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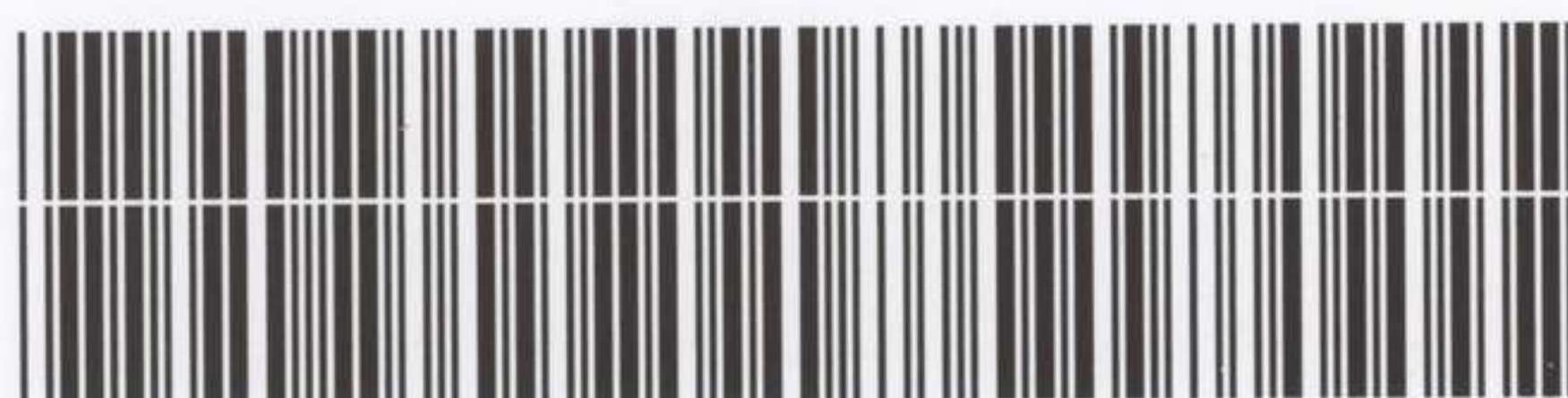
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/49/22

Title: 6th Australian Field Ambulance

October 1917



AWM4-26/49/22

6th.Australian Field Ambulance.

1st.October 1917 to 31st.October 1917.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|---|---------|-----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| DEVONSHIRE CAMP Sheet 28 1:40000 G.22.b.6.4. | 1/10/17 | 10am. 2pm. noon | In accordance with A.A.M.C. 2nd.Australian Division Order No.96 dated 1/10/1917, B and C Section Tent Subdivisions moved to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER Sheet 28 H.18.c.8.0. and took over the Ambulance Post there from the 4th.Australian Field Ambulance by 10am.. "A"Section Tent Subdivision and transport moved to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER at 2pm. The following were placed at the disposal of the O.C.6th.Australian Field Amb. from 12 noon, in accordance with 2nd.Aust.Div. Order No.96 dated 1/10/17. :- (i) By 5th.Australian Field Ambulance :- Bearer Division, 2 Tent Subdivisions & Transport (ii) By 7th.Australian Field Ambulance. Bearer Division and Transport. (iii) 2 Officers and 150 Other Ranks of 48th.Australian Infantry Battln. reported to O.C.6th.Australian Field Ambulance at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER at 9pm. for duty as Stretcher Bearers. Major E.L.HUTCHINSON and 1 other Officer and 86 other Ranks took over Bearer Posts in forward area during the night and placed Bearers at all REGIMENTAL AID POSTS. 6 horse Ambulance wagons were detailed to carry wounded from BELLEWAARDE RIDGE Sheet 28 J.7.a.4.3. to BIRR X ROADS I.17.b.2.8. and two Daimler Motor Ambulances from BIRR X ROADS to the ADVANCED DRESSING STATION MENIN ROAD I.9.c.6.6. | Corps Orders 1/10/17. |
| BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER Sheet 28 H.18.c.8.0. | 2/10/17 | | 1 Other Rank evacuated wounded. Strength of Unit 10 Officers 182 Other Ranks relieved 14th.Australian Field Ambulance at the ADVANCED DRESSING STATION MENIN ROAD Sheet 28 I.9.c.6.6. at 10am.. Tent Division moved to A.D.S. by that hour. Bearer Division moved from DEVONSHIRE CAMP to YPRES RAMPARTS I.7.d.2.1. 2 Tent Subdivisions of 5th.Aust.Field Ambulance reported to O.C.6th.Aust.Field Amb. at noon at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. One Tent subdivision remained there in charge of the Ambulance post, the other moved to YPRES RAMPARTS I.7.d.1.2. and opened an emergency dressing station there in two newly erected Nissen Huts. All available transport of 5th. and 7th.Australian Field Ambulances reported to Transport Officer 6th.Aust.Field Ambulance at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER. 1 Officer and 64 Other Ranks were employed at A.D.S. or in working parts of the forward posts constructing cover. No.4 Dental Unit rejoined Unit at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER from 7th.Aust. Field Ambulance WARATAH CAMP Sheet 28 G.15.c.1.9. in accordance with 2nd.Aust. Division A.A.M.C. Order No.96 dated 1/10/1917. | Corps Orders 2/10/17. |
| A.D.S. MENIN ROAD I.9.c.6.6. | 3/10/17 | 11am | 2 Other Ranks rejoined Unit from Base. | |

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Summary of Events and Information

| Place. | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|------------------------------------|---------|-------|--|--|
| MENIN ROAD A.D.S. I.9.c.6.6. | 3/10/17 | 11am. | An entraining centre was Established at YPRES RAILWAY STATION in 4 newly erected Nissen Huts and MAJOR DUNN 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance. (attached) 150 Bearers of 5th., 6th., and part of 7th.Australian Field Ambulances Bearer Divisions relieved 2 Officers and 150 bearers of 48th.Battalion at A.D.S. and forward relay posts. These embussed at A.D.S. at 11pm. and rejoined their Unit. Balance of 7th.Aust. Field Ambulance bearer Division was stationed at YPRES RAMPARTS and instructed to act as loading party at the entraining centre YPRES RAILWAY STATION. | Corps Orders 3/10/17 and Instructions for entraining centre Appendix "A" |
| | | 11pm. | | |
| | 4/10/17 | 8am. | Captain E.O.WATSON No.4 Dental Unit evacuated sick. 2 Other Ranks rejoined Unit from A.D.S. 28 P.B.Other Ranks under instructions from D.D.M.S. 1st.A.N.Z.A.C. reported to Major DUNN at YPRES RAILWAY STATION Entraining centre at 8am. and relieved 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance bearers at loading post. | Appendix "A" |
| | | | Under instructions from D.D.M.S. 1st.A.N.Z.A.C. 12th.Australian Field Ambulance reported from CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION DICKEBUSCH to YPRES RAMPARTS at 8am. | |
| | | 9am. | Bearer Division 12th.Aust.Field Ambulance and balance of Bearer Division of 7th.Australian Field Ambulance (40 Other Ranks) reported at A.D.S. MENIN ROAD and were posted at Forward Posts (100) and as loading and fatigue party (40) at A.D.S. | |
| | | | Stretcher Cases evacuated through A.D.S. were :- <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> From 8am. to 12 noon 216 " noon " 4pm. 316 " 4.10pm." 9pm. 96 Total 8am to 9pm. 628. </div> | |
| | | | All cases were inspected in the Motor Ambulances as they arrived from BIRR X ROADS and sent directly on or taken out for dressings as necessary. About 11.30am a temporary congestion of dressed cases occurred occurred at the A.D.S, owing to lack of M.A.C. Cars, all these having been sent away with full loads. The congestion was cleared by 1.30pm. | |
| | | | From the entraining centre two trains were sent away viz. <div style="margin-left: 40px;"> at 10.30am. with 29 stretcher cases and 294 walking cases at 3.45pm. with 12 stretcher cases and 91 walking cases. These were the first Ambulance Trains to evacuate wounded from YPRES since the 2nd.Battle of YPRES. </div> | |
| | | 4pm. | Rain came on at 4pm. and 170 water proof sheets were sent to forward bearers posts and used to cover patients. 1 Other Rank killed in action, 7 other Ranks evacuated wounded and one other rank evacuated sick of 6th.Aust. Field Ambulance. | |
| | 5/10/17 | 7am. | Bearer Division 8th.Aust.Field Ambulance and portion of bearer division of 7th. Aust.Field Ambulance reported to A.D.S. at 7a, and proceeded to forward posts to relieve bearers of 6th.and portion of bearers of 5th.Aust.Field Ambulances and the other portion of the 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance bearer division.Relieved bearers moved by motor lorry to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER arriving at 1pm. | Appendix "A" |

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Summary of events and Information

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|--------|--|---|
| MENIN ROAD A D S I.9.c.6.6. | 5 10 17. | 6.30p. | By arrangements of D.D.M.S. 1st.A.N.Z.A.C. 2 Officers and 100 other ranks of 14th. A.I. Brigade reported to O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance at A.D.S. MENIN ROAD at 6.30pm. for duty as stretcher bearers. 1 Officer and 25 O.Rs. of this party were placed at the disposal of O.C. 1st. Aust. Field Amb. at the A.D.S. for walking cases (wounded). 1 Officer and 75 Other Ranks proceeded to forward posts and relieved Bearer Division of 12th. Aust. Field Ambulance. 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance relief completed by 9pm. and Bearer division of 12th. Aust. Field Ambulance returned by lorries to CORPS MAIN DRESSING STATION DECKE BUSCHE. Captain P.A. STEVENS was detached to 22nd. Battalion as acting R.M.O. vice Major W.G. CRAIG evacuated wounded. | Appendix "A" |
| | 6/10/17 | | Captain J.I. ROWAN and 26 other Ranks of 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance relieved small parties of 5th. and 7th. Aust. Field Ambulances bearers at BELLEWAARDE J.7.a.4.3. and WESTHOEK RIDGE J.7.d.8.8.. Relief completed by 9pm. Major T.M. FURBER relieved Major E.L. HUTCHINSON in charge of forward evacuation. | do |
| | 7/10/17 | | 2 Other Ranks placed on supernumerary strength and attached as A.A.M.C. details to 22nd. Battalion vice 2 casualties. Bearer Division of 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance and portion of bearer division of 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance. relieved bearer division of 8th. Aust. Field Ambulance and portion of bearer division of 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance. Relief completed by 11am. 8th. Aust. Field Ambulance bearer division rejoined Unit by motor lorries. The relieved 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance bearers returned for rest to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER by motor lorries. | |
| | 8/10/17 | 9pm. | 1 Other Rank evacuated sick. 1 Other Rank rejoined Unit from hospital. Rain fell almost continuously throughout the day, and mud in forward area became very deep, and stretcher bearers' work became very heavy. Captain DAVIS attached from 5th. Aust. Field Amb. was detached as acting R.M.O. to 19th. Battalion vice Capt. MORGAN evacuated wounded. Major E.L. HUTCHINSON again took charge of forward evacuation vice Major T.M. FURBER wounded. In consequence of the successful advance on 4th. October 1917 and to avoid stretcher bearing over long carrying track rendered heavy by the continuous rain, the route of evacuation from front line was changed from BELLEWAARDE- WESTHOEK- BIRR X ROADS to the ZONNEBEKE - YPRES ROAD. Horse Ambulance and Motor ambulance service was established on this road with loading parties and the emergency Dressing Station at YPRES RAMPARTS I.7.d.2.1. was transferred to the entraining centre YPRES RAILWAY STATION and became the A.D.S. for Stretcher cases of the 2nd. Australian Division. Stretcher cases of the 1st. Aust. Division continued to be treated at A.D.S. MENIN ROAD. Large supplies of waterproof sheets and blankets were sent forward for the covering of patients. One Other Rank evacuated wounded. 2 O.Rs. rejoined Unit from Hospital. 34 O.Rs. Reinforcements joined Unit from base, and were taken on strength and posted at YPRES RAMPARTS in reserve. | do See report of O.C. 6th. Aust. Field Ambulance and Major E.L. HUTCHINSON |

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| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--|----------|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| MENIN ROAD A.D.S. Sheet 28 I.9.c.6.6. | 8/10/17. | 9pm. | By arrangement of D.D.M.S. 1st.A.N.Z.A.C. 1 Officer and 100 Other Ranks of 27th.A.I.Battalion were attached for duty and posted in reserve at YPRES RAMPARTS. | |
| | 9/10/17 | 5am. | 143 Other Ranks made up from 5th. and 7th.Australian Field Ambulance Bearer Divisions in rest, 6th.Aust.Field Ambulance, 27th.Battalion and reinforcements proceeded to report to Major E.L.HUTCHINSON and relieved bearers in forward posts at 5am. | Appendix "A" |
| | | 6pm. | 1 Officer and 75 Other Ranks 14th.A.I.Bgde and 33 O.Rs. 6th.Aust.Field Amb. thue relieved, returned to YPRES RAMPARTS for rest. 15 O.Rs. 27th.Bn. reported to Major DUNN at YPRES RAILWAY STATION as train loading party. 35 O.Rs. 27th.Battalion relieved 7th.Aust.Field Ambulance. in forward posts at 6pm. Bearer Division 6th.Aust.Field Ambulance and the 15 O.Rs. 27th. A.I.Battln. attached as loading party to Major Dunn, Engraining centre, proceeded to reinforce forward bearers posts at 9am. | do |
| | | 1pm. | Bearer Division 4th.Aust.Field Ambulance arrived at 1pm. as advance party for 4th.Australian Division and proceeded to forward posts to take over from Major E.L.HUTCHINSON. 1 Officer and 100 Other Ranks 27th.A.I.Etltn. returned to INFANTRY BARRACKS YPRES I.7.d.8.2. and reported to 7th.A.I. Brigade H.Q. to rejoin their Unit. | |
| | 11/10/17 | 6.30am. | 2 Other Ranks evacuated wounded In accordance with 2nd.Australian Division Order No.99 dated 9/10/17. Bearer Division 13th.Australian Field Ambulance proceeded at 6.30am. to forward posts and relieved all 2nd.Australian Division Field Ambulance Bearers. Captain STEELE of 13th.Aust.Field Ambulance taking over the charge of evacuation in forward area from Major E.L.HUTCHINSON 6th.Aust. Field Ambulance. All 2nd.Australian Division Bearers on relief proceeded to YPRES RAMPARTS. | |
| | | 10am. | O.C.6th.Australian Field Ambulance handed over to ADVANCED DRESSING STATION MENIN ROAD to O.C.12th.Australian Field Ambulance and YPRES RAILWAY DRESSING STATION and YPRES RAMPARTS post to O.C. 13th.Aust.Field Ambulance. Attached details and Horse and Mechanical Transport of 5th. and 7th. Australian Field Ambulances proceeded to rejoin their Units. 6th.Australian Field Ambulance Complete proceeded to STEENVOORDE (CENTRAL AREA) via YPRES- POPERINGHE and ABEHELE. Last party reached Billets at 9pm. | Corps Orders 11/10/17. |

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information |
|--------------------------------|----------|------|---|
| SHEET 27 K. 20. d. 6. 3. | 12/10/17 | | Unit was found to be in the wrong Billets, and moved at 9.30 a.m. 1 mile to correct location. Captain L.L. McMAHON rejoined Unit from 2nd Aust. Div. Reinforcement Camp. 1 O.R. rejoined Unit from 22nd Battalion and taken on strength from Sup- xxxxxxx list numerary list. |
| | 13/10/17 | | Captain A.P. LAWRENCE joined Unit from Reinforcements and was taken on Strength. 5 O.R. evacuated sick. Captain L.L. McMAHON detailed as acting R.M.O. 24th Battalion vice Major MUIRHEAD evacuated wounded. 1 O.R. transferred to 7th Aust. Field Ambulance. Under instructions from A.D.M.S. 2nd Aust. Div. 2/118 dated 13/10/17 Captain L.L. McMAHON posted to be R.M.O. 24th Battalion and is struck off Strength. Captain P.A. STEVENS posted to be R.M.O. 22nd Battalion and is struck off Strength. 2 O.R. evacuated sick. 1 O.R. taken on Strength from Base. Major A.C. FRASER appointed O.C. "B" Section 6th Aust. Field Ambulance. |
| | 18/10/17 | | 5 O.R. taken on Strength from Base. 2 O.R. transferred to A.G.B.D. for Medical Board as unfit for Active Service. 2 O.R. evacuated to D.R.S. |
| | 21/10/17 | | 1 O.R. rejoined Unit from Hospital. |
| | 22/10/17 | | 3 O.R. taken on Strength from Base. |
| | 23/10/17 | | In accordance with 2nd Aust. Div. A.A.M.C. order No. 1 dated 22/10/17 "C" Section Subst Tent Subdivision moved to No. 10 C.C.S. Remy Siding and relieved a Tent Subdivision of 7th Aust. Field Ambulance, by 10 a.m. Captain L.L. McMAHON rejoined Unit from 24th Battalion and was taken on Strength. Captain J.I. ROWAN was posted as R.M.O. to 24th Battalion and struck off Strength. 2 O.R. evacuated sick. 2 O.R. transferred to 5th Aust. Field Ambulance. |
| | 24/10/17 | | Captain A.P. LAWRENCE was detailed as Temporary R.M.O. to 23rd Battalion. |
| | 25/10/17 | | In accordance with A.D.M.S. 2nd Aust. Div. wire 28/157 dated 25/10/17 2 Officers and "B" Section Tent Subdivision complete reported to 2nd Canadian C.C.S. for temporary duty. |
| | 26/10/17 | | 1 O.R. taken on Strength from Base. |
| SHEET 28 G. 34. b. 1.1. | 28/10/17 | | In accordance with A.D.M.S. 2nd Aust. Div. order No. 2 Bearer Division and "A" Section Tent Subdivision marched out from STEENVORDE area at 8 a.m. and proceeded to RENINGHELST. 2 Motor Ambulances reported to 7th Aust. Field Ambulance. 2 Horse Ambulance Wagons with 2 four horse teams each reported to 7th Aust. Field Ambulance. |
| | 29/10/17 | | 1 Water cart reported to O.C. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance. |

Corps Orders
28/10/17.

| Place | Date | Hour | Summary of Events and Information | Remarks and references to Appendices |
|--------------------------------|----------|------|--|--|
| SHEET 28 G. 34. b. 1. 1. | 30/10/17 | | Bearer Division 6th Aust. Field Ambulance proceeded to YPRES RAMPARTS and to be attached to O.C. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance for duty in forward area. | |

In consequence of the gallantry and devotion to duty during the last period this Ambulance was engaged in evacuating wounded in the forward area (4.10.17 to 12.10.17) the following Decorations have been approved.

The DISTINGUISHED CONDUCT MEDAL

No. 11 Warrant Officer E. CLARK 6th Aust. Field Ambulance

BAR to The MILITARY MEDAL

No. 7907 Sgt. H.C. Thomas,

No. 3275 Sgt. R.A. Hind

No. 3146 Pte S. Elmore

The MILITARY MEDAL

No. 6564 L/Cpl H.F.Crisp
No. 14316 Pte V.L.Smith
No. 16195 Pte P.R.Whiteoak
No. 3215 Pte R.K.Paterson
No. 6031 L/Cpl W.E.Este

No. 6315 L/Cpl T.H. Floyd
No. 13406 Pte J.L. Way
No. 7867 Pte L.J. Graves
No. 7902 Pte A.B. Sanders
No. 1799 Cpl E.T. Symons

No. 14320 Pte A.J. Wearne
No. 16187 Pte S.D. Owen
No. 62 Pte W.D. Mowat
No. 16791 Pte T.D. Lowes

The effective Strength of the Unit as at noon 31st October 1917 is:-

9 Officers
265 Other Ranks

The disposition of the Ambulance is as follows:-

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| With 2nd Canadian C.C.S. | 2 Officers | |
| | 15 Other Ranks | |
| With 10th British C.C.S. | 2 Officers | |
| | 18 Other Ranks | |
| With 7th Aust. Field Amb. | 1 Officer | |
| | 98 Other Ranks | |
| With Corps Central Bureau | 5 Other Ranks | |
| With A.D.M.S. 2nd Aust. Div | 1 Other Rank | |
| A.A.M.C. Details attached to combatant Units | 36 Other Ranks | |
| A.A.S.C. M.T. | 13 Other Ranks | |
| On leave to United King- dom | 12 Other Ranks | |
| Sick in Div. area | 7 Other Ranks | |
| With Unit | 3 Officers | 60 Other Ranks |
| With 23 Battln. | 1 | |

31st October 1917

Atkinson
Lieut. Colonel
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

APPENDIX 'A'

6th Australian Field Ambulance

Corps Orders

1st October 1917.

By

Lieut.Colonel A.H. Moseley, O.C. 6th Australian Field AmbulanceMOVE

The following will move to-day at 2 p.m. to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER:-

1. All Officers except Captain J.I. ROWAN. All "A" Section Tent Sub-division less one cook. All Horse and Motor Transport except one G.S. Limber and one Water Cart. N.C.O's of Bearer Sub-divisions as detailed.
2. Captain J.I. ROWAN and the Bearer Division with remaining Transport etc. will march out at 9 a.m. on 2/10/17 and join Unit at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER.

Certificate will be obtained from Area Commandant that lines in DEVONSHIRE CAMP have been left in a clean and Sanitary condition.

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY, Lieut.Colonel
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

APPENDIX 'H'

Corps Orders

1st October 1917.

By

Lieut.Colonel A.H. Moseley, O.C. 6th Aust. Field Ambulance.MOVE

In accordance with A.D.M.S. Second Australian orders, "B" and "C" Sections Tent Sub-divisions less "C" Section Corporal Cook will move to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER Sheet 28.H.c.8.O. on 1/10/17 and take over the Ambulance Post there from the 4th Australian Field Ambulance.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Reveille | 5 a.m. |
| Breakfast | 5.15a.m. |
| Fall in (full marching Order) | 6.15 a.m. |
| Move off | 6.30 a.m. |

Relief to be completed by 10 a.m.

TRANSPORT

The necessary "B" Section equipment as arranged will accompany its Section and remain loaded.

"C" Section equipment with all extra Medical Stores and Medical comforts will be conveyed by Motor lorry to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER in the afternoon and unloaded there.

The Q.M. Store during the coming operations will be at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER.

On 2/10/17 "B" Section with equipment will move to the Stretcher case A.D.S. MENIN ROAD and take over the Dressing Station from the 14th Aust. Field Ambulance. Relief to be complete by 9 a.m.

Transport when unloaded will return to BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER.

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY Lieut.Colonel
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

Corps Orders

3rd October 1917.

By

Lieut.Colonel A.H. Moseley, O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance

1. The Bearer Divisions of the 5th and 6th Australian Field Ambulances and 2 Sergeants and 45 men of the 7th Australian Field Ambulance Bearer Division will report at the Advanced Dressing Station MENIN ROAD at 5 p.m. to-day.

Dress BATTLE ORDER.

Rations 48 hours rations and water bottle filled will be carried. The remainder of the Bearer Division of the 7th Australian Field Ambulance will be stationed at YPRES RAMPARTS where quarters will be allotted ~~xxxxxx~~ by Corporal E. SYMONS 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

2. Disposition of attached Medical Officers will be as under :-

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER | Major DUNLOP | 5th Aust.Fld.Amb. |
| | Captn ROWAN | 6th Aust.Fld.Amb. |
| Entraining Centre YPRES | Major DUNN | 7th Aust.Fld.Amb. |
| YPRES RAMPARTS | Captn. FRANCIS | 5th Aust.Fld.Amb. |
| | " FARRAR | 7th Aust.Fld.Amb. |
| A.D.S. MENIN ROAD | Captn BROWN | 7th Aust.Fld.Amb. |
| | " DAVIS | 5th Aust.Fld.Amb. |

Captain BROWN will report for day duty at A.D.S. at 8 a.m. 4th instant.

Captain DAVIS will report for night duty at A.D.S. at 6 p.m. 4th instant.

BELLEWAARDE RIDGE Captn. CAMPBELL 5th Aust. Fld.Amb.
 Captain CAMPBELL will report at A.D.S. at 5 p.m. to-day with 5th Aust.Fld.Amb. Bearers and proceed to BELLEWAARDE RIDGE dressing post where he will work in conjunction with Captain FLUKE 1st Aust.Fld.Amb.

WESTHOEK RIDGE

will

Captain MATHESON 7th Aust.Fld.Amb./report at A.D.S. with 7th Aust.Fld.Amb. Bearers at 5 p.m. to-day and proceed to WESTHOEK RIDGE where he will report for duty to Major KIRKWOOD of 1st Aust.Fld.Amb.

3. Loading party for Entraining centre will be drawn by Major DUNN from 7th Aust.Fld.Amb. Bearers resting at YPRES RAMPARTS.

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY Lieut.Colonel
 O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

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APPENDIX 'A'

Issued with Corps Orders D- 3/10/1917.

Instructions for Entraining Centre YPRES

An Entraining Centre will be Established at YPRES RAILWAY STATION.

Major DUNN 7th Australian Field Ambulance to be Entraining Officer.
He will draw necessary Bearers from Reserve Bearers at YPRES
RAMPARTS.

"A" Cases will be sent to Entraining Centre and be held in Huts
there until train arrives when they will be loaded as soon as
possible.

Sitting and Walking cases will also be sent.

Any Dressings required will be drawn from Dressing Station at
YPRES RAMPARTS under Captain FRANCIS.

Food for patients will be arranged by the Y.M.C.A.

Entraining Officer will send to Advanced Dressing Station MENIN
ROAD after the departure of each Train a return showing the number
of Lying, Sitting and Walking cases evacuated by him.

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY, Lieut.Colonel
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

Corps Orders

8th October 1917

By

Lieut.Colonel A.H. MOSELEY, O.C. 6th Australian Fld.AmbulanceMAP REFERENCE SHEET 28 1:40000

1. In accordance with 2nd Australian Division Medical Arrangements- Preliminary Instructions No.1 dated 7.10.17, the line of evacuation of wounded of the 2nd Australian Division will be altered as under:-
2. (a) STRETCHER CASES will be hand carried from RAILWAY DUMP relay Post D.26.c.3.3. to X Roads D.25.d.1.9. where two Elephant Huts are being constructed.
- (b) Horse Ambulances will convey wounded from this Post towards YPRES to a point to be selected where they will be transferred to large Motor Ambulance cars.
- (c) These Motor Ambulance Cars will convey Patients to YPRES RAILWAY STATION.
- (d) Captain R.W. FRANCIS will transfer his Dressing Station at once to Nissen Huts at YPRES RAILWAY STATION and be prepared to receive and dress cases by 7 p.m. 8.10.17.
- (e) M.A.C. Cars will evacuate cases from this Dressing Station to C.C.S. Captain FRANCIS will warn 20th M.A.C. YPRES and inform them when first cases are ready for evacuation.
- (f) Necessary Loading parties at D.25.d.1.9. and at Motor Loading Point will be established by 8 p.m. 8.10.17.
3. WALKING CASES. Duckboard track via SANS SOUCI, KIT & KAT, RAILWAY WOOD, RIFLE FARM, A.D.S. MENIN ROAD, Major ~~E.L.~~ HUTCHINSON will establish a Walking Wounded Post at KIT & KAT J. 1.d.3.8.
4. Stretchers, Blankets and Dressings will be transferred forthwith from TUNNELS and WESTHORK Post to RAILWAY DUMP D.26.c.3.3.
5. Major C.C. ROSS will post Horse Ambulances and Motor Ambulances as necessary.
Major ROSS will also arrange for transport of :-
 - (a) 14 Wheeled Stretchers from WESTHORK and BELLEWAARDE to Loading Point at D.25.d.1.9.
 - (b) Two (2) G.S. loads of stretchers and blankets from A.D.S. MENIN ROAD to D. 25.d.1.9.
 - (c) 16 Other Ranks from NISSEN HUTS at YPRES STATION to Motor Ambulance and Horse Ambulance loading points.
6. As soon as the new line of evacuation is established Major E.L. HUTCHINSON will relieve all Infantry Stretcher Bearing Party and instruct them to report to A.D.S. MENIN ROAD for further orders.
7. Immediate Reserve of Bearers to be kept at CLARKS POST and the TUNNELS.

(Sgd.) ~~A.H.~~ MOSELEY, Lieut.Colonel
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

Corps Orders

11th October 1917.

By

Lieut.Colonel A.H. MOSELEY, O.C. 6th Australian Field AmbulanceMAP REFERENCE SHEETS 27 and 28 1:40000

In accordance with 2nd Australian Divisional A.A.M.C. Order No.99 date 9th October 1917, 6th Australian Field Ambulance and attached details of other Units will move as under on completion of relief by 4th Australian Division A.A.M.C.

1. Bearer Division and 2 tent-subdivisions of 5th Australian Field Ambulance will rejoin their Unit at WATARAH CAMP.
Horse Transport and Mechanical Transport of 5th Aust. Field Ambulance will rejoin Unit at WATARAH CAMP.
2. Bearer Division and Horse and Mechanical Transport of 7th Aust. Field Ambulance will rejoin their Unit at the School House
RENINGHELST G.34.b.1.1.
3. Tent Division 6th Aust. Field Ambulance less party at YPRES RAILWAY STATION will embus at A.D. Station MENIN ROAD at 8 a.m. on 11/10/17 and after picking up party at YPRES RAILWAY STATION will proceed by road to STEENVOORDE Central Area.
Bearer Division, Horse and Mechanical transport of 6th Aust. Field Ambulance on completion of relief will move by road to STEENVOORDE Central Area.
4. Motor Lorries will be provided for Bearers of 5th, 6th and 7th Australian Field Ambulances at YPRES RAMPARTS and 1 Tent Subdivision of 5th Aust. Field Ambulance, and will pick up the other Tent Subdivision of the 5th Aust. Field Ambulance at BELGIAN BATTERY CORNER, and will convey them to their respective Units.
5. Q.M. 6th Aust. Field Ambulance will arrange to have 48 hours rations for attached details put on the respective Motor Lorries at YPRES RAMPARTS by 8 a.m.
6. Acknowledge.

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY, Lieut.Colonel
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

CORPS ORDERS

28th OCTOBER 1917.

By

Lieut. Colonel A.H. Moseley, O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

In accordance with A.D.M.S., 2nd Australian Division, Order No. 2 dated 24th October 1917, the following move will take place 28/10/17 :-

- | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | Reveille | 6.30 a.m. |
| | Breakfast | 7 a.m. |
| | Fall in | 7.45 a.m. |
| | Move off | 8 a.m. |

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2. Two Daimler Motor Ambulance Cars will report to O.C. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance at 10 a.m. at Advanced Dressing Station, Menin Road 1.9. c. 6.6

3. Two Horse Ambulance Wagons each with two four horse teams will report to O.C. 7th Aust. Field Ambulance, Chateau Hendriques, H 23. c. 6.0

4. Receipts of all stores, equipment etc. taken over will be handed in at Orderly Room by noon.

5. Relief to be completed by 10 a.m.

Copies to:-

1. War Diary
2. do
3. do
4. Major Ross
5. W.O. Hepworth
6. W.O. Clarke
7. File

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY Lieut-Colonel.
O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

APPENDIX 'A'

Appendix "A"6th Australian Field Ambulance.

| Formation | Number of Men | Date of going into line | Date of coming out of line |
|------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5th Fld.Amb. | 78 | 3/10/17 | 5/10/17 |
| 6th Fld.Amb. | 64 | 3/10/17 | 5/10/17 |
| 7th Fld.Amb. "A" | 37 | 3/10/17 | 5/10/17 |
| 12th Fld.Amb. | 97 | 4/10/17 | 5/10/17 |
| 8th Fld.Amb. | 76 | 5/10/17 | 7/10/17 |
| 7th Fld.Amb. "B" | 40 | 5/10/17 | 7/10/17 |
| Inf.15th Bgde | 75 | 5/10/17 | 9/10/17 |
| 7th Fld.Amb. | 26 | 6/10/17 | 9/10/17 |
| 5th Fld.Amb. | 36 | 7/10/17 | 9/10/17 |
| 6th Fld.Amb. | 50 | 7/10/17 | 9/10/17 |
| 7th Fld.Amb. | 16 | 8/10/17 | 11/10/17 |
| 7th Fld.Amb. | 30 | 9/10/17 | 11/10/17 |
| 5th Fld.Amb. | 29 | 9/10/17 | 11/10/17 |
| Reinf.A.A.M.C. | 34 | 9/10/17 | 11/10/17 |
| Inf.7th Bgde | 50 | 9/10/17 | 10/10/17 |
| Inf.7th Bgde | 35 | 9/10/17 | 10/10/17 |
| Inf.7th Bgde | 15 | 10/10/17 | 10/10/17 |
| 6th Fld.Amb. | 44 | 10/10/17 | 11/10/17 |

6th Australian Field Ambulance.

13th October 1917.

From O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

To A.D.M.S. 2nd Australian Division.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following report on the evacuation of wounded from the area occupied by the 2nd Aust. Division on stretcher cases of the 1st A.N.Z.A.C. from Motor Ambulance loading point, on the treatment of stretcher cases at A.D.S. MENIN ROAD and YPRES RAILWAY STATION and entraining of wounded at RAILWAY YPRES during period from 2/10/17 to 11/10/17.

MAP REFERENCE SHEET 28 1:40000

The forward area and A.D.S. were taken over at 10 a.m. 2/10/17 and a subsidiary A.D.S. established at YPRES RAILWAY STATION Oct. 3rd 1917. The area to be cleared was inspected by Major FRASER and myself on 29/9/17 and by Major FURBER and Major HUTCHINSON on 30/9/17. The fact that the Division was "side-slipping" to the left very much increased the difficulties of the evacuation. The condition of the YPRES-ROULERS ROAD and the lack of cover on the left flank decided us to evacuate down the Right Flank to WESTHOEK RIDGE and down the centre to WESTHOEK via KIT-KAT and then by wagon or hand carry to BIRR X ROADS thence by Motor Ambulance to A.D.S.

The posts on the right flank were held in conjunction with the 1st Australian Division, Major HUTCHINSON was put in charge of the forward evacuation with Captain BEALE to assist him, Major FURBER controlled the A.D.S. MENIN ROAD, Captain FRANCIS 5th Aust. Fld. Amb. the A.D.S. at RAILWAY STATION YPRES, Major DUNN 7th Aust. Fld. Amb. was appointed entraining Officer.

Major HUTCHINSON went up on the night 1-2nd Oct. with the Infantry bearers who had been thoughtfully lent us to relieve as much as possible the A.A.M.C. Stretcher Bearers who had not recovered from the fatigue and strain of the previous tour of duty while attached to the 5th Aust. Aust. Division. He established relays of bearers at:-

Right Flank

R.A.P. 23rd Battn. situated at IDEAL HOUSE on the Eastern slope of ANZAC RIDGE J.3.c.
TUNNELS J.2.d.1.4.
WESTHOEK J.7.d.8.8.
BELLEWAARDE J.7.a.4.3.

Left Flank.

HANNEBEKE WOOD J.2 Central

RAILWAY DUMP D.26.c.1.3 and sent up large supplies of blankets, stretchers, splints, dressings, Medical comforts to the R.A.P. and to his relay post. These stores were sent up by Wagon as far as possible, sometimes to J.7.d.8.8. at others to J.7.a.4.3. or BIRR X ROADS, they were then sent on by pack horse or hand carry to required place. Dumps were made at J.7.d.8.8. J.3.c.1.8. J.7.a.4.3. J.2.d.1.4. and D.26.c.1.3.

Before the action on 4.10.17 700 blankets, 300 stretchers, 20 Leg and Arm splints, 20 Thomas' splints were sent to J.7.d.8.8. and distributed to Forward posts as follows, also 5 Suspension bars:-

| | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| J.3.3.1.8. | 200 Blankets and 100 Stretchers. |
| D.26.c.1.3. | 100 do 50 do |
| J.7.d.8.8. | 350 do 100 do |
| J.2.d.1.4. | 100 do 50 do |
| J.7.a.4.3. | 100 do 50 do |

making a total of 850 blankets and 350 stretchers to feed the forward area. Unfortunately the three main dumps J.3.c.1.8. J.7.d.8.8. and J.7.a.4.3. had to be left in the open and suffered considerably from shell fire which at times and especially on the afternoon of 3.10.17 was extremely heavy and a great number were destroyed.

However, on 4.10.17 a constant and liberal stream was sent up and

sufficient for the stretcher cases.

The 1st and 2nd Australian Divisions shared the Right Flank evacuation and this saved a lot of labour as the two Divisions were able to be fed by the one stream. This prevented a careful check of stores even if men could be spared to do so but ensured all wounded being provided for and as the stream of stretcher cases was very rapid, owing to great use being made of German prisoners, proved very useful. The Infantry Bearers were replaced by A.A.M.C. afternoon 3.10.17 and special squads of 24 stretcher bearers each were sent forward with a stretcher or two blankets to every man, to the R.A.Ps. of the first wave. This plan was carried out on every occasion that bearers were sent in to relieve or reinforce. The attached Appendix "A" shows the movements of bearers 3.10.17 to night 10/11 October 1917. The fine weather prevailing up to night 4/5th October made the evacuation easy and rapid as the following figures show:-

Cases evacuated to C.C.S. from A.D.S. MENIN ROAD on 4/10/17

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| 8 a.m. to 12 noon | 216 |
| 12 noon to 4.10 p.m. | 316 |
| 4.10 p.m. to 9 p.m. | 96 |
| Total | 628 |

Showing that the field of battle was entirely cleared within 10 hours of the beginning of the attack.

On October 6th Major FURBER and Captain BROWN relieved Major HUTCHINSON and Captain BEALE and plans were made to abandon the Right Flank entirely and to evacuate entirely down the Left Flank and to post wagons up the YPRES-ROULERS ROAD as far as possible.

This became necessary as the Division had taken over more ground on their Left. Major FURBER was wounded morning 8/10/17 and Major HUTCHINSON replaced him. The whole line of evacuation was changed and the following posts manned by the evening 8/10/17 and morning of 9/10/17 :-

D.29.a.1.5.
D.28.b.7.5.
D.28.b.9.1.
D.22.c.0.2.
D.21.d.0.2.
D.27.a.3.5.
D.27.c.2.5.
D.26.c.1.3.
D.25.d.1.9. (Loading point)

At D.25.d.1.9. and at D.26.c.1.3. the Engineers had put in two shelters which were completed by the evening 8/10/17. Stores were sent up all day and night 8/9th October 1917, in all 350 blankets and 50 stretchers, by road to the loading point D.25.d.1.9. and thence by hand carry to Forward Positions. A proportion of the stores on the right Flank were carried across country to the line. This used up the greater part of the Surplus as the continued wet and cold weather had made it necessary to put more than two blankets on a patient, sometimes 4 or even 5 were used, numbers had been lost by shell fire, through being lost in the mud which by this time was becoming terrible, and many wet, muddy or blood soaked blankets had been sent to Salvage. By the foresight of the Staff a good supply of good blankets had been made available and there was just enough to see us through although there were very few to hand over. The evacuation during 8/10/17 to 11/10/17 was made extremely difficult owing to the mud which in all parts was ankle deep and many places knee and even waist deep. In the forward parts of the line of evacuation 8, 10 and even 12 men were required to carry one stretcher and the men became rapidly exhausted. Carrying at night became almost impossible as the darkness was intense and even in daylight it was difficult to pick a track amongst the shell holes. The YPRES-ROULERS ROAD was very much congested and the wagons could only get up slowly to the loading point. A large number of Ground Sheets were sent up to the forward area from 5.10.17 onwards to cover the Wounded, and proved of great service in protecting them from the wet and cold. On one of the two occasions the WESTHOEK BELLEWAARDS CIRCUIT was rendered impassable from enemy shell-fire and wheeled stretchers were collected from all the Ambulances of the 2nd Australian Division and proved of very great value.

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The work of the Ambulance wagons was much hampered by the congestion on the roads, hostile shell fire which damaged the roads especially on the plank road from BIRR X ROADS round BELLEWAARDE and WESTHOEK CIRCUITS. The rain made these roads very slippery and 4 horses were required for each wagon, several horses were killed and wounded and 3 Drivers wounded. The Motor Ambulances did excellent work between BIRR X ROADS and the A.D.S. and along the YPRES-ROULERS ROAD from a spot East of POTIJZE to the A.D.S. RAILWAY STATION. Padded G.S. Wagons were also used.

All water and rations had to be packed or carried to Bearers but in spite of great difficulties hot food was frequently sent up in receptacles packed in hay or straw and hot food containers.

The work at the A.D.S. was of the ordinary routine type, but great time was saved by having all cases examined in the road and classified as "A", "B" or "C". This allowed a large number being sent direct to C.C.S. or to the Ambulance train at the YPRES STATION. Only those cases requiring fresh dressings, re-splinting or those suffering from shock or threatened Haemorrhage were brought in and attended to.

The Ambulance train took some stretcher cases but the work of the train has already been reported on by Major DUNN 7th Aust. Field Amb. The following points have been brought out in the late engagement.

- (1). That the stretcher bearers of a Division are insufficient to cope with the casualties of a modern battle especially in wet weather and where there is a long carry.
- (2). The line of evacuation requires careful survey and shelters which should be at least splinter proof built at various points along the line to shelter the bearers and permit of holding a certain number of patients and to be used as Depots for Medical Stores. This latter point is emphasised by the fact that a large amount of stores have been destroyed by hostile shelling and rendered unserviceable by the weather.
- (3). 2 Divisions should not share the line of posts if this can be avoided as it absolutely prevents proper checking of stores.
- (4). An arrangement should be made with the C.C.S.'s whereby after an action, the excess blankets, ground sheets, hot water bottles splints suspension bars etc. which during a rush cannot be accurately counted or collected are returned automatically to the A.D.S. This would prevent many of the shortages which at present occur.
- (5). Light Railways should be made available to carry wounded on return trips. The delay in return of trucks would be small, and the convenience great. On the 4th October 1917 the Railway put down during the night up to Anzac was of great value, and many wounded evacuated down it.
- (6). Duck-board tracks should be kept for foot traffic only, and should not be used by pack animals. The duck-board track via KIT-KAT was rendered almost useless owing to the pack animals using it and breaking it.
- (7). Tracks should be kept for stretcher bearers and walking wounded if possible.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

(Sgd.) A.H. MOSELEY, Lieut.Colonel
13th October 1917. O.C. 6th Australian Field Ambulance.

FORWARD EVACUATION OF WOUNDED 2nd AUST. DIV. AREA

On the night of the 1st October 1917 the 6th Australian Field Ambulance took charge of the evacuation of the wounded from the 2nd Divisional front. This movement was not merely a take over from a Unit in front, for owing to the Divisional front being side-moved to the left on that night, and the previous occupants of that front also moving left, there were no existing posts to take over.

Owing to the formation of the ground and the recent heavy fighting there was no natural cover or suitable place of accommodation for stretcher bearers or Dressing Stations. The only cover possible was in the various concrete block-houses built by the enemy during his occupation of the ground. These block-houses were greatly in demand by all branches of the Forces, and as the number of these block-houses were limited ~~xxxx~~ and many of them already destroyed by our shell fire,

or half full of water, the remaining serviceable ones were taken over for Brigade Headquarters, Battalion Headquarters, Company Headquarters Signal Posts and A.M.C. Posts. All these buildings were absolutely full and a large number of men took refuge behind the concrete walls, digging themselves in, and making what cover they could. The Ambulance Officers had reconnoitred the ground on the day previous to taking over and decided on the probable lines of evacuation. From

BIRR X ROADS to ANZAC RIDGE, in front of WESTHOEK RIDGE the only ~~xxxxxxx~~ suitable line of block-houses for evacuation of most of the right of our area, was along the extreme right border of 2nd Div. area, and therefore, on the extreme left of the 1st Div., which was on our immediate right. This line of block-houses was claimed by both Divisions and there was great doubt as to which Division really owned it. However, by a process of mutual give and take the 2 Divisions finally worked together. As the 1st Division took over 24 hours before the 2nd Division they naturally filled all available houses. The three main Posts to be held by the two Divisions in conjunction were at BELLEWAARDE, WESTHOEK and the TUNNELS. the two former being respectively a system of dug-outs made by the former A.M.C. Units, and a block-house, the latter being a series of three concrete covered steel cubulas made by the Germans. When the 2nd Division stretcher bearers arrived at BELLEWAARDE the Post was fully occupied by 1st Division but 6 men were left there, and the same thing occurred at WESTHOEK. The main body were placed at the TUNNELS, but a few squads were posted at the block-houses in front, on ANZAC RIDGE, this being the only 2nd Divisional Aid-Post whose position we knew. This Post called IDEAL HOUSE was occupied by 23rd Battalion R.M.O. and by a 1st Division R.M.O. and their Details, and used as a Dressing Station by them. As the interior was about 10 X 12 feet there was not much room. Outside this block-house were several squads of 1st Divisional bearers, various men, from other Units taking shelter, so it was with the greatest difficulty that our squads could find any place at all to rest in, but some of our men occupied a neighbouring shell hole. When it is remembered that the enemy mark these pill-boxes for Artillery and the heavy nature of that Artillery used (mostly 5.9 H.E.) it will be seen how precarious was the position of these bearers. During that night (1st and 2nd October) we got in touch with another R.A.P. in the Reserve Area and placed squads there. Next morning (October 2nd) we got in touch with other R.A.P.'s and established stretcher bearers with them, and also established bearers at Relay Posts. This was not an easy matter as no provisions whatever had been made for the stretcher bearers. From this time onward we kept in touch with the R.M.O.'s and cleared their cases. There were then two lines of evacuation one on the left flank and one on the right flank, both meeting at WESTHOEK. At that time, this was necessary for two reasons, viz. (1) there was no communication between the right and left Brigade R.A.P.'s in the advanced area. (2) There was ~~xxx~~ no middle line of evacuation then available. On the 8th October we were able to cut out the right line of evacuation, and concentrate on the left line and evacuate direct to the YPRES-ZONNEBECKE ROAD, instead of as formerly via WESTHOEK BELLEWAARDE YPRES-MENIN ROAD. This necessitated a reformation of Relay Posts near ZONNEBECKE, and also at the other end of the line, towards where the Horse Ambulances joined with the Hand Stretchers. The main features of the evacuation line formation were (A) Formation of new posts at the time of taking over. (B) The formation of fresh posts and closing up of some already occupied by us, as the Military

situation developed. (C) The formation of a completely new line of evacuation in place of two previously used, so soon as the Military conditions allowed.

EVACUATION As far as the hand carried patients were concerned everything on the whole proceeded smoothly. At times, as is inevitable there were temporary congestions, but these were never serious, and by the aid of extra men from Battalions in the front line, working parties returning from advanced areas, enemy prisoners pressed in service on the days when captured, and by most strenuous efforts by our bearers the wounded were cleared in really an excellent manner. The only serious block was at an R.A.P. in the front line on the railway East of ZONNEBECKE where cases were held up for 12 hours owing to the heavy barrage fire on the Railway line, the only way out. There was also difficulty in maintaining communication with the Horse Ambulances and on several occasions cases collected at the Wagon Head, and had to be hand carried to the Motors.

NATURE OF CARRIES. The work of the bearers was exceedingly heavy and difficult. In the early part of the operations for several days there were no duck-boards and cases had to be carried for over three miles between shell holes and even when the Division was relieved there were long carries where there were no duck-boards, and carries where duck-boards were only single width. At times these carries were terrible and the mud in many cases was up to the knees, generally above the ankles and when half dry was very tenacious; and after a slight rain was very slippery; the shell holes were large and honey-combed the ground. One carry was especially bad, viz. the one in front of the brick-kiln where the bearers had to wade through a swamp. These conditions made stretcher bearing an exceedingly arduous and difficult proceeding in the day time, and at night, at times an utter impossibility. The work was so heavy that for a large part of the time six men had to carry one stretcher and even then they rapidly became exhausted. Added to this the shell fire of 5.9 shells which at times and at various places was heavy, made the arduous work also a severe mental strain.

STRETCHER BEARERS. The stretcher bearers owing to the exceptionally heavy work rapidly became exhausted and were absolutely so after 24 hours work. Roughly speaking they were relieved every 24 hours, but some 36 and some 48 hour shifts were done. Both parties of Infantry and also trained Ambulance stretcher bearers were used. About 200 bearers were constantly at work. More frequent reliefs would have made matters easier, but owing to the numerical shortness of men this was impossible. No praise could be too high for the way the Bearers doggedly kept to their work, notwithstanding their extreme exhaustion. The Infantry bearers if possible suffered more than the Ambulance men, as their shoulders were not hardened to the use of stretcher handles.

SUPPLIES. Blankets, Stretchers, Splints, Dressings Etc. were fed up to the Advanced Posts from the wagon-head by returning squads from relay to relay. It was a difficult matter to keep this stream constant right up the line, as the more tired the Bearers became the less inclined were they to burden themselves on the return journey, but notwithstanding this the forward R.A.P.'s were kept supplied and their wants attended to. Large numbers of stretchers and blankets passed up the line continuously. Cases leaving the Advanced Posts with one blanket were often supplied with an additional one or two at posts nearer the wagon-head. A good many blankets and stretchers were at various places destroyed by shell-fire, or lost for other reasons. They were generally left in small dumps along the line in the open. Rations were received daily and sent up the line. There was no stint of these and the Bearers were well supplied. At times there was a shortage of water to some extent, but never for long.

GERMAN PRISONERS. were used freely on the day of capture, both to carry wounded and to carry back blankets and stretchers. They did good work and were a tremendous assistance. They were kept working until nearly six p.m. and were fed.

AID-POSTS. R.M.O's and Ambulance Officers had to make their own arrangements with regard to these. On a request from Ambulance Officers two small splinter proof shelters were put in by the Engineers, but apart from that all posts had to be found and made by ourselves. If the question of A.M.C. posts were considered before an attack and if Engineers could build suitable places where none exist, sometime previously, and this could easily be done, it would considerably diminish

A.M.C. casualties, and casualties amongst the wounded. Unless absolutely necessary it is both futile and grossly unfair for stretcher bearers and A.M.C. workers to either be left out in the open without adequate cover, or to have to force their way into already occupied and crowded positions affording shelter. Both of these things happened during the operations.

REGIMENTAL AID-POSTS. These were mainly grouped together in two positions - on the left at the Cordial Factory and on the right at the Brick Kilns. Both of these places were prepared and converted by the A.M.C. The latter especially required alterations by Engineers but each made a splendid R.A.P. capable of sheltering A.M.C. workers and numerous stretcher-cases. They were not proof against a direct hit but were splinter proof. In front of the Brick-Kilns were two R.A.Ps where cases had to be dressed in the open, and where there was not the slightest accommodation for stretcher bearers. In front of the Cordial Factory was a R.A.P. for a time, situated in a railway cutting which was heavily and constantly shelled, with no accommodation for stretcher bearers and not much for stretcher cases. This post was connected with the Cordial Factory by the railway line only and this route was also constantly and freely shelled and sniped. Neither of these posts were suitable for a R.A.P., and in my opinion it would have been better for the cases to have been taken right back to the large posts, where there was shelter. The difficulty was that it was such a long carry from the front line to the Cordial Factory and Brick Kiln, and Battalion men could not be spared.

REGIMENTAL MEDICAL OFFICERS. The work done by the R.M.O's was simply magnificent. They worked night and day with cheerfulness over coming difficulties, handling temporary congestions of wounded, attending to the wounded, either under cover or out in the open with the greatest calmness and bravery, and setting a splendid example of calmness and courage to their men. They kept touch by notes and messages with the Ambulance Head-Quarters, and rendered every possible assistance to the Ambulance Officers by supervising the stretcher bearers at their stations.

CASUALTIES. Casualties amongst the Ambulance men were comparatively slight, but the Infantry who were acting as Bearers suffered more heavily.

Major Furber who was in charge of advanced operations for 36 hours was wounded and evacuated.

(Sgd.) E.L. HUTCHINSON, Major.