

**AWM4**

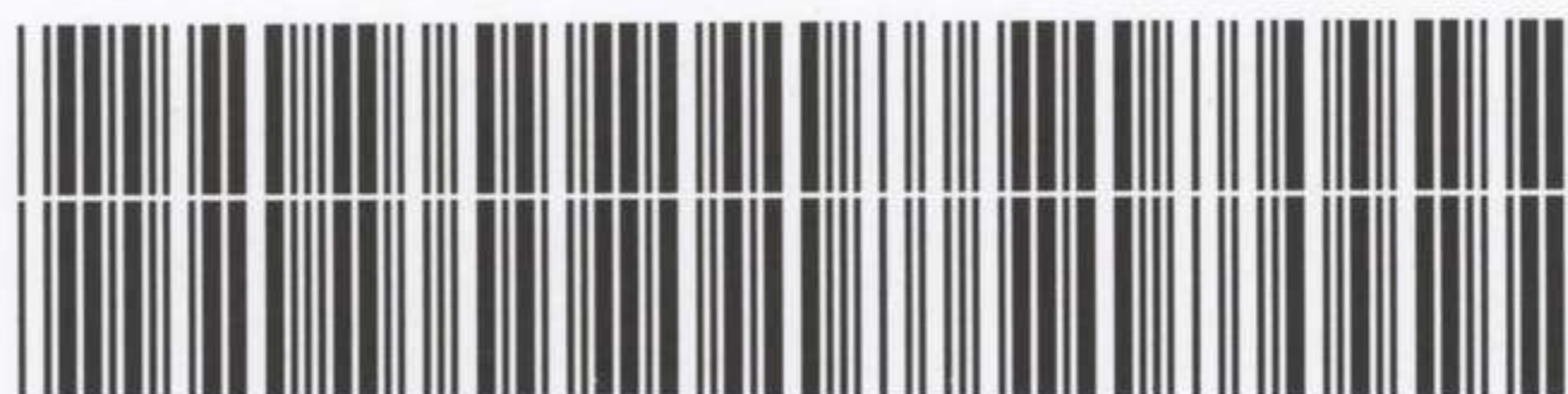
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,  
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/76/20

**Title:** 1st Australian Sanitary Section

April 1918



AWM4-26/76/20

18,000-12/17-8723

**CONFIDENTIAL,**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

1<sup>st</sup> Aust. Sanitary Section

FOR

APRIL. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Weyh Carson capt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Weyh Carson capt*

1st AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.  
No. ....  
Date .....

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

CONFIDENTIAL - Original

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ST Gratien (Sheet 62D. B.27.a	1/4/18		Disposition of Unit as follows:- Headquarters and Workshops at ST Gratien; 2 other ranks at BONNAY; 2 other Ranks at HEILLY. 2 on baggage guard at NIELLES - les - Blequin; 1 on leave; 1 Temp attached on probation AA SC (M.T). Biscuit Box latrines being made, water notices painted, Tins cut for notice boards, hinges for latrine seats, water testing and inspection at Quenieu, Pont Moyelles, ST Gratien and Frechencourt. Also Bonnay and Heilly areas.	MR.
			Sidecar sent to workshops for repair of broken frame, Ford car, out of action, awaiting new plugs sent for.	MR.
	2/4/18		Sidecar evacuated by M.T. Coy. U.C. to Quenieu, Heilly and Bonnay to see respective Town Majors and section personnel billeted at latter places.	
			All water supplies at ST Gratien tested and completed.	MR.
	3/4/18		2 other ranks billeted at Quenieu for water and inspection duties. U.C. to Corps Headquarters.	MR.



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St Gratien (Sheet 62 D. B.27.a)	4 4 18		Horses were being watered from wells in St Gratien but owing to the very scarce supply, recommendation sent to A.D.M.S. that they be watered elsewhere - preferably Frechemcourt where a good supply exists. Inspection of St. Gratien with Town Major and arrangements made for building another incinerator to cope with Town refuse.	AR.
	5 4 18		Water supplies tested in La HAUSSOVE. Wells were very short of water - mostly dependant on rain - and supply was of a very inferior quality. Only 1 source was found fit for drinking and that required 3 scoops Chloride of Lime.	AR.
	6 5 18		Water inspectors sent to test supplies in BUIRE, RIBEMONT, MERICOURT, CORBIE and LA NEUVILLE. V. C. to Franvillers and Bourray.	AR.
	7 5 18		Water inspectors sent to test supplies in Buire, Ribemont, Méricourt, Corbie and La Neuville.	AR.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Gratien	8/4		Ford Car sent to Workshops. Report called for of all water tested in present Area. Forwarded to P.O.M.S office.	AR.
(Sheet 62D)	18			
B. & T. a)	9/4		1 man sent to billet at Franilliers for inspection duty at Franilliers and La Haussoye.	
	18			
			U.C. to Treckencourt to see spring heads reported by inspector, with a view to utilising this excellent source of water.	
			A Pipe line from Treckencourt to St Gratien under consideration.	AR.
	10/4		U.C. to Franilliers and La Haussoye. Confer with Town Major re bad water supply at latter place. Suggestion for a pipe line from Pont Moyelles to La Haussoye being considered.	AR.
	18			
	11/4		7429 Pte Fishleigh Esd. rejoined unit from Hospital. Retaken on strength supernumerary. Water testing finished at Treckencourt.	
	18			
			Complaint lodged re men of Latour Company billeted at St Gratien urinating in the streets.	
			4 Public latrines (pit type) finished at St Gratien.	AR.



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Gratien (Sheet 62D B.27.a)	14/4/18		U.b. to Corps Headquarters. Ford Box Car returned from Workshops. Dof Ludov 3 D.S.C. temp. attached, returned to his own unit.	NR.
	15/4/18		U.b. to Heilly, Bonmay and Mericourt. Interviewed Town Majors at each village. Arranged for fatigue parties for cleaning up. All places well supplied with public latrines.	NR.
	16/4/18		U.b. to Town Majors of Pont Hoyelles, Quenien and La Haussaye	NR.
	17/4/18		U.b. to Freschenourt and Franvillers. No 7436 T/Cpl Shakespeare A.S. to be Corporal vice Collins returned to Australia. (auth: D.A.S. A.I.F 51/40 per D.M.S. Letter I.M. 5048/5/24 of 17.4.18)	NR.
	18/4/18		U.b. to Hillies des Blequins to bring back stores required (last Table). Engine stores, creosol etc handed over to area commandant's representatives Instructions given to 2 men to report by rail to St Gratien.	
	19/4/18		No 7433 Pte Ramage sentenced to 25 days NO 2 F.P. (17/4/18) Sent to F.P. Compound Franvillers.	NR.
	20/4/18		Area allotted by D.O.M.S. Med Instructions No 11. Water tested at Vaux sur-Somme and not reported. Also Smith's Farm.	NR.
			U.b. to Heilly, Bonmay, Mericourt and Franvillers.	NR.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
St Gratian (Sheet 62D B.27.a)	21/4/18		Section came under orders of D.D.M.S. instead of A.D.M.S.	
			1 man billeted at Ribemont and 1 at Mericourt with respective Tom majors.	
			U.C. to C.R.E. and arranged for supply of corrugated iron for incinerators.	NR.
	22/4/18		U.C. to S.S.O and arranged for supply of biscuit boxes for making of latrine seats. Ptes Bartley and Dent arrived from huelles-les-Blequin.	NR.
	23/4/18		U.C. to Frechenourt and Bonnay. Pte Bartley billeted at Bonnay.	
			and 1 man (carpenter) withdrawn.	NR.
	24/4/18		U.C. to Franvillers - unable to proceed to Heilly owing to heavy shelling and gas at Bonnay and Heilly.	
	25/4/18		U.C. to Bonnay, Heilly, Mericourt and Ribemont to see all personnel of subsections and Tom majors. Man withdrawn from Bonnay owing to more villages coming into area. U.C. to Querrien and Franvillers.	NR.
	26/4/18		U.C. to Allonville - thence onto Corps. 1 man to Querrien.	
			40 biscuit box latrines despatched to 11th Brigade for distribution in forward areas and front line.	NR.
	27/4/18		U.C. to Frechenourt and La Haussoye. Also to Corps HQ.	NR.

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St Gratien (Sheet 62D B.27.a)	28 4 18		O. b. to A. H. U. S. office. Thence to Franvillers - arrangements completed for establishment of a dump for making latrine seats at Franvillers. Area altered. O. b. to Area Commandant Coisy and Poulainville which villages included in new area by Med Instructions NO 15. These two villages full of French troops. Wrote for ruling as to administration and jurisdiction over French troops re sanitation as Area Commandant undecided.	
	29 11 18		Carto Heilly, Bonmay, Port Hayelles, Franvillers. Inspected valleys back of La Haussaye also near Bonmay (I. 14. 15. 16) traps up of squares on sheet 62D) 1 man sent to Allonville to inspect Allonville and Cardonnette.	NR
	30 7 18		Wrote to Cops re increase of water test cases for Sanitary Section. Answer: Borrow from Ambulances. Car to workshops for repairs. 1 man sent to Allonville for water testing. 5 Cases of measles at Allonville reported. Investigated. 2 pilllets sprayed. Town Major called re draining of a pond at St Gratien. Inspected by O.C. Complete system of drainage to prevent <del>refilling</del> pond refilling. Case left with Town Major.	NR NR

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(A7883) Wt W809/M1672 350,000 4/17. Sch. 52a. Forms/C/2118/14

## WAR DIARY

OF

*1<sup>st</sup> Aust Sanitary Section*

FOR

*April 1918*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	<i>Ubi Report on General Condition of Unit.</i>
2.	<i>List of Orderly Room and Court Martial Cases.</i>
3.	<i>Copy of monthly Sanitary Report and Synopsis showing work done for month.</i>

1st AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.  
No. ....  
Date.....

REPORT ON  
WAR DIARY  
General <sup>or</sup> Condition of Unit  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.  
(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>April 1918.</u>			<p>Effective strength of Unit has exceeded establishment by 2 O.R. and after 12<sup>th</sup> months by 3 O.R. (although 2 were detached as baggage guard at Nelles-les-Blequin and services lost until 22 inst and 1 is on leave, 1 detached on probation)</p> <p>Health of Unit has been excellent and motor driver <sup>who</sup> was sent to Hospital last month rejoined on 12<sup>th</sup> inst. Discipline is good - 2 orderly room cases this month.</p> <p>Rations and food have been very good. Owing to exigencies of the service at the present time, all "extras" carried by unit had to be dumped which slightly modified "luxuries" but did not impair regulations standard.</p> <p>Clothing and Ordnance services have been very good.</p> <p>The sidecar combination was evacuated <del>at</del> on 1<sup>st</sup> of month and its services have been a loss throughout the whole month.</p> <p>The Ford car was in workshops also for a week and had a couple much needed complete overhauls - since its return it has been in good order only 1 or 2 minor running repairs calling for attention.</p>	<p>Merch: 11 9</p>

Ulysses Carson cost

1<sup>st</sup> Australian Sanitary Section

Wardens Room Cases  
Month ending 30/4/18

2.

Court Martial Cases  
Month ending 30/4/18

Nil.

1<sup>ST</sup>  
AUSTRALIAN  
SANITARY SECTION.  
No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 30/4/18

W. H. P. Capt A.A.M.C  
— U.C. 1 Aus San Sect.



Sanitary Report for April 1918  
Post box "B" Area. 4<sup>th</sup> Army  
1<sup>st</sup> Australian Sanitary Section.

1. Billets and other quarters.

(a) Nature. Billets, improved bivouacs,

shelters and tents.

(b) Ventilation. Good.

(c) Overcrowding. Nil.

(d) General condition. Satisfactory.

(e) Remarks. Owing to the military situation many of the billets in Ribemont, Buire, Helly and Mericourt have been neglected but these are being cleaned up by fatigue parties supplied daily by Indian Majors. Personnel of the section billeted in the villages supervise the cleaning up process.

2. Water Supply.

(a) Nature of supplies. Mostly wells, but in some villages there are underground systems, and a few spring sources are also being used.

(b) Chlorination.

(1) Wells in every village have been tested. The quality of the water varies but the different villages may be averaged as follows:

Name of Village.	Quantity Supply.	Source.	No. of wells tested.	Average no. of scoops.
BUIRE.	Plentiful	wells	3	1
RIBEMONT	Plentiful	wells	18	1
MERICOURT	Dependant on rain.	cisterns	9	1
HELLY.	Plentiful	wells	38	1
BONNAV	Plentiful	wells	33	1
FRANVILLERS	Fair	cisterns	31	2
LA HAUSSOYE	Very Poor	Wells cisterns	8	UNFIT.*
FRECHENCOURT	Plentiful	wells	12	1
PONT NOVELLES	Plentiful	wells	9	1
QUERRIEU.	Plentiful	wells cisterns	11	1
ST GRATIEN.	Poor	cisterns	28	2.

## IV (b) cont.

Sources of supply have also been tested in the following villages which are now out of the area.

name of village	Quantity of supply.	Sources	no wells tested	no scoops
Vaux-sur-Somme	Fair	Wells	13	2
CORRIE	Good	Wells	6	2
LA NEUVILLE	Plentiful	Wells	5	1

\* Most of sources at La Harosse are low or either dry. Inspector was unable to find a source that required less than 4 scoops. (except 1 requiring 3 scoops)

The low numbers in cases of some villages owing to the fact that they have only recently been included in the area.

(II) Notice boards, indicating the no of scoops of Chloride of lime required, have been erected at the sources tested by this station.

(III) Water carts have been inspected by water duty men during tour of villages and fairly satisfactory results have been obtained.

(N) Water is being chlorinated by individual units and cases where chlorination has not been performed have been reported.

At present it is difficult to control the chlorination of petrol tins and dippers but this ~~can~~ be overcome by the use of stand pipes and tanks.

(C) Water filling points are at Pont Moyelles (H.F.C. 2.5.) and Behencourt (out of area).

No facilities for filling petrol tins at Pont Moyelles but this is in course of erection.

Water point in course of erection at Franillers.

There is a very good spring head supply of excellent quality at Frechenourt and a pipe line to St Gratien is proposed.

## III. Food and Cooking.

(a) Quality and variety are good.

(b) Food supplies are kept in improvised safes andessian bags.

(c) Cookhouses and cookers satisfactory.

IV Baths.

(a) Shower baths (hocs) are used for the bathing of troops in the Area.

(b). Situation as follows:- HEILLY 5 sprays.  
 BONNAY 5 sprays. PONT NOVELLES 8 sprays.  
 H. 10. C. H. 2 sprays. H. 11. C.

(c). Underclothing is changed at all baths under regimental arrangements.

V Laundry.

There is no laundry in the Area but the work for the 3rd Australian Division is done at ABBEVILLE.

VI Disinfection

Clothing is passed through the Fodens Threshers stationed at M. D. S. Quenieu before being sent to the laundry.

VII Latrines and Urinals.

For the most part deep pit latrines are in use by units. These will be replaced with box seats as soon as timber is available. Ribemont, Heilly and Mercourt are well supplied with public latrines of box type. Public latrines of pit type have been dug at Franvillers, St Ervaire, Quenieu, Pont Noyelles, Bonnavy.

Some latrines at Mercourt and Ribemont which had been destroyed by shell fire, were replaced.

A small supply of biscuit boxes has been available and these have been converted into latrines at Section Workshops and disposed of to units.

There is a fair sprinkling of urinals of the conventional type throughout the Area.

VIII Refuse disposal.

Incinerators are installed in each village and fatigue parties are available from Town Majors and refuse of all kinds is collected and carted to incinerators for destruction.

The burying of refuse is only occurring in some of the forward positions.

VIII (cont)

(b) Incinerators are of large square iron type capable of coping with all town refuse and are situated in each village. An iron one at St Gratien and 2 pit types at Boumay have been built. Others are being provided where necessary. Some are built of tires filled with earth.

(c) Street clearing is done by fatigue parties supplied by Town Majors and supervised by personnel of the Section. Labour units (in occupation) attend to this in some of the villages.

IX Stables and Horse standings.

(a) Most transport lines are in the open - after use covered - in stables.

(b) Manure is taken away from Horse lines daily and carted to sites selected by Town Major in conjunction with C.O. of this unit. The manure is being stacked. Direction signs to dumps are in course of ~~construction~~ erection where not already provided.

X Anti Louse and Scabies measures

The Steam Trolley attached to the 3rd Aust. Division is on duty in the Area and disinfects blankets as well as clothing.

XI Destruction of Rats. Nil.

XII Instruction in Sanitation

O.C. is in constant touch with various Town Majors and visits throughout the Area. He personnel visit all units and Town Majors and good results have been obtained in provision of latrines of pit type (for temporary use) and general clearing up of billets.

Bi-weekly reports are furnished and action taken by O.C. when necessary.

Following is allocation of personnel for the better supervision of the Area. Small areas have been prescribed for each man (Water inspectors included).

Ribemont	1 man;	Hennicourt	1 man;
Heilly	3 men;	Boumay	2 men;
Tramblay	2 men;	Port Noyelles	1 man;
Focher court	1 man;		



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XIII Infectious Diseases

No cases of infectious diseases amongst the civilians or military have been brought to notice during the month.

XIV General Remarks

Up to the present flies have not yet made their appearance.

At the beginning of the month, labour was very scarce and the digging of latrines was mostly carried out by personnel of this unit. However, later on fatigues were available.

Difficulty has been experienced in obtaining material for construction of latrines and as a result the deep pit type has had to be used.

Negotiations are now pending and arrangements have been made for engineers to construct latrines as soon as material is available.

Meanwhile seats made from biscuit boxes have been constructed by the section and will continue to be made as long as the supply of boxes, which is limited and very irregular, permits.

Numerous notices for water supplies and latrines have been erected and directing signs for incinerations and manure dumps are in course of construction.

Quantity of hinges for latrine seats have been made and many held in stock.

Quite a number of horses in different parts of the Area have been busied under supervision of personnel.

There have been minor changes in boundaries of Area during the month, which at first included and then excluded certain villages.

Plan of Area enclosed.

1st.	
AUSTRALIAN	
SANITARY SECTION.	
No.	21/45
Date.	27.4.18

Capt A.M.C.

A.C. 1 Aus San Sect.

4<sup>th</sup>

ARMY

Aust Corps

"B"

AREA

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Synopsis of work carried out by and under supervision of  
Aust Sanitary Section

Month ending 27/4/18

Situation	NUMBER OF											
	Latrines dug, propped & screened	Seats on completed Latrines	Urinals erected	Latrine pits dug or in course of digging	Home pits dug or in course of digging	Incinerators erected	Refuse pits dug	Grease traps Soak pits dug	Billets inspected	Billets disinfected	Notices erected	Water carts inspected
B Area of Aust Corps	182	61.	85	~	~	11	29	14	1537	nil	237.	113

### WORK IN PROGRESS

Month ending 27/4/18

A number of dis cut box latrines are on hand awaiting collection and some being made daily on arrival of boxes.

Stock of hinges for latrines is kept ahead of demand.

Water notices are being painted daily.

A set of stencils for notice boards is in course of completion in order to minimise time occupied in painting by hand.

Notice boards being cut from brass tins. Hugh Rapson.

Anti splash plates cut for latrine boxes.

G. C. I. Aust San Sec

Appendix: 316

21/45  
27-4-18