

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/50/23

**Title:** 7th Australian Field Ambulance

January 1918



AWM4-26/50/23

7th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE  
 Army Form C. 2118.  
 No. ....  
 Date .....

WAR DIARY  
 or  
 INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Original  
 Sheet 1

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
Pont d'Achelles 2.	Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup>		Captain R. Fraser of the 24 <sup>th</sup> Dental Section proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom.	amw
do	3 <sup>rd</sup>		Captain L. H. Pigott is attached for duty. No 89 Warrant Officer J. W. Brown reported for duty and is taken on strength.	
do	4 <sup>th</sup>		The following officers and N.C.O. were mentioned in Despatches for services in the Field:- Lieut. Col. J. J. Black. D.S.O. Major (now Lieut. Col.) H. P. Conner D.S.O. No 3673 Sergeant G. R. Bee. MM. The following Decoration has been awarded for services in the Field:- Lieut. Col. J. J. Black. D.S.O.	
			During the week ending the 4 <sup>th</sup> 240 cases of sick from the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Australian Division passed through this station, of which 64 were Scabies, 32 P. U.O. and 13 Diarrhoea. 23 wounded and 2 gassed. 39 of these cases were evacuated to C. C. S.	
			It was intended when this station was built that the number of cases held at this station would be limited to about 100, but owing to the Divisional Rest Station - 6 <sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance being full, the average number of cases held has been 160. A Motor Steam Demigator was attached for duty.	amw

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7th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE  
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Original  
Sheet 2

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont d'Archeves	1918 Jan 5 <sup>th</sup>		No 3671 Warrant Officer Weather H.C. is struck off strength on being appointed Hon. Licent. Pharmacist to No 3 Australian Auxiliary Hospital from 18.12.1917 (Auth. A.I.F. List No 278 4/1/18).	
do	7 <sup>th</sup>		The first week in January has been marked by very cold weather with severe frosts, the ground being frozen hard.	
do	8 <sup>th</sup>		During the quarter ended December 31 <sup>st</sup> a profit of 660.05 francs was made in the Regimental Canteen.	a.m.w.
do	9 <sup>th</sup>			
do	10 <sup>th</sup>			
do	11 <sup>th</sup>		For the week ending 11 <sup>th</sup> January the following cases were admitted from 2 <sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division to the Ambulance. Sick 305 Gassed 1 Wounded 1 P.W. 0 75 Scabies 71 and Diarrhoea 24. The prevailing diseases being Of these cases 112 were evacuated to C. C. & S. Major J. J. McMahon returned from leave to the United Kingdom. During the past week the weather remained very cold and the freeze continued.	
do	12			
do	13			
do	14			
do	15		A very heavy fall of snow occurred. Intermittent snow and sleet during the day. A southerly wind sprang up accompanied by heavy rain and the thaw commenced.	a.m.w.

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WAR DIARY

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY. *Original Sheet 3*

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>16<sup>th</sup> Jan'y</i>			<p>The influence of the bad weather on the health of the troops became immediately apparent, proving that rain and mud are much more deleterious to the health of the troops than frost and cold. On this day 83 cases from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division were admitted. All were sick cases; there were no wounded.</p> <p>The state of the trenches reflected on the men's appearance, as they came in covered with mud, very wet and cold.</p>	
<i>17<sup>th</sup> Jan'y</i>			<p>The weather is now much warmer but everything is very muddy, and on this day 72 cases were admitted none of whom were wounded.</p> <p>Capt. R. Fraser, 24<sup>th</sup> Dental Section, attached, reported back from leave to U.K.</p>	
<i>18<sup>th</sup> Jan'y</i>			<p>During the week ended 18<sup>th</sup> January, 404 sick of 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division were admitted to the Ambulance - passed oil; wounded 17. Prevailing diseases: scabies 77; P.U.O. 73; Diarrhoea 23. Of these 131 were evacuated to C.C.S.</p> <p>During this week the average number of patients in the Hospital was about 160.</p>	
<i>19<sup>th</sup> Jan'y</i>				
<i>20<sup>th</sup> Jan'y</i>			<p>Capt. G. Templeman and Capt. J. M. Piggott were detached to attend a course for Medical Officers at Corps School - Ballent.</p>	
<i>21<sup>st</sup> Jan'y</i>			<p>Capt. J. M. Piggott was taken on strength.</p> <p>Capt. J. A. Brown, M.C. was detached, temporarily, as R.M.O. 17<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn.</p>	

*Cont'd. - 10/1/18*

*amw*

7th  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD AMBULANCE  
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WAR DIARY  
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Cont. Nicholls	22 Jan'y		<p>M. P. Barrett was detached to Aust. Corps Gas School for instruction. There is already one trained <sup>Gas</sup> M.O., the ultimate idea being to eventually have one for each section.</p> <p>Capt Poulton R.F. transferred as R.M.O. 21<sup>st</sup> Inf. Bn. and is struck off strength from 4/1/18.</p>	
Do.	23 Jan'y		<p>With reference to A. I. J. Order 1000, four @ A.M.C. details transferred to 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn. as they were original members of the Battalion.</p>	
Do	24 Jan'y		<p>A further sum of £30 was received from Aust. Branch. P.A.S. for the purpose of purchasing comforts for members of the Unit.</p>	
Do	25 Jan'y		<p>During the week ended 25<sup>th</sup> January the weather has been extremely mild and the ground has dried <sup>down</sup> considerably since the thaw set in.</p> <p>During the week, 298 cases of sick from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Aust. Division were admitted to the Ambulance, 12 being wounded; nil passed.</p> <p>The prevailing diseases were P.V.O. 78; Scabies 52 and Diarrhoea 45. Of these 155 were evacuated to C.C.S.</p>	
Do	26 Jan'y		<p>Capt J. A. Shanasy was detached, temporarily, to 27<sup>th</sup> Bn. as R.M.O.</p>	
Do	27 Jan'y		<p>Capt G. G. Templeman rejoined Unit from Corps School for Medical Officers, Pailieu.</p>	
Do	28 Jan'y		<p>Capt J. M. Pigot rejoined from 27<sup>th</sup> Inf. Bn. Following Officers were detached: - Capt G. G. Templeman to 23<sup>rd</sup> Bn.; Capt L. M. Pigot to 27<sup>th</sup> Bn.; Capt G. H. Cameron to 2<sup>nd</sup> Dac. - All temporary as R.M.O.</p>	

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WAR DIARY

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Original Sheet 5

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont d' Achelles	1918 28 July	9.30 am	<p>Capt R.G. Curward was temporarily attached for duty from England (Dist.).</p> <p>Horse Transport moved off at 9.30 am and proceeded to the starting point which was just beyond Baillet and which had to be passed at 11.30 am. This party was under the charge of W.O. Garton and consisted of:- Personnel 40; horses 40 and vehicles 6.</p> <p>The transport halted at Strzeule for the night, a distance of twelve miles having been covered.</p> <p>An Advance Party of the 10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Field Ambulance consisting of 60 OR's marched in to M.D.S. Pont d' Achelles so as to enable the 10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Amb. to take over early in the morning.</p>	
do.	29 July	4 pm	<p>Hand-over of Main Dressing Station at Pont d' Achelles to 10<sup>th</sup> Aust. Amb. completed at 10 am.</p> <p>TheBearer and Tent Sub. Divisions moved out at 11 am and proceeded to the entraining centre at De Kemmets, the train leaving at 14.08.</p> <p>A party of 8 personnel, 7 horses and 3 vehicles left the M.D.S., entraining at Baillet at 17.30 and detraining at Desvres about midnight, proceeding thence to Drumembert. These wagons contained cook's gear, men's extra blankets and medical stores to carry on with until the rest of the transport arrived.</p>	
		6.30 p.	<p>Detrained at Lettinghen and marched direct to new billeting area at Drumembert, arriving about 8 pm. The men were given a hot drink immediately on their arrival and conducted to their billets which were barracks.</p> <p>The Horse Transport continued their march by road and bivouaced this night at Renegure. They marched about fifteen miles in the day.</p> <p>The M.D.S. at Pont d' Achelles was administered from 16/12/17 to 29/1/18 by the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Ambulance a period of 46 days.</p>	

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WAR DIARY  
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Original Sheet 6

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Pont d'Abelle	29 Jan		<p>During this time 20" sick 137 wounded were admitted to the Ambulance of these the numbers of sick and wounded evacuated to Casualty Clearing Stations were respectively 669 and 155</p> <p>Major A. J. Morrison was detached temporarily to 13th Field Ambulance. Capt R. G. Garnard " " " " 21st Inf. Div. as R.M.O.</p>	
Trumembert	30 Jan		<p>The Horse Transport continued their move, marching from Anescore to Lumbres a distance of about 12 miles.</p>	
Do	31 Jan		<p>Horse Transport continued the move, arriving at Trumembert about 2 pm, having travelled 10 miles.</p> <p>During the move there was fortunately extremely good weather, frost during the night but bright sunshine during the day.</p> <p>At Trumembert a small hospital was established to accommodate about 30 sick which would be collected from the 7th Inf. Brigade area. The Officers' and men's billets unfortunately are much scattered so accommodation in the village is very scanty.</p> <p>During the month 1 Off and 11 ORs. proceeded on leave to United Kingdom and 32 ORs on leave to Paris.</p> <p>During the month 11 ORs. were evacuated sick &amp; 1 Off and 15 men were taken on strength or rejoined Unit ex A.G.D.P.</p> <p>There were no battle casualties during the month.</p> <p>There has been comparatively little sickness in the Unit, the average daily sick parade being three.</p>	

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7th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE
No. ....
Date .....

# WAR DIARY

OF

*7<sup>th</sup> Australian Field Ambulance*

FOR

*January* 191*8*

## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
<i>1</i>	<i>Movement Order by Lt. Col. A. W. Wilson</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Route 29-1-18.</i>



109 War diary

APPENDIX

7th  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD AMBULANCE  
Date...

MOVEMENT ORDER BY LIEUT. COL. A. M. WILSON,  
c/o 7th Australian Field Ambulance,  
26th January, 1918.

1. Consequent on A. A. M. C. Order No 9 by the A. D. M. S. 2nd Australian Division the 7th Australian Field Ambulance will move from Pont d'Achelles to HENNEVEUX Area, the move being made in accordance with Administrative Memorandum No 190 of the 2nd Australian Division dated the 25th January, 1918, the move being made under orders of the G. O. C. of the 7th Australian Infantry Brigade, as per Brigade Order No 152.
2. The 7th Australian Field Ambulance will be relieved by the 19th Australian Field Ambulance on the 29th instant, the move to be completed by 10 a.m. The Quartermaster will arrange to hand over all Station Stores and obtain receipts in triplicate. The Orderly Officer will see that the Station is handed over in a Sanitary condition and obtain a receipt to that effect. The Medical Officer will arrange the hand over of the patients.
3. The Transport, less vehicles detailed to proceed on the Omnibus Train, will move off in charge of the Transport Warrant Officer at 9.30 a.m. to enable them to reach the starting point at Map Reference - Hazebrouck 5A 4.1.67.87. by 11.30 a.m. on the 28th instant. ~~During the move this Party will~~ Detailed Orders will be issued to the Transport Warrant Officer.
4. The Bearer and Tent Subdivisions move off at 10 a.m. on the 29th and march to the entraining centre at DE HANNEBAK. A guide will be detailed by Major McMahon to meet this party at the detraining centre and conduct them to the Billeting Area.
5. The Party detailed to catch the Omnibus Train at Bailleul West will leave Pont d'Achelles at 3.30 p.m. on the 29th inst. and will report to the R. T. O. A guide will be detailed to meet this party and conduct them to the Billeting Area. This Party will consist of 7 other ranks and three vehicles (1 G.S. Wagon, 1 Limber, and one water cart).
6. Major McMahon with two N.C.Os. will act as an advanced Billeting party and will report to the Staff Captain of the 7th Brigade at 8 a.m. on the 27th.
7. Surplus equipment consisting of Tentage from Divisional Dump and Tent floors will be deposited at the 6th Australian Field Ambulance, Westhoef and receipts obtained.
8. The Party at Papot Baths will be withdrawn on the 27th inst.
9. The Foden Steam Fumigator will report to the Dranoute Laundry and be taken over by the 5th Australian Division, time to be fixed later.
10. 600 Blankets will be sent over to the D. R. S. at Dranoute on the 27th instant and a guard of 1 N.C.O. and three men will be detailed and will hand them over to the 15th Australian Field Ambulance and obtain receipt and they will then report to the C. O. 6th Australian Field Ambulance and will entrain with that unit.
11. Motor Ambulances will collect sick and wounded of the 7th Brigade on the morning of the 29th and will return to the Pont d'Achelles Station. They will then proceed by road to the new Area in charge of the Quartermaster. One car will be detailed to meet each train at the Detraining Area.
12. Captain Pigott will act as R. M. O. to the 2nd D. A. C. on to move of the Ambulance from this Area.

A. M. Wilson L'-COL.

## APPENDIX 2

7th  
AUSTRALIAN  
FIELD AMBULANCE.ROUTINE- 29-1-1918.

The following is the Routine for 29-1-18 :-

Reveille 6-30 a.m.  
Men will immediately start to pack up their kits, with one blanket. Remaining blankets will be rolled in bundles of ten and handed into the Q.M's. store by 7-30 a.m.

Breakfast 7-30 a.m.

Fatigue parade 8-30 a.m.  
By this time all kits must be taken out of the huts which will be cleared by the hut orderlies.

Fall in 10-45 a.m. in full marching order. Water bottles will be filled and the unexpended portion of the days' rations carried on the man.

Officers Commanding Sections will inspect their respective Sections.

Move off. 11 a.m.

*A M Wilson* Lt. Col.  
C.O. 7th. Australian Field Ambulance.

Distribution.  
Officers' Mess.  
W.O. Brown.  
File.