

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/80/15

Title: 5th Australian Sanitary Section

October 1918



AWM4-26/80/15

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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Australian Sanitary Section..

FOR

October. 1918

Signature of Officer compiling *Arthur Howard* Captain.

Signature of Officer Commanding *Arthur Howard* Captain.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			October 1918.	
Driencourt	1st.		Area. Haut Allaines and "B" Divisional. 2 O/Ranks sent to A.D.S. St Emile to test water in forward area. Raining and cold.	
	2nd		10 O/Ranks reported from 103rd Labour Company. Arrangements were made with the Area Commandant to secure this party to work in and around Driencourt	
	3rd		Cold and windy. Attached men started on constructional work in area, under supervision of this units inspectors. One party was detailed for cleaning up of old camp sites around Driencourt, and another party started work on Russian Pit Disinfector. A.D.S. moved to Ronsoy. Water testers were engaged in locating water points, and testing water in newly captured territory	Appendix 5
	4th		Received Sanitary Instructions No. 7 re Corps move to forward area rest area. Subsection recalled from Villers Faucon	Appendix 304
	5th		Fine and cold. All ranks in good spirits on account of move to rest area. Pte Campbell reported from Haut Allaines. L/Sgt Thomas reported from hospital and was taken on strength. This section now comes under orders of A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division. Attached to 8th Brigade for move	
	6th		Lorry was to have reported to convey sections equipment to new area, but arrangements fell through. Lorry was arranged for on the 7th, personnel to remove by train on morning of 8th.	
Oisemont	7th		Proceeded to Oisemont on lorry leaving Driencourt at 11am, arriving at destination at 9.30pm. Sergeant Thompson in charge.	
	8th		Main body under S/Sgt Melville left Driencourt at 2am to entrain at Peronne with 29th Battalion at 6.30am. O.C. and 10/R proceeded with attached transport, by road. (copy of report on move attached) 2 O/Ranks reported back from Paris leave. Section is stationed at Oisemont. Orderly room at No. 47 Rue de Amiens and men at billet 39 Rue de Hospice in barn	Appendix 9
	9th		Owing to a large number of barns being filled with hay, billeting was a difficult matter, and the billets secured did not quite come up to the rather too sanguine expectations of the troops. The area has not been used for billeting purposes for some time, and is therefore largely unorganised. Sanitary conveniences were almost non-existent, and the facilities for making them, for the time being, unprocurable. A party was secured from the Camp Commandant Australian Division, and this party, with some of the section personnel, were employed in cleaning and preparing existing latrines, urinals etc in Oisemont. Town Major was interviewed, and list of water points, public latrines, incinerators etc obtained from him. Arrangements were made with Camp Commandant for daily conveyance of refuse from billets to public incinerator	
	10th		Fine and very cold. Arrangements were made with Town Major and French Mission to establish workshops near Chateau, on the outskirts of the town. 1 N.C.O. and 2 O/Ranks reported to 15th Brigade and 1 N.C.O. to 14th Brigade also 1 O/Rank to 8th Brigade for work in respective brigade areas. Town Major handed over to this section number of latrine seats, all more or less in a dilapidated condition. Work of repairing these was started.	

WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			October 1918 (2)	
Oisemont	11th		10 men reported from 5th Divisional Salvage Coy for sanitary work in town of Oisemont. 2 O/Ranks went to 8th Brigade and 2 O/Ranks to 14th Brigade for inspectional work	
	12th		Raining. New camp site occupied. Testing of wells in Oisemont, Cerisy and Ramburelles proceeded and general cleaning up of the villages in progress	
	13th		Again raining. Routine work carried out	
	14th		Two O/Ranks proceeded on leave to United Kingdom. Case of diptheria was reported in an estaminet at Vismes. Premises were disinfected under this units arrangements.	
	15th		Wet and cold. 6 men reported from 5th Div., Salvage Coy for work in Oisemont, and 2 O/Ranks reported from 5th Div., Engineers to assist unit carpenters	
	16th		List of unfit wells in Huppy forwarded to Staff Captain 15th Brigade. Several unfit wells were found to exist in this village.	
	17th		Raining and cheerless. Unit paid, with consequent brightening of outlook	
	18th		A visit from D.D.M.S. was expected. O.C. reported to D.D.M.S. at A.D.M.S. Office	
	19th		Routine work.	
	20th		1 (one) O/Rank from surplus reported to O.C. 2nd Sanitary Section.	
	21st		1 (one) O/Rank from surplus reported to O.C. 1st Sanitary Section. 2 O/Ranks reported back to 5th Divisional Engineers.	
	22nd		Work of constructing public latrine at St Maxent was commenced, party being obtained from 53rd Battln for the purpose	
	23rd		7 O/Ranks reported (4 from 8th Brigade, and 3 from 5th Pioneer Battln.) for course of instruction in construction of Sanitary appliances. As part of the Divisional sports programme, a football match (Aust Rules.) was played, in which several members of this unit took part. As the unit is too small to provide a team of its own, it had been arranged for the 5th Sanitary Section to be represented in Divisional H.Qrs teams and sporting events.	
	24th		Sgt Thompson, O.F. reported to H.Qrs Australian Corps for one month's probationary duty. Applications had previously been called for by D.D.M.S. Australian Corps for an N.C.O. for sanitary duty at Corps Headquarters. Sgt Thompson had been recommended by O.C. of this Section. Sundry material was obtained from Engineers, -timber, wire netting, hessian.	
	25th		Case of infectious disease was reported at St Maxent amongst the troops. Infected billet was sprayed	
	26-27th		Routine work carried out.	
	28th		Fine and warm. A new officers latrine (public) was erected in Oisemont, and work of erecting public latrine in the square was commenced. 7 O/Ranks attached for instruction, reported back to Units.	
	29-30-31.		Fine. General routine work carried out.	

WAR DIARY

OF

5th Australian Sanitary Section.

FOR

October. 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
(1)	Map of 5th Australian Div., Area.
(2)	Monthly Report.
(3)	List of wells tested in "B" Divisional Area.
(4)	Report of Water in forward area.
(5)	List of public conveniences erected in "B". Area
(6)	Unit Routine Orders of 9-10-18
(7)	Unit Routine Orders of 11-10-18.
(8)	List of wells and water points tested in 5th Div., Rest Area.
(9)	Copy of Report on mine to forward area.

Arthur Howard

Captain.
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section....



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Areas.

----- From 27-9-18 to 8-10-18 Unit was at Driencourt. Areas allotted were Haut Allaines and "B" Divisional. Headquarters were at Driencourt, and subsection under Sgt Thompson was stationed near Villers Faucon. (sheet 62c) E 22. and one inspector was billeted with Area Commandant Haut Allaines, whose duty was to inspect Haut Allaines and vicinity and generally assist Area Comm in matters of sanitation. It was found that the areas of the 48th, 50th, or 59th Sanitary Sections (Administered by 3rd Corps) overlapped this section area. The following arrangements were made with the O's C these sections. (1). Where 59th Sanitary Sections area overlapped this Unit, 59th to be responsible for public sanitary work, this Unit to do inspectional work. (2). Where 48th and 50th Sanitary Sections areas overlapped, 5th Australian Sanitary Section to pay special attention to sanitation of Australian Corps troops, also all public constructional work in Driencourt. The above arrangements were made to prevent unnecessary duplication of work and unpleasantness created with units attendant on having separate sanitary inspectors viewing their camps and making recommendations. At the same time, as the area was an Australian Corps Area, I reserved the right to have a general oversight of the area and to interfere in sanitary matters if it was considered necessary. On 1-10-18 2 O/Ranks were sent to A.D.S. to test water in the forward area. A list of wells has already been forwarded. On 2-10-18 10 O/Ranks from a Labour Company reported from Area Commandant Haut Allaines. From 3rd to 7th good work was done by these men in cleaning up of old camp sites around Driencourt and establishment of public sanitary conveniences. On 4th, Sanitary Instructions No. 7 were received, and Unit came under orders of A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division. Section moved under 5th Divisional arrangements to Oisemont on the 7th and 8th. Headquarters were established at Oisemont and 3 O/Ranks were attached to each Brigade for inspectional work in Brigade Areas.

General.

----- Sanitation. (Forward Area). The conditions were very much the same as in the St Cren area. There were a large number of troops, especially in "B" Divisional area. A large number of dead horses and mules in various stages of decomposition were scattered over the area. Arrangements for burial of these by nearest unit were made whenever possible.
Rest Area. Oisemont area has not been used for billeting of troops for some time, and area was therefore unorganised. Billets, especially in some of the smaller villages, were in many cases very poor and overcrowding of billets seemed unavoidable. This is due largely to the fact that barns were filled with hay and could not be used by troops. As the process of threshing proceeds many of these barns will doubtless become available for troops, in fact improvements due to this cause have already been noticed. Sanitary conveniences in the area were at a minimum and in many cases had fallen into disrepair. The area generally is fairly clean, and the standard of sanitation amongst the civilian population is rather above the average for French villages.
Latrines. Forward area. Owing to the fact that units in some cases only occupied camp sites for perhaps a single night, box latrines were not universal. In these cases the use of shallow straddle trench latrines was recommended. Where camps were, however, more or less permanent, units were urged to make box latrine seats. These were invariably made as there was plenty of salvable material in the area.
Rest area. Villages in this area were found to be very inadequately provided with latrine accommodation. Some public latrines existed in Oisemont. These all needed cleaning and repairing, which was done by this unit's carpenters and by parties obtained through the Town Major. In several cases old latrines had to be filled in and new ones constructed. The matter of finding sites for new latrines in Oisemont has also been one of considerable difficulty. A number of damaged latrine seats were obtained from Area Commandant Huppy and Town Major, Oisemont. These were repaired and made available. As far as possible the latrines on the public system have been installed in the large villages such as Huppy, St Maxent, Rambures, Maricuil and Martainville. Material has been extremely difficult to secure, but meanwhile units have been advised to improvise sanitary appliances until the material for more permanent structures can be supplied by C.R.E. The area is now fairly well provided with box latrines, but the number is still inadequate.

Disposal of Refuse. In the smaller villages most of the kitchen refuse is used by the civilians for feeding pigs. In Oisemont and Huppy refuse is collected daily and is disposed of at public incinerator. The streets are also periodically cleaned, a wagon and party being obtained from the Town Major for the purpose.

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Water. Forward Area. A report on water in Haut Allaine and "B" Divisional area has already been submitted.

Oisemont Area. Water supply in this area is good, and is mainly from wells usually deep, and requiring as a rule 1 measure B.P. per water cart. Practically the whole of the water in the area has been tested and notices erected. Units have been advised to use only those wells requiring only 1 measure per 110 gallons or less as there is quite a sufficient number of these in each village. A list of unfit wells in Brigade areas has been forwarded to Staff Captains of Brigades. In addition to wells there are 3 boreholes in the area, which however, cannot be used as it has been found impossible to procure compression lorries to fill the reservoirs.

Food and Cooking. General condition good.

Estaminets. Estaminets have been inspected, and general condition has been found fair. Defects where found have been pointed out and have been remedied.

Epidemics. Several cases of infectious disease amongst civilians have been investigated, and reports thereon forwarded to A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division. Disinfection as far as practicable has been carried out. A considerable number of cases of influenza have occurred amongst troops in Oisemont and in other parts of the area. Arrangements have been made for spraying of billets in cases that have been notified to this Office Sanitary School. Arrangements have been made to give instruction in construction of sanitary appliances to sanitary details of Units. The first session is now in progress. A full report will be submitted on the conclusion of the course.

Arthur Howard. Captain.
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section..

Distribution.	D.D.M.S.	Aust Corps.	2 copies
	A.D.M.S.	5th. Aust Div..	1 copy
	War Diary		1 "
	File		1 "

5th Australian Sanitary Section.
List of wells Tested in forward Area. from 27-9-18 to 5-10-18.

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Inspector's Location.	Depth of Well	Depth of Water.	Description.	Possible source of Pollution.	Sediment.	Appearance of water	Result of Test.	Remarks.
W18b3.4.))	—	Tarpaulin troughs covered	Nil.	Nil.	Clear	1 meas. per 110 galls	Notice erected. Water conveyed to trough by lorry
W19b1.8.	—	—	Tarpaulin troughs uncovered	Dust from passing traffic	Slight	Slightly cloudy	1 meas.	" " "
F16c0.7.	130ft	12ft	Brick lined well 4ft diameter, windlass	Nil.?	Slight	Cloudy	7 meas.	"Unfit" notice erected.
F1c5.9.	100ft	10ft	Brick lined well 4ft diameter, windlass	Nil.	Slight	Cloudy	1 meas.	Notice erected.
F3c6.9.	Bore hole		2-200 gall. tanks 3 stand pipes	Nil.	Nil.	Clear	1 meas	Notice erected.
F2b6.6.	?	?	Endless chain	Nil	Nil.	Clear	1 meas	At present for horses only. Would be good water point for troops Notice erected.

Arthur Howard Lloyd

APPENDIX

Notes re. water in forward area.

Water points in attached list had not previously been tested by a Sanitary Section. Notices were erected in all cases. Our water testers inspected villages of St Emlie, Montsoy, Lempire, Basse Boulogne, La Pauvrelle, Malassie Farm, Templeux-le-Guerard and Bony, and found water supplies to be scanty and insufficient to cope with the demand. A water point is in course of construction at St Emlie.

Arthur Howard

Captain

G.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section....

5/10/18.

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Public Works Completed and in Hand. from 27-9-18 to 5-10-18.

~~Raut Allaines Area.~~

LOCATION.	WORK.	REMARKS.
Driencourt.	Public Incinerator.	Completed.
J365.3.		
J363.1.	Public Latrine.	Complete with exception of screen
J363.4.	Disinfector.	Pit completed

"B" Divisional Area.

Villers Faucon.	Public Latrines 1-10 sent	
	1-3 "	
	1-4 "	
	2-3 "	
	2-1 "	
" "	Public Urinals.	These are old latrines which have been repaired and disinfected, and are now serviceable.

In addition to these Public works, general cleaning up of Driencourt and old camp sites in the vicinity has been proceeding

Arthur Howard

Captain.
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section..

5/10/18.

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ROUTINE ORDERS

by

Capt. A.J. Howard

O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section.

9/10/18.

142. Precautions against FIRE.

No fires will be allowed in billets, and special precautions will be taken with lights, which should be placed in tins made for the purpose

143. Destruction of Trees and Purchasing of Timber.

The destruction of trees and burning of timber in the area is absolutely forbidden. No wood is to be purchased in the area.

144. Shooting at Game.

Shooting at Game and discharging of firearms without authority in the area is forbidden.

Part 11.

L/Sgt Thomas R reported from hospital on 5/10/18. *taken on strength*
T/Cpl Liersch W.A. relinquishes rank of Temporary Corporal and reverts to L/Cpl on return to Unit of L/Sgt Thomas.

No. 14611 Pte Jensen G.F. is struck off strength as from 30/9/18.
Evacuated sick.

L/Cpl Liersch W.A. appointed Acting Corporal from 5/10/18

L/Cpl Swansson P. and Pte Hollyer W. reported back from Paris leave on 8/10/18.

Arthur Howard

Captain.

O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section.....

ROUTINE ORDERS

by

O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section

Capt. A. J. Howard

11/10/1918.

145. Damage to Crops and Pasture Land. (Fourth Army Standing Orders para 7.)

The agricultural population is practically entirely dependant on its crops for its livelihood, and wholesale damage to seeds can only have the worst possible effect upon its feelings.

Para 8. Officers and men, whether mounted or not, are forbidden to leave recognised roads and paths to take short cuts across tilled fields. The only exception will be in case of linemen whose duty makes it absolutely necessary for them to ride across country to repair wires. The use of cemeteries as thoroughfares is strictly prohibited.

Para 9. Games are not to be played in grass fields unless permission has been received from, or some arrangement has been made with, the owner of the fields. When ground is selected for training purposes, the suitability of some portion of it for games should be taken into consideration.

Para 10. Land is not to be used for exercise, bombing practice, or manoeuvres without previous agreement with the owners. Bombing practice is to be confined strictly to land hired for that purpose.

Para 14. Cases have occurred in which fresh pastures have been unnecessarily occupied for horses, wagon lines, drill grounds etc, whilst fields in the immediate neighbourhood, previously used for such purposes, have been left unoccupied. Units are naturally reluctant to occupy fields which are deep in mud, but the continual occupation of fresh fields not only entails expenditure in hire, but has in some cases reduced the available pasturage to such an extent that it will be difficult for the inhabitants to find grazing for their animals. Every effort must, therefore, be made to avoid taking up fresh ground, and, when fresh ground is really necessary, to occupy unsown arable land, or high lying waste ground, in preference to good pasture land.

Para 31. Ringing Trees. Every precaution must be taken to prevent horses or mules from ringing trees, and from destroying hedges. Horses and mules must not therefore, be tied to trees, or in such a way that they can reach trees or hedges.

Para 32. Woods and Forests. No timber will be cut, and no arrangements will be made with proprietors to cut timber, except through the Forestry Control Officers of the Army. These will make all necessary arrangements with the owners, and will allot coupes for the cutting of wood, as required.

Para 35. Agricultural Machinery, etc., belonging to inhabitants. - Machinery, implements and vehicles used for agricultural purposes are not to be removed from their sheds except in case of absolute necessity, because they deteriorate rapidly when exposed to the weather. If it is imperative to move them they must be protected from the weather.

146. Orchards and Fruit. Fruit-growing is the livelihood of a large proportion of the inhabitants living in the area now occupied by this Division. All ranks are warned that trespassing in orchards or taking fruit from same - whether on trees or windfalls - is strictly forbidden and that the Military Police have been instructed to take disciplinary action against those who contravene this Order.

147. Postal Corps-Transfer to. In order to complete the establishment of the Australian Army Postal Corps, it has been decided to arrange transfers from other arms. Units will submit to this Office, not later than noon on the 15th inst, applications from men who were employed in the Postal Dept in civil life and who are desirous of transferring to the Army Postal Corps. Full particulars of qualifications should be stated in the applications.

NOTICE.

A Church of England Service will be held in the C.R.E.'s Office, over the Mairie, Oisemont on Sunday next at 10am, (15th inst.) Other denominations are invited to attend.

Part 2 Orders.

No. 2836 Pte Hellam, S. reported from 5th Aust Div. Reinforcement Wing on 11/10/18 and is taken on strength, supernumary to establishment.

Captain.

O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section...

11/10/18.

Applications will be considered for leave to Abbeville. Names to be handed in to Orderly Room.

List of Wells tested in 5th Divisional Area. **APPENDIX 8**

Village.	Description.	Source of pollution.	Appearance	Test	Remarks.
Hamicourt.	Brick lined, with windlass	Nil.	Clear	1 meas.	Notice Posted
"	Sealed well	Midden heap	"	1	"
Rambures.	B.L. with windlass	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil.	"	1	"
"	"	Nil.	"	1	"
"	"	Nil.	"	1	"
"	Sealed well	Midden heap	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Fresne Tilloy.	B.L. with windlass	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Ramburelles.	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	slightly Cloudy	1	"
Le Translay	"	Nil	Clear	1	"
Framicourt	"	Nil	slightly Cloudy	1	"
"	"	Nil	Clear	1	"
Martainville	Water Point 2 storage tanks	"	"	1	"
"	B.L. with windlass	Midden heap	"	1	"
"	Sealed well	Nil	"	1	"
Vismes-au-Val	Sealed well	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Gerisy	B.L. with windlass	Midden heap	"	1	"
"	"	Out of order-unable to secure sample.	"	"	"
St Maxent	"	Nil	slightly cloudy	1	"
"	"	Nil	clear	1	"
"	"	Out of order-unable to secure sample.	"	"	"
Canessieres	"	Nil	clear	1	"
Doudelainville	"	Nil	"	2	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Villeroy	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	Sealed well	Midden heap	"	1	"
Bienfay	B.L. with windlass	Nil	"	1	"
Boencourt	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Huchenneville	"	Nil	"	1	"
Inval	Underground tank with pump.	"	"	2	"
"	B.L. with windlass	Nil	"	1	"
Oisemont	"	Nil	"	1	Notice posted
"	"	Nil	"	1	by 59th San.
"	"	Nil	"	1	Section.
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	Notice posted
"	"	Nil	"	1	by 59th S.S.
"	"	Nil	"	1	Notice posted
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Limercourt	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
"	"	Nil	"	1	"
Behin.	Sealed well	Nil	"	1	"
"	Underground tank-sealed pump	"	"	1	"
"	B.L. with windlass	Nil	"	1	"
Huppy	Underground tank-sealed pump.	"	"	1	"
"	Sealed well	Soakage	Cloudy	3	Unfit notice
"	B.L. with windlass	Nil	Clear	1	Notice posted
"	Sealed well	Soakage	Yellowish	8	Unfit notice.
"	"	Nil	Clear	1	Notice posted
"	B.L. with windlass	Nil	"	1	"

APPENDIX

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Village +-----	Description -----	(2)		Appearance -----	Test -----	Remarks. -----
		Source of	pollution.			
Huppy	B.L. with windlass	Nil		Clear	1 meas.	Notice posted
	" " "	Nil		"	1 "	" "
	Sealed well	Nil		"	1 "	" "
	B.L with windlass	Nil		y	1 "	" "

Arthur Howard

Captain.

O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section.....

28/10/18.

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A.D.M.S.

5th Australian Division.

rest
Report on move to forward area.

5th Divisional Sanitary Section moved on 8-10-18 from Driencourt to Oisemont. Stores were conveyed by lorry obtained from 5th Australian Division on 7-10-18. Party of 1 N.C.O. and 3 men went with this lorry as guides. The main body under S/Sgt Melville left Driencourt at 0200 on the 8th for Peronne, and reported to 8th Brigade Entraining Officer at 0400. An early meal was partaken of at 0100. Meals on route consisted of dry rations which were carried on the man. Party entrained on No 15 train at 0800. Owing to slight accident to the train the journey was unduly long, and Oisemont was not reached until 1745. Meanwhile hot meal had been prepared and was ready soon after the party reached billets in Oisemont. The O.C. with 1 O/Rank with attached transport moved by road through Albert, Amiens and Arraines.

The journey was without incident of note.

Robert Howard
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section. Captain.

10-10-18.