

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/54/24

Title: 11th Australian Field Ambulance

January 1919



AWM4-26/54/24

CONFIDENTIAL.

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

11th Aust. Field Ambulance

FOR

Month of January 1919.

Signature of Officer compiling

Lt Col.

Signature of Officer Commanding

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
	January 1919			
	1st.		The weather has been very bad and raining.	1102
	2nd.		Hockey match was played this afternoon between "A" & "B" Sections	1102
	3rd.		Captain Love detailed as A/R.M.O. to 41st Battalion.	1102
	4th.		Weather still fine.	1102
	5th.		Prince of Wales visit postponed until later in the month.	1102
	6th.		Capt. R.L. KENIHAN (M.O.) reported for duty from No 2 A.G.H.	1102
	7th.		Capt. LUKE reported from A/R.M.O. 44th Battalion. Weather good.	1102
	8th.		Lt Col LEWERS relieved A.D.M.S. proceeding on leave. 14 men of the Unit proceeded to 3rd Divisional Wing en route to Australia.	1102
	9th.		The weather is now beautiful and fine.	1102
	10th.		Lt. HEPWORTH proceeded on leave today.	1102
	13th.		Medical Board sat today- Major Meyers was President and Capt Luke, member.	1102
	14th.		Further reduction in the establishment of Field Ambulances.	1102
	15th.		Capt. Luke proceeded to 3rd M.G. Battn as A/R.M.O.	1102
	17th.		A Special Medical Board was held today.	1102
	18th.		Major NORTH R.B. left the Unit today for duty in England.	1102
	20th.		Capt. J.A. LOVE transferred to 9th Field Ambulance.	1102
	21st/24th.		Weather fine but cold.	1102
	25th.		Snow fell for a couple of hours today.	1102
	26th.		Iron Rations of Unit consumed by advice of S.O. 11th Brigade.	1102
	27th.		Medical Board for examination of men considered unfit, appointed.	1102
	28th.		Captain Maclure has been appointed the Cadre Officer of the Unit.	1102
	29th.		Medical examination of all ranks commenced today in accordance with Demobilisation circular.	1102
	30th.		Advice received as to the various allotments for the next quota for demobilisation. 52 of the Unit included.	1102
	31st.		Advice as to numbers of second quota received. 82 of all ranks of this Unit are included. Today has been exceptionally cold- probably the coldest day experienced this winter.	1102

Lt. Col.
11th Aust. Field Ambulance

D. D. & L., London, E.C.
(A8001) Wt. W1771/M2031 750,000 5/17 Sch. 52 Forms, C2118/14

11th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

NOTES OF INTEREST FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919.

BIENCOURT

- 1st. The weather has been very bad and raining. Hockey was played this afternoon.
- 2nd. Another hockey match was played this afternoon, between "A" and "B" Sections. The former won. Weather finer.
- 3rd. Captain Love was detailed as Acting R.M.O. to the 41st Battn. Advice was received from Comforts Fund that there were 10 cases of Comforts to be collected on behalf of this Unit.
- 4th. Weather still fine.
- 5th. Advice received from A.D.M.S. that the visit of the Prince of Wales had been postponed until probably the 21st inst.
- 6th. Captain Kenihan R.L. (M.C.). reported for duty from No 2 A.G.H. The weather still remains good.
- 7th. Captain Luke returned from Acting R.M.O. 44th Battalion. Instructions received from Division that particular attention was to be paid to the appearance of men leaving Units on leave. Weather very good.
- 8th. Lt. Col Lewers proceeded to relieve A.D.M.S. while on leave. 14 men of the Unit today proceeded to 3rd Divisional Wing en route to Australia. This quota embraced men who embarked from Australia between June 1915 and May 1916. The Hockey Team journeyed to Abbeville and played the 3rd Aust. General Hospital during the afternoon.
- 9th. One more Other rank proceeded to 3rd Divisional Wing en route to Australia. A Sapper from the 3rd Divisional Engineers has been detailed to assist in the drainage of the town. We are now experiencing beautiful weather.
- 10th. Lieutenant HEPWORTH (Q.M.) proceeded on Leave to England today. A supply of tobacco and cigarettes were received from the Australian Comforts Fund and were greatly appreciated as the supply of these from Retail Canteens has been very limited for some considerable time. Weather is still fine.
- 11th. Weather is still good. Football practice was indulged in during the day by several of the men. Duckboards have been obtained and laid down around the Chateau grounds. This has effected a great improvement and makes the various routes much more dry to walk on. The mud had become an nuisance and was inches deep.
- 12th. Leave allotment has been increased to England; we are now sending 9 men a week. Personnel are now going within twelve months of their last leave. The port of embarkation has been changed from Boulogne to Calais.
- 13th. A Medical Board consisting of Major Meyers (President) and Captain Luke (Member) sat at OISEMONT today and reviewed 15 cases of men considered unfit for further service in the Field. 10 cases were ~~examined~~ passed as unfit. Leave to Amiens at the rate of 2 men per week is now

13th Contd.

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being granted to the Unit.
A leather wallet (for letters) was issued to the personnel today - a gift from the Y.M.C.A.
The weather is good - fine mild days being experienced.

14th.

Under instructions from Corps all equipment, etc., of Resuscitation Team was returned to various depots. All supplies (with exception of a few minor articles) were obtained from Australian sources.
Owing to Machine Gun Battalion moving to GAMACHES, we have now to collect their sick, and (pending the arrival of a Dental Unit) we are also to do their dental work.
Advice received of a further reduction in the establishment of Field Ambulances. The alteration leaves "A" AND "B" Sections the same as before reorganisation, with the complete deletion of "C" Section.
Reported completion of the new establishment today.
With regard to equipment, A.D.M.S. were notified that the equipment of A & "B" Sections was supplied in Australia and "C" Section from Imperial Ordnance.
Advice received that permission had been given for use of oil drum braziers. This issue is to be made soon.
The weather remains fair.

15th.

Opinion asked for by the A.D.M.S. as to the advisability of issuing an extra set of underclothing from the Divisional Baths to all ranks. Reply sent that it was considered advisable.
Captain LUKE was detailed as Acting R.M.O. to the 3rd Machine Gun Battalion in lieu of Captain MACCALLUM, proceeding on leave.
Muster aprade held at 2 p.m. when the C.O. and Major MEYERS addressed the Parade on Demobilisation and Repatriation.
Weather is fine and sunny.

16th.

No leave was permitted for Abbeville today by order of Division.
The weather kept fine during the day but changed during the night, when there was heavy rain and hailstorms.

17th

A Special Medical Board was held today.
An indoor Tournament consisting of Bridge, Chess and Draughts took place this afternoon between representatives of the Ambulance and the 43rd Battalion. The Battalion won the chess and draughts and the Ambulance were successful in the bridge.
Weather again fine.

18th

Major R.B. NORTH left the Unit today and proceeded to England to take up duties under D.M.S., A.I.F.
Weather good.

19th.

Dental Unit No 64 arrived from England to take up duty with the 3rd Machine Gun Battalion. They were billeted here during the night prior to proceeding to GAMACHES where the Battn. is located.
The weather is fine but very cold.

20th.

Captain J.A. LOVE has been transferred to the 9th Field Ambulance.
A heavy frost fell during the night and today is exceedingly cold although fine.

21st.

Weather good although cold.

22nd.

Weather good.

23rd

Weather good, but cold.

24th

Memo received from Administrative Headquarters re loss by robbery of equipment and other material by civilians or soldiers. So far nothing has thus been lost in the Unit.
Snow fell today for a couple of hours.

11th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

3.

25th.

Frost followed upon the snow of yesterday and the surrounding country is carpeted white with the frozen snow.
1 Other rank was despatched to the 3rd Divisional Wing for early repatriation.

26th.

Advice received from Supply Officer, 11th Brigade, that the Iron Rations of the Unit were to be consumed, and that a corresponding amount would be subtracted from the daily issue over a period of seven days.
Today has been cold.

27th

12 cases of comforts were received from Australian Comforts Fund.
Special Medical Board appointed to examine men with disabilities in accordance with Demobilisation Instructions.
Leave to Medical Officers suspended in order to proceed with the examination on men as per Instructions No 11.

28th.

Captain Maclure has been appointed to command the cadre of this Unit.

29th

Weather cold. Snow fell during the night.
In accordance with Demobilisation and Repatriation Instructions No 11, the medical examination of all ranks was commenced today under the supervision of Captain Maclure.
The "Precedence Roll" (order of demobilisation) was completed today. This roll had been entrusted to a Committee to make up. Delay has occurred owing to the ambiguity of Instructions issued on the subject by the Demobilisation authorities.

30th.

6 Hockey players went to Abbeville to complete a team with the 3rd Aust. General Hospital against the South African Hospital. A commandant was asked if accommodation for 3 Officers and 130 Other Ranks could be found at TRANSLAY or neighbouring villages. Letter sent to A.D.M.S. that it would be impossible to billet 120 Other Ranks (10th Field Ambulance) with this Unit as the accommodation of the village would not allow of it. Advice received re 3rd Quota of Division for Demobilisation 52 of the Ambulance are included.

31st.

The day has been exceptionally fine- probably the coldest day experienced this winter.
Demobilisation Circular received with information that our second quota to be demobilised will embrace 82 of all ranks. Notification received from A.D.M.S. that all leave to ENGLAND had been cancelled.

M. Lewis
Lieut. Colonel.
C.O. 11th Aust. Field Ambulance

11th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH OF JANUARY 1919

Satisfactory progress to report for month.

FOODSTUFFS. A.S.C.

According to rations authorised percentages have been well up to the average of previous reports. Potatoes were purchased locally with money obtained from Regimental Funds.

FODDER A.S.C.

SUPPLY Satisfactory.

FUEL A.S.C.

A fair issue of wood and coal has been received from the supply dump. A quantity of timber was obtained from Saw Mills in locality and proved a great assistance to the heating and cooking arrangements of the Unit

D.A.D.O.S.

Difficulty has been experienced during the month in obtaining several items. Indents submitted for clothing have been supplied in small installments, and a large number of indents still await completion. The non arrival of sole leather has been a difficult problem to contend with.

Particulars of supplies as follows:-

Soft Soap	lbs 56.	Soda Crystals	lbs 28	Jackets S.D.	10
Soap yellow	" 28	Pantalons prs (MS)	10	Puttess prs	20
Nails Hob	12	Boots, ankle	16	Hats felt	3
Rivets iron	12	Cogs, frost $\frac{1}{2}$	15	Patches color	200
Shoes horse	prs 66	Brassards	80	Pincers ctg.	1
Crosses Geneva	30	Rasps 16"	4	Blankets G.S.	200
Bags Nose	20	Knives, table	50	Kettles C.Oval	2

AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS.

Small quantities of various items were obtained from Red Cross Branch of 3rd Aust. General Hospital, the bulk of supplies being obtained from Australian Red Cross Depot, Boulogne.

Quantities of the following items were received:-

Tobacco.	Tooth brushes	Cigarettes	Tooth powder.
Biscuits	Nail brushes	Chocolate	Pyjamas.
Shirts	Preserved fruit.	Reading matter	Playing cards.
Undershirts	Hair brooms	Toilet soap	Towels
Mops	Hosp. Bags.	Primus Stove pts.	"Atoz" lamp burners

These are for the exclusive use and benefit of patients.

AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUND.

The following articles and foodstuffs were received during the month and distributed amongst personnel.

Diaries 230,	Cards 230,	Socks, bags 1	Cocoa and milk c/s 8
Milk cases 2	Puddings 4	Preserved Fruit 2	cases Oatmeal 2 cs.
Custard powder lbs 28	Sugar bags 2	Oatmeal c/s 2	
Cake c/s 1	Oxo tins 3		

11th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE COMFORTS FUND

Received 1 parcel containing socks-prs. 24 for distribution to personnel.

S.A. LEAGUE OF LOYAL WOMEN.

Received 1 parcel containing 27 prs. of socks for distribution.

RETURNS Waste paper 104 lbs. Cardboard 35 lbs. Solder 6lbs. Cartons 10lbs. Fat. Amount despatched to Railhead 100 lbs.

31.1.19

Hepworth Lt. Quartermaster.