

AWM4

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/58/11

Title: 15th Australian Field Ambulance

March 1917



AWM4-26/58/11

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.

or
~~INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.~~

(Erase heading not required.)

March, 1917.

1356

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BERNAFAY WOOD	5/3/17		<p>Snow fell heavily during the morning, but no frost followed, and thaw set in at once.</p> <p>CAPT PARKER G. left for Australia.</p> <p>Two RELAY POST established between FACTORY CORNER and LIGNY-THILLOY near which an R.A.P. has been established. The carry is fairly long, but the road good for the greater part.</p> <p>5th Division A.A.M.C. order no 15. received.</p>	<p>Appendix 65</p>
	6/3/17		<p>CAPT HOWARD reported for duty with 8th Field Ambulance bearers.</p> <p>CAPT BEITH reported for duty with 15th Australian Field Ambulance.</p>	
	9/3/17		<p>CAPT COPPLESON V.M. reported for duty.</p>	
	11/3/17		<p>Line extended to main ALBERT-BAPAUME east of THILLOY with R.A.P in LIGNY-THILLOY.</p>	
	12/3/17		<p>15th Australian Field Ambulance order no. 17 issued.</p> <p>5th Australian Divisional ^{A.A.M.C.} order no 19 received.</p>	<p>Appendix 67 do. 66</p>
	17/3/17		<p>Weather during the week was bad and rain fell daily. Snow storms frequently occurred, and the temperature was low with cold easterly winds.</p> <p>A Section 15th Australian Field Ambulance mobilised to accompany "Advanced Guard" of 5th Australian Division which is moving forward to occupy the positions vacated by the enemy, on a front from BEAULENCOURT to BAPAUME.</p>	<p>AM</p>

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BERNAFAY WOOD.	18/3/17		<p>A. Section 15th Australian Field Ambulance moved off with "Advanced Guard" at 6.15 am. arriving at BAPAUME at 12 noon. A dressing station was established at junction of BAPAUME-CAMBRAI and BAPAUME-PERONNE roads. The "Advanced Guard" having reached a position near BEUGNY, it was necessary to establish a Relay post at BANCOURT. This enabled the section to cope easily with wounded which were evacuated by motor ambulance from A.D.S. at BAPAUME. From A.D.S. BAPAUME seriously wounded were evacuated by motor ambulance cars to 6th Australian Field Ambulance at LE-SARS. (M.16.C.24), and slightly wounded by motor ambulance cars to 6th Australian Field Ambulance at DECAUVILLE LOADING POST (M.16.466.)</p>	
	19/3/17		<p>An A.D.S. was established at BANCOURT FREMICOURT, the route of evacuation being by motor ambulance cars at BEUGNY to A.D.S. FREMICOURT, thence by motor ambulance cars to A.D.S. BAPAUME.</p>	
	20/3/17		<p>CAPT BEARD J.R.S. was detailed from 14th Australian Field Ambulance to 53rd Battalion A.I.F. vice CAPT. COSGROVE C.</p>	
			<p>An A.D.S. was established at BEAULENCOURT in touch with the 14th Australian Infantry Brigade, the route of evacuation being by bearer relays via the TRANSLOY-BAPAUME road</p>	<p>2 A4</p>

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	20/3/17		to A.D.S. at BAPAUME.	
	(cont)		CAPT HUGHES R.M. Regimental Medical Officer of the 59 th Australian Infantry Battalion killed in action.	
	21/3/17		MAJOR BOND 8 th Australian Field Ambulance detailed as R.M.O. 59 th Australian Infantry Battalion via CAPT HUGHES.	
			On the right sector an R.A.P. was established at VILLERS au FLOS and cases were evacuated from here by relays of bearers to BEAULENCOURT.	
	22/3/17		No. 32 Dental Section was removed from BERNAFAY to A.D.S., BAPAUME.	
	23/3/17		3 M.A.C. cars reported to A.D.S., BAPAUME to assist in evacuation.	
			The roads used for evacuation of sick and wounded were in fairly good order excepting here and there where the enemy had exploded mines, but owing to rainy weather coming on, and especially to the use of motor lorries on these roads they have rapidly got into disrepair, causing increasing difficulty in our evacuations.	
			An officer and 16 other ranks of the 15 th Australian Field Ambulance conducted the evacuation of sick and wounded by broad gauge train from BERNAFAY via BAZENTIN	

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	23/3/17		<p>to C.C.S. EDGEHILL, two trips being made daily. Special carriages were set apart for Stretcher cases, Walking Cases, Infection cases and Contagious cases. The carriages were warmed by braziers, and orderlies were in attendance in each carriage. From the 24th February, 1917, to 22nd March 1917, 713 Stretcher cases and 3970 Walking cases making a total of 4683 cases, were carried.</p>	
	(Cont)			
	24/3/17		<p>A.D.S. was moved from EREMI COURT to BEUGNY. An R.A.P. was established at LEBUCQUIERE and a relay of bearers placed here. A relay post was established at DELSEUX FARM, and a hoisted ambulance was used to evacuate from LEBUCQUIERE to DELSEUX FARM, and Ford ambulance cars from here to BEUGNY.</p>	
	25/3/17		<p>A relay of bearers was placed at a new R.A.P. established at REINCOURT and cases from here were carried by relays of bearers via PUMPING STATION where they were loaded into a car which owing to the repair of the road between BEAULENCOURT and BAPAUME was able to run between these two places. Stretcher wheelers were used forward of BAPAUME on all routes and proved very useful.</p>	
			<p>The number of casualties passing through the A.D.S. BAPAUME has not been excessive</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	25/3/17		The posts at T.S.c. and MILLERS SON and THISTLE TRENCH were abandoned	
	26/3/17		A relay post was established at MORCHIES, and cases were carried to A.D.S., BEUGNY.	
	27/3/17		MEDICAL Order A.D.M.S. 5 th Australian Division No 20 received	Appendix 68
			The posts on the left sector in the back area at LOUISENHOF FARM, and GRASS LANE were abandoned.	
	28/3/17		A M.D.S. was established at BAPAUME, one tent subdivision with one officer remaining at BERNAFAY. CHALK PIT, N. FLERS, TUNNELS (all relay posts) evacuate to BERNAFAY. All other posts evacuate to the M.D.S.	
			The M.D.S. was established in partly destroyed buildings which afford accommodation for about 60 stretcher cases. Accommodation for personnel is in tents. The present method of evacuation is very satisfactory and with the repair of the roads will daily become more so. The broad gauge railway is being pushed up to BAPAUME, and when this is completed the means of evacuation will be extremely satisfactory.	
	29/3/17		A heavier relay post was established at HAPLINCOURT and at BANCOURT.	

Wrightson Lt Col
CO. 15th Aust Fld Amb Co

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
BAPAUME.	31/3/17.		<p>15th Aust. Inf. Bde. moving to Right Sector and being replaced by 14th Aust. Inf. Bde in Divisional Advanced Guard. No alteration in Medical arrangements required.</p> <p>(Original of above written on same sheet as entries for beginning of subsequent month and filed with volume for that Month).</p>	

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15th Aust Field Ambulance Order No 17

Map. Lt. ALBERT combined Sheet 40000

Copy 3

12/3/14

Information. The 5th Aust Divisional front will be increased today to N.I.A. central. The bearer posts and RAP in this new sector will be included in the left Sector at present being run by this Unit and will clear through the present D.C.S. of that Sector, via LOUISEHOF FARM, - FACTORY CORNER - and GRASS LAKE

Move

The post at present held at PILGRIMS WAY will be evacuated.

Major Macartney
in charge

The following new posts will be taken over

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| (1) FACTORY CORNER | 2 men |
| (2) CRATER (near LOUISEHOF Fm) | 1 man |
| (3) R.A.P. at N.I.A. S. 4.5. | 1 " 12 " |

The personnel necessary to man these posts will report to R.M.O.

FACTORY CORNER at 6. p.m. today

Move to be complete by 9. p.m. today.

Reinforcements (a) One M.C.O. and 2 men will report to Major Macartney at 1. p.m. today. Major Macartney will detail this party with one squad from the Auxiliary Dressing Station to report to D.C.S. for distribution.

Reinforcements
Left Sect (cont)

One N.C.O. and 8 men ~~for~~ will report direct to Officer in Charge D.C.S. for distributions.
One Squad will be withdrawn from Right R.A.P. CHALK PIT.

Re-distributions The following alterations in strength will take place in Left Sector Posts.

Auxiliary Dressing Stn.	less 4 men
Right R.A.P. Chalk Pit	to 1 NCO 8 men
CROSS LANE	to 1 " 12 "
NEW Relay	to 1 " 12 "
New Left R.A.P. (HOUSEHOLD. Ent)	1 " 8 "
Pilgrims way	evacuated.

The following will be strengths of new posts :-

FACTORY CORNER	2 men
CRATER	1 NCO 2
R.A.P. LIGHT THILLY, N. 4.5.	1 " 12 "

Stores

An ample supply of Shell Dressings, surgical dressings, splints, Ammonia Capsules and medical comforts will be maintained at the new posts in accordance with instructions previously issued.

12 stretchers and 30 blankets will be sent to CRATER post

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Appendix No 67

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and R.A.P. LIGHT THILLOP

Receipts

Receipts in duplicate will be
forwarded to this office
not later than 6 p.m. on 13th
inst for all station stores,
stretchers, blankets and other
ambulance stores taken over

Reports

Completion of move will be notified
by telephone to this office as
soon as possible and
confirmed in usual way.

W. J. T. G. G.
CO. 15th Aust Fld Amb

Copy No	1	Filed
2	Major Macartney	4
3	War Diary	
4	C.O.	

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Copy No 3

15th Aust. Field Ambulance Order No 17.

Supplementary Order

Ref. Map: ALBERT combined Sheet. $\frac{1}{40000}$. 12/3/17.

Posts. The following additional post will be taken over.

Deannville Loading Post. Seven Dials at N. 20. C. 1.0; This post will be manned and worked by personnel at GRASS HIVE. Two men from the latter post will be stationed at SEVEN DIALS to receive cases.

Route of Evacuation. The route of evacuations will be from R.A.P. N. 7. G. 4.5 via Crater Post - New relay - Deannville at Seven Dials, thence to Capt. D.E.S.

Map Coordinates. The following are the coordinates of new posts.

- R.A.P. LIGHT THULLY. N. 7. G. 4.5
- CRATER. near LOUSENHOF. Fm. N. 13. G. 6 1/2. 2
- FACTORY CORNER. N. 19. C. 7. 1
- SEVEN DIALS. N. 20. C. 1. 0

Wrightson Lt Col

- Copy No 1 field C.O. 15th Aust. Field Ambul
- 2 Maj Macintyre
 - 3 War Diary
 - 4 C.O.