

**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/54/23

**Title:** 11th Australian Field Ambulance

December 1918



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**Australian Imperial Force.**

**WAR DIARY**

OF

11<sup>th</sup> Aust. Field Ambulance

FOR

Month of December 1918



Signature of Officer compiling

Mewers Lt Col

Signature of Officer Commanding

Mewers Lt Col.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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
TAWLLY	1st.		Four men of the Unit were evacuated to the 3rd Aust. Gen Hospital suffering with severe Influenza.	x mrl
	2nd.		The weather has fined up considerably now.	x mrl
	3rd.		Weather still remains good.	x mrl
	4th.		An inter-unit Hockey match was played this afternoon in the grounds behind the Chateau.	x mrl
	5th.		Weather still fine.	x mrl
	6th.		Weather still good although foggy and misty at night.	x mrl
	7th		Football match was played this afternoon between the 43rd Battalion and the Ambulance. The former were successful by four points.	x mrl
	8th		Advice was received that the Division would move to a different area within 48 hours, and we were to make provision accordingly.	x mrl
	9th		Memorandum received from A.D.M.S. that Major Brummitt was to proceed to Australia on transport duty on the 10th inst	x mrl
	10th		In accordance with A.D.M.S. instructions we moved from Tawilly to BIENCOURT( OISEMONT AREA).	x mrl
	11th		The Ambulance is billeted in an untenanted Chateau- situated in about the centre of the village. Details are given in Appendix 1.	x mrl
	12th.		Major Brummitt left for Australia today.	x mrl
	13th		The weather is bad- rain falling during the night and early morning.	x mrl
	14th.		Colonel Lewers proceeded to Paris on Leave.	x mrl
	15th.		The weather is still very bad and the village roads muddy and dirty.	x mrl
	16th.		Educational Classes recommenced today. Weather still bad.	x mrl
	17th.		The Literary and Debating Society held an evening in the Recreation Room on Impromptu speeches. It was well attended.	x mrl
			Weather still bad.	x mrl
			Notification that a Board would sit tomorrow on men considered unfit for service in the Field.	x mrl
			Medical Board held in accordance with instructions received yesterday. The cases were reviewed by A.D.M.S.	x mrl

(A. 10266) Wt W 5500/P713 750,000/1/5 Sch. 92 Forms/C2118/16

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Brass heading not required.)

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			Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Place	Date	Hour		
Tailly	Dec 1919			
	18th		"C" Section relieved "B" Section on duty in Hospital. Each section's tour of duty consists of one week. Letter was received from Brigade calling attention to men going outside the areas of Division without passes.	x ML
	<del>19th</del>			
	19th.		Captain Faithfull transferred to 3rd Divisional Engrs. Notice received from A.D.M.S. that the Ambulances would be reduced to 2 Sections. Weather still boisterous- with rain and heavy hailstorms.	x ML
	20th.		Weather still wretched.	x ML
	21st.		The day has been cloudy and dull.	x ML
	22nd.		C.O. returned from leave in Paris.	x ML
	23rd.		Leave Allotment to England increased. Raining and windy today.	x ML
	24th.		Weather still bad. Extensive preparations were made for the Christmas dinner tomorrow. Advice received that Mr Maxwell was to return to Australia.	x ML
	25th.		The weather cleared up beautifully during the night and the atmosphere this morning was nice and clear. Details of the Christmas Dinner are given in Appendix I.	x ML
	26th.		Captain Maclure proceeded to 3rd Pioneers as Acting R.M.O. Frost covered the ground this morning.	x ML
	27th.		Weather changed during the night and today was again wet and cold.	x ML
	28th		The reorganisation of the Unit has now been completed for 2 Sections. Surplus equipment, stores, wagons, etc., will be returned tomorrow. Warrant Officer HEPWORTH taken on strength as Q.M.	x ML
29th		Captain Love taken on strength from No A.G.H.	x ML	
30th		Mr Maxwell left the Unit today en route to Australia.	x ML	
		Weather finer today.	x ML	
31st		Weather fine at times. Towards night, rain again set in.	x ML	



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WAR DIARY

of

11th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

for

MONTH OF DECEMBER 1918

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LIST OF APPENDICES.

1. Notes of Interest.

*M. Lewis*

+ Lieut. Colonel.  
C.O. 11th Aust. Field Ambulance.

11th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.-

NOTES OF INTEREST FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER

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- ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- 1st. 4 men of the Unit were evacuated today to the 3rd Aust Gen. Hospital suffering with severe Influenza. The weather has fined up considerably now.
- 2nd. Memo was received from A.D.M.S. asking for nominations of Clerks, Accountants, etc., for Australian Headquarters. Several applications were received. A Football match was played between the 41st Battalion and the Ambulance Team this afternoon, and resulted in a win for the Unit. Weather is still good.
- 3rd. An inter-unit Hockey match was played this afternoon in the grounds behind the Chateau.
- 4th. Nothing of interest to report. Weather fine.
- 5th. & 6th. Weather still good although very foggy and misty at night.
- 7th. This afternoon a football match was played between the 43rd Battalion and the Ambulance. The game evoked much interest, as both teams were high on the tournament list, and the battalion had previously been beaten by the Ambulance. A large number of spectators were at the game. The battalion were successful by four points.
- 8th. Advice was received that the Division would move to a different area within 48 hours, and we were to make provision accordingly.
- 9th. Memorandum received from A.D.M.S. that Major Brummitt was to proceed to Australia on transport duty on the 10th inst.
- 10th. In accordance with orders from A.D.M.S. we moved from TAILLY (HEUCOURT AREA) to BIENCOURT (OISEMENT AREA). The following routine was observed:-  
 Reveille at 05.30; breakfast at 06.00; personnel and transport moved off at 08.00.  
 Packs and blankets were carried under transport arrangement. The march was long, but was done in good time, BIENCOURT being reached at 14.30.  
 Our present location is in an untenanted Chateau- situated in about the centre of the village. Two large outhouses have afforded excellent billets for personnel and also for Quartermaster Store and Motor Transport personnel. The stables, ~~the~~ <sup>at the</sup> left of the Chateau when cleaned out will be excellent housing for the horses.  
 Two large rooms on the ground floor of the building have been turned into wards for accommodation of patients- 24 of which were transported from Taily by Motor Ambulance.  
 Rain set in early during the morning and continued at intervals throughout the march from Taily to Biencourt. The roads were consequently wet and very muddy and marching was not at all pleasant.  
 Major Brummitt left the Unit today en route for Australia.
- 11th. Rain continues throughout the night and during the day. The grounds were cleared up, the necessary sanitary improvements effected, and the stables of the Horse Transport cleaned and made ready for use.
- 12th. Colonel LEWERS, proceeded to Paris on Leave. The weather now is very bad, rainy and high windy and withal very cold. The village is extremely small, situated in low lying ground and possesses no decent roads. The place is consequently very muddy and is also dirty.

*A to the left of*

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12th continued.

There are no facilities for getting water, as the only means of obtaining a supply is by man handling from an adjacent well. It takes four men the greater part of the day to fill the water carts twice.  
Rooms in the Chateau have been made available for Educational Class Rooms and a large loft has been secured for a Recreation Room.  
We have not yet been able to secure a suitable Sports ground, especially for Football.  
Our present accommodation is 24 patients in the Brigade Hospital. We are still evacuating to the 3rd Aust. General Hospital at Abbeville.  
The weather is bad, rain falling intermittently during the day.

13th.

Educational Classes recommenced today.  
Notification was received from A.D.M.S. that Units would occupy their present areas until after Christmas.  
Today has been very wet, cold and windy.

14th.

The Literary and Debating Society held an evening of Impromptu Speeches in the Recreation Room this evening. There was a large attendance.  
Weather still bad- wet and windy.

15th.

Weather still bad.

16th.

Notification that a Board would sit tomorrow on men considered unfit for further service in the Field.

17th.

Medical Board held today to consider men unfit for further service in the Field. 9 men were examined.  
Word was received from A.D.M.S. that owing to lack of transport and the great distance between Brigades, the Football Competition would be discontinued.  
A.D.M.S. reviewed all cases from the Medical Board this afternoon.

18th.

"C" Section relieved "B" Section on duty in the Hospital. Each section's tour of duty consists of one week.  
The weather appears to be fining up now; the sun made its appearance for a short time during the afternoon.  
We commenced the filling in of the Demobilisation Forms among members of the Unit.

~~19th.~~

A Letter was received from Brigade calling attention to men going into areas outside the area without passes.  
The weather is still very bad. During the night it rained heavily. A hailstorm followed and the wind blew a hurricane.

19th.

Captain FAITHFULL transferred to 3rd Divisional Engineers as R.M.O.  
Notice received that Ambulances would be reduced to 2 Sections.  
A Lecture was given this evening by Captain Stump in the Recreation Room on "Capital and Labour."  
Weather still boisterous with rain and heavy hailstorms.

20th.

Weather still wretched.  
A commencement was made on inspection of mobilisation stores equipment etc., with a view to the reduction of the Sections.

21st.

No rain fell today, but the day was cloudy, dull and cold.

22nd.

C.O. returned from Leave to Paris.  
The condition of the roads at present is terrible and all routes seem in need of repair. Our cars are constantly meeting with damages owing to the state of the roads. 4 cars during the week have been put out of action.

23rd.

The Leave Allotment to England has been slightly increased. We are now sending nine men a week, and personnel are going within 12 months of their first leave, for the first time in France.  
The day has been rainy and windy.

24th.

Weather still bad.  
Extensive preparations were begun for dinner tomorrow, killing poultry etc.,.  
Advice received that Mr Maxwell was to return to Australia.

25th.

The weather cleared up beautifully during the night and the atmosphere this morning was beautiful and clear. A slight frost covered the ground, but the warmth of the sun shining from a cloudless sky soon dissipated the faintly white covering. Towards noon it became colder and there was a slight suspicion of snow towards 11.30.  
Patients' Dinner was given at 12 o'clock. A table was laid in one of the wards and seating accommodation for all was found. Full diets were provided with poultry (turkey, geese) ham, and beef, same as personnel and in addition were given port wine etc., in moderation.  
The wards were gaily festooned with bunting and holly (picked in a village nearby).  
After the patients had finished, personnel had dinner at 1.30 p.m. Tables and forms had been constructed by carpenters in the Unit and all found seating accommodation. £100 had been cabled with from the 11th Field Ambulance Sewing Circlex for to be used exclusively for Christmas Cheer. This money allowed of a liberal supply of everything. After the health of the King had been drunk, the C.O. made a short speech after which the toast of the Old Folks at Home was drunk.

26th.

No parades were held today. The weather isn't beautiful; a slight frost covered the ground this morning.  
Captain Maclure proceeded to 3rd Pioneers as Acting R.M.O.

27th.

Weather again bad, raining and cold.

28th.

The reorganisation of the Unit has now been completed for 2 sections. Surplus equipment, stores, wagons etc, will be returned tomorrow.  
No 3405 Warrant Officer HEPWORTH F reported for duty today and was taken on strength as Quartermaster and Hon. Lieut. from today 28.12.18

29th.

Captain LOVE (an original officer of the Unit) reported from 2nd Aust. General Hospital and was taken on the strength of the Unit.

Advice received from A.D.M.S. that owing to the present shortage of cars, Ambulances are to be used as sparingly as possible and to be restricted solely to the evacuation of patients and collection of Medical Stores. Full use is to be made of Horse Transport.  
Owing to the state of the roads more cars have been temporarily put out of action.

30th.

Mr Maxwell left Unit today en route to Australia.  
Weather finer today.

31st.

Weather fine at times. However towards night the sky became cloudy and rainy.

W B Jewell  
Major.

Off. i/c War Records.  
11th Australian Field Ambulance.