

**AWM4**

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/58/6

**Title:** 15th Australian Field Ambulance

October 1916



AWM4-26/58/6



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
LE NOUVEAU MONDE	2.10.16		Capt Helstrom attached, and posted at A.D.S.	
	9.10.16		Capt Parker detached to 8th Field Ambulance for temporary duty	
	10.10.16		Major Lind returned from leave to England.	
	12.10.16		Capt Elliot G. attached for duty	
			5th Aust Divisional order No 72 received	appendix 32
			Addendum to 5th Aust Divisional order No 71 received	appendix 33
			Medical Movement Order received	appendix 34
			15th Aust Field Ambulance Order No 9. A. issued	Appendix 35
	13.10.16		The advanced party of the relieving unit. No 2 N.Z. Field Ambulance arrived during the afternoon and the Main Dressing Station and Div <sup>nl</sup> Rest Station taken over - The party to relieve the A.D.S. did not arrive. The unit marched out at 5 p.m. Arrived ESTAIRES billets at 5.30 p.m.	
	<del>14.10.16</del>		Major Lind left for England under orders from D.M.S.	
ESTAIRES	14.10.16		Capt MacIntosh and A.D.S. party relieved by No 2 N.Z. Fld. Amb.	
	15.10.16		15th Aust Infantry Bde. Order No 55 received	Appendix 36

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WAR DIARY

October 1916 (cont)

Army Form C. 2118.

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>ESTAIRES</u>	17.10.16		15 <sup>th</sup> Aust Field Ambulance Order No 10 issued	Appendix 31
	18.10.16		<p>The unit moved out to Amietable attached to above order and arrived at BAILLEUL WEST, entraining them for PONT REMY. The personnel were moved to entraining point by motor ferry. The entrainment was completed about 5.0 a.m. Accommodation very poor, old horse trucks being provided for the personnel and all were in a very dirty condition being often thickly coated with dung. Arrived PONT REMY at 3.0 p.m. No provision was made en route for giving the men tea or other nourishment except the cold hard ration carried. At the detraining point PONT REMY there was no platform and the heavy vehicles had to be moved from the trucks on inclined planes, this procedure involved great loss of time and fatigued the men. It was found necessary to spell them and provide opportunity for a meal. The unit left PONT REMY at 5.25 p.m. and marched to BOUCHON a distance of 12 kilometres arriving there at 9.10 p.m. - March discipline in spite of the fatigue of the men was excellent throughout.</p>	AM



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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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October 1916

(Cont.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BOUCHON	18/10/16		Billets at BOUCHON were found to be very good and though widely scattered as accomodation was limited.	
	19/10/16		Five motor ambulances reported during the morning with 2 motor cyclists 15 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde. order No 56 received	Appendix 38-
			15 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Field Ambulance Order No 11. issued	Appendix 39
	20/10/16		All horses and horse transport moved out to join Bde. Train and march to RIBEMONT. 15 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Amb. Order No 12 issued	Appendix 39.A
FRICOURT	21.10.16		Main body of personnel moved by Motor Bus from MOUFLERS to RIBEMONT with 15 <sup>th</sup> Inf Bde Group. The journey was continued on foot from RIBEMONT to Bivouac on Ridge South of FRICOURT. Accomodation here was very small and only the most makeshift meals could be provided. As the transport did not arrive until about 11. p.m. the difficulty of providing properly for the men was greatly increased.	
	22.10.16		Medical Operation Order No 7 <del>of</del> received Bearer Subdivision under Capt MacIntosh with Capt Collin and Capt Elliott marched to THISTLE DUMP reporting to to O.C. 8 <sup>th</sup> Aust Field Ambulance.	Appendix 40

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or  
**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BECORDEL	22/10/16		The main body including the Tent Subdivision marched to the XV Corps Main Dressing Station at BECORDEL, to take over from the 97 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance. During the day the staff of the latter outgoing unit was duplicated by our own	
"	23.10.16		Considerable difficulty experienced in maintaining supply of material to bearer Subdivisions at the A.D.S. GREEN DUMP. The roads are poor and traffic heavy. Reports from Bearer Posts show that the work is very heavy fuel scarce and tracks impassable for bearer parties after dark. During the day Major Shelshar, Captain Jagger, Hughes and Brown reported for duty.	
	24.10.16		96 <sup>th</sup> 97 <sup>th</sup> and 98 <sup>th</sup> Tent Subdivisions moved out to-day with the 30 <sup>th</sup> Division and the Main Dressing Station was taken over by this unit.	
	<del>26.10.16</del>			

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Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence  
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II.  
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October 1916 (cont 4)

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**INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.**

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RECORDED	26/10/16		<p>A sub Subdivision of 14<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Ambce. reported for duty and with this additional staff the Dressing Station is just capable of dealing with the average work and no increase in work could be carried out with the desirable efficiency. The Nursing Staff is ample for all likely requirements but the difficulty of bearers is almost insuperable and not sufficient to deal efficiently with average numbers.</p>	
	27.10.16		<p>Reports received from the Bearer Posts show the terribly difficult and arduous nature of the work. All ranks are almost continuously exposed to the weather which has been very severe. No shelters are obtainable at some posts and the men are in consequence suffering from the unusual exposure as well as from the fact that it is almost impossible to obtain fuel and cook food.</p>	
	29.10.16		<p>Cpts Coppin, Bullen and Helstrom relieved the Officers at the Bearer Posts.</p>	<p>W. H. M. St. Col C.O. 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Amb.</p>



WAR DIARY

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~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

15th Field Ambulance.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
RECORDEL.	31/10/16.		Appendices attached as follows:	
			General Medical Report for October.	Appendix 41.
			Graph showing ratio of disease and wound incidence.	Appendix 42.
			Graph showing daily sick and wounded treated at M.D.S.	Appendix 43.
			The Tent Subdivision of 7th Aust. Field Ambulance reported for duty at M.D.S.	
			(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month & filed with volume for that month).	



Reference to Appendices for October 1916.

- Appendix 32. 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Divn. Order No 42
- " 33 Addendum 5<sup>th</sup> Aust. Divn. Order No 41
- 34 Medical Movement Order 12/10/16.
- 35 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Amb. Order No 9 A.
- 36 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde. Order No 55.
- 37 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Amb. Order No 10.
- 38 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde Order No 56
- 39 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Amb. Order No 11
- 39 A. 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Fld. Amb. Order No 12
- 40 Medical operation order No 4

War Diary Addendum

30.10.16



Alex Horn Lt Col  
CO. 15<sup>th</sup> Aust Fld Amb



15th Aust Field Ambulance Order No 9A.  
 Ref May HAZEBROUCK 5A. 1 in 100000. Copy no 2  
**Appendix 35** Oct. 12th 1916  
 Information. The Ambulance will move to ESTAIRES  
 to-morrow afternoon 13th inst. The  
 Main Dressing Station A.D.S. and D.R.S.  
 will be handed over to the 2nd N.Z.  
 Field Ambce.  
 Billets Billets will be evacuated and ready  
 for inspection by 10 a.m.  
 Parade The time of parade will be notified  
 later, it will not be sooner than 2 p.m.  
 Dental Unit The 23rd Dental Unit will  
 accompany the Ambulance.  
 Rations (1) Each man will carry one day's iron  
 ration which will not be consumed  
 except under the order of an officer.  
 (2) The unconsumed portion of the  
 day's ration will be carried on wagons.  
 Water Water carts will move full. Water  
 bottles will be filled.  
 Meals No alteration of meal hours will  
 be made.  
 Dress Marching Order.



Alex Horn Lt. Col.  
 CO. 15th Aust Field Amb.



SECRET.

15<sup>th</sup> Aust Field Ambulance Order No 10  
 C.O. Copy No 2  
 Ref. Map. HAZEBROUCK 5A. 37  
 100 000 17 Oct. 1916.

Appendix 37

Information. The Unit will move to entraining station, BAILLEUL WEST. on 18 inst. and entrain for PORT REMY as per attached time-table

States

War Diary

A complete marching out state showing numbers of men, 4 wheeled and 2 wheeled vehicles and bicycles will be taken by the officer i/c Advanced Party and handed to R.T.O. BAILLEUL WEST.

Supply and  
Baggage Wagon.

Supply and baggage wagons will accompany the Unit on the train.

Loading

Entrainment must be completed half an hour before the time of departure of the train.

Breast  
Ropes  
Dress

Breast ropes must be provided by the Transport for horse trucks. Marching order - one blanket to be carried on the man.

Water bottles.

Water bottles must be filled prior to departure.

Rations

Rations for the journey will be issued at 3 p.m. today to cooks who will cook meat and supply cold in messes of 30 to be carried on the motor buses.





**Advanced Party** An advanced party consisting of 2 N.C.O.s and 18 men from each section will parade in the quadrangle of A Sect Billet at 1.5 a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> inst. and march to main square before 1.20 a.m. whence they will proceed by 2 motor buses to the entraining station at 1.30 a.m.

**Transport** Transport will move off at 10.30 p.m. on 17<sup>th</sup> inst, moving via ESTAIRES - VIEUX BERQUIN - OUTERSTEEN - BAILLEUL - to arrive at entraining station not later than 2.20 a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> inst

**Baggage Guard.** All wagon orderly cpls and orderlies and batmen will accompany the transport to act as baggage guard.

**Main Body.** The main body will fall in in the quadrangle of A Sect Billet at 2.35 a.m. and move to the main square ESTAIRES before 2.50 a.m.

No rear party will be left.

**Billets** All ranks must be most





careful to keep billets absolutely clean and prevent any accumulation of rubbish.

Reveille Reveille for main Body will be at 145<sup>th</sup> a.m. on 18<sup>th</sup> inst.

Run Issue Men desiring an issue of rums before moving off will parade at Q.M. Store at following Hours:-  
 Transport 10.20 p.m. on 17.10.16  
 Advanced Party 12.50 a.m. on 18.10.16  
 Main Body 2.20 a.m. on 18.10.16

Discipline On arriving at the entraining Station all ranks must stand quietly until entraining order is given. Once on Board the train no man may leave without permission of N.C.O. in charge of carriage.

Entraining No transport or troops will enter the Railway yard until the R.T.O. is ready to receive them.

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- 2 C.O.
- 3 Warden
- 4 Maj. Bell
- 5 Capt. Cripps
- 6 Capt. Minty

Alex. Horn Lt Col  
 C.O. 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Hd. Amb.



15<sup>th</sup> Aust Field Ambulance  
 Time table of movement on night 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October.

17/18 Oct  
 1916

	Motor Vehicles	Fall in	Move off.	Mustering Square	Buses Start	Arrive Buckholme.	710.9 Train Starts
Transport.	-	10.30 p.m.	10.35 p.m.	-	-	2.20 a.m.	5.28 a.m.
Advanced Party	2	1.5 a.m.	1.15 a.m.	1.20	1.30	-	5.28 a.m.
Main body.	5	2.35 a.m.	2.45 a.m.	2.50	3.0	-	5.28 a.m.



Appendix No. 37



W. Swan Copy No 3  
 B<sup>n</sup> Aust Field Ambulance Order Roll.  
 Ref map Lens 100000 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1916.

appendix 39

Transport The horse transport and animals of the 15<sup>th</sup> Inf Bde Group will move by road to LONG PEE and HROUEVES on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. The march will be continued to RIBE MOIT on the 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

Move The horse transport and animals of this Unit will move past the starting point at 12.30 a.m. on 20<sup>th</sup> inst following the 29<sup>th</sup> ASC who are billeted in L'ETOILES.

Starting Point West side of Cross Road L'ETOILE  
Rations The balance of the days rations will be carried.

Water Water bottles will be filled before starting. Water carts will travel full.

Baggage A Guard of one man  
Guard wagons will accompany transport.

March The strictest march discipline must  
Discipline be observed throughout. All wagons to keep to extreme right of road. At halts all men will dismount on far side of vehicles, and no



W. Swan  
 Diary



personnel will be allowed  
to stand or move about on  
the near side  
Intervals of 14 feet between  
vehicles must be maintained  
and same between units  
Leave No leave will be allowed  
during the journey.

Wey Horn, Lt. Col.

C.O. 15th Aust. Fld. Ambce

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2. Capt. Minif  
3. War Diary



Copy No 3

15<sup>th</sup> Aust Field Ambulance Order No 12  
 Ref. map LENS 100000

Appendix 39A. 2 Oct 1916.

Information The Personnel of the 15<sup>th</sup> Bde Group  
 will move by lorry to RIBEMONT  
 on 21<sup>st</sup> Oct.

Units will be waiting in column route  
 facing EAST on the road between  
 ALLY and MOUFLERS by 8.30 a.m.

in the following order:-

29<sup>th</sup> M.A.S.C. (8 yds) Head opposite MOUFLERS

50<sup>th</sup> Bn. 300 yds church

15<sup>th</sup> Fld. amb. 100 yds.

15<sup>th</sup> Bde HQ

15<sup>th</sup> Mq Coy } 150 yds

15<sup>th</sup> L.T.M.B.

(Remainder of Bde.)

MOVE

The Unit will mass in order of sections  
 in column of route on road from  
 B Sect Bilet to foot of hill.

Head of column to be at cross road.

Time 7.40 a.m.

Dress

Marching order - one blanket to be  
 carried on the man.

Water

Water bottles will be carried full.

Rations

Will be issued at destination

War  
 Diary





Dinies Dinies will be carried.

Discipline No troops will embark on any bus until an order has been given by either the French Officers in charge or by Staff officers.

Personnel told off to buses must enter them quietly and quickly when the order is given.

Motor Cars will move off with the unit

Ambulance as far as junction with main

Convoy road at MOUFLEERS. The convoy

Capt Copleston will start with leading car

in just off main road and will

Charge follow in rear of the Bde. bus

convoy.  
Motor cycles will follow ambulance

convoy.  
No unauthorised kits or persons

will be carried on the ambulances.  
O's C Sections will furnish the

names of members of their sections

who are unfit to travel by bus to

Copy No 1 filed Orderly room before 6. p.m. today

2 Co

3 War Diary

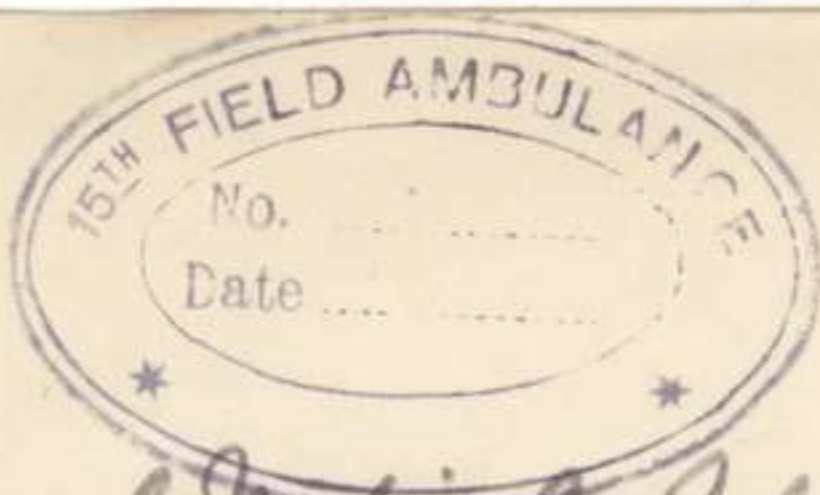
4 OC B Sect

5 OC C Sect

Alex Horn MOC

CO. 15th Aust. Hld. Amb.





General Medical Report for October 1916

During the month a daily average of 69 cases were treated as in patients at the M.D.S.

As usual, when in the FLEURBAIX-LAVENTIE Sector the greater number of them were 'Sick' but on resuming work at the 1st ANZAC. M.D.S. BECORDEL the number of 'Sick' passing through the M.D.S. became very small.

This was mainly due to the separation of 'Stretchers' from 'walking' cases, the latter composed for the most part of 'sick' going through the CORPS COLLECTING STATION.

The following list gives the totals admitted and evacuated

TOTAL average cases treated daily	69
TOTAL " SICK " "	24
TOTAL admitted	361
Evacuated to C.C.S.	177
Transferred to C.R.S.	159

The following is a general classification of cases treated:-

Shell Shock	109	
Wounds	240	
Injuries	31	
Pulmonary Disease	22	Miscellaneous Diseases
Diarrhoea	8	includes:-
Other Intestinal Diseases	11	Cardiovascular, Urinary,
Miscellaneous	71	Skin, Special Senses,
Rheumatism	22	Exhaustion, Minor Maladies.
Influenza	38	
Tonsillitis	18	
Infections	7	
V.D.	6	
Trench foot	2	
Gas poisoning	7	

*M. J. Anderson Capt  
 Adjutant 15th Anzac H.Q.  
 21/10/16*



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Appendix No. 41



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Medical Report for October 1916 cont:

The above list calls for no comment except in the case of Shock Shell cases. The great majority of these patients were Imperial Troops, the Australian Troops being singularly free.

The incidence of infectious disease is remarkably small and bears good testimony to the efficiency of the sanitation and medical supervision of any cases that arose.

R. J. Bullen Capt  
Adjutant. 15<sup>th</sup> Aust. Hld.  
Ambee.



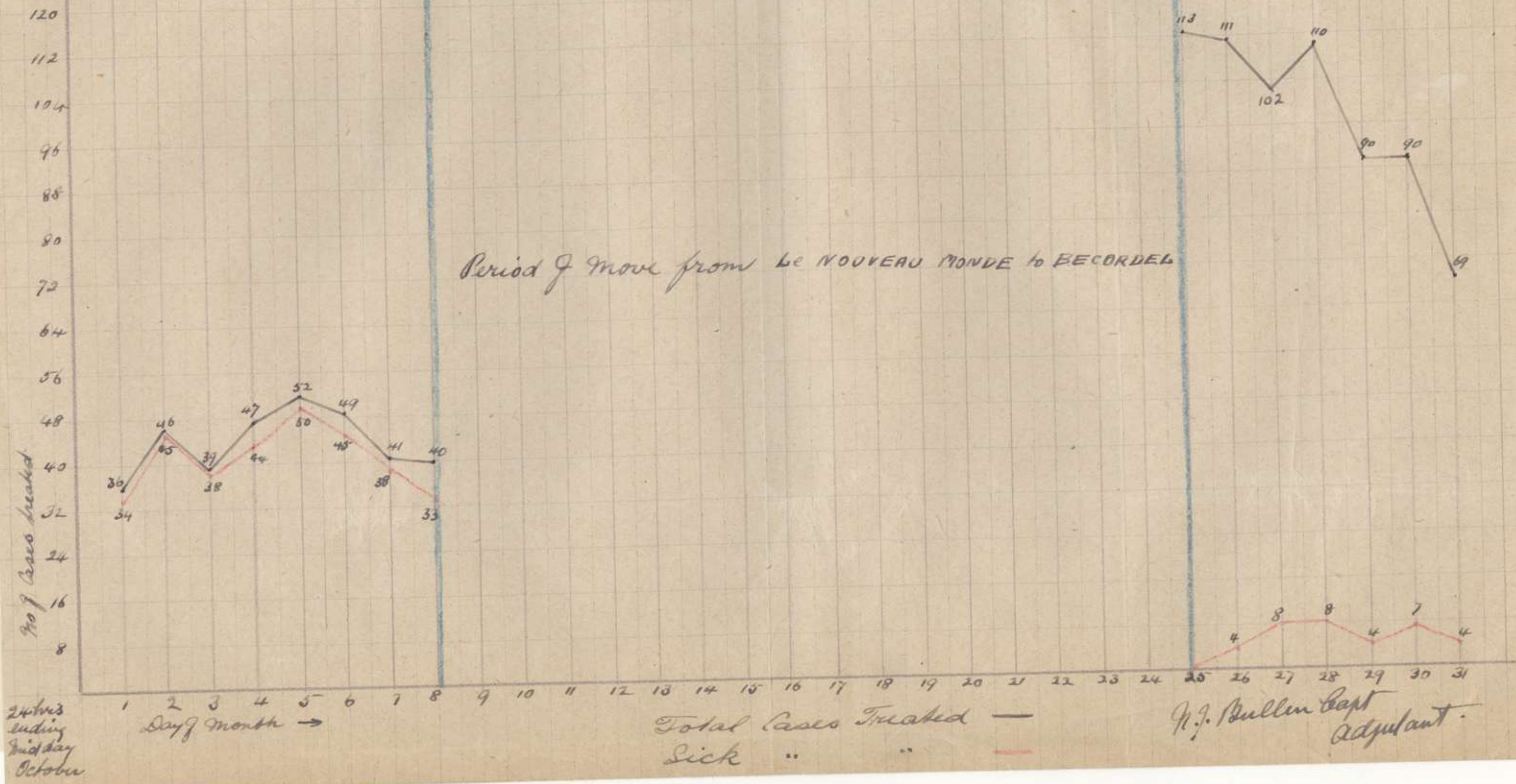
Graph Showing daily ratio of TOTAL cases treated to SICK cases at Corps M.P.S. BECORDEL.



War diary

Appendix No 42

and at le NOUVEAU MONDE.



H.J. Bullen Capt Adjutant.

Appendix No. 42.