

AWM4

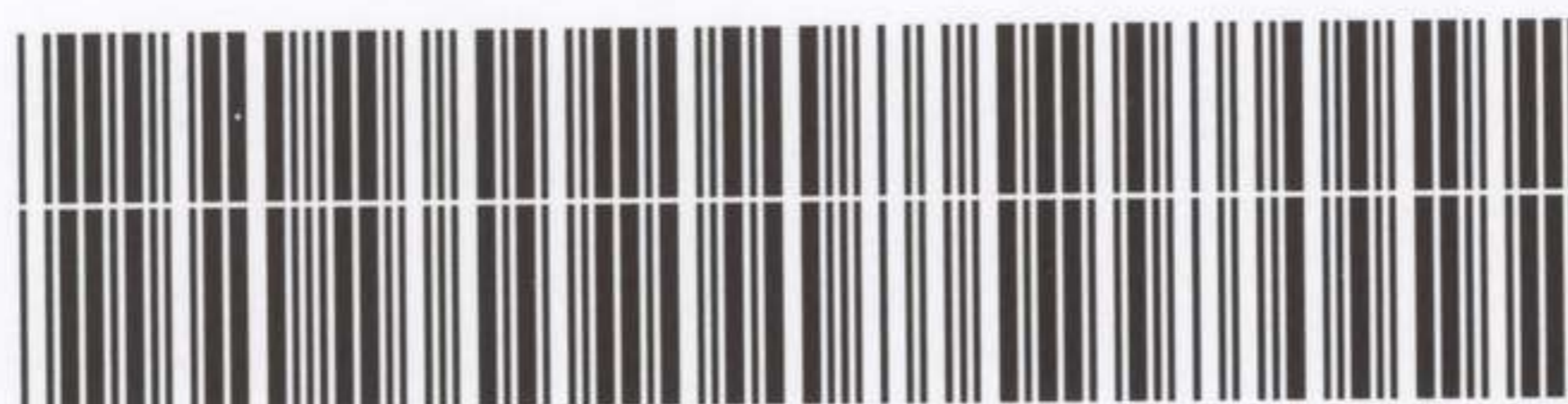
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/48/20

Title: 5th Australian Field Ambulance

September 1917



AWM4-26/48/20

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Menin Road	20.9.17.		<p>Took command vice Lt Col. Nicholas killed by H.E. while supervising loading of lorries with walking wounded. An hourly service of Deccaville trains promised for this battle, failed to eventuate. Lorries did the work. 20 on hand, 20 in reserve, and 5 lent by OC Corps Salvage sufficed for evacuation.</p> <p>A large number of wounded in 7th Bde necessitated sending 80 more bearers to Bellevarde Ridge. No congestion occurred. Stretchers and blankets were ample, being supplied from M.D.S. on requisition ahead of the immediate needs. Ⓟ</p> <p>Thomas's splints for thigh, and were found exceedingly suitable and easy of transport right up as far as the R.A.P.s, all suitable cases being fixed this way. Patients found them a most comfortable carry.</p> <p>Two men were killed, one wounded died of wounds,</p>	



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Confidential - Original

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>and three wounded were all hit while bearing. Material suffered from shellfire. A shell which wounded 21 men of 1st Fd. Ambce also destroyed 3 rolls of blankets, 1 box of respirators, and some stretchers. A shell which destroyed the outer wall of the reserve am store destroyed blankets latrine stools etc. A shell which blew in one side of the Collecting post on Bellevarde ridge destroyed the equipment used for dressing cases.</p> <p><u>Food</u> - This was very satisfactory. Personnel had bread and tinned meat etc. for this day, and cooked meat sent up on G.S. wagons to Bellevarde Ridge thereafter. Hot tea or coffee, and fancy biscuits (provided by ymca and redcross) and cigarettes (Players) were provided from ^{at all} collecting posts, relay posts, and at the a.D.S.</p>	

5TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE
No.
Date:

Confidential Original

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	21-9-17.		<p>Major Dunlop + Capt Brown + 92 bearers of 8th F. Amb. relieved the forward posts. Heavy counterattack caused several casualties and much heavy work in the evening. All posts reported food + supplies satisfactory at my daily visit. No casualties caused during reliefs at any time. All men taken up to and brought from Birr & Rds in lorries.</p> <p>Advanced R.A.P. formed near corner of Nun's Wood</p>	
	22-9-17		<p>5th Divⁿ bearers relieved by A.C. Sec^{ns} of 6th + division of 7th</p>	
	23-9-17	-	<p>Handed over to 4th A.F. Amb. & took over Reringhelst School House. Work of ambulance confined to reorganisation, restoration of discipline, burial of dead, checking and replacing or repair of equipment, vehicles etc in addition to collecting the divisional sick</p>	

5TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.
 No.....
 Date.....

Confidential - original 97

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Reninghelst	25-9-17		Major C. Chapman detailed to be G.Dadms 1st ANZAC. vice major Metcalfe wounded. One ambulance (Daimler) totally destroyed by shellfire with driver and wagon - orderly corporal killed	
			Capts Campbell & Davis reported for duty. Bearers standing by while battle proceeds at Menin Rd, but not needed.	
			Bearers released from standing by. One Daimler (with driver and orderly were killed) was totally destroyed by shell fire at Birn X Roads.	
	28-9-17		No excitement except bombs at night, causing many casualties, & keeping nursing staff & cars busy.	
	30-9-17.		2 nursing subdivisions & bearer division warned for duty forward at short notice	

26-9-17
 AUSTRALIAN
 FIELD AMBULANCE
 No. 17
 Date 27-9-17

A. Buchanan Major
 app. S. H. Pub.

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Malhove Arques.	Sept. 1st - 11th		<p>For the period 1st to 11th September the 5th Australian Field Ambulance occupied billets in the village of Malhove, the precincts lending itself appropriately for training and recreation facilities. St Omer, the city, of Northern France, about 4 kilometres distant, was at the disposal of those who availed themselves of the permits granted to visit it and afforded splendid opportunities for that eagerly sought after touch of city life. The morale of the men had rarely been better, principally for reason that a common opinion was prevalent regarding big things happening in the near future and that the Australians were to be given a prominent part. Necessary training was indulged in, and every encouragement was given to entice participation in various kinds of sport, with the result that physical fitness was noticeable. The lake close by was well patronised by everybody, and served as a valuable asset towards cleanliness and good health. The hospitality of the civilians is worthy of recognition as no effort was spared to make the stay among them a happy one. The mutual feeling of good fellowship between civilians and soldiers was very pronounced, this being proven by the many damp eyes when the short stay terminated. Apart from Training, Recreation, Renovating equipment etc., the Ambulance was only called upon to administer medical attention for the 5th A.I. Brigade sick. A small Rest Station was established to XXXX accommodate a maximum of 50 patients, in addition to a small Contact Camp. The nature of the disease was almost confined to Trench Fever. A Brigade Swimming Carnival was held, in which the Ambulance representatives figured prominently is an item for future pleasant memory. At 6 p.m. 11th September, Brigade Order No. 108 was received and acknowledged. Preparations were at once made for a move to Steenvorde (West Area) on the following morning. A.D.M.S. instructions that a Sergeant Clerk be detailed to report for duty at the Corps Central XXXX Bureau, Remy Siding. Sgt Preston detailed.</p>	
"	12th Sept.		<p>The Ambulance complete moved out of Malhove at 8 am for Brigade Rendezvous, where at 9-30 am it took its appointed place in Brigade Column. Steenvorde was reached about 5 p.m. after an uneventful route march, and in accordance with billeting arrangements camped in the outskirts of the village. Brigade Order No. 109 received about 10 p.m. giving details for move in the following morning. Instructions issued in terms of this order.</p>	
"	13th Sept.		<p>About 8-45 a.m. the Ambulance complete moved out of Steenvorde and proceeded by route march to Belgian Battery Corner (Sheet 28. H.24.a.5.9.) - A long and dusty march, in very close weather.</p>	

WAR DIARY

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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Belgium Mattery Corner (H.24.a.5.9.)	15th	Sept.	<p>a distance of about 25 kilometres.</p> <p>A.D.M.S. order No. 94 received and acknowledged, giving instructions for the 5th Australian Field Ambulance to take over administration and evacuation of forward area for Walking Wounded from the 6th London Field Ambulance.</p> <p>Sanitary arrangements were improved and made satisfactory Headquarters of Ambulance established At Belgian Battery Corner. Accomodation there consisted of a partially wrecked building which had been strengthened and fortified by iron cupolas and sandbags.</p> <p>A Dressing room for the treatment of local casualties and sick was opened. Preparations made for the handling and disposing of large quantities of Medical & Surgical Supplies. also general stores. An improvised Field Oven to cook for 700 other ranks was made. Pte. Sheffield with assistance, effected this work from road material, galvanised iron, sand and clay and made a splendid job.</p> <p>Advance party of 18 other ranks under Captain Bateman proceeded to Menin Road A.D.S. (1.9.c.66) and effected a skeleton relief at Forward Posts as under.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I 7. a.4.3. (Bellevaarde Ridge) I 12.a.6.7. (Simons Post) I 18.b.5.8. (Chateau Wood) I 17.b.2.8. (Birr Cross Roads.)</p> <p>Two other ranks posted as holding party at Canal Bank Dug-outs, preparatory to occupation by Reserve Bearers - Accomodation available for 150 other ranks. Advanced Q.M.Store established at Menin Road A.D.S. for the distribution of stores and rations to Forward Posts, This proving very economical and valuable in time and transport. Sgt. Brown placed in charge of this store. Sgt Brown deserves great praise for his untiring efforts and success in meeting all demands at all times. (List of Stores sent forward during period 17th - 19th Appendix No. /)</p> <p>Major Buchanan i/c "B" Section Tent Sub-Division with medical and surgical equipment took over A.D.S. at MENIN ROAD from 6th London Field Ambulance, leaving BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER about 8 a.m.</p> <p>On inspection of Forward Posts the supplies of drugs and dressing were found to be quite inadequate to meet requirements, in the event of any heavy action. In consequence Medical & Surgical Stores were hurriedly called upon to supply extensive demands. Dispensers and Nursing Staff began urgent work of preparing large quantities of Eusol, Sodi Bicarb and Picric-Meth, Solution, all available rum jars and oil drums requisitioned for the conveyance of same. To meet the large demand for water in Forward Area, about 200 Petrol tins were prepared for same,</p>	

WAR DIARY

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
A.D.S. MENIN ROAD BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER	16th	Sept.	these being distinctly marked by a big white letter "W" Ration arrangements were organised under a capable Q.M. Staff, and the undertaking of supplying hot roast meat to Forward Posts was a fact which speaks for itself during such times. This arrangement was carried on during the whole operations. About 50 small & 2 large signboards made for the information and direction of Walking Wounded. These being posted all along the various routes of evacuation. Considerable work was done improving the fortification and erecting two protected water tanks. Construction of water cart entrance, and widening the main approach of A.D.S. at MENIN ROAD. Considerable heavy shelling in vicinity of A.D.S. this morning - Apparently searching for Howtzer Batteries in close proximity. Heavy sick parades administered at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER as many as 700 being attended to during the day, mostly from Details and B.E.F. troops camped in area.	
	17th	Sept.	Major C.L.Chapman i/c of 83 Bearers of 5th Australian Field Ambulance proceeded from BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER during the early hours of the morning to Forward Posts, and posted personnel by 8 a.m. One Tent Sub-Division, 3 Officers and 112 other ranks of Bearer Sub-Division of 6th Aust. Field Ambulance reported for duty, with water cart and two horses. The Officers of 2nd Q.M. Coy of 5th Aust. Field Ambulance and other ranks of 6th Aust. Field Ambulance Working Party under Captain Francis proceeded to I.20.a.6.8.) Lille Road to dig out and erect a Collecting Post, for the reception of stray wounded, coming from the line via WARRINGTON ROAD. 40 Bearers of 6th Aust. Field Ambulance sent forward, and 12 to A.D.S. MENIN ROAD for fatigue duties, and balance housed in Canal Dug-outs.	
	18th	Sept.	Enemy Aircraft active during night. No bombs dropped near BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. All available Tent Sub-Division personnel engaged in cutting dressings, these being sterilized and made up in bundles ready for despatch to A.D.S. and Forward Posts. Sterling work was done by Staff Sgt. Bickerton, who was in charge of the supervising of medical & surgical supplies at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. All available wheeled stretchers and Thomas Splints from 5th 6th & 7th Field Ambulances collected and sent forward for distribution. A.D.M.S. instructions that Bearer Sub-Divisions of 7th Field Ambulance were placed at the disposal of the O.C. 5th Aust. Field Ambulance from noon Working Party under Captain Francis still at work on Collecting Post at (I.20.a.6.8.) - Nearing completion. Supplies of water. surgical & medical stores, blankets, stretchers sent forward to A.D.S. MENIN ROAD for distribution.	

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
A. D. S. MENIN ROAD & BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER	Sept.	19th	<p>Sergeant Morris i/c of 26 bearers of 5th Aust. Field Ambulance proceeded at 2 a.m. to reinforce bearers at Forward Posts.</p> <p>Bearer Divisions from 7th Australian Field Ambulance xxxxxxx reported for duty at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER together with Cooks, 3 Horse Ambulance Waggon and a Despatch Rider.</p> <p>3 Horse Ambulance Waggon reported from 6th Australian Field Ambulance. Bearers were accommodated in Canal Dug-Outs.</p> <p>20 Motor Lorries from 2nd Aust. Div. Supply Column and 20 Motor Buses from the ? Auxiliary Bus Coy. reported for duty and were sent to Menin Road after dusk.</p> <p>Arrangements completed re transport of Walking Wounded by Light Railways (3 Motor & 8 trucks) which were specially marked and prepared for this work. Light Railway track ran in front of A. D. S. MENIN ROAD and a special switch was prepared where the trucks waited.</p> <p>Major Dunlop. & 2 O. Ranks of 5th Aust. Field Ambulance and 6 O. Ranks of 6th Australian Field Ambulance proceeded to Collecting Post (I. 20. a. 6. 8) which had now been completed and equipped. This Post was established for the collection of any stray wounded. Horse Ambulance Waggon were stationed there, and the wounded were conveyed to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER, from where they were despatched to M. D. S. . Cycle orderly xxxxxx detailed to Major Dunlop. who acted as runner from Collecting Post to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER.</p> <p>Instructions received from A. D. S. that Lieut. Col. Butler., D. S. L. O. 3rd Aust. Field Ambulance would be responsible for the evacuation of Stretcher cases from Forward Area and if necessary extra bearers would be drawn from O. C. 5th Australian Field Ambulance, and alternative A. D. S. Halfway House opened. A flashlight photograph of the MENIN ROAD A. D. S. taken by the Official Photographer. Balance of 6th Aust. Field Ambulance bearers warned to move out at 4 a.m. to-morrow.</p> <p>Bearers of the 7th Aust. Field Amb. moved from Belgian Battery Corner & Canal Dug-outs about 5 p.m. to rest and move forward to posts early in the morning. The spell of fine weather was broken by fairly heavy rain during the evening - This caused anxiety, as fine was xxx keenly wanted for the operation of the morrow. About midnight Lt. Col. Nicholas mentally reviewed all arrangements and expressed satisfaction on the outlook.</p>	
	Sept.	20th	<p>The attack was preceded by an xxx intense bombardment by our Artillery about 5-20 a.m., which stirred all ranks into a fever of eagerness to play the individual task set him successfully.</p> <p>Col. Nicholas left BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER by Ford Car for MENIN ROAD A. D. S. at 3-45 a.m. (approx)</p> <p>Balance of 6th Field Ambulance bearers and 7th Australian Field Ambulance moved from Canal Dug-Outs and proceeded to Forward Posts. A. D. M. S. & D. A. D. M. S. proceeded to MENIN ROAD A. D. S. during the early morning. News was received about 10 a.m. that Lieut. Col. Nicholas has been killed by a H. V. shell outside the MENIN ROAD A. D. S. This news was received by all as a great</p>	

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ADS MENIN ROAD & BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER.	20th	Sept.	shock and for the moment slightly disorganised, but Major Buchanan Took charge and the evacuation proceeded smoothly. The evacuations of the wounded during the majority of the day were carried out by the 5th 6th & 7th Australian Field Ambulances, and were assisted by 100 other ranks of "C" Coy of the 19th Battalion. A number of Walking Wounded passed through BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER, these cases came via SHRAPNEL CORNER POST, and were transported by Horse Ambulance Waggon to M.D.S. - 3 Horse Ambulance Waggon loads of P.O.W. arrived at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER ABOUT 11 a.m. and were followed by many more during the morning. During the afternoon 3 Officers & 90 bearers of the 8th Australian Field Ambulance moved forward. A feature to be remarked on was the excellent spirit of the wounded, who remarked that they could have gone for miles, being the excellent barrage. Evacuation of wounded progressed very satisfactory - The only hitch occurring was by the Light Railways returning. Casualties shown in appendix.	app. 3.
	21st	Sept.	Bearers of the 5th Australian Field Ambulance reported to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER after being relieved by bearers of the 8th Field Ambulance (?). These men showed signs of the strenuous work, but were all of good spirits. The following members of the 5th Australian Field Ambulance were buried at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER No 4922 Cpl. Hookway C.N., No.6293 Pte. Redman H.S. and No 8357 Pte. Venteman W.O. in full Military honours. 1 Officer & 96 bearers of the 13th Australian Field Ambulance reported at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER also 2 Officers & 62 bearers of the 15th Australian Field Ambulance and were housed in recently erected Nissan Huts. At this time the cooks were called upon to feed about 600 men, and great credit must be given to Cpl. Windram, 5th Aust. Field Ambulance who superintended the arrangements.	app. 14
	22nd	Sept.	Lieut. Col. Nicholas' body taken to REMY SIDING and interned, a last tribute being paid by many distinguished Officers and the members of the unit who could be spared. One Section of Bearers of the 6th Australian Field Ambulance reported to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER FROM forward area after being relieved by 4th Division Bearers. One Officer & 33 other ranks of 4th Aust. Field Ambulance reported to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. Tent Divisions of the 5th Aust. Field Ambulance reported to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER after being relieved by the 4th Aust. Field Ambulance. In accordance with ADMS order No.95 4th Australian Field Ambulance took over administration of the evacuation of Walking Wounded from the Forward Area.	
	23rd	Sept.	The 5th Aust. Field Ambulance Tent & Bearer Sub Divisions moved from BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER by Motor Lorries to the Schoolhouse, RENINGHEL ST. Transport moved independently by road to same destination. The accommodation at the Schoolhouse was found excellent, huts and the schoolrooms providing adequate for all equipment, stores and personnel. The collection of the Brigade sick was carried out. Divisional Collecting Station was established, where the sick of the 2nd.	

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

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
A.D.S. MENIN ROAD & BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER.	23rd	Sept.	Australian Division were collected and evacuated. Personnel from the 6th & 7th Field Ambulances reported back to their respective units	
	24th	Sept.	Colonel A. Sutton., A.D.M.S. 2nd Aust. Division inspected the unit at Shobhouse, RENINGHELST and congratulated all ranks on their splendid work, which made the evacuation of wounded one of the most successful, during the whole time in France. He also expressed his sympathy with the unit in the loss of Lieut. Col. Nicholas. Men of the unit were bathed at Hopout Siding Baths and supplied with clean clothing.	
	25th	Sept.	AD.M.S. instructions 28/90 received to hold Bearer Sub Divisions in readiness to move after noon to YPRES RAMPARTS, to be held as a Corps Reserve Bearers. All men warned, rations issued, and equipment less "battle order" stored under guard. A.D.M.S. instructions 28/90/1 received about 11 a.m. to the effect that Bearers would not be required to-day, but would "stand to" in readiness to move at very short notice. Syllabus of training was drawn up and recreation of all branches was indulged in (Cricket, Football, Badminton etc.,) This greatly helped towards maintaining a high standard of content with themen. Word received that Daimler Ambulance No. A 24094 was hit by a direct shell on the MENIN ROAD in the vicinity of BIRR CROSS ROADS and that Corporal L.E. Chalmers (Driver) 2nd Aust. Div. Supply Column and Pte. Coe A. (Orderly) had been hit. The former was killed and the latter severely wounded. It was regretted that A.D.M.S. instructions that all 2nd Div. Cars were to have been relieved on the 24th had not been adhered to, as this unfortunate loss would not have occurred. Pte Coe died of wounds at No. 2 Canadian C.C.S. during the latter part of the day. Sgt Segur N.C.C. i/c Motor Transport was despatched to MENIN ROAD to ascertain full particulars. Unfortunately neither the Car nor Cpl. Chalmers could be found on his arrival in that area.	
26th - 30th	During period 26th - 30th September usual Routine Work of a Field Ambulance was carried out - Nothing of special interest can be mentioned. In concluding this short history I wish to state that as far as possible the exact dates and distribution of personnel, has xxxxx been stated, but on account of the time elapsed since these operations, it has been found very difficult to ascertain every small move. No 2862 Warrant Officer G.H. Long. No. 2946 Staff Sgt. Coppin C.M.			

[Handwritten signature]

107

18,000-12/17-8723

WAR DIARY

OF

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

FOR

SEPTEMBER.

1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1	List of Stores etc. forwarded to A.D.S. Menin Road for distribution to Forward Posts.
2	Report of ^{to} YMCA Representative.
3	Report to O.C. 19th Battalion.
4	Report re work done by Lieut. Mullet i/c Motor Lorries
5	Report re Captain Lowe.
6	Report of Operations by Major C.L. Chapman., DSO
7	" " " " Major A.T. Dunlop., DSO
8	" " " at A.D.S. by Captain G.B. Lowe.
9	Report by Lieut. Col. A.L. Buchanan on evacuation.
10	Evacuation arrangements.
11	Distribution Reports for 21st, 22nd & 23rd Sep t.
12	Report of work at Corps Central Bureau.
13	Map showing route of evacuation.
14	List of casualties in personnel.

Appendix No. 7

List of Stores etc. forwarded to A.D.S. Menin Road for distribution to Forward Areas.

Article.	Birr X Roads	Simon's Post	Bellevearde Ridge	Chauteau Post.
Stretchers	100	20	60	40
Blankets	100	20	100	50
Ground sheets	40	20	40	
Thomas' thigh	24	6	24	12
Back leg	24	6	24	12
Arm Thomas	12		12	
Assorted	36	12	36	12
Gooching	2½ roll	1½ roll	2½ rolls	1½ rolls
Forearm	36	12	36	12
Cotton wool for splints	20 pkts	10 pkts	20 pkts	10 pkts
Cooton wool	40 lbs	10 lbs	40 lbs	20 lbs
Gauze plain	80 roll	20 rolls	80 rolls	30 rools
Bandages 3"	1000	300	7500	300
Triangular	240	60	240	100
Flannel	50	12	50	12
Picric	19 gall	1 btl	19 gall.	1 btl.
Brushes	6	3	12	3
Esaol	1 gall		2 gall	
Tins of dressings	12		12	
F.S.Haversacks	3	2		2
Soda	3	2	7	2
Morphia	6	2	6	2
Tourniquets	6	2	12	6
Pitnntin				6 tubes
Ammonia Capsules	20 tins	10 tins	20 tins	10 tins

Appendix No. 1

Article	Birr X Roads	Simon's Post	Bellevue Ridge	Chateau Post
Lamps hurricane Kerosene	1 petrol tin	Qty	3 1 Petrol tin	Qty
S.V.M. Primus stoves	Qty	Qty 1	Qty 2	Qty 1

107

Appendix No. 2

5th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE	
No.	2/7
DATE	

24
9 17 2

of Mr. Falkner,
Ymca representative
2nd Division

On behalf of the officers
and men of this unit I
wish to express
appreciation of the very
valuable aid which you
rendered at a critical time,
not only in providing and
maintaining supplies of
biscuits, cigarettes, drinks etc
which were excellent in
quality & plentiful in supply
but also in lending
personal assistance which
added greatly to the rapidity
of evacuation

A. Shekharantran
R.Q.C.S. F.Amb.

Appendix No. 3

55th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE	
No.	2/8
DATE	

24
9-17 (3)

To C. 19th Batta.

I am informed by Major Chapman who was in charge of the evacuation of wounded from the Bellevue Ridge on the 20th inst. that very valuable assistance in clearing that post was given by C & D. Companies of your unit.

I shall be very glad if the thanks and appreciation of the Officers & men of this unit are conveyed to those who gave aid at a critical time.

A. Buchanan Major
5th A. F. Ambulance

Appendix No. 4

5th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE	
No.	276
DATE	

24
9 '17. ✓

Adms. 2nd Aus. Div.

The work done by Lieut. Mullet, officer in charge of lorries for walking wounded, was very valuable indeed. When the train service failed between 7 and 10 am on the 20th, and again during the counterattacks and reliefs, he was untiring in his work, and undoubtedly saved us from very serious congestion. Might some acknowledgment be forwarded to him please

A. Buchanan Esq
A.P.C.S. - A.F. Amb.

107

Appendix No. 5

ITALIAN RECOGNITION MEDAL	
No.	219
Date	

24
9.17.

Adms 2nd Aus. Div.

Re Capt Lowe Anne
who rendered such
valuable assistance on
the day of the 20th. at the
Merrin Rd. ads. I find
that he is R.M.O. of the
5th. Aus. F. Artillery

A. Buchanan Major
AFC 5th F. Art.

Appendix No. 6

6

On 16th. September Lt-Col. J.J. Nicholas, O.C. 5th. Field Amb. told me that I would be in charge of the forward evacuation of wounded from 2nd. Division Forward line during the attack on POLYGON WOOD. The attack was expected to take place about the 20th. Preparations were begun immediately, as heavy casualties were expected. A preliminary estimate of 2000 wounded was made, and of this, 500 were reckoned as stretcher cases. As our line at that time ran about 800 yards in front of WESTHOEK RIDGE it was decided to use BELLEVAARD RIDGE as our main forward post and dump of material, with relays back to BIRR CROSS ROAD, where it was decided to form a rear dump for reasons to be given later. The first thing required was to provide adequate dressing shelter at BELLEVAARDE. The one pill-box at our disposal there was by no means adequate though quite safe. The C.R.E. was therefore asked to build two earthed elephant shelters, one for material, and one for a dressing post, the pill-box being reserved in case of heavy shelling, for shelter of personnel. As no labour was available it was arranged that the bearers of the 6th Field Ambulance should do the work of excavation as well as that of digging an entrance sap and an exit sap so that waiting patients could be kept in shelter.

The same afternoon the Advanced Depot of Medical Stores was visited and arrangements made for the supply of 200 Thomas' splints, and a number of assorted arm and leg splints, as well as dressing materials for 2000 cases. It was decided to use a one% solution of picric acid in spirit, to be painted on with brushes, instead of iodine, which spoils the skin for operative purposes. Eusol was prepared in rum jars in bulk.

The following morning at 4a.m. the remaining bearers of the 5th Field Ambulance were taken up (the preliminary party had already taken over from the English Field Ambulance several days before, Capt. BATEMAN C.D. being in charge). This party of bearers was led by myself and the relief was completed of posts at BIRR CROSS ROADS and SIMONS' POST without event. After leaving the latter post for BELLEVAARDE a very severe counter barrage of the Germans was encountered, but unfortunately only one casualty resulted out of the whole party of 10. After giving instructions for the excavations and work an inspection was made of the R.A.P.'s. on WESTHOEK RIDGE and bearers posted to them. Instructions were given to place directing signs along the very difficult tracks leading back to the post at BELLEVAARDE RIDGE. Orders were also given that stretchers, blankets and waterproof sheets and other equipment was to be brought up as rapidly as possible and to be placed in small dumps, well protected in order to avoid destruction by shell fire. ~~Very~~ The bearers worked magnificently despite considerable gas shelling and were ably directed by Sgt. ~~LEVY~~ LING who was given charge of this special duty. His devotion to duty was a great factor in the success of the arrangements and was afterwards rewarded by a bar to his M.M.

In the afternoon the C.O. held a consultation with me and it was decided that all was going well.

LING

In the evening I proceeded to BELLEVAARDE to see that the excavat~~ing~~ work was going on. On the 18th the work on the arrangements continued but the Engineers were delayed by heavy shellign from getting up the material for the shelters. In the evening the 6th bearers reported with 40 men and the saps were commenced. Our bombardment continued almost incessantly, but the German reply was small. Capt. FRANCIS relieved Capt. BATEMAN at BELLEVARDE. On 19th. Capt. Coutts and myself moved up with the remainder of the 6th. bearers to take up position as the attack was expected in the morning. Gas shelling was very bad, but all the reliefs were posted without casualties and details sent out to R.A.P.'s. During the night it rained but cleared later. Some anxiety was caused by the fact that the engineers were unable to complete the shelters but by dint of great effort the bearers completed them by 3 a.m. themselves. All the arrangements were complete and when the barrage opened at 5.20 a.m. on the 20th everybody was confident. Very few casualties occurred from the German counter effort. It was not till 8.30 a.m. that wounded began to come through in very large numbers. From then on there was a constant stream of wounded but bearers were quite able to cope with the work. About 9.30 a.m. news came through that Lt Colonel NICHOLAS had been killed. Maj. A.L. BUCHANAN. took charge of the Ambulance. This news was depressing. By mid-day the German artillery reply became severe, our post was very severely shelled, several bearers being killed and wounded and the freshly constructed dressing station knocked in. Everybody behaved in the most courageous and efficient way, Sgt. S. JEFFS did splendid work in keeping the dressing station at work. As the line had now been advanced approximately a mile and R.A.P.'s. had moved forward and casualties had been numerous and the bearers were getting very tired ~~and~~ the 7th Field Ambulance bearers had to be brought up. Meantime the 19th Btn., who were in reserve lent over a hundred men who gave us great assistance at a critical moment. The tramtracks were of some assistance but their help was spoilt by the fact that the ammunition supply coming forward continually blocked the wounded going back. German prisoners ^{were} now made free use of and effectually got rid of a small accumulation of about 20 cases. On the arrival of the 7th Field Ambulance bearers they were placed on forward collecting, Sgt. Bice rendered invaluable assistance in keeping in touch with moving R.A.P.'s. and organizing the supply of dressing material from BELLEVAARDE RIDGE forward. By 5 o'clock very few cases remained to be evacuated from the line and the arrival of the bearers of the 8th Field Ambulance and a few from the 14th Field Ambulance gave ample relief. The night was reasonably quiet and many bearers managed to get a rest till the morning when Maj. A.T. DUNLOP and CAPT. J.H.B. BROWN came to relieve and the 5th and 6th Field Ambulance bearers were sent back to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. leaving the 7th and 8th Field Ambulance bearers to carry on. In less than ten hours nearly 600 stretcher cases were evacuated and at no time was there any accumulation of wounded. The devotion of all bearers, N.CO's. and men alike was wonderful.

-3-

was Appendix No. 6

In one case a bearer who ~~was~~ acting as a runner, though badly gassed, delivered two messages involving a journey of nearly four miles in all. On his return he had to be evacuated as he was quite unable to stand.

The main difficulties to be faced as far as evacuation itself went were:-

1. The absence of road communications. One main road had to be used and this only extended to within 3000 yards of our portion of the front.
2. The absence of any organized dressing station positions.
3. The very great depth of the German counter artillery fire and its volume.
4. The presence of Yellow Cross Gas shelling.

The special demands of the situation from a medical point of view were:-

1. The provision of a large number Thomas splints with suspension bars. This was rendered necessary by the long carry.
2. The getting of these splints as far forward as possible.
3. The provision of waterproof sheets in view of the rainy season. These were found to be of great assistance.
4. The provision of a large number of stretchers owing to the long carries and severe shelling of stretcher dumps.

The main features illustrated were

- (1) Keeping touch with RAP's continually advancing. This was done by ensuring that at least two squads of Ambulance bearers moved forward with each RMO or group of RMO's
- (2) Utilisation of all available returning combatants for carrying wounded. This is in accordance with Field Service Regs, greatly assisted the excellent result
- (3) Failure of tramtracks & forward light railways to give any great assistance
- (4) Necessity of having adequate bearer reserves at close call. Bearer divisions of four field ambulances had to be employed over a short period of less than 8 hours.

G. Chapman Major Adame,

107

On 12th September 1917, the 5th Australian Field Ambulance left MALHOVE en route for the YPRES area by road, marching with the 5th Australian Infantry Brigade and evacuating their sick on the line of march. The journey was done in two stages. On the evening of the first day a halt was made at STEENVOORDE where the personnel were housed in billets in the town area. On the next morning the march was resumed and BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER was reached in the afternoon of the same day. Here the Ambulance, less transport, remained and BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER was taken over as the H.Q. of the unit.

In this locality a large number of local sick of all units were treated daily, sick parades lasting from 9 am. till 1 pm. and often recommencing at 2pm. till 4 pm. Arrangements were made by C.O. for the Advanced Dressing Station, MENIN ROAD to be taken over for the purpose of dealing with the walking wounded during the forthcoming operations and Major Buchanan with a staff of tent-subdivision personnel were detailed for this work. This work was taken over on September and at the same time the evacuation of the Forward Area was taken over from the 6th London Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. The O.C. and all officers had made reconnaissances of the forward area prior to this and Major C.L. Chapman was put in charge of this work with Capt. C.D. Bateman to assist him.

There was at this time two R.A.P.'s each serving two battalions. Two brigades, 5th & 7th, were to make the attack each of which had two battalions in the front line and two in support before the attack, whilst the 6th Brigade were to act as reserve brigade. The two supporting battalions of each attacking brigade did not move into their final positions for the attack until the night of 19th September, remaining until then in tented and bivouaced camps in the vicinity of YPRES. A number of bearers under Capt Bateman were sent forward on the evening of September. These were posted at R.A.P.'s and relays were established as follows:-

1. BELLEVAARDE RIDGE in which there was a strong German "Pill Box" portion of which was set aside for the use of the Ambulance. In addition to the pill-box, and in its immediate vicinity, two cupola dug-outs were placed and portion of the trenches near by was widened and arranged so that a certain number of stretcher cases could be brought through them and if necessary kept there. This work was carried out by Amb'ce personnel under supervision of 5th Field Company, Aust. Engineers, and the work was finally completed on the night of 19th September.

2. SIMON'S POST a German Pill-box a short distance up the slope on the left of the Etang was manned by 2 squads and used as a relay post.

3. CHATEAU POST a dug-out in CHATEAU WOOD with pill-box on edge of crater was also manned and intended for use as a relay post. Here Capt. C.D. Bateman took up his quarters.

4. BIRR CROSS ROADS manned and used as store & relay post and also as a waggon loading post in charge of a N.C.O. until immediately prior to operations.

There was also a waggon loading post at the CULVERT on the MENIN ROAD but this was worked by the 1st Australian Division who from this point took all stretcher cases and were responsible for them from that point. All stretcher cases were dressed at Advanced Dressing Station MEMIN ROAD opposite the A.D.S. for walking wounded.

Before the attack it was arranged that cases from the 2nd Aust. Division should be collected from the R.A.P.'s situated on the slope of WESTHOEK RIDGE and from there brought to relay post at BELLEVAARDE RIDGE. From here it was thought that the best route would be to the South side of the BELLEVAARDE ETANG by a duckboard track then in existence meeting the main road in the vicinity of the CRATER POST. From here it was intended to relay the cases to the motor loading post at the CULVERT. Owing to persistent enemy shelling this route was not favoured by the bearers and automatically fell into disuse. The other route, a more direct one but apparently more exposed, ran from BELLEVAARDE RIDGE, past SIMON'S POST and thence to BIRR CROSS ROADS. This road was formed for part of the way by planks, and running alongside it to the vicinity of SIMON'S POST was a light railway. This became the route universally used in taking cases from the Area and proved to be quicker, safer and easier in every way than the track originally set down. Having got the stretcher cases to BIRR CROSS ROADS or CULVERT POST.

2.

these were then handed over to the care of the 1st Aust. Division Field Ambulance responsible for their evacuation (3rd Aust. Field Amb).

From this point the walking wounded of both 1st & 2nd Australian Divisions were the sole concern of the 2nd Australian Division Field Ambulance. Owing to the heavy and persistent shelling that the MENIN ROAD was always subject to it was decided that it would be advisable to provide another means of exit for the walking wounded than along this road. At that time two tracks had been constructed on either side of the MENIN ROAD for Infantry going to & from the front area. Of these two, the track on the South side of the road, PIONEER TRACK, was the safer and better track and it was decided that this track, as well as the one North of the road, should be plainly marked for the use of the walking wounded. The responsibility for the walking wounded ~~XXXXX~~ from BIRR CROSS ROADS onwards was given to me (Major A.T. Dunlop) and both these tracks were marked out and directing signs placed on them over their full length and in the vicinity of the MENIN ROAD A.D.S. towards which these two tracks converged. From the PIONEER TRACK, one came on to another track, called "C" Track, which ran southwards and cut the LILLE ROAD some distance from the LILLE GATE, YPRES. It was thought that some cases might possibly miss the track to the A.D.S. and by taking the "C" TRACK eventually arrive on the LILLE ROAD. In order to cope with these cases it was decided some days before the battle to erect a Dressing Station near SHRAPNEL CORNER where these cases would be dressed and despatched by lorries to C.C.S. This station was erected by Ambulance labour under supervision of Capt R.P.W. Francis and myself by using tarpaulins and sandbags, and was situated under the shelter of a bank, on top of which the road ran, and to the YPRES side of the SHRAPNEL CORNER. On the evening of the 18th September Capt Francis took over CHATEAU POST from Capt Bateman, the latter returning to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. On the afternoon of 19th September, Major Chapman moved to BELLEVAARDE RIDGE and took charge of the Ambulance arrangements at this post. Reinforcements to the bearers were sent from the 6th, 7th & 14th Australian Field Ambulances, under Capt Coutts of the 6th and Capt ~~Faboy~~ (?) of the 14th. Before daybreak on the morning of the 20th September, Capt Rowan, with portion of a tent-sub-division from the 6th and myself moved to the Dressing Post on the LILLE ROAD. During the day a large number of wounded German prisoners were treated and despatched from this place but very few ~~XXXXX~~ Australian troops passed by this route. Lorries were used in the ~~XXXXXX~~ evacuation of these Germans from this place and they were conveyed direct to C.C.S. At 11 pm I received a message to the effect that I was to proceed next morning with a number of bearers from the 8th Aust. Field Ambulance, who were then in the CANAL BANK dug-outs, to BELLEVAARDE RIDGE to relieve Major Chapman and the tent-sub-division personnel with him including Staff Sgt S.G. Jeffes and Sgt C.M. Retallick. Bearers of the 5th & 6th Aust Field Ambulances were to be withdrawn at the same time while Capt. J.A. Shanassy was to relieve Capt Francis at CHATEAU POST which post had played a very minor part in the evacuation of the area up to that time. Capt Brown 7th Aust Field Ambulance accompanied me and Major Chapman was relieved by 7 am, 21st September. With me at BELLEVAARDE RIDGE where I took my position was Capt Brown and in addition Staff Sgt E.H. Sword and two other of "B" Section Tent Sub-division of 5th Australian Field Ambulance. As most of the work was thought to be completed by that time in the evacuation of the area, Capt ~~Faboy~~ and portion of the bearers of the 14th Aust. Field Ambulance were despatched to rest for some hours at CHATEAU POST. On their departure a fairly large number of stretcher cases began to arrive from the R.A.P.'s, which had been collected during the previous night and early in the morning of the 21st September. It was found that these cases began to accumulate at BELLEVAARDE RIDGE and that insufficient Ambulance personnel remained to ensure their evacuation without delay. At this time there were three R.A.P.'s, a left R.A.P. worked by four Medical Officers of the 5th A.I. Brigade which was the battle R.A.P. of the previous day and in addition two R.A.P.'s on the right each worked by two Medical Officers of the 7th A.I. Brigade. The centre R.A.P. was the original battle R.A.P. for the right Brigade while the extreme right R.A.P. had been established after the advance of the previous day by Capt Bignell and Capt Harper of the 7th A.I. Brigade. This R.A.P. was located in an old German Pill-box more or less demolished, with a good deal of water in it and offered only very poor facilities for the treatment of the wounded.

In consequence of the congestion of cases at BELLEVAARDE RIDGE advantage was taken of an offer by one of the officers of the 19th Bn,

107
 who put his men at my disposal in case I should be in difficulties with the evacuation. This company of the 19th Battalion were in support on BELLEVAARDE RIDGE and detailed between 60 & 70 men for the purpose of carrying stretchers cases to BIRR CROSS ROADS. By this means cases were very quickly evacuated and after 11-30 am everything was reported clear at the R.A.P's and we were able to dispense with the men of the 19th Battalion.

On the evening of the 21st September a counter-attack was launched by the Germans while the 6th A.I. Brigade were coming up to relieve the 5th A.I. Brigade but owing to our artillery fire failed to reach our lines and very few casualties resulted amongst our men.

An attempt was made on the following day to keep an ambulance horse waggon in the vicinity of SIMON'S POST but the project was abandoned owing to the very heavy artillery fire directed by the enemy around this quarter.

On the morning of the 22nd, the 14th Aust Field Ambulance bearers were relieved by the 7th(?) Aust Field Ambulance bearers. The division had very few casualties from this time on and were eventually relieved by the 4th Australian Division of which the 4th Aust. Field Ambulance took over the evacuation of the area originally worked by the 5th Aust. Field Ambulance.

On being relieved by the 4th Aust. Field Ambulance Capt Brown and myself also Capt Shanassy, who had remained at CHATEAU POST, left the forward area and reported to our respective Ambulances with the ~~XXXXXX~~ personnel of these units.

A. G. Dunlop Major,
 5th Australian Field Ambulance

6th June 1918

To.

O.C.

5th Australian Field Ambulance.

At the time of the 20th September 1917 operations I was R.M.O. 5th Aust. F.A. Brigade, but as my aid post amongst the guns at Birr Cross Roads was only finished on the night of the 19th and the Batteries were to move forward after the barrage on the morning of the 20th I offered my services to the O.C. 5th Aust. Field Amb. and was allotted the duty of classification and evacuation of the cases at Menin Road, A.D.S. which was dealing with the Walking Wounded only. Working with me were a Sergeant and several other ranks. The station itself i/c of Major Buchanan was the ground floor of a battered house and increased accommodation was given by two large and one small elephant cupola rooms. The whole was sandbagged and covered with broken masonry. It was so arranged that one large cupola was used for cases awaiting dressings, the house itself as a Dressing Room, and the other large cupola as a shelter for cases already dressed but awaiting evacuation. The accommodation was anything but large. The buffet was outside in another sandbagged shelter and was very efficiently managed throughout. The dressing room was manned by three medical officers and a large staff of dressers and two clerks. The means of evacuation was by light railway, which ran to the door, (trains of four trucks, each of which when well packed held about twenty), motor lorries specially detailed for the task and any passing returning lorries or G.W. waggons.

The wounded began to arrive in force about 7 am and from then onwards in a steady stream. The wounds were mostly shell and fairly light. The first train load and a few lorry loads were got away about 7-20 am. Then, for some reason, no further trains or lorries turned up and so the wounded began to accumulate. However this was somewhat relieved by commandeering a few lorries but much against their drivers' inclinations, as they had other work to do. The dual task allotted ~~was~~ made things rather difficult, as returning empty vehicles would go past while I was deciding who would go inside for further dressing and who would go straight through to C.C.S. The motor lorry drivers would not always allow the N.C.O. to make them carry wounded to a place in the opposite direction to which they were under orders to return. An officer is necessary to enforce such a condition of affairs. Again, every man, no matter how slightly wounded, is convinced that his wound must be re-dressed at the A.D.S. and also that he must have a "ticket" (A.F.W. 3118) to take him further. This conviction is not easy to alter in every case and so he pushes on automatically to the dressing room.

About this time Lt Col Nicholas came out of the A.D.S., and after consultation, walked towards his car with a view of going to ascertain the cause of the non-appearance of the trains and lorries. As he left me and went about 20 yards, a H.V. shell came over and killed him instantaneously. Major Gibbs, A.S.C., who was Director of Transport, 1st Anzac Corps, was killed alongside him. Notwithstanding the large number of wounded there at the time only two cases were slightly hit. This was very upsetting and one can only deplore the loss of so brilliant a young officer at such an early stage of this, his first operation as an O.C. of an Ambulance, after three years of field service. Two other shells fell, one close on either side of the A.D.S., but with no further damage than destroying a small section of light railway track ~~and~~ and making a hole in the road. After this the trains and lorries came along regularly. It was necessary to send only a minority of cases into the dressing room for further dressing so that little time was lost in getting them away. Only those who went in were given A.F.W. 3118, the rest going unrecorded to C.C.S. There was no further hitch and after 11 am. things became quiet and very few came through. This condition of affairs continued for the rest of that day and the following morning after which I left the A.D.S. for my own R.A.P. at Simon's Post.

Quite a number of prisoners of war came through and were remarkable for the comparative severity of their wounds many of which were worthy of a stretcher. The usual cheerfulness of the wounded, with the prospect of "Blighty" ahead, was in evidence on all sides and little sign was to be noticed that they had just come through conditions endangering their lives to the utmost. Considering the small accommodation at the A.D.S. everybody was treated with the utmost despatch.

Capt. A.A.M.C.

107

5TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

No. 121/5

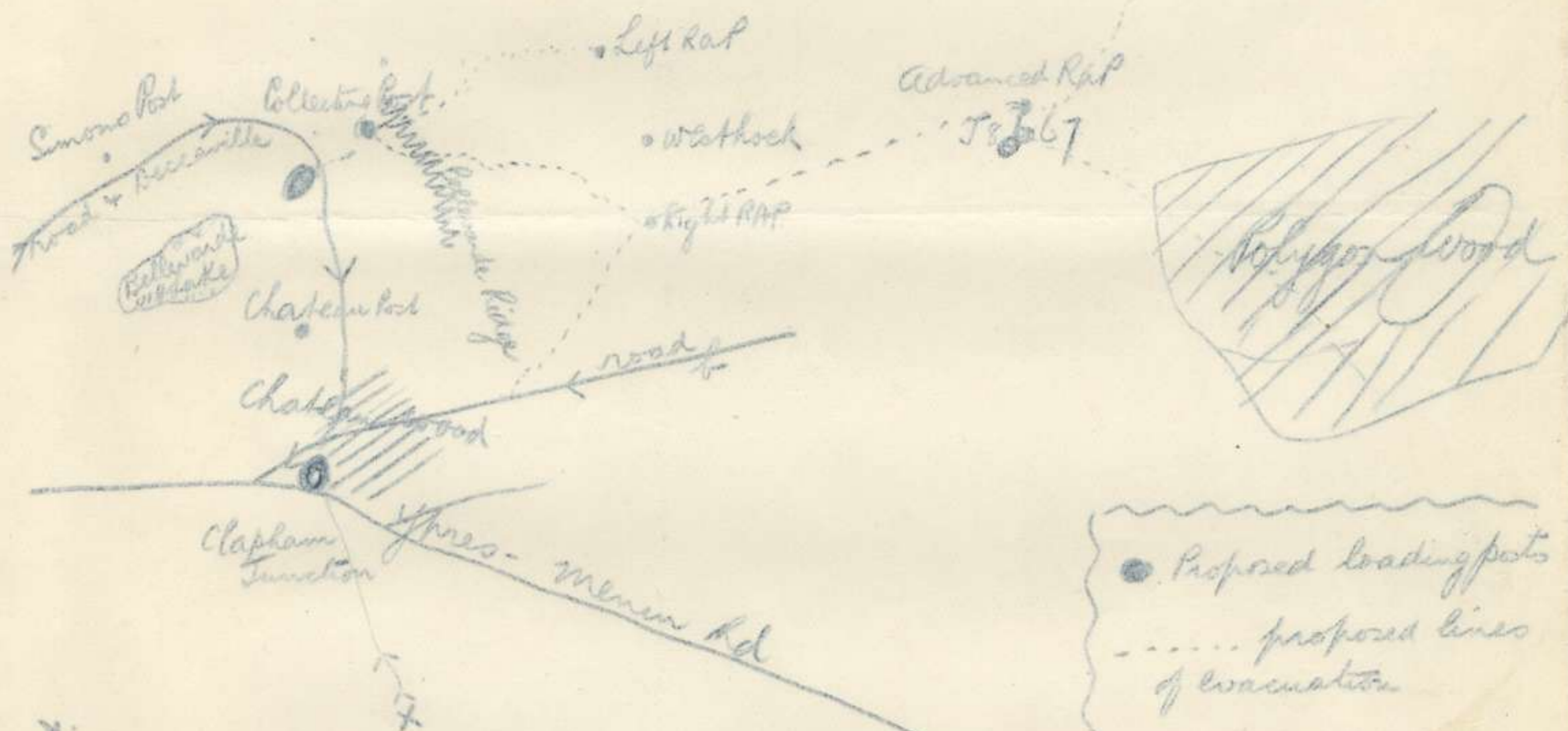
Date 12/5

urgent

22-9-17 9

ADAMS 2nd Aus Divⁿ

In view of the experience of this unit in the evacuation of wounded from the 2nd Divⁿ area during the period 18th-22nd inst, I beg to make the following recommendations designed to save the mile carry from Bellevards Ridge to Ben X Rds.



very urgent

- (1) that a siding be provided to the corduroy road, near the Bellevards Ridge Collecting Post, which could then be used as a loading post
- (2) that a loading siding be provided here for the Deccaville, in order that trucks or short trains might be run through to A.D.S. at Memur Road.
- (3) That the present advanced RAP at T8667 be used as a collecting post in case of a further advance, evacuation to be through T7c98 by duckboard, and thence by alternative tracks to (1) Bellevards loading post (2) road through Chateau Wood to a loading post at the junction of new roads near Chateau Wood. A support of cupola dugout to be built at right and advanced RAP at Buchanan way.

urgent

107
Adms 2nd Aus. Divⁿ

I have the honor to submit the following report of the work of the 5th 7. amb. ~~co~~ connected with the advance made on the 20th inst.

Posts: Lt Col Nicholas arranged, under your instructions, a forward collecting post at Bellevarde Ridge, relay posts at Simon's Post and Chateau Wood, and a collecting post at Shrapnel Post. The Chateau Post was abandoned early, except as a sleeping place owing to the intensity with which the approaches were shelled. Shrapnel corner did not have enough cases to justify the use of more than 1 officer, as the main rd. proved too attractive as a line of evacuation. Alternative tracks for walking-wounded were not much used for the same reason.

Evacuation: Casualties came in freely from 7am a breakdown occurred temporarily between 7am and 10am in the train service, but the emergency lorry service sufficed to prevent delay in evacuation from the a.p.s.

I personally visited all the posts every day, and have assured myself that evacuation was everywhere speedy, and that

107

even during the rush stretcher cases were not held even an hour at any of our posts. By 1 pm. the rush had subsided.

Supplies - Supplies were everywhere adequate. Patients were supplied with hot drinks and biscuits by our cooks and the Ymca representative at the A.D.s ~~and~~ throughout and later at Biv & Hds. Cigarettes were supplied at all posts throughout, and hot tea was supplied at both collecting posts.

Casualties. I regret to report the death of Lt Col Nicholas, late OC, and also the following.

Killed	2
Died of wounds	1
Wounded	4 (one remained on duty)
Gassed (mustard)	1

Personnel - In addition to the 5th Z. Amb, the following were attached for duty - 6th and 7th Z. Amb. bearer divisions, ~~some sub divisions~~ ~~4th Z. Amb.~~, and also the 8th and 15th bearer divisions.

New Posts

An advanced RAP having been formed, the original right RAP is now used also as a relay post. Simon's Post is now also in use as an RAP of artillery.

A J Buchanan Major
90c 5th Z. Amb.

22-9-17.

[unwary]
["]
E3 29/2

A.D.M.S. 2nd. Aus.Divn.

I have the honor to submit the following report of the work of the 5th., F.Amb., connected with the advance made on the 20th. inst.

POSTS : Lt.Col., Nicholas arranged, under your instructions, a forward collecting post at Bellevarde Ridge, relay posts at Simon's Post and Chateau Wood, and a collecting post at Shrapnel Post. The Chateau Post was abandoned early, except as a sleeping place owing to the intensity with which the approaches were shelled. Shrapnel Corner did not have enough cases to justify the use of more than 1 officer, as the Menin Rd., proved too attractive as a line of evacuation. Alternative tracks for walking wounded were not much used for the same reason.

Evacuation. Casualties came in freely from 7 a.m. A breakdown occurred temporarily between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. in the train service, but the emergency lorry service sufficed to prevent delay in evacuation from the A.D.S.

I personally visited all the posts every day, and have assured myself that evacuation was everywhere speedy, and that

E 32912

[inserted on p 117]

even during the rush stretcher cases were not held even an hour at any of our posts. By 1 p.m. the rush had subsided.

Supplies. Supplies were everywhere adequate. Patients were supplied with hot drinks and biscuits by our cooks and the Y.M.C.A. representative at the A.D.S. throughout and later at Birr X Rds. Cigaretts were supplied at all posts throughout, and hot tea was supplied at both collecting posts.

Casualties. I regret to report the death of Lt.Col., Nicholas, late O.C., and also the following :-

Killed	2
Died of wounds	1
Wounded	4 (one remained on duty)
Gassed (Mustard)	1

Personnel - In addition to the 5th F.Amb., the following were attached for duty - 6th and 7th F.Amb., bearer Divisions, and also the 8th and 15th bearer divisions.

New Posts

An advanced R.A.P. having been formed, the original right R.A.P. is now used also as a relay posts. Simon's Post is now also in use as an R.A.P. of Artillery.

(Sgd) A.L. Buchanan,

Major,

a/O.C. 5th. F.Amb.

107
5th AUSTRALIAN
FIELD AMBULANCE

EVACUATION OF WOUNDED FROM SECOND AUSTRALIAN
DIVISIONAL FRONT.

Wounded will be evacuated to the CULVERT or BIRR CROSS ROADS Collecting Posts on the MENIN ROAD by Bearer Divisions of 2nd Australian Division by the routes already laid down.

Major Chapman is in charge of this evacuation. He will demand reinforcements, stores etc., from A.D.S. for Walking Wounded.

Evacuation from Menin Road Collecting Post.

1st Australian Division evacuate all Stretcher Cases to A.D.S.

2nd Australian Division evacuate all Walking Wounded to C.C.S. via Walking Wounded A.D.S. or Warrington Road (alternative route).

Major Dunlop is in charge of this evacuation.

A.D.S. for Walking Wounded Menin Road.

A.D.S. for Walking Wounded Menin Road will be staffed by "B" Section Tent Sub-Division in charge of Major Buchanan.

He will be responsible for the evacuation of these cases from his A.D.S. by

- i. Light Railway.
- ii. Lorries (20) & Buses (20)

Lorries and buses go direct to C.C.S. by shortest route permissible, and will NOT go to the Corps Main Dressing Station.

The train service which will be hourly is to be used to the fullest extent for Walking Wounded and will carry 32 lying cases in addition to walking wounded. Each train consists of 8 (eight) trucks, in four of which fittings will be placed for stretcher cases.

Trains will run by way of the Main Dressing Station H.27.c.2.9. where they will stop and any cases which have stood the journey badly will be taken off, if advisable. All others will go on to C.C.S. by the same train. A medical orderly should travel in each train. An arrangement will be made by which his attention, as he sits in the front of the train, can be drawn to any truck in which a case requires attention. When this is done he will cause the train to be stopped as soon as possible. One lightly wounded case should be put in each truck carrying stretcher cases and one petrol tin of water, and a box containing 20 shell dressings, cotton wool, gauze and bandages carried with train.

~~Two walking wounded will be evacuated on each car carrying stretcher cases as opportunity offers.~~

All motor ambulance cars will be provided with their full complement of spare drivers and A.A.M.C. orderlies.

Stretchers & Blankets.

A reserve of 250 Stretchers and 700 Blankets will be maintained at the A.D.S. in addition to the full complement for forward posts. All wounded travelling at night or suffering from collapse will be well blanketed.

Rations and Water.

A supply of 10 gallons of water in petrol tins will be maintained in all posts. Also one days rations for all men in that post in addition to Iron Rations, and unexpired portion of the days ration.

Routes for Ambulance Cars.

From Advanced Dressing Station:-

Ambulance Cars will use the circuit along the Menin Road to Zonnebeeke Road, then by road north of Ypres to H.12.d.4.4. (Asylum Corner) - Kruisstraat - Cafe Belge - Dickiebusch - Busseboom - Southern Switch Road - Remy Siding.

- 2 -

Routes for Ambulance Cars continued:-

Road Junction to L.34.a. - Reninghelst - Oudeboom - Halleblast-Dickeibusch - Kruisstraat - through Ypres to Menin Gate - A.D.S.

Ambulance Cars taking cases direct to Remy Siding will use the Ypres - Vlamertanghe - Poperinghe - Remy Siding Road, returning by the same route as other cars.

The A.D.M.S. 2nd Australian Division will make all arrangements as to parking and routes to be taken by lorry convoy.

Alternatives.

In the event of the evacuation by the Menin Road becoming impossible and alternative route can be used through Zillebeeke to I.28.a.2.8. - Shrapnel Corner - Hell fire corner Derby Road - Dickiebusch returning by usual circuit to Kruisstraat, then along Warrington Road to I 16.d.6.6. - Hellfire Corner - A.D.S. I.9.c.6.6.

Special Cases.

All special cases with the following exceptions :-

- i. Ophthalmic
- ii. Scabies.
- iii. Dysentery.

but including S.I.I. will be sent irrespective of their nature to the Remy group of C.C.S. 27.L. 23.a.

Scabies and Dysentery will be evacuated to Main Dressing Station for distribution.

Ophthalmic cases will be evacuated on Saturday night only to Main Dressing Station for distribution. Number sent to be reported to Hd.Qrs. on Sunday at 09:00.

Belgian Soldiers & Civilians.

All sick and wounded Belgian soldiers and civilians will be sent to C.C.S. if necessary, otherwise they will be sent to the Belgian Hospital at Couthove 27. F.21.a.

Advanced Depot Medical Stores.

No 2 Canadian Advanced Depot Medical Stores 27 L.25.a. will be used by this Corps.

Mobile Bacteriological Laboratory.

No 1 attached No 10 C.C.S. Remy Siding.

General Instructions.

Care will be taken in entering cases into A & D books to discriminate between wounds caused by shell, shrapnel, bombs, hand grenades and those caused by bullets (rifle or Machine gun).

No records will be kept except in case of:-

- i Deaths occurring at A.D.S. or forward posts
- ii Cases treated and returned to duty

These will be sent to the Corps Bureau daily being transmitted each evening with those of the 3rd Australian Field Ambulance.

J. Nicholas.
Lieut.Col.
O.C. 5th Australian Field Ambulance.

A.D.S.

Major Chapman

Major Dunlop.

A.D.M.S.

DISTRIBUTION RETURN - 21-9-1918.

Location	5th Fd.		6th Fd.		7th Fd.		8th Fd.		13th Fd.		14th Fd.		15th Fd.		Dental		MMP	YMCA	3rd Fd.	
	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR	Amb.	OR			Amb.	OR
Headquarters	0	OR	0	OR	0	OR	0	OR	0	OR	0	OR	0	OR	0	OR			0	OR
	1	58		18	1	9	2	2	1	96					1	2			*	4
A. D. S.	3	51		2		10												12		
Forward Posts	2	67	2	91	1	73							2	62			2			
Canal Dugouts		4					1	88												
Shrapnel Post	1	1	1	7																
Transport		18																		
Total	7	199	3	118	2	92	3	90	1	96			2	62	1	2	2	12		4

Total rationees 696 All ranks.

Location	5th Fd Amb		6th Fd. Amb.		7th Fd. Amb.		8th Fd. Amb.		4th Fd. Amb.		13th Fd. Amb.		14th Fd. Amb.		15th Fd. Amb.		MMP	Dental	Y.M.C.A.	
	O	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR.	O.	OR.	OR	O	OR	OR
Headquarters	3	118		19	1	9	2	2	1	33	1	96						1	3	
Menin Road	2	54	1	3																
Forward Posts	2		1	59	1	82	1	88						1	28	2				12
Shrapnel Post		1	1	7																
Canal Dugouts		4																		
Transport		18																		
Canal Dug-outs				25																
Total rationed	7	195	3	113	2	92	3	90	1	33	1	96		1	28	2	1	3	12	

Total Rationed 682 All ranks.

Appendix No. 11

DISTRIBUTION RETURN - 23rd September 1918.

07

Location	5th Fd. Amb.		6th Fd. Amb.		7th Fd. Amb.		13th Fd. Amb.		4th Fd. Amb.		Dental		MMP	YMCA	MT	Remarks.
	O.	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR.	O.	OR	O.	OR	O.	OR	OR	OR	OR	
Headquarters	4	133	2	16	9	1	96	1	33	1	3				8	
Menin Road	2	39		2	1	1										
Forward Posts	1			41	1	81							2	12		
Shrapnel Post		1	1	7												
Canal Dug-outs		4														
Transport		18														
Ypes Ramparts				45												
Total	7	195	3	111	2	91	1	96	1	33	1	3	2	12	8	Total rationed 566 all ranks

Appendix No. 11

Anzac Corps Central Bureau.

107

During the offensive which started in the Ypres Sector in the latter end of September 1917 it was decided to continue the system of recording the evacuation of sick and wounded then in force by the British Corps which was being relieved by the Anzac Corps.

At Dickebusch Main Dressing Station through which all cases being evacuated had to pass was established what was called the "Corps Central Bureau" On 9th Sept 1917. Sgt Hood -ADMS Office 2nd Aust Divn. 1 Clerk from 6th Aust. Fld. Ambce. and myself were detailed to report at Dickebusch to be instructed in the working of the Bureau. A Cpl. clerk was also detailed from ADMS Office 1st. Aust. Divn.

On arrival at Dickebusch we found that the Bureau had been practically disbanded and that 1 Sgt and a L/Cpl. were left there to render returns of ~~any~~ B.E.F. troops passing through the M.D.S.

The Main Dressing Station was at this time being worked by two British Field Ambulances - one taking Walking Wounded and the other, Stretcher Cases. but was taken over by 1st Aust Field Ambulance. the day we arrived.

We were unable to gain much information from the R.A.M.C Sgt, with regard to the working of the Bureau, and orders we received from Corps and Div. Headquarters were very conflicting. It appeared as if nobody knew exactly what was required, which left us a good deal to our own initiative in the matter of rendering the returns.

Working under the Bureau System all the Field Ambulances should have sent their Daily States (AFW 3185) to the Bureau for consolidation but in most cases this was not done so we had to render returns to Headquarters in the usual way.

We carried on in this unsatisfactory manner until 16th Sept. when we were instructed to report to Remy siding where the Anzac Corps Central Bureau was to be established.

Having the Bureau in close proximity to the group of C.C.Ss. practically did away with all clerical work at the M.D.S. which was used only as a Gas Centre and attended to serious cases requiring attention during transit from the A.D.S. to C.C.S.

The Anzac Corps Central Bureau was under the direction of the O/C 6th Australian Field Ambulance. who placed Major Fraser in charge until 26th Sept 1918, when the 3rd Aust Fld Ambce took over from the 6th. and Major Mackenzie relieved Major Fraser.

On 17th Sept. the day the Bureau was to open up at Remy, no definite system had been decided on... Clerks had been detailed from 1st 2nd. 4th & 5th Aust Div. H'qtrs and ambulances also several from B.E.F. and Canadian Fld. Ambces. representing their respective Divisions.

A conference was held and the following scheme decided on which came into operation at 12 noon:-

Six Pte clerks were posted to each of the four C.C.Ss. in the Group, which consisted of 10 & 27 British and 2 & 3 Canadian CCS. Two clerks were to be on duty in the Walking Wounded admitting room and one in the Stretcher Case admitting room of each CCS. They were worked in shifts being relieved every 12 hours. (The number of clerks had to be increased once or twice in some of the admitting rooms owing to rush of patients.)

Their duty was to see that each patient admitted had his F.M. Card (AFW 3118) and to make out a Buff Slip (AF 3210) which was stamped with the Unit stamp of the C.C.S. to which the patient was admitted. The F.M. Card was stamped with the Unit Stamp of the 6th Aust Fld. Ambce. to show that the case had passed through the records of a Field Ambulance. before being admitted to the C.C.S.

Slight Cases fit for D.R.S. were not recorded by the clerks but passed through to a D.R.S. Waiting Tent and afterwards sent to 5th Aust D.R.S. for distribution to the respective Div. Rest Stations. where they were recorded by the Fld. Ambce. receiving them.

The work of the Bureau proper was carried out in two Hospital Marquee tents erected in the grounds of the 5th D.R.S.

At regular intervals a runner went round to each C.C.S and collected all Buff Slips from the admitting clerks and handed them in to the Sorting Clerk at the Bureau who sorted each A.I.F Division B.E.F. Canadian Prisoners of War etc into their respective pigeon holes. In "A" Tent was the

In "A" Tent was the Officer I/C of the Bureau with two Sgt Clerks & several privates who dealt with all official matter, returns & Casualty Wires etc.

In "B" Tent the A. & D. clerks were established - each Division being allotted a separate table.

107 Anzac Corps Central Bureau- Continued.

This work was also done in twelve hour shifts Two clerks being on each set of books at a time (one writing up the A&D Book and the other making out A.F. A36.) with the exception of the 2nd Aust Div. table which needed four and at times six clerks as it fell to their lot to record all B.E.F. and other Formations. When the 2nd Aust Div. casualties were coming through part of this work was taken over by the 1st Aust. Div. clerks also 3rd. Div. work was taken over by two clerks detailed by ADMS Third Division. For a few days while that Division was in the line. At different periods clerks from B.E.F. Divisions were attached who dealt only with their own division.

The principal returns rendered were:-

1. A.F. A36 which was made out by the A. & D Clerks and rendered Daily.
2. Daily State (AFW3185) made out by Sgt clerks from ADMS offices. These were compiled from the Buff Slips and figures extracted from the Daily States rendered by all Field Ambulances. The individual Field Ambulance Daily State was kept at the Corps Central Bureau and only the consolidated return sent on to Corps through the ADMS who signed it before forwarding.

Two Consolidated Daily States were rendered. The Field Ambulance Statement which included only Direct Admissions and the Rest Station Summary which was made up from the Field Ambulance Rest Station returns.

3. Casualty Wires were made up at 6am ~~xxx~~ and 9 pm by the Sgt Clerk i/c of each Divisional Records and consolidated by the Casualty Wire Clerk in "A" Tent.
4. Consolidated Summary was compiled from all consolidated Daily States and made up to 12noon showing the Grand Total of cases passing through the Bureau and Grand Total of patients in all Anzac Corps Rest Stations separately.

After the Buff Slips had been dealt with by the A. & D Clerks and the Divisional clerks had made up the Daily States they were posted out to the Units concerned as "Notifications of Evacuation" bearing the Unit Stamp of the CCS through which the patient passed.

Working under the Bureau System during these operations when the number of casualties was so great had many advantages.

The clerical work being centralized meant that the consolidated returns went practically direct to Corps Headquarters without having to pass through various stages of consolidation at Div. and Corps Hqtrs. also as the MDS was cut out patients came direct from the ADS to CCS making the journey very much shorter which means a great deal to a patient who is badly wounded.

This system of recording the evacuation of casualties was carried out by the Anzac Corps Central Bureau until the middle of November 1918 when all the Aust Divisional clerks were returned to their respective Units as the Anzac Corps was gradually being withdrawn to the Rest Area.

[Handwritten signature]
Sgt.

Appendix No. 14 134

FIFTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

List of Casualties during September Operations.

Lieut.Col. J.J.Nicholas	-	Killed in action	20-9-1917
No. 8357 Pte. Venteman	W.O.-	" " " "	"
No. 4922 Cpl. Hookway	C.N.-	" " " "	"
No. 3467 Cpl. Chalmer	L.E.-	2nd Aust S.C. Killed in action.	
No. 4711 Pte. Bottomley	A.E. -	Died of wounds	20-9-1917
No. 6293 Pte. Redman	H.S. -	" " "	20-9-1917
No. 2967 Pte. Coe	A. -	" " "	25-9-1917
No. 15930 Pte. Johnson	F.D. -	Wounded	18-9-1917
No. 14653 Pte. Wright	C.H. -	"	20-9-1917
No. 8811 Pte. Davidson	G.L. -	"	"
No. 16691 Pte. Aiken	J.R. -	Wounded remained on duty	17-9-18
No. 5384 Pte. Morrison	H. -	"	20-9-1917
No. 8992 Pte. Shirt	G.N. -	Wounded (Gassed)	20-9-17