

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/76/26

Title: 1st Australian Sanitary Section

October 1918



AWM4-26/76/26

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

110

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

*1st Aust. San. Section
October 1918*

OF

1st Australian Sanitary Section

FOR

October 1918

Signature of Officer compiling

*Keuper, G. Bernard
Capt*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*Keuper, G. Bernard
Capt*

1st
AUSTRALIAN
SANITARY SECTION.

WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL - original

Army Form C. 2118.

10

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No.
Date

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ptoyant | 1/10 | | Reduction in mobilisation horse table equipment for Sanitary Sections - Items surplus to new table returned to Ordnance. | |
| | 1/10 | | Dead horses lying in village of Fay, buried by P.O.W. Coy. under supervision of a W.O. from this unit. | |
| | 2/10 | | Area commandant called re disinfecting chamber at Cheuquelles. | AR. |
| | 2/10 | | Wrote Area commandant Bray re erection of public latrines along main thoroughfares in his Area. | |
| | 3/10 | | Ob. to Dampierre, Bouquehien and Harbinières. | AR. |
| | 3/10 | | Inspection of 92 Squadron R.A.F. Lines. Sanitary registration card for Corbie Depot received. Decided to start a canteen in the unit as it was impossible to obtain supplies of | |
| | 3/10 | | cigarettes etc from other canteens. | AR. |
| | 4/10 | | Instructions received from ODMS Aust Corps (S.I. 7) that 1st San Sect should join 2nd Australian Division and remain under administration of ADMS 2 Aust Div. Subsections recalled. | |
| | 4/10 | | Ob. reported to ODMS and to ADMS 2 Aust Div. Ordered to stand by | AR. |

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| Proyart | 5/10/18 | | A.D.M.S. (San) and D.A.D.M.S. (San) G.H.Q. inspected camp and workshops. It was explained that we were under orders to move and were standing by in readiness. | |
| | | | (A.D.M.S. (San) asked for plans of "1st Aust San Sect" pattern of latrine bucket for biscuit box to be forwarded to him. | |
| | 6/10/18 | | Awaiting orders. | OK |
| | 7/10/18 | 0830 | O.R. from A.D.M.S. 2 Aus Div. - Instructed that lorry would report to move the section and equipment to ST OVEN where billets had been arranged by 7th Aust. Field Ambulance | |
| | | 1430 | moved by road to St Owen. U.B. went forward in Ford Car | OK |
| ST OVEN | | 1730 | Arrived St Owen. Billets located. Guide for lorry party posted | |
| | 8/10/18 | | U.B. to A.D.M.S. office - reported arrival. Thence to area | |
| | | | Commandants and arranged to billet personnel. | OK |
| | 9/10/18 | | Personnel sent to subsections at Belloy, Steger and Vignacourt. U.B. visited C.R.C. 2 Aus Div. re supply of | |
| | | | Quinices material - none available in area. | OK |

(A9475) Wt W2355/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/13.

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| STOUEN | 10/10/18 | | U.S. visited Staff Captain of Brigade Groups. Ford Box Car sent to workshops to obtain new back spring. | |
| | | | Officer from 7th Engineers Coy called re supply of latrine seats. Informed him that supplies were not yet available. | |
| | 11/10/18 | | U.S. called on C.R.E re engineers supplies - arrangements were made for a stock of latrines to be sent up from base also material. A corps dump site to be established. Ford Box Car sent to workshops for repairs to Radiator. U.S. to 2nd M.T. Coy to hasten on repairs to Ford Box Car. Sidecar sent to workshops for minor repair. ^{Both} returned same day. | AR. |
| | 12/10/18 | | Inspected St Owen with Area Commandant - saw all public sanitary appliances - recommendations for improvements made. | AR. |
| | | | Inspected Vignacourt - arranged for attention to public latrines. Ford Box Car broke leaf in new rear spring. Repaired on road. | AR. |

(A9175) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

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|---------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ST OVEN | 13/10/18 | | 7426 Pte Chegwidder F.W. sent to 4 th Army Cookery School at CORBIE. G.B. inspected BELLOY and YEUX. Bucket type of public latrine in use at YEUX was condemned and converted into deep pit type. | |
| | 14/10/18 | | Word received from A.M.C. Comforts Fund Sydney that Xmas parcels had been despatched to the unit. Sidecar sent to workshops. No 2580 Pte Hughes of boarded by A.D.M.S. 2 and D.D. Recommended to be despatched to Base for medical board. Disease: Hernia. G.B. to 1 st Bde H.Q. and 6 th Field Ambulance at BOURDON | MR. MR. |
| | 15/10/18 | | Sidecar returned from workshops. G.B. to see C.R.E. re supplies. Inspected Vignacourt Hesselles, instructed Area bombardment to supply Water Point man with copy of Ant Corps A 197/278. D.D.M.S. asked each San. Sec. to nominate good reliable N.C.O. for duty at Corps H.Q. Cpl Wheat nominated. | MR. |

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|--------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| STOVEN | 16/10/18 | | 2580 Pte Hughes J returned to Base for Medical Board by order of ADMS 2 aus Div. Struck off strength. | |
| | | | 19208 Pte Duncan K. B. transferred from 5th Aust Fld Ambulance taken on strength (Claimed by elder brother to serve in this unit) | |
| | 17/10/18 | | O.B. visited 5th and 6th Brigade H.Q. Inspected Batis at Bersteau court also 20th Battalion lines | AR |
| | | | Inspected Hall used by Concert Party at Bersteau court. | |
| | | | Arranged for public latrine to be erected. | |
| | | | Arranged with Area Commandant Steyer for selection of site for manure dumps at Steyer. No trees posted. | |
| | 18/10/18 | | Inspected 20th Battalion lines with R.M.O. at Vignacourt | AR |
| | | | Inspection was satisfactory. | |
| | 19/10/18 | | O.B. to Remois - inspected village generally. | |
| | | | Recommendations for more public latrines made to Area Commandant. | AR |

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| ST OVEN | 20/10/18 | | Plans of latrine buckets prepared and forwarded to A.D.M.S (San) G.H.Q. | |
| | 21/10/18 | | No 1965 Pte Maloney H. reported from 5th Aust San. Sec. to be taken on strength (ordered by D.D.M.S to bring on strength up to establishment) Pte Maloney has been awarded 7 days F.P. No 2 on 21.10.18 by C.B. 5 Aus. San. Sec. and then transferred to 1 Aus. San. Sec. Incinerator for public use installed at Yzeux De-lousing chamber being constructed by 7th Aus. Fld. Amb. | TR |
| | 22/10/18 | | D.D.M.S Aust Corps and A.D.M.S 2 Aus Div ⁿ inspected camp C.B. paraded to D.D.M.S re Maloney. Instructed by D.D.M.S to arrange with A.D.M.S 2 Aus Div ⁿ to exchange him for a suitable man from an ambulance. Request sent through to A.D.M.S, who instructed 5th Fld. Amb. to provide a man. Matter pending. Medical Instructions Routine No 17 received. Sanitary museum at Aust Corps School to be formed by C.B. 2nd San. Sec. Models to be made by each Section | TR |

(Ag. 75) Wt W2358/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

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| ST OUVEN | 23 19 | | Major H. Rayson "M.C." relinquished command and handed over to Capt R. G. Bunnard, who was appointed to command. Major Rayson remaining a few days with Capt Bunnard. Ob. visited C.P.C. re supply of engineer material which was due to arrive. | |
| | | | Inspected baths at St ouen and Berteaucourt. | |
| | | | Capt Holmes Lt. 2 Aus. San. Sect. called re models to be made for Aust Corps School. | |
| | 24 19 | | Capt Bunnard to see Area Commandants St ouen and St Leger. Ob. to see Area Commandants Vieux and Vignacourt. | |
| | | | Inspected baths and water Point at Vignacourt. | |
| | | | Instructed Area Com. again to provide water Point in and with copy of Aust Corps A 197/278. Latrine at Ecole des Gardons Flesselles ordered. | |
| | | | Inspected baths at Tirancourt. Arranged with CO. 24 th Battalion at La Chaussée to change his guard room. | |
| | | | Donner Creelman (2 idicar) on leave to Paris. Substitute driver provided. | |

(A9475) Wt W235/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

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WAR DIARY

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|---------|----------------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ST Owen | 25 10 18 | | Inspected lines of 25th Battalion with Adjutant. Reported on sites and sanitary requirements. | |
| | | | Inspected villages of Burdow Yew and St East. Several civilian manure dumps at Belloy being attended to. | RMA |
| | | | Meeting of Canteen Committee - Change of President. | |
| | 26 10 18 | | O.b. went through past and outstanding correspondence files. Inspected villages of Dleselles and Fremont. | RMA |
| | 27 10 18 | | O.b. continued on reading correspondence files. Meeting of N.C.O.s at which O.b. outlined his policy in matter of dealing with inspectors' reports. | RMA |
| | | | Sprayer sent to R.M.O. 2nd Pioneer Battalion on loan for use in spraying out his billets. | |
| | 28 10 18 | | O.b. to water cart demonstration given by Co. 7 Aust Field Ambulance. Thence to Co. 5 Aust Field Amb. re exchange of Maloney. | RMA |
| | | | Timber obtained - Workshops established at Unit H.Q. | |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|---------|----------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ST OVEN | 29/10/18 | | Report from Water Inspector Vignacourt that R.M.O. 18th Batt ^{ns} had labelled all wells in billets occupied by his men "Unfit" was inspector to test and label according to test? This had been done by R.M.O. to ensure that water Point should be used. Replied to water inspector not to interfere with notices of R.M.O. | RM |
| | 30/10/18 | | 1st Education Class in French started. (L. G. teaching) Inspected refilling points of 5th 6th and 7th Brigades. A.B. inspected 26th Battalion Transport lines with Transport Officer. Winter Clothing issued. | RM |
| | 31/10/18 | | A.B. to Vignacourt inspected Incinerator. Recommend new one of pit type. A.B. to S.S.O. re construction of standrings for all Brigade refilling points. Matter to be put in hand. A.B. to A.D.M.S. Office. Recommendation forwarded to A.C. Vignacourt to obtain 2 fatigues of 30 men each to be permanent for general cleaning up in Vignacourt and Flesselles. | RM |

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WAR DIARY APPENDIX

OF

1st Australia Sanitary Section

FOR

October 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject. |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Alb Report.</i> |
| 2. | <i>Resumed work</i> |
| 3. | <i>cont martial</i> |
| | <i>orders Rown cases</i> |
| 4. | <i>Sanitary Report.</i> |

CONFIDENTIAL

1st AUSTRALIAN SAILOR SECTION

O.C.'s WAR DIARY or Report INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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| | October 1918 | | <p>Strength of Unit has been up to Establishment practically throughout the month, although several changes took place. One man was returned to Base for Medical Board, one was transferred from the unit. Two were taken on strength. One man was sent to this unit from another unit while undergoing Field Punishment. The case has been cited in order to test the legality. Matter is pending and ruling will be noted when received.</p> <p>There has been a change of O.C. during this month Capt R. G. Burnard replacing Major H. Rayson M.C. on 23/10/18. There are no orderly Room cases to record. Rations have been good both in quality and quantity. Increase in jam issue from 2ozs to 3ozs authorised by G.R.O. 5386 on 25/10/18 was welcome addition. The cook has been attending a 3 weeks course of instruction at 4th Army Cooking School.</p> | |

APPENDIX 1

(Ag. 75) Wt W2355/P360 600,000 12/17 D. D. & L. Sch. 52a. Forms/C2118/15.

CONFIDENTIAL.

1st
AUSTRALIAN
CAMP SECTION.

b.o.'s WAR DIARY or Report (cont)
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form 2118.

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| | | | <p>Blanketing supplies from Ordnance have been ample. Several The Scale of mobilisation Store Table has been revised amended by reduction of such items as no. of Brooms, barrows, rakes, Canvas Boxes etc. Present scale is ample for requirements. Both Ford Car and Sidecar combination have been to workshops on several occasions during the month but repairs were soon effected and work of Section was not seriously impeded. A bazaar has been started this month and for supply of goods to personnel of unit. Unfortunately capital is very small but it is hoped this will be increased later on by contributions if money loan from personnel.</p> | |
| | | | | APPENDIX 1 |

Remy S. Samard
Capt

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Resume of work.
WAR DIARY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Army Form C. 2118.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|----------------|-------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <i>October</i> | <i>1918</i> | | <p>Routine work of Sanitary Inspection and water testing has been carried on as usual.</p> <p>Notices for tested water supplies have been posted.</p> <p>All units are frequently visited and most of camps are in good order.</p> <p>An arrival in this area, supply of latrine accommodation was inadequate and it was only towards close of month that improved material became available.</p> <p>Copy of monthly sanitary report is attached.</p> <p>A.C. on taking over held a meeting of N.C.O.s and outlined his policy in respect of reports received from Sanitary Inspectors. - Also decided to give each inspector a form of pass and introduction combined which is to be presented at all Orderly Rooms before making inspections.</p> <p>Proforma of report was slightly altered and</p> | <p>APPENDIX 2</p> |

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Resume WAR DIARY *work*
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

Army Form C. 2118.

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------|------|------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <i>(Continued)</i> | | | <p><i>the A.I.F. Printing section have promised to print official report forms for use in this unit and this work will be put in hand immediately on receipt of the stationery. A copy will be forwarded when received.</i></p> | |

*Ralph Hamman
Capt*

APPENDIX 2

1 Aust Sanitary Section

ORDERLY ROOM CASES

Month Ending 31/10/18

NIL

COURT MARTIAL CASES

Month Ending 31/10/18

NIL

Revised by
Capt NAME
C. B. 1 Aust. San. Sec.

Sanitary Report for October 1918 4

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YZEUX Area

FOURTH Army

1st Australian Sanitary Section1. Billets and their Quarters

- (a) Nature. Billets are mostly in use
- (b) Ventilation. Good.
- (c) Overcrowding. Nil
- (d) General Condition. Most of billets are in a very good condition and in a few cases minor improvements have been and are being made in anticipation of the winter season.

2. Water Supply

- (a) Wells are plentiful in each village and the quality of the water is very good. Standpipes have been used in this area but were all removed before the Division took over with the exception of two at Vignacourt.
- (b) Water is chlorinated under regimental arrangements. Instructions have been issued to Area Commandant Vignacourt to arrange for chlorination of small tanks at Water Point.
 - (i) The greater number of wells in each village has been tested. In some villages records of previous tests made by other Sanitary Sections are in evidence. These have been and are being retested and where there is a variation from previous test new notices are erected.
 - (ii) Notice boards have been erected at all tested sources, where notices have not already been posted by other Sanitary Sections. Paper notices have been replaced by tin notices.
- (c) Numerous wells were found unlabelled and have been tested and labelled.

110 Water Supply (cont)

(b) (iii) Water carts are not being used to any great extent owing to absence of standpipes and the fact that good well supplies are available in close proximity to kitchens.

(iv) Water inspectors have visited cookhouses of units and tested samples of water about to be used for cooking, to ensure that chlorination has been performed. This method of checking chlorination has had to be employed owing to small percentage of water carts in use.

Satisfactory results have been obtained.

3. Food and cooking

(a) Quality and variety. Good.

(b) Units have improvised for themselves flyproof boxes or else cover the food with hessian bags.

(c) Cookhouses and cookers generally are in a satisfactory condition.

4. Baths.

(a) Hot spray shower baths are in use in this area.

(b) Baths are situated at:

VIRNA COURT

BERTEAUCOURT

TIRAN COURT

S.T. O U E N.

On arrival in this area the baths were found to be in a very bad condition. All have been visited twice or three times and recommendations for improvements both in the bathhouse and in the matter of treatment of effluent have been forwarded to the Baths officer and are receiving attention.

(c) Clean changes of underclothing are provided at Baths.

5. Laundries

The laundry work for the Division is being done at Atherville.

6. Disinfection

Steam Jodew Lorry has been moving from village to village disinfecting blankets.

A few delousing chambers have been made but shortage of timber and stone piping material has prevented a large number.

7. Latrines and Urinals.

On arrival in this Area latrine accommodation was limited to public conveniences in each village and a few seats held by Area Commandants; and material for making latrines was unobtainable. However arrangements have been completed for a supply of latrines and engineered material and these defects will be remedied.

Public latrines are of deep pit type. A case was reported where bucket latrines were being used but these have now been converted into deep pit type.

Units have improvised a few latrines from boxes for their own use, in order to relieve pressure on public latrines pending arrival of a supply and have dry urinals.

A few open pits were in use but these have now been covered.

8. Refuse Disposal.

(a) In some cases refuse is taken away by civilians, but mostly timber collected from cookhouses daily under regimental arrangements and cart refuse to incinerators.

(b) Public incinerators are installed in each village - Some had to be repaired. Units are putting in their own incinerators type recommended being 2-pit.

(c) This is carried out by fatigue parties from units in occupation of each village.

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9. Stables and Horse Standings

(a) Horses are picketed on outskirts of villages mostly - but there are some instances where covered in sheds are used.

(b) Manure is carted daily from horse lines to manure dumps, indicated to units by Area Commandants, where it is being stacked.

10. Anti Louse and Scabies measures

Facilities for bathing, clean changes at Bath, and disinfection of blankets are the main methods adopted.

Delousing chambers will be installed as soon as material permits.

12. Instruction in Sanitation.

b.o. visits and consults with Area Commandants regularly in regard to Sanitary conditions in their Area.

Units' billets and lines are also inspected and defects, if any, pointed out.

Sanitary inspectors are billeted throughout the Area and visit all units regularly.

Daily reports are submitted to this office.

Inspectors are in close liaison with Sanitary Squads of Units and many minor defects can thus be remedied straightaway.

13. Infectious Diseases

No cases have been reported amongst the civilian population during this period.

P. T. O.

14 General Remarks.

The fly nuisance is fast disappearing with advent of cold weather and at present is practically a negligible quantity.

Material for construction of and repair of existing sanitary appliances is now coming to hand and the work is being put into operation.

Public sanitary appliances are available in each village - some badly in need of repair. These have been repaired as far as material permitted.

Water inspectors and Sanitary inspectors are detached and billeted with Area Commandants in order to facilitate better the supervision of units.

Water hobs have been painted and erected during the month.

A workshop has been started at H.Q. of unit at St Owen to help on the supply of sanitary requirements.

Renfrey G. Burnard.
 Capt R.A.M.C.
 A.C. - 1 Aus San. Sec.



FOURTH ARMY

YZEUX

AREA

Synopsis of work carried out by & under supervision of
1ST Aust Sanitary Section

Month Ending 25/10/18

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| Situation | Latrines dug, Proofed, Screened | Seats on Completed Latrines | Urinals Erected | NUMBER OF | | | | | Grease Traps & Sewage Pits dug | Buckets Units Inspected during month | Buckets Disinfect- ed. | Notices Erected | WATER CAPS Inspec. |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| | | | | Latrine Pits dug or incinerated digging | Urine Pits dug or incinerated digging | Incinerators Erected and repaired | Refuse Pits dug | | | | | | |
| YZEUX | 36 | 42 | 82 | } | } | 6 | 10 | 39 | 240 | } | 162 | 5 | |

Work in Progress

Month Ending 28/10/18

Workshops for construction of latrines have been established at Section headquarters. Notices for water supplies, latrines, and directing signs to manure dumps, incinerators etc have been made and issued.

Delousing chambers will be pressed on with as material becomes available.



Kenya J. Burwick
Capt ARMC
O.C. 1ST Aust San. Sec.