' and 'C' sections moved to LUMORES by march route and bus (in Str.) with 14 th Inf Bde to do training in 'W' area. Major Cronther O.C. 'B' section placed in charge of detachment. Details of Training there in Appendix N of 11-8-17. A section & Major remained at T18 C9.8 to maintain Field Hospital for Bde.	Appendix N of 11-8-17 A 145
"	7 th			A section employed on Fatigues and Hospital work. 'B' & 'C' sections see Appendix	A 145
"	10 th			'B' & 'C' sections returned from 'W' training area by march route & bus as shown in Appendix N of 11-8-17.	A 145
"	11 th			All units that could be moved marched to Det Bath at BEAUVANHEM leaving camp at 8 am. Sick to be kept in Hospital for 14 days if possible before evacuation	A 145

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			France Street 27 T. 18 C. 9. 8	
T. 18 C. 9. 8	August 12 th		Church Parade 10.30 Am with 14 th Inf Bde	ANT
"	13 th		Morning :- Inspection of Gas Appliances (SBR & PH) lecture on Gas. Sketch Drill with SBR adjusted. Transport Drill with Horse Respiration on.	ANT
"	14 th		Afternoon :- Route March. Morning & Company Drill, & that inspection in afternoon. 3 CWs sent to School of Cooking for 5 days instruction (2 nd Army School at HAZEBROUCK).	ANT
"	15 th		Morning :- Route March. Afternoon :- lecture on treatment of Gassed cases in different parts of communicating line.	
"	16 th		Company Drill. Barber's shop opened to ensure clipping off all ranks' hair.	ANT
"	17 th		Morning :- Company Drill. 1 st aid with SBR adjusted. afternoon March & use of Thomas Splints on stretchers. A.D. units inspected transport Div at 10.15 Am	ANT
"	18 th		Morning. Route March to Div Baths. afternoon Aid inspection	ANT
"	19 th		Morning. Church Parade with Inf Bde (14 th).	ANT
"	20 th		I handed over to Major Crowther at 9 Am and left with No 90 Sgt CAMPBELL & (Sgt Clerk) for Base (Romen) to inspect Base Records of Ambulance (3 rd Echelon) in new house with wishes of A.D. units.	ANT

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			France Sheet 27	
T18 C9.8	20	9 AM	I took over command from LICR HATFIELD 830 at 9 AM. 'A' + 'C' sections under Major SAWERS W.C. proceeded by march route in full marching order to BLAIRINGHEM and marched past 60 C 1 st Bn, then returned	MM
"	21		Visit of Catering Officer 2 nd Army who inspected the culinary arrangements of the unit. He expressed himself satisfied. Route March in Morning. Company Drill in afternoon.	MM
"	22		Under instructions of Admin. as OC, I proceeded to BLAIRINGHEM for the march past 60 C 2 nd Bn. Officers suddenly inspected.	MM
"	23		Morning. Company Drill in afternoon.	MM
"	24		Morning - Route March. Afternoon. 8 Battalion Company Drill by Senior NCOs under my guidance.	MM
"	25		Route March to Berth in morning. Company Drill (8 Battalion) by Senior NCOs again.	MM
"	26		Church Parade at 9 AM with 14 th Inf Bde. I proceeded to MONT DUPLIC near RACQUINGHEM with other officers of Bde. There received morning instructions re review of Division by the C in C.	MM
"	27		Morning - Route March. 2007 Company Drill. I took Major SAWERS to MONT DUPLIC to see review ground as I detailed C section to take part in review. Handed over to LICR HATFIELD in afternoon & returned from Base Records	MM

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Tis. C. 9. 28	1917 August 28		<p>France Hill 27</p> <p>Having been detailed to latter command of a Composite of 1st and 2nd sections from each of 14th 8th and 15th Bns, at review by G. L. C. (Sir Douglas Haig F.M.) on 29th inst, I took C section towards MONT DUPIRE (near RACQUINGHEM off road from RACQUINGHEM to AIRE) as far as RACQUINGHEM for rehearsal of MONT DUPIRE of Review by Division, but was informed at former place that owing to bad weather it was to be done only in skeleton by officers, so I sent the section back & was present at 3 PM with 2 C sections (1 section of 8th 14th & 15th).</p>	AWT
"	29 th		<p>Marched out with C section at 8 AM & picked up section of 8th at RACQUINGHEM and section of 15th at MONT DUPIRE, arriving in review ground at 10.30 AM.</p> <p>Ambulance placed in recessed order in line with transport (Horse) in 1 line.</p>	AWT
"			<p>F.M. Sir Douglas Haig arrived at 11.30 & General Salute & inspection carried out. The C. in C. inspected Ambulance & expressed to me his admiration for work of Army Medical Corps. Ambulance marched off at 12.30 & proceeded back to camp by sections independently.</p>	AWT
"	30 th		<p>Dark March in morning, Drill with S.B. adapted in afternoon</p>	AWT
"	31 st		<p>Dark March in morning. Company Drill in afternoon</p>	AWT

O.C.

14th Aust. Field Ambulance.

Herewith report on operations in "W" Training area carried out by "B" and "C" Sections, 14th Field Amb. between Aug 7 - 11 1917.

The accompanying map of the property of the A.D.M.S. to whom I have promised to return it at the earliest opportunity.

Sgt W.L. Crowther Major
O.C. "B" Section

The O.C.

14th Aust Field Ambulance.

I have to report that on Aug 6th "B" and "C" Sections 14th Field Ambulance, grouped with 14th A.I.F. Brigade moved from Ebbingham to Lumbres. The column moved by bus from embussing point 7.52.3.59. arriving at destination 9.50. a.m. The details under my command took over the billets from 3rd Aust Field Ambulance and prepared to receive the sick of the Brigade. Brigade Hd. Qutrs. opened at Lumbres at 4 p.m. the same day and were notified the location of the Ambulance.

Sick to be evacuated as in memo A.D.M.S. of this date. Headquarters Unit "W" Training Area notified by car that their sick would be collected each morning for evacuation August 7th.

At 6 a.m. order from Brigade that one Section of Field Ambulance was to be attached to each of 55th and 56th Battalions for tactical scheme of the day. Arrangements to be made with O.C.'s of Battalions direct. The Bearer sections of the Ambulance under Capt's Jose and Fay respectively were detached for Duty. The former was ordered to establish with 56 Battalion and make arrangements for the collection and evacuation of their casualties.

If possible he was to work in conjunction with Capt. Fay to establish a common collecting point from which the wagon could load and remove casualties to the A.D.S. Capt. Fay with "C" Section Bearers was ordered to establish touch with 55th Bn. to remove and evacuate their casualties if possible using a common collecting point with bearers of "B" Section. Theoretically headquarters of this unit represented the Main Dressing Station.

I attach the scheme of operations for 55th. Bn. the orders of the 56th. are not available. The attacks carried by these two units were at a distance of some 2½ miles from each other so it was not practicable to form a common collecting point for the wagons' waiting position. In each case the bearer sub-divs. formed relay posts and evacuated casualties to a point East and West of the main road. from which they were easily located and removed to A.D.S. Orders for 55th Bn are attached.

At 4 p.m. Capt McIver reported from leave.

August 8th.

The scheme for Aug 8th was very similar to that of the preceding day. The 53rd & 54th Bns made independent attacks on positions north of the main road and at a distance of 2½-3 miles from each other. As before Brigade Orders were for one Section to be attached to each Bn.

Major Sawers with the whole of "C" Section moved to a point D.10.A95 Map attached. The Bearers were sent forward to establish touch with the R.A.P. 53rd Bn. This done they evacuated sick by relays to a Dressing Station on the main road formed by the Tent

Sub-Division "C" Section. The casualties were sheltered and instructions given in the use and application of the "Thomas" Splint &c.

With Capt McIver I took the Bearers "B" Section to U.29.B 52. established with the R.A.P. and evacuated their casualties. At 12.50.p.m. the mares selected by the V.O. 14th Bde were paraded before the Corps Committee at Bayenghem. All were rejected for stud purposes.

August 9th.

Attached Bde Orders and scheme for August 9th.

"B" Section complete and Bearers "C" Section under ^{my} command were in position at U.29.D.52 at 9 a.m. After inspection of site at U29. A67. I decided to relinquish the idea of forming a Collecting Post there and evacuating casualties by back road to Harlettes owing to, - 1 exposed position to rifle fire; 2 muddy condition of roads. In consequence a Collecting Post and wagon loading Post were founded ~~under~~ at U29.C40. The Bearer sub-division of "C" Section under Capt Jose were ~~ordered~~ ordered to locate and keep in touch with the first stage of the attack. Squads were also attached to 53rd and 56th Bns in reserve U29 B. With "B" Section Sub-Division a Collecting Post was established and the location at B9 C40 notified to Bde H.Q. then at U30.B36.

"B" Bearer Sub-Division were held as a reserve until the attack developed. After 9 a.m. as the 53rd & 55th Bns advanced squads were sent out to establish further relay Posts. No hitch occurred in the evacuation of wounded and at the Collecting point "Thomas" Splints were applied and their instruction given to reserve Bearers and Tent Sub-Divisions.

2nd Phase of Operations. 11.15 a.m. 2.30.p.m.

At 11.15 a.m. despatch (attached) from Div H.Q. was delivered with the information of attack by 53rd & 56th Bns. I decided to move the Collecting Point to C6 central as the point was on a good road and would be available to both relays of ~~Bearers~~ Bearers. The remaining Bearers less two squads were sent forward to form Relay Posts behind their respective Bns.

In making their attack the 56th Bn made a wide flanking move and their casualties coming down the valley VI9C, V.25.AIC. and U30.D were carried parallel to the main E. & W. road. Capts Jose & McIver were ~~the~~ with the respective Section Bearers and were responsible for the evacuation from their particular Sections.

At 1.30. the umpires agreed that the operation ~~from their particular Section~~ had been decided and I attended the Conference of Officers. at D.2 A19 at the command of Bgdr General Hobkirk and gave a brief account of the arrangements for the evacuation of the casualties of the day.

August 10th.

Brigade moved from the "W" Training Area to Ebblinghem Area.

Secret Orders of Movement enclosed.

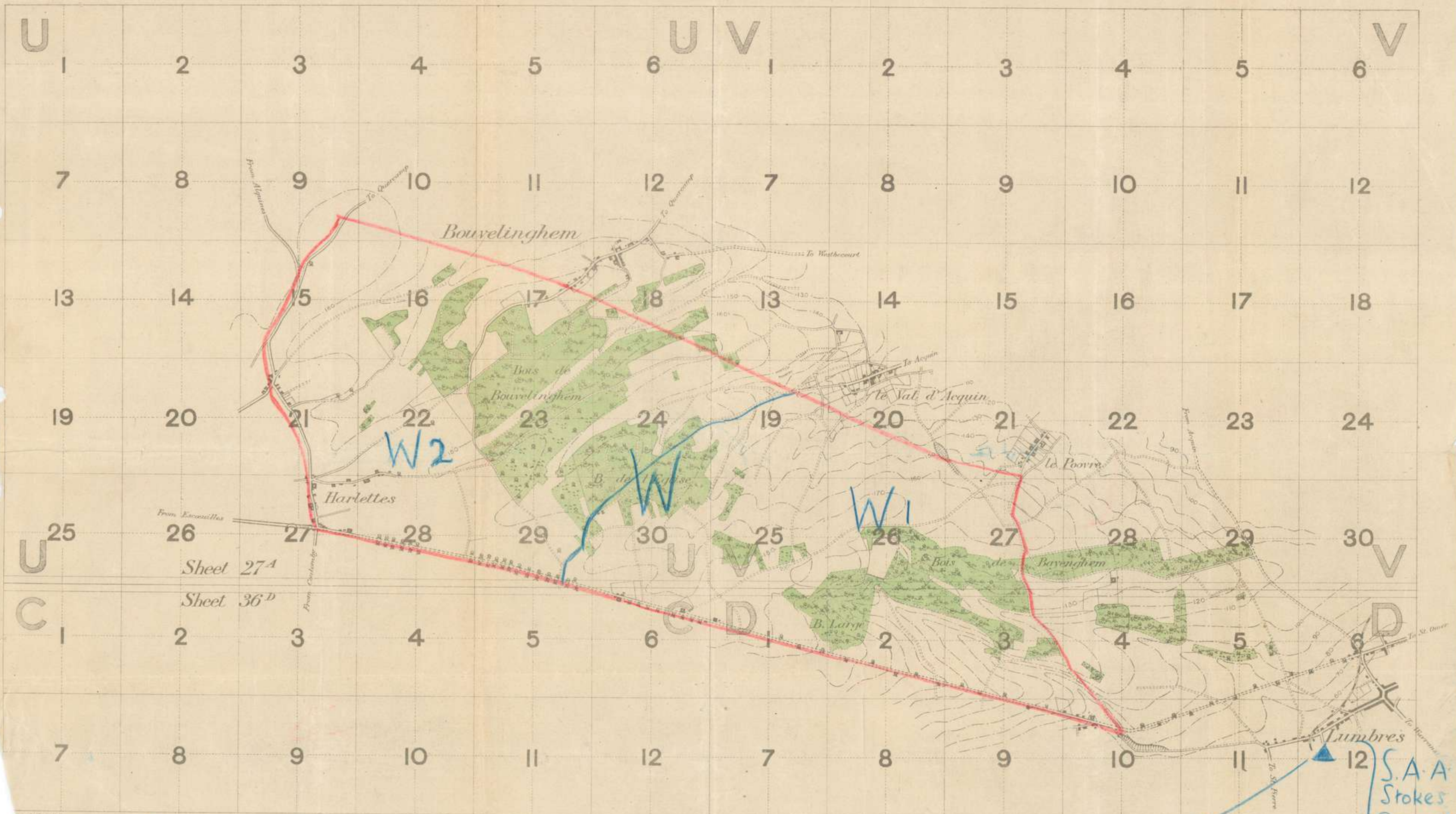
Original Orders for 14th Field Ambulance to move independently to (i) "C" Section under Major Sawers to embus at point specified at 10.30 a.m. (ii) A transport under Capt Fay to proceed independently to Ebblinghem leaving 10.30.am. (iii) "B" Section to embus at 2 p.m. at the same point specified.

Details from 58th. Ambulance arrived at 11.a.m. I attach copy of certificate re condition of camp area on marching out given by incoming Unit.

The Movement to Ebblinghem, completed by 5.p.m. without accident when arrival was reported to O.C. Field Ambulance.

Sgd WLCrowther
Major
14th Field Ambulance.

Scale:- 1:20,000



Sheet 27^A
Sheet 36^D

"W" Training Area Commandant
Col. Parkinson

Col. Coughman

S.A.A.
Stokes
Grenades
Wire
Bayonet
Fighting
Apparatus