

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/79/27

Title: 4th Australian Sanitary Section

December 1918



AWM4-26/79/27

18,000-12/17-8723

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
TRIPLICATE.

4th AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.	
No.	31/12/18
Date	

221

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Sanitary Section.

FOR

December 191*8*

Signature of Officer compiling

AWO

Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

AWO Franklands Capt

WAR DIARY

or INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December 1918.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sains du Nord	1.		<p>Unit Headquarters located at Sains du Nord. Rations were being drawn through 16th Battalion. 4th Divisional Area being operated, principal towns being - Sains, Flaumont, Sivry and Tiesais. Notification from Corps Hqs that typhoid was endemic in the District. Special attempts made to test and mark all suitable water sources.</p> <p>As a vast quantity of enemy refuse had been accumulated in these villages, public refuse tip sites were chosen and units advised to organize scavenging parties and to dispose of Refuse at Public Tip - there to be earthed. Incineration was impossible owing to winter climatic conditions and scarcity of fuel.</p>	
Sains du Nord	3.		<p>14845 Pte Milne H.Q. B. class - attachment 51st Battalion proceeded to A. G. P.O. for return to Australia under authority D.A.G. A.S. 2 19/1223 of 22. 11. 18.</p>	

2.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December 1918.

4th
AUSTRALIAN
SANITARY SECTION
Army Form C. 2118.
No.
Date

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sains du Nord	4.		5016 Pte Hindell J. returned from M.K. leave	
"	5.		4422 Pte Mahony H.F. proceed on Paris leave	
Sivry	11		Under instructions of A.D.M.S. unit moved to Sivry to be attached to 13 th Brigade for move to Dinant area.	
			Unit attached by Brigade to 13 th Field Ambulance for move	
			Unit Headquarters temporarily located at 13 Rue de Haut.	
Sains du Nord	*		9/2/18 - 6493 Dvr Ford A.L. 4 th A.M.T. Coy, attached for duty as Driver via 11759 Dvr Grimson, L.L.F. who rejoined 4 th A.M.T. Coy on same date.	
Sivry	12		Dvr French, K.R. and L. Cpl Goodhens, R.A. 4 th D.A.C. attached with limber for duty during move to Dinant.	
			Inspectors detached for duty in various Brigade areas, with draws prior to move.	
	13.		Acting Sgt Archer, W.F. temporarily attached to Town Major, Beaumont pending arrival of Sanitary Section taking over that area.	

4th
AUSTRALIAN
SANITARY SECTION
Army Form C. 2118.
No. _____
Date _____

WAR DIARY

OR
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December 1918.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Silensieuva	13.		Unit moved to Silensieuva, marching by road.	
	14		4130 lpl (A/Sgt) Archer W. J. promoted Temp Sgt to complete establishment vice Brooks - struck off. Authority D.A.C. A.I.F. 151/02/62 of 6/12/18.	
			Unit moved to Florennes by road, marching with 13 th Field Ambulance.	
			Two Inspectors attached 4 th Field Ambulance for duty in 4 th Brigade Area.	
Dinant	15		Unit moved by road with 13 th Field Ambulance to Dinant. Headquarters Office established at 39, Rue de Neffe. Unit now comes under administration of D.D.M. Aust Corps, again having been under the temporary administration of A.D.M. 4 th Division since the move from Breilly.	
Dinant	16.		lpl Polkinghorne attached as Inspector to 4 th D.A.H.Q. at Anthee lpl Rider attached to 4 th D.A.C. H.Q. at.	

4th
AUSTRALIAN
Army Form C. 2118.
No. _____
Date _____

WAR DIARY

OR

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December 1918.

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.

4

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dinant	16		Bismarck. Ppls Peacock, Hindell and Tharratt attached to 45 th Battalion. Hostiere for inspection of 12 th Inf Bde Area. Cpl Coats J.B. attached to 15 th Bn Hqrs. Philippeville for duty in that part of 4 th Bde Area.	
"	17.		Report on water supply and general sanitary condition of Dinant forwarded on request from HQ 4 th Division; special note being made of the very insanitary condition in which many flush closets used by troops, had been found. Flushing apparatus being out of action and closets still being used.	
"	18		Dot French K.R. and LCpl Goodheir R.A. rejoined 4 th DAC with limber.	
"	19.		4130 Sgt Archer W.F. rejoined unit from Beaumont.	
"	21		4422 Pte Mahony N.F. reported from Paris leave.	

4th
 AUSTRALIAN
 SANITARY SECTION
 Army Form C. 2118.
 No. _____
 Date _____

WAR DIARY
 or
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December 1918.

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.

5.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dinant	21		500 P/Sgt Pentill. B. went on special leave to U.K.	
	23		Allotment furlough Australia received from A.D.A.S 4th Division. A/W.O. Stewart selected to proceed.	
	24		All Inspectors detached from Units and returned to H.Q. for Christmas furloughs.	
	26		Nominal roll of personnel who embarked in 1915 forwarded to Director General, Demobilization and Demobility Repatriation Department London.	
			Sgt Archer, W. F. Spl Wt Intosts, A, Cpl Cook, J. B. proceeded on Paris leave.	
	28		Acting W.O. Stewart, H. F. proceeded to Corps Reinf Wing for return to Australia on furlough and struck off strength. Auths - 4th Aust Div A.L./7/66 of 21/12/18	
			W.O. Stewart, H. F. had been on continuous duty with this section as senior NCO since its formation in February 1916.	

WAR DIARY

OR
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

December 1918.

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.

6.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Dinant	29		<p>Under Authority D.A.C. A.I. 7 151/02/62 of 6/12/18, the following temporary promotions were made to complete establishment due to return to Australia of P/Sgt (A/W.O.) Stewart, H 3.</p> <p>4130 T/Sgt Archer W 3 to be T/S. Sgt.</p> <p>2361 Cpl (A/Sgt) Dawkins 2/B to be T/Sgt vice Archer</p> <p>1809 Pte McIntosh, A. to be temp/cpl vice Dawkins</p> <p>Demobilization forms No 534 of sections personnel (less A/Sgt Antill - on leave) completed and forwarded to Director General, Repatriation and Demobilization, London.</p>	
"	31		<p>Section H.Q. located at Dinant.</p>	

R. W. Ranklands Capt.
 O.C. 4th Aust San Section

221

WAR DIARY

OF

4th Australian Sanitary Secto.

FOR

December 1918.

4th AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.	
No.	31/12/18
Date	

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.

Subject.

(1)

Sanitary report for months of
December 1918. (Copy)

Copy 9/21

Monthly Sanitary Report

Month ending 26th December '18

Period 27.11.18 to 26.12.18.

4th
AUSTRALIAN
SANITARY SECTION.

4th Australian Sanitary Section

No. 26/12/18
Date

- 26.11.18 Unit located at Sains. Inspectors attached to 12th + 13th Inf Brigade. Area inspected included the villages of Sains du Nord, Avesnelles, Flanmont, Semerie, Felleries, Ramencies, Liessies, Willie and Sivry.
- 11.12.18 Section moved to Sivry and reported to 13th Inf Bde, was attached to 13th Field Ambulance for move to the Meuse area.
- 13.12.18 Moved with 13th Field Ambulance to Silenreux. One Inspector directed to report to Town Map, Beaumont, pending the arrival of 1st Aust Sanitary Section.
- 14.12.18 Unit moved to Sferenne with 13th Field Ambulance. Two Inspectors detailed to 4th Aust Field Ambulance for duty in 4th Bde area.
- 15.12.18 Unit moved to Dinant. Detached from 13th Field Ambulance, arranged Headquarters at 39 Rue de Neffe.
- 16.12.18. Three Inspectors detailed to 12th Inf Bde area. Three Inspectors detailed to 4th Div Artillery area. Inspector from Beaumont reported to 4th Bde area, Philippville.

Billets and other Quarters.

- (a) Nature - In Sains and throughout the Meuse and in Dinant area, troops have been billeted in houses, barns, factories and Public buildings.
- (b) Ventilation - Good.

1. (a) Overcrowding - A little sometime during
war but exceptional

(d) General condition - Many dirty billets had
to be cleaned up before occupation.

(e) A good deal of refuse had accumulated
about billets, much of which remained
from the enemy occupation.

2. Water Supply -

(a) Nature of supplies - In Sain, Sivry,
and Flamant areas, source of supply was
wholly from wells (Report on water
supplies this area was forwarded to
DDMS Aust Corp also ADMS & 4th Aust
Division).

Dinant area Benyque, Auserenne
have a tap supply, water from which
has recently been tested bacteriologically
and found fit for drinking by Belgian
Civil authorities. It is one measure
water. Argimont Hastiere and Erometow
have tap supply of one measure water.
Serville and Anthez have a one
measure tap supply. Sereennes has a
limited tap supply also good well supply.
Philippeville, Chaumont and St Aubin have
well supply. Stave, Biesmerce, Jumeaux
Erometow and Biert have a one measure
tap supply. Rosee, Anthez, Willeu and
Onhaye, Corenne and Flaviois have
a tap supply. Wandort has a well
supply.

(b) Chlorination - With very few
exceptions, both well and tap supplies
showed one measure B.P. sufficient.

(c) 160 Wells and tap supply tests
have been made by the section in
'A' Div area. In Sain area, sufficient
tests were made for supplies in all
villages.

2. (b2) 150 Notice Boards have been erected in 'A' Div Area. Almost all supplies tested in Pains Area were marked with permanent notices.
- (b3) In 'A' Div Area 20 Water Carts were examined. In every case giving satisfactory tests. In both this and Pains Area the number of water cart inspection was small owing to all available energies being necessarily directed towards the rapid conclusion of testing of source.
- (c) Water Points - No Public Water Points have been discovered. Prominent Public taps and wells have been chosen for the posting of notices throughout the Area. Although sufficient source have been tested for the immediate ~~max~~ requirements the testing of source in 'A' Div Area is not considered complete and is still proceeding.

3. Food and cooking

- (a) Quality and variety - During the move necessarily the larger portion of tinned rations was supplied. Since arrival in 'A' Div Area supplies have become normal and a due proportion of green vegetables obtained.
- (b) Protection of Food Supplies - Normal.
- (c) Sanitation of Cookhouses - Since arrival in this Area due progress has been made in this respect. In a few cases pits have been condemned and others chosen, on account of insanitary conditions.

4. Baths - Baths have been established at Dinant, Hastiers, Morville and Therenues.

5. ²²¹ Laundries - No Laundries have been reported in the Area.

6. Disinfection - Advice regarding disinfection were given in the case of enemy Infection Disease Hospitals at Florence now occupied by 4th Aust Field Unit.

7. Latines and Urinals -

Public conveniences have been very scarce both in the villages occupied during the move and in "A" Div Area. Indents for large numbers of Latrine seats have been submitted to C.R.C. Aust Corp and Units occupying towns and villages, are arranging for the installation as soon as these are made available. In some cases where material is available the Field Coy Engineers are making Latines. In the larger Centres many water trap systems are available at Billets, the use of these has been advised, the occupying units taking responsibility for adequate flushing. Particular stress has been laid on this detail owing to the fact that on arrival in the Divisional Area it was found that many water closets had been used, presumably by occupying troops without adequate attention having been paid to the flushing arrangements, in consequence a number of Pedestal Pan pipes were choked, causing a most insanitary and disgusting state of affairs. In case where the more permanent system of Box and Bucket or Trench Latines have not been made available, the open trench type is in use as a temporary measure.

8. ²²¹ Refuse Disposal.

(a) Method of collection and Removal - In Unit areas, Units have been advised and have generally adopted an organized system of Refuse collection for their own areas. Rubbish tip sites have been selected where bulky ~~Wet~~ wet Refuse is to be tipped and covered with earth.

(b) Incinerators - A few Incinerators have been installed for the purpose of disposing of burnable, dry refuse. Sufficient fuel is not available with which to burn all rubbish.

9. Stables and Horse Standings.

(a) General condition - Good.

(b) Manure Disposal - Where ground available is sufficient stacking and close packing on farm dump has been advised. In other cases stacking and packing at a selected Unit Dump site. Near the large centres, Public Dump sites have been chosen.

10. Anti Louse and Scabies measures.

No reports of prevalence of these parasites have been made to the section.

11. Destruction of Rats. - Nil.

12. Instruction in Sanitation.

None, except to sanitary detail during inspection.

13. Infectious Diseases.

Prior to arrival in "A" Div Area the village of Vodeue was placed out of bounds to troops on account of Typhoid Fever. No details of the prevalence of Infectious Disease

13. amongst civilians have been supplied since arrival.

14. General Remarks.

Workshops were set up on arrival in same area but available material was soon used up.

Since arrival in "A" Div Area, a small workshop has been opened at Dinant, the work has consisted mainly in the making of Notice Boards.

Re Defenders - since arrival some Indents for material have been submitted by Units, but up to the present there is no record of any of these having been completed.

(Signed) H.W. Franklands, Capt
O.C. 4th Aust Sanitary Section.

4th AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.	
No.	26/12/18
Date	26/12/18

4th Australian Divisional Area, Aust Corps.

221

Synopsis of work carried out by and under the supervision of 4th Aust San Sectn during the month ending 26/12/18.

Number of											
Latrines dug roofed and screened	Seats on completed Latrines	Urinals erected.	Latrine pits dug or in course of digging	Urinal pits dug or in course of digging	Incinerators erected.	Refuse dumps dug.	Grease Traps or soakage Pits constructed.	Units suspected	Billets dis-infected	Notices erected.	Water Carts inspected
30	145	20	10	-	5	130	40	650	4 th Field Ambulance	200	20.

AUSTRALIAN
SANITARY SECTION.
No. _____
Date: 26/12/18