

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/58/14

Title: 15th Australian Field Ambulance

June 1917



AWM4-26/58/14

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

1359

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages will be prepared in manuscript.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELLEVUE FARM	1-6-17		The following N.C.O.s and men have been awarded DECORATIONS for services in the field. No 2957 SERGEANT BURGESS N. - Bar to Military Medal. No 9890 SERGEANT MCFADDEN, T. - Military Medal. No. 1843 LCE/CPL LAWLER, V. Military Medal. No 1807 LCE/CPL QUIRK R. G. Military Medal. No 1576 PTE. HOUGH, A. Military Medal. Promotions. No 6167 CPL ROGERS, E. is promoted to LCE/SGT FARRIER from this date. Reversion. No 8838 DVR ADAMSON C.R. reverts to Private at his own request from this date. <i>Imp.</i>	
	2-6-17		MAJOR D.C. PIGEON left on 10 days leave to the UNITED KINGDOM. Kit Inspection of N.C.O.s and men of the Unit held by Quartermaster from 5 to 7 p.m. <i>Imp.</i>	
	3-6-17		Kit Inspection continued at 11 a.m. <i>Imp.</i>	
	4-6-17		Attention of all ranks drawn to the advisability of making a will on forms supplied by Administrative Headquarters. A.I.F. The following were taken on the strengths. No. 3042 DVR STONE, G.W. No 14861, PTE MCGRAW, W. No 15800, PTE DOYLE, W.S. No 15814, PTE INGRAM L.T. No 3780 PTE. HOWSON C.F. No 8858 PTE FERRIS T.E. all from Reinforcements. <i>Imp.</i>	
	5-6-17		No 8173 DVR SHEAN, H.H. reverts to Private at his own request as from 1-6-1917. No. 8174 DVR MALLYON H.T.M. reverts to Private at his own request as from 1-6-1917. <i>Imp.</i>	
	6-6-17		Reversions No 5366, CPL SCOTT P.H. No 2927 DVR HUGHES, R.R. reverts to Private at own request as from 1-6-1917. <i>Imp.</i>	Lieut Col. L.O. 15th Bant Field Ambulance.

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(История империи)

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Инструкция по ведению дел
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELLEVOE FARM.	6.6.17		No 1611 PTE STEWART R. is taken on the strength from No 1 A.G.H. Nos 8593 and 14301 PTEs NICHOLS E.C. and BROWN, S. have been admitted to C.R.S. sick. Struck off strength No 14303 PTE GEROCK W.F. No 8913 PTE NICHOL W.G. No 6866 PTE HAWKE H.B. evacuated to C.C.S. J.M.P.	
	7.6.17		The following men have been mentioned in 1st Anzac Corps Routine Order No 282 for gallant conduct in connection with the recent operations near BULLECOURT. No 5542, PTE FELTON R.C. No 14304 PTE LANG H.D. No 14306 PTE MARTIN, W.D. MAJOR C. SHELLSHEAR reported back from 10 days leave to the UNITED KINGDOM. J.M.P.	
	8.6.17		No entry necessary. J.M.P.	
	9.6.17		MAJOR C. SHELLSHEAR resumes charge of C.R.S. Medical and Surgical Wounds. CAPTAIN C.C. MINTY appointed Visiting Medical Officer to Q Battery, ANTI AIRCRAFT, 1st ANZAC WORKSHOPS and PORTUGUESE DETAILS on telephonic communication from D.D.M.S. 4th ARMY CORPS. The following N.C.Os and men are taken on the strength from Reinforcements. No. 2598, SGT INDER, A.H. No 7648, L/SGT MEIKLE JOHN, R. S.I.C. No 8907, PTE CAMPBELL R. No 184483, PTE FLEMING J. No 1051 PTE FARMER, W.L. No 4496 PTE GIBSON, A.L. No 7677, PTE HILL W.H. No 8559, PTE HORSWELL, D.P. No 9157 PTE HOLLYER W.A. No 11152, PTE JAMES C.E. No 9170, PTE KERSHAW, J. No 9912, PTE KEATING J.P. No 9960, PTE LANGFORD, R.W.T. No 4741 PTE LELEU L.J. No 14367 PTE MACNEE F.E. No 9916 PTE McIVOR L.D. No 9197 PTE OLDFIELD, W.A.S. No 9198 PTE O'KEEFE, H. No 16241, PTE SCHINCKEL H.B. No 9297 PTE SMITH C.C. No 6050 PTE SOMERVILLE S. No 9324, PTE SWADLING W.N. No 9325 PTE TRESEDER H.A. No 9225, PTE WELLARD E.R. J.M.P.	Lieut. Col. L.O., 15th Aust. Field Ambulance

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELLEVUE FARM	10-6-17		A.D.V.S. 5 th AUST. DIVISION, A.I.F. inspected the Horses of Unit. <i>Just</i>	
	11-6-17		Honours and mentions. MAJOR C.L.S. MACINTOSH has been awarded the D.S.O. (Supplement No. 3011 dt-4-6-17). The following N.C.Os. have been mentioned in despatches. No 2595 S/SGT. HILE W.T.R.B., and No 9890. LEE/CA (now SGT) MCFADDEN, T.J. of 15 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE, No 128 S/SGT. MESHERRY, G.P. of 23 rd AUST. DENTAL UNIT. attached 15 th AUST. FLD. AMB. (LONDON GAZETTE - 15/5/17). C.R.S. inspected by A.D.M.S. 5 th AUST. Div. <i>Just</i>	
	12-6-17		Nominal Roll of Officers, N.C.Os. and men of Sections "A", "B" and "C", "HORSE TRANSPORT" and "M.T. TRANSPORT" attached. published and to come into force forthwith. War diary of details attached to 8 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE by order of A.D.M.S. 5 th AUST. DIVISION - 6-5-17 received and attached hereto as appendix 8b. <i>Just</i>	APPENDIX 8b
	13-6-17		During the temporary absence on leave of the commanding Officer, Major G. SHELLSHEAR to be Acting O.C. Captain W.L. SMITH reported for duty from detachment with 13 th A.F.A. Brigade. Captain A.V.R. HANSEN transferred from 14 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE to date from 10-6-17 (Authority - A.D.M.S., 5 th Aust. Division, J25/62 dated 11-6-1917). Captain W.L. SMITH posted to 'B' section and Captain A.V.R. HANSEN posted to 'A' section. One Other Rank struck off strength and one Other Rank taken on strength. Plotment of Officers, N.C.Os. and men of 15 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE issued and O.S. sections supplied with complete copies. <i>Just</i>	

Just Lieut Colonel
C.O. 15th Australian Field Ambulance A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BELLEVUE FARM	13-6-17		A.R.M.C. Order No. 35 dated 13-6-1917 received. <i>Just</i>	
	15-6-17		Captain B.M. BEITH transferred to 57th BATTALION, A.I.F. as R.M.O. Dated 10-6-1917. <i>Just</i> Congratulatory - No 2995, D.V.R. WOODBERRY, B.C. mentioned in despatches - 1st ANZAC Routine Order No. 290 dated 9-6-1917. One other Rank taken on strength. Medical and Dental Arrangements for SENLIS AREA dated 14-6-17 issued by A.D.M.S., 5th AUST. DIVISION, received. <i>Just</i>	
	16-6-17	9AM	MAJOR D.C. PIGEON reported back from leave and resumed duties as TRANSPORT OFFICER. 4 Other Ranks struck off strength - 3 Other Ranks taken on strength.	
		10-30AM	Handed over Corps Rest Station to C.O., 7th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE.	
CONTAY		11-15AM	Took over Corps Mumps Station, CONTAY, from C.O., 6th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE.	
			Arrangements made for clearing of 15th Brigade sick. <i>Just</i>	
	17-6-17		No entries necessary. <i>Just</i>	
	18-6-17			
	19-6-17			
	20-6-17			
	21-6-17		One Other Rank taken on strength. <i>Just</i>	
	22-6-17		Two other Ranks taken on strength. <i>Just</i>	
	23-6-17	9-30AM	Inspection of Personnel and Camp by S.O.C., 5th AUST. DIVISION.	
		11AM	Inspection of Personnel and Camp by D.M.S., 3rd ARMY. <i>Just</i>	
	24-6-17		One Other Rank taken off strength.	

Just Stewart Lieut. Colonel.
C.O. 15th Australian Field Ambulance. A.I.F.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CONTAY	25-6-17		MAJOR G.E. MAROLLI and eleven other ranks reported to C.O., 44, C.C.S., COLINEAMPS, for duty. (AUTHORITY - D.D.M.S., 144 ANZAC.) <i>Just</i>	
	26-6-17		The Commanding Officer having returned from leave resumed command of the 15 th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE from this date.	
		2 p.m.	Commanding Officer's parade. <i>Just</i>	
	27-6-17		MAJOR C. SHELLSHEAR reporting for duty to D.M.S., A.I.F., LONDON, is struck off strength from this date. (AUTHORITY - A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIV. J27/64 dated 26-6-17). <i>Just</i>	
	28-6-17		MAJOR P.A. MAPLESTONE proceeded on leave to United Kingdom.	
	29-6-17 30-6-17		No entries necessary. <i>Just</i>	

Stewart Lieut Colonel

C.O. 15th Australian Field Ambulance. A.I.F.

15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.
25th May, 1917.

To/
C. O.,
15th Australian Field Ambulance.

I beg to report the following events concerning the Bearer Sub-Division of this Unit.

On the evening of the 5th May, at 9 p.m. Captain Young, myself and ninety two bearers received orders to report to Main Dressing Station (Map location I. 1, c, 8.8. Sheet 57C 1/40,000) taking 24 hours, and left by Motor Convoy at about 10 p.m. arriving at above location at about 12 midnight. Reported to C.O., 7th Aust. Field Ambulance.

6-5-17. Proceeded to Forward Post to relieve 4th Australian Field Ambulance Bearers. Captain Young was detailed to A.D.S. Central R.A.P. Relief suffered one casualty when going in, namely -

No. 15880, Pte. Muir-Morriss of "A" Section, sustained "Compound fracture of Right Leg."

Bearing was exceedingly heavy on account of the heat of the day and the enemy barrage fire.

7-5-17. 9th Battalion together with Gordon Highland attacked and partially captured BULLECOURT. Bearers worked continuously under heavy barrage fire and successfully cleared casualties.

During this day we suffered the undermentioned casualties, of which the majority were of a slight nature.

No. 24, Lce/Cpl. Woods, "C" Section, "H.E. right Inguinal region."

No. 584, Private Harnden, "B" Section, "H.E. left Leg."

No. 15797, " Goodman, "A" Section, "H.E. right Inguinal region."

No. 16108, Private Druce, "B" Section, "H.E. left leg."

No. 14808, Private Fenton, "B" Section, "Shrap. Wd. face."

No. 8166, Private Bridger, "B" Section, "H.E. Buttock."

No. 1615, Private Davis, "A" Section (This man was not evacuated through M.D.S. but returned to Headquarters)

No. 15800, Private Doyle, "C" Section, "H.E. Buttock"

No. 5345, Lce/Cpl. Bownall, "B" Section, "S.W. both legs".

Were relieved by 3rd Field Ambulance Bearers at 11 p.m. 7-5-17 and returned to M.D.S. thence to Bearer ~~Exam~~ Reserve Camp, FAVREUIL.

8-5-17. The following men returned unfit to H.Q. 15th Australian Field Ambulance.

No. 14303, Pte. Gerock, W.F.

" 9562, " Boland, W.L.

" 2619, " Ashton, S.L. (Slight Gas ~~poison~~ poison)

" 732, " Mills, W.G.

" 1615, " Davis, A.F. (very slight wound)

" 6001, " Walden, W.T.

10-5-17. Relieved Captain Young at A.D.S. He returned to Bearer Reserve Camp.

11-5-17. Captain Young and self reported to Major Bond, A.C.P. at 8-30 p.m. to relieve 8th Field Ambulance Bearers. Was ordered myself to return to A.D.S. the same evening at midnight after placing right relay. Very heavy bombardment this night and following day.

12-5-17. 58th Battalion in conjunction with an English Regiment completed operations around BULLECOURT. Casualties fairly heavy during the day and Bearers were kept very busy. We suffered three casualties -

No. 4306, Private Martin, W.D. "A" Section, S.W. L. Elbow.

" 8288, " Ochse, E.C. "B" Section, Mult. Wds. H.E.

" 15574, " Marshall, S.H. "B" Section, S.W. Neck.

Lce/Cpl. Quirk, Privates Martin, Felton, and Lang did excellent work bringing in a wounded man through heavy shell fire of the enemy. Martin was wounded but stayed with his Comrades.

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 Felton and Lang together with the wounded patient were buried by a shell. Lce/Cpl. Quirk dug them out in spite of being twice blown over by concussion of shells bursting near him. This squad with the assistance of extra Bearers, who Felton went down for and brought up, despite his recent shaking, succeeded in getting their patients through to A.C.S. Have mentioned them through C.O., 8th Field Ambulance. Sergeant Burgess also showed great courage and presence of mind in carrying on with his depleted squads, himself doing several carries when one or other of his men needed rest. Sergeant McFadden who was in charge of right relay post did excellent work. Corporal Loveridge in charge of Central R.A.P. conducted the evacuation of wounded from his Sector with ability and under a most persistent shell fire.

13-5-1917. Captain Young and bearers relieved at 10 a.m. and returned to Bearer Reserve Camp.

14-5-1917. Relieved at A.D.S. by Captain Young and proceeded with sixty two bearers to A.C.P. relieving Bearers of 6th Field Ambulance.

Evening of 14th May marked by extremely heavy bombardment of our lines and batteries by the enemy with gas shells and high explosives. Bearers were kept extremely busy and carried through a heavy barrage.

No. 2983 Pte. Collins, E. suffered a serious wound in the face and mouth.

15-5-1917. On the morning of the 15th May the Germans delivered a big attack covered by a heavy bombardment. In carrying out their duties our Bearers suffered six casualties, two of which were deaths -

No. 8868, Pte. Hornby, H.H.)
 " 10332, " Westwood, A.D.) Killed.

No. 8851, Pte. Faulkner - "C" Section Shrapnel L.Arm.
 " 3017, " Friel, D.- "A" Section, H.E. Chest and Arms
 " 1449, " White, J.- "A" Section, H.E. Arm and Leg.
 " 13568, " Traill, B.- "A" Section, Shell Shock.

Sergeant McFadden on taking over Central R.A.P. on morning of the 14th was wounded, a shell blowing in the R.A.P. and burying two M.Os. and a Sergeant of the 14th Field Ambulance. Sergeant McFadden although wounded dug out the Sergeant and attempted to dress his many wounds. He did not leave his post until ordered by the M.O. 54th Battalion so to do and during his return ~~xxx~~ to A.C.P. Sergeant McFadden personally conducted several walking cases safely through a heavy enemy barrage to the A.C.P. This N.C.O. has already shewn a splendid example of courage and devotion to duty.

He detailed Private Hough A. of "C" Section to take charge of the Post. This private carried out his task with great ability and kept his squads splendidly through the whole of that very trying day, himself carrying when one or other of his men needed a spell. Sergeant Burgess also showed great gallantry on this occasion by keeping his greatly depleted squads together, cheering and encouraging them when all seemed in imminent danger of being wiped out by the enemy shell fire. He frequently went tend wounded in the open roadway, while the shell fire was very heavy. This N.C.O. is of sterling worth and always sets an example to his men of gallantry and devotion to his duty.

At 11 p.m. our Bearers having gone through a trying ordeal were relieved by 1st Aust. Field Ambulance Bearers. Hornsby's body was carried back to the A.D.S. where we buried him beside Westwood who had been buried earlier in the day. Map reading of Graves C.20.c.2.7. During this spell in the front line work, our bearers showed great courage and devotion to duty, some squads making as many as 14 carries in 20 hours over distances varying from 1500 to 2000 yards. At this period, we were clearing for an English Brigade on our left in addition to Battalions on our own Division, and it was on this Sector we sustained out more serious casualties. We arrived back at the Bearer Reserve Camp at 1 a.m. on 16-5-17.

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15-5-17 Recommendations as detailed above for Sergeant McFadden and Burgess, Privates Hough, Martin, Lang, Felton and Lce/Cpl. Quirk handed in at C.O., 8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

17-5-17 Completed at request of C.O., 8th Aust. Field Ambulance recommendations in duplicate for men already mentioned.

17/20-5-17. Bearers carried out fatigues, etc. at M.D.S., 8th Field Ambulance. 18th May relieved Captain Young at A.D.S. 21st May, at 3 a.m. Captain Young and Bearers relieved 8th Field Ambulance Bearers at Forward Posts. Enemy shelling ~~was~~ not so intense during this tour of duty-but bearers were frequently machine gunned and sniped at by the enemy. We suffered no casualties at this period.

23-5-17. At 5 a.m. Captain Young and Bearers were relieved by Bearers of the 60th Field Ambulance under Captain McArthur, R.A.M.C. 8th Field Ambulance relieved by 60th Field Ambulance; 15th Aust. Field Ambulance Bearers being attached to C.O. of latter Unit until arrival of 62nd Field Ambulance on 24th May, 1917.

During morning received instructions from A.D.M.S. to report back to Unit at Bellevue Farm, proceeding thereto by train. Transport, Mechanical and Hosed, left M.D.S., 60th Field Ambulance at about 3-30 p.m. 24th May, 1917. Captain Young, self and Bearers (45) reported back to Unit by 9 p.m. 24th May.

I beg to bring under your notice the most able support given me by Captain W.R. Young of this Unit. Though it was his first time under fire Captain Young showed himself both gallant and cool whenever circumstances arrived which might possibly lead to confusion among the personnel under his command. He set the men a splendid example of presence of mind and courage under very heavy shell fire.

..... *McCarthy* Captain.