

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/58/26

Title: 15th Australian Field Ambulance

June 1918



AWM4-26/58/26

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10

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

FOR

June 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

W. Smith Lt. Colonel

Signature of Officer Commanding

W. Smith Lt. Colonel

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE LES ALENÇONS	1-6-18		No entry necessary	RB
	2-6-18		CAPTAIN W. L. SMITH, M.C. CAPTAIN A. W. LE SOUËF, N° 2598, SGT. A. H. INDER and N° 17448 SGT. T. M. FARRELL temporarily detached for course of training at AUST. CORPS GAS SCHOOL. N° 6921 PTE J. T. REES evacuated to C.C.S. sick and struck off strength.	RB
	3-6-18		N° 34 PTE H. B. CLAXTON transferred to A. R. O. C. AUST. CORPS vide Authority - D. A. G. A. I. F. memo 187/2921 dated 27-5-18. N° 7677 PTE W. H. HILL taken on strength from Hospital ex A. G. B. D.	RB
	4-6-18		No entries necessary	RB
	8-6-18		CAPTAIN W. L. SMITH, M.C. CAPTAIN A. W. LE SOUËF, N° 2598, SGT. A. H. INDER and N° 17448 SGT. T. M. FARRELL ceased to be detached to AUST. CORPS GAS SCHOOL on rejoining Unit. N° 8888 PTE. T. FERRIS rejoined Unit from Hospital ex A. G. B. D.	RB
	9-6-18		N° 3355, PTE. G. H. EXELL evacuated to C.C.S. sick and struck off strength.	RB
	10-6-18		CAPTAIN G. O. ROBERTSON appointed R.M.O. 57 th AUST. INFANTRY BATTALION struck off strength.	
			CAPTAIN B. McN. BEITH transferred from R.M.O., 57 th AUST. INFANTRY BATTALION taken on strength Authority - A. D. M. S., 5 th AUST. DIVISION memo J. 17/62 dated 7-6-18.	RB
	11-6-18		N° 6007, PTE. L. F. DESHON temporarily detached for Infantry course at 15 th AUST. INFANTRY BRIGADE SCHOOL.	RB

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ALLONVILLE	12-6-18		<p>The following reinforcements are taken on strength ec A.G.B.D. - 19106 PTE. D. McR. GILLIES, 19123 C.H.V. SIMPKINS, 19126, G. STEVENS, 19131, W.H. WHITTEN, 18199, G.B. CONEY, 19229, H. EDE, 19270, A.J. FILSON, 18347, F. FOGARTY, 3298, J.H.N. HILL, 19110, T.M. KERR, 19627, J. QUIRKE, 19628, R. ROBERTSON, 18522, J.A. SANTWYK, 18528, T. SHEPARD, 19648, S.J. STEEL, 18514, S.B. HARPER, 18365, B. PATTEN, 18320, R.F. STUBBIN, 18548, E.A. WOOD, 18421, P.C. STAFFORD, No. 9891 LCE/CA L.H. PARKER temporarily detached for course at 15th AUST. INFANTRY BGDE. SCHOOL <i>KB</i></p>	
QUERRIEU	14-6-18		<p>No entries necessary. <i>KB</i></p>	
	15-6-18		<p>No entries necessary. <i>KB</i></p>	
	16-6-18		<p>No. 92 PTE. J. EHRAAT is taken on strength from 3rd A.G.H. No. 8852 PTE. J.L. PENFOLD & evacuated to C.C.S. sick struck off strength. Rejoined Unit from Hospital ec A.G.B.D. No. 3002, LCE/CA H.C. ROBBINS and No. 1111 17011, PTE. O.K. CRISFORD. <i>KB</i></p>	
	17-6-18		<p>CAPTAIN J.L. DIGGLE is taken on strength vide A.D.M.S. 5th AUST. DIVISION instructions. No. 9019, PTE. C. RANDFORD transferred to 3rd A.G.H. struck off strength. <i>KB</i></p>	
	18-6-18		<p>Rejoined Unit from Hospital ec A.G.B.D. No. 31, CPL W.J. WILSON and 2218, PTE. H.W. MILLS. <i>KB</i></p>	
	19-6-18		<p>No entries necessary. <i>KB</i></p>	
	20-6-18		<p>CAPTAIN A.W. LE SOUEF appointed P.M.O. 60th AUST. INFANTRY BATTALION, struck off strength vide A.D.M.S.</p>	
			<p>5th AUST. DIVISION memo J.16/68 dt. 17-6-18. The following men wounded in Action <i>KB</i></p>	<p>2</p>

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

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
QUERRIEU	20.6.18		(gassed) evacuated to C.C.S and struck off strength, No 4304, PTE. H. O. LANG, 15 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE and No 1481, M.T. Dvr. A.L. BREARLEY, No 5 AUST. M.T. Coy. attached 15 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE. Rejoined Unit from Hospital etc. A.G.R.D. No 8913. PTE. W. G. NICHOLL.	
	21/23.6.18		No entries available.	
	24.6.18		No 155, WARRANT OFFICER (CLASS I) H. BURGESS taken on strength from 13 th AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE under D.A.G. A.I.F. No. 151/24/302 dated 20.6.18.	
	25.6.18		No entry necessary.	
	26.6.18		No 2967 TEMPY S/SGT BURGESS, N.C.T. is promoted S/SGT in place of No 2998 S/SGT MILES, W.W. struck off strength, dated 22.6.18 (authorities JMS AIF memo 2M. 1004/4/30 d. 22/6/18)	
	27.6.18		No entry necessary.	
	28.6.18		No entry necessary.	
	29.6.18		1 NCO and 28 OTHER RANKS, Stripped Beavers are detached to 10 th Aust Field Ambulance, AIF dated 27.6.18.	
	30.6.18		No entry necessary.	
			Kenneth Smith Lt. Col. 10 th Aust Field Ambulance	

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WAR DIARY

OF

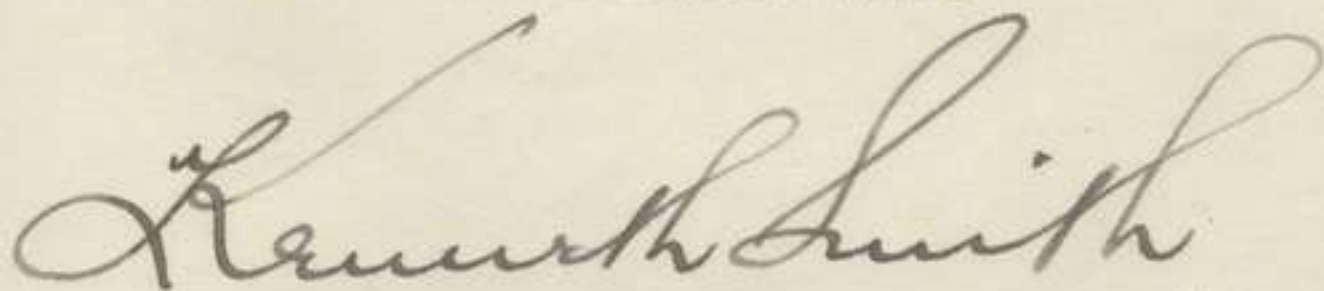
15TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE, A.I.F.

FOR

JUNE, 1918.

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
	Daily Report (Appendix to accompany War Diary) for June 1918.
	Movement Order No.9 for 1-6-18.
	" " No.10 " 15-6-18.
	Syllabus of Training 3-6-18.
	Report of Horse Transport Officer.
	" by Captain W. L. Smith M.C. on Mechanical Transport.
	Monthly Report of Quarter Master with Menu attached.
	Report by Major J. D. Norris on Improved Method of Application of Thomas Splint. Drawings attached to Original only.
	Report by Captain S. T. Appleford on Treatment of Scabies at 5th Divisional Baths.
	Copy of Report to A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division re Epidemic of Influenza. Graph attached to Original only.
	Chart showing number of cases passed through Main Dressing Station from 15-6-18 to 30-6-18.
	Chart showing Mileage, Petrol consumed, Patients carried and Cars running of 15th Australian Field Ambulance Motor Trans- port for month of June 1918. (Original only)



.....Lieut. Colonel.
 C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

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Appendix to accompany WAR DIARY for June, 1918.

- 1-6-1918. "A" Section march out from LES ALENCONS at 10-30 a.m. and proceeded to G.12.a.central (Sheet 62D) and took over site in Bois de Mai near ALLOVILLE from 4th Australian Field Ambulance. The Ambulance Post in the village of ALLOVILLE was closed and a post opened in the Wood at G.12.a.central at 4 p.m.
- 2-6-1918. "B" and "C" Sections moved out from LES ALENCONS at 8 a.m. being relieved by the 12th Australian Field Ambulance and proceeded to G.12.a.central arriving at 9-30 a.m. Day occupied in pitching Camp and in constructing bivouacs. A small Hospital of 2 Operating and 4 Bell tents was pitched. 1 Operating tent fitted up as a theatre and kept ready for any emergency. All tents, bivouacs and shelters were well dug in as a precaution against enemy bombing raids.
- 3-6-1918. Major Norris sent to inspect and report on CARDONETTE Baths.
- 4-6-1918. A.D.M.S., 5th Australian Division, inspected the Camp site. Short drill programme commenced.
- 5-6-1918. Half of Unit marched down to Lagoon outside QUERRIEU where a swimming parade was held. A start made with construction of bomb proof horse lines. CARDONETTE Baths started working on afternoon. 1 Medical Officer, 1 Staff Sergeant and 1 Other Rank opened a Scabiæ Treatment Centre (report appended).
- 6-6-1918. Scheme of employment of Reserve Brigade in event of enemy attack received. The ground over which the Ambulance might be working - FRECHENCOURT - ST.GRATIEN line was inspected and lines of evacuation discussed by the Officers. Swimming parade held for half of Unit.
- 7-6-1918. Special - Nil. Swimming parade for half of Unit held.
- 8-6-1918. The Unit combined with the 58th Australian Infantry Battalion and a very successful Sports Meeting was held. Swimming Parade for half of the Unit held during the morning.
- 9-6-1918. Special - Nil. Swimming parade for half of Unit held.
- 10-6-1918. The 15th Australian Infantry Brigade Sports were held. The Unit was well represented and representatives were placed in the following events -
 High Jump - (2 equal - first).
 Throwing the cricket ball - First and third.
 Wrestling on Horseback (team of six) - Second.
 Mile - Third.
- 11-6-1918. The D.G.M.S., Australia, accompanied by D.M.S., A.I.F. visited the Unit in the afternoon and looked around the Camp Area.
- 12-6-1918. Unit passed through CARDONETTE Baths.
- 13-6-1918. Special - Nil.
- 14-6-1918. Major Norris visited 5th Australian Field Ambulance and made all arrangements re relief on 15th instant.
- 15-6-1918. Unit moved in accordance with attached Movement Order and took over the M.D.S., "C" Divisional Area from 5th Australian Field Ambulance. Move completed by 10 a.m. The M.D.S. is situated in a Small Chateau and outhouses at H.10.a. and b. (Sheet 62D). The buildings are rather scattered but lend themselves well to the purpose of an M.D.S. They extend along one side of the QUERRIEU - ST.GRATIEN road for about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile. Sketch appended.

16-6-1918.

The Unit is suffering from an epidemic of Influenza which commenced on 11th instant while in the Bois de Mai. A graph is appended showing the number of patients passing through the Station. The Epidemic of Influenza has attacked the troops in this neighbourhood, as numbers are passing through each day.

Two Sunbeam Ambulance Cars and one Ford Ambulance Car are detached for duty with the 14th Australian Field Ambulance who are running the A.D.S. and forward area.

17-6-1918.

Special - Nil.

18-6-1918.

The Corps Commander accompanied by the D.D.M.S., Australian Corps visited the M.D.S. and inspected the various Offices.

19/

24-6-1918.

Special - Nil. There have been very few wounded passing through the Station. The epidemic of Influenza has almost died out as far as the Unit itself is concerned.

25-6-1918.

The D.D.M.S., Australian Corps, visited the Station mainly in regard to the evacuation of Walking Sick and Wounded. As no lorries pass the Station the question of having a spur from the Deccaville run into the Station was discussed but decided against. This line runs back to POULAINVILLE where it joins the Standard Gauge. This could be used for conveying patients to C.C.S. at Vignacourt. If lorries are to be used for Walking Wounded they have to be conveyed to the QUERRIEU-AMIENS Road at H.16.c.central (Sheet 62D) where a small barn is held by a couple of men of this Unit. From ~~km~~ here the lorries convey them to No. 1 Corps Relay Post on the FLESSELLES Road - F.9.2.5.5. (Sheet 62D) where they are debussed and fresh lorries picked up. I visited the Post and the Officer i/c. explained that he now has difficulty in finding lorries going to VIGNACOURT as a different circuit is used which misses his location. Arranged with him to only use this route in case of a rush.

26-6-18.

Special. Nil. A Delousing chamber of the Russian type is being constructed alongside the Scabies Treatment centre.

27-6-18.

One N.C.O., and 28 Bearers were detailed to the 14th Australian Field Ambulance at 9 p.m. These are to furnish working parties for the construction of deep dugouts at R.A.P. at J 17. b.3.8. and Relay Post at J 10. b.4.2.

28-6-18.

Special - Nil. The Epidemic of Infleunza still continues and 80 to 100 per day cases pass through the Ambulance from Units located in the vicinity. The collecting of these cases is done by the Horse Ambulances. The Unit is now practically free from the Epidemic.

30-6-18.


Lieut. Colonel.
 C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

30-6-18.

15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

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 Movement Order No. 9 by Lieut-Colonel K. Smith, C.M.G. Commanding.

1. Captain G.O. Robertson with detail of "A" Section Tent Sub-Division will move off at 6-45 p.m. 31-5-18, and proceed to ALLONVILLE and take over Ambulance Post in ECOLE from 4th Australian Field Ambulance.
2. Major J.V. Pearce with remainder of "A" Section personnel will move off at 10-30 a.m. 1-6-18 and proceed to ALLONVILLE WOOD and take over Camp site from 4th Australian Field Ambulance.
3. Headquarters with "B" and "C" Sections will move off at 8 a.m. 2-6-18 and proceed to ALLONVILLE WOOD.
4. The Quartermaster will make all arrangements in regard to rations.
5. The Warrant Officer will detail the necessary fatigues.
6. Routine 2-6-18 :→

Reveille	-	6	a.m.
Breakfast	-	6-30	"
Parade	-	7	"
7. All Other Ranks must carry full equipment.

Kenneth Smith

.....Lieut-Colonel.

C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

Issued at 2-30 p.m. 31-5-1918.

8.

APPENDIX

Copies to :-

A.D.M.S., 5th Aust. Division. *by Lieut. E. G. ...*

C.O., 4th Aust. Field Ambulance.

C.O. of "A" Section of 4th Aust. Field Ambulance.

Major J.V. Pearce, and ...

Captain G.O. Robertson from ...

Quartermaster

File. "A" Section ...

War Diary (3) ...

Headquarters with "B" and "C" Sections will move off at 8 a.m. 2-6-18

The Quartermaster will make all arrangements in regard to rationing.

The Transport Officer will detail the necessary fatigues.

6	-	Reveille	8-6-18
6-30	-	Breakfast	
7	-	Parade	

All other ranks must carry full equipment.

[Handwritten signature]



15TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE, A.I.F.

MOVEMENT ORDER No 10 by MAJOR J.D.NORRIS for Commanding Officer for
15-6-1918.

The 15th Aust. Field Ambulance will move from its present location, Sheet 62D, G.12.a. Central, and take over the Main Dressing Station, QUERROEU, as follows :-

"C" Section Tent Sub-Division will move off at 8 a.m. and take over the M.D.S. under the direction of Captain B.McN.Beith.

The balance of the Unit less Horse and Mechanical Transport will move off at 9 a.m.

The Horse Transport will move off in charge of the Transport Officer (Major J.V.PEARCE) at 8 a.m.

The Sergeant Cook with officer will move off with Cooks' Limber at 8 a.m.

The Quartermaster will detail 1 N.C.O. to move off with "C" Section, Tent Sub-Division, and take over the Stores at the M.D.S., QUERRIEU.

The Mechanical Transport will report to M.D.S., QUERRIEU, on completion of special duty.

All tents will be struck and returned to Quartermaster's Store by 7-30 a.m. The W.O. will arrange for this work being carried out.

The Transport Manure Dump will be disposed of by burial. The Warrant Officer will detail 1 N.C.O. and 6 men for this duty immediately after breakfast.

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ers

(2)

Officers' Baggage will be ready for loading at 8-30 a.m.

All bivouacs must be ready for inspection by 7 a.m.

Receipts in duplicate for all Stores taken over and handed over will be passed into Orderly Room by 12 noon, 16-6-18.

MARCH DISCIPLINE AND TRAFFIC CONTROL. The attention of Officers in charge of parties is drawn to Fourth Army Routine Order No. 2039 dated 15th May, 1918.

For C.O., 15th Aust. Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

COPIES TO :-

- C.O.
- Transport Officer.
- Captain W.L. Smith, M.C.
- " B. McN. Beith.
- Orderly Officer.
- Quartermaster.
- Warrant Officer.
- War Diary (3)
- File.

+++++

15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

SYLLABUS FOR 9 a.m. PARADE.

9 a.m. to 12 noon.

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY :-

Squad drill with Intervals.
Saluting.
Marching.
Squad Drill in Single Ranks.

THURSDAY :-

Squad Drill in two ranks.

FRIDAY :-

Company Drill.

SATURDAY :-

Company Drill.

Lawrence Smith

.....Lieut-Colonel,

C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.

3-6-1918.

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Report of Officer in Charge of Horse Transport for month ending
30th June 1918.

During the month the Ambulance had two moves, and as the Ambulance was acting in both places as a dressing station, cases were collected from surrounding areas, this, together with the fact that in both places the entire water supply was by means of water carts necessitated a fair amount of work for the transport.

Horses.

~~During the month~~ No casualties occurred amongst the horses, ~~only~~ one horse from kick, was temporarily out of work. Not much time was available for grazing but from time to time grass from road-side was procured to try and obviate this. The end of the month finds all animals in good condition and hardened for a large amount of work.

Shelters.

Shelters were dug for animals at first camping ground as the animals had no protection. This necessitated a large amount of work and fatigue parties from Bearer Sub-Divisions were utilised to enable the work to be completed. At second site, mud walls were already standing round horse lines. These walls were raised where considered necessary and additional traverses were placed in lines so that each six or eight horses were in a separate compartment. At present time the animals have adequate protection from splinters.

Waggons.

During latter part of month painting was recommended and at present time all vehicles have been cleaned and painted except the three Ambulance waggons. It is hoped to arrange for painting of these as soon as possible. No varnish was procurable from Stores, the addition of a small amount of varnish to paint issue would not only add to the appearance of vehicles but in addition make their cleaning much easier.

During month at least one Ambulance wagon was utilised each day for collection of sick and wounded. The end of the month finds two and usually three waggons used daily for same purpose, the Motor transport being utilised for forward work.

Harness.

The men are constantly reminded ~~to~~ to avail themselves of every opportunity of working on harness. The harness is now almost entirely in daily use consequently a great deal of work has been expended to maintain it in first class order. From daily inspection I consider it in first class condition. Repairs have been mainly carried out in this Unit.

Men.

During the last half of month about one half of the men have been sick with Influenza. Several were ill enough to necessitate admission to hospital, this entailed extra work for fit men, this latter was overcome by temporary reinforcements from Bearer Sub-Divisions. The end of the month however finds no cases of sickness amongst transport personnel. No cases were evacuated during month further than Unit hospital and all men are now back on duty.

Inspection.

The transport was inspected by the Inspector General of Economy, "Q" Branch, who expressed himself pleased with ~~things~~ the conditions of things.

.....*J. Pearce*.....Major, A.A.M.C.
15th Australian Field Ambulance, A.I.F.



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Monthly Report by Officer in Charge, Mechanical Transport for month of June 1918.

During the month the whole of the Motor Ambulances have been renovated and repainted by the Motor Drivers attached to the Unit. Two Sunbeams were painted while in shop for overhaul. The detail of the work is as follows -

- Sunbeam Ambulance No.15186. New canvas covering and back curtain. Body repaired. Repainted throughout. May 25th to June 13th 1918.
- Sunbeam Ambulance No.15091. Body repaired and overhauled. New back curtain. Repainted and renovated throughout. June 6th to 13th June 1918.
- Sunbeam Ambulance No.15087. Body recovered with canvas. New back curtain. Repaired and overhauled. Being painted throughout. June 17th to June 30th 1918.
- Ford Ambulance No.15126. Body repaired. Painted and Renovated throughout. May 20th to May 25th 1918.
- Ford Ambulance No.15124. Body recovered and repaired. Renovated and repainted throughout. June 13th to June 17th.
- 2 Sunbeams and repainted by Drivers while in Workshop for engine overhaul.

On the 17th June the cars were inspected by the Chief Inspector of A.I.F., Motor Transport who reported as follows -
"Great credit is due to the N.C.O., i/c of these Ambulances for the condition in which these vehicles were found to be."

On the 15th instant the Unit took over the M.D.S., and 1 Ford and 2 Sunbeams were (running) detached to the Ambulance running the A.D.S., The other cars were used for the collection of local sick until the 20-6-18 when the epidemic of Infleunza among the drivers put all but the cars attached to the A.D.S., out of action.

On the 19-6-18 Briver Brealey A.L., who was driving the Ford Ambulance evacuating from the Windy R.A.P., (J.13.b.3.7.) and the Car Orderly were evacuated "Gassed" (Yellow Cross) caused by a shell bursting a few feet in front of the radiator.

Attached is a graph shewing the work done by the Motor Ambulances of the Unit.



W. R. Smith
.....Captain, A.A.M.C.,
15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

Report of the Quartermaster for month of June 1918.

RATIONS.

The issues during the month have been excellent with the exception of fresh vegetables. I have, however, been able to supplement the issue by purchasing vegetables through the Unit Messing Account.

COOKING.

As supplies have been of good quality, the Unit cooks have provided good meals. Though they work under a great disability in not having the services of a travelling cooker. Considering the great number of patients provided with meals by Field Ambulance it is ~~not~~ a great wonder that travelling cookers have not been provided.

Attached is a copy of Menu for week ending 1st July 1918.

Clothing and Equipment.

The Equipment of the Unit is in good order and complete. All losses by wear and tear have been replaced by indent on Ordnance. The clothing of the personnel is satisfactory, although there is a marked falling off in the quality of Ordnance issues.

Move.

On the 15th instant the Unit took over the Main Dressing Station from the 5th Australian Field Ambulance.

General.

A Buffet was established at the Admission Room and up to the 30th instant 1956 patients have been supplied with Cocoa, biscuits, beef tea and cigarettes.

In addition 26 requisitions for Medical Comforts have been supplied to various Units.

Medicines and Drugs for 15,000 men are supplied weekly from this Unit.

The Falden Disinfector was obtained from Division and is installed in the Scabies Compound where all necessary clothes are. Over 300 sets of Pyjamas have been washed by the Unit and with underpants and singlets drawn from Red Cross I have now sufficient clean clothing for any emergency.



A. F. Schofield
Hon. Lieut. and Q.M.
 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

15TH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE. A.I.F.

MENU FOR WEEK ENDING 1st JULY 1918.

- 25th June:- Breakfast - Porridge, fried bacon, tea.
Dinner - Roast beef, potatoes, tea.
Tea - Meat paste, tea.
Dry Rations. Bread, jam, cheese, pickles.
- 26th June:- Breakfast - Baked mince meat, tea.
Dinner - Boiled meat, mashed potatoes, onion
gravy, tea.
Tea - Tea, Corn flour,
Dry Rations. Bread, butter, jam, tea.
- 27th June:- Breakfast - Porridge, Fried bacon, tea.
Dinner - Curry and Rice, tea.
Tea - Boiled rice, tea.
Dry Rations. Bread, jam, cheese, pickles.
- 28th June:- Breakfast - Porridge, Boiled ham, tea.
Dinner - Roast meat, Roast potatoes, Brown
gravy, tea.
Tea - Tea, Bread and milk.
Dry Rations. Bread, jam, cheese, butter.
- 29th June:- Breakfast - Porridge, Fried bacon, Tea.
Dinner - Boiled beef, mashed potatoes, tea,
gravy.
Tea - Meat and Vegetables Ration, Tea.
Dry Rations. Bread, jam, cheese, Tobacco, Cigarettes
- 30th June:- Breakfast - Porridge, Cold ham, tea.
Dinner - Meat & Vegetables Mince, tea.
Tea - Meat paste, tea.
Dry Rations. Bread, jam, butter, cheese.
- 1st July:- Breakfast - Porridge, Fried bacon, tea.
Dinner - Roast meat, potatoes, gravy, tea.
Tea - Tea.
Dry Rations. Bread, jam, cheese, Sauce, Matches,
Tobacco and Cigarettes.



*A. J. Schofield
Lt Col*

Improved method of application of Thomas Splint in cases of Thigh and Knee injuries as carried out in A.D.S., and M.D.S., of 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

MATERIAL REQUIRED.

- Vide Sketch No. 3.
- (1) Large Thomas ~~size~~ Splint. (Large size for Australians)
 - (2) Suspension Bar.
 - (3) Sinclair Stirrup.
 - (4) Triangular Bandages - 8.
 - (5) Gooch Splinting - two pieces as per sketch.
 - (6) I. R. Tubing. 1 foot.
 - (7) Flannel bandage 4 feet.
 - (8) Dressings.
 - (9) Safety Pins 10. } Omitted in sketch.
 - (10) Shell Dressings 2 or 3.
 - (11) Beatrice Stove.
 - (12) Stretcher.
 - (13) Blankets 3.
 - (14) G. S. Panniers 2.
 - (15) Gauze Bandage 8 yards.
 - (16) Hot Water Bags.

PERSONNEL REQUIRED.

1 Operator and one or two assistants.

THE OBJECTS.

The objects of the method to be described are two-fold viz., Immobilization of the limb, and constant elastic extension in cases of Fracture of Femur or Tibia or of wounds involving the Knee Joint bony surfaces.

INDICATIONS FOR APPLICATION IN THE FORWARD AREA.

- (1) In cases of fractured Femur, except where extensive laceration of buttock and upper thigh muscles precludes the application of the ring of the splint.
- (2) In fractures of Tibia or Femur involving the knee joint.
- (3) In cases of severe lacerated wounds of the thigh muscles.

DESCRIPTION OF MODE OF APPLICATION.

The stretcher is placed on two panniers, so that the head end is lower, by the height of stretcher runners, than the foot end. A Beatrice Stove is then lit and placed on the floor under the centre of the stretcher, care being taken that the heat is not sufficient to scorch the stretcher canvas.

Two blankets are then folded lengthwise into three, and laid alternately on the stretcher, so that each has two folds on the stretcher and one falling to the ground over the sides. In this way a hot air chamber is made for the patient to rest on during the application of the splint.

The patient is now carefully laid on the four folds of the blanket with his head to the lower end of the stretcher. While being moved, his wounded limb is supported and kept extended by the operator and assistant. The third blanket is now folded into two, lengthwise, and placed over the patient's chest.

The manual extension of the limb being maintained meantime, a length of flannel bandage is next applied to the booted ankle as follows - A loop is run round at the level of the malleoli and tied loosely in a simple knot over the internal malleolus, leaving one free end twice as long as the other. The longer end is now brought under the boot in the interval between sole and heel, and brought under and over the first loop by the external malleolus. The two ends of bandage are firmly tied in a loop of about two inches diameter beneath the foot. To this is applied the stout rubber tubing by a slip knot. Extension is now maintained by pulling on

279 the Tubing.

The splint, with five triangular bandages pinned at intervals along the short inner bar, is now threaded on by the assistant, the operator removing and reapplying upper and lower hands successively as the ring passes over the Boot. The second assistant, if available, steadies the thigh at the site of injury. Care must be taken that the ring of the splint abuts on the Tuber Ischii, and, that, when fitted, both bars of the splint lie in a horizontal plane.

Extension still being maintained by pulling on the Rubber Tubing, the middle triangular bandage of the five on the inner bar is now passed under the patients knee, and, a pad of wool intervening between it and the Popliteal space, is tied over the outer bar so that the centre of the joint lies above the plane through the bars of the splint.

The Rubber Tubing is now pulled taut and tied over the notch in the end of the splint. From this stage until the splint is finally fixed to the suspension bar, the whole may be supported by an assistant standing at the foot of the stretcher with one foot on the lower pannier and the end of the splint resting on his knee.

In order to prevent any upward jolting of the limb the upper of the two triangular bandages is looped over the leg just below the knee and firmly tied around the outer bar. The lower of these triangular bandages is then brought under the Tendo Achillis and tied so that both malleoli lie in the plane of the bars. The wound is then exposed for the first time by cutting off clothing or previous dressings and a suitable dressing applied.. This dressing is firmly held in position by two pieces of Gooch Splinting, the shorter being applied behind the leg and secured there by the remaining triangular bandages fixed to the inner splint bar, and the longer applied to the flexor surface of thigh and secured in position by two triangular bandages firmly tied around the whole thigh - the splint bars being included. Care must be taken that the Patella is not injured by pressure.

The foot is now fixed in Sinclair's Stirrup which is sprung on to the (~~xxxxxxx~~) splint bars with the foot piece directed upwards, A figure-of-8 triangular bandage fixes the foot to this and prevents rotation of the limb.

One or two shell dressings are now pressed between the splint ring and the Great Trochanter or Ischial crest.

The suspension bar is then sprung on the stretcher with the grip towards the centre, and the splint is suspended 2 or 3 inches from its upper bar by a length of 3" gauze bandage. The side bars are next firmly tied to the vertical bars of the suspension bar, and the splint secured from upward jolting by being tied to the stretcher handle.

Hot water bottles are then applied, and the doubled blanket from the patient's chest is spread down the length of the body and held in position by pinning over it the folds of blanket previously overhanging the sides of the stretcher.

The above method has two main advantages over any other previously brought to the notice of the designer,

- (1) Fitment of Sinclair's Stirrup above instead of ~~shown~~ below the Thomas, which, with fixation of the foot, prevents rotation of the limb.
- (2) The use of rubber tubing for extension, instead of a Spanish Windlass, thus securing a constant elastic tension.

It should be noted that, with trained operator and assistant, the fitting of a Thomas Splint by above method may be carried out in 4 - 5 minutes.

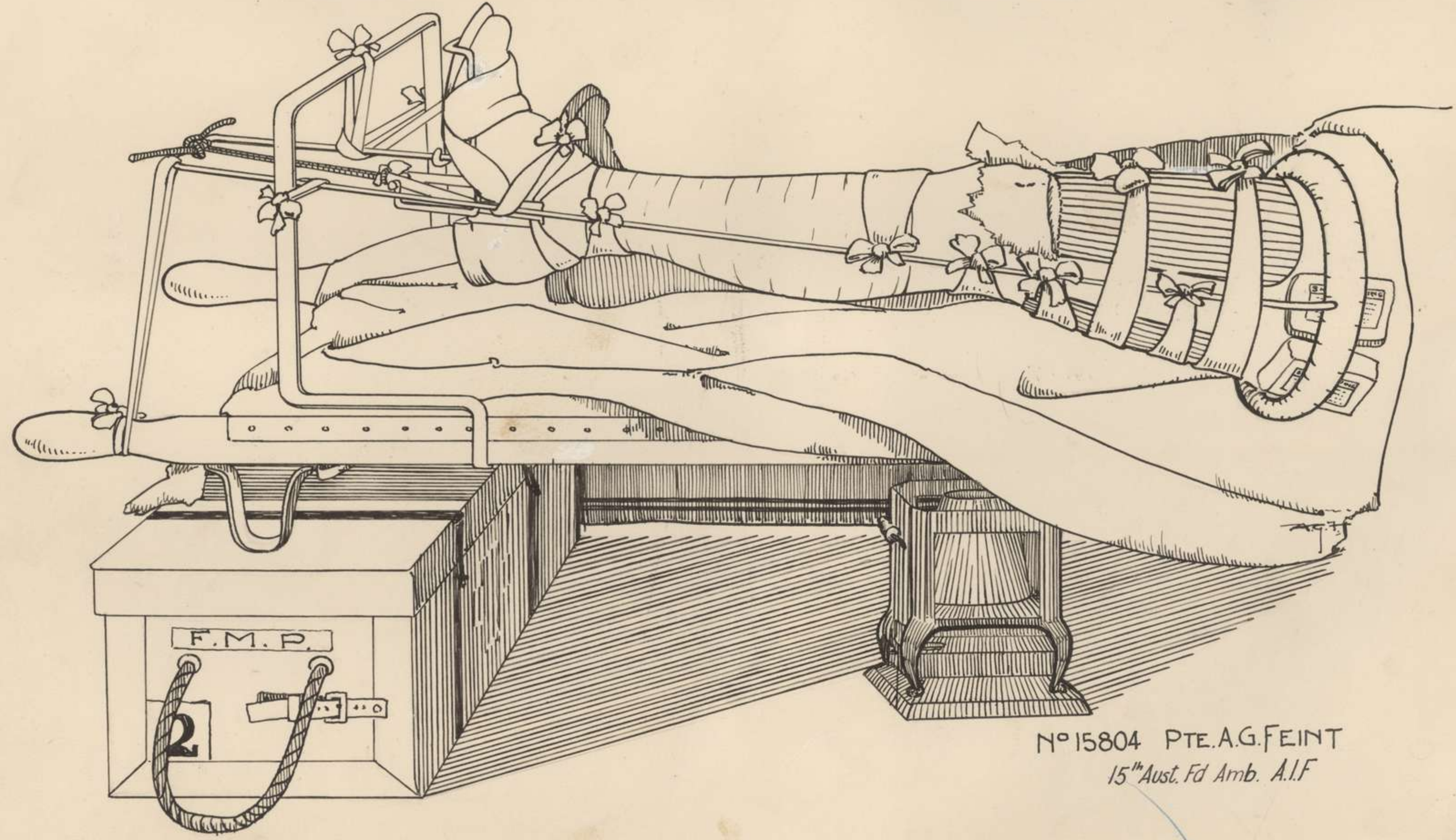
...*Monie*.....Major. A.A.M.C.
15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

APPENDED 3 SKETCHES.

- (1) Lateral view of complete apparatus ~~x~~applied
- (2) Caudal view of extension apparatus.
- (3) Sketch of materials employed, as kept ready for use in Dressing Stations.

FIGURE I

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Nº 15804 PTE. A.G. FEINT
15th Aust. Fd Amb. A.I.F

APPENDIX

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FIGURE II

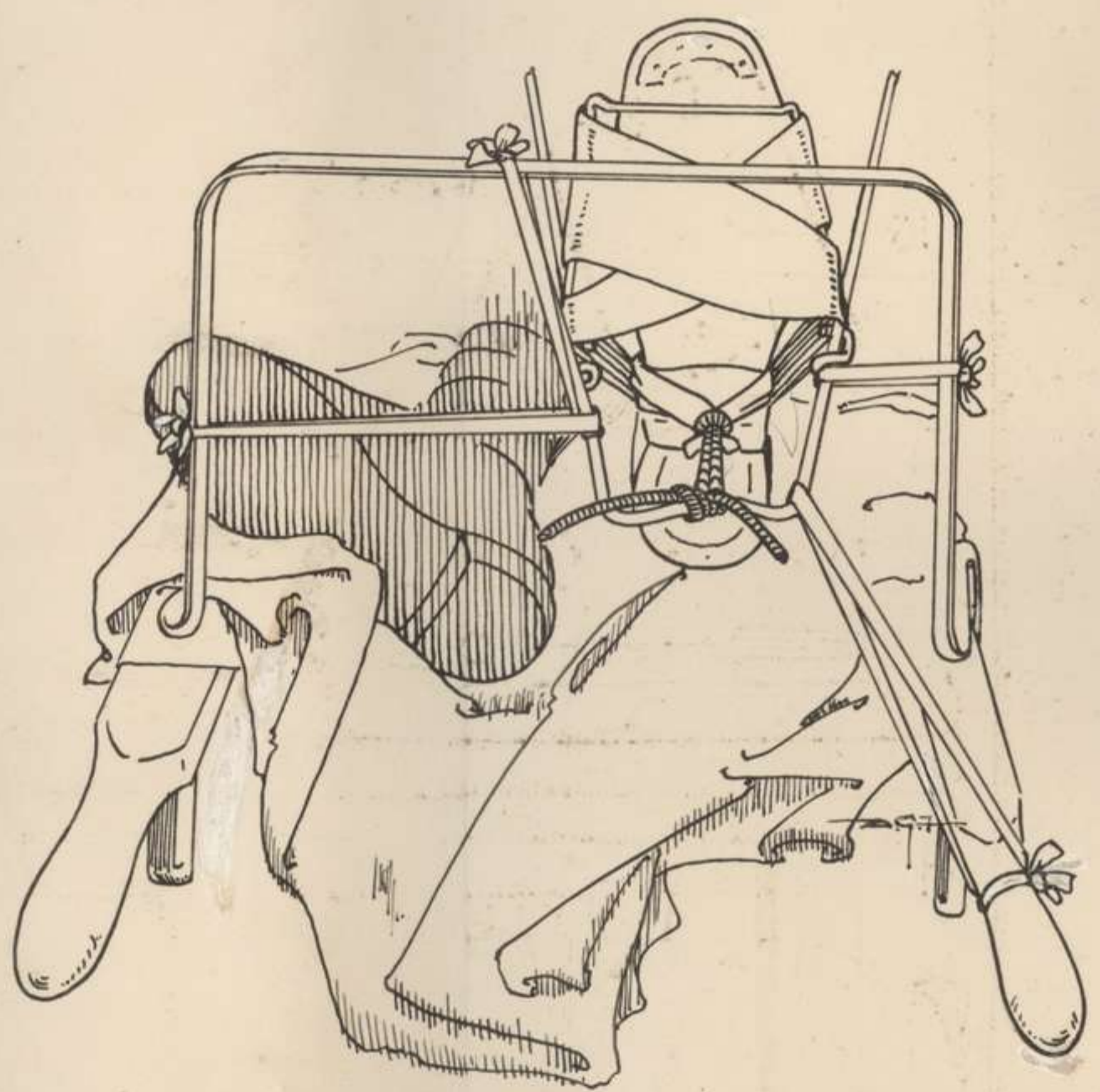
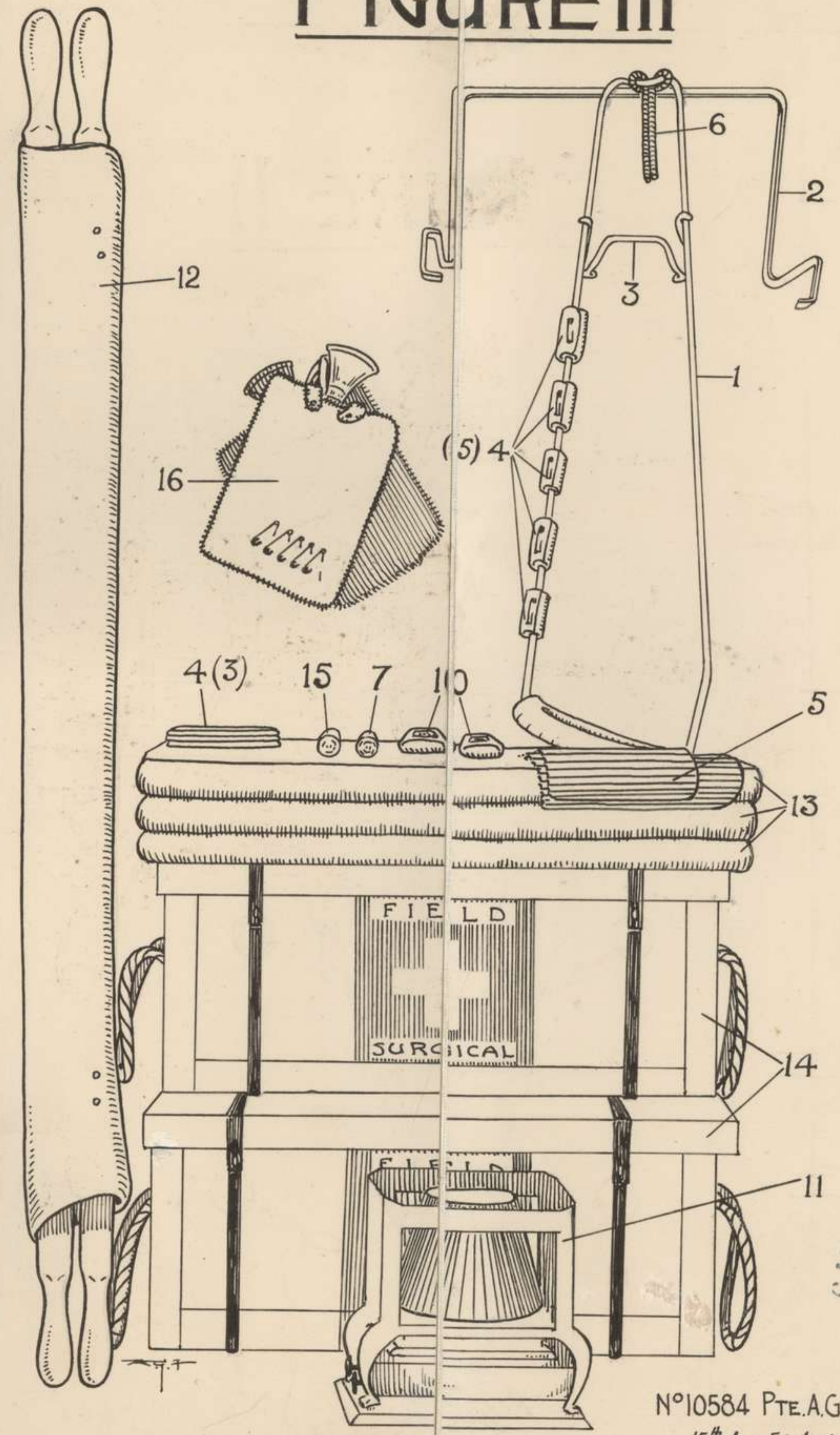


FIGURE III



N°10584 PTE.AGFEINT
15th Aus. Fd. Amb. A.I.F

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TREATMENT OF SCABIES AT
DIVISIONAL BATHS.

During the time that the 5th Australian Division acted as Corps Reserve, (June 6th to June 14th.,) Baths were instituted at CARDONNETTE through which the whole of the 15th Australian Infantry Brigade, a part of the 5th Australian Machine Gun Battalion and a few small Imperial detachments passed.

The idea of spotting and treating early scabies was put into practice.

STAFF.

The Medical staff detailed for this purpose by the C.O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance consisted of 1 Medical Officer, 1 Staff Sergeant Nursing Duties and 1 trained Orderly. These attended the Baths daily during bathing hours.

EQUIPMENT.

The equipment used was of the simplest and consisted of the following -

- (a) Four soft nail brushes for scrubbing the infected skin.
- (b) One small washing bowl.
- (c) One shaving brush for applying Lotio Calcii Sulphurati to the lesions.

For drugs we used -

- (1) Soft Soap.
- (2) Unguentum Sulphuris ($\frac{1}{2}$ B.P. Strength.)
- (3) Lotio Calcii Sulphurati. (1 in 1 of water)
- (4) Unguentum Hydrarg. Ammon.
- (5) Lotio Calamin.

ROUTINE.

The men bathed in squads of 25 at a time. Having undressed and handed in their dirty underclothing they passed into the bath room. At the door, on their way to the showers, they were carefully inspected for skin lesions. The names and particulars were taken of all found to be infected with scabies. They were supplied with nail brushes and instructed to scrub well the affected parts with Lotio Calcii Sulphurati (1 in 1). They then scrubbed themselves well whilst under the hot showers with soft soap. After drying, the lesions were painted with the same lotion and the body thoroughly anointed with Ung. Sulph. The men then received their clean underclothing and a match box full of ointment with instructions to use it next day and the following day report again to the baths. N.C.Os in charge of parties were given notes to their Company Commanders containing -

- (1) A nominal roll of the infected men.
- (2) Information that these men had Scabies.
- (3) Information that their blankets would require immediate disinfection.
- (4) That they ought to report again on the second day for further treatment.

All brushes after use were returned to the bowl containing the 1 in 1 Lot. Calc. Sulph., Any other skin troubles discovered were treated if trivial, other cases reported to their R.M.Os.

RESULTS.

In the nine days we were so employed 3277 men passed through the Baths, 53 cases of Scabies were discovered, mostly early cases. No case was bad enough to need evacuating. Of the 53 cases treated 19 were cured. Of the remainder 12 were discovered on the last two days and did not return to us. The remainder were greatly improved from the one treatment, but still had some lesions on the day of their second bath. There is no doubt that these were cured by their second treatment although we did not see them again. By using the Ung. Sulph. in $\frac{1}{2}$ B.P. strength we saw no instance of sulphur Dermatitis, often more troublesome to the patient than the original Scabies. Its effectiveness at this strength seemed little if at all diminished. In conclusion then, many men report sick with Scabies until it is well advanced. The early cases are brought to light by seeing the men stripped at the Baths. Many of these can be cured with one day's treatment and a majority with two day's treatment. Probably very few on parading on the 3rd day would be found not cured.

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APPENDIX.

To-
A. D. M. S.,
5th Australian Division.

EPIDEMIC OF INFLUENZA.

The epidemic commenced in the Unit on 11th June when two cases occurred. These were quickly followed by others and the incidence of the disease did not begin to fall till the 22nd of June. The great majority of the cases were off duty for five days and had light duty for two days. About 10% were slight cases and did not need admission to the Unit Hospital being off duty for one day only. There have been no complications and the only sequelae noted were -

- (1) Persistence of lassitude for about one week after the temperature became normal.
- (2) Tracheitis with tenacious mucous and paroxysmal cough with a tendency to vomiting. This cough caused a subacute laryngitis.

Description of Course of Attack.

~~(Onset)~~ Onset. The onset was almost invariably sudden being marked by a chill or even a rigor. One case started with urgent vomiting lasting about 6 hours. The onset was quickly followed by headache, giddiness and great malaise.

The temperature varied from 100 to 103° F. The most marked symptoms were - Headache (general), pain in the small of the back extending down the back of the legs and thighs, giddiness, especially on any change of posture, and anorexia.

The tongue was thickly coated with a brownish fur. The pulse did not as a rule rise above a 100 and was therefore slow in relation to the fever. Cough was present but expectoration was very scanty and tenacious. The cough had a tendency to become paroxysmal and some cases complained of deep pain in the chest on coughing. The fever lasted from 24 to 96 hours and then fell by lysis, the fall being accompanied by sweating.

After the subsidence there was a feeling of depression and lassitude. Anaemia was present and in some cases the cough persisted for 7 days after the temperature became normal.

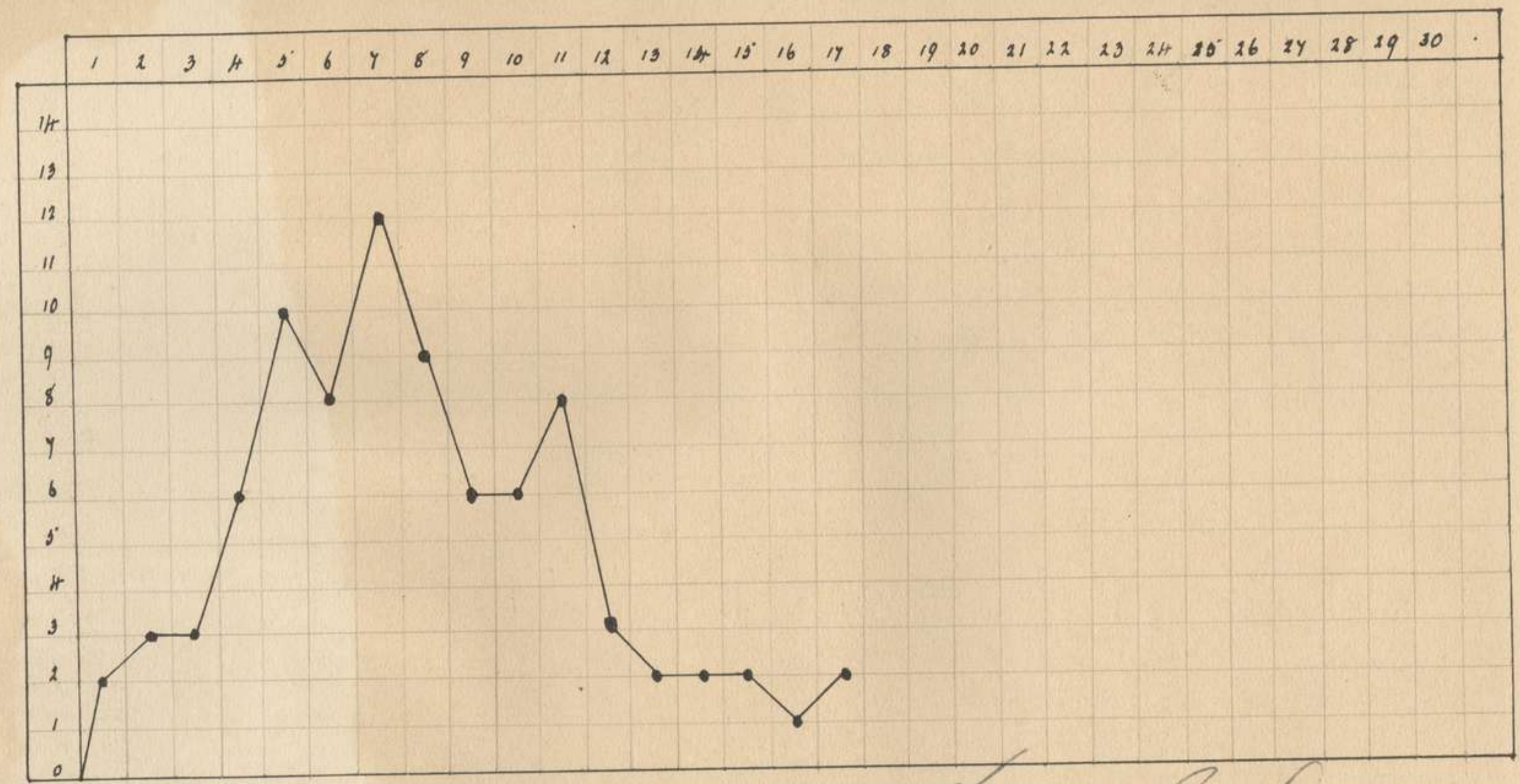
At no time were there any auscultatory signs of Bronchitis.

No member of the Unit was evacuated.

.....Lieut. Colonel.
C. O., 15th Australian Field Ambulance, A. I. F.

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CHART. showing daily number of cases of INFLUENZA contracted by members of
15th Australian Field Ambulance.



TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES UP TO 27TH 85.

27-6-18.

W. H. Smith Lt. Col.
C.O. 15th Aust. Field Ambulance.

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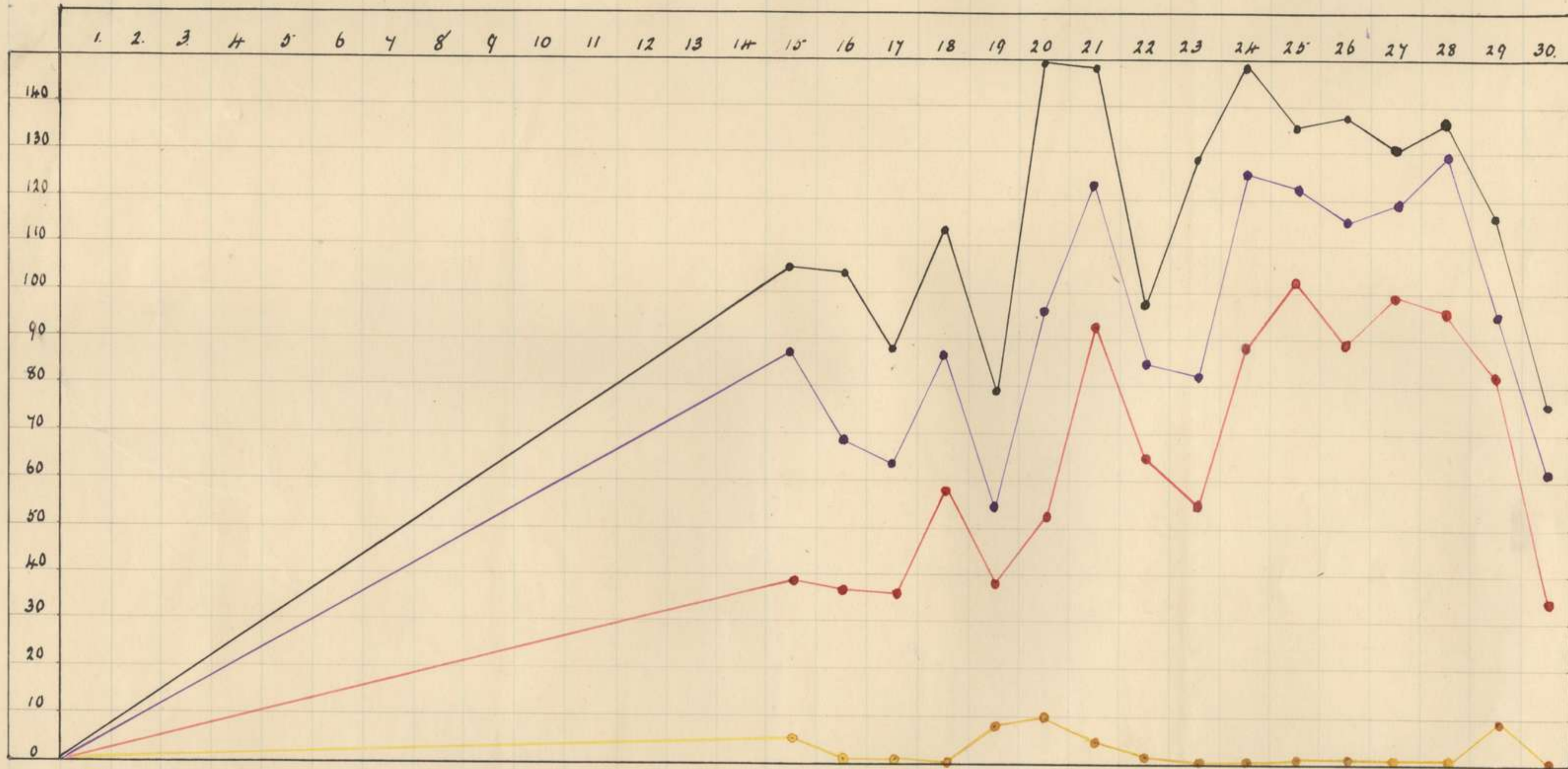
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APPENDIX.

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Chart showing Number of Patients passing through 15th Australian Field Ambulance,
Main Dressing Station during period 15/6/18 to 30/6/18.

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TOTAL SICK AND WOUNDED SHOWN THUS ———
 ✓ SICK ✓ ✓ ———
 ✓ P.U.D & INFLUENZA ✓ ✓ ———
 ✓ GAS ✓ ✓ ———

1-7-18

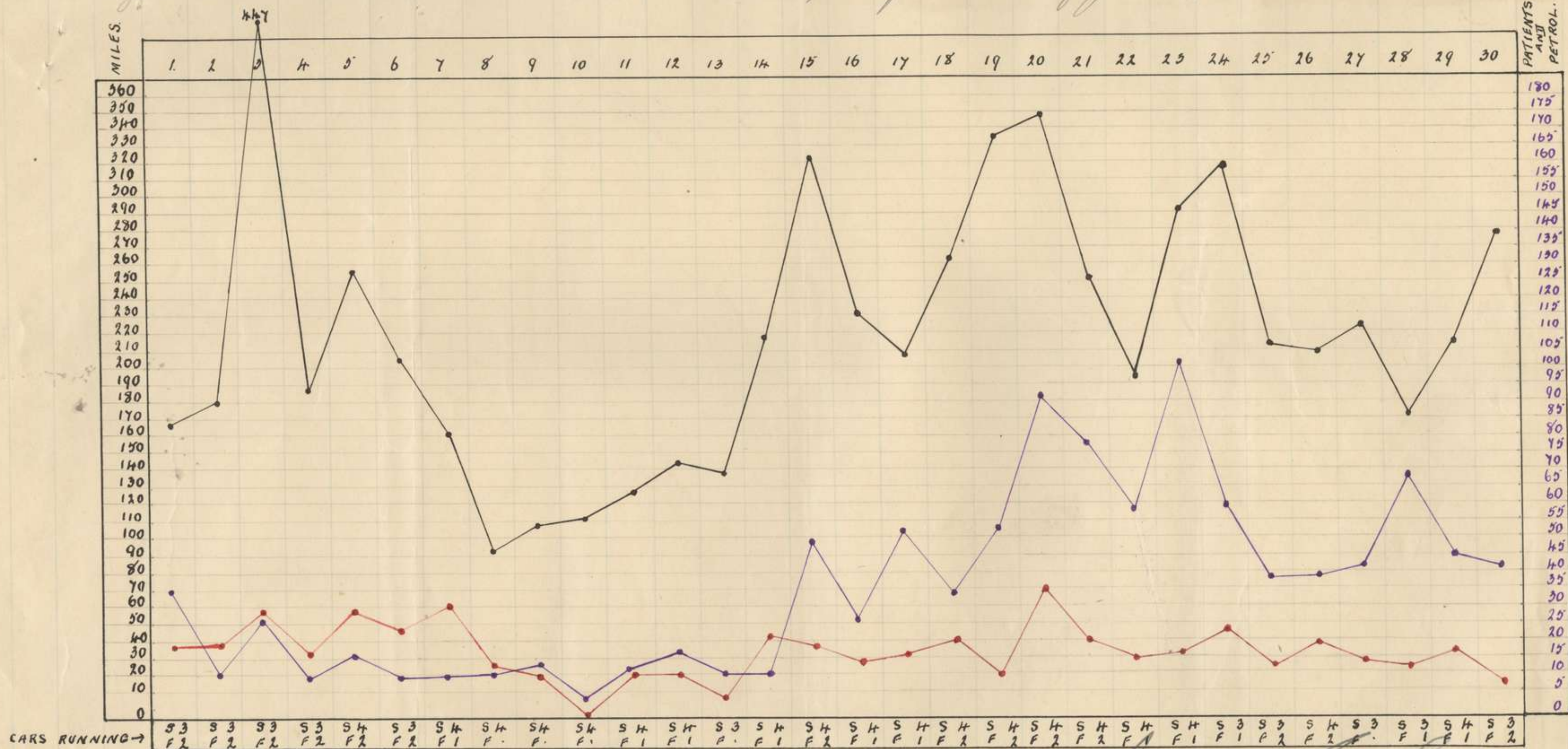
Kenneth Smith Lt. Col.
 A.D. 15th Australian Field Ambulance.

APPENDIX.

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Chart showing Cars running, Mileage covered, Petrol consumed and Patients carried
by 15th Australian Field Ambulance Motor Transport for month of June 1918



MILES COVERED SHOWN THUS ———
 PATIENTS CARRIED ✓ ✓ ———
 PETROL CONSUMED ✓ ✓ ———

TOTAL MILEAGE COVERED 6619 MILES
 ✓ PETROL CONSUMED 489 GALLS
 ✓ PATIENTS CARRIED 1063
 AVERAGE MILES TO CALL PETROL 13.5 MILES.

Kenneth Smith Lt. Col.
 C.O. 15th Aust. Field Ambulance.

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APPENDIX.

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