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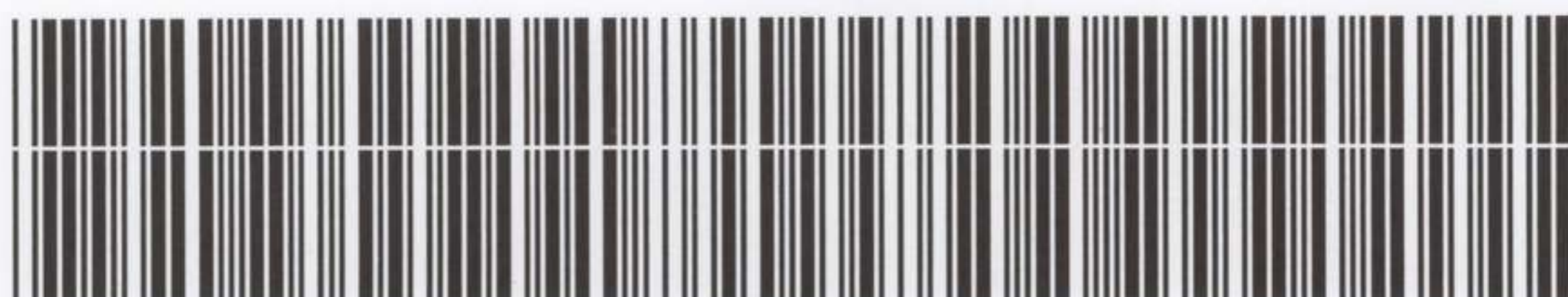
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/51/33 Part 1

Title: 8th Australian Field Ambulance

October 1918



AWM4-26/51/33PART1

277

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
~~DUPLICATE.~~
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

FOR

October 1918.

Signature of Officer compiling

V. A. Carnshaw Capt

Signature of Officer Commanding

A. R. Clayton Lt Col

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.

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8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 C L2 d. 17 Templuse.	October	08.00	At 8 a.m. Capts. WELLSICH and EARNSHAW were relieved by Capts. SCOTT and GIBSON in the Dressing Rooms, the latter having had no cases to attend during the two preceding hours.	
		11.00	During the morning we were favored by visits from the D.M.S. Major-Gen. O'KEEFE and also by the D.D.M.S. and D.A.D.M.S. Aust. Corps, namely, Col. BARBER and Major COLLINS. They inspected the Station and in all its workings.	
		12.00	The A.D.M.S. and D.A.D.M.S. 5th. Aust. Division, namely, Col. DOWNEY and Major JAMES were frequent visitors to the Station.	
		12.00	At noon Capts. WELLSICH and EARNSHAW again resumed duty and continued till 10 p.m. when relieved by Capts. GIBSON and SCOTT. Previously the four Medical Officers doing dressing duties worked alternately in pairs doing 12 hours each time on duty. The result was one party always did Day Duty and the other Night Duty. A more equitable arrangement was therefore suggested, viz:- that of doing turns of duty 8 hours in length and working alternately as before. One party would commence at 08.00 and continue till 16.00, the other party working till 23.59 and so on.	
Sheet 62 C. L2 d. 4. Neighbourhood of Templuse		18.00	At 16.00 we took over the Walking Wounded Dressing Station from the 132nd. British Field Ambulance. These walking cases arrived at the M.D.S. and were re-directed to a W.W.D.S. where they were recorded, examined, dressed, and given food. When about 60 cases had collected in the waiting room, they were taken to the TINCOURT C.O.S. by Railway train. Major APPLEFORD attended to all these cases, being assisted by the Clerks and Dressers. The W.W.D.S. was established in two Hospital marquees and two Nissen Huts which by their appearance were relics still remaining of the previous occupation of the country by the British. The same could be said of the M.D.S. which was built within the walls of a shattered building, "elephant-iron" huts having been erected within the walls and then well covered with earth, broken bricks and other debris.	
		08.00	Nothing further happened at the M.D.S. or W.W.D.S. worthy of recording during our control of those places.	
		08.00	Today it was announced that from this day onwards the Continental system of times (i.e. 24 hours clock) will be used.	
		08.00	At 8 a.m. on the morning of the 2nd. October we handed over the M.D.S. to the 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance and the W.W.D.S. at 10.00 to the 7th. Aust. Field Ambulance. The Ambulance then moved and bivouaced about 200 yards away (on a hill).	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62 C. L8a.99.	2	18.00	<p>on a hill. While running the M.D.S. the Officers and personnel were accommodated in tents, those who worked at night occupying the tents when vacated by the day workers. The Ambulance as a whole being now not employed, we were unable to accommodate ourselves in tents and so dug-outs were built, trench shelters being provided. While at the M.D.S. a number of enemy shells exploded about 200 yards from us, mostly in the vicinity of the railway line. This evening at about 6 p.m. we were spectators of some enemy shelling by "rubber-guns" firing high velocity shells at the same railway line. The C.O. that evening had the Ambulance parked in the environs of our camp.</p>	
	3	07.30 09.00 09.30 09.40	<p>No. 6740 Pte. MCGREGOR W., No. 7358 Pte. GRIFFITHS W. A., No. 6722 L/Cpl. HUNT A. T. were evacuated wounded.</p> <p>Next morning we were awakened early by the tents being brought down on us. We had received early orders for a move. Breakfast was early. While waiting to set off, we watched the enemy shelling in the vicinity of the railway. Later he dropped one or two shells in the neighborhood of the T.W.D.S. we had vacated, killing several horses as we afterwards learnt. Two more were so badly wounded that they had to be destroyed. Three were evacuated. Three men were also wounded. The Motor Transport had reason to congratulate themselves that the C.O. had arranged for their being parked with the Unit. *#-*</p> <p>At about 09.00 the C.O. left in an ambulance car to select a spot for the Unit to encamp on. in area K 5b & 6a of Map 62C, which was allotted us. Capt. BARNSHAW left half an hour later with the Motor Transport at 09.30, the men setting out on foot at 09.40 under Major McLELLAND. The horse transport left shortly afterwards under the command of Capt. WOODWARD.</p> <p>The Motor Transport and the men moved along the road towards Roisel turning to the right from the Main Road after proceeding about 1,700 yards, to take a cross-country dry-weather track direct to the selected camp. We passed five unburied horses on the way the moving columns making a detour from the road to escape feeling the effects of their presence. The horse transport kept to the road all the way not turning to the right till they reached Roisel. The journey (3,000 yards in length) proved uneventful, the troops taking less than an hour to reach their destination.</p> <p>The spot chosen by the C.O. was a ditch about 30 feet wide at the bottom and lying between the road and the railway running from Roisel to Epehy. At this place the permanent way had to be elevated and the material for throwing (up the embankment</p>	
Sheet 62 C. K.S.D. cont.				

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AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>Shut 62C. K.S.B. Central</p>	<p>3.</p>	<p>18.00</p>	<p>up the embankment obtained by digging a deep ditch along the higher side of the route for the proposed track. The result was we were protected on one side by the natural rise of the ground above the ditch and on the other by the railway embankment. In this ditch were situated the Orderly Room, cook-houses, and the dug-outs of the Tent and Bearer Subdivisions. The road was raised about 4 feet above the original ground surface and against this embankment were parked the cars, the mechanical transport men making dugouts in the bank. The horses and horse transport vehicles were allotted a place between the road and the railway.</p> <p>From this camp we had an excellent view of the country lying West of us. The ground sloped Westwards and so carried off the rain very soon after it had fallen. All seemed very satisfied with their "possie".</p> <p>In the afternoon Capt. BARNSHAW went round to Brigade Head-qs. to get the approximate map references of the Battalion camps. Having obtained them, the camps were soon located. There were no sick to evacuate. Orders were left with the R.M.O. of each Battalion to return the bearers attached to them to the Ambulance. In addition to evacuating the sick of the Battalions of the Brigade we also evacuated the sick from the 8th. L.T.M. Battery, the 8th. and 15th. Coys. of Engineers and the 5th. Pioneer Battalion.</p> <p>By nightfall the bearers attached to the Battalions for the recent "Stunt" had returned to the Ambulance.</p> <p>In the day's Routine Orders appeared the following:- No. 9080 Pte. WILLIAMS J. killed in action 30-9-1918; No. 16769 " RIDGEWAY J. wounded; No. 7251 " MAY W. M. proceeded to A.I.F. Head-qs. London to attend Officers' Infantry Cadet Course."</p> <p>Orders were received for an early move under G.O.C. 8th. Brigade. No. 670 Sgt. MARTIN G. and No. 1066 Sgt. McDONALD proceeded on leave to Australia.</p> <p>Orders were received that the 8th. Bgde. Group were to proceed to the entraining point on the 6th. October but the time for the move was altered to the 7th. October at midnight. Major NORTH left this day for Division, afterwards proceeding to our future billeting area to arrange for the accommodation of the Unit.</p> <p>(A little rain</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Sheet 62 c K 5.b. cent.	6	14.30 14.45 15.00	<p>A little rain fell in the morning but the sky cleared towards midday. The ambulance cars called at the Battn. R.A.P.s. to collect sick and debilitated prior to the move. Capts. GIBSON and BARNSHAW went down to DOIGHT to see if any accommodation were available that the Unit might rest between the times of its arrival and entraining. Suitable accommodation was found. Our entraining point was Flamicourt, that suburb of PERONNE lying on the south side of the SOLOGNE RIVER.</p> <p>Parade for the move out was held at 14.30 and the Unit moved away promptly at 14.45 under the command of Major GUEST. The Motor Transport under the command of Major COPPLESON left at 14.50 and set out direct for the billeting area going via MARICOURT near ALBERT. The Horse Transport left at 15.00 under the command of Capt. WOODWARD.</p> <p>The route lay through MARQUAIX, TINCOURT and PERONNE. The bearer and tent divisions intended to move almost in a direct line to MARQUAIX by using dry-weather tracks &c. but having missed the turning-off point, we had to move through ROISEL. In ROISEL we passed columns of American Troops apparently moving up to the Front Line, and here also our Horse Transport passed us by making use of an alternative road. We were compelled to wait at ROISEL Railway Crossing because of a passing train and congestion of the roads. Here "A" Section, having crossed the Railway line, the road was again barred and so having proceeded a short distance up the road towards MARQUAIX we waited for "B" and "C" sections to catch us up. We maintained a distance of fifty yards between the different Sections. When approaching MARQUAIX we halted for a 10 minutes interval. Later we passed through MARQUAIX and HAMEL till we came to a spot 700 yards further on where five roads meet. Here we turned a half-left following a dry-weather track to avoid passing through TINCOURT and the angle the road made at TINCOURT cross-roads. Heavy black clouds were now blowing across the sky from the Western horizon and ere we had gone far heavy rain fell. After about 10 minutes the rain ceased but the sky still looked threatening. After having traversed two-thirds of the road from TINCOURT to BUIRE we halted for a quarter of an hour's rest.</p> <p>At the end of 10 minutes rain again commenced to fall so we resumed our journey. We next passed through BUIRE and COURCELLES where darkness fell. After passing through COURCELLES the rain fell heavily, blown by the wind. (We used a</p>
Sheet 62 c. K 16 Cent.			
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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Sheet 62C. J. 31 C. 5. 10.	6		<p>We used a dry-weather track to cut off the angle which the COURCELLES Road makes before uniting with the alternative road from BUIRE to form the single road to DOIGNY. Here we again rested but the rain falling steadily made us resume our journey after about 8 minutes rest. The dry-weather track was very slippery and heavy and we were glad to once more move on the metalled road.</p>	
Sheet 62C 1. 36a 2. 2.		19-00	<p>We eventually reached DOIGNY and having come to the Church, we turned to the left and crossed the Cologne River in single file by means of a foot-bridge. Here we found the Horse Transport drawn up and the cooks at work in a long disused hut which we had previously, in the afternoon, decided to occupy. The accommodation here was good and much appreciated after the long march through the rain and darkness. One of the empty houses used was quite rain and wind proof and here the tired ones slept. As usual the "unwise virgins" who had left their water-proofs behind were the worse for the weather and divested themselves before a warm fire. They were soon dry. Tea having been issued the men on their arrival at 19.00, one day's iron rations were also distributed. The men were then told to make themselves comfortable for a few hours. The orders provided for the Horse Transport to reach FLAMICOURT entraining point at 23.30, and the bearer and tent divisions to be there at 01.00 the following morning, the train leaving at 02.30. The Horse Transport left DOIGNY at 23.00.</p>	
Sheet 62C. 1. 28a. 8. 2.	7	00-30 01-00	<p>At 00.30 "Fall-in" was sounded and the bearer and tent divisions moved off for FLAMICOURT which was reached at 01.00. The roads were good, the clouds had cleared away and the stars were shining. We arrived at FLAMICOURT station feeling comfortably warm after our one and a half kilo. brisk walk, only to find that we were to have a cheerless wait in the cold. After a two and a half hours' disappointing wait entraining commenced at 03.30. The train moved out at about 04.50. The trucks in which the men travelled were in a filthy condition. Wet horse manure was heaped up at both ends of the trucks. The floor was wet also. The result was the men could neither lie or sit down in comfort. The majority sat on their packs. Many of the men suffering from bronchitis or influenza in the Unit Hospital three days afterwards attributed it to having caught cold on the way down and the insanitary condition of the trucks. No hot meal was served on the train but the troops had their issue of dry rations for the period with them. At 14.30 we reached OISEMONT where we detrained and met Major NORTH. Ten minutes later the Unit moved out for its</p>	
Oisemont about 17 Kilos. South of Abbeville.		14-30 14-40		(new billets

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8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p><i>Biencourt About 19 kilo. S.S.W. of Abbeville, on the Abbeville- Blangy road.</i></p>	7	16.23	<p>new billets at BIENCOURT 5 kilo. away. We followed the CISEMONT - GEMACHES road as far as RAMSURELLES where we turned to the right reaching BIENCOURT at 16.23. The march was done over good roads and in good weather. The country-side was beautiful, a great contrast to the bare fields and devastated villages we had so recently left: the sight of the civilians was cheering to the men. Immediately on reaching the billets, hot tea prepared by an advance party, was served and the troops afterwards conducted to their billets. At 18.30 the Horse Transport arrived and about the same hour hot dinner was served.</p>	
		18.30	<p>We had breakfast at 09.00 and a parade was held at 10.30. All seemed satisfied and contented. The billets were excellent. All were housed in the Chateau or its outhouses. The horses were accommodated in first class stables. The Chateau was medium sized and very roomy. The four main rooms were devoted to the Hospital - three wards and one dressingroom. Two smaller rooms were used, one by convalescent patients and the other by scabies patients. The nursing staff, Sergeants, Dispensary, Cooks, Batmen, Orderly Room, and Officers' Mess, C.M. Store and Post Office were all located in the Chateau itself. The remainder of the personnel and the Canteen were located in the outhouses in one of which a large room was reserved as a dining and entertainment room.</p>	
	8	09.00	<p>The Mechanical Transport were parked on one side of a fine avenue of trees leading from the Chateau gates to the ABBEVILLE - BLANGY Road, about 350 yards away. The village is small and in it were the Officers' billets. Few more could have been accommodated in the village. Very suitable rooms were obtained in one of the cottages for a surgery and workrooms for the Dentist. The village looked very pretty although closer inspection revealed the midden heaps in the cottage yards which remind one of Bainsfather's description, of one - "A rectangular smell". Still it was pretty for all that. Like all villages in France, it boasted of its village church and pond in addition to its chateau. In other parts of France the villages found protection from the winter blasts by nestling in the valleys but here the plains form no such natural protection and so in the immediate surroundings of all the villages, forests were cultivated which added to their beauty. The striking feature of the surrounding country were the straight roads lined with rows of trees often double. In many places these were fruit trees, apple mainly. Most of the ground was bare, only stubbled fields remaining with here and there a hayrick though some of it was ploughed and some grew mangel wurzels. Occasionally on the landscape</p>	

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Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Bincourt	8		<p>one saw a shepherd with his flock of sheep or sportsman with his dogs. What most pleased the troops was the pleasure of the villagers at receiving us.</p>
	9	09.00	<p>At 0930 Capt. HARBESHAU went round with the car wa to Brigade Head-Quarters which was situated in a fine old XVth. Century chateau with moat and draw-bridge complete and now occupied by the Marquis of RAMBURES. This place was once used as a country residence by Napoleon. We appreciate the foresight of the French in making it illegal for alterations to be carried out in the structure of such places as these without first getting the consent of the Government thus ensuring that such historic landmarks will remain. We think that this is another point which the Home Government in Australia might copy from the French with regard to the few places of historic interest existing in Australia. At Brigade Head-Quarters we got the location of the Battalions, Machine Gunners &c.. All seemed pleased with their surroundings.</p>
	10		<p>Parade was held at 09.00. The day was devoted to getting things in order. We evacuated the cases we considered inadvisable to hold to the 14th. Field Ambulance in the STAMMENT area. A few supplies were obtained for the canteen.</p>
	11		<p>There was a route march today through Le TRANSLAY. In the evening a note was received from the R.M.O. of the Pioneer Battn. stating that they had a number of urgent cases requiring hospital treatment. The eight worst were evacuated that night as stretcher cases to the Unit Hospital. They all turned out to be Influenza cases with high temperatures. These cases formed a nucleus of patients for our nursing duty men to attend to.</p> <p>From today onwards leave passes are to be granted to members of the Unit to go to ABBEVILLE at the rate of eighteen a day. All visiting troops must be out of the Town by 20.00.</p> <p>No. 6732 Sgt. MARSHALL J. is promoted to Temp. V. O. (Class II) Transport as from 14-9-18 vice No. 15970 W. O. ROBERTS E. A. evacuated sick.</p> <p>Cpl. NIK is promoted to the rank of Temp. Sergeant as from 19-10-18.</p> <p>A parade and route march was held as usual. Our cars called at the Pioneer Battn. to evacuate the rest of the sick but found they had previously been removed by the 14th. Field Amb.. An occasional case of Influenza came from the Battalions of the Brigade.</p> <p>Another Bridge Tournament was commenced this evening in which officers and men took part.</p> <p>Major COLPESON obtained a plant for the working of Unit baths.</p>

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

6th. AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE. (Erase heading not required.) VOL. IV Page 64.

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Biencourt</i>	12		<p>No. 6757 Pte. RILEY J. G. B. and No. 6628 L/Cpl. HALL C. R. were awarded the Military Medal.</p> <p>Fairly heavy rain fell this morning and prevented the holding of a parade.</p> <p>A further batch of Influenza cases came from the 5th. Pioneer Batta. The Hospital now contains about 35 patients. The Canteen is becoming very popular with the men. Not only are Canteen supplies and goods purchased from the inhabitants, sold, but orders are taken for newspapers, post cards, water-color drawings of Cathedrals &c..</p> <p>Our piano arrived today after being away from the Unit since last March. Judging by the use made of it since its arrival it has been greatly missed.</p> <p>A number of Influenza cases were today evacuated to us from the 30th. Batt.. The outbreak in the Pioneers seems to have been brought under control.</p> <p>A library has been formed in connection with the canteen each person presenting a volume in order to become a member. There is also an entrance fee of 1 franc and a charge of 0.10 franc for each book exchanged. A number of books were also purchased from the Y.M.C.A. with the money thus gained and also from Regimental monies.</p> <p>A Service was held today by Cpl. COSIER after parade.</p> <p>No. 1267 Sgt. BINGER B. J. who left the Unit at St. CREN recently for Australia has been awarded the Military Medal.</p> <p>C.-M. and Hon. Lieut. McFADYEN C. H. has been promoted to the rank of C.-M. and Hon. Captain.</p> <p>Capt. GIBSON has been temporarily attached for duty with the 56th. Aust. Inf. Batta..</p> <p>The baths having been installed under Major JOPPLESON'S directions, 50 men were today bathed and provided with clean under clothes. The baths are a boon to the athletes after having partaken of exercise.</p> <p>The Educational Classes of the Unit have again commenced, French, Mathematics, Shorthand and English being taught. The Bridge Tournament is still going on. The music from the piano and orchestra in the Recreation Room fills the place in the evening.</p> <p>In the morning the unit was engaged in stretcher, gas and squad drill. A fair amount of rain has fallen the last few days and is still falling. The weather is fairly cold but, being in comfortable billets, not as noticeable as when bivouaging.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(A route march was</p>	
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5th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

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Summary of events and information

Bircourt 15.

A route march was held again this morning. The Bridge Tournament was concluded this evening, Ptes. HORT and PALMER having defeated all comers.

The men have formed a sort of Glee Club and sing in chorus every night to the accompaniment of the piano and orchestra. Towards the end, the function usually resolves itself into a "Bucks' Dance"; all partake of the enjoyment.

A lecture on "The Thomas's Splint and Its Uses" was given this morning by Major RUSSELL. In the afternoon the Unit Football Team defeated the 25th. Bn. by 1 point.

There was a route march this morning in the direction of BLANCK.

The French classes were commenced today and were favored by the presence of M. CHABRIER, the French Interpreter attached to the Engineers and the 5th. and 14th. Field Ambulances. All seemed very interested. M. CHABRIER has promised to endeavor to attend as many classes as possible.

The morning was devoted to a general cleaning of all gear and tidying of billets. The sky was lowering and threatened to rain any moment. The C.O. has been confined to bed with influenza.

Educational Classes are continuing as usual. Members of the Football (Rugby, Soccer and Australian Rules) and Baseball Teams practice every day.

Having six scabies patients, we have commenced their treatment here. They are warded in a room by themselves but are allowed the use of the Chateau grounds during the day. They undergo treatment morning and evening. The treatment consists of a hot bath lasting ten minutes by which time the skin is softened. Then follows the scrubbing stage which lasts another ten minutes, nail brushes and soft-soap being used. Especial attention is given to those parts usually affected by the scabies Acarus. At the end of the scrubbing stage the patient washes himself free of soap and is dried. The patient is then treated with Liqueur Calcis Sulphurates 3 - 5 ccs. according to the size of the patient, the liquid being rubbed in with a piece of lint about 5 inches square. When all the liquid has been disposed of the patients wait till dry and re-dress themselves. Fresh clothes and blankets were given after the first application and will be again after the last application. Last patient is ordered to bring all his belongings and blankets for disinfection.

Our civilian practice increases each day. The cases include Parturition, Uterine Haemorrhage, Gastroenteritis, Dental Caries, Tubercular Synovitis of the wrist etc.. Capt. RUSSELL our Dentist and his assistants are kept very busy attending to the needs of the Brigade and attached units.

Systematically he examined all the men in the Units under his care and is (now) proceeding

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Summary of Events and Information.

Bincourt

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now proceeding with the treatment of those requiring attention, doing a certain number each day as far as possible.

Today the D.D.M.S. Aust. Corps., Col. BARBER, the D.A.D.M.S., Major HOLMES AlCourt, the A.D.M.S., 5th. Aust. Divn., Col. DOWNEY and Major DOWN Australian Dental Service paid us a visit. The men were drilling when the inspecting party arrived. The D.D.M.S. commented favorably on the condition of the harness and the condition of the billets occupied by the men and seemed favorably impressed with things in general. They arrived between 10.30 and 11.00 and departed at 14.00 having had lunch with us. In the afternoon a match was arranged between the Ambulance Football Team and the 14th. Ambulance but our opponents disappointed us at the eleventh hour one of their deputies afterwards stating that their men were very "swanky" and as they anticipated getting new guernseys they had decided to postpone the match till another day.

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The day commenced with a fairly heavy mist. Night was fairly cold. The autumn tints are now very advanced few trees having by this time been unaffected. Very few are bare. The avenue in front is a glorious sight when viewed from the upper windows of the Chateau; all the trees of the avenue are affected but none to the same extent and we see all colors from dark green to a rustic brown passing through all the shades of light green, light and dark yellow and hectic red. If it were not for ones associations of autumn with the ensuing winter I think we would all agree that autumn in France is more glorious than the Spring the change being more rapid in its evolution and the colors more varied. One learns to understand the enthusiasm of the English ~~man~~ muse in the poetry read in our school-days when the year was divided into two seasons, Summer and Winter, Summer being hotter than Winter.

20.

Rain was falling through the night and early morning. A match had been arranged for the afternoon by the 3rd. A.C.H. Football Team on their ground. A few showers fell in the morning but we thought the ground fit for playing. The players as well as the would-be onlookers had an early midday meal and left for ABBEVILLE. We arrived at the 3rd. A.C.H. at 13.30 to find that our adversaries had not been able to get a team together because of the arrival of a train conveying wounded. We were very disappointed. Some of the men thought that the matches had been declared off at the last moment because of the spreading fame of our Team's fitness and victories and the consequent chances of being their being defeated. Our Team has certainly done well and are most enthusiastic regarding future matches, but I think the majority of us credit our challenging teams with a more sportsmanlike spirit.

(At the 3rd. A.C.H.)

Summary of Events and Information.

Biencourt

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At the 3rd. A.G.H. we met Lieut. HEFFERNAN who recently left the Ambulance for a Commission at the 3rd. A.G.H.. He was one of our best footballers and now reinforces the 3rd. A.G.H. Team. While in ABBEVILLE we picked up Major McLELLAND who was returning from leave to England and brought him back with us.

The Influenza epidemic continues though not quite so severe in type. The its latest victims include two Ambulance men, Pte. ROBERTSON and Capt. GIBSON who has been evacuated to the Unit from the 56th. Batta. where he was Temp. R.M.O.. The Hospital keeps full, the number of discharged patients being approximately equal to those admitted.

In the evening word was received from the A.D.M.S. instructing that an Officer be sent to relieve the R.M.O. of the Pioneers who was going on leave to Paris. On arriving at the Pioneers Capt. SYMONDS' Pass having not yet arrived, Capt. RAMSHAW, the Officer detailed for the duties, returned.

Capt. RAMSHAW left again for the Pioneers this morning but as Capt. SYMONDS' leave pass had not yet come through he returned to the Ambulance the Pioneers undertaking to send word when he was required.

As drill is in the daily routine for the troops this week, it was indulged in this morning. The men do not appear to be in favor of any form of drill and seem to have particular objection to stretcher drill, presumably because of its monotony.

The various teams and athletes are undergoing strenuous training for the Brigade Sports which are being held next week. The Brigade Cup at present in the possession of the 32nd. Batta. is for the competition of the Battalions only; but attached units are able to compete for individual prizes such as Football, (Rugby, Soccer and Australian Rules), and Athletics. The Ambulance regrets that it is unable to compete for the Cup, but as the object of the sports is primarily improved efficiency of the Brigade and as with that end in view Machine-gun competitions &c. are included in the programme of events for the Cup, we enter for the honor and glory of it and in the hope of securing prizes in the competitions open to us. Among the athletic competitions is "Putting the Weight" in which Cpl. NORMCOTT is proving an instructor with experience. The prospect of a hot bath at the Unit Baths after partaking of exercise is a great impetus to the athletically inclined who are to indulge in the necessary training.

The Brigade Band visited us in the afternoon and taking up its stand on the lawn in front of the Hospital gave us an excellent programme of music. Refreshments which were afterward provided for the Band in the Recreation Room, were much appreciated.

(The Unit was engaged

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 218. 277

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.

or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

8th. AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE (Erase heading not required.) VOL. IV Page 68

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Bincourt	22		<p>The Unit was engaged in drill this morning. The good effects of the rest we are enjoying are beginning to be evidenced. All seem more cheerful and jovial and the prospects of approaching leave for most of us give a brighter outlook.</p>	
	23. 24.		<p>Capt. BARNSHAW left today for the Pioneers to act as Temp. R.M.O.</p> <p>This evening there was a Picture Show at RAMBURELLES under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A.. About 70 free seats were reserved for men of this Unit.</p> <p>Capt. MAUDSLEY who was attached to us temporarily from the 29th. Battn. has proceeded to take up duties at the 2nd. A.C.C.S. in LILLE. The weather is cold but fair.</p>	
	25.		<p>This morning the Unit went for a route march through the surrounding country. Today is the last day for receiving Christmas Mail matter for Australia. Christmas Cards, Souvenirs of the Unit, were ordered about a month ago but have not yet turned up, causing dissatisfaction. Our only hope now is that they will reach us in time for despatch to ENGLAND before Christmas. This evening Major COPPLESON brought back with him from ABBEVILLE an Australian girl working in the Y.M.C.A. there. She remained to dine in the Officers' Mess and afterwards went with the Officers to the Concert by the "Lena Ashwell Party" held at RAMBURELLES. We believe that this is the first occasion on which a girl has entered the Mess since the formation of the Unit. The Concert was very good. It commenced with a duet by Miss Beatrice Betts and another. Then followed solos by each of these two artistes. Next a Spanish Dance was played on a 'cello by one of the male members of the Party there being much amusement caused partly by the expressions on the artist's face and partly to his style of playing. Miss Dorothy Day then entertained the audience with a number of short stories. Following that was a piano solo. The evening ended with an exposition of ventriloquism by Mr. Arthur Bazonni which was highly applauded. Music was supplied by the 8th. Brigade Band. The tent was packed to overflowing notwithstanding the fact that that was the third given by the party during the day.</p>	
	26.		<p>This morning a Muster Parade was held 160 being present and only 3 absent. A new syllabus of training commenced this morning. A football match was held today between this Unit and the 5th. M. G. Battn., we being victorious. Another picture show was held in the evening at RAMBURELLES.</p>	

(Communion Service

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WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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8th. AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL. IV.

Page 69.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices																		
Bincourt	27.		<p>A Communion Service was conducted this morning by Padre EVA (C. of E.) at 0745. At 1000 a Church service was conducted by Cpl. COSIER and at 1800 Padre HARWOOD also conducted one. Today was wet and the ground very muddy. Few trees still show forth shades of green. The avenue in front has lost of most of its leaves, those remaining being of a dark brown and looking as if about to fall. The landscape is not as pretty as it was five days ago, as there are more leafless trees and there is not the same variety of color.</p> <p>Today we played the 10th. Field Ambulance Australian Rules Football. The match was a very good one and the game fast. The combination of our opponents, however, was better than ours. The game resulted in a victory for the 10th. Field Amb. by 81 points to 45.</p> <p>Information has come to hand that the G.O.C. 5th. Aust. Division is going to inspect the Unit on the 31st. of the month.</p> <p>The following members of the Unit have received decorations:-</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.</u></td> <td>No. 6616 Pte. CAMP E.B., M.M.</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>MILITARY MEDAL.</u></td> <td>No. 124 L/Cpl. CORR W.J.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 6664 " ROSS T.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 4462 Pte. SKILLER F.G.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 3209 " MCGOLDRICK A.R.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 6674 " WALL A.A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 518 " WROTH E.J.B.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 4757 " PARKER A.J.C.</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>No. 6894 Dvr. SMITH H. (5th.M.F.Coy.)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Parade was held as usual at 0900. At 1015 the Unit moved to the grounds hired for sporting purposes to await the arrival of Major-Gen. Sir TALBOT ROBBES Commanding the 5th. Aust. Division. The inspecting party arrived at 1130, the arrival of the party being described by a member of the Unit as "a thrilling sight", the party wheeling round and the General on "prancing palfrey" suddenly pulling up when about two yards from the C.O. of the Ambulance. All apparently went off well. The General inspected the personnel inquiring of each Section Commander about the quality of the clothing and then conversed with a number of 1914 men wearing the red chevron and shaking hands with a number of men wearing decorations. The horse transport was then thoroughly inspected. The Unit then marched past the General in column of route after which the Unit resumed its original formation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(The General</p>	<u>BAR TO MILITARY MEDAL.</u>	No. 6616 Pte. CAMP E.B., M.M.	<u>MILITARY MEDAL.</u>	No. 124 L/Cpl. CORR W.J.		No. 6664 " ROSS T.		No. 4462 Pte. SKILLER F.G.		No. 3209 " MCGOLDRICK A.R.		No. 6674 " WALL A.A.		No. 518 " WROTH E.J.B.		No. 4757 " PARKER A.J.C.		No. 6894 Dvr. SMITH H. (5th.M.F.Coy.)	
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WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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8th. AUSTR. FIELD REBULANCE

(Erase heading not required.)

VOL. IV. Page 70

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<i>Biencourt</i>	<i>31.</i>		<p>The General then addressed the Unit in words of praise, making particular reference to the work of the bearers in the recent fighting. In referring to the transport, the General said he was specially pleased, the condition of the horses reflecting great credit on the personnel concerned and being amongst the best in the Division. Then followed a general reference to the war and the General ended his address with thanks to the members of the Unit for their recent work and their present appearance on parade.</p> <p>Instructions were received from the A.D.M.S. for Cpl. COBURN to proceed tomorrow to Adm. H-Q. LONDON where he is to undergo medical examination in view of his projected appointment to the rank of Army Chaplain.</p> <p>A progressive Luchre Tournament in which about 60 took part, was held in the evening. The first prize of 50 francs was won by Pte. ROBERTS J. and the "Booby Prize" - a doll - was won by Sgt. CURTA.</p>	

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APPENDIX

W A R D I A R Y .

of

8th. AUST. FIELD AMBULANCE.

for

The Month of OCTOBER, 1918

..... L I S T O F A P P E N D I C E S

- | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | GENERAL REPORT | By Lt.-Col. A.R. CLAYTON, D.S.O. |
| 2. | REPORT ON V DIV. M.D.S. AT
TEMPLEUX-le-GUERRARD | " Capt. BARNSHAW P.A. |
| 3. | RECORD OF OPERATIONS OF BEARER
DIV. from 29-9-18 to 6-10-18 | " Major COPPLESON V. |
| 4. | REPORT ON MOVE FROM ROISEL AREA
TO OISEMONT AREA ON 7-8.10.18 | " Lt.-Col. A.R. CLAYTON, D.S.O. |
| 5. | REPORT ON AMB. AT BIENCOURT FOR
PERIOD ENDED 31-10-18 | " Major GUEST. J.V.H. |
| 6. | GRAPHS DEPICTING No. OF PATIENTS
HELD IN HOSPITAL | " Sergt. ROYALL. S.R. |
| 7. | SKETCH OF HOSPITAL | " Capt. BARNSHAW. P.A. |
| 8. | REPORT ON Q.M.S. DEPARTMENT | " Capt. McFADYEN. C.H. |
| 9. | REPORT ON MECHANICAL TRANSPORT | " Sergt. CURTA. F.G. |
| 10. | REPORT ON HORSE TRANSPORT | " Major COPPLESON. V. |
| 11. | DISPENSARY REPORT FOR MONTH OCT. | " S/Sgt. GROVER. E.H. |
| 12. | REPORT ON POSTAL WORK, PERIOD
JULY 1917 TO OCTOBER 1918 | " L/Cpl. BUTLER A. |
| 13. | INTELLIGENCE CLASS | " Major McLELLAND. H.S. |
| 14. | THE UNIT BATHS | " Capt. BARNSHAW. P.A. |
| 15. | SKETCH OF UNIT BATHS | " Capt. BARNSHAW. P.A. |
| 16. | THE UNIT DELOUSER | " Capt. BARNSHAW. P.A. |
| 17. | SOAP TRAP | " Major COPPLESON. V. |
| 18. | DIAGRAMS OF SOAP TRAP | " Major COPPLESON. V. |
| 19. | REPORT ON UNIT EDUCATIONAL
SCHEME FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER | " Sergt. WILLIAMS. F.H. |
| 20. | SPORTING EVENTS | " Capt. McFADYEN. C.H. |
| 21. | THE UNIT LIBRARY | " Capt. BARNSHAW. P.A. |
| 22. | A VILLAGE IN FRANCE | " S/Sgt. BENDER. C.A. |
| 23. | REPORT ON INDOOR AMUSEMENTS | " L/Cpl. MURPHY, J.F., D.C.M. |
| 24. | REPORT ON DRESSING STATIONS HELD
BY AMB. from AUG. 31 to SEPT. 10 | " Lt.-Col. A.R. CLAYTON, D.S.O. |
| 25. | SKETCHES | " Dvr. CROME R.R. |

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GENERAL REPORT.8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

The Unit arrived in this area on the 8th. October after taking part in the operations against the underground-canal part of the Hindenburg Line and beyond. We took over the A.D.S. from a 30th. Div. American Field Ambulance at TEMPLEUX-le-GUERARD on September 29th. and handed over to the 5th. Aust. Field Ambulance on October 2nd. A report on this work is attached.

After 5 days' stay in the vicinity of ROISEL we marched to PERONNE and entrained for this area for a rest.

We were given the Village of BIENCOURT for billeting purposes and found the spacious Chateau. In these grounds are several large stables and two barns. There is sufficient accommodation for our personnel. We are 25 under strength and about 30 are away on leave. It would be difficult to obtain accommodation if we were up to strength as all the village barns are full of hay and corn, and billets marked to accommodate 20, 30 or 40 men have not room for 1. The officers are billeted in the houses of the village. This Chateau has been previously used by a Field Ambulance and is well suited for such a Unit. When we arrived, all the conveniences such as cook-house, latrines, incinerator were ready for use. We put aside one room for recreation purposes and here every evening there are concerts, card tournaments, music and other amusements which are very greatly enjoyed as during the last six months, owing to military operations we have been debarred from any such pleasures.

WORK:-

Our work consists in maintaining a Hospital of 50 beds for Bde. sick, collecting and evacuating same, and in training personnel.

The patients are accommodated on the ground floor of the Chateau in 3 large rooms. Our greatest number of patients in one day was 60. We have been able to supply four blankets each. Red Cross has supplied comforts in the way of extra food and literature. The prevailing disease is influenza. A report on this work and disease is attached. We are allowed to keep patients up to two weeks so are able to return a good proportion to duty. There is also a fair number of cases of boils in the Brigade. Major GUEST has had charge of this Hospital.

Training has consisted in physical exercises, route marches and drill as in R.A.M.C. Training Manual. Major McLELLAND has supervised this work.

The Transport has been overhauled and replacements made where necessary. The 3 old water carts which have done service for 3 years and were quite worn out have been replaced by new ones.

The Unit was inspected on 31st. October by the G.O.C. 5th. Australian Division, Major-General Sir TALBOT HOBBS who expressed himself as pleased with our turn out.

The weather has been very mild; very little rain but very little sun.

A. R. Mayton Lt Col.
C. S. Flaherty

APPENDIX 2 1

REPORT ON 5th DIVISIONAL M.D.S. AT TEMPLEUX-LES-GUERARD BY EIGHTH AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

On 29th September the 8th Aust. Field Ambulance was stationed in an assembly bivouac area in the environs of HESBECOURT. At 7 30 am the bearer section with the exception of 40 men who were attached on 25th September to the battalions of the 8th Aust. Inft. Brigade, moved forward under the command of Major North. Major Coppleson and Captain Britten were in command of each respective bearer subdivision.

At mid-day Colonel Clayton, with a party of nursing orderlies, moved to the A.D.S. at TEMPLEUX, about 4 miles away. The remainder, with Captain Earnshaw, set out for the same place at about 1 30 pm. The Horse Transport followed behind. The Motor Transport passed into Captain Fay's command at 10 am to assist in the forward evacuations.

The A.D.S. at TEMPLEUX was being run by the 119th American Field Ambulance. When we arrived there the place seemed to be in confusion. The car park was crowded with ambulances, full, empty and loading or discharging wounded. Litters containing wounded men seemed to cover all available space.

C.O. 8th Aust. Field Ambulance arranged for Captain Gibson to commence work in an unused room. Trestles were soon made and dressing bowls etc. laid out. The congestion was soon relieved. The Americans seemed to have a much larger staff for work at the station than ourselves. Traffic was controlled by ~~competent~~ ^{ambulance} officers. Owing to the accumulation of cases the 5th Aust. Divisional Ambulance cars were loaned to the 119th Field Ambulance.

We took over the station from the 119th American Ambulance between 5 and 6 pm in the evening. By 7 o'clock our evacuations were keeping pace with our admissions. Captains Earnshaw & Wellisch commenced duty at about 5 o'clock. Major McLelland supervised the work in the dressing rooms and maintained personal supervision until about 4 o'clock the following morning.

The A.D.S. was converted into a Main Dressing Station at 7 30 pm in the evening, from which hour the names and particulars of all patients passing through were recorded, and anti Tetanus Serum (1500 units) was given to all patients with wounds. No A.D.S. had been formed then so all cases, walking wounded and stretchers, came through this station.

The Dressing Station consisted of a standard A.D.S. and of a number of reinforced rooms contained within a semi-circle bounded on its diametrical side by the road and on the other by a crescentic car track, having an entrance at either end from the road. Cars passed in at one entrance and out at the other. All dressings were done in the reinforced rooms, the standard A.D.S. being set aside for the reception and treatment of gassed patients.

Just within the entrance the cars of wounded drew up and were unloaded by a party of men detailed for the purpose. Having been unloaded the cars passed on and out on to the road through the exit. The wounded men on stretchers were carried through an adjacent doorway into the admitting room. Here, the Field Medical Cards were made out and attached to each patient and his particulars recorded. Here also each patient was given a dose of A.T.S. (1500 units) by a specially trained orderly or orderlies who were held responsible for it being carried out. As an injection was given it was recorded on the Field Medical Card by the Operator, who signed his initials afterwards.

From the Admitting Room the patient passed into one of the three dressing rooms which contained in all, trestles for the support of six stretchers. At each stretcher were two nursing orderlies, while one medical officer supervised over three stretchers, giving directions to the orderlies and aiding them where necessary. When the admissions were few then the medical officer did the dressing of the wounds, assisted by the nursing orderlies. Many cases arrived with only one blanket and that merely thrown over them so that only the canvas of the stretcher protected them underneath. All patients before being discharged from the dressing room were, if not already so provided, given three blankets which were so arranged that the patient lay on at least two folds and was covered by two folds.

Very cold patients were given an extra blanket which allowed of four layers both above and below. In many cases the body fomites and stretchers were fouled with soil and blood. The clothes in such cases were cut away or otherwise removed and a fresh stretcher provided. The boots and socks of a very large number were wet.

If cold, the patient was detained in the dressing room for some time & rechauffment administered by means of a primus stove placed under the stretcher and surrounded by blanket screens. Hot air was also applied to the lower extremities from another Primus by means of a piece of bent piping, the legs being enclosed in a chamber covered by a blanket thrown over two or three Thomas' splints suspension bars, on which lay two long Liston splints. All patients were given a cup of hot coffee or cocoa (sweet) and biscuits at the earliest convenient moment excepting those with perforated wounds in the abdomen.

Badly shocked patients were taken to the resuscitation room in charge of Major Pearce and Captain Gray where they were given rechauffment, blood transfusion or operated on if a limb were badly shattered.

When dressed, the patients were transferred to waiting rooms from which they were loaded on ambulance cars and evacuated to the C.C.S. Urgent cases were marked prominently as such and evacuated by the first available car.

At 3 am the following morning (September 30) the patients began to accumulate before we could attend to them but we soon overtook them & by 4 in the morning were working at our leisure. Our floor space for disposing of men already dressed and awaiting evacuation was heavily taxed for two or three hours following midnight. The darkness of the night, the heavy traffic on the roads and the slippery nature of the road surface due to the rain that was falling proved an insuperable obstacle to rapid evacuation. By five in the morning however, the number of cases evacuated by the cars, kept pace with those dressed by us and awaiting evacuation.

We found that the waiting room or shed that we had taken over was not walled in and was most unsuitable for the accommodation of wounded men who were exposed to the cold winds and rain. Major McLelland set a party to work and the shed was walled in, partly with galvanized iron and partly with rubberoid, so making the place proof against the weather and hence not aggravating the shocked state of the patients.

At 8 am Captains Gibson & Scott relieved Captains Wellisch and Earnshaw. Major McLelland resumed his supervision of the working of the station at the same hour.

Major Appleford from the 5th Div. Train was placed in charge of all gassed cases. These gassed cases were treated in the standardised A.D.S. which had been used by the Americans for the storing of patients. All the gassed cases were suffering from poisoning either by Mustard gas or Phosgene or a mixture of both these gases. Affection by Phosgene gas alone was a rarity.

Conjunctivitis cases were bathed with Sodi. Bicarb. solution and then a few drops of Liq. paraffin were instilled into the Conjunctival Sac. The eyes were then lightly bandaged.

Burns of the skin surface by Mustard gas were bathed with Sodi. Bicarb solution and a compress of the same solution applied.

A concentrated solution of Sodium Bicarbonate was also administered internally. In a few cases this was vomited but the desired effect was produced; viz. that of neutralizing the Phosgene and in addition the stomach was washed out. It was remarkable with what rapidity the vomiting and the epigastric pain, when it existed, was alleviated, for which the patients seemed very grateful. It seemed that the vomiting of the Sodi. Bicarb. was, if anything, a good thing, for not only was the stomach washed out but as the Phosgene only acts on Mucus surfaces bathed with neutral or acid solutions, only the stomach and first part of the Duodenum as far as Vater's Papilla (the entrance of the bile duct) was affected there being a distinct line of demarcation in post Mortem cases from the healthy tissues where the alkaline bile enters.

The mouth and Oesophagus bathed by the alkaline saliva is not affected nor the remainder of the alimentary tract beyond Venter's Papilla, except approaching the anal canal where the alimentary contents become neutral in their reaction. Here a slight excoriation is sometimes noticed by the administration of Sodi. Bicarb. solution by the mouth could not possibly affect it for physiological reasons.

Ammonia capsules having been broken the ammoniacal vapours were inhaled. The patients all had great faith in these capsules.

In the case of Phosgene poisoned patients, the blood in the injected conjunctival was cherry red in colour likewise the fingernails, bearing a striking similarity to cases of carbon monoxide poisoning. In post Mortems it is noticed that the Endocardium of the heart exhibits cloudy swelling (thrushes breast appearance) which is also the case in carbon monoxide poisoning. As the Phosgene (C.O.C.L. 2) Molecule contains "co", it was considered likely that the "co" within the Phosgene gives it many of its poisonous properties. As the heart muscle is affected it was wondered whether the injury to the stomach was due to the poison being conveyed by the blood.

All gas cases were evacuated to the C.C.S. as stretcher cases. At 8 pm Captains Wellisch and Earnshaw relieved Captains Scott and Gibson in the dressing rooms. Nothing of importance happened during that night. The number of cases were not so great and the wounds were much more recent, few being wounded more than 8 hours before while some were wounded as recently as 2 hours before. On the previous day the majority of the wounds were about a day old. One was struck by the mildness of the shock state of the cases as compared with those on the previous night and this was obviously due to their rapid evacuation after being wounded. The patients talked more freely, were more optimistic and generally brighter and complained about feeling cold which was a rare complaint on the previous night. Morphia was injected less freely.

At 8 am on October 1st Captains Scott & Gibson relieved Captains Wellisch and Earnshaw, the latter having had no cases to attend to during the two preceeding hours.

During the morning we were favoured by visits from the D.M.S., Fourth Army, Major General O'Keefe and also by the D.D.M.S., Colonel Barbour. They inspected the station in all its working.

At noon Captains Wellisch & Earnshaw again resumed duties and continued till 10 pm when relieved by Captains Gibson & Scott.

At 6 pm we took over the working of the Walking Wounded Dressing Station from the 132nd British Field Ambulance. These walking cases arrived at the M.D.S. and were redirected to the W.W.D.S. where they were recorded, dressed and fed. When about 60 cases had collected in the waiting room they were taken to the TINCOURT C.C.S. by railway. Major Appleford attended to all these cases being assisted by clerks and dressers. The W.W.D.S. was established in two hospital marques and two Nissen huts.

Nothing further happened at the M.D.S. or W.W.D.S. worthy of recording during our control of those places.

At 8 am on the morning of the 2nd we handed over the M.D.S. to the 5th Aust. Field Ambulance and the W.W.D.S. at 10 am to the 7th Aust. Field Ambulance. The Ambulance then moved and bivouaced about 200 yards away on a hill.

While running the M.D.S. the officers and personnel were accommodated in tents.

Nature of the Wounds.

The wounds on the whole did not appear to be as lacerated as usual, there being a large preponderance of punctured and "through and through" wounds. The wounds also were not contaminated with soil to as large an extent as usual. This, no doubt, was one of the factors which tended to the reduction of shock. On the other hand there seemed to be a larger number of perforated abdomens and chests and also compound fractures of thighs. The relatively larger number on the second day seemed to point to the fact that this was due to the more rapid evacuation, and perhaps more suitable treatment. In no case was there any haemorrhage excepting in one in which the haemorrhage was venous. The ligature was not firmly applied and appeared only sufficient to block the venous return for haemorrhage ceased on the removal of the tourniquet.

Thomas's Splints were freely used. They were used in all cases of fracture of the Femur, large lacerated wounds of the thigh, wounds of the knee joints and also in many cases of fracture of bones of the legs. They were put on with little pain except in the application of tension. All patients experienced great relief after application of the splints and were much more easily handled in changing stretchers etc. The boot was left on where possible and a clove hitch used for extension purposes. Where it was deemed advisable to remove the boot, the adhesive plaster was used with equal success. The splints were all in good condition and the leather work soft and supple. The American patients and the German especially seemed very appreciative.

There were not many cases of fracture of the bones of the upper limb and then mostly of the forearm. The use of Thomas's splints having met with such success with the lower limb one feels like recommending its use for the upper limb.

There was a deficiency of 250 blankets on handing over to the 5th Aust. Field Ambulance. This is accounted for by the fact that the C.C.S's. did not return them owing to shortage, a certificate being received to this effect.

Evacuations shown on attached list. Also plan of Dressing Station.

6th October 1918.

A R Clayton

Lt. Colonel.

C.O. 8th Australian Field Ambulance.

The gassed cases were undressed except for underclothes, in Admitting Room and dressed in the Central Dressing Room in clothes supplied from D.A.D.O.S. We had a supply of 500 suits.

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APPENDIX

2 58th Aust Field Ambulance.

Statement of Sick & Wounded passing through
Main Dressing Station at Templeux-les-Guards
from 29.9.18 to 2.10.18

	Date	Sick	Wounded	Gassed	Total
<u>Australian</u>	29.9.18	1	28	4	33
	30.9.18	3	147	26	176
	1.10.18		74	5	79
	2.10.18		15	1	16
<u>Total</u>		4	264	36	304
<u>American</u>	29.9.18		28	10	38
	30.9.18	2	79	58	139
	1.10.18	1	13	4	18
<u>Total</u>		3	120	72	195
<u>British</u>	29.9.18		8	1	9
	30.9.18		7	32	39
	1.10.18		10	1	11
	2.10.18		3		3
<u>Total</u>			28	34	62
<u>P. O. W.</u>	30.9.18		19		19
	1.10.18		11		11
	2.10.18		2		2
<u>Total</u>			32		32
<u>Grand Total.</u>		7	444	142	593



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APPENDIX 26

8th Aust Field Ambulance.

Statement of Sick + Wounded passing through
Walking Wounded Dressing Station at Templeux le Grand
from 1.10.18 to 2.10.18

	Date.	Sick	Wounded	Gassed	Total
Australian	1.10.18	9	10		19
	2.10.18	3	7		10
Total		12	17		29
British	2.10.18		1		1
Total			1		1
Grand Total		12	18		30



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5th Aust Field Ambulance.

Statement of Sick & Wounded passing through M.D.S at
Templeux-les-Guerard from 29. 9. 18 to 2. 10. 18

	Sick	Wounded	Gassed	Total
Australian	4	2644	36	3044
British		28	34	62
American	3	120	72	195
P. O. War		32		32
Total	7	4444	142	593

At Walking Wounded Dressing Station Templeux les Guerard
from 1. 10. 18 to 2. 10. 18

<u>Australian</u>	12	17		29
<u>British</u>		1		1
Total	12	18		30

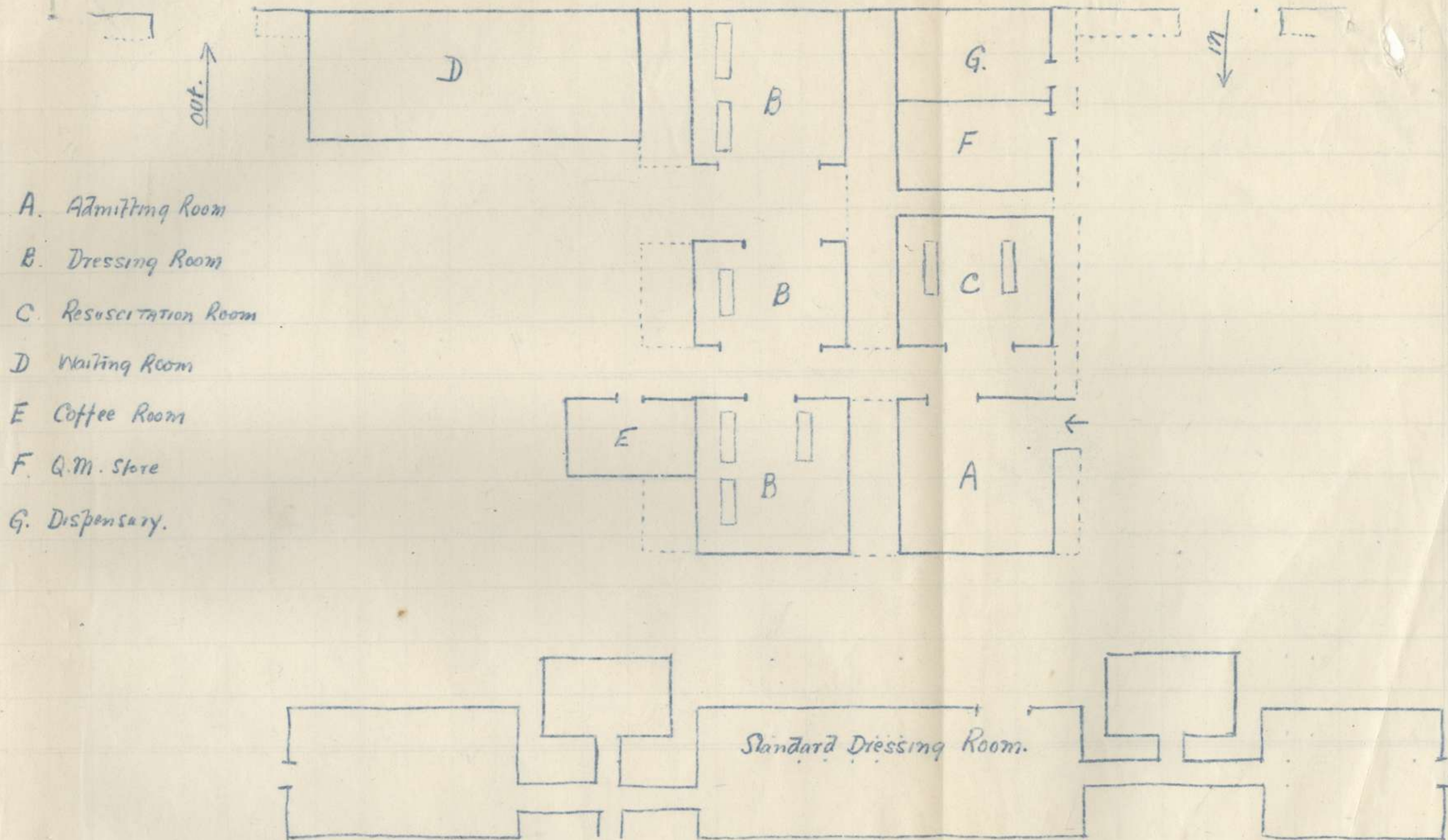


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APPENDIX

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ROAD



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SALAIRE

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XI
ANNÉE
1914-1915

APPENDIX 3

8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

RECORD OF OPERATIONS OF BEARER DIVISION FROM 29-8-1918 to 6-9-1918.

Reference Map 62C.

29-8-1918.

Orders were received at 3.30 pm to take over from 14th Aust. Field Ambulance bearers with 8th Brigade. Major North, Captain Howard, Captain Downer & 80 bearers were detailed with a few odds and ends including 1 Corporal from Q.M. Store & 1 Cook. Captain Howard was at once sent forward with 3 L/Cpls. to reconnoitre the area to be taken over. It was decided not to move the main body of bearers until a hot meal could be provided. The party finally moved out from camp at Q.26 towards 6 pm, accompanied by one G.S. wagon carrying 20 stretchers and cook's gear etc. reaching ESTREES, a distance of some 17,000 yards, after 10 pm. Touch was gained with Captain Howard at A.D.S. ESTREES. He reported that there were two routes of evacuation one from BARLEUX, through ASSEVILLERS & FAY & the other directly along the main ST QUENTIN road. He had only had time to reconnoitre the left of these routes. Sergeant Eggington, with "A" Section bearers, was sent to take over the left, with a guide who had been over the country. Captain Howard, with "C" Section bearers, moved forward along the ST. QUENTIN Road, to take over the ~~left~~ Sector.

The night was pitch dark with a drizzling rain. On this account we did not succeed in establishing contact with line battalion on right sector till 4 am on 30th. Fortunately they had had no casualties.

Finally the following dispositions were established :-

29th Battalion	(N.18.d.6.4.)	(Clear to relay N.17.a.8.8.	2 squads
32nd "	(N.17.d.3.4.)	(2 "

Relay	(N.17.a.8.8.)	2 squads	Clear to F.L.P. N.16.a.6.5.
-------	---------------	----------	-----------------------------

Ford Loading Post	(N.16.a.6.5.)	1 Sgt. 1 squad.	Clear to A.D.S.
-------------------	---------------	-----------------	-----------------

(M.30.a.13) by road through ASSEVILLERS, skirting FAY to ESTREES.

The above comprises the Left Sector.

31st Battalion	(Q.25.c.1.6.)	2 squads,	clear to 30th Battalion (N.29.d.6.2.)
----------------	---------------	-----------	---------------------------------------

30th Battalion	(N.29.d.6.2.)	4 squads,	clear to F.L.P. (N.28.c.7.6.)
----------------	---------------	-----------	-------------------------------

Ford Loading Post.	(N.28.c.7.6.)	Clear directly along main ST QUENTIN road to A.D.S. ESTREES.	1 Sgt. 1 squad.
--------------------	---------------	--	-----------------

The above comprises the Right Sector.

Three officers, 1 sgt & 6 squads remained in reserve at A.D.S. ESTREES. G.S. wagon, after unloading, returned to Ambulance H.Q. in Q.26. Only few casualties occurred and consequently little difficulty was experienced in carrying.

30-8-1918.

Support battalions were relieved in morning and line battalions at dusk. The R.M.O. of each battalion had instructions to move out with two squads attached to him. The remainder of bearers were collected in neighbourhood of A.D.S. ESTREES. One water cart with driver reported for duty from H.Q. 8th Aust. Field Ambulance.

31-8-1918.

At 8 am in morning bearer subdivision minus squads attached to battalions moved to FONTAINE-les-CAPPY in M.15.a. Sunbeam car was obtained from C.O. 8th Aust. Field Ambulance to evacuate Brigade sick in this area. At 12 noon orders were received that Brigade was again moving forward to support of 15th Aust. Inf. Brigade to areas N.5 & N.11. Major North, with 3 L/Cpls., moved forward at 2 pm to reconnoitre. Remainder moved out by DOMPIERRE Road to A.D.S. HERBECOURT (H.26.c.8.4) arriving about 6 pm. One Ford car was obtained from C.O. 8th Aust. Field Ambulance for transport on this move. Captain Howard with one sergeant and one squad was stationed at C.L.P. (N.4.b.1.3.) and established communication with the 4 R.M.O's located as follows :-

30th Battalion	(N.11.a. Central.)
----------------	--------------------

32nd "	(N.11.a.4.9.)
--------	---------------

29th & 31st Battalions remained in FONTAINE area.

X. F.L.P. = Ford Loading Post.

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 1-9-1918.

R.A.P's were as follows :-

29th Battalion (N.11.a.4.9.)
 30th " (N.11.a. Central)
 31st " (N.10.a. Central)
 32nd " (N.6.b.7.6.)

A relay for 32nd Battalion was formed at I.3.6.d.1.7., where 1 sergt. and 2 squads were posted. They evacuated by wheel-stretcher to C.L.P. (N.4.b.1.3.). This carry is long but is on a road which runs downhill all the way & arrangements were made that Ford car could be sent up in the event of heavy casualties.

2-9-1918.

R.A.P's remained as yesterday. Captain Downer, detailed as R.M.O. 30th Battalion vice Captain Marshall, evacuated sick.

3-9-1918.

The 8th Aust. Infty. Brigade moved to HALLE area in support of the 15th Aust. Infty. Brigade which relieved 14th A.I. Brigade. Bearer division, minus squads detailed to 4th Battalion, moved to HALLE (I.19.a.8.7.) where a Ford car was stationed. Touch was established with R.M.O's in following locations :-

29th Battalion (I.20.a.2.2.) carry to F.L.P. (I.19.a.8.7.)
 30th " (I.26.a.7.5.) carry to Relay (I.26.a.1.9.)
 31st " (I.26.d.9.9.) carry to Relay (I.26.a.1.9.)
 32nd " (I.14.d.0.0.) carry to Relay (I.20.a.2.9.)

Relays were established as follows :-

1. (I.26.a.1.9.) 2 squads & 1 wheel stretcher to clear 30th & 31st Battalions and carry to F.L.P. (I.19.a.8.7.)

2. (I.20.a.2.9.) 1 squad to carry to F.L.P. (I.19.a.8.7.)

Heavy Blue Cross gas and H.E. shelling occurred both in HALLE and forward areas from 7 pm to midnight. Four bearers had to be evacuated gassed. A moderate number of carries were necessary & were rendered very difficult by the gas.

4-9-1918.

The 8th Aust. Inft. Brigade to take over from 2nd Australian Division after dark. A Sunbeam Loading Post was taken over at H.12.b.9.5.

from 5th Aust. Field Ambulance. Ford loading posts were taken over at I.14.d.0.0. and I.8.a.1.3. The R.A.P's were located as follows :-

30th Battalion at I.20.d.9.9., carry to F.L.P. (I.14.d.0.0.)
 31st " at I.14.d.0.0., load on car at I.14.d.0.0.
 29th " at I.14.b.9.5., carry to Relay at I.8.d.7.4.
 32nd " at I.9.d.9.9., carry to Relay at I.9.d.0.7.

This constituted a left and a right route of evacuation, the former including the 32nd Battalion in the line and the 29th in support and the Loading Post at I.8.a.1.3., which cleared to Sunbeam Post at H.12.b.9.5. It was necessary to establish relays as follows :-

1. I.8.d.7.4. 4 squads, clear to F.L.P. (I.8.a.1.3.)
 2. I.9.d.0.7. 2 " clear to Relay at I.8.d.7.4.

Sunbeam car evacuated through CLERY & FEUILLERES. Few casualties occurred.

5-9-1918.

Word was received that the enemy was retreating and that the Brigade would 'side slip' that night to BARLEUX area. In order to withdraw bearers as quickly as possible & also to facilitate evacuation to A.D.S. HERBECOURT, the Sunbeam Loading Post was moved to I.19.a.0.0. between the Canal and the River. The left F.L.P. was pushed forward to I.9.a.2.8. to clear 32nd Battalion and the two relay posts withdrawn. The 29th Battalion was instructed to carry directly to Ford car at I.4.d.0.0. All personnel were instructed to collect at I.19.a.0.0. as soon as units which they were clearing were relieved. Captain Britten reported for duty vice Captain Downer.

6-9-1918.

All personnel had reported to C.L.P. at I.19.a.0.0. by 5 am. Tea was prepared at 6 am and the bearer division marched out for ETERPIGNY under Captain Britten immediately after. Major North and

Captain Howard moved forward to reconnoitre in Sunbeam car. Breakfast was prepared at ETERPIGNY and bearers again moved off at 9 45 for MESNIL. Later, communication was established with Headquarters, 8th Aust. Field Ambulance, and it was learned that the Ambulance had established an A.D.S. at P.26.c.3.9. in MONS-en-CHAUSSEE. It was also learned that they had already established communication with all R.M.O's and established Ford Loading Post at P.15.a.4.5. All bearers except those already attached to battalions were collected to Ambulance Headquarters at P.26.c.3.9. Command of the bearer division was now handed over to Major Guest.

H. M. North. Mj.

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REPORT ON THE MOVE OF THE 8TH. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE FROM ROISEL AREA TO OISEMONT AREA ON 7TH. - 8TH. OCTOBER 1918.

For the purposes of this move the Unit was brigaded and moved under Brigade arrangements.

Parade for the move-out was held at 1430 on 7th. and the Unit moved out well to time in the direction of Peronne. The route taken was as follows:- Roisel, Marquain, Buire, Doingt, Peronne. Good conditions for marching prevailed in the initial stages of the journey, but towards the latter end rain and darkness set in and the roads in places became wet and slippery, making the going rather heavy. The march, however, was done in good time and Doingt was reached at 1900. At this town a halt was made and the Unit moved into a temporary billet for tea, which had been prepared by an advance party. Hot tea was served to all ranks and 24 hours dry rations issued. The men were here told to make themselves comfortable for a few hours as no further move forward would be made until 0030.

Promptly at 0030 fall in was sounded and a move was made in the direction of Peronne Station which was reached at 0115. There was a delay of about two hours at this stage of the journey as entraining did not begin until 0330. The train moved out at about 0450. The train accommodation was most insanitary; some of the trucks into which the men were put being in a filthy condition, having heaps of wet horse manure in both ends; the floors were wet also; the stench therefrom was distinctly unpleasant and made the journey in the train very miserable, because the majority of the men could not sit or lie down on account of the dirty state of the floors. No hot meal was served on the train but the troops had their dry rations for the period with them. Oisemont was reached at 1430 and disentrainment took place immediately. The Unit moved out for its new billets at 1440 and the march of about five kilos. was made on good roads and in good weather. Our destination, Biencourt, was reached at 1645. Immediately upon reaching our billets hot tea which had been prepared by an advance party was served to all ranks and the troops were then conducted to their respective quarters. Two hours later hot dinner was served. This move again brought to notice the disadvantage under which a Field Ambulance labors in not having a cooker on its establishment. All billets occupied must be classed as excellent.

TRANSPORT.

The horse Transport moved with the other personnel and under the same conditions. Their entrainment, however, was carried out at 2330 on the 7th., 4 hours before the other sections of the Ambulance. Upon reaching Oisemont their disentrainment was at once proceeded with, and, moving out from Oisemont at 1500, Biencourt was reached at 1830. All arrangements in connection with the Transport moves were very good and no difficulty was experienced at any stage of the journey.

MECHANICAL TRANSPORT moved independently and had an uneventful trip to the new area.

-----000-----

A. D. Mayton
Lt.-Col.,
C.O., 8th. Australian Field Ambulance.

11th. October 1918.

Forwarded to:-
The A.D.M.S.,
5th. AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

REPORT ON 8th. AUST. FIELD AMB. HOSPITAL AT BIENCOURT

For Period ending 31-10-1918.

We began receiving patients for the Hospital on 10-10-18, the day after our arrival in this area. The Hospital has accommodation for 50 patients.

Buildings Occupied:-

The Hospital occupied 5 rooms in the Chateau at BIENCOURT, 4 (including entrance hall) on the ground floor and one on the first floor. The entrance hall was used as for an Admission Room, Unit sick parade and Dressing Room. On the ground floor were two wards, one on each side of the admission room. The larger ward consisted of two rooms, each capable of accommodating 14 stretchers, the small ward of one room being capable of holding 14 cases. The larger ward on the ground floor was from the beginning, occupied solely by influenza cases, the other being used for general cases, while the ward on the first floor was reserved for convalescents. Owing to the number of influenza cases admitted, however, one ward was found inadequate, and both lower wards were used solely for influenza cases, general cases and convalescents occupying the upper ward.

Equipment:-

Stretchers were used as beds. Besides the Ambulance equipment, stretchers and blankets were obtained from the horse ambulance wagons, thus making 48 stretchers and 200 blankets available. The stretchers were distributed in the lower wards, 14 in the smaller and 28 in the larger, the remainder being used in the upper ward.

Personnel Employed in Hospital:-

Owing to several Tent Division personnel being on leave and to give to the remainder more freedom, the complete Tent Division nursing orderlies were employed. There is also one Sergeant clerk and one Private clerk in the admission room.

The duties were distributed as follows:-

During the day one S/Sgt: Nursing Duties had charge, one N.C.O. and 2 orderlies in the dressing room, and 4 orderlies on ward duties. During the night one N.C.O. and 2 orderlies were on duty for both ward and dressing rooms.

The personnel looking after the influenza cases were billeted in a separate room in the Chateau thus isolating them from the other members of the Ambulance.

Cooking and Feeding Arrangements:-

Cooking was done in the unit cookhouse special meals being prepared for febrile and other cases requiring lighter diet. Owing to the number of influenza cases a large percentage were on light diet. To all the wards, including the convalescent ward, the food was taken by the orderlies.

Class of Cases:-

The majority of cases treated have been influenza of which there has been a mild epidemic in the Brigade group. There were also a few cases of tonsillitis and pharyngitis, furunculosis and septic abrasions, urticaria, Doh, Gastro Enteritis and a few minor accident cases. One compound fracture and dislocation was treated in the dressing room, being reduced under anaesthetic before evacuation to the General Hospital. Statistics are appended.

Influenza:- 49% of the cases treated have been influenza. On admission, these have usually been ill for a few days and have fairly high temperatures. The usual treatment has been quinine and Salicylates internally with expectorant mixtures and inhalations for those with chest symptoms. Sedatives, and sedative cough mixtures have been used to relieve coughs. The majority of cases have shown marked improvement and lowering of temperature in a couple of days and are usually convalescent in about 4 days. They are then transferred to a convalescent ward for about two days and then returned to their Unit with a card advising that they be excused duty for 3 days. Cases which continue with a high temperature and without improvement, are evacuated to the 3rd. Australian General Hospital as have also been a couple of cases showing on examination of the chest early signs of Bronchopneumonia. The average stay of influenza cases who are discharged to their Unit has been 8 days.

Prophylactic Treatment for Venereal Disease:-

A bell tent was provided and fitted up for prophylactic treatment, the N.C.O. in charge of the dressing room being in supervision.

(2)

Scabies Patients:-

These are treated with Vlemink's Solution and Sulphur Ointment method. They are not admitted to the Hospital but attend each morning at the Unit Baths receiving clean underclothing and having their other clothing ironed. Results have been satisfactory.

Prevailing Diseases from 10-10-18 to 31-10-18:-

Influenza	...	118
Gonorrhoea	...	20
Scabies	...	10
Haemorrhoids	...	7
Otitis Media	...	7
Furunculosis	...	5
Tonsillitis	...	4
Bronchitis	...	4
Gastroenteritis	...	4
Debility	...	4
Rheumatism	...	3
Pharyngitis	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	53

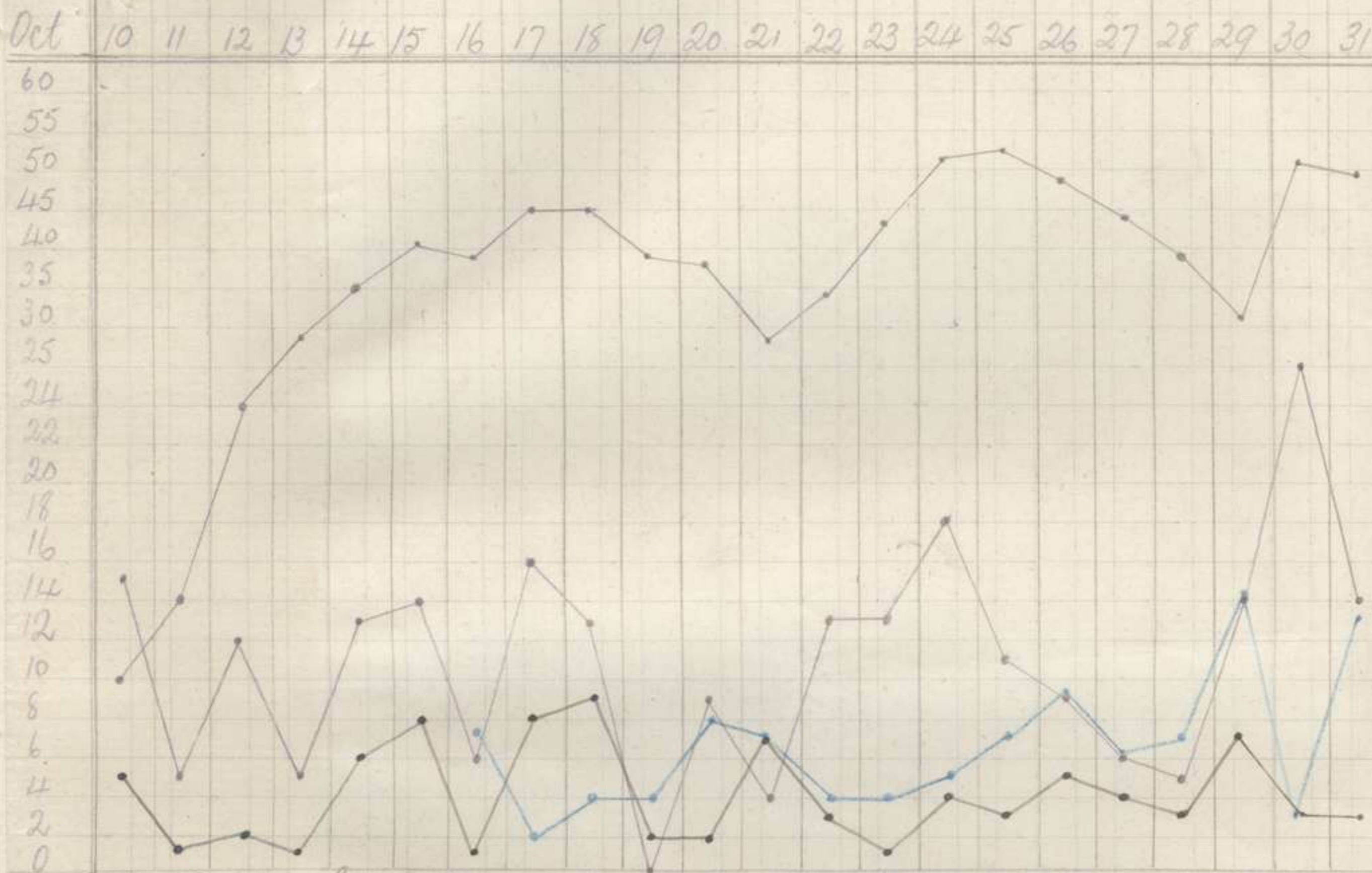
 Total, 241

Average Daily Admissions	11
Greatest No. on any one day	25
Average Daily Evacuations to Hospital	4
" " Discharges to Duty	6

W. S. McLeod Major

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8th Aust Field Ambulance

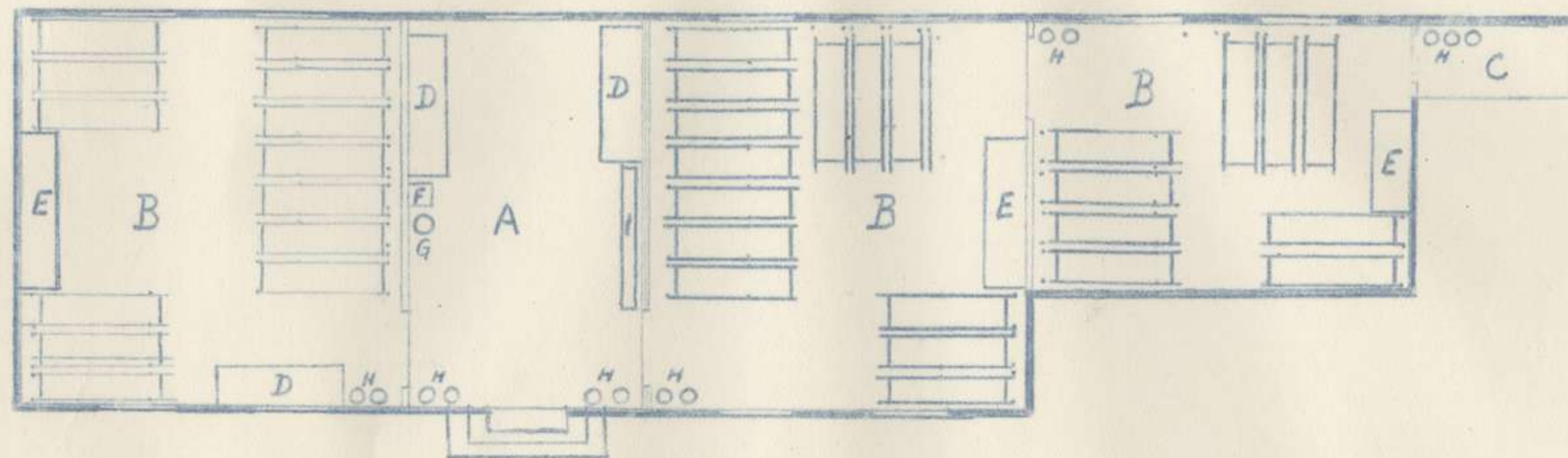


Top Pencil line Daily Hospital Strength.
 Bottom Pencil line Daily Admissions.
 Blue line Daily Discharges to Duty.
 Black Ink line Daily Evacuations to Hospital.

M Royall Sgt.

Plan of Hospital

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- A. Admission Room - Dressing Room.
- B. Hospital Wards.
- C. Lumber Room.
- D. Dressing Tables.
- E. Fire Place.
- F. Shelf for Primus Stove.
- G. Waste Bucket.
- H. Fire Buckets.
- I. Form.

V. A. Carnshaw Capt.
8. 7. Amb.

APPENDIX

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.REPORT ON THE QUARTER-MASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

On October 1st. the Ambulance did forward work as a W.W.D.S. for about 14 hours. The 3rd. October found us at ROISEL at which spot we stayed for 4 days. Here comforts were drawn from 5th. Divisional Fund consisting mostly of underlivered postal parcels, biscuits, cigarettes &c

On the 7th. the trek coastwards was started and after a march toward PERONNE, tea was served at DOIGNY some 2 kilo. from the entraining point at FLAMICOURT. The Unit entrained at 0330 of the 8th. October and rations were drawn at OISEMONT Railhead, the detraining point. After a march of some 6 kilo. the Chateau BIENCOURT was made and here the Unit settled down for its spell and training work.

Having better facilities for holding sick than other Divisional Ambulances, the D.R.S. work devolved on us, and with an average of 50 patients the nursing section has been busy. Comforts (Medical) have been drawn in quantity from Railhead Depot ABBEVILLE some 17 kilo. distant. There have been no difficulties to date regarding supplies.

Red Cross Goods are drawn from A.B.R.C.S. Depot, LONGPRE, midway between BIENCOURT and AMIENS. The latter supplies in the shape of games, literatures and writing material have helped materially to make as pleasant as possible the stay of patients in Hospital.

The personnel rations have been drawn from the 18th. A.S.C. at St. MAXENT some 5 kilo. away. Vegetable issues (potatoes and onions) have been well up to full issue during our stay. Bread has often touched the maximum issue.

Six hundred kilog. of potatoes have been purchased privately from farms in the village at the comparatively low rate of 38 francs per 100 kilog.. Fresh meat has been of good quality and quantity, and with the addition of oatmeal, sugar, milk, cafe au lait, cocoa and milk, and an issue of shirts and socks all round from the Comforts Fund, the men have not done so well for some considerable time. There is no shortage of any commodity at present.

W. M. J. Capt.

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.REPORT ON MECHANICAL TRANSPORT

On the 1st and 2nd. days of the month all cars were evacuating from the A.D.S. in BELLICOURT to the M.D.S. in TEMPLEUX. At 0800 on the 3rd. we were relieved by the 5th. Field Ambulance and proceeded to camp at ROISEL. The daily collection and evacuation of Brigade sick was carried on till the 7th. when all cars left in convoy for the rest area. The route chosen was through PERONNE, ALBERT, AMIEN, PICQUIGNY, AIRAINES, OISEMONT to RAMBURES, arriving there at 2230. On the morning of the 8th. the cars proceeded to BIENCOURT where the daily collection and evacuation of Brigade sick was resumed.

On October 10th. "Sunbeam" A. 29518 was sent to the Workshop at BERNAPONT for general overhaul which has not yet been completed. On October 13th. "Sunbeam" 29193 was detached for duty with the D.D.M.S. Aust. Corps and returned to the Unit on the 19th. idem. This car then developed trouble in the main bearing and proceeded to Workshop for repairs on October 21st. and has not yet returned. On the 25th. "Sunbeam" 15090 was detailed to accompany the 13th. Bde. Field Artillery on their march from the forward area to their rest area and is still engaged in this duty. On October 22nd. a new "Douglas" Motor-cycle was taken on charge to replace a "Triumph" Machine evacuated owing to a broken frame. As the greater part of the work of the Despatch Rider is done in the forward area, the "Douglas" machine is quite unsuitable. Not only is it underpowered but the absence of a clutch necessitates a stoppage of the engine every time traffic is blocked and in wet and muddy weather the re-starting of the machine is a matter of extreme difficulty. On October 30th. "Ford" A. 17364 was detached for duty with the A.D.M.S. 5th. Aust. Division.

W. G. Burt sgt

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.REPORT ON HORSE TRANSPORT.

At the beginning of the month the horse transport was located at TEMPLEUX in lines in open, less one ambulance wagon, one limber and one water cart attached to Bearer Subdivision. These latter returned to the transport on the 3rd. October. On the 4th. the transport moved by a road to ~~near~~ near ROISEL where they were again picqueted in the open. After several days the transport again moved on the 7th. by road to FLAMICOURT under Capt. WOODWARD where they entrained at 0130 on the 8th. and arrived at OISEMONT near ABBEVILLE at 1700 the same day. From here they proceeded by road to BIENCOURT. The rest of the month was spent here. The horses were comfortably stabled for the most part in the Chateau stables. A ground was hired for grazing. The horses were daily exercised. In addition we also had a very good harness room. During this period attention was paid to harness particularly, and to painting, re-fitting &c. of the vehicles. Details of work done during the period were as follow:-

<u>Wagons Repaired:-</u>	One G.S. Wagon & 2 water carts.
<u>Painting:-</u>	One G.S. and 2 Amb. Wagons & one limber.
<u>Replacements:-</u>	Nil.
<u>Casualties:-</u>	One horse No. 7412 Killed in Action 1-10-18
<u>Evacuation of Horses,</u>	
<u>Vehicles &c.:-</u>	One horse No. 7402, Blindness.
<u>Amount of Monthly Work:-</u>	One G.S. Wagon & limber to A.S.C. daily, & limbers & G.S. Wagons to D.A.D.O.S. for comforts.
<u>Special Features:-</u>	Wagons oiled and greased twice; All horses shod; Horses grazed; Harness repaired at 18th. A.S.C.

W. G. Burt sgt

APPENDIX

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

DISPENSARY REPORT FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1918.

Work in this department has proceeded smoothly during the past month. We had sufficient stock on hand to supply small indents and to conduct sick parades when this Station opened. Drugs were drawn from No. 13 Depot Medical Stores without a hitch, an exacuating car being taken advantage of.

From 12th. September 52 indents have been supplied to affiliated Units, the majority of which were despatched by car collecting Brigade sick, Tab. Quinine, Hexamine, Sod. Sal. and Aspirin, Ung. Calomel, Pot. Permang. and M. G. Syringes claiming most attention.

A second Miocchies nozzle for prophylactic treatment V.D. was issued to 32nd. Battn.. These articles can be drawn from depot and I would suggest that each R.M.O. be issued with one.

R.M.Os. supplying a rum jar have been forwarded a gallon of cough mixture.

Containers not coming to hand in one or two instances, delayed the supply slightly. Original containers, viz:- Tr. Iod. 2 oz. bottles and ointment jars are valued at from 4^d. to 7^d. each; greater care should be exercised to see that these are returned.

30th. Battn. only requisitioned for equipment damaged by enemy action; the items have been replaced.

Our own equipment Medical Haversacks and Companions as well as Panniers have been overhauled, the instruments cleaned and vaselined.

R.M.Os. have been instructed to submit their indents on Monday mornings. This will insure the most prompt despatch.

Water testing cases (2) have been returned from 8th. Coy. Engrs. in good order.

Equipment of 29th. Battn. was withdrawn on the 18th. October and returned to Depot Medical Stores.

Two cases of German drugs were received from 30th. Battn., overhauled and forwarded to Depot. Med. Stores for analysis. Capsolin has been ordered pending the treatment of Chilblains.

A gallon of Mist. Expect. is being consumed in Hospital daily, also Quinine and Aspirin, about 150 of each daily.

Three indents have been received for articles enumerated in D.D.M.S. Circular relating to Prophylactic and Early Treatment of V.D.. These have been requisitioned and will be forwarded as soon as they are to hand; in all three cases sterilizers were asked for. These are contained in F.M. Panniers already on charge to R.M.O. and in consequence were not ordered.

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.REPORT ON POSTAL WORK (Period JULY 1917 to OCTOBER 1918)

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In attempting to write a history of Postal work as carried out in this Unit, I realise, firstly, the importance of my task, and secondly, the extreme difficulty there will be to make the narrative interesting and helpful. The facts to hand-which I shall give as far as possible- are facts that have been repeated from time to time since I was charged with the care of mail matter going from and coming to the Unit. To my mind, the care and speedy delivery of the troops' correspondence and other mail matter is the most important consideration, perhaps the most important factor in a soldier's life if his spirits are to be kept bright and hopeful. Being cut off from their loved ones and friends as far as personal contact is concerned it is their natural desire to communicate as often and speedily as possible with them by whatever means is at their disposal. Unfortunately the Postal Service supplies the only means that is within the reach of all and so it behoves those in authority to see that as efficient a service as possible is given, that their wants in this respect may be satisfied.

Despite the great dissatisfaction that exists in many men's minds in regard to the efficiency of the Australian Army Postal Service, I feel that our Army can feel thankful that it is possessed of a service that is as efficient as our's is today. Mistakes often occur and Mail is often considerably overdue by the time it reaches the addressee, but both these faults are always to be expected and will always be found when troops are constantly on the move from one place to another, as is necessary in an offensive like the present. When account is taken of the number of places our Unit has been in since July 1917 (from which time I speak) and of the number of men who have been invalided to Hospital, it is surprising to me that so little mail is undelivered. There is great room for improvement, I admit unhesitatingly, and I look forward to the day when new methods will be brought into play and a more efficient service guaranteed.

My own work as a Postal Orderly began in July 1917 at SENLIS (SOMME) when we came out of reserve at BAPAUME. If ever mail was looked for by all hands it was then, for we had just been a month out of the BULLECOURT Stunt which period was spent in reserve to the Division then holding the Line on that Sector. At this time the old system was in operation whereby practically the whole of the mail from Australia was delivered to a Unit on one day. It differed from present system considerably in that now it takes four or five days for the whole of our mail from home to reach the Unit. So it was that Mail Day was a great event in the daily routine.

The Field Post Office was in the village, which place was about 500 yards from our camp. Mail was received daily without a break and a clearance was made daily of outgoing mail from members of the Unit.

Leaving SENLIS we entrained at AVELUY for St.OMER from where we marched to RACQUINGHEM - a distance of about 11 kilo. - to new quarters. On arrival here there was mail waiting to be drawn at the Post Office and so a car was requisitioned for the purpose and the mail obtained. I mention this as an illustration of the fact that right up till March 1918, the Post Office was established in the new area prior to the arrival of various Units of the Brigade, a consideration for which all were very thankful in those days. In this area the F.P.O. was at WARDRECQUES (2 kilo. away) and so things went on without interruption until movement orders were received.

From this time up till March 1918 when the German Offensive began mail was drawn daily also despatched, and it was only upon our arrival at DAOURS that this state of affairs was again possible. The time in between found us almost daily under orders to move or else actually on the move and so things were very disorganised for the time. But at DAOURS it became possible to pay two mere visits to the Post Office per day; in the morning to despatch (which save

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 a day in the transit of the article) and in the afternoon to draw the incoming mail. We spent about six weeks here from whence we moved to RIVERY and later to PETIT CAMON, at both of which places every opportunity was given me to carry out my work thoroughly. As has always been the case, Transport is always available and I am usually given a suitable place in which to work and to store temporarily undeliverable mail matter. The same system of despatch and receipt of mail applied at these two places as existed at DAOURS.

A few days after leaving PETIT CAMON for our next camp at ALLONVILLE Wood hurried orders were received for our Unit to move to a more forward position so as to ready to take over the Dressing Station at the WHITE CHATEAU (VILLERS BRETONNEUX). It was here that things became a little disorganised in our mail services and they remained so until our arrival at our present area. In consequence of frequent advances by our troops it was not possible for the Post Office to be moved up to the place within easy reach of the Units drawing mail from it. Consequently, as during our stay at MONS-en-CHAUSSEE, we had to traverse a total distance of close on thirty-five kilo. in all to obtain the daily delivery of mail matter. Frequently, too, the Post Office would be on the move unbeknown to Units and this often meant a mail-less day. It is very noticeable that when mail is unobtainable there is a great dissatisfaction amongst the boys, a fact which shows to some extent what an important thing it is that the best always should be given them in the way of a mail service.

This state of affairs ceased to exist on our moving to this area from near ROISEL. On arrival here it was found to be possible to carry out the same system of two trips to the Post Office per day and it was also found that the mail arrived daily. When the daily delivery is available all is well, otherwise there is intense dissatisfaction.

Taking all circumstances into consideration I think it can be safely said that there is reason for gratification in the way in which mail matter has been handled right from the time it was posted in Australia, England and elsewhere, until it is finally delivered to the addressee. Some of the circumstances under which it has been conveyed from the Base to the Units in the line have been hard, and oftentimes have not been such as tend towards efficient work being possible.

When possible, and the men are in the line mail matter has been sent out to men at forward posts daily. This method was always possible from November 1917 to July 1918, but had to be dispensed with on and after August 8th. when our men advances from VILLERS BRETONNEUX.

DISPOSAL OF MAIL

LETTERS which arrive at the rate of an average of about fifty per day are delivered to men personally or their friends when they themselves desire.

PACKETS & PAPERS are disposed of in a like manner.

REGISTERED ARTICLES & PARCELS are only delivered in person to the addressee and a signature obtained for them.

UNDELIVERABLE MAIL

Mail under this heading if it be packets, parcels or letters is endorsed according to its known eventual destination and re-posted on the day following its receipt at this Unit.

UNDELIVERABLE PAPERS.

These are usually distributed amongst those of the men who require them or taken into the Unit Hospital. Papers for men who are transferred to Units in France are the only papers that may be re-addressed.

OUTGOING MAIL.

Outgoing mail matter is despatched daily when possible.

(3)

In conclusion I would pass one remark, or rather, offer one suggestion. That is, that it is only a fair thing that greater desire be shown by those responsible at the Base Post Office that the Australian Mail be speedily despatched to the troops in France. We over here often ~~here~~ hear of the arrival of a mail in England, yet it is often a fortnight afterwards before it is finally delivered to the troops in France, and, after all, it appears to me that they should have the first consideration over all others seeing that it is on their efficiency that the War will be won and the speedy delivery of their mail is a thing that is a big factor in achieving this end.

The Australian Army Postal Services have done great work for the men in the line but greater satisfaction would result if this consideration were shown to them in the future.

... ..

L. W. Colley - Priest M.M.

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.INTELLIGENCE CLASS.

Owing to the change in the type of warfare during the present year from one of position to one of movement, it was thought advisable to train as many as possible of the N.C.Os. and men of the Unit in Map Reading, Message Writing, Sketching and Intelligence Work generally.

Accordingly a class was formed while the Unit was in reserve in the PERONNE area. Lectures were given on the prismatic compass, on maps and message writing, and when a sufficient preliminary knowledge had been gained the class was taken into the field. Maps were made available and exercises given. These consisted mainly in finding places whose map location was given. A very keen interest was taken by all and the result was extremely gratifying.

It is now proposed to continue the class and elaborate the practical work by including sketching and message writing so that all N.C.Os. and Bearers may be as well equipped as possible for the difficult task of maintaining contact in any further line work which the Unit may be called on to perform.

As McEuland major

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.THE UNIT BATHS.

A bathing apparatus was erected between the 11th. and 13th. of the month. It consisted of a reservoir about 10 feet above the ground and supported by a tripod. In between the legs of the tripod was the verticle boiler consisting of a cylinder containing a length of coiled piping which conducted the water from the reservoir above through the boiler and then to the showers. The heat was supplied by a coal fire. The showers consist of a length of piping with three sprays attached. The chimney ~~esays~~ conveying away the draught and smoke passed through the centre of the reservoir thus using an amount of heat which would otherwise be lost.

The site of the baths was a very suitable room with a brick floor sloping towards a gutter which carried away the waste water. On one side was the mouth of a well containing water about 6 feet below the ground surface.

A pump was obtained to pump the water from the well to the reservoir which was previously carried by pails. When the pump arrived we found that the hose was 6 feet short and so an additional length of piping was improvised from a piece of canvas.

Major COPPLESON then supervised the building of a soap trap which deals successfully with the soapy water. The soap trap will be dealt with in a separate Addendum.

An arrangement was made with the S.S.O. by which we received a special coal ration for the use of the bath heater, the heater consuming about 12 lbs. of coal per day. During the first two days 150 men were bathed, a special bathing parade having been arranged. Since that time an average of 50 men have been bathed each day which has rendered unnecessary the holding of bath parades.

On the first two days a change of clean underclothing was provided for each man. Now hot water can be obtained from the Unit Baths for washing purposes.

The bathroom has been provided with an ablution bench and duck-boards for standing on while bathing.

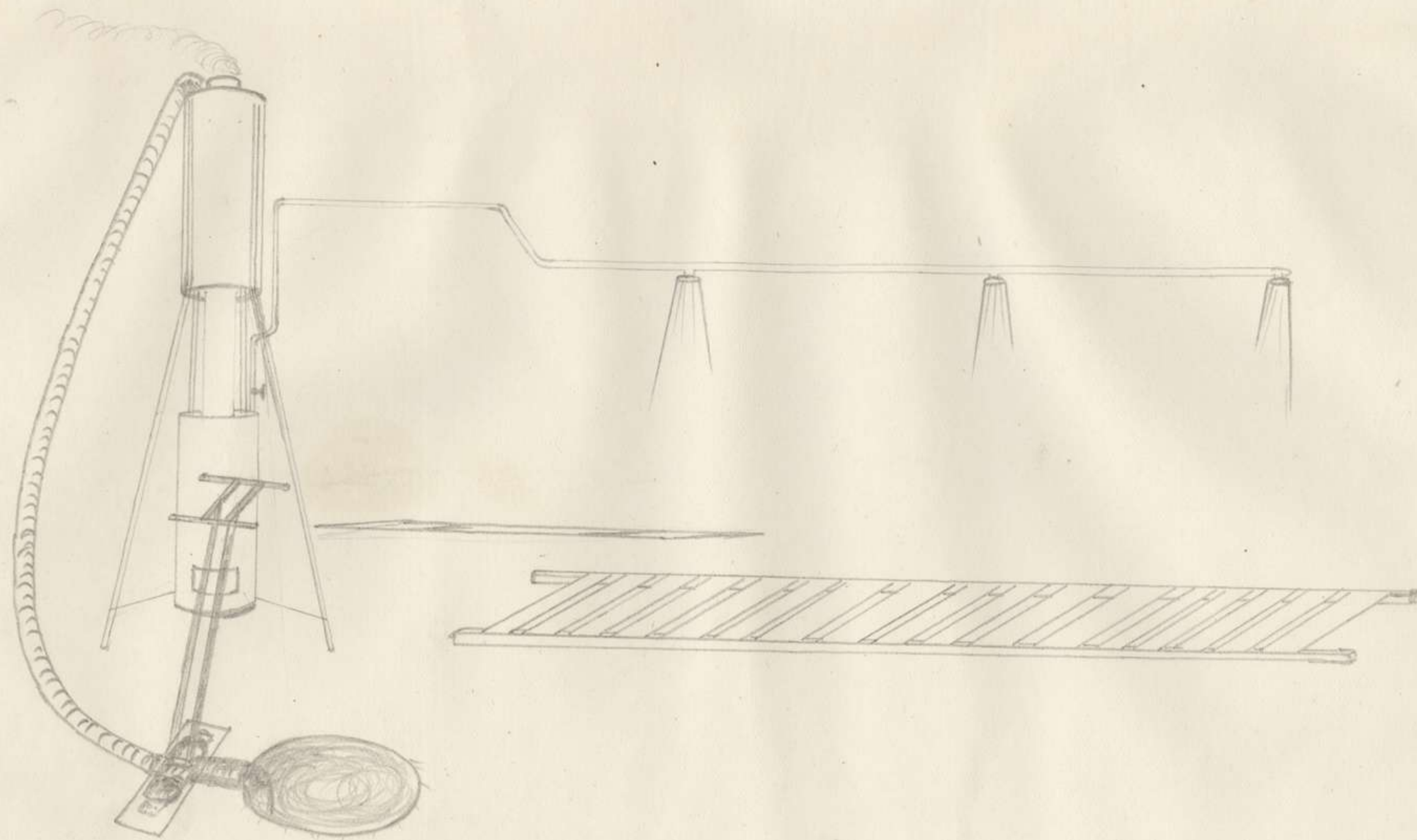
The athletes and footballers have found the baths a boon after their training and matches.

We have, since we have been here, treated successfully 10 cases of scabies at the baths.

The baths are under the supervision of Pte. MURRAY F. M. who seems especially adapted for this work.

H. Earnshaw Capt.

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Unit Baths, Ablution Bench and Soap Trap.

Mearns
Capt.

APPENDIX 15

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8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.THE UNIT DELOUSER.

We found after we had been here some time a delouser incomplete and in a state of disrepair. It consisted of a pit 7 feet deep and 6 feet square with steps hewn out and leading to an opening which was apparently closed by sheets of corrugated iron placed against it. The roof consisted of corrugated iron covered with earth.

The place was sodden with water which had made its way into the chamber. A makeshift heating arrangement was placed within the chamber but the heat was dissipated in evaporating the moisture from the walls and floor and through escaping by the inefficient doorway.

Major COPPLESON who is held as an expert on Delousers, condemned it as being inefficient, of a bad pattern, and as it consumed too much fuel. He intends making an new one altogether, or if possible, repairing the defects in the present one.

H. H. Carnshaw Capt.

SOAP TRAP.

Attached is a diagram of the Soap trap used in connection with the Unit Baths.

This type of trap is very suitable for a small Unit baths and properly cared for is efficient. It is particularly suitable for a baths in which from 40 to 60 men are put through daily (i.e. a baths using about 50 gallons of water daily).

Description of Plan.

A. Drain taking effluent from the Baths.

B. Filter. Wooden box, tarred inside, dimensions 6' x 2'6" x 3' with three baffle plates, intervals filled with coke, this providing four filters, two up and two down. Chloride of lime is added in solution to the first chamber of this filter daily. Coke wants changing from time to time. This filter is covered with a wooden cover.

C. Drain connecting filter to Sedimentation Tank.

D. Sedimentation Tank. A large sized barrel is being used, this is embedded in the ground with its mouth at the level of the ground in a hole lined with bricks.. This is covered with a wooden cover. Chloride of lime is also added daily in solution to this Tank.

E. Drain, blind one end running from near Sedimentation Tank to the Soakage Pit.

F. Soakage Pit. Open- Large hole dug in the ground, not filled with anything, but covered with a wooden cover, and this covered with a little earth.

Working.

1 man required. Bleaching Powder (Chloride of Lime) is added daily to the first chamber of the filter and also to the Sedimentation tank. The Sedimentation tank should be sufficiently large to take all the water that will be required on any one day. At the end of the day the whole days effluent is allowed to remain in the Tank for sedimentation and precipitation and in the morning the scum (precipitate) is skimmed off the top and the water baled out with a bucket into the Drain E, where it runs to the Soakage Pit F.

Remarks.

It is considered that this type of trap is probably, if properly attended to, the most suitable for a small baths as described. It might possibly be adapted to a larger baths, by making two sedimentation tanks instead of one, but the difficulty in such a modification would be the daily baling, which in a small trap is not very much. For larger types it is considered that the previous diagrams that I have sent in from the 5th Aust., Sanitary Section, viz Soap Trap of Div, Baths at Blaringhem and Plan of Soap Trap of the Bailleul Baths are more suitable, than any modification of this type.

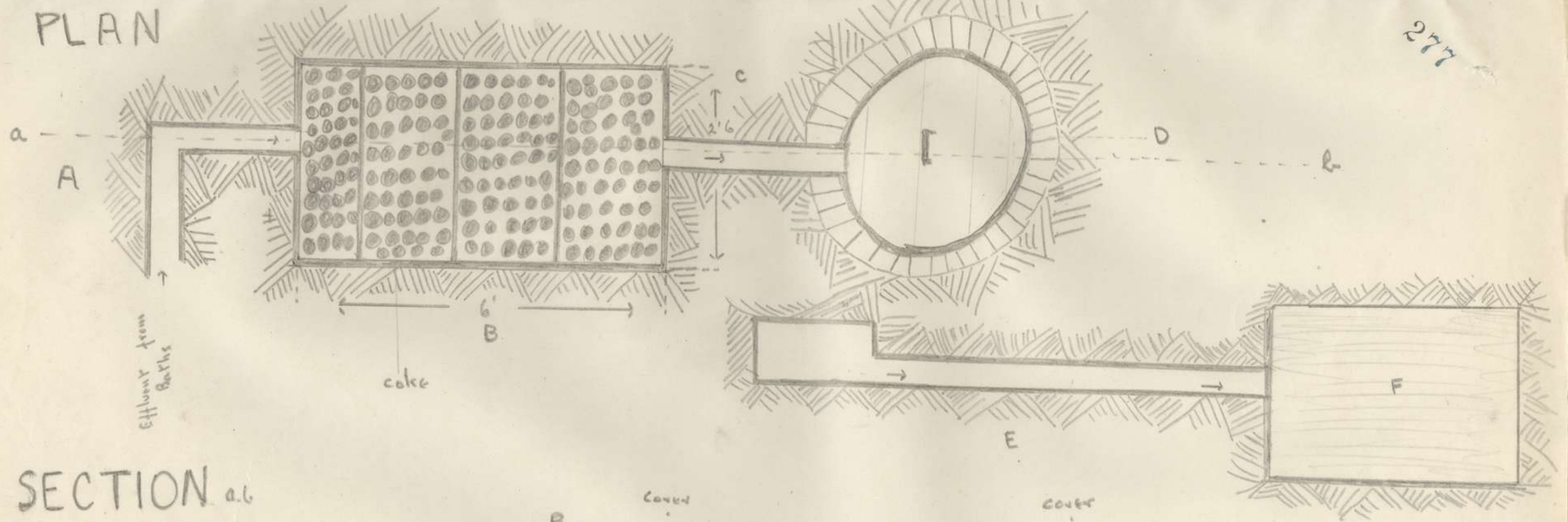
W. J. H. M.

Major.

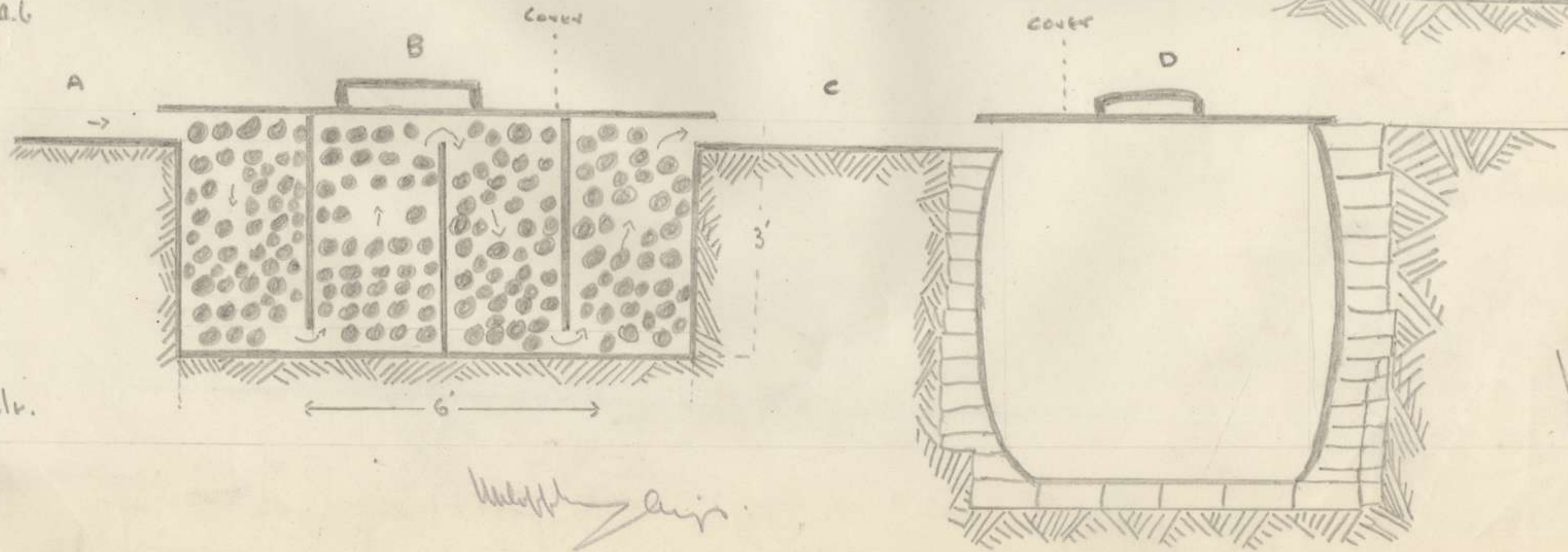
8th Australian Field Ambulance.
2-11-18.

SOAP TRAP

PLAN



SECTION a-a



Not drawn to scale.

2/11/18.

W. H. ...

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APPENDIX 18

REPORT ON UNIT EDUCATIONAL SCHEME FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1918.

In reporting on the Educational Scheme of the 8th. Australian Field Ambulance for the past month one is compelled to state that results have not been all that could be desired, or as satisfactory even, as the months following the inauguration of the scheme. This state of affairs must be attributed to several causes.

For the first ten days of the month conditions were not at all suitable for the conduct of classes of any description. The Unit was in the forward area and the various sub-divisions of the Ambulance working in different places. The Tent and Transport Sub-divisions at a Main Dressing Station and the Bearer Sub-division busily engaged in the forward operations. During these operations we lost a goodly number of men by wounds and sickness, and this has naturally decreased our attendances at the various classes. Amongst those who were lost as a result of the operations referred to, were two of our Teachers, - of the French and Book-keeping Classes - Pte. BOTT E. G. and L/Cpl. TROUSDALE - both of whom had rendered valuable assistance and whose services were much appreciated.

We left the forward area on 8-10-18 and moved to our present location, conditions here being suitable in every way for the conduct of the Educational Scheme. As soon as we settled down in our new billets the Education Committee got going with the task of putting into working order the various classes which had suspended operations. I might mention here that the originator of the Scheme in this Unit, Sergeant CRESWELL, was selected to attend the Cadet Course of the Educational Branch of the A.I.F. at CHESHUNT COLLEGE. He proceeded to LONDON on 3-10-18. His departure was a great loss to the Ambulance as his energy and organising ability was of the utmost value in keeping the Educational movement a live and going concern. We wish him every success in the work he has undertaken.

Five courses of study, undermentioned, have been followed to date under our Scheme.- FRENCH, BOOK-KEEPING, ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS and SHORTHAND. As before mentioned, two of the Teachers, Pte. BOTT and L/Cpl. TROUSDALE, were evacuated from the Unit. Their places were taken temporarily by Sergeant J. CRESWELL who continued as Instructor until his transfer. It will be seen therefore that we were on arrival in this area, confronted with the problem of finding Teachers for the subjects in question. The difficulty so far as the French was concerned was overcome by dividing the Class into two branches; (1) CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH, (2) FRENCH GRAMMAR. Conversational French was taken by M. CHABALIER, the French Interpreter attached to the 32nd. Battalion. His services have been extremely valuable and have promoted a keen interest in the French amongst the members of the Class. French Grammar has been taken by Driver WILSHIRE. The average attendance at the French Classes was sixteen. BOOK-KEEPING. For the time being we have reluctantly been compelled to discontinue this course of study as we have been unable to obtain a competent Instructor. (3) ENGLISH. Private KELSEY is still in charge of this section but the work covered during the last month has not been very extensive. (4) MATHEMATICS. Lance-Corporal MURPHY, D.C.M., Instructor. This Class is perhaps the most successful of all and members take a keen interest in their work. Average attendance, fifteen. (5) SHORTHAND. The Shorthand Classes have not been held at all during the period under review.

During the month copies of the prospectus of the A.I.F. Education Service were received and distributed to all ranks.

With the prospect for some time ahead of enjoying conditions which will permit us to enter whole-heartedly into the Scheme, we have every confidence that interest and attendances will increase and that success in some measure will crown our efforts.

J. W. Williams

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.

SPORTING EVENTS

On the Unit's arrival in BIENCOURT area, a general meeting was convened in the recreation room in order to elect working committees and an executive for the furtherance of all games and indoor sport.

The latter branch has been very ably superintended by Private COLLY-PRIEST, M.M. and with the aid of the Unit Orchestra, Piano, cornet flute and violin many successful Dances have been arranged. The possession of a piano and able players of the string and reed instruments has served the Unit at this juncture; the pleasures of a Buck Dance in the evenings never seems to pall.

It was highly amusing several nights ago to see the appreciative looking row of old French dames sitting out along the wall while the boys danced round in the borrowed plumage of the local maidens. One lad is said to have been introduced to the assembly as Miss - of the V.A.D. and successfully kept up the impersonation for some considerable time.

A very successful Bridge Tournament was conducted in which the Colonel and Officers participated, but, despite the after-dinner practice of the latter, the boys won out, the final being played between a pair from the Bearer Section and one from the Transport.

Euchre Parties and Chess Tournaments have been the order of the night of late interspersed by vocal and elocutionary items produced by the local talent.

The Band of the 8th. Aust. Inf. Brigade rendered selections from the grass plot in front of the Chateau and charmed patients and personnel with their excellent repertoire.

In connection with the Divisional Sports programme, and in collusion with the 8th. Bde. Group, elimination contests have been planned in the three groups of Football, (Australian, Soccer and Rugby Rules).

The Ambulance has been rather unfortunate in the Divisional groups this year for 8th. Bde. Competition for a privately donated Cup has sapped much of the interest from competition. Unlike all other A.I.F. Brigades, the 8th. played off its Cup Competition Matches to the exclusion of Brigade Units other than Battalions, and left only a series of try-out contests for Divisional representation. While satisfying us from a proportional representation viewpoint, we rather lost an interest. To my mind, the Brigade authorities failed to follow the Divisional Commander's desire to do the utmost for every man in the Division.

Up-to-date we have nine players eligible for the Brigade Group, 4 in Soccer and most probably more in Rugby. Of course our representation is likely to be smaller as the elimination contest proceeds. Our Rugby League Team still continues with its unbeaten record, although having lost many sterling players of late, we have been fortunate enough to replace them with excellent reserves. To date this team has three victories to its credit scoring 72 points to nil.

The following is a list of fixtures to date:-

			gls. Bnds.			gls. bnds.	
15-10-18	Aust. Rules	8th. F. Amb.	9	6	29th. Batt.	7	7
28-10-18	" "	8th. F. Amb.	6	10	10th. F. Amb.	8	12
			<u>points</u>			<u>points</u>	
	Rugby League	8th. F. Amb.	32		14th. F. Amb.	nil.	
	" "	8th. F. Amb.	23		5th. M.G. Bat.	nil.	
	" "	8th. F. Amb.	17		32nd. Battn.	nil.	

Our Athletics Team is training assiduously for Divisional Group Competitions on the 9th. November. Representation is hoped for in several events.

In conclusion I may be pardoned for saying that this Ambulance is singularly situated in the Brigade and Division owing to its sporting proclivities. Its Rugby Team has for the past twelve months enjoyed an unbeaten record and I believe is spoken of in other Divisions. In Brigade and Divisional contests we have never failed to gain representation more than our share, this being due in the main to the hearty co-operation of all ranks in anything pertaining to Ambulance prestige and the solid support of the Commanding Officer in facilitating all that tended to the furtherance of the sporting spirit. In fact, we pride ourselves in an esprit de corps.

W. Madigan Capt.

8th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.THE UNIT LIBRARY

On the 11th. October, Major COPPLESON put up a notice regarding the formation of a Library.

It has since been established and since its inception has been self-paying, a charge of 1 franc being made for membership and 0.10 fr. for each book exchanged. A contribution of books was also asked for.

The Library has now a membership of 90. With the entrance money 30 books were purchased on the 12th. October at the Y.M.C.A. at ABBEVILLE at very reasonable prices. On the 16th. October the Aust. Y.M.C.A. presented the Library with about another 30 books. 50 books were contributed by the members of the Unit, making a total of 110 books

We have already written to the "Camps' Library" for 100 books for 15/s.

The class of books is very good and are divided into three sections
(a) Religious, (b) Historical (c) Fiction.

The men take full advantage of the Library books being exchanged at the Canteen at any time.

L/Cpl. MURPHY, D.C.M. who acts as Unit Librarian, has made out a

catalogue

H. Earnshaw Capt.

"A VILLAGE IN FRANCE"B i e n c o u r t

The 8th. Field Ambulance will, I think, for ever cherish fond memories of this little village. After being away from the limits of civilisation and experiencing a long period of the discomforts of the forward area, our arrival at a small village of 130 inhabitants certainly did not hold great possibilities for an enjoyable rest, especially as many members of the Unit who had been keen on the French class were naturally looking forward to a chance of displaying their knowledge of the French language, and must have felt disappointed with such a few people ~~fe~~ nearby to "parler" with.

The billets in the Chateau were considered by all to be amongst the best that the Unit has had since its coming to France, and this factor added considerably to the contentment of everyone. Apart from the Chateau, BIENCOURT possesses two buildings, namely, the School and the residence of the Cure, that are above the ordinary architecture which is so characteristic of the SOMME Villages, so attractions of that kind are practically "nil". The Church of the village is of the usual type found in so many small villages of this Country, but its congregation has enjoyed an increase in numbers during our stay here, as a number of the personnel of the Unit have made it their place of worship. The Cure manifested a great deal of interest in the Australians but he appeared most perturbed when informed that the Ambulance possesses no Padre to attend to our spiritual needs; probably he was not told in addition that in our midst we have several who are fully competent to cope with our necessities in that direction.

The country surrounding Biencourt is very pretty indeed, with so many fine roads and avenues with rows of trees on either side, and the grounds of the Chateau are thick with clumps of fir and beech, rich in Autumn shades, enhancing the beauty of the scene to a great extent. The adjacent fields which are a rich green form a delightful contrast to the Autumn tints of the foliage of the trees. With such ideal surroundings many of the Unit avail themselves of pleasant strolls to the neighbouring villages.

The district is essentially an agricultural one, although at the present time is hardly one to judge it on its true merits, as the season of agricultural activity has passed. Ploughing is, however, carried on to a considerable extent in preparation for next season's harvest. One can hardly make reference to the agricultural pursuits of this country without referring to the amount of work done by the old folk (especially the women) and the children who are always to be seen toiling in the fields. Certainly such is not an uncommon sight in this country, but once again it illustrates the wonderful spirit of France, and one at times pauses in wonderment at the most arduous tasks performed by those whom we think least able to perform them. Let us sincerely pray that our own Australian folk of like age may never be called upon to do such tasks.

The one huge regret of all is that BIENCOURT is not in close proximity to such cities as AMIENS, ROUEN, or even BOULOGNE. Cities such as these certainly help one to forget to an appreciable extent the devastation, discomforts and dangers of the forward area. ABBEVILLE, the nearest large town did not prove particularly inviting to many, but the writer thoroughly enjoyed his drive to that place along one continuous avenue of trees the whole way. We ~~think~~ Australians as a Nation can gain an enormous amount of knowledge from France in regard to forestry, and this district, like the many others, is not lacking in this respect. Before concluding this article, I must make reference to the splendid avenue that leads from the gates of the Chateau BIENCOURT, whose length one could fairly estimate at a quarter of a mile and its breadth 70 yards. This avenue is comprised of two magnificent rows of trees, principally beech, on either side of a broad grass-bordered road. Some of the fine days we have experienced here have afforded an excellent opportunity of seeing this avenue at its best. Under the canopy of the clear blue sky, the stately columns of trees with their glorious Autumnal shades will leave a lasting impression of BIENCOURT and its pretty surroundings.

APPENDIX 238th. AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE.REPORT ON INDOOR AMUSEMENTS FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1918.

At a General Meeting of the Sports Committee a Sub-committee consisting of three members was formed to arrange weekly programs of indoor amusements and details arising from and attached to the administration of said amusements.

A Room suitable for recreation was acquired and fitted with tables, forms, notice boards and locker for appliances, and last but not least, our Unit piano was installed.

Through the courtesy of the Y.M.C.A. we were supplied with our initial stock of magazines and papers. These have been supplemented by gifts of Australian papers &c. from individual members of the Unit. Sets of Chess, Draughts and Dominoes, and packs of Cards were also acquired.

An Auction Bridge Tournament in which sixty pairs participated occupied the major portion of the first week. Interest was keen and was maintained throughout.

For an hour each evening the Unit Orchestra (comprised of seven instruments - piano, 3 violins, 2 cornets and a flute) rendered selections.

For the second week and succeeding weeks a bi-weekly Dance has been held, and as a variation to program, songs and musical items were contributed by individual members of the Unit.

Twice weekly seventy tickets entitling holder to admission to Cinema, run in conjunction with the Divisional Y.M.C.A., have been obtained and a like number for a Concert Party.

One night per week is set aside for a lecture on an Australian topic of educational interest.

In conjunction with the recreation room a small Library has been installed. At present it consists of ninety-two books on varied subjects, light fiction making up the major part.

LCpl. J. J. Murphy
D.C.M.B.

REPORT ON DRESSING STATIONS HELD BY 8th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE
AUGUST 31st to SEPTEMBER 10th 1918.

30-8-1918.

At 2 pm on 30th August D.A.D.M.S. called at old M.D.S. (Q.26.) where we were in reserve, with orders to proceed to G.27.e.7.S. in Orchard near GAPPY and establish M.D.S., as the Division was sideslipping north. Two motor busses were placed at our disposal for carriage of personnel, blankets (121), stretchers (110), and very large quantity of dressings, splints, drugs etc. The busses made two trips arriving at new site at 4 30 and 8 30 pm. Horse Transport arrived at 8 0 pm. The only standing accommodation were parts of two Nissen Bow Huts but material for completion was lying about the place though all galvanized iron was riddled with gun fire. The tent division worked well and by 8 30 both Nissen Bow Huts were ready for reception of patients. A.D.M.S. was informed and replied that cases would probably arrive about 10 am next day. Accommodation for personnel was in numerous dugouts and bivouacs about the Orchard.

A.D.S. at HERBECOURT (15th Aust. Field Ambulance).

31-8-1918.

No cases arrived during night. First work was to repair roads in Orchard, put up traffic notices & stuff up holes in roofs of Nissen huts. Large "M.D.S. 5th Division" notice erected on main road and directing signs and Ambulance flags at entrance to orchard. This station has also to be a Relay post for walking wounded cases and at 12 30 am 3 W.W. lorries reported for duty. At 11 am 6 M.A.C. cars reported for duty. The first casualties arrived at 12 noon. The 5th Division Resuscitation team arrived and given 1 Nissen hut to work in. This is also Div. Gas Centre and apparatus for treating patients arrived from 14th Aust. Field Ambulance at 5 pm. An operating tent was erected for gas personnel to work in. With the gas apparatus a quantity of clothing and pyjamas for gassed patients came to hand. A small hut was erected for supply of comforts to patients. The number of patients passed through this station was as follows :-

Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
31	4	Nil

1-9-1918.

Three R.P. tents arrived from old M.D.S. and two erected. One was set aside for gassed patients and sufficient boards found to make a good floor in it. This enabled the operating tent previously set aside for gas to be used as waiting room for patients. Two hundred blankets received from C.C.S., 100 of these sent to A.D.S. HERBECOURT. Captain Woodward temporarily attached with 5th Div. Engineers and Capt. Wellish (5th M.G. Bty.) reported for duty - the former has two C.R. 8th P. Coy. Engineers attached and is to test all samples of water received from surrounding posts.

Orders received 4 pm that 14th Aust. Field Ambulance to take over station from us by 12 noon 2-9-18, also to collect No. 2 Dental Unit from G.27 where it was acting as holding party.

Three extra M.A.C. cars reported for duty making 9 all told.

Number of patients passed through :-

Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed
73	7	1

2-9-1918.

Advance party of 14th Aust. Field Ambulance arrived 7 30 am and transport 10 am. They took over station at 10 30 am and we immediately pack up and stood by for orders.

3-5/9/1918.

Standing by in orchard.

Attended A.D.M.S. Office at 8 30 pm 5-9-18 and received orders - Division is to side slip to South and 8th Aust. Field Ambulance take A.D.S.

6-9-1918.

Major Guest left at 6 am for vicinity of BRIE on canal to find suitable A.D.S. site as far forward as expedient and one capable of expansion into M.D.S.

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The M.D.S. was changing from this site (G.27.) to ESTREES, so our personnel travelled in M.A.C. cars leaving G.27 at 7 am. One Walking Wounded bus carried large quantity of dressings, splints etc. On arrival at ESTREES personnel relayed into Unit's Ambulance cars, at that time detached for duty with 15th Aust. Field Ambulance who had just left HERBECOURT A.D.S. & were now at ESTREES M.D.S., and proceeded along road due east. At canal crossing met Major Guest who guided us to site he had chosen at MONS-en-CHAUSSEE (P.25.c.7.4.). This was recently a German field hospital and is in every way suitable for A.D.S. or M.D.S. Accommodation consists of 7 Nissen bow huts, one large wooden hut (English Pattern) and one standard German Hospital hut with material for two others lying about. These two had quite recently been taken down, evidently for removal. They are painted white inside and drab outside, joints are made by wood fitting into iron casings and secured by butterfly bolts. Dimensions about 40 x 15 x 10.

The site was found in a very filthy state & in adjoining stable were seven dead horses which had been killed by our gun fire at least 6 days before. Their tongues had been removed, evidently for food. We pulled the bodies out and burnt them.

Personnel reached MONS-en-CHAUSSEE about 8:30am and we were ready for patients at 9:30am. Work was interfered with at 9 am by a party of hostile aeroplanes (about 30 in number) flying low down, 300 feet, using their machine guns, chiefly on advancing battalions. They came again at 2 pm. There was a great deal of shooting on each side but no casualties reported to us and no enemy plane was brought down. The position of this A.D.S. was unique in that it was 15 kilos. ahead of previous A.D.S. & was established at MONS-en-CHAUSSEE before the infantry reached there and when they did arrive it was within 200 yards of their front line. But the enemy was retiring and ahead of us were patrols of the 32nd British Division who had not yet been relieved.

Very few cases - only 8 - passed through this day. Owing to precarious state of bridges (3 in succession) across canal near BRIE and the road being a one way track a relay was instituted there. A bearer post (3 squads) was placed on East side of canal and carried patients across bridges to Divisional cars (2) waiting on West side and these carried on to ~~MONS~~ M.D.S. ESTREES. Such an arrangement was necessary in day time but absolutely imperative at night as the bridges at first were very primitive affairs. Horse transport arrived at 11 am and was parked 500 yards West of MONS in a suitable place.

A.D.M.S. visited A.D.S. at 10:30 am. Two Sunbeam cars, each of 14th and 15th Field Ambulances attached for duty and reported at 3 pm. The bearers who had been with the 8th Brigade since 29/8/18 called in and rested for 4 hours. They had just completed a long march from HALLE which they left at 6 am, so rested till the Brigade moved forward from 8 pm onwards. Major North, who returned with bearers, remained at MONS A.D.S. and was relieved by Major Guest. Report of movement of bearers attached.

Number of patients passed through Dressing Station :-

	Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
	21	8	2

7-9-1918.

Very quiet day. Cleaning up premises and burning dead horses. Horse transport moved to A.D.S. and parked along a hedge. Patients passed through this day were :-

	Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
	25	8	3

8-9-1918.

D.D.M.S. visited station. Orders received that the 8th Aust. Field Ambulance were to carry on A.D.S. while Division is in the line. Station not busy. Still burning the dead horses - it rained a good deal so fire went out & had to be re-started.

No. 277
No. 3677 Private C.S. Whitaker and No. 6714 Private J.H. Eldridge of this Unit were killed in action and brought to A.D.S. for burial. They were killed near 29th Battalion R.A.P. while making a dugout. No. of patients passed through this day :-

Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
16	11	2

9-9-1918.

Privates Whitaker and Eldridge were buried at ST. GREEN at 2 30pm. Officers and O.R. in attendance. D.A.D.M.S. called, said we would move out to-morrow and gave "A" area for 8th Brigade billets. Orders received that 4th Aust. Field Ambulance would take over A.D.S. and 12th Aust. Field Ambulance the forward posts by 12 midnight on 10th instant.

Evacuations on this days were :-

Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
16	13	Nil

10-9-1918.

The 4th Aust. Field Ambulance took over by noon and this Unit moved out at 2 pm. for P.21.a.3.6. A. & D. clerks remained behind to record cases till midnight.

Evacuations were :-

Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
"2	20	Nil

During stay at MONS-en-CHAUSSEE Captain Woodward, detached for duty with Engineers, was attached to A.D.S., where he assisted in work & tested samples of water submitted. In all 24 tests were done - most of water being of good quality. Some samples were highly colored due either to it being a dirty sample or to cordite having been dropped in it. No metallic poisons were found. The Unit's drinking water was obtained from a spring at V.3.d.2.5. and horses watered per bucket from R. Oaignon. The number of Walking Wounded cases was never large enough to use a lorry so were evacuated with lying cases in Sunbeams. One anaesthetic was given for reduction of ^{dislocated} R. Humerus. The total evacuations from M.D.S. CAPPY were :-

Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
104	11	1

Evacuations from A.D.S. & W.W.D.S. at MONS were :-

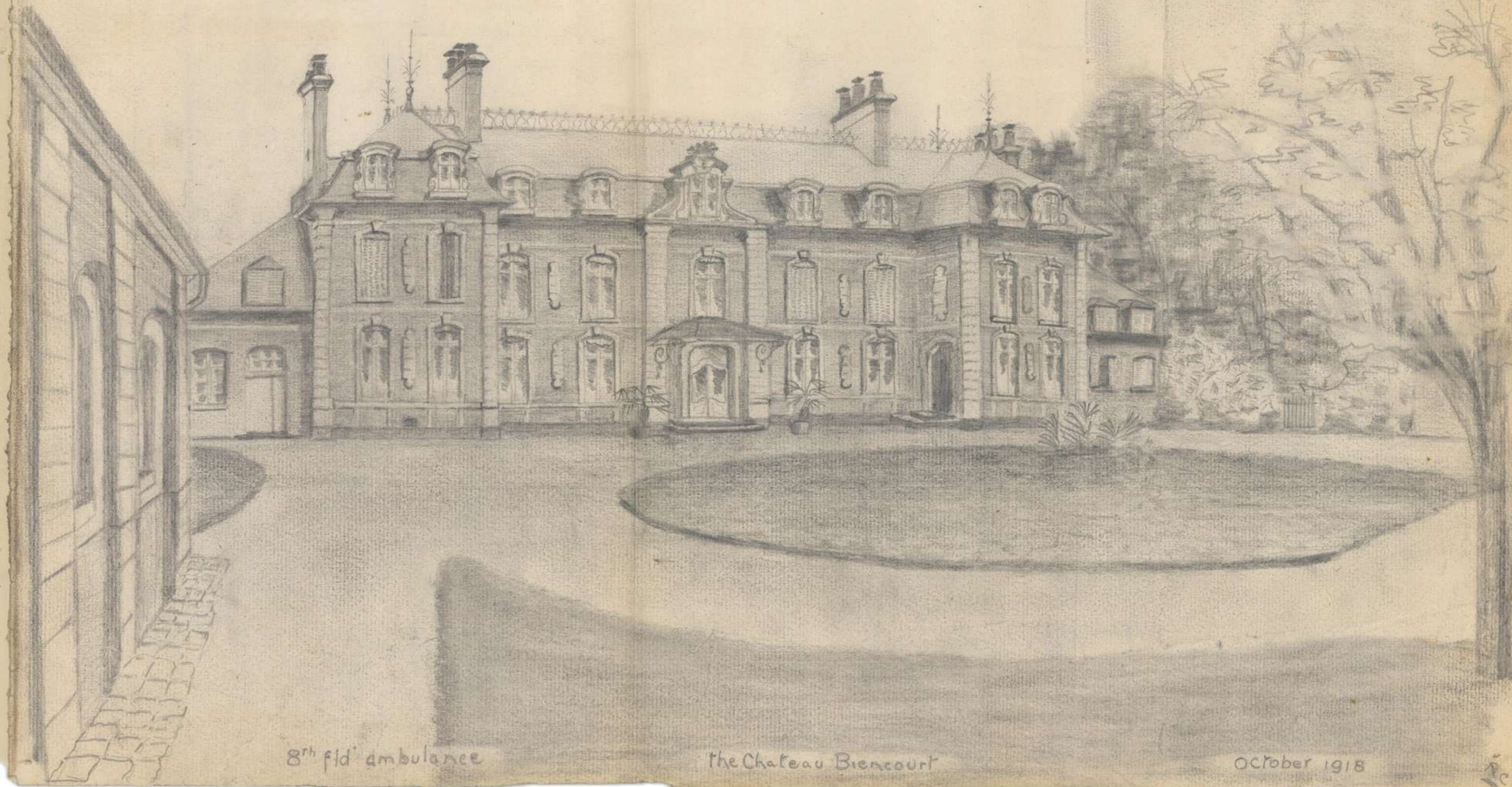
	Wounded.	Sick.	Gassed.
Stretchers.	33	6	
W. Wounded.	30	59	3

A very large stock of dressings and splints were handed over to 4th Aust. Field Ambulance at MONS-en-CHAUSSEE.

18th September 1918.

A R Clayton Lt. Colonel.

C.O. 8th Australian Field Ambulance.

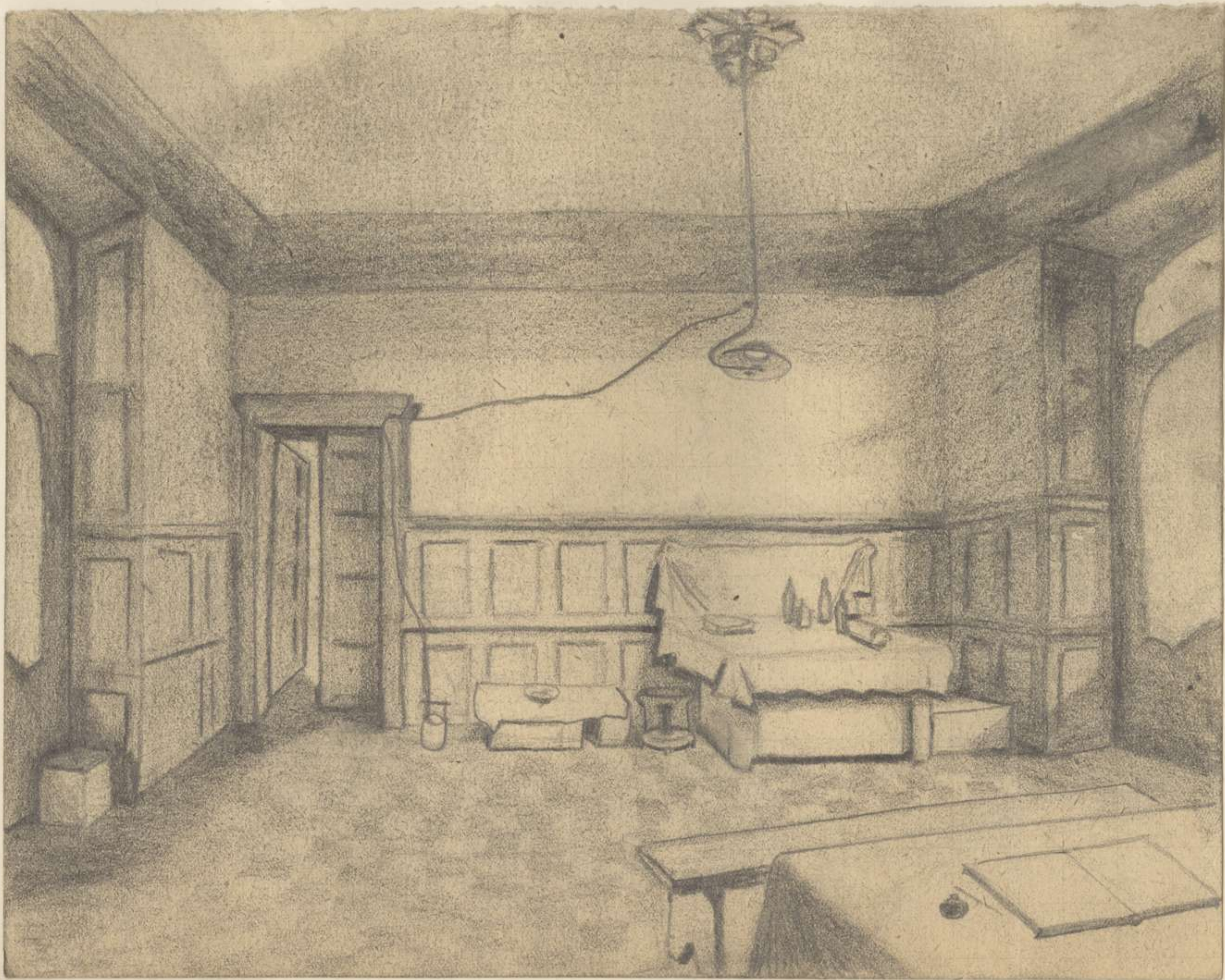


8th fld ambulance

the Chateau Biencourt

October 1918

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APPENDIX

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