

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/79/7

Title: 4th Australian Sanitary Section

January 1917



AWM4-26/79/7

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

4th
AUSTRALIAN DIV.,
SANITARY SECTION.
No. *Janey*
Date

Army Form C. 2118.

1063

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
E 11 CENTRAL	1 st Janey		<p style="text-align: right;">EWOTOA VIII</p> <p>Area allotted this section gradually improving in latrine accommodation, these latrine seats and urinals are constructed by five (5) men from this section working at Corps Mills, Meaulte. This system appeals to me for the following reasons - viz.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Material, tools, and workshop accommodation accessible. 2 Inconvenience and delay experienced in dealing with B.R. & avoided. 3 Type of latrine stronger, hinges metal, made from kerosene tins, a much improved latrine to any other. 4 Transport provided by this section, latrine seats carried to Area Commandant's depots for distribution throughout their areas. These latrines are appreciated by units so much that they frequently transport 	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Eilbental Went	1 st 5 th		<p>them from one camp to another</p> <p><u>Burial of Dead Horses</u> - many dead horses reported to me by my inspectors - <u>Responsibility of burial</u> - Those animals are in many instances lying by the roadside, or away from any unit, the hoof marks are the only guide to the unit to which it belonged and on most instances it is impossible to call upon that unit to bury the carcass.</p> <p>The matter has been reported by me and no decision has yet been arrived at as to who is responsible for the burial of the animals.</p> <p><u>Suggested courses of instruction for Regimental Sanitary Squads</u> - This syllabus appears to me to be impracticable in this area considering that the troops are moving to and fro the front line.</p> <p>It is quite a good idea if carried out in rest areas.</p>	

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E11 CENTRAL	10 th		<p><u>Disinfection</u> ^{Sanitary} This should be sectional work throughout Division and could be compassed with Foden's lorry combined with 3 Clayton's disinfectors provided the Foden lorry and Clayton's were permanently at disposal of section.</p> <p>By this means, kits, blankets, and all wearing apparel, could be disinfected without inconvenience to the men. At present the possession of only one set of clothing is a hindrance to disinfection.</p> <p>1 Provision ought to be made in back area for general disinfection.</p> <p>2 Divisional Foden lorry and other means (I suggest additional 3 Clayton's) should not</p>	

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E11 Central	10		<p>be taken from the Division, which would enable the Sanitary Section to cope with infection and contagion in the Division.</p> <p>3 Toden lorry weighs 11 tons and must be catered for viz - Standing. water supply. Fuel. Means of exit to main road. Clayton disinfectors are mobile and one could be allotted to each Brigade. These disinfectors require no stance.</p>	

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E11 Central	15		<p><u>Criticism of Sanitary Organisation</u> <u>1. Coordination</u> L. of L. Sanitary areas should join up with Divisional Sanitary Areas without leaving gaps of areas uncontrolled. <u>Inter-Divisional Coordination</u> - One Divisional Sanitary Section should hand over in a systematic manner to its relief viz - a report of work done, and work proposed to be done. <u>Distribution of personnel</u> a spot map with incinerators and type, latrines and type, urinals and type, drying rooms, ablution bench and type provision, bath accommodation, disposal of waste waters, disinfection provision, water points and wells, water cart examination results etc.</p>	

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			<p>Part of the Sanitary personnel should precede the movement and take over area before the section to be relieved moves out. There ought to be no difficulty in taking over without a break.</p> <p>2 <u>Organisation of Sanitary personnel</u></p> <p>A. <u>Sanitary sections</u></p> <p>1 <u>Sanitary section L of 6 personnel, Field Service Regs Applicable to L of 6.</u></p> <p>2 <u>Sanitary section of Division</u> Personnel unsatisfactory.</p> <p>A It is a mobile unit.</p> <p>B It is a Hdqrs unit.</p> <p>C It should consist of inspectors only except for Orderly room, Cook, batman.</p> <p>D It might be commanded by a Certificated Sanitary Inspector (London) carrying commissioned rank.</p>	

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			<p>E G.A.D.M.S. Division ought to be medical officer Health Division and hold the D.P.H. His duties should be G.A.D.M.S. and M.O.H. Division. The Sanitary Section should come under his control.</p>	
			<p>B <u>Unit Sanitary Details.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Sanitary details of units should be <u>surplus</u> to their fighting strength. 2 These men should be specially trained in sanitation. 3 These men should be maintained and detailed for sanitary duties alone. 4 P.B. men could be utilised. 	
			<p>C <u>Difficulties experienced in Sanitary Control of units</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <u>Sanitary Section</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A Selection of personnel indiscriminately from details B Reinforcements to section the same. 	

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			<p>C Lack of recognition as a Divisional unit</p> <p>D Cumbersome and useless equipment, overloading transport.</p> <p>2 <u>Battalion</u></p> <p>A A N.C.O. usually trained and kept on Sanitary Duties alone - Satisfactory</p> <p>B Personnel of 8 men frequently changed, used for other duties - unsatisfactory all ought to be surplus of fighting strength and trained.</p> <p>3 <u>Battery of Artillery</u></p> <p>Sanitary personnel taken from gun crews - unsatisfactory, should be surplus to strength and trained.</p> <p>4 <u>Hdqrs of Division</u></p> <p>A N.C.O. 8 men, trained, and surplus to strength.</p>	

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			<p><u>5 Detached units</u></p> <p>In nearly every case the sanitary squad moves forward with the unit leaving their transport and detached portion without any sanitary detail. Trouble is always experienced with such units as:- Signallers, mobile Vet Sect, M. M. P., Traffic Control, transport lines of all units.</p> <p>A sufficient sanitary detail should be supplied by the Division for these detachments.</p> <p>In every occasion when sanitary aspects are pointed out, the various units claim that their time is taken up with their several duties and that they have no time to attend to sanitary matters, such as digging latrine trenches, making memoratns & detail a man to attend to the memoratns.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>Re Circular 1st Anzac M/F 410.</p> <p>These courses of instruction are impossible in the front line, but very necessary in Reserve Areas.</p> <p>I would suggest that <u>officers</u> be included in this course, because their interest in sanitation is the key to the satisfactory sanitary control of units.</p> <p>If the officers, old and young were made to realise that on sanitary methods measures depended, to a great extent, the absence of sickness of the typhoid type, which is evidenced in our armies today, there would be little need of inspection by Sanitary Sections.</p>	

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MANIETZ	22 nd JAN		On 22 nd January we again returned to Divisional command and removed to Manietz Camp D by secret order 30 a.d.m.s 4 th Aust Division, taking over area allotted to 4 th Aust Division.	
	25 th		Orders from 1 st Army Corps to detail four (4) inspectors, one being an N.C.O., to report D.D.M.S. 3 rd Corps. This was with the idea of forming a Corps Sanitary Section, and is a temporary expedient.	
			<i>Hauptmeister Capt</i>	

4th
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February .

No diary recd from unit.