

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/64/31

Title: No 3 Australian Casualty Clearing
Station

April - May 1919



AWM4-26/64/31

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ORIGINAL.
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Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

No. 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

FOR

APRIL

1919

Signature of Officer compiling

R A Stevens

Major

C.O. No. 3 Aust. C.C.S.

Signature of Officer Commanding

R A Stevens

Major

C.O. No. 3 Aust. Cas. Clg. Stn.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
A. I. F. and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY

or

~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY~~

(Erase heading not required.)

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EUSKIRCHEN GERMANY.	APRIL 1919.		<p><u>COMMANDING OFFICER'S REPORT.</u></p> <p>On the last day of march 40 Other Ranks marched out: as these included a considerable number of the old members of the unit their loss was felt but the new N. C. Os. soon picked up their duties and in a few days everything was working smoothly.</p> <p>There has not been a great amount of work for the unit during the month as the health of 1X corps has been very good.</p> <p>Stocktaking was begun early in the month preparatory to handing over: and lists were kept which were checked every week.</p> <p>On 4.4.19 Capt. J. E. B. MacLean reported for duty with No. 96 Dental Unit attached, and on 11.4.19 he took command of No. 96 Dental Unit, vice Capt. S. Jago who proceeded to report to S. O. A. D. S., A. I. F. Headquarters.</p> <p>On 13.4.19 Major Donnelly paid a visit to the unit from 3rd. Echelon and gave some information about demobilisation. Two days later the Official Photographer came and took some interesting photographs for War Records.</p> <p>On 17.4.19 a wire was received stating that 47 British C. C. S. were shortly leaving Namur. It was arranged that 2 Officers should billet here and 53 Other Ranks and two other Officers should billet in Euskirchen.</p> <p>On 20.4.19 Lt. General Sir W. Babbie inspected the hospital and remarked favourably. The following day a conference on administration of Medical Units was held at Army Headquarters: and C. C. Ss. became Corps Units instead of Army Units. This was found to facilitate the working of the Unit.</p> <p>On 24.4.19 No. 47 C. C. S. arrived at Euskirchen and were billeted as arranged. The following day was spent with the preliminaries of the 'take over'. It was decided to close No. 3 Australian C. C. S. at midnight on 26-27th. This was the end of the official week and 47 C. C. S. took over at that time. No. 47 C. C. S. were without Sisters and the staff of this unit carried on until relieved by Imperial Sisters.</p> <p>On 28.4.19 one lorry (in workshops) was handed over to 18 G. H. Q. Motor Transport and on 30.4.19 the second lorry was handed over to Rhine Army Troops.</p> <p>On 1.5.19 1 Matron and 1 Sister arrived and six Australian Sisters were relieved. On 3.5.19 seven Imperial Sisters arrived and the Nursing Staff was completely relieved.</p>	
<p>D. D. & L., London, E.C. (A7883) Wt. W809/M1672 350,000 4/17 Sch. 52a Forms/C/2118/14</p>				

J. A. Sullivan Lt. Col.
S.O. No. 3 Aust. Cas. Clearing Station
A.I.F.

WAR DIARY

OF

No.3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

FOR

APRIL 1919

LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Surgeon Specialist's Report
2.	Medical Officers Report
3.	Quartermaster's Report
4.	HeadSister's Report
5.	Radiologist's Report
6.	Dental Surgeon's Report
7.	Facts about early History of Unit...
8.	Copy of narrative , war history referring to No.3 Australian CCS., in Germany.
9.	Copy of narrative referring to Nursing Staff of C.C.S., in Germany.

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Appendix
No.3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

SURGEON SPECIALIST'S REPORT

APRIL/1919

The following operations were performed in the Theatre during the month of April up to 26th April inclusive :-

Resection of Rib for Empyaema 2
Appendicectomy 4
Periostitis Ulna (R) -Incision for 1
Bayonet Wound of Knee Joint with fracture (longitudinal) of patella - Sutured 1
G.S.W...Right Hand - Cleaned 1
Circumcision 1
Lacerated Ear with fracture of humerus Ear Sutures - Arm splinted 1
Hernia 1
Cyst of Neck - Removed 1
There were two (2) deaths during this period :-
Corpl. Davies - Influenzal pneumonia
Empyaema
Sergt. Raynor - Periostitis Tibia (R)
Septicaemia -Empyaema....

H. Jones
Major
Surgeon Specialist No.3 Aust.CCS..

Appendix II

NO. 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION.

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MEDICAL OFFICERS REPORT.

APRIL, 1919.

During April the weather has been very changeable, with cold wet days and even snowstorms. Influenza has provided the bulk of the Medical admissions, with a recrudescence of pneumonias of the Catarrhal type which used to be so fatal earlier in the year. Some of these have been very severe but have made recoveries which in several cases was quite unexpected: probably due to the toxicity being less virulent than formerly.

Under orders the 3rd. Australian C. C. S. closed down at midnight 26.4.19 when the 47 C. C. S. (British) took over. As the books were forwarded to the Base on closing down detailed figures for the month are not obtainable for this month.

The health of the unit has been excellent.

G. Shaw

1.5.1919.

Capt.
No. 3 Australian C. C. S.

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Appendix 3
No. 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

QUARTERMASTERS REPORT
MONTH OF APRIL/1919

During the past month the Quartermaster's department has been a very busy one, owing to final stocktaking and handing over whilst functioning, to 47th Casualty Clearing Station...

In quantity, quality and scale of Rations there was no change, and the cooking was satisfactorily carried out.

The stores and equipment handed over were in good condition and receipts for same obtained.

Nothing now remains but the Records, books etc of the Unit which will be taken to London according to instructions.

One typewriter was despatched to Australian Red Cross Depot at Boulogne and one Stationery Cabinet was forwarded to Y.M.C.A. At Havre on 5.5.19 through A.M.F..C.. The remaining Typewriter will be despatched in a similar manner when the Unit moves out....

5.5.19.

R. Henley Capt.
Qr. Mr.
No. 3 Aust. Cas. Clg. Station.....

Appendix IV

No.3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

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MONTHLY REPORT OF T/HEAD SISTER - No.3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY
CLEARING STATION FOR MONTH OF APRIL/1919

This month the work in all the wards has been much lighter than at any time since our arrival at EUSKIRCHEN.

The lessening of the number of Influenza cases has made a marked difference in ward work in the medical division.

Changes in Wards :- Owing to the variety of infectious cases admitted it was found necessary to set apart four special wards for their treatment this decreased the number of beds available for general medical cases as the number admitted has decreased this has not caused any inconvenience.

Staff now consists of :-

T/Head Sister WOJNARSKI, V.Z.
Sister MACDONALD, A.
" WATT, M.Redfern
" WRIGHT, F.P.
" NIELSEN, M.M.
" BUCHANAN, E.
" DORRINGTON, A.
" COOMER, L.
" TAIT, A.M.
" MILNE, H.G.
Staff Nurse WELLS, W.G.
" WIGLEY, N.J.
" GILES, M.C.
" DUNCAN, J.C.

Health :- The health of the staff has been excellent.

Recreation :- The Staff have all taken advantage of the official pleasure trips arranged to go up the Rhine to Coblenz and so visit the American area of occupation.

Inspection :- On 8.4.19 General Guise Moore and General Thompson inspected the Hospital.

On 20.4.19 General Sir W.Babittie and General Thompson inspected. The former officer expressed his satisfaction with the general condition.

On 22.4.19 Miss Conyers and Miss Tunley inspected the Hospital and Sisters quarters.

On 26.4.19 The Staff and personnel of No.47 CCS., arrived to take over from this Unit. Miss Grey Matron of that Unit arrived from Namur by Ambulance Transport but as her nursing staff have not yet reported our sisters are still on duty in their respective wards.

As this is my last report before leaving this Unit I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the work done by the Nursing Staff of this CCS. Their work has been of the highest standard and their devotion to duty during the times of stress has been characteristic of the Australian Army Nursing Service.

30.4.19.

V.Z. Woinarski T/Head Sister
No.3 Aust.Cas.Clg.Stn.

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Appendix V

NO. 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION.

The following X-Ray examinations were done during the month of April 1919.

Heads	4
Arms	4
Elbows	4
Shoulders	4
Pelvis	3
Femurs	3
Legs	5
Knees	4
Ankles	4
Wrists	5
Total cases	<u>40</u>

29.4.1919.

G. W. Holmes Capt.
X-Ray Specialist.
N.O. 3 Australian C. C. S.

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Appendix VI

NO. 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION.

Report of No. 96 Dental Unit for month of April 1919.

No. of patients treated	479
Extractions	416
Fillings-	
Cement	33
Amalgum	52
Root	26
Crowns	1
Sundries-	
Dressings, temporary fillings, Scalings, Ulc. Gingivitis, General Anaesthetic and Minor Operations.	249
Troops treated-	
A. I. F.	16
B. E. F.	463
	<u>479</u>
Repairs sent to Base. <i>CO's 3 accs.</i>	25

29.4.1919.

J. E. Macleay Capt.
Dental Officer.

370 No. 3 AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

 EARLY HISTORY

No. 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station began its career on March 17th 1916. The Unit was formed originally from personnel belonging to the 10th Australian Field Ambulance. The Commanding Officer, Quarter-master and Adjutant of the latter Unit transferring to the C.C.S., the same day.

On the 19th March the personnel marched into Camp at the Domain Melbourne to undergo a further course of training prior to embarkation.

The following Officers made up the Staff of the Unit :-

Lieut. Colonel	CORBIN, J.	South Australia
		Commanding Officer....
Major	O'BRIEN, J.A.	Victoria
		Second in Command
Major	SIMMONS, W.F.	New South Wales
Captain	SMYTH, J.	Queensland
"	WHITING, C.	New South Wales
"	JOHNSTON, A.S.	Western Australia
"	LAING, J.K.C.	Victoria
Lieut.	HENLEY, R.P.	Victoria
		Quartermaster.

The Nursing Orderlies received training daily at the Melbourne Hospital and the other Orderlies were trained at the Domain Camp. Keeness was the order of the day, and everybody looked forward with eagerness to his departure overseas.

The equipping of the Unit was rapidly completed as far as possible. Stores Instruments etc available in Australia being used. The Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society very kindly presented the Unit with a travelling cooker and 2 typewriters.

After training for two months our embarkation orders were received and the Unit sailed from Port Melbourne per S.S. Medic on May 20/16. The first port of call was Albany where we stopped for one day. Soon Australia was left behind. The voyage from Melbourne to Durban was uneventful, the weather being fine and the troops in good spirits. There were considerable numbers of cases admitted to the Hospital including several cases of Pneumonia, one of which terminated fatally. The Chief Steward was successfully operated on for Appendicitis.

At Durban the troops were most hospitably received by the townspeople and the two days stay there was a most welcome change to the routine of shipboard life.

The next port of call was Cape Town where the Medic stayed for 6 days awaiting the arrival of other transports to complete the convoy which was to proceed under the protection of H.M.S. Laconia.

When the convoy was formed we proceeded northwards and reached the Cape Verde Islands where a stay was made for 2 days.

The convoy was escorted for the remainder of the voyage by H.M.S. King Alfred and when about a days journey from Port was met by destroyers and finally reached Plymouth on the night on 17.7.16.

Disembarking at 1 a.m., the following morning the Unit entrained for Salisbury at 3 a.m., and after a tiresome journey reached Amssbury at 6 a.m. the same day.

The camp was erected at Larkhill. Here the main part of the

Unit was joined up by a small detachment, who had left Sydney under the Command of Major W.F. Simmons, on June 6th/16 and proceeded via Suez. The detachment did Hospital duty for the 42nd Battalion A.I.F...on board the S.S. Borda...

Training was given in Route marching physical drill and other exercises. The Quartermasters Department was kept busy completing the equipment to War Establishment.

At Salisbury Capt. Whiting was evacuated sick and was replaced by Captain Fay.

On 25th September the unit entrained for Southampton and embarked the same night en route for Le Havre reaching the latter on the 26th we disembarked and spent two days in a rest camp and then entrained for Rouen.

After 5 days in Camp near Rouen, which provided most interesting opportunities for the studying of the French people we entrained for Gezaincourt in the Somme Valley where we relieved No.11 British C.C.S.

At Gezaincourt Captain Earle Page joined the Unit as a Surgeon Specialist and a few days later Captain Chaplain E.G. Muschamp, B.A., seven Nursing Sisters under the Charge of Head Sister Ida O'Dwyer completed the staff.

At Gezaincourt the Unit opened for the reception of walking wounded. Trains ran into the little siding loaded with wounded from the Somme Battle Fields. This was our first picture of the results of war, the weather was terrible and the mud up near the line was so bad that many cases came in for treatment literally covered from head to foot. Sometimes three and four trains per day with loads of from 200 to 400 walking cases were admitted.

No.29 Casualty Clearing Station was close by and when this CCS., filled it switched to this CCS.

The wounded were classified and fed, their clothes dried and their wounded tended, some requiring operation and others needing only dressings.

The Operating Theatre with its three tables was kept going day and night, Ambulance Trains poured out daily with their loads of wounded for the Base Hospitals.

After the rush had slackened off the work of substituting huts for tents for the serious cases was gone ahead with for the winter was approaching. Nissen Huts were provided for the Sisters, Officers and Personnel. A fine Hut for the mens mess room was secured by the Quartermaster in exchange for a tin bath.

In December when the fighting has eased off for the year sick began to come in in numbers, for the 1916 winter was the most severe one that had been experienced for years and years and years. Trench Feet, Rheumatism and Pneumonia were the most prevalent complaints, and the wounded were but few.

The health of the Unit remained good as plenty of exercise was taken, tobogganing being a favourite sport of this time.

The winter passed pleasantly, it was very cold, but with the aid of plenty of blankets and stoves we managed to keep the cold out.

January/1917 passed without any special events of note and on February the 9th/17 the Unit received orders to move to Edgehill which was near the Town of Albert. Lorries were provided and the move was carried out expeditiously and soon the camp was ready for the reception of wounded, stretcher cases were received this time. We carried on at Edgehill until 7.4.17 when orders were received to move forward to Grevilliers near Bapaume which had fallen to our Second Australian Division

about three weeks before. We had to fill in Shell holes and pitch tents. At Midday 9.4.17 the Unit commenced to receive all classes of cases. The size of the camp was gradually extended to cope with the enormous number of wounded which were being received from Laghiccourt and Bullecourt. No.3 British CCS., and later on No.29 British C.C.S., joined ~~us~~ us at Grevilliers.

On 21.7.17 the Unit transferred to Brandhoek which lay near Ypres and opened with Lieut.Colonel R.D.Campbell D.S.O., in command, he having taken over from Lieut.Colonel J.Corbin who returned to Australia. Lieut.Colonel J.Corbin left with the deepest regret of all ranks.

Towards the end of August we were shelled out of Brandhoek several casualties among the personnel being sustained. Our next site was Nine Elms close to Poperinghe where the Unit opened on 4.10.17 for the reception of wounded. The month of September was spent at Remy Siding near Poperinghe, the Unit was attached temporarily to No.10 C.C.S., while reorganising after Brandhoek. The close of 1917 saw us still under canvas at Nine Elms, where we spent the winter and remained until April 1918 when we were forced by the German advance to retreat in good order to Esquelbecq some twenty miles further back. For the week prior to our departure the Germany long range guns were dropping shells perilously close to the camp every day.

W. A. Stevens
Major
C.O.No.3 Aust.Cas.Clg.Station.

Appendix VIII

3rd AUSTRALIAN CASUALTY CLEARING STATION

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On 11th November 1918 a wire was received stating that hostilities had ceased, and that the Armistice had been signed. At this time the 3rd Australian Casualty Clearing Station was under canvas about 2 Kilos from the little village of Moorseele. The camp had been completed and we were very comfortable especially as the work was not very heavy and the weather was very fine. Signs of recent fighting were seen all around us in the form of shell holes disabled guns and German machine guns and equipment. On receiving news of the Armistice celebrations were held in real Australian style. In these we were joined by No. 64 Casualty Clearing Station which was working in conjunction with us.

The following day Major P.A. Stevens who was in charge in the absence on leave of the Commanding Officer, Lieut. Colonel J.K. ADEY, O.B.E., was informed by the D.M.S., that this C.C.S., had been included amongst those that had been selected to proceed into Germany with the Army of Occupation. The first move was to be to Audenarde on the Scheldt. This was the Audenarde that became famous in the days of Marlborough.

The new site was selected on the 13th November/18 and the move began on the 14th, the Commanding Officer returned on the 14th and took over command. Lorries were loaded with necessary material and set out for Audenarde. All unnecessary material was left behind at Moorseele in charge of the Quarter Master, Captain R.P. Henley, to be sorted and returned Ordnance and other depots as soon as possible. Major STEVENS, Mr. CARRINGTON and 60 men proceeded to the new site and set about the erection of the new camp.

On November 15th/18 the Sisters with the exception of 7 left for the Base, the seven detailed to accompany the Unit were :-

The Head Sister E.W. Jeffries and Sisters M.M. Nielsen M. McNulty, J. Robertson, J. McDonald, F. Nicholls and A.M. Wilson.

On the 17th of the month the new camp was completed with accommodation for 50 bed patients and 250 stretcher patients. The electric light had been installed. The Operating Theatre was very small and contained but one operating table. This was a contrast to the Theatre in the time when active fighting was in progress.

On the 18th the C.C.S., opened for the reception of cases, and 83 medical cases were received, mostly influenza and sore feet. On the following day we switched to No. 64 C.C.S., which opened quite close by.

The weather at this time became very wet, and cold and snow was falling. As the tents had been well pitched under the supervision of Mr. Carrington and as an adequate supply of stores had been brought we were able to withstand the weather in moderate comfort.

On the 19th as we were not receiving it was possible to complete the wards and the outside work of the camp.

On the 20th November/18 Captain W.R. Page and the Quarter-master who had been left behind in charge of the stores at Moorseele reported at Audenarde having completed their work of dealing with the surplus equipment.

For the next few days we received a considerable number of cases which were evacuated by cars and lorries to Courtrai. General Birdwood visited the Camp and expressed his appreciation of the work done.

On 26th November Captain W.R. Page left for Huy to hold Billets in view of a possible move to this village. The work went on steadily at Audenarde till the 3rd of December/18 when the C.C.S., closed preparatory to moving forward.

On December 12th Captain Littlejohn went to Euskirchen in Germany to No.1 Canadian C.C.S., to be ready for this Unit to relieve them, and on the 14th one of our lorries with One N.C.O., and six men and stores arrived in Euskirchen, this was our Advance Party. The main body was still at Audenarde, and the small party at Huy. On December 19th/18 a train arrived at Audenarde and we commenced loading and left the following day at 1300 hours with all the remaining personnel and equipment.

On the 21st this Unit took over from No.1 Canadian C.C.S., Euskirchen, and the train which had left Audenarde on the 21st arrived at Euskirchen on the 22nd. The material was unloaded by means of 5 lorries and transferred to the Deaf and Dumb Institution which was being used as our Station.

Very quickly we accustomed ourselves to our new surroundings which were very comfortable, and settled down to routine hospital work once more. The building that we were in was a large, recently built, three story institution with electric light and complete central heating section. It had been used by the enemy as a Hospital during hostilities. There was a considerable number of beds already in the Building. A large tiled bathroom with hot and cold water for showers and baths was provided for the use of the personnel. A gymnasium with many of the mechanical appliances for which the Germans are noted was used as a recreation room for the personnel and convalescent patients.

A very fine mess room with 16 tables and capable of holding 120 men was used by the personnel.

The kitchens contained five large, steam heated boilers and a fine cooking range.

The hospital itself was divided into two parts with no communication between them. The right wing containing the surgical ward, and operating theatre and two medical wards on the first floor, while on the second floor are the Dental Surgery and two Stretcher Wards. In the left wing are the officers wards and the Roman Catholic Chapel on the first floor, and stretcher wards on the second. The Roman Catholic Chapel is very beautiful with stained glass windows polished wooden floor and seating accommodation for 200. The third floor is used as sleeping accommodation for personnel and duty patients. The ground floor contains the administrative and reception rooms also acute medical wards. The basement is used for Quartermaster and Packstore Departments.

The Officers and Sisters Messes are some one hundred yards or so away from the main building.

The New Year was celebrated at Euskirchen quietly.

About this time an outbreak of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Village and was fortunately restricted to Civilians.

On Sunday 12th January, No.8 Mobile Laboratory reported for duty in connection with this outbreak and remained with us till it subsided. No cases were admitted to this C.C.S.

Educational classes were in progress soon after our arrival at Euskirchen. These however passed through various vicissitudes owing to constant changes in personnel through leave and demobilisation.

The Opera at Cologne has been a great source of pleasure and education. There is a moderately liberal supply of seats available and all ranks have availed themselves of the opportunity of attending.

During February the C.C.S., was very full and extra wards were opened. At this time the Influenza epidemic was at its height. It was accompanied by a virulent form of pneumonia. Towards the end of February the epidemic began to abate and the strain on the nursing staff was lessened.

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March saw the departure of many of the older members of the Unit. On the 5th Lieut. E.J.D. Pye the Dispenser who had been with us for about fourteen months left to return to Australia, and on the 12th Captain Littlejohn who had been with the Unit since the middle of 1917 departed. On the 18th the Commanding Officer left to return to Australia. On the 31st the first quota left for Havre for repatriation this consisted of 40 Other Ranks. Before these men left we had a farewell dinner followed by a smoke night which was a great success.

On the 22nd of the month a Photograph was taken of the Unit and every man was presented with a copy.

The first quota included most of the original men of the Unit and many of these were very difficult to replace.

During March reinforcements arrived from the other Australian Casualty Clearing Stations and for the General Hospitals to replace those men who were about to depart.

During the early part of April the weather has been very fine and the amount of sickness has considerably diminished.

On the 5th April, the 1st Rhine pleasure trip available to members of the Unit was run and about 20 members were able to avail themselves of this unique opportunity of seeing this famous river scenery. Starting off at 6.30 a.m., we went by train to Bonn where we got the Steamer. Leaving Bonn at 9.30 a.m., the boat went past the Siepungebirge giving a wonderful view of the Drachenfels and onwards Cobenz which was not however reached by the time it was necessary to turn back. Bonn was reached in time to catch the evening train back to Euskirchen which was about 20 miles distant.

On the 8.4.19 the D.M.S...Rhine Army paid us a farewell visit prior to his return to England. A few days later we received our warning order to hold ourselves in readiness for demobilisation. The last days have been spent in getting all in order for our departure.

We leave this place with many regrets for some of the most pleasant hours of this Unit have been spent in Germany, with the Rhine Army, but these are all overshadowed by the thoughts of home which are ever present with us now. In a few days this Unit will cease to exist.

On 26th April/19 we were relieved by the 47th Casualty Clearing Station and on 8.5.19 the personnel proceeded to Havre en route for Australian and Home.

N.A. Stevens

Major

8.5.19.....

C.O. No. 3 Aust. Cas. Clg. Stn.

On 11.11.18 the news of the Armistice was received and on the same day orders were received to close the C.C.S. and prepare to move forward for we had been chosen as one of the C.C.S.s selected to take part in the advance into Germany. Five other C.C.S.s were taking part in this advance. The nursing staff was to be reduced to seven, one head sister three staff nurses and three sisters were selected. The first of the sisters were returned to the base on the 15th of November 1918. The nursing staff who were remaining with the unit were as follows:-

Head sister....E. W. Jeffries. ANRC.
 Sisters.....J. B. McDonald.
 M. M. McNulty. ANRC.
 F. A. Nicholls.
 Staff Nurses..A. M. WILSON.
 D. Robertsen.
 M. M. Neilson.

On 16.11.18 this staff set out in Motor Ambulances for Audenaerde on the Scheldt. We arrived after an interesting trip pass through country which had been recently fought over and which had been described to us by the wounded men that we had been nursing at Moorsele our last site.

On our arrival at Audenaerde we found the camp almost completed. It was situated on an open field near the railway station. The camp was very much smaller than our usual camps for in future we would have only the sick to care for. There was accommodation for fifty bed cases and two hundred and fifty stretchers instead of about six hundred as we had been prepared for in the past. The operating theatre contained only one table and consisted of two marquees. There were 12 beds in the Officers ward and a similar number in the surgical ward, there were 26 beds in a Medical ward and tentage for 250 stretchers in 4 large sets of marquees. The electric was installed. There were 4 bell tents as sleeping accommodation for the sisters with floor boards and a comfortable mess tent floored and electrically lit and containing a large stove of French pattern.

Soon after our arrival the weather became very cold and we had rain and snow. The camp became very muddy and as it had not been possible to bring duckboards we realised that this trip was not going to be all pleasure.

Most of the cases that the nursing staff have been called upon to look after have been influenza and pneumonia. There were a few accidental wounds due to explosions of bombs that had been left behind by the troops. Several of these occurred among civilians. There was one old lady who was wounded in the abdomen who made an excellent recovery.

The opening days of December saw us still at Audenaerde. On the 3rd of the month the C.C.S. closed preparatory to moving forwards. On the 14th Sisters Jeffries and McNulty left for their 1914 leave they were replaced by temp. Head sister V. Zichy-Weinarski and Sister E. L. Glasson who reported on the 15th and 12th respectively. Sister Nicholls also left on the 14th having been replaced on the previous day by Sister E. L. Slater.

From the 3rd till the 20th we were waiting for the train which was to take us to Buskirchen in Germany where our advance party had gone. On the 19th the train arrived and began loading. There was accommodation for the sisters provided for the sisters on the train and everybody left on the 20th en route for Germany. After spending the night in the train fairly comfortably we arrived at Buskirchen on the 20th and took over from the first Canadian C.C.S. which was established in the deaf and dumb asylum in that village. On the 21st the third Australian C.C.S. opened.

The sisters quarters we found to be most comfortable the mess being a large room facing the east and well furnished and heated by central steam heating. The mess was about two hundred yards away from the hospital and there was a fine outlook over the fields to the Rhine hills in the distance. The sleeping quarters were very comfortable and quite a contrast to the bell tents that we had grown accustomed to. There was a very fine kit

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when with a good cooking range and all conveniences. The mess and sleeping accommodation were very good.

Permission was given by the Matron in chief for dancing from Dec. 20th till Jan 3rd and advantage was taken of this permission to hold a dance on Xmas night. This was very successful and concluded most happily our Christmas festivities in Germany.

For the first fortnight of the New year the work was very heavy in the Medical Wards owing to the number of cases of acute Influenza admitted and the prevalence of Pneumonia as a complication of this disease. During the latter part of January there was a marked decrease in the number of cases admitted with a consequent lessening of the amount of work in the Medical wards. During January the

Surgical ward was generally full of patients with minor injuries with an occasional acute case.

During January there was an opportunity for skating on a neighbouring pond and this was a very popular form of amusement both for those who were taking part and for those who were looking on.

February saw a recrudescence of the Influenza epidemic and the work in the medical wards again became heavy. There were a lot of cases among the Officers and on 21.2.19 it became necessary to move the officers into a larger ward. There were several changes in the staff in February. S/Nurse J. G. Duncan arrived on 3/2/19 to replace Sister A. W. Wilson who was evacuated the same day to Cologne sick. On the 15th our staff was increased by 4 Sisters E. P. Wright E. Buchanan S/Nurses M. C. Giles and N. J. Wigley. A few days after their arrival Sister Wright and S/Nurse M. C. Giles left for duty at Rheinbach at the 141st Field Ambulance returning here for duty on 27/2/19.

Skating still remained popular. An old chateau was discovered at Satsvey which was a few Kilometres away and there was a moat all round the chateau which provided a most beautiful skating place.

During March and April the weather has considerably improved and at present the early part of May is glorious. The work done during March and April considerably slackened off. There were a few cases of Influenza but the worst of the epidemic is over.

The beginning of May sees us awaiting return to London. The staff at the beginning of May consisted of the following:-

T/Head Sister WOJNANSKI, V. Z.

Sister MACDONALD, A.

" WATT, M. R.

*WRIGHT, F. P.

" NIELSEN, M. M.

" BUCHANAN, E.

" DORRINGTON, A.

" COMPTON, L.

" TAIT, A. M.

? MILNE, H. C.

Staff Nurse WELLS, W. C.

" " WIGLEY, N. J.

" " GILES, M. C.

" " DUNCAN, J. C.

On 26/4/19. No 47 C. C. S. arrived to take over the stores and equipment of this unit. The nursing sisters however did not come with them and our staff has carried on.

On May 1st six of the sisters were instructed to report to the Sisters Hostel at Cologne. Miss Gibbs arrived the same day accompanied by one sister. The other members of the nursing staff expect orders to depart very shortly and this will be the end of our stay in Germany. This stay has been most pleasant as conditions have been almost entirely those of a peace basis, and everybody has been most considerate to us. I should like to record my appreciation on this the eve of our departure my appreciation of the work done by the members of my staff. Their work has always been characterised by conscientiousness and devotion to duty. The high ideals of the A. A. N. S. have indeed not suffered at their hands.

SPECIAL

ORDER

On the occasion of the departure of No.3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station, the D.M.S., British Army of the Rhine, on behalf of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief and Staff as well as all ranks of the Medical Services, wishes to express his high appreciation of the valuable and gallant services rendered by this Unit to the British Expeditionary Force and to the Allied cause.

It has served with devotion on the battlefields of the SOMME AND YPRES, and has taken part in the recent general advance and military occupation.

We of the Imperial Army now wish our brothers and sisters farewell and God-speed, and we assure them that, although widely separated by the broad seas they remain very near to our hearts.

General Headquarters,
British Army of the Rhine...
7th May 1919....

H.N.Thompson,
Major-General.
Director of Medical Services,
British Army of the Rhine...

Director of Medical Services
British Army of the Rhine .

*Referred to
Send
Copy to Mrs A7
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