

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/66/29

Title: No 2 Australian General Hospital

August 1918



AWM4-26/66/29

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

No 2 Aust. GEN. HOSPITAL

FOR

AUGUST. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. Arthur Powell Col

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Arthur Powell Col

CONFIDENTIAL.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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

ORIGINAL

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

NO 2 AVST. GEN. HOSPITAL

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
WIMEREUX FRANCE	1918 AUG		<p>Work in hospital very easy and quiet till about August 22nd when a quick increase in daily admissions took place. From Aug 22 till the end of the month there was steady work and the hospital was about $\frac{3}{4}$ full on the 31st.</p> <p>Beginning the month with 458 patients, 2510 were admitted and 1840 discharged, leaving 1128 at midnight on Aug 31st.</p> <p>A redistribution of work for this area, and for neighbouring areas was brought into practice - and now "stretcher" cases only are being received here. This makes the work harder, and has made it advisable to press for huts to replace the tented portion of the hospital.</p> <p>I have been advised that the application for additional App I store room to meet the requirements of an increased "bed state", has been approved, and that the work will be started forthwith. -</p> <p>Personnel and nursing staff Report to D.M.S.</p>	

2353

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W. Anderson

App II
App III

WAR DIARY

OF

NO 2 AUST. GEN. HOSPITAL

FOR

AUGUST, 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

I. STORE ROOM

II. PERSONNEL

III. NURSING STAFF.

H. Arthur. Powell

366

No 2 Australian General Hospital 1

Diary for August 1918

Appendix I

With the increase of the number of patients to be taken in this hospital from 1290 to 1500 with a crisis expansion to 1700 or more, it became necessary to make proper store accommodation, and plans were accordingly prepared. The present arrangement is unsatisfactory because the MILK and the MEAT stores are two small buildings near to the main kitchen where the issues are not under the immediate supervision of the Quartermaster, and so errors are likely to occur. Other and important reasons are the congested condition of the equipment and linen stores, and the difficulty of running these two departments in the same room.

The plans prepared provide for a building of 4 rooms to be used as 1. Stewards Store. 2 Milk Store. 3 Meat Store. 3 Store for Vegetables. This when completed will allow the present Stewards Store being used as Equipment Store and the whole of the adjoining room can then be used for Linen.



Appendix II

Female Nursing Staff. Miss Gray the Matron reports good work being done by the staff, and that the work has been rather heavy owing to the admission of only stretchercases. The number of nurses working here has been reduced during the month by sending eight for temporary duty with units in the Fifth Army area, and the return of three to their original unit, No 3 General Hospital.

During the air raids (three severe ones were experienced in the month), the nurses behaved with perfect calmness, and carried out their duties without flurry or excitement. The health of the sisters was good, only two nurses being off duty for a short period.

Men. Most of the under age personnel have been returned to base much to the benefit of the remainder of the Staff, and the first draft of A.A.M.C. men for training contains many who show that they will make good orderlies. One man was tried by C.M. for absenting himself from a draft, being in possession of a government bicycle, and with wearing sergeants stripes and was sentenced to forfeit pay for 28 days.

The question of food for the men is a matter of serious importance now. Up till quite recently men were able to obtain food in the canteens to supplement their issues, now these extras are very difficult to obtain, the men are obliged to subsist on the rations alone, and are feeling that the restricted diet is scarcely enough, especially when the work is heavy. The question of contentment or otherwise depends largely on the cook, and the manner of preparation and distribution of the food. The training in the cookery schools does not appear to help much, I believe an officer trained in dietry would be of very great assistance, and he could act as second quartermaster also.



D.M.S. All.F.

From O.C. No 2 A.G.H.

I have to report a month of comparatively light work, the first half especially showing very few admissions and discharges. for the last ten days there was fair work because of the push on the Somme.

Surgical

Lt-Col. MacLure, the Surgeon Specialist reports.- " During the month convoys from the Somme area have consisted of stretcher cases only, & this has caused the work to be rather heavy in regard to the number of patients treated. In the earlier stages of the advance comparatively large number of bullet wounds were met with, lately there has been an increasing percentage of shell wounds and consequently more severe cases.

Operations performed.

Amputation of leg.....	5
Amputation of arm.....	3
" foot.....	2
" fingers.....	3
Delayed primary sutures.....	36
Removal of foreign bodies..	94
Incision and excision of wounds.....	78
Trephining.....	5
Thoracotomy.....	1
Esquillectomy	12
Transfusion of blood..	10
Excision of joints.	2
Arthrotomy.	2
Cystotomy.	1
Ligation of arteries	11

MedicalMajor White reports.-

The heavy fighting which took place during the past month caused many casualties by gas poisoning, and these cases kept our medical wards moderately full, and a large number had to be accommodated in the surgical wards. The larger proportion were of the mustard gas type, but there were a few affected by phosgene, and a smaller number by the gasses from the H-E shells. Considering the time of the year the number of serious cases was unusually small, and the skin lesions arising from the vesicant action of the mustard gas were remarkably few. The proportion of cases evacuated, however, was high owing to the necessity of keeping beds clear in case of a sudden rush of work. The adoption of a uniform method of treatment of these gas-cases has proved satisfactory, especially for the skin lesions. It has been found more advantageous to exclude all ointments (owing to the ready solubility of the mustard gas in fats, and therefore the liability of the spread by these agents) and the most useful local applications have been the alkaline washes, calamine lotion or even a simple dusting powder.

A few cases of nephritis and albuminuria were under treatment, but the history obtained in most of them showed a previous attack. Very few cases of true influenza came under observation showing that the recent epidemic had apparently disappeared as quickly as it had come on. The number of Surgical Chest cases under treatment last month was the largest for some time past. they presented their usual ~~features~~ interesting features and the majority of them required very careful daily examination. From the Base hospital point of view of these cases we are of opinion that early surgical interference in these cases is to be deprecated, and that in most instances simple aspiration even in the infected states of haemothorax may be all that is necessary. Of the neurological cases there were, with one exception (an interesting case of diffuse myelitis of syphilitic origin, of traumatic origin.

Several spinal cord injuries came under observation, mostly due to contusion of the cord, but one death was due to a high cervical lesion from fracture dislocation. Two cases of haemorrhage into the cauda equina were (and still are) under treatment.

Of the head injuries some interesting cases came under observation. One case had a transient hemiplegia from ~~haemorrhage~~ contusion, and subsequently a definite pressure hemiplegia from haemorrhage. He was operated upon and recovered completely.

The only fatal case was in a thro and thro wound, the bullet penetrating in its course both occipital lobes, one of which was badly destroyed.

Pathological

Captain Forshaw reports.—The usual routine work proceeded uninterruptedly. The following examinations were made

Blood cultures, ordinary.....3.	Wasserman.2
Donors for transfusion.25	Sputa65
Leucocyte counts32	Urines109
Malaria examinations.....13	Faeces.....22
Widal... ..25	Throat swabs.....8
Pleural fluids... ..4.	C.S.Fluid.....1
Miscellaneous.....4.	T.A.B.Inocs....12

In addition to the blood cultures some special anaerobic cultures have been attempted from Trench fever cases and are still proceeding. A number of blood film examinations of these cases have been made.

The T.A.B. inoculations have shown a remarkable falling off during the month.

Thirteen deaths were reported and 9 pm examinations were carried out and 6 amputation cases were examined bacteriologically. Some of these are still under investigation.

The specimens for museum necessarily accumulate in an irregular manner, but some excellent specimens from 13 different subjects have been preserved this month. Records of these have been kept as fully as can be obtained, in some cases with X ray prints and colour transparencies.

This part of the work has only just begun and will increase in quantity and value as the work goes on.

Reduced prints from 91 X-ray negatives have been made for sending with the patients. This enables the original negatives to be kept as records. At present the only colour photos are some colour transparencies of pathological specimens and if the coloured prints are made as well or instead the value of the specimens will be increased considerably, but materials have not yet been supplied to us for coloured prints.

X-ray department.

A total of 280 cases were dealt with by the officer in charge of this department - Captain Parkhouse - and he reports the apparatus as working satisfactorily. The rooms in use are now, in conformity with the latest instructions, painted white or very pale gray. This is to be done to all X-ray rooms in this area and the instruction arises out of the fact that several X-ray workers have recently been returned to England suffering from Phthisis.

W. Arthur. Powell

Colonel

O.C. No 2 Aust. Gen. Hosp.

Diary for September 1918

Unused.
