

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/78/20

Title: 3rd Australian Sanitary Section

September 1918



AWM4-26/78/20



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DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

164

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Aust. San. Sect.

FOR

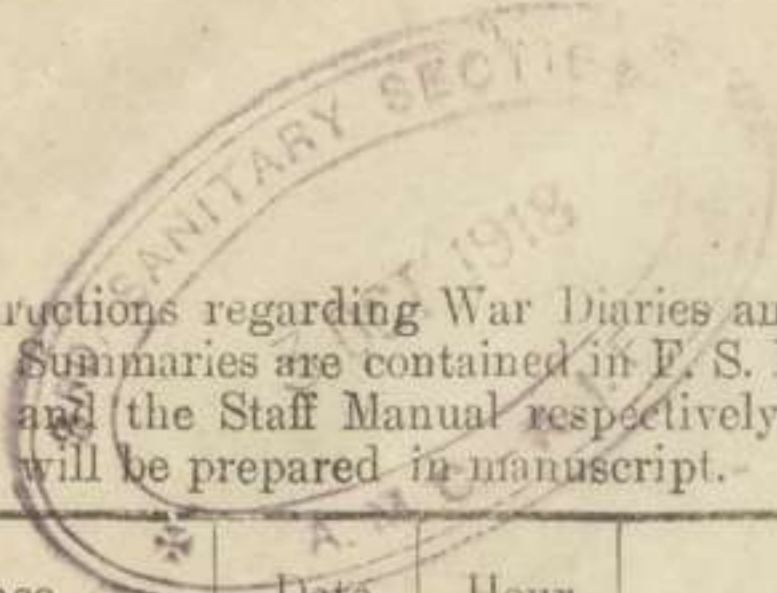
SEPTEMBER 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *K. Shue Arthur Brown*

O/C. 3rd. Sanitary Sec., A.M.C. *cap*

Signature of Officer Commanding *K. Shue Arthur Brown*

O/C. 3rd. Sanitary Sec., A.M.C. *cap*



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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LES ALLENCONS	1. 9. 18		Strength of unit: 10ff. 26 OR.	
"	2. 9. 18		/OC. visited MERICOVRT and received notice of change of Area from DDO's office. Unit taken over BRAY and Corps forward Area on H th Aust. Area bounded on South by R. SOMME and on North by the Corp's former boundary.	
"	3. 9. 18		S/Sgt. despatched to BRAY to arrange for taking over of billets for H.Q. rations etc. Note sent of DDO's def. lorry for moving stores and appliances to new location.	
"	4. 9. 18		Lorry from DDO's reported today - also lorry for H th Motor Transport Coy and work completed by 3.30 pm to BRAY. H.Q. of unit located in	
BRAY		3.30 pm	billet No I Rue de Raceacres - map loc ⁿ L 15 d. 4-6. Capt. R.S.M. BROWN reported from 8 th Aust. Field Ambulance to take command of 3 rd Aust. San. Det.	
BRAY	5. 9. 18		Capt. KENIHAN reported for duty to 11 th Aust. Field Ambulance. Day spent in investigating internal workings, personnel, mob. stores etc of unit and in cleaning up the great quantities of dirt, debris, and filth left about by the Boche and destruction by shell fire. Visit of the Area Command: BRAY and arrangements made for the general cleaning up of area.	

A6945 Wt. W11422/M1160 350,000 12/16 D. D. & L. Forms/C./2118/14.

8RD. SANITARY SECTION
3 OCT 1918

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WAR DIARY
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRAY.	6. 9. 18.		The Section workshop began work for construction of public latrines, water boards etc required immediately in the villages. At present material is very scarce and sanitary material at Corp RE Dump is difficult to obtain: visit to DDO's Aust Corp w/ application of leave to PARIS and U.K. and also to HQ Aust. Red. Cross DHOORS. w/ obtaining a typewriter for the unit. Very heavy thunderstorm this evening causing considerable inconvenience by flooding of some of the trenches billeted with water coming through shell damaged roofs.	
"	7. 9. 18.		Visit to SUZANNE AREA. Map No. Sheet 62C.G.8. Centre. Interviewed Area Comd' w/ scheme of sanitation for village and surrounding area. N.CO. and 5 OR placed at his disposal and billeted with HQ. Ford Car sent to workshop for temporary repairs.	
"	8. 9. 18 Sunday		N.CO. and 5 men detailed from HQ to supervise and inspect sanitation of BRAY and ETINHEM areas. Report received from DDO on existing sanitary conditions of billets occupied by B Echelon of Aust. Corps HQ. Arrangements made with Area Com. BRAY for immediate	



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WAR DIARY

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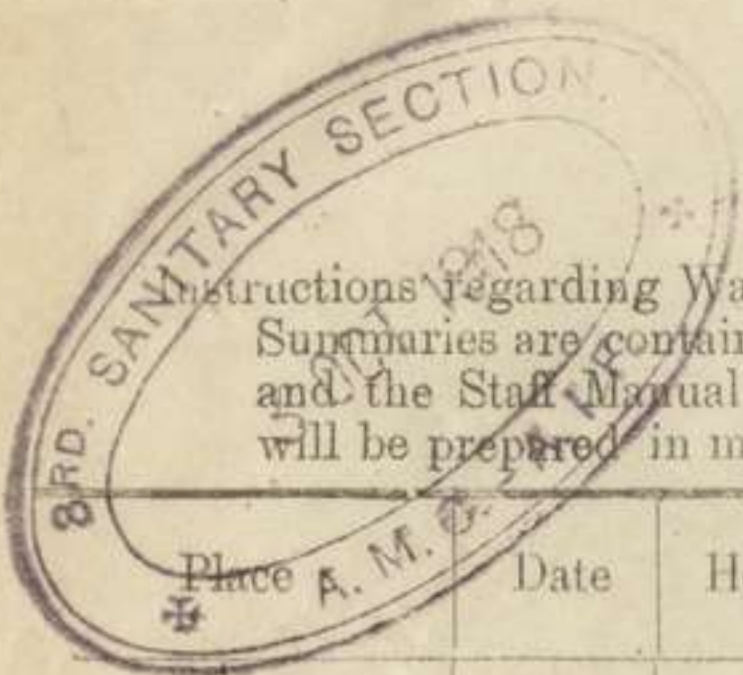
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRAY	8. 9. 18		Sunday. Auction of Incinerator and Machine Dump etc, in the village of ETIMENHES. Y.M.C.A. have loaned to unit, a fine Gramophone, and several records, which are very different to those we have. Strength of unit: 100. 26 OP. Had Car returned from workshop.	
"	9. 9. 18		PERONNE Area taken over by the 3 rd Div. San. Sect. 1 to 3 Sanitary Instructions cancelled & 4 th instead of 5 to take over the Le MESNIL and ATHIES Area (Sheet 62C)	
"	10. 9. 18		New Area inspected today - decided to take over old German stable in Le MESNIL and effect repairs as soon as possible. Water point at la Chappelle. Tested on way home and notice board erected. The point has just been completed by the R.E. Memo sent to D.D. of obtaining a lorry for the move on 12 th inst. Pte BRYSON proceeded on leave to Paris - 8 days.	
"	11. 9. 18.		Whole day devoted to clearing out rubbish and obsolete correspondence from office files - also a redistribution of useful correspondence to new files. Handing over report on Sanitation of BRAY area SURNHE area prepared for the 1 st Div. San. Sect. The carpenters proceeded to	



WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

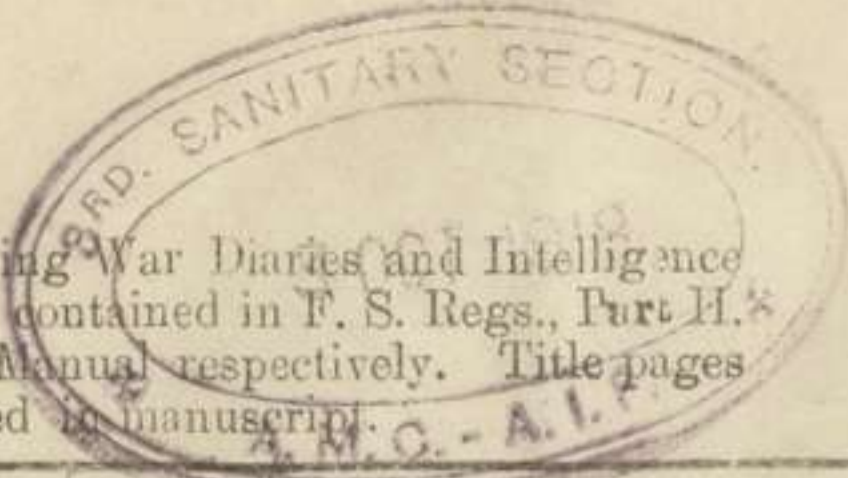
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	A. M.	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BRAY		11. 9. 18		new location in order to begin repairs to shed for occupation.	
BRAY		12. 9. 18		Steady rain set in this morning. Motor lorry arrived from D&S at 10 am. Move effected to new location by 1 pm.	
Le MESNIL		"		Inspection of ruined village of Le MESNIL - water point in use - and 5 th Aust. Div. Bath's well under construction. Number of dead horses lying about the area and large irregular accumulation of old horse manure. - no sanitary conveniences evident.	
"		13. 9. 18.		Arrangements made with 3 rd Aust. Motor Transport Coy for another lorry to collect remainder of sanitary material from BRAY. Visited ATHIES area and made preliminary arrangements with Area Commandant for checking of sanitary conveniences - Work done at HQ in improving accommodation of office and day room for personnel. Proposals issued to Inspector for future use - [Proposals attached] Routine and standing orders read on parade. Received Sanitary Instructions no 5 from D&S cancelling no 4 and leaving as before the Le MESNIL area now.	
"		14. 9. 18.		Visited Area Commandant Le MESNIL area and arranged system for sanitation:	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE MESNIL	14. 9. 18		Inspection sent out to inspect the area immediately surrounding the line. Each inspection given a map - scale 1/40,000 and definite squares of map allotted to each man. (Map appended). Section given this evening to men of the unit, setting forth what was to be done and what was required of them in their inspections etc. Tent erected for office and old office converted into a Recreation Room.	
"	15. 9. 18.		Strength of unit: 106. - 25 OP. Visited CARTIGNY area and saw BC 177 th Fabon Coy. set unreasonable incident for Canvas etc. - not approved. Inspected Meritings tower at BRIE, which is drawing water from R. SOMME and purifying it by chlorination and filtration.	
"	16 9 18		Sub section of 1 NCo and 5 men billeted at BARLEUX - then sent out to inspect the area (LE MESNIL) west of the R. SOMME. Visited CE office Post Corps to ascertain location of Forward Corps Dumps as mentioned in CPO Q 219 of 10 th Aug. The CE office had overlooked the publication of this order. promised to have sanitary apparatus at these dumps for units to draw from.	
"	7 9. 18		Water Report on LE MESNIL Area sent to the Commandant. Temperature	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE MESNIL 17 9 18.			and rain storm during early morning. Large section of timber from neighbouring wood lifted bodily by the wind and landed on O.C.'s tent causing much havoc & considerable inconvenience from the rain - similar experiences throughout the camp. ETERPIGNEY inspects this evening Correspondence from D.D.'s sent Capt asking for further report on new water point at LA CHAPELLETTE Pte. McBRIDE returned from leave to Scotland. Ford car sent into workshop for overhauling and repairs.	
"	18. 9 18		Pte BRAY Recommendation (performance attached) sent to 54 th Inf. Bde. - Conclusions reports handed into his office on uncertainty, state of Camp.	
"	19. 9 18		Ford car returned from workshop. Unit paid this evening	
"	20. 9 18		Pte BRAYSON returned from leave to PARIS. Pte CRAIG also returned from leave to Scotland. Letter to D.D.'s asking for Tony to leave, starting material from BRAY RE Dump to the unit location	
"	21. 9 18		Several recommendations per performance sent to units re flyproofing & latrine and proper treatment of manure. The importance of this to great numbers of flies which have been allowed to breed in manure improperly dealt with by the troops	



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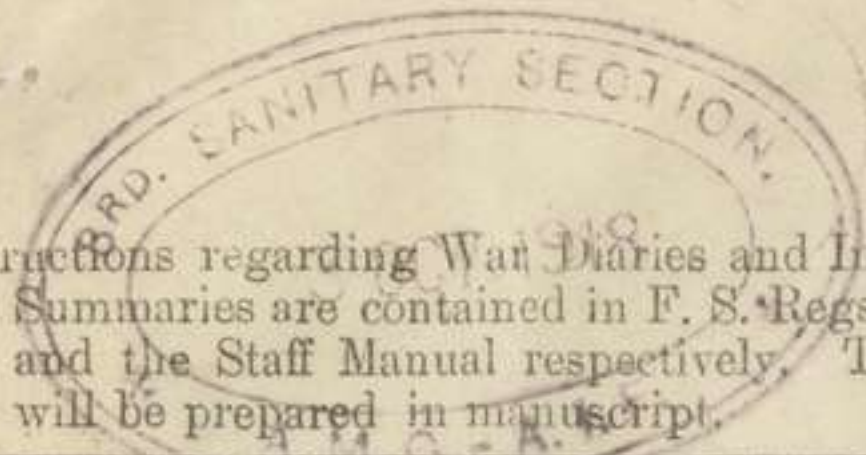
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Army Form C/2118.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE MESNIL	22. 9. 18		Inspection of dress and articles - satisfactory. Detailed inspection of the Rations at LA CHAPELETTE. Strength of unit: 1 Off & 28 OR	
"	23. 9. 18		Material received from Capt RE DUMP BRAY. This material to be used for making up of latrines and other sanitary appliances for Public Convenience only - all units are being encouraged to make their own appliances - to their & to make material available in old German hutting and dugouts. Note received from Red Cross ref. quotation for type writer for use of the unit - the price 1200 fr. & prohibition in view of the scarcity of regimental funds. Recommendation sent to Troop Unit ref their unsatisfactory condition.	
"	24. 9. 18		Rationed at PERONNE inspected the housing - sanitary condition unsatisfactory. Boots and shoes purchased at 3 Div Canteen for use of the unit - he are being severely rationed now and being a small unit he draw an insignificant amount. Inspected 15 th Aust. Inf Bde Bath at ETERPIGNY. They are making use of a Captured German bath house (horse drawn) and a horse drawn pump and toilet and disinfectant combination. In bath house contains 10 showers. Sanitary instructions to be received from 10 th Aust. Div Capt. he are to include	



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE MESNIL	24. 9. 18		1st PERONNE Area now in our inspection, a well as LE MESNIL.	
"	25. 9. 18		Authoris - Came from D.D. for the transfer of P/Sgt. CADDEN to 5 th Aust. Div. as wireless officer Class I. J.C. 2 nd Aust. San. Sect. interviewed the honoree and handing over of PERONNE area discussed. AREA Command ^r PERONNE visited and arrangements made for billeting and rationing of a sub-section with him.	
"	26. 9. 18		Side Car taken to workshops for repairs. Inspected Camp 7 8 th Div. Base HQ. Rev. camp has been reported as adversely by my inspection a few occasions for the recommendation, sent to Staff Captain.	
"	27. 9. 18		Thorough inspection made of village of CARTIGNEY - many lapses found in latrines not being fly proof - unsufficient latrine accommodation - incinerators being neglected. Recommendations made to the Commandant. Sgt. REAP proceeded on leave to Paris for eight days.	
"	28. 9. 18		Report for month of September forwarded to D.D. Aust. Corps. (Copy 7 same attached) also report on Railhead ACHAPPELLETTTE and Synopsi 7 work done by unit. Side Car returned from workshops. Very hot day.	
"	29. 9. 18		Strength of unit. 10 off 26 OR. PERONNE Area officially taken over from 2 nd Aust. San. Sect.	

And see see
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WAR DIARY

Army Form 6.248.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
LE MESNIL	29. 9. 18		<p>Visited OC 2nd Aust. San. Sect to discuss the area to be handed over and to look for a handing over report on PERONNE. A sub section of six (6) men under Corporal MASON posted with Area Commandant PERONNE for the inspection of the area. They are attached to the A. C. for sanitation. Inspected the digouts & trenches on HQ - all clean and comfortable after making fresh excavations in old trench trenches - making walls and cover for material left by the Germans. Some of the dugouts have stores that have been salvaged in the area. Stores and shelter are well served now as the weather is becoming hot and very cold.</p>	
"	30. 9. 18		<p>Visit from OC 2nd Aust San. Sect. who presented handing over report for the area of PERONNE. In den. submitted to Ordinance for her scale of winter underclothing.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

OF

3rd Aust. San. Sect.

FOR

SEPTEMBER 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
<u>I</u>	Synopsis of WORKS REPORT (monthly)
<u>II</u>	specimen copy of Pro-forma issued to Inspectors; to be rendered <u>daily</u> .
<u>III</u>	copy of Works Report for month of SEPTEMBER.
<u>IV</u>	Copy of Area Map issued to each Inspector.



K. L. MacArthur Brown
 O/C. 3rd. Sanitary Sec., A.M.C.

Le Mesnil ARED Fourth ARMY I

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Synopsis of work carried out by & under the supervision of the 3rd Aust San. Sect. Month of September 1918



Situation	Latrines erected	Seats on latrines completed	Urinals erected	Latrine pits dug	Urine pits dug	Incinerators erected	Refuse pits dug	Grease traps & soakage pits	Flyproof safes	Abolition Benches	Billets inspected	Examined billets inspected	Disinfected	Latrine P. Convent. erected	Water Supplies tested	Water troughs erected	Water Cords tested
Les-Allouons Petit Canon	5	3	2	3	3	1				2	44	-	-	8			
Allonville	16	33	5	15	3	1		5	2	1	154			11	6		5
Corsy	10	29	-	17	7		12	18		5	271	24		10	2		34
Bray	12	86	12	12	10	5	14	5			83			30	16	18	
Suzanne	1	14									60						
Le Mesnil	151	316	70	112	88	31	29	63	11	10	557			43	30	24	11
Total	195	481	89	159	111	38	55	91	13	18	1169	24		103	54	42	50

APPENDIX

R. A. MacArthur Brown
Capt
O/C. Brd. Sanitary Sec., A.M.C.

II

Area Inspectors Report

Inspector's Name

Area Le Messnil

Sheet 62^c D 17. B. 11

Date

Unit	Location	Type of Latrine	Type of Urinal	Refuse	Sanitary	Remarks
3 rd Aust BAC	Dry d. 1.	2. 5 Seated fly proof Satisfactory	Soakage Pit bad condition	Incinerator Satisfactory	Public Dump Satisfactory	Urine pit full of rubbish and over flowing Recommendation made to C.O.



Specimen Copy

Pro-Formas can be obtained at Office

APPENDIX

2 12.



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Sanitary Report 3 Sept. 1918 15
3rd Aust San Sect

1st Corps

The following is the Sanitary report for this Section for the month of Sept.

In accordance with Sanitary instructions 1802 the Section took over the inspection of the new Camps area of Bray and Suzanne on the 4/9/18

1 General Condition

The Condition of these two areas was found to be very bad indeed, owing to the German occupation and the filth & debris left behind them on evacuating the areas. Large working parties, were employed, cleaning the main thoroughfares & alleys, pulling in all the upen German latrines, removing stacks of fresh manure to a dump and generally making the place fit for habitation.

2 Water Supply

The water supply for these two areas was supplied by springs, wells and deep borings. as a general rule the quality of the water was very good, and showed no signs of contamination. All the sources of water supplies have been numerous, listed and labelled.

3 Falshines

A great number of foul smelling Basche



Latrines were completely filled in with earth
then dug and fly proof seats erected.
over them, many of the old German seats were repaired
and utilized. Notices were erected at the latrines, and
also direction boards towards them.

4 Baths Urinals of Saakage pit and trough type were erected on every latrine

The 2nd Aust Div had erected baths at Bray.
The working of them and method of dealing with
the effluent, both were satisfactory. A clean change
of clothing obtained.

5 Refuse Disposal.

Arrangements made with Area Commandant
Aust units for all refuse to be collected outside
barracks and taken to incinerators (three)

6 Stables + Horse Standings

General condition was good. all fresh
manure was removed to the Public Dump
(two) or stacked properly by the units themselves,

7 Workshops

A number of latrines were made for the
village of Bray + Clincherry + Suzanne and
a great many notices painted,

Sanitary Report

3



Bray and Suzanne, and Corps Area, North of the P. Somme, were handed over to the 1st Aust San Sect on 12/9/18. in accordance with Sanitary instructions No 5 and the new Corps Area of Le Mesnil was taken over by the Section.

1. General Condition

The LE Mesnil area was found to be in similar condition to that of Bray. Large dumps of ^{uncovered} manure had been left lying about the Germans and consequently the flies were a great nuisance in the area; working parties were employed the main thoroughfares, filling in old Besche latrines and digging new ~~ones~~ ^{benches} for new ones in the village.

2. Water Supply

The water supplies were plentiful throughout the area, consisting of deep boreings, wells and rain water, which was submitted to a process of purification and chlorination in a Sterilizing lorry, all the water supplies were numbered and tested also labelled: Eight water points were erected in the area with only a few exceptions Chlorination was carried out rigidly by the unit:

Water Points There are 8 water points in the area all are protected and kept free from contamination of any kind.

1. Le Mesnil 017623 No 1 Tube well. water is raised by motor engine to tanks & elevated Cisterns

- 18 Oct -



28 a 3 3 Deep well - Tube well motor engine
Req 1 scoop of B.P. Per 110 Gall.

3 0 26 d 2 3 Sterilizing lorry employed to pump
water from R. Somme by process of filtration
and Chlorination,

4 Éterpigny 0.14 d 2 5 Sterilizing lorry

5 Barleux N. 18 a 3 3 Deep hole water pumped
into 2,000 Gall Cistern. Requires 1 scoop to 110 Gall

6 La Chapelle 0.3 d 1 6 well filled by Soakage
from R. Somme. Petrol engine pump water
to elevated Cistern. Requires 1 scoop of B.P. Per 110 Gall

7 Cartigny J 33 c 9.1 Sterilizing lorry

8 Mont Len Chausse P 26 d 6.4 well water -
water elevated by oil engine. to 7,000 Gall Cistern
Situating in Sugar Refinery.

3 BATHS

(a) Baths were erected by 5th Aust Div at Le Mesnil
12 Showers, and a Clean Change of Clothing; The
Construction of Soap Traps and Soakage pit
for effluent was of very primitive type, and was
unable to deal with large amount of water, such
as would occur on busy mornings. Engineers
evidently require further instructions in the
method of dealing with the effluent from
Public Baths.

(b) The 15th Inf Bde were utilizing a Captured
German bathing house, at Éterpigny 0.9. c 5 5.
Carrying 10 Showers. The water was pumped from
a small tributary of the R. Somme, into a Cylinder
beneath the

(6) Larry, when it came into contact with a pressure of steam from the boiler. On the second day (horse drawn) were the boiler, pump and one discharging cylinder. The method of dealing with the effluent was very bad.

Two shell holes were employed as soap heaps connected by small drain. The waste water still full of soap ends, trickled into the steam lower down.

Clean Change of Clothing Unit

c. 4th Aust. Div. baths were situated at La Colélet
Clean Change of clothing.

4 Lathines & Animals

There is adequate lathine accommodation, now throughout the area. Very little material has been supplied by the Section, or by the RE Dump, and the units have used their own resources very well, in constructing their lathines and animals. Much material has been salvaged for this work, from old German hutting etc.

5 Refuse Disposal

Quite satisfactory. The units are now using their own incinerators, and two incinerators are available in LE Mesnil and Cortigney for public use.

6 Manure Disposal

Units are close packing their manure at their own units using it for revettments or else carting it to the Public Dump.

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7 General Remarks

Large dumps of manure have been left by the Germans in numerous places throughout the area, and no attempt has been made to prevent flies breeding in it. Consequently the great number of flies in this area have been creating a nuisance.

All manure is now being stacked in accordance with 4th Army Standing Orders No 949.

f Sanitary Material

The Corps forward Dump referred to in Corps Routine Orders 929 of Aug 10th 1918 have never materialized. It has been a most difficult matter for units and Area Command to obtain Sanitary appliances.

c. The Railhead at La Chapelle and POW. Cage at Flamicoort. have been thoroughly inspected, and are in good sanitary condition.

(Sgd.)

H. S. MacArthur
Capt

