

AWM4

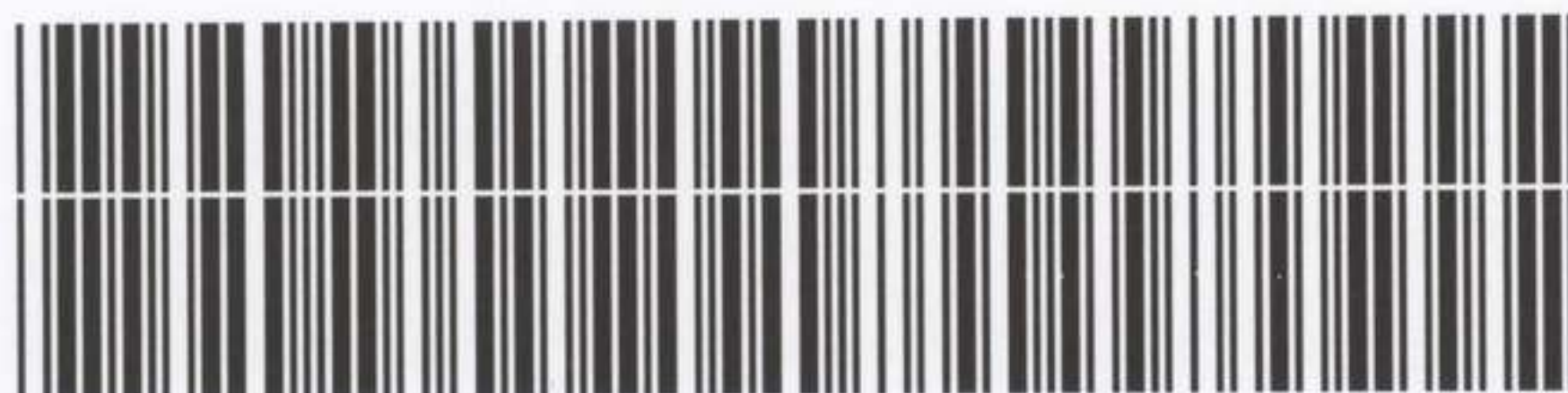
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/58/18

Title: 15th Australian Field Ambulance

October 1917



AWM4-26/58/18

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.)

VOLUME II Page 63

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 28 G. 21. 16. 2. 5.	1.10.17		Official notification received of the following Casualties who were evacuated to C.C.S. and are now struck off strength from 30.9.17. - No. 8789, PTE. MC MAHON, P.E. and No 1611, PTE. STEWART, R. CAPTAIN V. M. COPPLESTONE appointed O.C., 5 th AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION is struck off strength from this date. (Authority - D.A.G., A.I.F. 148/313 dated 29.9.17). One Other Rank transferred from 1 st AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE taken on strength from this date. CAPTAIN S. G. GIBSON with 76 Other Ranks reported back from detached duty with 14 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE, A.I.F. 1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from 1 st ANZAC CORPS SCHOOL. <i>Imp</i>	
	2.10.17		MAJOR J. A. JAMES reported for duty and appointed O.C. "A" Section. CAPTAIN S. G. GIBSON transferred to 56 th BATTALION, A.I.F. as R.M.O. and struck off strength as at this date. (Authority - A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION, J. 25/138 dated 2.10.17). CAPTAIN W. L. SMITH reported back from detached duty with 14 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE (56 th BATTALION) and resumed regimental duties. No. 15802 PTE. JOYCE, A.A.A reported killed in action on 26.9.17 is struck off strength from that date. CAPTAIN G. N. ROBERTS, O.Y.C. No. 23 DENTAL UNIT with personnel and equipment reported back from 5 th AUST. DIVISION DETAILS. No. 9197, PTE. OLDFIELD W. A. S. officially reported wounded in action and evacuated to C. C. S. on 26.9.17 is struck off strength as from that date. CAPTAIN J. C. BOOTH is attached to "B" SECTION in lieu of CAPTAIN S. G. GIBSON transferred. <i>Imp</i>	

A7092). Wt. W12839/M129 750,000. 1/17. D. D & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

Imp *Imp* Lt Col.
 C.O. 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.)

VOLUME III Page 64

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 28 G. 21. 6. 2. 5.	2-10-17		2 Sunbeam Motor Ambulance Cars Nos. 15091 and 15186 complete with personnel and one horse drawn Ambulance Waggons with Cpl. Waggon Duderly and Driver reported to C.O. CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION for duty by order of A.D.M.S. 5 th AUST. DIVISION L19/38 dated 2-10-1917. <i>Impd.</i>	
	4-10-17		No 7768, PTE. MC CLENACHAN, J. officially reported "killed in action" is struck off strength from 25-9-17. One other rank taken on strength from A.G.B.D from this date. CAPTAINS W.L. SMITH and C.C. MINTY, M.C. with 73 Other Ranks temporarily detached for duty with CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION from this date. (Authority - A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION, O. 8/110 dated 4-10-17. One Despatch Rider with Douglas Motor Cycle detached for duty with D.D.M.S., 1 st ANZAC, by order of A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION, F. 31/139 dated 4/10/17. <i>Impd.</i>	
	5-10-17		No 6683, SGT. MARR E.S. awarded the MILITARY MEDAL. (A.D.M.S. 5 th AUST. DIVISION telegram 31/110 dated 5-10-17). MAJOR G.E. MAROLLI with MAJOR P.A. MAPLESTONE, CAPTAIN A.V.R. HANSEN, CAPTAIN W.R. YOUNG and 25 Other ranks reported back from detached duty with No 3 CANADIAN and No 17 BRITISH CASUALTY CLEARING STATIONS. 1 Other rank returned from detached duty with 5 th PIONEER BATTALION. 3 Other ranks evacuated to C.E.S. sick struck off strength from this date <i>Impd.</i>	
	6-10-17		Official notification received that No. 1710, PTE. DALEY H.H. was killed in action on 20-9-17. He has been struck off strength from that date.	

A7092). Wt. W12839/M1297 750,000. 1/17. D. D & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

Impd. Lt. Col. 15th Australian Field Ambulance A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME III Page 65

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 28 G. 21. 1. 2. 5.	6.10.17		4 Other Ranks evacuated to C.C.S. "gassed" and struck off strength from this date. 2 Sunbeam Motor Ambulance Cars Nos 15091 and 15186 complete with personnel reported back from detached duty with CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION at 5pm Jmfs.	
	7.10.17		1 Other Rank reported back from Hospital and taken on strength. Arrangements made for the accommodation of CAPTAIN W. L. SMITH, CAPTAIN C. C. MINTY, M.C. and 73 Other Ranks who are expected back from CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION. Jmfs.	
	8.10.17		CAPTAIN W. L. SMITH with CAPTAIN C. C. MINTY M.C. and 71 Other Ranks reported back from detached duty with CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION. CAPTAIN SMITH reported the remaining 2 Other Ranks were evacuated to C.C.S. sick on 7.10.17 - they have been struck off strength as from that date. 4 Other Ranks evacuated to C.C.S. and struck off strength from this date. 4 Reinforcements (Other Ranks) reported for duty and taken on strength from A.G.B.D. from this date Jmfs.	
	9.10.17		Made an inspection of A.D.S. MENIN HOUSE, WAGON LOADING POINT at BIRR CROSS ROADS and the COLLECTING and RELAY POSTS, and Transport lines and Base at CHATEAU HENRIQUE, now occupied by 1 st AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE prior to taking over on 10.10.17. MAJOR G. E. MAROLLI with batman reported to 5 th AUST. DIVISIONAL REINFORCEMENT WING for temporary duty. (Authority - A.D.M.S. 5 th AUST. DIVISION A.20/143 dated 8.10.17). Despatch Rider with Douglas Motor Cycle reported back from detached duty with D.D.M.S. 1 st ANZAC. MOVEMENT ORDER No 4 issued at 6pm. and distributed in accordance with A.A.M.C. Order No. 47. Jmfs. Lieut Colonel C.O. 15 th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.	APPENDIX 100

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118. 9

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME III Page 66

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 28	10-10-17		Horse Drawn Ambulance Wagon with personnel and horses returned from detached duty with CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION. <i>Jmms</i>	
I.Q. C. 6. 6.				
EAST OF VPRES	11-10-17		Horse Drawn Ambulance Wagon with personnel and horses returned from detached duty with 8 th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. <i>Jmms</i>	
	12-10-17		2 Other Ranks evacuated to C.C.S. Sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
	13-10-17		1 Other Rank transferred to 5 th DIVISIONAL REST STATION, Sick. Official notification received from A.D.M.S., 5 th Aust. Division, that No. 6900, PRIVATE O. L. SIMS has been awarded the MILITARY MEDAL for bravery during recent operations. <i>Jmms</i>	
	14-10-17		1 Other Rank reported back from Hospital and taken on strength. 1 Other Rank evacuated to C.C.S. Sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
	15-10-17		1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from Hospital. 2 Other Ranks rejoined Unit from 3 rd ARMY SUMMER REST CAMP, AMBLETUESE. 2 Other Ranks transferred to 5 th D.R.S. Sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
	16-10-17		1 Other Rank transferred to 15 th A.A.S.C., 2 nd Aust. Div. TRAIN (Authority - 5 th Div. HQ A.5/16/15 d. 7-10-17).	
			11 Other Ranks transferred to CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION wounded (Passed - slight) <i>Jmms</i>	
	17-10-17		1 Other Rank evacuated to C.M.D.S. wounded. 3 Other Ranks rejoined Unit from Hospital. CAPTAIN S.T. APPLEFORD reported for temporary duty from 3 rd Aust. FIELD AMBULANCE. CAPTAIN A.V.R. HANSEN temporarily detached for duty to 58 th BATTALION as R.M.O. in place of CAPTAIN G.J.K. McIVOR evacuated wounded. CAPTAIN W.R. YOUNG temporarily detached for duty as R.M.O. 59 th BATTALION in place of MAJOR N.J. BULLEN, DIED OF WOUNDS. 25 Other Ranks reported from A.G.B.D. and taken on strength (AUTHORITY - A.D.M.S., 5 th Aust. Division, E.1/149 dated 17-10-17) <i>Jmms</i>	
	18-10-17		Official notification received from A.D.M.S., 5 th Aust. Division, that No 1615, Pte. A.F. DAVIS, of this Unit has been awarded the MILITARY MEDAL. <i>Jmms</i>	

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

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME III Page 67

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
SHEET 28	19-10-17		CAPTAIN W. L. SMITH is temporarily detached for duty with 56 th BATTALION, A.I.F. as R.M.O. in place of CAPTAIN S. G. GIBSON transferred to CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
I. Q. C. 6.6.				
EAST OF VPRES	20-10-17		1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from 5 th AUSTRALIAN DIVISIONAL REST STATION. <i>Jmms</i>	
	21-10-17		2 Other Ranks transferred to 5 th D.R.S. sick. 2 Other Ranks proceeded on leave to the UNITED KINGDOM. <i>Jmms</i>	
	22-10-17		1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from 5 th D.R.S. 1 Other Rank transferred to 5 th D.R.S. sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
	23-10-17		CAPTAIN A. V. R. HANSEN transferred to 58 th BATTALION, A.I.F. as R.M.O. and CAPTAIN W. R. YOUNG transferred to 59 th BATTALION as R.M.O. (Authority for both transfers A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION 25/153 dated 23-10-17)	
			CAPTAIN A. W. LESOUËF taken on strength from 3 rd AUST. GENERAL HOSPITAL - (AUTHORITY - A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION J.29/153 dated 23-10-17) <i>Jmms</i>	
	24-10-17		3 Other Ranks transferred to 5 th AUST. DIVISIONAL REST STATION, sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
	25-10-17		No. 13865, Private WHELDON, W. R., killed in action today is struck off strength. 1 Other Rank, wounded in action and evacuated to C.C.S. is struck off strength. 1 Other Rank detached for duty with Pay Department, A.I.F. HEADQUARTERS, LONDON (Authority - D.A.G. A.I.F. No 66/79 dated 20-10-17). 1 Other Rank transferred to 56 th BATTALION, A.I.F. is struck off strength (Authority - A.D.M.S., E. 22/154 dated 25-10-17) <i>Jmms</i>	
	26-10-17		1 Other Rank transferred to 5 th D.R.S. - wounded - slight. 2 Other Ranks transferred to 5 th D.R.S. sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
			2 Other Ranks taken on strength from A.G.B.D. MOVEMENT ORDER No 5 issued at 9pm <i>Jmms</i>	APPENDIX 101
	27-10-17		1 Other Rank detached for duty as A.M.C. water detail, 5 th PIONEER BATTALION, A.I.F. in place of 1 Other Rank evacuated to C.C.S. sick. <i>Jmms</i>	
	28-10-17		CAPTAIN S. T. APPLEFORD taken on strength from 3 rd AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE as from 17-10-17 (Authority - A.D.M.S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION. J.11/156 d. 27/10/17) <i>Jmms</i>	

A7092). Wt. W12839/M1297 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C2118/14.

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

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

VOLUME III Page 68

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
I q. C. 6.6.	FROM 10.10.17	To	See Narrative attached. Jmmp	APPENDIX 102
EAST OF VPRES	28.10.17			
SHEET 28	29.10.17		1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from Hospital. No 23 DENTAL UNIT reported back for duty at this Station from CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION. Kit inspection of Beavers sub-divisions made and arrangements completed for all deficiencies to be made up. Jmmp.	
G. 21. b. 2.5.	30.10.17		Arrangements made whereby hot drinks will be available for all members of the Unit at 7.30pm each night, such expense to be borne by Unit Trust Funds and any donations received from the AUSTR. RED CROSS SOCIETY and AUSTR. COMFORTS FUNDS. 2 Other Ranks evacuated from 5th D.R.S to C.C.S. are struck off strength as from 28.10.17. 2 Other Ranks rejoined Unit from Hospital; 10 Other Ranks transferred to 5th D.R.S. MAJOR G.E. MAROLLI and Batman ceased to be detached to 5th DIVISION DETAILS CAMP on reporting back for duty today. MAJOR P.R. MAPLESTONE transferred to 5th D.R.S. Sick. 10 Other Ranks taken on strength from A.G.B.D. Jmmp.	
	31.10.17		MAJOR G.E. MAROLLI reporting to D.M.S. A.I.F. London, is struck off strength. (Authority - D.A.G., A.I.F. F.47/938 dated 10.10.17). 10 Other Ranks evacuated to C.C.S. from 5th D.R.S. on 23.10.17 is struck off strength from that date. 10 Other Ranks transferred to 5th D.R.S. wounded. 2 Other Ranks rejoined Unit from Hospital.	
			The weather during the last 3 days has been fairly fine with very cold nights. Hostile aircraft have been bombing this area during the nights fairly heavily but very few casualties have been waunged to the recording Ambulance (8th AUSTRALIAN) - 5th D.R.S. by the Unit Ambulance Cars. Jmmp.	
			Jmmp Stewart. Lieut. Colonel	

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S.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance. A. I. F.

279
SECRET
15TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE, A.I.F.

MOVEMENT ORDER NO. 4 by Lieut-Colonel J.M.Y. Stewart, C.O.
issued at 6 p.m. 9-10-17.

The 15th Australian Field Ambulance will take over A.D.S. at Menin Road House, Wagon Loading Point at Birr Cross Roads and the Collecting and Relay Posts, at present held by 1st Australian Field Ambulance, by 10 a.m. 10-10-17.

Horse Transport will take over Chateau Henrique at present occupied by 1st Australian Field Ambulance Transport.

The personnel of Bearer Sub-Divisions and 1 Complete Tent Sub-Division will move off by Motor Lorries at 6 a.m. 10-10-17 to A.D.S. and report to Major J.A. James of this Ambulance for duty.

Horse Transport, less 1 Water Cart, plus 1 Staff Sergeant Dispenser, 1 Sergeant Steward and 1 Other Rank, will move off at 7-30 a.m. and take over Chateau Henrique from 1st Australian Field Ambulance.

2 Tent Sub-Divisions will move off by Motor Ambulance Cars at 7-30 a.m. 10-10-17 and report at A.D.S. for duty. Motor Convoy will be ~~xxx~~ under charge of Sergeant Wiesener.

The Quartermaster, 15th Australian Field Ambulance, will report at Right A.D.S., Menin Road, at 9 a.m. 10-10-17, and take over equipment, supplies and stores from out-going Ambulance.

Bearer Sub-Divisions of 14th Australian Field Ambulance will report with their Bearer Officers on arrival at A.D.S. to Major P. A. Maplestone, and will receive their orders and dispositions from him.

Equipment of 1 Tent Sub-Division and nucleus of stores and rations will accompany the Bearer Sub-Divisions on Motor Lorries leaving at 6 a.m. 10-10-17. Surplus equipment and stores to be carried on Unit Transport and to be held in reserve at Chateau Henrique.

Reserves of Bearers (8th Australian Field Ambulance) will report at Canal Dug-outs by 3 p.m. 10-10-17 - Officer in charge to notify his arrival to C.O. this Unit at Right A.D.S. and receive further instructions

Major J.A. James will take over Right A.D.S. from 1st Australian Field Ambulance, less stores and supplies, by 10 a.m. and there establish a Tent Sub-Division.

1 Water Cart will leave at 6 a.m. and report at Right A.D.S. This Cart will be supplied with Chlorinating powder and will fill tank with drinking water at the nearest point to Right A.D.S. Petrol tins will not be filled but will be carried.

1 G.S. Limber will report at Right A.D.S. from Chateau Henrique with rations and forage after they have been drawn from Supplies for the Unit.

The Quartermaster will requisition for the rations and forage necessary for the personnel, and transport and attached in accordance with Ration States compiled from marching-in states.

Nominal rolls of attached personnel and transport, if not furnished by the Units supplying, will be compiled at A.D.S. on their arrival.

J.M.Y. Stewart Lieut-Col.
C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

P. T. O.

COPIES TO :-

1. C.O., 8th Australian Field Ambulance.
 2. C.O., 14th " " " "
 3. C.O., 1st " " " "
 4. A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division.
 5. War Diary (3)
 6. File.

The 15th Australian Field Ambulance will take over the 14th Australian Field Ambulance at present held by 1st Australian Field Ambulance, by 10 a.m. 10-10-17.

Horse Transport will take over Chateau Henrique at present occupied by 1st Australian Field Ambulance Transport.

The personnel of Bearer Sub-Divisions and 1 Complete Tent Sub-Division will move off by Motor Lorries at 8 a.m. 10-10-17 to A.D.S. and report to Major J.A. James of this Ambulance for duty.

Horse Transport, less 1 Water Cart, plus 1 Staff Sergeant Dispenser, 1 Sergeant Steward and 1 Other Rank, will move off at 7-30 a.m. and take over Chateau Henrique from 1st Australian Field Ambulance.

2 Tent Sub-Divisions will move off by Motor Ambulance Cars at 7-30 a.m. 10-10-17 and report at A.D.S. for duty. Motor Convoy will be taken under charge of Sergeant Wissener.

The Quartermaster, 15th Australian Field Ambulance, will report at 8 a.m. 10-10-17, and take over equipment, supplies and stores from out-going Ambulance.

Bearer Sub-Divisions of 15th Australian Field Ambulance will report with their Bearer Officers on arrival at A.D.S. to Major J.A. James, and will receive their orders and dispositions from him.

Equipment of 1 Tent Sub-Division and nucleus of stores and rations will accompany the Bearer Sub-Divisions on Motor Lorries leaving at 8 a.m. 10-10-17. Surplus equipment and stores to be carried on Unit Transport and to be held in reserve at Chateau Henrique.

Reserves of Bearer (8th Australian Field Ambulance) will report at 8 a.m. 10-10-17 - Officer in charge to notify his arrival to G.O. this Unit at Right A.D.S. and receive further instructions.

Major J.A. James will take over Right A.D.S. from 1st Australian Field Ambulance, less stores and supplies, by 10 a.m. and there establish a Tent Sub-Division.

1 Water Cart will leave at 8 a.m. and report at Right A.D.S. This Cart will be supplied with Chlorinating powder and will fill tank with drinking water at the nearest point to Right A.D.S. Petrol tanks will not be filled but will be carried.

1 G.S. Limber will report at Right A.D.S. from Chateau Henrique with rations and forage after they have been drawn from supplies for the Unit.

The Quartermaster will requisition for the rations and forage necessary for the personnel, and transport and attached in accordance with Ration Rates compiled from marching-in states.

Nominal rolls of attached personnel and transport, if not furnished by the Units supplying, will be compiled at A.D.S. on their arrival.

Lieut-Col.

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

P. T. O.

279 *1000 Series* *Appendix 101* 9
15TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE, A.I.F.

MOVEMENT ORDER No. 5 by Lieut-Colonel J.M.Y. Stewart, C. O.

issued at 9 p.m. 26-10-1917.

AUTHORITY :- A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division Order 49 d/ 25-10-17.

Reference Map - Sheet 28 - 1/40,000.

- (1) C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, will hand over to C.O., 7th Australian Field Ambulance, WALKING and STRETCHER A.D.Ss. on Menin Road, YPRES, ALL Posts at present held on the Line of Communication by the 15th Australian Field Ambulance or by Details attached thereto. Transfer to be completed by 10 a.m. 28-10-1917.
 - (2) Personnel of 15th Australian Field Ambulance move by Motor Lorries with ALL their equipment and stores, less personnel ~~of~~ and transport at present at HENDRIQUES CHATEAU which will move independently with 200 Blankets 114 Stretchers over establishment by 11 a.m. on 28-10-17 to G.21.b.2.5.
 - (3) The attached personnel of 32nd Australian Infantry Battalion will report to their Command on 27-10-17 leaving the RAMPARTS by Motor Lorry at 7 a.m. and taking all equipment and the unconsumed portion of the day's rations.
 - (4) The attached personnel of 8th Australian Field Ambulance will report to their Command at 5th Australian Divisional Rest Station, REMY, on 27-10-17, leaving the RAMPARTS by Motor Lorries at 1 p.m. and taking all equipment and the unconsumed portion of the day's rations.
 - (5) The attached personnel of 14th Australian Field Ambulance will report to their Command at G.21.c.5.8. on 28-10-17, leaving Right A.D.S. at 10 a.m. by Motor Lorries and taking all their equipment and the unconsumed portion of the day's rations.
 - (6) The Mechanical Transport ^{with} personnel of 8th and 14th Australian Field Ambulances will report to their Commands leaving Right A.D.S. at 10 a.m. on 28-10-17.
 - (7) Horse Transport of 8th and 14th Australian Field Ambulances will report to their Commands leaving Right A.D.S. at 8 a.m. carrying the unconsumed portion of the day's forage.
- Mechanical and Horse Transport of 15th Australian Field Ambulance will move off as instructed after 10 a.m. on 28-10-17
- The Horse Transport and personnel at HENDRIQUES CHATEAU will move off on the morning of 28-10-17 as instructed by Transport Officer.
- (7) The Quartermaster of 15th Australian Field Ambulance will make all the necessary arrangements with the Quartermasters of the Units concerned as to adjustment of rations and forage.
 - (8) All Attachments will furnish a marching-out state prior to moving off.
 - (9) The Quartermaster of 15th Australian Field Ambulance will obtain, in triplicate, receipts for all stores handed over by him to the incoming Unit. The Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts obtaining receipts in triplicate for all equipment and stores handed over at the Posts and R.A.Ps. under his control to the Representative of the incoming Unit on morning of 28-10-17.
All receipts to be handed into the Orderly Room of 15th Aust.

APPENDIX. 101

(2)

- (9) Field Ambulance at G.21.b.2.5. by 6 p.m. 28-10-17 or as soon thereafter as possible.



Lieut-Colonel,

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

COPIES TO :-

A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division.
 Officer i/c Bearers, 8th Australian Field Ambulance.
 " " " " 14th " " " "
 " " " " 15th " " " "
 " " " " Personnel, 32nd Aust. Infantry Battalion.
 War Diary (3 Copies).
 File.
 Quartermaster, 15th Aust. Field Ambulance.

15TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE, A.I.F.Narrative by Lieut-Colonel J.M.Y. Stewart, C.O.10-10-1917.

5-30 a.m. Bearers and 1 Tent Sub-Division with 7 Officers moved from G.21.b.2.5. (Sheet 88) in Motor Transport, arriving at R.A.P. Right at 8 a.m. Major P.A. Maplestone took charge of 14th and 15th Australian Field Ambulances and went forward to relieve from BIRR CROSS ROADS. R.A.Ps. RIGHT SECTOR including control of TRANSPORT to RIGHT A.D.S.

8 a.m. Tent Sub-Divisions (15th Fld. Amb.) stored equipment in eastern cupola.

9-35 a.m. Message M/10 sent to A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division. Telephone communication out of order as we cannot call exchange - this has been so since last night and was reported by C.O., 1st Australian Field Ambulance. A second report was sent to Signals as Urgent at 10-30 a.m. by C.O., 15th Fld. Amb. (Message S/10).

"B" Section Tent Sub-Division (15th Fld. Amb.) completed equipment of Dressing Room and commenced dressing cases at 10-30 a.m.

10-30 a.m. Message 10/19 sent to A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division. 1 Tent Sub-Division being found sufficient for present requirements at RIGHT A.D.S., I decided to hold one in reserve at CANAL DUG-OUTS with reserve Bearers, leaving sufficient room for Bearer Guides held at A.D.S..

11-50 a.m. Officer in Charge Transport (Capt. Young, 15th Fld. Amb.) reports that Horse Transport from ~~Balkenwaarde~~ BELLEWAARDE COLLECTING POST to BIRR CROSS ROADS has been taken off before being relieved by our Wagons. This is in direct contravention to arrangements made with C.O., 1st Australian Field Ambulance. Relays of Bearers are carrying six (6) cases down pending arrival of Horse Transport with 4(four) horses.

2 (two) Horse Ambulance Wagons requisitioned from A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, reported here at 12 noon.

Wagons held at A.D.S. pending arrival of 2 Lead Teams.

1-40 p.m. A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division, O.1/144 received. Instructions issued to O. i/c BIRR CROSS ROADS and O. i/c Bearer Sub-Divisions.

A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, visited A.D.S. about 2-30 p.m. and approved of administration established.

3-15 p.m. Major J.B. McKenzie (8th Fld. Amb.) reported at A.D.S. having left 2 Officers and 80 Other Ranks as instructed at CANAL DUG-OUTS.

4 p.m. 1 - 4 horse drawn Ambulance Wagon sent to BIRR CROSS ROADS.

4-30 p.m. Relief Order No. 1 for 11-10-17 issued.

Very few walking casualties coming through since 2 p.m. up to present time, 8 p.m. Forward RIGHT and LEFT R.A.Ps. report all clear at 5-30 p.m. A Motor Ambulance was sent to Officer i/c CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION at 5-30 p.m. for 150 Blankets, some of which are required forward. Major McKenzie (8th Fld. Amb.) reported back at 7-45 p.m. after inspection of CANAL DUG-OUTS and reports same unsuitable. Full water Cart with tins ordered to report at 6-30 a.m., 11-10-17 for Forward Area. 152 Rations to be sent forward by Motor Ambulance Car to BIRR CROSS ROADS at 7-30 a.m., 11-10-17. An arrangeing for relief or withdrawal of Horse Ambulance at BIRR CROSS ROADS during dark hours with O. i/c Transport there. Approximate hours fixed for meals at A.D.S. for personnel is Breakfast 6-30 a.m., mid-day meal 12 noon, tea 4 p.m. Relief of Tent Sub-Divisions at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Gas Picquet and Pilot stationed at Entrance to A.D.S.

8-40 p.m. Blankets demanded from CORPS MAINDRESSING STATION received at 8-40 p.m.

Primus Stove with Kerosene and S.V.M. sent via BIRR CROSS ROADS to Forward Area at 8-30 this afternoon.

Midnight (10-10-17). Very few cases admitted during the last 4 hours but Stragglers from Battalions going forward without any written authority have been coming in. These cases have not been treated as casualties or sick but given hot drinks and sent to A.P.M. Xpres. It would be of considerable advantage if a Military Police was within easy reach of A.D.S. (This has since been established, 11-10-17). Horse Ambulance withdrawn from BIRR CROSS ROADS by arrangements made with O.i/c Transport, previously referred to, until daylight.

Narrative continued.

11-10-1917.Page 2.

2 p.m. Very few cases have passed through this A.D.S. since midnight last night until about 9 a.m. when a very slight rush occurred, 2 Lorry loads being sent away in quick succession about 9-30 a.m. 8th Australian Field Ambulance Bearers and Officers went forward in accordance with No. 1 Relief Order and by 11-30 a.m. 15th Aust. Field Ambulance ~~Bearers~~ Bearers had begun to report back to this A.D.S., lines being all clear at R.A.Ps. also. Major P.A. Maplestone and 3 Captains of this Ambulance reported back by 1-30 p.m. having completed handing over at all Posts between here and R.A.Ps. by 11 a.m. D.A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division, visited this A.D.S. at 11-15.

5 p.m. Still fewer cases coming through during the afternoon. Relief Order No. 2 sent out at 2-30 p.m. Rations and two Primus Stoves sent forward to Sergeant Steward at Tunnels at 3-15 p.m. D.D.M.S. 1st Anzac, visited A.D.S. at 3-30 p.m. and approved of organization; was definitely clear on necessity of handing on stragglers or men without written instructions who report as sick to the Police, also approved certain minor alterations and agreed to endeavour, if asked by A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, to supply necessary working parties and equipment. Failure of telephone continues since 11 a.m. this morning when new instruments were put in by Signals, 4th Australian Division. 2 complaints 10/27 and 8/11 have been sent in but so far no improvement. Bearers who came out of the line were not called for as arranged by D.A.D.M.S. by lorries and had to walk back to their rest billets. O.C. Lorry Parks communicated with at 2-30 p.m. asking for 4 Motor Lorries to bring Bearers up to this A.D.S. by 6-30 a.m. tomorrow, 12-10-17, but so far no reply. This also was to be arranged as a routine by D.A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division.

8 p.m. A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division, requested to arrange lorries for Bearers at 6-40 p.m. - reply received 7-50 p.m. stating necessary arrangements had been made and endeavours were being made for 200 Bearers at RAMPARTS, XPRES; definite advice later. Also Bearers coming out of line tomorrow are not to be sent to C.M.D.S. until further advice. Sergeant Johnson of Horse Transport reported to this A.D.S. at 7-55 p.m. to take over duties at BIRR CROSS ROADS tomorrow. Officer i/c BIRR CROSS ROADS reports BELLEWAARDE RIDGE, SIMON POST and BIRR CROSS ROADS all clear at 7-30 p.m. Reports from Major McKenzie of Forward part not to hand so far.

12 Midnight (11-10-17). About 12 cases since 8 p.m. 8 Bearers of 15th Australian Field Ambulance who lost their way reported here and were handed over to LEFT A.D.S. (12th Fld Amb.) at 10-30 p.m. A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Div. by telephone stated that there were 100 billets available for Reserve Bearers at ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS. No Bearers in future to go back to C.M.D.S. Billets to be taken over by an Officer at 7-30 a.m. 12-10-17. Weather cloudy and commencing to rain.

----- (To be continued).

* 12-10-1917.

8 a.m. Message from Major McKenzie (the first received) since he took over) received at 3-12 a.m. (no time of despatch given) stating RIGHT and LEFT R.A.Ps. were clear at 5-50 p.m. 12-10-17 and suggesting that Bearers could hold for 48 hours without relief, also that he was sending down this morning the body of a R.F.C. Officer which had been left at TUNNELS by 1st Field Ambulance, and whose effects were found in this A.D.S. and handed to Quartermaster, 15th Aust. Field Ambulance for disposal. Major James, 2 Captains and 63 Other Ranks (15th Fld. Amb.) sent forward to BIRR CROSS ROADS at 7-30 a.m. to relieve as per No. 2 Relief Order. 1 Officer and 2 Other Ranks left here at 6-30 a.m. to take over ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS from 3rd Area Commandant, 1 man to be left in charge the other to return with Officer to act as guide for Bearers. Major P. A. Maplestone in charge of Dressing Rooms and personnel at this A.D.S. at 6-30 a.m. Quartermaster (15th Fld. Amb.) instructed by D. R. at 5-30 a.m. to make necessary arrangements to feed Reserve Bearers ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS. Water Cart, tins and Horse Drawn Ambulance sent to BIRR CROSS ROADS at 6 a.m. Lorry service efficient.

Narrative Continued.12-10-1917.Page 3.

6 p.m. Walking casualties, mostly 4th Australian Division, commenced to arrive at 9-30 a.m. and continued in varying degrees until 12 noon; majority H.E. wounds. To anticipate congestion 3 additional 4 horsed Ambulance wagons were sent to BIRR CROSS ROADS. A second Transport Sergeant (15th) reported for duty at 10-30 a.m. and took over control of all Horse Transport at A.D.S. Captain Finlayson (14th) reported back at 11 a.m. having handed over to Captain Booth (15th) at BELLEWAARDE RIDGE and reported all clear; Horse Transport working well, and that the enemy was shelling WESTHORN somewhat heavily; he believed outer switch had been blown up. D.D.M.S., 1st Anzac, visited this A.D.S. at 11-15 a.m. and gave instructions to use broad gauge railway if possible, and to send any overflow of walking cases to A.D.S., Walking cases, YPRES. Captains Smith and Minty (15th) reported for duty from G.M.D.S. Major McKenzie (8th) and Captains Finlayson and Ellis (14th) reported at A.D.S. at 1 p.m. having completed handing over to Major James at 10-30 a.m. at which time both R.A.Ps. were clear. Major McKenzie stated that GARTER POST had been cut out as duck walks to near HILLES POST had been laid, making it easier for Bearers. Supplies had gone forward efficiently during his tour of duty and all Bearers had been well fed. R.A.Ps. were in need of nothing in the way of supplies. Major James (15th) with Captain Hansen (15th) had taken up their position at the TUNNELS. Work of Sergeant Pearce (Steward) (15th) being well and efficiently carried out. 14th Bearer Sub-Divisions ~~had all reported~~ had all reported to this A.D.S. by 2 p.m. - 2 of them walking casualties were sent to D.R.S. and O.C., 14th Aust. Field Amb. notified by D.R.L.S.; the rest marched to ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS where hot meal awaited them. 3 Officers sent by Car to G.M.D.S. Telephone which was out of commission since 10 a.m. was corrected by 3-15 p.m. and has been working ever since. A.D.M.S. informed of all movements by telephone, corroborated later in writing (10/39). Quartermaster (15th) reported all supplies from S.S.O. now being obtained satisfactorily, the hour for drawing rations being the only thing which renders it difficult to get supplies up to Forward Posts in daylight. Unit mail obtained from Brigade Post Office and arranged for distribution to Bearers Divisions on their coming out of the line. The O.I/c Light Railways called at this A.D.S. and stated he would be able to relieve any congestion of walking wounded at any time should such occur on advice by telephone. Lorry service working satisfactorily but Lorry Park not available by telephone which is a great drawback.

9 p.m. Telephone has been out of commission once more since 6-30 p.m. Signals again notified of same (10/40). No report so far from Major James, but Transport Sergeant reports all clear from BELLEWAARDE back; as it is raining and very dark, probably no messages will come through before morning. Only a few cases since 6 p.m. have come through this A.D.S. during the 12 hours ending 8 p.m. 12 Stragglers have been handed over to the Military Police - 8 from 3rd Division and 4 from 4th Division. New 5th Divisional pro-forma sent in for 12 hours ending 5 p.m. showing 3 Officers and 47 Other Ranks for 5th Aust. Division passed through this A.D.S. No relief Order issued today as Bearers are staying in for 24 hours longer in order to rest for that additional period when out.

12-10-1917.

12 noon. During the whole of the night and up to the present only a few cases have passed through this A.D.S. Pro forma report ending 5 a.m. sent off by despatch rider at 6 a.m. Horse drawn ambulance and water cart reported at BIRR CROSS ROADS at 6 a.m. as per routine instructions. Horse relief effected by Transport Sergeant who reported that the pole of the 15th Fld. Amb. Horse Ambulance snapped while completing its first tour of duty. Ambulance car was sent forward to point where accident occurred and stretcher cases transferred without delay. Wagon brought back and new pole inserted; no damage to horses. Reports sent from O. I/c Bearers at 5 p.m. 12-10-17 received here at 8 a.m. and A.D.M.S. furnished with a report immediately. Reports states abundant supply of water and rations coming forward to Forward Posts. Telephone out of

Narrative Continued.Page 4.13-10-1917.

12 noon (continued). commission until 11 a.m. today. Relief Order No. 3 issued to Officers i/c 8th, 14th and 15th Bearers for 14-10-17 at 11-30 a.m. today. Latrine for patients sandbagged and a tarpaulin is being brought up to afford shelter from the weather. Heavy thunder shower at 11-30 a.m.; temperature low. Cases that are coming in are very wet and muddy - they are mostly from Forward Lines of Communication, not R.A.Ps.

10 p.m. Cases arriving only in twos and threes at lengthy intervals since 12 noon. Tarpaulins arrived and erected on the frame work already prepared over latrines. Quartermaster (15th) instructed to requisition for 100 duck boards as the whole of the ground around A.D.S. back premises is under water. Report that all R.A.Ps. were clear received at 11 a.m. this morning - supplies good; all Posts properly manned and working satisfactorily. It has been showery and cold all the afternoon and evening. Reports from Officer i/c Bearer Divisions and Forward Lines received at 8-30 p.m. stating all posts clear at 4-30 p.m. also that No. 10055, Private WELLS G. of 8th Australian Field Ambulance, who had been sent as guide with walking wounded from LEFT R.A.P. on evening of 13-10-17 had not reported back to that Post nor was he at any of the Forward Posts. Enquiries instituted and his Unit notified that he is reported "Missing - Supposed killed". Water, supplies and rations sufficient and going forward satisfactorily. At same hour report received stating that duckboard walks between TUNNELS and BELLEWAARDE POST are in a bad state due to traffic across them. This and owing to state of ground and weather conditions is rapidly increasing the difficulty of carrying for the Bearers. At 7-45 p.m. A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, informed by telephone that all Posts were clear and also given contents of report re duckboards and requested to, if possible, have matters adjusted. No. 3 Relief Order acknowledged as having been received by Officer i/c Forward Posts at 8-30 p.m. 4 Stragglers handed over to Police during past 24 hours. Major P.A. Maplestone, who relieves Major J.A. James at 7 a.m. 14-10-1917 takes with him one Medical Companion for use at the TUNNELS where some of the Labor Companies are working Parties forward and are reporting as sick parades. Sick parades for Labor Battalion close to this A.D.S. arranged for commencing tomorrow morning 9 a.m. Arranged with Quartermaster (15th) to purchase newspapers when available in back area daily, to be sent up to Forward Posts for the benefit of Stretcher Bearers, also any available comforts which can be sent up with rations each afternoon.

14-10-1917.

8 a.m. Since 10 p.m. last night only 2 or 3 cases have passed through. Despatches referred to previously left this A.D.S. at 6 a.m. also Water Cart and Horse Ambulance Wagons for forward area. Night has been cold and fine. Major Maplestone with 2 Officers and 75 Other Ranks of 14th Field Ambulance commenced relief from BIRR CROSS ROADS to forward R.A.Ps. at 7 a.m. D.A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division followed shortly after to inspect Forward Posts and R.A.Ps.

12 noon. Personnel of 8th Australian Field Ambulance began reporting back on relief by 10 a.m. All N.C.Os. and men of "C" Section Tent Sub-Division had been relieved by 12 noon and are now on their way to resting billets, ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS, in charge of Sergeant Miles. No. 10055, Private WELLS, G., 8th Australian Field Ambulance reported back to left R.A.P. this morning after daylight. A.D.M.S. and his Unit informed of the fact.

3 p.m. Captains Guest and James (8th) reported from Forward area at 1-15 p.m. and Major McGregor and Major James at 2-5 p.m. Further supply of blankets and stretchers arranged for with Quartermaster, (15th). 40 Blankets sent forward with rations to be placed half at each R.A.P. - 40 stretchers to be sent forward for the same places. Officer i/c Relay and Collecting Posts Forward to be instructed to see that the 2 Ambulance Medical Officers attached to the R.A.Ps. supply daily detailed information of medical supplies at Right and Left R.A.Ps. and demand replenishment in ample time. 12 tourniquets

Narrative continued.Page 6.14-10-1917.

Required at TUNNELS were sent forward at 3-30 p.m. Right and Left R.A.Ps. and Forward Lines of Evacuation all clear at 10 a.m.

9 p.m.

Cases slightly more numerous, chiefly 4th Australian Division, particularly 51st Battalion now coming in with "Trench Feet" on tabs. On examination the diagnosis was changed in all to exhaustion (macerated feet) before being sent on to D.R.S. Stretchers, blankets and Thomas's Splints were sent forward at 4-30 p.m. which reached BELLEWAARDE at 5 p.m. on their way up to Right and Left R.A.Ps., they should reach there by dark tonight or at least to the TUNNELS for delivery in the morning. Special instructions drafted for guidance of Officers in Forward Posts to ensure that future supplies at R.A.Ps. are constantly kept up to emergency strength. These instructions will be sent forward at 6 a.m. 15-10-17. It has been fine and ~~sunny~~ clear but somewhat cold. A few shells and bombs near this A.D.S., mostly "duds" - no casualties. 50 new duck-boards received from R.E. and a walk laid from the roads to the latrines, urinal, kitchen and water tanks. Lines clear from R.A.P. to BIRR CROSS ROADS at 4-30 and 7 p.m. A.D.M.S. informed by telephone of same. Instructions issued after receipt of SECRET F.26/146 from A.D.M.S. for all personnel to wear S.B.Rs. in the "alert" position, also when asleep. Instructions passed on to BIRR CROSS ROADS and up to front line. Acknowledgment of these instructions received as far forward as BELLEWAARDE POST at 8-45 p.m. A.D.M.S. advised that Quartermaster cannot obtain Suspension Bars for Thomas's splints either from D.A.D.O.S. or ~~Advanced Depot~~ Advanced Depot Medical Stores, I have meanwhile sent from my Mobilisation Stores 3 to O. 1/c Forward Posts.

12 midnight. Only a very few cases coming in. Night clear and cold - no wind.

15-10-1917.

8 a.m. LEFT A.D.S. (19th) applied for a Car just after midnight to run special cases back to C.C.S. Group as no M.A.C. Cars were available - Car supplied as requested. The rest of the night was quiet, very few cases from any Divisions passing through. Routine Water Cart at 6 a.m. reported again full as none was required by Forward Posts.

12 noon. Water for BIRR CROSS ROADS sent down in tins at 9 a.m. Reports received from Major Maplestone at 8-40 a.m. stating the area around the TUNNELS had been heavily shelled with Gas all last night, and 1 direct hit at least on the front of the dug-out. Gas helmets were worn all night but in spite of that some of the Bearers (14th) showed signs of gassing. He then moved out to BELLEWAARDE sending up squads from there to carry through any cases from IDEAL to BELLEWAARDE which, though a long carry, would be on the Corduroy Road. A picquet was left at the Tunnels to take charge of the Stores. 1 of the Bearers (14th) was evacuated with a penetrating abdominal wound - this was reported to A.D.M.S. and also the man's Unit. Time of Major Maplestone's report was 7-40 a.m. Second report received from Major Maplestone at 9-45 a.m. giving disposition of personnel since moving from the TUNNELS. R.A.Ps. reported clear - time of report sent being 8-30 a.m. 11-45 a.m. report received from Major Maplestone that Captain Ellis is reporting in "gassed" while dressing cases at the TUNNELS this morning, also Sergeant Davies (14th) Sergeant Steward Pearce (15th). No report was received from Captain Hansen by Major Maplestone up to 10-30 a.m. Nominal Roll of 19 Bearers of 14th reported at 11-15 a.m. as gassed and sent to LEFT A.D.S. Major Maplestone reported modification of previous disposition of Squads which gave him 8 further available squads for emergency. A.D.M.S. informed of gassed cases of 14th and nominal roll sent to O.C., 14th. Arranged with Major Growthier to hold same at C.M.D.S. if condition permits so as to make them available later. Cases passing through A.D.S. since 8 a.m. somewhat more numerous.

2 p.m. At 12-45 p.m. another Bearer of 14th slightly gassed

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reported with memo from Major Maplestone at BELLEWAARDE (his new Station) stating that he required 2 or 3 men to reinforce. Major McKenzie sent to ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS to bring forward a squad of 8th Bearers. Time of Major Maplestone's request 11-45 a.m. Further memo from Major Maplestone received at 1-50 p.m. stating that Captain Finlayson, who had been sent up by me to take the place of Captain Ellis had arrived there at 11-45 p.m. and had been sent forward to inspect R.A.Ps. also that owing to evacuation of Sergeant Steward Pearce, he, Major Maplestone, enclosed requisition for supplies for the day.

6 p.m. At 2-35 p.m. squad of Bearers (8th) sent forward at 2 p.m. to report for duty, also Corporal Tymmons to act as Sergeant Steward in place of Sergeant Pearce evacuated. At 2-35 p.m. report from Captain Fay received explaining why water cart was not filled this morning. At 3-40 p.m. report received from Major Maplestone stating that Captain Finlayson had returned to BELLEWAARDE and stating that R.A.Ps. were clear and working satisfactorily, also that in spite of definite orders given to Captain Hansen had stated he had not sent in a report because there was nothing to report. Report received from Major Maplestone at 4-50 p.m. stating that squad from 8th Field Ambulance had reached him at 3 p.m. also stating that 16 stretchers, 12 Thomas's Splints and blankets had gone up to R.A.P. and that he was sending balance forward first thing in the morning by Horse Ambulance as far as IDEAL, also that Corporal Tymmons had been stationed at BELLEWAARDE for the present, and that in his opinion the question of the TUNNELS would need discussion. At 5 p.m. 14 men of 51st Battalion arrived tabbed "Trench Feet" - feet found to be somewhat red and swollen but not diagnostic - were sent forward to D.R.S. diagnosed "Exhausted - (Swollen Feet)".

8 p.m. At 7-30 p.m. 7 Bearers (14th) reported with late effects of Gas, examined and sent to LEFT A.D.S. for transfer to C.M.D.S. At 7-40 p.m. Captain Fay sent in by Major Maplestone as being unfit for further duty owing to being gassed. This Officer has been working all day although exposed to gas early this morning while dressing cases. At 7-50 report received from Major Maplestone stating that both R.A.Ps. were clear at 5-30 p.m. and supplies coming up including stretchers, blankets and supplies in a satisfactory manner. Captain Fay sent to Left A.D.S. for transfer to C.M.D.S. Acting O.C., 14th Aust. Field Ambulance informed by telephone and asked to send in Bearers he could spare in the morning. A.D.M.S. rung up and informed of conditions, mainly that during the last 12 hours Bearer Divisions had been weakened by the loss of 2 Officers (14th) and 25 Other Ranks (14th) and 1 O.R. (15th) and asking him for six squads of Infantry, and if possible another M.O. to be sent up in the morning. Q.M. has been instructed to send up equipment less tents of 1 Tent Sub-Division to be parked at this A.D.S. in readiness in case a Forward A.D.S. is required at any moment.

12 mid-night. Only a few cases coming in being chiefly local wounded from 3rd Australian Divisional Camp between Menin Road and Zonnebeke Road.

16-10-1917.

8 a.m. Routine Water Cart and Horse Ambulance Wagon commenced duty at 6 a.m. Major McKenzie (8th) in charge, with 2 Officers (8th) Captain Young and 75 Other Ranks (8th) left A.D.S. for Forward Posts to relieve Officers and Bearers of 15th Field Ambulance at 6-30 a.m. The 25 Infantry Bearers failed to put in an appearance at the time arranged by D.A.D.M.S. yesterday. Major Maplestone has just reported back having handed over to Major McKenzie.

Narrative Continued.

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16-10-1917.

12 Noon. Officers and Bearers of 15th Aust. Field Ambulance relieved, returned to A.D.S. and sent to ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS in Motor Lorries. Major Maplestone and several of the Bearers showed distinct evidence of having been "gassed"; eyes bathed with Sodii Bicarb Solution. Men are being physically examined this afternoon at their Rest Lines by a Medical Officer. Major James and Captain Minty have just reported for duty from C.M.D.S. Major Maplestone and Captain Booth returned by same Car to C.M.D.S. for rest. Sick Parade held this morning by duty M.O. attended by a few of 3rd, 4th and 5th Division, and Details from Wagon Lines around about this A.D.S. 3 Motor Ambulance Cars loaned to M.O. i/c Left A.D.S. to evacuate urgent stretcher cases owing to lack of M.A.C. Cars. Bearers at Rest Lines complained somewhat bitterly of the indifferent accommodation available there. Major James sent in just before noon to inspect once more and report to A.D.M.S. and see if anything better could be provided.

4 p.m. Rations and supplies sent this forenoon to Forward Posts. D.D.M.S. visited this A.D.S. at 2-15 p.m. and enquired as to Line of Evacuation and possibility of carrying from the Forward Post across country to COAL DUMP on Zonnebeke Road, to which point Horse Ambulance can proceed, thus greatly saving carries down to WESTHOEK or BELLEWAARDE. On hearing that Reserve Bearers were resting in unsatisfactory quarters at the Ramparts, he stated he saw no reason why at least half could not rest at C.M.D.S. and half in 2 Nissen Huts at XPRES RAILWAY STATION, which were at his disposal. He purposed arranging same with A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division. At 2-20 report received from Major McKenzie that relief completed and both R.A.Ps. clear at 10-20 a.m., also that he had established dump at BELLEWAARDE, and that he was forwarding his disposition in tonight's report. 2 Lorries loaned to M.O. i/c Left A.D.S. for the evacuation of Gassed cases to C.M.D.S. Quartermaster reported that new supply of "Trench Foot Powder" and "Trench Foot Soap" was ready and had been partly issued on demand and receipts taken. Captain Hansen reported back about 1 p.m. and sent down to C.M.D.S. at 3-30 p.m.

8 p.m. Afternoon fairly quiet - slight drizzle of rain commenced about 5 p.m. Lieut. Mattner with 27 Other Ranks reported as Bearers from 5th Divisional Detail Wing at 6-15 p.m. having marched ~~xxxxxx~~ from POPERINGHE. Men given a hot drink and sent by Lorry to Ramparts, ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS, Captain Minty accompanied party to arrange for hot meal. Party instructed to report at this A.D.S. at 7 a.m. tomorrow with steel helmets, S.B.R., Water Bottle, Blanket, waterproof sheet and 24 hours rations. They will be given 25 stretchers to carry up to Forward Posts and Officer i/c will carry up written instructions to Officer i/c Stretcher Bearers and Forward Posts (Major McKenzie) who will arrange their disposition.

12 midnight. Since 8 p.m. very few cases have passed through. No disposition report received but both R.A.Ps. reported clear this afternoon at 7-30 p.m. and A.D.M.S. notified by telephone. 2 Cases of Scabies evacuated to Mont des Cats in accordance with D.D.M.S. 1st Anzac, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Operation Order No. 5.

17-10-1917.

8 a.m. Cases slightly more numerous during the night. Routine Returns signed and sent forward at 5 a.m. Routine Water Cart and Ambulance Wagon left to report to BIRR CROSS ROADS at 6 a.m. 1 Officer and 26 Other Ranks (Infantry) left at 7 a.m. carrying stretchers and 24 hours rations and instructed to proceed to BELLEWAARDE and report to Major McKenzie.

12 Noon. Casualty Report received that Major W.J. Bullen of 59th Battalion, had been killed during the night at Left R.A.P. Captain Young was sent forward by Major McKenzie to take his

Narrative Continued.

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place and Captain Smith was sent from this A.D.S. at 9-15 a.m. to replace Captain Smith Young. A.D.M.S. arrived at 9-30 a.m. and left to visit Collecting and Relay Posts and R.A.Ps. accompanied by Captain Minty as Guide. 9-30 a.m. Major Crowther, Acting O.C. 14th Australian Field Ambulance reported that all our gassed cases had been sent to D.R.S. with the exception of Major Maplestone whose condition was about the same as yesterday. At 9-40 a.m. report received from Major McKenzie with covering report from Captain Finlayson who reported that MAJOR N. J. BULLEN had been wounded at the RIGHT R.A.P. last night and was carried down to HELLERS. He was suffering from severe wounds of face, buttock and hand and died after being there about one hour, time of death 1 a.m. 17-10-17. Captain Young went up at 6 a.m. to act as R.M.O., 59th Battalion. Shelling has been very severe all night. All Stretchers Blankets and Water at the Left R.A.P. have been destroyed and Captain Finlayson was replacing same as far as possible. He also asked for a further supply of Stretchers, Water, Blankets and candles. Further, on receipt of this message from Captain Finlayson 25 extra stretchers and 30 Blankets with Splints, Dressings, Comforts and Rations were sent forward for new Right R.A.P. Additional water was also forwarded. Sergeant Johnson (15th) Transport reported that Water Cart this morning on returning from Forward Area had got off the track owing to blockage and Driver had reported back with his horses. He was instructed to take out 4 horses and a party of 2 or 3 men and get the water cart in; this was accomplished just before mid-day. Water cart is not damaged.

6 p.m. Captains Booth and Hansen were telephoned for to report here at the earliest possible moment owing to shortage of R.M.Os. They reported here about 3 p.m. At 2 p.m. report received from Captain Young who had gone to Right R.A.P. and which was despatched by him at 8-15 a.m. stating that all equipment there had been destroyed with the exception of 9 Thomas's Splints and a few shell dressings, also reporting that Right R.A.P. was now clear of wounded and that fresh equipment and supplies were necessary. These had already been forwarded and were on their way up. Captain Finlayson's report corroborated Captain Young and stated that he had instructed Captain Young to report to the Battalion and establish a suitable R.A.P. and report location of same as soon as possible. Captain James from BELLEWAARDE forwarded these reports stating that Major McKenzie was visiting the R.A.Ps. when the Forward Reports came in and that he had already sent forward some bandages, strapping and shell dressings to the new R.A.P. and that other supplies were coming up. As A.D.M.S. had not returned by 3 p.m. Relief Order No. 5 for 18-10-17 was got in hand pending his arrival. At 4 p.m. Captain Appleford S.T. of 3rd Australian Field Ambulance was temporarily attached to this Unit for duty by A. D. M. S. At 4-5 p.m. D.A.D.M.S. rang up to say that Division had received news from the front stating that the A.D.M.S. had been killed and instructing me to send an Ambulance Car to BIRR CROSS ROADS to await the arrival of the body. Captain Minty was reported not wounded. D.A.D.M.S. asked for a Lorry to report at C.M.D.S. forthwith to convey Gas cases to C.C.S. xx This was almost immediately afterwards cancelled. 3 Cases of Scabies have been awaiting evacuation to No. 50 C.C.S. but up to this time no M.A.C. Car has arrived although promised by O. i/c 20th M.A.C. at 11 a.m. this morning. About 5-15 p.m. the Ambulance Car with A.D.M.S.'s body arrived and on informing D.A.D.M.S. was instructed to remove his personal effects and forward them direct to Divisional Headquarters; the body to be conveyed to C.M.D.S. for burial. Captain Minty arrived in the same Car and after making a verbal report stating that A.D.M.S. had been killed about 30 yards this side of Left R.A.P. about 3 p.m. by a splinter of a shell which burst some little distance immediately beyond the right front struck him on the left breast and penetrated the chest, presumably either lacerating the heart or Aorta. Death occurred in a matter of seconds. He did not say anything. Captain Minty went on with the body to C.M.D.S. for rest for the night as he was considerably shaken by the occurrence. Captain Smith returned from BELLEWAARDE reporting that at Major McKenzie's wish he had done so as his services were not at present

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required and accommodation was limited at BELLEWAARDE. Just before 6 p.m. D.A.D.M.S. stated that some A.A.M.C. Reinforcements had arrived from A.G.B.D. via Poperinghe and were to be attached to this Unit; I requested they be sent to the ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS and despatched Captain Smith to arrange for an evening meal, obtain a nominal roll and instructed that they and the other Bearers of the 15th would report here for duty at 8-15 a.m. tomorrow. Captain Hansen was sent to the Transport Lines of 58th Battalion to await its arrival from the line and to act as R.M.O. during the absence of Captain G.J.K. McIver evacuated to D.R.S. with Trench Fever this afternoon.

10 p.m. A few cases coming in during the last four hours. 3 Scabies have been sent across to Left A.D.S. as the M.A.C. Car has failed to report and telephonic communication cannot be used between this A.D.S. and their Park at the Creamery. The whole matter will have to be reported to A.D.M.S. Office. Captain Smith reported from ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS and handed in nominal roll of reinforcements of which 3 are to be attached to 4th 8th Australian Field Ambulance, the remainder being for this Unit. These men had arrived without any rations and given a hot drink and will be supplied with 24 hours rations as they pass this A.D.S. on their way to the Forward Posts in the morning. Mr Black, (W.O., 15th) was sent down to the RAMPARTS in charge of the whole party and will stay there the night and march them up to this A.D.S. in the morning. Captain Young reported back at 9-30 p.m., the 58th Battalion having come out of the Line and stays here for the night. D.A.D.M.S. rang up at 9-35 p.m. asking me to send 6 Nursing Orderlies to C.M.D.S. for duty tomorrow also enquiring if any more Medical Officers are required by me. He was informed that I had sufficient for present requirements. Captain Young stated that up to the time he left the Right R.A.P. which is now at J.4.b.9.2. no supplies had arrived, although same had been sent forward urgently from this A.D.S. during the day including all requirements with the exception of a Primus Stove which will go up in the morning. Quartermaster (15th) written to and instructed to send rations for 6 Nursing Orderlies to C.M.D.S. during tomorrow and to ^{as} speedily as possible supply another Primus to replace one sent forward from this A.D.S. to Right R.A.P. and to be prepared to send to C.M.D.S. at any time after 12 noon for 50 Stretchers and 100 Blankets now being demanded from D.D.M.S., 1st Anzac.

18-10-1917.

8 a.m. Only a few cases passed through since 10 p.m. last night. Report from Major McKenzie received at 10-30 p.m. 17-10-17 reporting both R.A.Ps. clear at 5-30 p.m. and stating that on instructions from A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division Reserve Squads had been placed at NUNNS' POST and at the TUNNELS in order to hold them, also that supplies were going forward well and new R.A.P. was being equipped as quickly as possible. A few shells passing over and falling near here during the night, but no casualties among personnel to report. At 5 a.m. pro forma return signed and urgent letter sent by D.R. to Quartermaster (15th) informing him of the arrival of 27 reinforcements at the RAMPARTS and of the despatch of the 6 Nursing Orderlies to C.M.D.S. by order of the A.D.M.S. Letter to O. i/c Bearers and Forward Posts sent out by Routine Water Cart at 5-15 a.m. informing him that 1 Officer and 53 Bearers only would report today and that the Infantry Bearers would remain in the Line until the 8th were relieved on 20-10-17. Quartermaster (15th) reported up here at 6-15 a.m. having got the message sent on the road up. Instructions received and he returned to carry them out. Captain Smith and 53 Bearers including Reinforcements, carrying 18 Stretchers, reported at BIRR CROSS ROADS at 7-15, half an hour late, to relieve 14th Field Ambulance Bearers.

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11 a.m. D.A.D.M.S. rang up at 9-15a.m. stating that the 6 Nursing Orderlies sent to C.M.D.S. were returning as their services were not required. O.C., C.M.D.S. reports that Major Maplestone's condition is about the same. At 12 noon Captain Minty rang up and was told he would report for duty here this afternoon. Captain Booth (15th) proceeded to hold sick parade at ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS and inspect quarters at 8-45 a.m. reporting back at 10-30 a.m. that pump was absolutely necessary or a fresh lot of duck-boards in order to keep these quarters free of water; that the out-going details had failed to leave their lines clean and tidy. At 10-35 a.m. some enemy bombs were dropped near and around this A.D.S. killing 1 Light Draught Horse (15th) and wounding 2 others (15th). The matter was immediately reported to A.D.M.S. and the Veterinary Aid Post, XPRES. Arrangements made by Warrant Officer to bury dead horse. Warrant Officer Goodhall instructed to send pump from Transport Lines to ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS and place same in charge of Sergeant Miles to keep Dug-outs free from water soakage.

3 p.m. Cases only coming in in ones and twos all the morning. Report received from Major McKenzie at 11-30 a.m. reporting Reliefs completed and all R.A.Ps. and Posts clear at 10 a.m. Captain Smith (15th) is at BELLEWAARDE and the number of Bearers sent up this morning were ample. Supply of Stationery and A.B. 100 forwarded at his request - report was despatched from BELLEWAARDE at 10-40 p.m. At 12-30 p.m. Captain Finlayson (14th) reported back to A.D.S. on relief bringing with him Captain S.G. Gibson, R.M.O. 56th Battalion, suffering from the effects of Gas; both Officers were sent on to C.M.D.S. Captain Booth instructed to report at BELLEWAARDE POST as Captain Smith had gone forward to act as R.M.O., 56th Battalion. At 1-30 p.m. Major James took charge of the whole of A.D.S. and Orderly Room while I proceeded to C.M.D.S. to attend funeral of the late A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division. During my absence no reports from Forward Line were received and only a very little work passed through this A.D.S. Captain Minty returned to this A.D.S. with no for duty here. Correspondence reference notes found in the effects of A.D.M.S. regarding Posts and R.A.Ps. in this Sector received.

12 mid-night. Correspondence dealt with. Very few cases coming in. Night fine but foggy but not quite so cold; very little shell fire and only a few bombs.

19-10-1917.

10 a.m. Very quiet night, only 7 cases of 5th Australian Division passing through. 50 Blankets and 10 Thomas's Splints sent to BIRR CROSS ROADS for distribution forward as required. Routine Water Cart and Wagons left at 6 a.m. Morning foggy with cloudy sky. Captain Minty visited ESPLANADE DUG-OUTS for sick parade and inspection of lines.

3 p.m. Captain Frecker (14th) reported for duty as a Bearer Officer and returned again to C.M.D.S. until required in the morning. Captain Minty reported back from the RAMPARTS and stated that the lines generally were cleaner but soakage ~~was~~ in dug-outs still bad although pump was still in use. Men complained of slight shortage in rations and lack of lighting (candles) at RAMPARTS. D.A.D.M.S. visited this A.D.S. at 10-45 a.m. Work slack up till noon but increased for a little while in the afternoon. No report received from the Forward area up to 1 p.m. Quartermaster (15th) reported about 1-30 p.m. and he was instructed to make the necessary arrangements re rations and lights for quarters at the RAMPARTS. Relief Order No. 6 for 20-10-17 issued at 2-30 p.m. Reports from Captain McKenzie giving dispositions and equipment and supplies at Forward Posts as required by A.D.M.S. received at 4-50 p.m. and same forwarded to A.D.M.S. at 6 p.m. Instructions sent to RAMPARTS for 50 Other Ranks (14th) and 27 Other Ranks (15th) to report at this A.D.S. at 8-15 a.m. on 20-10-17 as a relief to Bearers coming out of the line. Major James to be in charge of Bearers and Forward Posts, Captain to be Captain Minty (15th).

Narrative Continued.

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19-10-1917.

Rained for an hour or a little more this afternoon; weather getting cold again; rain has ceased for the time being. A good deal of shelling on Line of Communication at BIRR CROSS ROADS and Forward reported. Most of the walking wounded arriving at this A.D.S. are from Line of Communication and not from R.A.Ps., they are either bomb or shell wounds

19 mid-night. Very quiet for the last 4 hours. Major McKenzie (8th) at 8-30 p.m. reported both R.A.Ps. clear at 8-40 p.m. and A.D.M.S. informed. Also report that Engineers are still at work at IDEAL POST and stated that WESTHORN POST was in an unsatisfactory condition and position ^{there} being water on the floors. He reported that No. 1335, Private O'Connell M., 32nd Battalion, Stretcher Bearer for this Unit was killed in action and No. 3552, Private Fitzsimmons, J., 32nd Battalion, was wounded while stretcher bearing. Pte. O'Connell's effects were taken charge of by his Corporal and pay book forwarded to this Office. Ground fog otherwise night clear.

20-10-1917.

19 noon. ~~Rumour received from~~ Major James, Captain Minty (15th), Captain Flecker (14th) and 40 Other Ranks of 14th Field Ambulance and 36 Other Ranks (15th) proceeded to BIRR CROSS ROADS to take over the Line and relieve 8th Australian Field Ambulance. Definite instructions repeated to Major James as to Supplies and Equipment at R.A.Ps. and Posts. Party took up 4 Thomas's Splints from BIRR CROSS ROADS to BELLEWAARDE POST to be held as a reserve, and those already there without credles to go forward to R.A.Ps.. Routine Water Cart and Wagons left at 8 a.m. to report at BIRR CROSS ROADS. Captain APPLEFORD (15th) visited RAMPARTS to hold sick parade and inspect the lines generally and reported back again at 9-45 a.m. all correct. Bonnet covers for 4 Sunbeam and 8 Ford Motor Ambulance Cars asked for from 5th Divisional Supply Column Workshops. Report received from Major James stating that at 10-40 relief was completed and both R.A.Ps. clear. Only a few cases coming through. Officers and Bearers of 8th Field Ambulance and Officer and personnel of 32nd Battalion (Bearers) reported back before noon. Major McKenzie, Captains Guest and James and Private Parsons sent by Car to 8th Australian Field Ambulance direct, the rest by Lorries to RAMPARTS.

8 p.m. Everything very quiet since last entry. Report received from Transport Sergeant, BIRR CROSS ROADS, at 2-55 p.m. stating that shell fire had destroyed Corduroy track and it had been impossible to send rations up until same had been repaired. Report received again stating that the rations, stretchers and blankets had been forwarded up to Major James, also Supplies. At 6-15 p.m. 4 dozen Triangular Bandages and 4 tourniquets sent to BIRR CROSS ROADS to be forwarded to BELLEWAARDE. At 6-35 p.m. Major James' report received stating that no cases had come through from the front for the past hour nor from the Forward Posts any report owing to heavy shelling between IDEAL and BELLEWAARDE. A number of cases had been treated at the latter post and all A.M.C. Details were well. Particulars of one case that died at BELLEWAARDE forwarded. Disposition of Bearers forwarded. The morning reports by Captains Minty and Booth that R.A.Ps. were both clear at 10-40 was forwarded. No evening reports received so far.

19 midnight. Very few cases coming through. Cold night with few clouds and a good deal of ground haze.

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12 Noon. Very few cases have passed through since mid-night. Routine Water Cart and Ambulance Wagons left at 8-30 a.m. "C" Section Tent Sub-Division reported as Relief to "B" Section Tent Sub-Division at this A.D.S. The Ramparts visited by Medical Officer and Officer in Charge Infantry Bearers attached; on return at 10-30 a.m. reporting all correct. No. 3008, Lance Corporal H.C. Robbins reported to relieve No. 8556, Sergeant M.H. Jolly suffering from "Tracheitis". No. 8854, Private Windsor, R. sent back from IDEAL POST suffering from "Blistering". No. 9180, Private Jones, C.A. sent out to replace Windsor. No report received so far from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts. The N.C.O. i/c. reports some shelling on the roads. No. 6 Operation Order, D.D.M.S., 1st Anzac, received at 10-5 a.m.

9-30 p.m. A few more cases have been coming in since mid-day, chiefly casualties from Line of Communication forward. No reports received in the early afternoon with the exception of one from N.C.O. i/c Birr Cross Roads, who reported shelling on the Gorduroy Track and the difficulty of getting any wagons through to BELLEWAARDE. Rations were blocked in XPRES on their way to the Ramparts and did not get through until nearly 9 p.m., owing to shelling the town and Railway Station. Major Maplestone reported for duty at 8-30 p.m. Reports from Officer i/c Bearers arrived at 7-5 p.m. reporting R.A.Ps. clear in the morning at 10-30 a.m. and sending 48 hourly return of stretchers, blankets and splints at the various posts with the exception of WESTHOLK, TUNNELS, IDEAL and SYMONS' POSTS from which reports had not been received owing to heavy shell fire all day. No casualties reported among A.A.M.C. Details. He recommended that Bearers in the Line be strengthened by 3 squads owing to heavy casualties on the Line of Communication. This is being arranged for. R.M.O., 58th Battalion reported moving his R.A.P. to D.28.2.1. - contents of all reports given to A.D.M.S. Office at 9-10 p.m., written reports to go forward in the morning. All stretcher cases from BELLEWAARDE cleared before 9 p.m.

12 mid-night. Quiet; raining and cold. Very few cases passing through.

22-10-1917.

9 a.m. Since 8 a.m. heavy Artillery fire, mostly our own - North-easterly direction. A fair number of cases passed through. Routine Water Cart and Ambulance Wagons went out at 3 a.m. but were not able to proceed to BELLEWAARDE owing to the Gorduroy having been blown up during the night. Relief consisting of Captain Barriskill (8th) and Bearers of 8th Australian Field Ambulance, 48 in all, and Lieutenant Matther and 28 Other Ranks of 39th Infantry Battalion, went out at 8-30 a.m. to relieve 1 Officer and personnel of 18th Australian Field Ambulance which went out on the 18-10-17. 1 Casualty of 18th Australian Field Ambulance reported, No. 48, Private Symons, J.T. Artillery fire continues; weather fine but hazy.

12 noon. Report of previous night, 8-30 p.m. received at 9-35 a.m. stating R.A.Ps. were clear at 9 a.m. and all backward Posts. Medical Officer visited Ramparts and inspected Billets returning about 10-30 a.m. Bearers began to come in shortly after 10 a.m. N.C.O. at Birr Cross Roads reported that he was able to work a wagon as far as SYMONS POST and had sent the Water Cart up once more and anticipated it would get through. At 11 a.m. reports received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts also sending down effects of deceased cases and asking for 6 books of A.F. 266 and stating that up to 9-30 a.m. (time of message) water cart had not reached BELLEWAARDE. Also asking for burial party to be sent up as none had visited that Post for 3 days. C.O., 18th Australian

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Field Ambulance stated he had received instructions to hand over on 24-10-17 to this Unit, to be complete by 10 a.m. and same corroborated on telephone by A.D.S., 5th Australian Division.

6 p.m. Report from Officer i/c Bearers received at 12-15 p.m. asking for 3 more squads and a relief for the Corporal i/c at BELLEWAARDE. These were instructed to go forward at once from the Ramparts. Arrangements made with the Quartermaster (15) to send Corporal Sutton from Transport Lines early this afternoon. Officer i/c Bearers sent message to this effect by special runner at 12-30 p.m. Quartermaster (15th) instructed to be at this A.D.S. not later than 1-30 p.m., 23-10-17 to take over Station Stores from the Quartermaster of 15th Australian Field Ambulance at 2 p.m. At 2-30 p.m. reports received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts that both R.A.Ps. cleared and reliefs completed and that water cart and horse ambulance had reached BELLEWAARDE at 11 a.m. 3 Squads despatched to Birr Cross Roads thence to BELLEWAARDE at 3 p.m. No. 4368, Private Dearn, 14th Aust. Field Ambulance reported at 5-30 p.m. having been sent in from the Line by Captain Minty as unfit to carry on. Report received at 5-30 by this man that both R.A.Ps. clear at 4-5 p.m. - shelling has been varied during the afternoon, heavy at times. 1 of the horses (L.D.) of 15th Australian Field Ambulance, killed by shell fire at BELLEWAARDE, none of the personnel or any of the other horses injured. A number of patients passing through but mostly from Line of Communication. Brigadier-General E. Tivey, 5th Australian Infantry Brigade, passed through with superficial shell wounds right arm and sent to D.R.S. in his own car. A.A.M.C. Order No. 48 received at 6 p.m. with instructions for this Unit to take over A.D.S. for Stretcher cases and that 1 complete Tent Sub-Division would be supplied from xxxx the xxxxxxxx 2nd Australian Divisions. Order acknowledged by telegram. From 11-30 a.m. to 3 p.m. telephone out of commission.

12 mid-night. Captain Howard reported for duty from 14th Aust. Field Ambulance at 6-5 p.m. No further reports received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts; very few cases passing through. Shells still passing over in the direction of XPRES. Night clear and cold with a slight ground haze.

23-10-1917.

10 a.m. Very quiet night as far as cases are concerned. Routine water cart and wagons went out as usual. Efforts were made to recover the Horse Ambulance wagon which got off the track yesterday. Corporal Sutton (15th) sent out to relieve Corporal Tynmons (15th), the latter reporting back here at 9-15 a.m. and Sergeant Hopkins (14th) was sent forward to report to Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts, BELLEWAARDE.

12 Noon. Sergeant Johnson (Transport) reported at 11-45 a.m. that he had made a further attempt to get back the Horse Ambulance Wagon on the road but was unable to do so and brought in loose fittings as far as possible. Shell fire was increasing in that area and it was decided to make no further attempts for the present at any rate. The wagon was therefore abandoned. No reports received from Forward Posts. The patients from BIRR CROSS ROADS report that shelling was going on Forward. Medical Officer visited and inspected Ramparts; 2 Bearers of 15th Field Ambulance transferred to D.R.S. Preliminary arrangements made with C.O., 12th Australian Field Ambulance to take over Left A.D.S. in the morning.

6 p.m. Quartermaster of this Unit inspected stores at Left A.D.S. and reported on same. Arrangements made for him to report here at 8 a.m. to take over and sign necessary receipts. Major McKenzie (8th) and Captain Booth (15th) reported here from

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C.M.D.S. at 3 p.m. First reports from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts received 5-5 p.m. stating that R.A.Ps. and Line were clear at 2-30 this morning and reporting that 4 casualties had occurred among Bearers of 8th Australian Field Ambulance, one of which had already passed through this A.D.S. Also reporting that 1 man without any means of identification had died at BELLEWAARDE ~~THE DAY BEFORE~~ the day before and forwarding the effects of Driver Rock of 600 A.S.C. and Private Harris of 29th Battalion, A.I.F. The Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts reported number of squads at his disposal and number required - this is being arranged for as far as possible. Reports also contain an application for supplies - arrangements made for same to be sent forward in the morning. Captain A.W. LeSouef reported for duty attached to this Ambulance (J.29/153). Captains A.V.R. Hansen and W.R. Young attached for regimental duty and struck off the strength by order of A.D.M.S. 4322 (J.25/153).

2-30 p.m. Reports of Supplies at Forward Posts received at 5 p.m. from Officer i/c Forward Posts also report that both R.A.Ps. were clear at 4-30 p.m. and back area clear likewise. Report re Supplies not complete owing to heavy shell fire, and A.D.M.S. Office informed accordingly. 18th Australian Field Ambulance asked to return tourniquets and splints for BIRR CROSS ROADS in lieu of those sent up on cases to A.D.S. This had previously been arranged by me but the others failed to carry out the arrangements. Night clear and cold.

12 Midnight. No further reports received - night very cold.

24-10-1917.

8 a.m. Very few cases passed through during the night. Routine Water Cart and Wagon went out at 5 a.m. with disposition of Bearers available to Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts. Major McKenzie (8th) with 2 Officers and 60 Bearers of 15th Aust. Field Ambulance went into the Line relieving 14th and part of 15th Australian Field Ambulances from the forward area. The Quartermaster (15th) reported at 8-30 a.m. to take over Stores, etc. at Left A.D.S.

12 noon. Major Hollison and Captain Poulton of 7th Aust. Field Ambulance with 20 Other Ranks began to arrive just after 9-30 a.m. Transport with equipment arrived at 10-5 a.m. and were caught by a hostile bomb which fell between the Water Cart and G.S. Limber, killing a Staff Sergeant and 5 horses and severely wounding 3 Drivers and 1 Private; tank of water cart badly damaged and thereby rendered useless; Pole of G.S. Limber broken. Wagons were unloaded at Left A.D.S. and relief was completed by 11 a.m. C.O., 7th Australian Field Ambulance informed by telephone through A.D.M.S., 2nd Australian Division, of casualties, and later corroborated in writing. The facts reported to D.A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division. Captain W.L. Smith of this Unit asked for by me owing to shortage of Officers. 2 G.S. Wagons of 7th Aust. Field Ambulance and remaining horses and Drivers sent back to their Unit.

3 p.m. Water asked for from "Q" Branch, 5th Australian Division, for Left A.D.S. supplied about 12-30 p.m. The relief of Bearers having been completed by 10-30 a.m. all Officers and Bearers had reported back by 12 noon. Major James and Captain Frecker sent on to C.M.D.S., Captain Minty held here and Other Ranks sent to Billets at Ramparts. All ranks showing very marked evidence of fatigue and apparently several will be unfit to take the Line on 26-10-17. A few more cases passing through this A.D.S., Left A.D.S. not busy. Captain Appleford (3rd Aust. Field Ambulance) transferred to Left A.D.S. Captain W.L. Smith (15th) reported at 5 p.m. D.A.D.M.S. visited this A.D.S. at 4-10 p.m. and stated that D.A.D.M.S., 2nd Aust. Division, with Major Conrick (7th Aust.

Narrative Continued.

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24-10-1917.

Field Ambulance) would arrive at this A.D.S. at 6 a.m. on 25-10-17 and would require a Guide to visit ~~xxxxxx~~ Posts at Forward area. Same to be arranged for by me. Temperature dropping considerably; a little sleet and hail this morning and rained about 6 p.m. Night much colder.

12 Mid-night. Telegram received from 3rd Echelon, Anzac Section, granting authority to appoint a Corporal Cook, at 10 p.m. Night quiet and very cold.

25-10-1917.

9 a.m. 22 Cases passed through Right and Left A.D.Ss. up to 5 a.m. this day from 5 p.m. last night. Horse Ambulance with Major Fry (D.A.D.M.S., 2nd Aust. Division) and 2 Officers of the 7th Australian Field Ambulance left at 9-15 a.m. for BELLEWAARDE. Ford Ambulance Car W.D. No. 15126 out of commission and sent to Shop. Ford Ambulance Car W.D. No. 15124 also out of commission in shop. 1 Sunbeam Ambulance Car in shop not yet reported back. Strength of Motor Transport this morning - 8 Sunbeam and 1 Ford Motor Ambulance Cars. Captain Smith left to visit Ramparts for inspection and sick parades.

12 Noon. No reports received from Forward Posts except unofficial mention by Major Fry (D.A.D.M.S., 2nd Aust. Division) that he had heard that both R.A.Ps. were clear at 10 a.m. this morning, and he did not notice any patients at any of the Posts he had ~~visiting~~ visited awaiting transport. Few cases passing through either ~~xxxxx~~ A.D.S. and all are coming from Lines of Communication. Captain Smith returned from inspection and stated that 3 men would be unfit for bearer duty in the morning but would be capable of doing duty at wagon loading posts. Officer i/c M.A.C. and Officer i/c Lorry Park visited this A.D.S. and arrangements were made re transport of casualty cases from BIRR CROSS ROADS and A.D.Ss. respectively.

6 p.m. First report from Forward Posts received at 2-15 p.m. reporting R.A.Ps. all clear and Lines clear at 10 a.m. and also report from R.M.O., 59th Battalion stating he had established his R.A.P. at NUNNS EPOST while his Battalion was in reserve. Next reports received 4-25 p.m. First report signed by Major McKenzie at 12 noon; second and subsequent reports signed by Captain Booth at 12-45 p.m. stating Major McKenzie had been wounded and 1 Other Rank of the 8th Australian Field Ambulance, while No. 13865, Pte. Wheldon, W.R. of this Unit had been killed and 2 Other Bearers wounded due to heavy shell fire. He also recommended, at Major McKenzie's instigation, No. 24, Lce/Cpl. R. Wood, should be awarded the Military Medal for his invaluable services and coolness under shell fire although a casualty; not sufficient information contained in report to make a recommendation - this will have to be obtained later. Reports of Blankets, Stretchers and Splints received at same time from various Posts with the exception of NUNNS POST which is now an R.A.P. Captain Smith sent up to take the place of Major McKenzie at BELLEWAARDE as Officer i/c Bearers and Posts. Major James (15th) and Captain Frecker (14th) reported here from C.M.D.S. at 5-45 p.m. Extra details sent across to Left A.D.S. as Loading Bearers.

9-30 p.m. Reports received from Captain Booth at 7-5 p.m. also giving supplies at Posts at 10 a.m. today and inventories of effects of deceased cases at BELLEWAARDE including A.M.C. personnel. No times stated on some of the reports. Captain Smith reported as having arrived at BELLEWAARDE at 5-30 p.m. and taken charge. Report just received that rations had not been able to go through. Arrangements made to forward same up at 5 a.m. as the road is too risky for Horse Ambulances to go up. Fair number of bombs dropped in the immediate vicinity of this A.D.S. but only a few casualties.

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12 midnight. Very few cases coming in; night clear and cold with few clouds.

26-10-17.

9 a.m. Routine Water Cart and Horse Ambulance Wagon went out as usual. Captain Minty proceeded to BIRR CROSS ROADS as previously instructed. Major James assumed control of traffic at A.D.Ss. at 8 a.m. Heavy gun fire commenced at 5 a.m. and still continues. So far very few cases coming in. Both A.D.Ss. clear and ready for a rush. At 7-50 a.m. Captain Minty returned one of the two Lorries specially stationed at BIRR CROSS ROADS as very few cases were coming through. At 8-35 a.m. Captain Minty reported that second Lorry was not necessary so far and that no cases had come through and that the Horse Ambulance from BELLEWAARDE had reported all clear. At 9 a.m. Captain Smith, Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts reported dispositions of Squads at his disposal and asked for more Bearers in case of a rush. Officer and Bearers of 8th Australian Field Ambulance, and Officer and personnel of 32nd Australian Infantry Battalion were relieved by Bearers of 14th and 15th Australian Field Ambulance Bearers this morning, in charge of Captain Howard of 8th Australian Field Ambulance.

12 noon. Application sent by special despatch rider to A.D.M.S. asking for 10 more Squads to strengthen Bearers in the Line owing to loss of men during the last 10 days ^{from} exhaustion and increase in number of cases owing to operations this morning. Already 2 or 3 of the Bearers who went out on the previous relief and also on their relief this morning have had to report as unfit and are definitely unable to carry on their duties. Reply received from A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, stating that 40 Infantry Bearers would be supplied if possible by 2 p.m. today from 15th Australian Infantry Brigade and 40 from Reinforcement Camp tomorrow to relieve these. D.D.M.S. visited both A.D.Ss. at 10-15 a.m. Officers and Bearers on relief reported back here and stated R.A.Ps. and Lines were clear, as when they came out there had not been much shell fire and the night was fairly quiet. Two Wheelers sent down to BIRR CROSS ROADS in case of Gorduroy Road being blown in out for Horse traffic. No apparent increase in casualties coming through, mostly from Lines of Communication working parties.

6 p.m. At 1-30 p.m. R.A.Ps. reported clear at 11-30 a.m. and Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts reports that some Canadian wounded are passing through BELLEWAARDE POST from the Left Sector. At 9-10 p.m. report received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts stating that he had placed Captain Howard at BELLES along with Captain Booth as Captain Barriskill had been relieved with the 8th Australian Field Ambulance Bearers. Infantry Bearers from 60th Battalion reported at 3-45 p.m. and after storing rifles and equipment were sent forward at 5 p.m. Guide reported back just a few minutes ago stating that the Bearers had got through and shelling had begun to liven up just as he left. No appreciable increase in casualties at either A.D.S. since 12 noon.

10-30 p.m. Dispositions of Bearers received at 7-40 p.m. showing full disposition of those who went out this morning. This message has presumably been delayed as the hour at which it was despatched is 9-40 a.m. A few large shells have passed over in the direction of XPRES since 6 p.m. but very little bombing. Occasionally very light showers of rain; weather still cold and sky overcast at times. A few walking casualties, British, have reported here stating that R.A.M.C. A.D.S. immediately behind this Right A.D.S. had closed and ceased to treat cases. Written enquiry sent to ascertain if such be the case as no special instructions have been received from A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, as to treating these. Movement Order No. 10 issued as from

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9 p.m. 26-10-17 and Relief Order No. 10 issued as from 8 a.m. 27-10-17 to all Officers concerned.

Motor Lorries for Transport of all personnel of Units attached arranged for with Officer i/c Lorry Park with the exception of 5 Lorries for personnel and equipment of this Unit which has been requisitioned for ~~xxxx~~ through A.D.M.S. Arrangements will have to be made for transport of 60th Battalion Details and for relieving Details on morning of 28-10-17 on handing over Line to 7th Australian Field Ambulance. Reply received from Officer i/c British A.D.S. stating that they are treating both walking and stretcher cases.

27-10-17.

10-30 a.m. Since last night very little work has been coming in either A.D.S. Routine Water Cart and Horse Ambulance Wagon went out as usual, taking copies of Movement Order No. 5 and Relief Order No. 10 to Officers at Forward Posts. Infantry Stretcher Bearers from Detail Wing reported here shortly after 7-30 a.m. and after depositing unnecessary equipment left in charge of an N.S.O., given a hot drink and biscuits, were sent with a guide to BIRR CROSS ROADS to relieve 60th Battalion Details. Report received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts at 10-30 a.m. acknowledging receipt of Movement and Relief Orders - reporting everything running smoothly and stating that both R.A.Ps. were clear at 6 p.m. on 26-10-17.

2 p.m. Very few cases during forenoon. Details of 60th Battalion reported back between 10 a.m. and 12-30 p.m. and drew rifles and equipment from Store, checked nominal roll and instructed to report to H.Q.b. in accordance with instructions received from A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division. At 1-15 p.m. disposition of Squads received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts, sent by him at 11-30 a.m. - reports from Forward Posts had not been received by him up to that time as to Blankets, Stretchers, Splints, etc.

8 p.m. Quartermaster (15th) reported at 8-10 p.m. and arrangements were made as to movement of this personnel's rations and equipment from the RAMPARTS to this A.D.S. He stated he had visited G.S.I.b.S.S. this morning, and although informed by A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, the position was vacant, he found it occupied by the personnel of the 2nd Co. A.A.S.C. who had received no orders to move. He interviewed the Area Commandant and after some difficulty managed to arrange for them to vacate. He also ascertained that VAN SCHIER Farm was occupied and that the Area Commandant knew nothing of either this Ambulance or the 14th Australian Field Ambulance moving to this area on 28-10-17. At 4-5 p.m. reports of stores etc. were received from Officer i/c Bearers and Forward Posts and stating that arrangements had been made to correct lack of stretchers and blankets at R.A.Ps. and Right Relay. Lieut-Colonel J.J. Black, C.O., 7th Australian Field Ambulance, arrived at 5 p.m. and was shown over both A.D.Ss; concurred, and arrangements made for relief in the morning and anticipated being able to take over both A.D.Ss. before 10 a.m. All arrangements made for forwarding cooks and rations of this Unit to G.S.I.b.S.S. in the morning so as to enable the personnel to have a hot meal on their arrival there about 1 p.m. Return of Mechanical and Horse Transport arranged for which have been attached to this Unit since 10-10-17 also for return of full rations in the course of the day. Car of 14th Australian Field Ambulance detailed to report to A.D.M.S. 5th Aust. Division, at 8-30 a.m. for duty. Six cases waiting most of the afternoon at this A.D.S., sent by car to XPRES Railway Station to catch train in accordance with D.D.M.S., 1st A.N.Z.A.C., M.9/79 dated 25-10-17 but cases were returned as no train was running. No notification of cancellation of this train has been received at this A.D.S., therefore, patients will

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probably have to remain here all night before a Lorry load for REMY accumulates. Officer i/c Lorries called this afternoon and stated all arrangements for transfer of personnel had been made and Lorries would report at times asked for. Weather has been clear and fine all day with haze rising this afternoon, no wind. Some shells passing over during the day in the direction of XPRES but fewer bombs than usual.

12 Midnight. At 11 p.m. 4 men returned from Forward area bringing with them 1 Primus Stove belonging to 8th Australian Field Ambulance. Very few cases through. Night fairly quiet and cold.

28-10-17.

10 a.m. Bearers of 7th Australian Field Ambulance with Officers reported at this A.D.S. at 8-15 a.m. Lieut-Colonel J.J. Black proceeded with his Bearers to BIRR CROSS ROADS to effect relief and inspect Posts. Captain Smith (15th) met the party at BIRR CROSS ROADS and handed over all Posts and gave all information necessary. Squads after relief returned to this A.D.S. arriving just after 8 a.m. Both A.D.Ss. handed over to 7th Australian Field Ambulance at 9 a.m. - Equipment belonging to 15th Australian Field Ambulance loaded on Lorries. Horse Ambulances were relieved at 9-30 a.m. Water Cart of 15th Australian Field Ambulance made the usual run this morning to BILLEWAARDEN with supply of water for Forward Posts for today. Mechanical Transport relieved just before 10 a.m. - Cars remaining on stand of 8th and 14th Australian Field Ambulances returned to their Units. Officer and personnel of 14th Australian Field Ambulance given breakfast and returned to their Unit. Personnel of 15th Australian Field Ambulance given breakfast when they arrived from Forward Posts. All Posts from CHATEAU HENDRIQUES forward completely handed over by 9-50 a.m. and all receipts signed. C.O., 7th Australian Field Ambulance reported favorably on condition of all Posts as to cleanliness and stores with the exception of one in charge of an N.C.O. and Squads of 14th Australian Field Ambulance at WESTHOEK which was cleaned up before being handed over. The last of the 15th Australian Field Ambulance left RIGHT A.D.S. at 10-50 a.m.

During the period from 10 a.m., 10-10-17 to 9-50 a.m., 28-10-17, 1900 cases have been dealt with at the RIGHT A.D.S. and 37 cases that died at the Posts connected with the RIGHT A.D.S. The LEFT A.D.S. which was taken over from 15th Australian Field Ambulance at 10 a.m., 24-10-17 has dealt with 222 cases which includes 21 deaths. This was staffed by 1 Tent Sub-Division supplied by 7th Australian Field Ambulance in charge of Major Hollison, and increased by 1 Sergeant Nursing Duties and 8 Other Ranks from the 15th Australian Field Ambulance to assist as extra Nursing Orderlies and Bearers. The extra water delivered to A.D.Ss. by "K" Supply Column was of the utmost value in running these A.D.Ss. Although no operation of an Offensive nature took place during the period of ~~uninterrupted~~ occupation of A.D.Ss. and Forward Posts by this Unit, conditions in the Forward area have been at all times strenuous, particularly during the last 10 days they have been rendered much more so by hostile shells and bombs which have rendered the work of Officers, Bearers and Transport exceptionally trying. All have acquitted themselves most creditably at all times and the work has been very efficiently carried out.

The several Officers of the D.S.C. who have been in charge of Motor Lorries for the evacuation of sick and the Officer in charge of the 20th M.A.C. have at all times rendered every possible assistance and met all demands made on their transport most willingly and efficiently.

The good feeling which has existed between the personnel of all Units concerned carrying out duties allotted while in the Forward area has been most marked and has made for the better working in every way of these duties which were at times arduous and difficult.

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All Personnel and transport of the 15th Australian Field Ambulance arrived at LANBOUVER FARM (G.21.b.2.5.) by 12-45 p.m. and are now carrying out Brigade duties as per A.D.M.S., A.A.M.C. Order No. 49 para. 8.



[Signature] Lieut-Colonel,
C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

ANZAC SECTION A.H.Q.
4 NOV. 1917
Echelon B.E.F.