

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/58/8

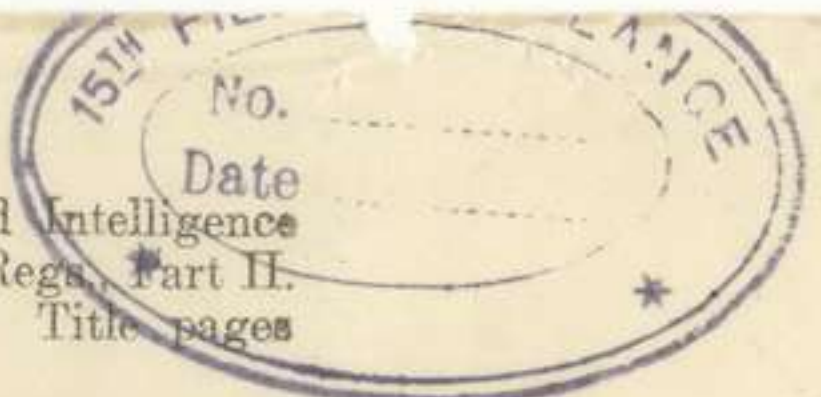
Title: 15th Australian Field Ambulance

December 1916



AWM4-26/58/8

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.



WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Army Form C. 2118.

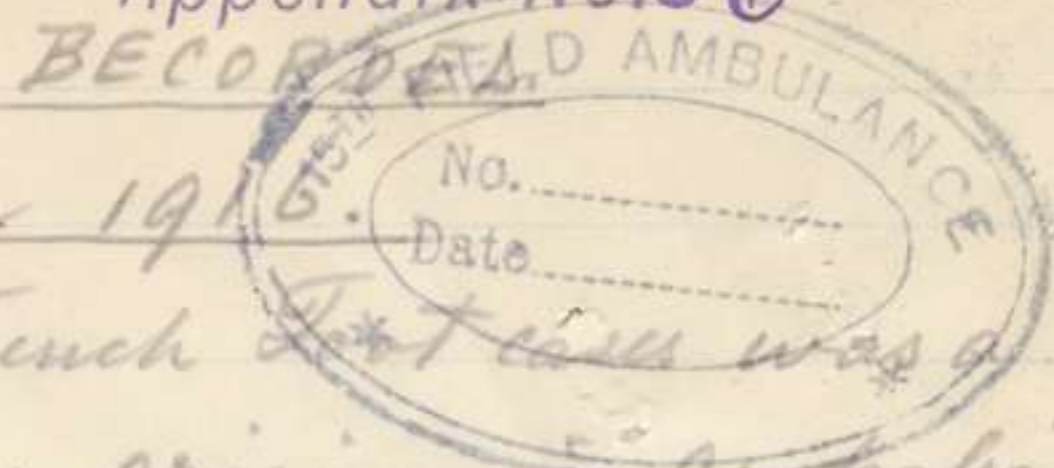
December 1916

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BECORDEL	31		BECORDEL Rest Station Medical Report + Daily State graph for November	
	2/12/16		Capt COPPLESON, M.V. detailed as R.M.O. 5th D.A.C. (Temp)	Appendices 52.53
	5/12/16			
	9/12/16		Capt BULLEN, N.J. returned from leave to ENGLAND.	
	12/12/16		1st Angac A.M.C. Order No 42 received	Appendix 52
	13/12/16		1st Angac A.M.C. Order No 43 "	" 53
	17/12/16		Capt Hellstrom detailed as R.M.O. 13th F.A. Bde. (Temp) Capacity of BECORDEL REST STATION increased to 300 beds.	
	18/12/16		Capt Parker left on leave to ENGLAND	
			Major MacIntosh returned from leave to ENGLAND.	
			Capt Brown detailed as R.M.O. 29th Batt ⁿ (Temp).	
	21/12/16		Major Pigden reported for duty vice Major Bollew, discharged.	
	30.12.16.		The weather during the month was very variable - Several frosts and falls of snow alternated with heavy rains and warmer weather -	

W. H. Stom
C.O. 15th Aust Field Ambce



Medical Report for December 1916.

The great preponderance of Trench Foot cases was a marked feature of the diseases arising in Australian troops, 520 being passed through during the month.

Mild febrile conditions lasting 2-3 days and generally classed as 'Influenza', numbered 237

A great increase of pulmonary diseases was noted, 160 in all being handled - most of these were bronchitis of a rather chronic type and pneumonias. The cold weather and heavy rains of the early part of the month probably accounted for the frequency of lung infections. The bronchitic conditions were very frequently associated with laryngitis and almost complete loss of voice. This latter feature was very persistent and distressing.

Very little Rheumatism or infectious disease occurred.

The following is the statement of Diseases in Australian Troops :-

Shell Concussions	17
Wounds	149
Injuries	21
Trench foot	520
Pulmonary Disease	160
Diarrhoea	46
Other Intestinal	32
Miscellaneous	204
Influenza and P.V.O.	237
Tonsillitis	37
Infectious Disease	3
Veneral Disease	9
Dental Rheumatism	47

War Diary
Appendix 56

'Miscellaneous' includes :-
Cardiovascular, Skin
Urinary, Special Senses
Exhaustion.

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War Diary
Appendix



BECORDEL CORPS. REST STATION

Medical Report for December 1916.

A special feature of the month's work was the treatment of French feet. Accomodation was provided for 100 cases. Various lines of treatment were tried but the general impression was that the cases were not often suitable for Rest Station treatment. Only about 10% of the cases returned to duty within three weeks of admission. The swelling rapidly subsided in all cases but anaesthesia of the toes, tenderness, and night pains proved very very resistant.

The greater number of other cases treated consisted of Influenza - Dental - and Exhaustion.

The monthly Dental Report is as follows.

Surgical:

Dressings -	Fillings -	Root Fillings -	Extractions -	Minor Opns. -	Patients.
89	168	18	352	90	535.

Mechanical

Full Upper Dentures -	Full Lower Dentures -	Part Upper -	Part Lower -	Repair -	Patients
15	6	25	20	47	97

Total Patients 632.

A Bathroom capable of bathing 60 patients per day was built during the month and all admissions bathed and provided with clean clothes.

A Barbers department was also started and provided great service. All cases on admission had their hair cut and all stretcher cases were shaved at frequent intervals.