

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/49/10

Title: 6th Australian Field Ambulance

June 1916



AWM4-26/49/10

977

6 Aust. 7. Camb.

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VH 3

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 1.6.16 | ERQUINGHEM ERQ'EM 9.45pm | Parade this afternoon about 2 1/2 miles west of here the occasion being the visit of the Aust. Premier Mr. Hughes. In the evening a Captured balloon broke its moorings. Occupants descended by parachutes (in our lines I believe) the balloon rising & being carried Eastward, Enemy shells bursting about it in profusion but without visible effect. Distant artillery action audible now. | |
| 2-6-16 | ERQ'EM 9.45pm. | No special incident to-day. To-night | |

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6 Aust. 7. Amb.

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|--------------------|---|---|
| 2.6.16 | ERQ'EM | a battery near here is active at present. weather fine + Cool. | |
| 3.6.16 | ERQ'EM | Heavy Artillery action occurred during night + early morning but no enemy shells fell here. To-day has been quiet for the most part. Fine. | |
| 4.6.16 | ERQ'EM 11.25pm. | A few casualties to-night with which I assisted - Shell wounds Some heavy Artillery action of ours is on now. News of Naval engagement in North Sea received Have sent out stocks of food + dressings etc to Ad. Dq. Str. in view | |

C.11056.

27/16

6th Aust. F. Amb.

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| 4.6.16 | ERQ'EM | of possible isolation of that post by curtain fire. | |
| 5.6.16 | ERQ'EM | No special incident. A trench raid reported to have been planned. | |
| 6.6.16 | ERQ'EM | Trench raid said not to have occurred owing to strong enemy patrol. Possibly will occur to-night. No special activity by aircraft or artillery locally. | |
| | | Very wet last night & during forenoon. | |
| 7.6.16 | ERQ'EM | Last night from 11.25 pm to 12.20 a.m. this morning heavy artillery firing went on in connection with the raid planned. The day | |

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6th Aust. F. Amb

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------|-----------------|---|---|
| 7. 6. 16 | ERQ'EM | has passed quietly. Some 16 casualties were all that passed thro' our hands. The raid proved fairly successful & some prisoners were taken - very juvenile I am told. Received instructions to make provision for transport across river in case bridges be shelled & demolished. | |
| 8. 6. 16 | ERQ'EM | Maj. Gen. Legge commanding this Div ⁿ inspected to-day. Am collecting materials for constructing rafts & if possible a pontoon foot bridge | |

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6th Aust 7 Amb

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|--------|-----------------|---|---|
| 8/6/16 | ERQ'EM | in case of destruction of bridges across the Lys. A new shell proof Shelter is also being erected under direction of Engineers. Official announcement of death of Lord Kitchener received. No special artillery or other activity to-day. | |
| 9/6/16 | ERQ'EM | No special incidents. Barrils put in good condition for constructing raft or pontoon bridge. Other timber or materials promised to-night by Engineers. Inspected farm on opposite side river (LVS) which | |

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6 Aust. F. Amb.

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 9.6.16 | ERQ'EM | which has been indicated as the Div. Collecting Station. Have suggested stationing at least Amb. wagon (H.T.) + 4 horses there as parts of road are not very suited for M.T. when wet + muddy. | Secret Memo. of A.D.M.S 2 ^d Div. |
| 10.6.16 | " " 8pm. | No special incident to note. Cloudy but fine. Materials for raft failed to come from engineers. Promised a-same for to-night. | |
| 11.6.16 | ERQ'EM 10.10pm | No special incident. weather cloudy. Only part of timber indicated for arrived balance | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | <p style="text-align: center;">Coast. 7. Amb</p> | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|------------|---------------------|---|---|
| 11. 10. 16 | ERQ'EM | <p>promised for to-night. Pontoon emergency bridge of engineers tested successful with heavy Danier amb. (38 1/2 cwt.) The acting A.D.M.S. called in.</p> | |
| 12. 6. 16 | ERQ'EM 8.30 p.m. | <p>No special incident. Cold + wet. Calling in of blanket + horse rugs was rather premature for this climate. Distant artillery audible & continuous this evening - probably towards YPRES. Ambulance equipment being increased to Estab. for 3 sections as per</p> | <p>W.O.</p> |

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6 Aust. F. Unit

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|------------------|---|---|
| 12/6/16 | ERQ'EM 8.30pm | Materials for building raft came last night but no progress yet in construction new plans being required owing to no rope being issued. | |
| 13/6/16 | ERQ'EM 8.40pm | No special incident. Wet & Cold went to HQs. to report to acting a.d.m.s. re position of Horse Transport in regard to a proposed new fire position nearby. The position was abandoned however no need for removal of Transport on that score. | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | Chest, F. Amb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-------------------|---|---|
| 13/6/16 | ERQ'EM 8.40pm | Distant artillery audible most of last night + to-day towards YPRES. | |
| 14/6/16 | ERQ'EM 10.30pm | Capt. Stephen reported for duty Acting A.D.M.S. Called re accommodation available for patients in buildings + cellars. Time alteration - watches advanced one hour at 11pm. | DRD 814 |
| 15/6/16 | ERQ'EM 10pm | No special incident. Raft completed + has considerable buoyancy To make tests to-morrow. Cold + damp but little rain. | |
| 16/6/16 | ERQ'EM 10pm | Tested Raft - carried 12 men | |

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6 Aust Y. Amb

| Date. | Place and Time. | | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|------------------|--|---|
| 16.6.16 | ERQ'EM | + 2 bicycles. Have found a Copper wire cable in ruins at a d.s. which is attached both sides of stream with plenty slack to lie deep + is ready in place for hauling raft to + fro. Raft concealed down stream + decking darkened to avoid aircraft observation. Still cold but finer. Aircraft active. Some artillery activity. | |
| 17 6 16 | ERQ'EM 9.45pm | about 11.25pm. last night artillery on our left before heavy bombardment of enemy lines | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6th Aust. Y. Amb | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------------|---|---|
| 17.6.16 | ERQ'EM 9.45 pm | Continued till 12.10 am. After a short interval snoring horns & fangs were heard indicating enemy gas attack. Artillery commenced again. No gas reached here but was noticed in Armentières (but not at our A.D.S.) also at Epinette & Cross du Bac. No signal warning came thro' Div. Signaller or ^{to} Bde HQS I was told. Aeroplanes active to-day 2 said to have been brought down in enemy lines one of ours. | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 Aust. F. Aircb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------------------|-----------------|---|---|
| 17.6.16 Continued | ERQ'EM | one of theirs. The D.D.M.S. called in passing with the A.D.M.S. 4 th Div. en route to ARMEN-TIERES. No "fossed" cases came thro' our hands. Capt Fenwick temporarily detached for Reg duty (18 th Btn). 3 men transferred permanently as a M.C. details to 6 th Eng'rs (1) + 5 th M.G. Coy (2). | |
| 18/6/16 | " " 11.5pm. | No Special incident. Some air-craft activity. Reported from Ad. Dy. Str that casualties might be expected to-night as | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 th Aust. F. Amb | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| 18/6/16 Contd. | ERQ'EM | "raid" was thought to be projected. Nothing so far. | |
| | 12 Midnight | Artillery action commenced. appears to be from on our right (S. of Ryline). | |
| 19/6/16 | 12.35am ERQ'EM | Gas alarm. Confirmed at Div. Signaller | |
| | | Last night's alarm came from the north but was not confirmed by the N.Z. Div. immediately on our north. I sent horses to L'ESTRADE but not all. About 1am. I sent to get them back. about we stood by till about 1.30am. r | |

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917

| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 th Aust. F. Amb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| | | <p>turned in with Gas Helmets handy. Major Furber of this unit sus- tained a Colles' fracture of left arm + awaits instructions from Adms. re evacuation as he wishes to be consulted before any M.O. is evacuated.</p> | |
| 20/6/16 | ERQ'EM 9 pm | <p>Major Furber interviewed Adms this morning + evacuated after 4th Brigade (of 4th Div) is taking over from 7th + the latter moving The 4th Div is notified as trans- ferred to 1st ANZAC via NZ Div.</p> | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 th Aust. 7. Amb | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|----------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| Continued 20.6.16 | ERQ'EM | Transferred to 2d ANZAC in order to-night. Church in ARMENTIERES destroyed by shell fire to-day | |
| 21.6.16 | ERQ'EM 10pm. | No special incident to note. Not so cold. Cloudy in morning but finer towards night. | |
| 22.6.16 | ERQ'EM 10.20pm | Enemy artillery have been shelling this neighbourhood but not the town so far. Aircraft were active the day being bright clear + warmer. A.M.S. called + saw raft provision | |
| 23.6.16 | ERQ'EM 9pm. | No special news. Artillery active during night + fairly so during | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 Aust. F. Amb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|----------------------|--|---|
| 23.6.16 | ERQ'EM | the day. It has been a week of small raids. Thunderstorm about 6 p.m. + heavy rain for half an hour. Soldier killed by lightning. Report on recent gas attack (night of 16/17) very satisfactory in regard to efficiency of helmets + gas masks. | |
| 24.6.16 | ERQ'EM 10.15 p.m. | No special incident. Usual desultory artillery fire. Estab: of Horse Transport reduced by 1 Sgt + 1 Dt. also by 1 Riding 1 L.D. + 1 H.D. Am transferring have already transferred as per instructions. An | |

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9/17

| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 Aust. G. Amb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-------------------|--|---|
| 24.6.16 | ERQ'EM | improved Splinter proof shelter has been prepared & is about finished. Am constructing more small ones as soon as possible. I have got all my Transport (Horse) away from the rear of the Battery recently installed near their former quarters. | |
| 25.6.16 | ERQ'EM 9.5.5pm | no special activity. Capt. Godfrey off duty with Subaltern Rheu- nition leaving only 4 Officers on duty 2 at ADS + 2 including | |

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17

| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 Aust. 7. Amb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|---|--|---|
| 25/6/16 | ERQ ¹ EM Continued. 1.5 a.m. | Myself here as the other 2 are detached + 3 evacuated sick. It is said our Artillery is to do some bombarding to-night. about 10.30 p.m. a shell fell in the town followed at about 1 to 2 minute intervals by about a dozen others. One entered an office at HQS DS but fortunately no body was in the room which is wrecked. Transport Sgt was on opposite side of street at time + got a small wound | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 th Aust. F. Amb. | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|---------------------|--|---|
| 25.6.16 | ERQ'EM Continued | <p>apparently flesh only under his left shoulder blade. 2 other military casualties came in + one civilian. An old woman said to have died of shock. Our artillery opened up about 11.30 + went on for about 1 1/2 hours</p> <p>Do not consider this place sufficiently out of range of moderate ranged guns (5.9 in) for a Field Ambulance H.Q.</p> | |
| 26.6.16 | ERQ'EM 10.40pm | <p>Damage to our unit by shelling last night - 1 Sgt + 1 plt slightly wounded</p> | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 1 st Aust Coy | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-----------------|--|---|
| 26/6/16 | ERQ'EM | <p>(both at duty) 2 L.D. horses evacuated to ADVS wounded. Other horses (of 4th Bde) in same straits - 6 killed. Busy 5-day constructing further shelter for men. D.A.D. U.S. called & saw damage done. Artillery active for 3/4 hour about 9.30 pm, on words - both sides but mostly enemy's. Some action again now. Capt. Godfrey still laid up but better. Gas alert from HQ at 7.30 pm, but turning now so nothing likely to</p> | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 th Aust F. Amb | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|---------------------|--|---|
| 26.6.16 | ERQ'EM | be attempted. 2 if not 3. Captive balloons of enemy seen to fall in flames due to aeroplane action. | |
| 27.6.16 | ERQ'EM 10.40 pm. | No special activity. Capt. Fenwick reported back from Reg. relieving duty. Shelters being constructed. Capt. Lewis promotion to Major (temp) published in A.I.F. orders as from 8.6.11 | |
| 28/6/16 | ERQ'EM 11.35 pm | Nothing special to record. Protective measures going on. Our artillery has opened up the last 5 minutes + is going still Leave Stopped. | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | 6 th Aust. F. Amb | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|-------------------|--|---|
| 29/6/16 | ERQ'EM 10.30pm | <p>Little to note. Some aeroplane activity particularly towards 9 p.m. Also one going about now if judging from firing of an anti-aircraft gun. Raid on large scale expected to-night. Sent 13 extra men to A.D.S. also extra stretchers. Two M.A.C. Cars standing by to evacuate from here back to C.C.S. + an extra one of ours ^{will go} forward at soon as artillery action ceases + stand by in ARMENTIERES.</p> | |

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| Date. | Place and Time. | Event | Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached. |
|---------|------------------|---|---|
| 30.6.16 | ERQ'EM 9 p.m. | ⁿ 6 ⁿ Aust 4 Avuls Lengthy artillery action last night. The casualties dealt with by us were 29. Arrangements made worked well. Fleet of 23 aeroplanes passed overhead going East & returning - about between 6 + 7 p.m. | |

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