

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/57/4

Title: 14th Australian Field Ambulance

May 1916



AWM4-26/57/4

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

RECEIVED
 Army Form C. 2118.
 CENTRAL REGISTRY
 9* JUN. 1916
 D.A.G. 3rd. ECHELON.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Lenny Post	1-5-16		Syllabus of Training commenced systematically. Bear Division instructed in Squad Drill and Stretcher Exercises, Tent Div in Nursing & Preparation of Tents for sick & wounded. Both divisions given a lecture on Anatomy.	A.H.S.
	2-5-16		Training continued. Special subjects = Treatment of Wounds & Anatomy of Circulatory System	A.H.S.
	3-5-16		B section sent out with 14 th Inf. Bde., found a dressing station & sent forward bearers to get touch with L.M.O.S. Special Subjects = Digestive Respiration & Urinary Systems, Rendering of 1 st Aid & practice in bandaging.	A.H.S.
	4-5-16		Company drill, Collection of Wounded, Treatment of Fractures. Order for A.D.M.S. to obtain additional Camel Transport. Total now held = 20 camels, 20 native drivers, 2 Reins, + 6 being down Cacolets. Also 21 mules obtained in lieu of 19 draught handed over to Artillery by Divisional instructors. 4 Sand Carts (Ambulances) each carrying 2 patients lying down also on charge.	A.H.T.
	5-5-16	Field General	Court Martial on Pte Saunders ³³ on charge of being absent without leave, opened & found guilty. Training = Wagon Drill, Treatment of Haemorrhage. Lectures have been given to officers on the evenings (1) Organization of the Medical Service (2) Characteristics of Discipline & administration of punishments. (3) Care & transport of sick & wounded.	
		Field General	Court martial on C/Plt Ehret, J. on charge of desertion opened, not guilty, but guilty of being absent without leave.	A.H.S.

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Fung Post	6-5-16		<p>Divisional field day. Reville at 04.00, fall in at 05.30 & reached starting point at 06.29 where unit followed the 5th Pioneer Bde at the rear of the Column. Unit Under instructions from ADMS 9 took only A section. About 3 miles out on road to headhead received orders to follow 16th Inf Bde. This Bde left the road & advanced in company column. At about a mile further out noted the Bde dispersing as if to take up a position along low sand hills. I found a dressing station under shelter of one of these & sent forward two bearer companies each with about 40 bearers, 1 sand cart & 3 camels with laying down caecoles. They kept about 1 mile in rear of the right & left flanks of advancing infantry until it was noted that the latter were retiring, when the bearers also retired on to my dressing station. As per instructions from A.D.M.S. I formed up & returned to camp independently.</p>	<p>ATT</p>
"	7-5-16		<p>Church Parade. - Capt Burkill, E.H., reported for duty, being attached by ADMS 5 dated 6-5-16</p>	<p>ATT</p>
"	8-5-16		<p>Syllabus of training continued. Squad drill, Wagon Drill, lectures on infectious diseases, fractures & their treatment, & to officers on the Work of the Medical Service in a Light Horse Division.</p>	<p>ATT</p>
"	9-5-16		<p>Route March & Stretcher Exercises. lectures on Administration of Medicines & on Fractures. To officers on Correspondence & returns in the field.</p>	<p>ATT</p>
"	10-5-16		<p>Squad drill & Wagon Drill. lectures on Surgical Nursing, demonstration of putting up fractures. Proceedings of Courts Martial in cases of 4/Cpl Elbert and Saunders I received. Extracts are as follows</p>	<p>ATT</p>

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Fury Post	10-5-16	(a)	<p>No 92 B L/Cpl EHRET, J., found ^{not} guilty of desertion but guilty of absence without leave for 27 days, sentenced to detention for 28 days, confirmed by the G.O.C. but commuted to 28 days 7th Pun^t No 2. Sentence promulgated on parade at 16.00 & prisoner informed of forfeiture of pay for 27 days whilst absent without leave and forfeiture of 20 days pay whilst in Custody.</p> <p>(4) No 164 Pte SAUNDERS, J.F., found guilty of being absent without leave for 87.00 on 25-3-16 till 23.00 on 24-4-16 and sentenced to 30 days detention, confirmed by the G.O.C. but commuted to 30 days 7th Pun^t No 2. Sentence promulgated on parade at 16.00 and prisoner informed of forfeiture of pay whilst absent without leave (for 31 days) and forfeiture of 16 days pay whilst in custody.</p> <p>Syllabus of training continued. Loading of wagons & sand carts. Surgical Nursing & practice in putting up fractures.</p>	
"	11-5-16		<p>Route March - Lecture to Tent Div on Cooking & Sewing of Food for Sick. No 92 B L/Cpl Ehret J found to be suffering from Venereal Disease. No 164 Pte SAUNDERS, J.F. committed to A.P.M. to undergo 7. Punishment No 2.</p>	A45
"	12-5-16		<p>Reveille at 00.00. Parade at 00.30 of A section with transport and divisional column joined up with, passing starting point at 01.28. Night March along road E from Fury Post to 5/4 Kilometre point like place of assembly. Ambulance formed into line and moved on to place of deployment about 1200 yards further on keeping touch by connecting files. At day break position of unit found to be correct in relation to other units in vicinity. Return to camp about 06.30</p>	A45

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jery Post	12-5-16		<p>No 92 B 4/9 Lt EHRET, under sentence of F.G. Court Martial, but in hospital with V.D. (Syphilis), transferred under AmC escort of 1 NCO + 2 men to Cas. Clearing Station. All patients evacuated to Cas. Clearing Station and baggage & equipment packed up in readiness to proceed to Railhead on 13-5-16. No 104 The Crocker ^{for} whose trial a F.G. Court Martial has been convened for 13-5-16, found to be suffering from Tonsillitis & unfit for trial. He was therefore admitted to Hospital and D.H.Q. notified that Court Martial might be postponed.</p>	<p>AMT</p>
Railhead	13-5-16		<p>Reveille at 02.00. Whole unit, less baggage guard of 1 NCO + 3 men & 32nd Dental Unit attached, marched out at 04.45 and proceeded E along main road, reaching junction of North Road Head Road & Main Road at 06.30. B section was separated off & sent to North Road Head. Remainder of Unit continued to Rail Head and took over camp being vacated by 8th F. Amb Coy with about 90 patients. Having taken this over I inspected B section & found Tent Div & Transport at North Road Head and Beaver Div about 3/4 mile across sand near DUNTRON PLATEAU. I ordered O.C. B section to send Transport Subdiv. back to main camp at ROAD HEAD and to take forward Tent Subdiv to Beaver Subdiv and from a camp near 56th BN Hqrs. With B section Transport at RAILHEAD I would send out supplies etc. Tomorrow I left him Comd with Caçoles & 2 Sand Carts for evacuation of sick & wounded.</p>	<p>AMT</p>
Railhead	14-5-16		<p>48 replacements sent by ADMS, mostly recent arrivals from Australia, were taken on strength 12-5-16. Camp cleaned up and Tent accommodation provided for about 100 sick. Baggage & Personnel in charge joined up with unit again. Return of deficiencies in equipment for B section sent in to DADOS + D.H.Q.</p>	<p>AMT</p>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Railhead	14-5-16		In company with Brigade San. Officer (Capt BURKITT) I made an inspection of camps & front line trenches in Left Right Sector of area defended by the 14 th Div Bde, viz from Hog's back to Sphairse. Sanitary Arrangements good, but country very difficult for transport of wounded & sick; i.e. very fine sand and undulating sand dunes.	A.H.T.
"	15-5-16		Camp construction continued. I inspected front line & camp in rear from HOG'S BACK on right to MT KGM BLA on left, and found sanitation satisfactory but flies very numerous in places. Also inspected B section at DUNTHORN PLATEAU where accommodation is provided for 16 sick. Arrangements made to evacuate sick by desert sand carts from units on front line, units to wire to me at RAILHEAD when transport required.	A.H.T.
"	16-5-16		Camp construction continued. A.H.T.	A.H.T.
"	17-5-16		Unit inspected at 05.30 by D.D.M.s accompanied by A.D.M.s. Instruction received from D.D.M.s to send Capt BURGE, S.B. whom I had reported to be unfit for service in the field, to Cairo to report to A.F. Hedges. Capt BURGE despatched accordingly at 18.30.	A.H.T.
"	18-5-16		Camp construction continued. The weather has been so severe during past 3 days that little work could be done. A scorching wind has been blowing & a number of men have been admitted daily of with heat exhaustion & heat stroke. A memo received from NO1 Stab. Hosp Dornailija that Capt V. Mc Donnell had been admitted "detained" - "suffering from infected frontal sinus". I was not aware that he was in Dornailija but he had complained to me of nasal trouble & pain in forehead the afternoon of 17-5-16	A.H.T.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Railhead	19-5-16		Effective strength of unit now standard Officers 9 Other Ranks 239, Total 248. Attached is 32 nd Dental unit, Officers 1 Other Ranks 2, and 22 Native Drivers.	AWF
"	20-5-16		Provisional Appointments of N.C.O.'s made to establish C section. Acting Ranks 1 Grade higher than their permanent grade are the only promotions made in view of the order of the A.D.M.S. Major G.W. Macartney to be O.C. with Capt C.H. Parkinson Tent Captain, and Capt J.B. Metcalfe Bearer Captain. A section to have as Tent Captain, Capt E.B. Burditt and H.F. Mandley Bearer Captain. B section to have as Bearer Capt, Capt I.B. Jones, Tent Capt at present vacant. Corporal Carter A.E. Cpl Cook, B section, returned from school of instruction in cookery at Aless. dated 18-5-16	AWF
"	21-5-16		Church Parade in Y.M.C.A. tent at 19.00 attended by about 40 of this unit.	AWF
"	22-5-16		Table of Equipment of Personnel for France received and steps taken to complete on this scale. Application made to D.H.Q. for re-convening of court martial to try No 104 Pte Crocker R.G. who became ill when a F.G. Court martial had been convened previously & who is now discharged from hospital to Guard Tent.	AWF
	23-5-16		A.D.M.S. asks for proposals as to formation of C section. Statement as to actions taken on 20-5-16 forwarded. All ranks are now issued with web equipment. Instruction given daily in packing of men's valises. Web equipment is worn less ammunition pouches, bayonet & frog & entrenching tool. The pack is maintained on the shoulders by supporting web straps which pass over shoulder & back under armpit, & is not connected to the braces of the web.	AWF

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Railhead	24-5-16		Vehicles painted 'service grey' rather more like a dark green. Personnel taken out on route march in full marching order. I also inspected B section in full marching order at North Road Head.	A.H.T.
"	25-5-16		Painting of vehicles continued. Route March. List of deficiencies in Equipment forwarded to D.A.D.O.S.	A.H.T.
"	26-5-16		Musters Parade held. No on strength found to be 256 consisting of 9 officers 247 other ranks = 1 officer deficient, 10 other ranks excess. Of these however one is a deserter (Plt Denton), one undergoing 30 days F.P. No 2 under A.P.M. (Sgt Saunders), a third is awaiting ^{trial} sentence of F.G. Court Martial. Trial of 104 Plt CROCKER R.G. by F.G. Court Martial concluded, found guilty of absence without leave. Order issued that all cameras are to be posted away or otherwise disposed of. 10 mules in excess of establishment sent to FERRY POST and handed over. Receipt obtained & delivered to Adams.	A.H.T.
"	27-5-16		A & C sections inspected by G.O.C.. Pleased with turn out of personnel but not satisfied with state of harness. Metal work not yet bright enough. Nominal Roll of Sections made out and except for slight excess over Establishment Part VII, sections are complete and appointments filled. No authority received yet to make substantive promotions in C section or appoint full no of drivers	A.H.T.
"	28-5-16		Church Parade at 18.30. Effective strength brought down to 9 officers 239 other ranks by commutations to Hospital and sending remaining excess (3 other ranks) to Cas Clear. Stn by order of Adams	A.H.T.
"	29-5-16		Preparations made for return from Railhead to Ferry Post. Route March.	A.H.T.

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FERRY POST	30/5/16.		A & C Sections left Railhead at 05.00 and connected up with B Section from DUNTROON PLATEAU AT 0540. The camp at RAILHEAD and Medical Service of Front line handed over to No. 1 Welsh Field Ambulance / 53rd Divn. Camp of the Cas. Clearing Station at FERRY POST occupied. Pte. Crocker handed over to A.P.M, the finding (guilty) and sentence (270 days imprisonment with hard labour) having been promulgated on 29/5/16.	A.H.T.
"	31/5/16.		Work of Casualty Clearing Station taken over from A Section of 15th F. Ambulance.	A.H.T.
(Sgd) A.H.TEBBUTT, Lt. Col.				
(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month & filed with volume for that month).				