

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/59/4

**Title:** 16th Australian Field Ambulance

June 1917



AWM4-26/59/4

C O N F I D E N T I A L .

W A R   D I A R Y  
O F  
16th AUSTRALIAN FLD. AMBce.

FROM.    1st JUNE, 1917

TO    30th JUNE 1917.

VOLUME (4).



# 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.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wareham	.1/6/17.		General routine and training.	
do	.2/6/17.		General routine and training.	
do	.3/6/17.		General routine and training.	
do	.4/6/17.		"B" and "C" sections of Ambulance went for route march of about 18 miles, reported all satisfactory on returning from same.	
do	.5/6/17.		General routine and training.	
do	.6/6/17.		General routine and training. No 214 Pte L.V. Solomon, and No 1278 Pte H.W. Wilson, to be A/L.Cpls.	
do	.7/6/17.		General routine and training. Hon Lieut J. Stubbs reported for duty, and was taken on strength of Ambulances as Quarter Master.	
do	.8/6/17.		General routine and training.	
do	.9/6/17.		General routine and training for morning. Saturday afternoon half holiday.	
do	10/6/17.		Church parade of all available strength of Unit. "B" Section took over duties of Camp from "A" Section.	
do	11/6/17.		General routine and training.	
do	12/6/17.		General routine and training, No 146 Dvr J.B. Lewis to be A/ Corporal.	
do	13/6/17.		"A" and "C" Sections of Ambulance, accompanied the 16th Aust Inf Brigade on a practice route march of about seven miles, with full marching order. The following Transport accompanied the Amb. 3.Ambulance Waggon, 3.G.S. Waggon, 1 G.S. Limbered Waggon, 1 Water Cart, and 1 spare team. No 2714 Dvr Taylor W.B. and 1048 Dvr Drever J.K. to be A/L Cpls.	
do	14/6/17.		General routine and training. "A" and "C" sections attended 1st days course of a three days training in Anti Gas Measures.	



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will be prepared in manuscript.

## INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Wareham	15/6/17.		General routine and training. "A" and "C" sections attended second days course of training in Anti Gas Measures.	
do	16/6/17.		General routine and training. "B" section of Ambulance attended 1st days course of training in Anti Gas Measures. Saturday half holiday.	
do	17/6/17.		Church parade of all available strength of Ambulance. "C" section took over duties of camp from "B" section.	
do	18/6/17.		"B" section of Ambulance attended second days course of training in Anti Gas Measures. Training somewhat interfered with on account of contemplated move of the Brigade to Fovant.	
do	19/6/17.		Training suspended on account of move of the Brigade to Fovant. Services of all members of the Unit utilised in preparing the stores and equipment for transit from Wareham to Fovant. Orders received for Ambulance to proceed by road from Wareham to Fovant, in three stages.	
do	20/6/17.		Ambulance moved off from Wareham at 0630 on first stage of journey. Arrived at Blandford at 1430, after covering 17 miles. Bivouaccd at Blandford for the night.	
Melbury Hill.	21/6/17.		Ambulance moved off from Blandford on second stage of journey at 0630. Arrived at Melbury Hill a distance of nine miles at 1230. Bivouaced for the night.	
Fovant.	22/6/17.		Ambulance moved off from Melbury Hill on last stage of journey at 0630, and arrived at Fovant at 1400. Total number of miles from Wareham to Fovant 39. No men of the Ambulance fell out during the march. "A" section evacuated the "sick" from the Battalions on the line of march.	
do	23/6/17.		Day spent in getting the new camp into shape and order.	
do	24/6/17.		Sunday. The work of cleaning up the camp was carried out through out the day. "A" section took over duties of the camp from "C" section.	
do	25/6/17.		General routine and training.	







SECRET.

COPY.

General Headquarters,  
Home Forces,  
Horse Guards,  
London. S.W.  
9th June 1917.

H.F., C.R., 626 (0)

SOUTHERN COMMAND.

With reference to the arrangements for postal services in the United Kingdom in the event of emergency, it is notified that the only form of correspondence permitted to the troops in the zone of operations will be in the form of Field Service Post-cards. These Post-cards will be collected and dealt with by the Army Postal Services, after being censored Regimentally by Company etc. Commanders.

2. All troops must be informed that neither ordinary correspondence nor Field Service Post-cards are to be posted in Local Post Offices and Pillar Boxes in the zone of operations. Not only would such correspondence not reach its destination, but in the event of a local Post Office falling into the hands of the enemy it might prove of considerable value to them.

3. These instructions refer to all formations to be formed under Emergency Schemes to which A.P.S. personnel is attached and will come into force at the moment Mobilization is ordered on the warning message of any scheme is received wherever any such unit is stationed. Stamps and stamped stationery will therefore not be available at Field Post Offices.

Distribution:-

Commands,  
Armies,  
A.D.P.S.

(Sgd) F.C. SHAW, Major General.

General Staff, Home Forces.

(2)

C.R., S.C., Z/838/3 (A.1).

General Officer Commanding,  
A.I.F. Depots, Tidworth.

For necessary action reference this office No.  
Z/838/3 (A.1.) of 7-4-17

Salisbury.  
11-6-17

(Sgd) E.W. BECK.  
Staff Captain.  
for A.A.G., Southern Command.

(3)

C.R. A.I.F. Z/5843 (G).

To A.D.M.S.

Forwarded for your information.

Tidworth.  
12-6-17.

(Sgd) F. Moffatt  
Lieut. Colonel  
G.S.O.1.

A.I.F. TRAINING DEPOTS IN U.K.

Copies to, A.A.G., A.Q.M.G., A.D. of S & T., DADOS, O.C.'s Groups.  
G.O.C.'s 16th and 17th Brigades, Com.Sch.Musketry, O.C. R.B.A.A.  
O.C.Machine Gun Coys.



SECRET.

COPY.

General Headquarters,  
Home Forces,  
Horse Guards,  
London, S.W.  
9th June 1917.

H.F., C.R., 626 (0)

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With reference to the arrangements for postal services in the United Kingdom in the event of emergency, it is notified that the only form of correspondence permitted to the troops in the zone of operations will be in the form of Field Service Post-cards. These Post-cards will be collected and dealt with by the Army Postal Services, after being censored Regimentally by Company etc. Commanders.

2. All troops must be informed that neither ordinary correspondence nor Field Service Post-cards are to be posted in Local Post Offices and Pillar Boxes in the zone of operations. Not only would such correspondence not reach its destination, but in the event of a local Post Office falling into the hands of the enemy it might prove of considerable value to them.

3. These instructions refer to all formations to be formed under Emergency Schemes to which A.P.S. personnel is attached and will come into force at the moment Mobilization is ordered or the warning message of any scheme is received wherever any such unit is stationed. Stamps and stamped stationery will therefore not be available at Field Post Offices.

Distribution :-  
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Armies,  
A.D.P.S.

(Sgd) F.C. SHAW, Major General.  
General Staff, Home Forces.

-2-

C.R., S.C., Z/838/3 (A.1).

General Officer Commanding,  
A.I.F. Depots, Tidworth.

For necessary action reference this office No.,  
Z/838/3 (A.1.) of 7-4-17

Salisbury  
11-6-17

(Sgd) E.W. BECK  
Staff Captain.  
for A.A.G., Southern Command

-3-

C.R.A.I.F. Z/5843 (G).

To,  
Officer Commanding,

Forwarded for your information.

Tidworth  
12-6-17

*W. Beck*  
Lieut-Colonel.  
G.S.O.I.  
A.I.F. TRAINING DEPOTS IN U.K.

Copies to, A.A.G., A.Q.M.G., A.D. of S. & T., DADOS, O.C.'s Groups,  
G.O.C.'s 16th and 17th Brigades, Com. Sch. Musketry, O.C. R.B.A.A.,  
O.C. Machine Gun Coys.



16TH AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE

A1/651.

Date 23/6/17

To.

Brigade Headquarters

Attached please find correspondence from C.O. 70<sup>th</sup> Bn. The position is this:-

The S/Sergeants and Sergeants of this Unit, + Dental attached, joined the Sgt's Mess of the 70<sup>th</sup> Bn. It was clearly understood by my Sergeants, that they entered this Mess as full members, not as courtesy members. They were charged the full entrance fee, + consequently, according to all Mess rules, must become full members. A receipt for entrance fee, I can produce. They have no furniture belonging to Sgt's Mess 70<sup>th</sup> Bn. on the contrary, some of them were unable to recover cutlery which they provided personally.

I understand there are profits in this Mess, up to the period of their leaving Warrenton, which my Sgt's should share. The ruling given by the A. Q. M. G. must have been made on a partial report, as I have not seen the file referred to, nor have I



Continued

had an opportunity of placing my side of the case before him.

The whole matter is so unsatisfactory that I must refer the matter to you, asking that if necessary it should go to the highest authority in order that this ruling may be reversed.

AWH

Lieut. Col.  
O.C. 16th Field Ambulance.



16<sup>TH</sup> AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE

R1/652/5 Date.....23/6/17

To. R. M. O's  
61st 62 Battalions  
63, 69 Battalions

Herewith Medical equipment  
for your Battalions.

Please check, and sign  
receipt. You will use from this  
equipment, such instruments  
as you consider necessary for  
the use of your Unit, but expend-  
able stores contained in the Field  
equipment, will not on any  
account be touched.

*AL*

.....Lieut. Col.  
O.C. 16th Field Ambulance,



To;  
C.O. 70th Battalion,  
WINDMILL HILL.

re 70th Battalion Sergeants Mess.

Acting on the ruling of the D.A.J.A.G. A.I.F. would  
you please let me have a copy of your Sergeants Mess Balance  
Sheet, for the period concerned, in which the Sergeants of this  
Unit, were Members of same, in order that we can get this matter  
finally settled.

Fovant.

*Heath*  
.....Lieut Col.  
C.O. 16th Aust Field Ambulance.

*7/1060.*



L/A.

In reply please quote

AMS

42/2.

Headquarters A.I.F.  
Bhurtpore Barracks,  
Tidworth.  
29th June 1917.

S E C R E T.

From Headquarters A.I.F.  
TIDWORTH.

To O.C.  
16th Field Ambulance,  
FOVANT.

EMERGENCY SCHEMES "G" AND "L".

In case of invasion it is intended to use, under these schemes, suitable men for the defence of England.

If either scheme is called into force, the 16th Field Ambulance will be attached to the 5th Salisbury Composite Infantry Brigade. The Commander of this Brigade is Lieut.Col. Collett, Headquarters D Group, Codford, and the Brigade is composed of 3 Battalions from A.I.F. Troops undergoing training at Lark Hill and Rollestone, and one Battalion from A.I.F. Troops at Codford.

It has been decided that the word "KANGAROO" telegraphed or telephoned to you from Headquarters, Tidworth, shall imply a warning that it may be necessary to put the Emergency Scheme into operation. Should you receive this word, you will take immediate steps to have the Field Ambulance available to move at a moments notice, and you will arrange for an Orderly to be always available at the telephone to receive instructions.

*W. H. A. D. M. S.*  
A.D.M.S. A.I.F.