

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/76/1

Title: 1st Australian Sanitary Section

March - August 1916



AWM4-26/76/1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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Sanitary Sec 2A

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
MOASCAR	14.3.16	9 a.m.	Took over 1 st Sanitary Section 2 nd Australian Division from Capt Brown under instructions from A.D.M.S. Inspected Divisional Area with Field Officers.	5
	15.3.16		Inspected Div ⁿ Area with Field Officers. Instructions for burial of manure.	
	16.3.16		Inspected lines of 27 th and 28 th Battalions after they had been vacated. 28 th lines in a filthy state, not fit for occupation till thoroughly cleaned. Refuse, water bottles clothing and food in the lines and around the incinerator. Latrines filthy pools of dirty water and pits not filled in.	
	17.3.16		Inspected lines of 17 th Battalion and 5 th Field Ambulance after vacation thereof.	
MOASCAR	18.3.16	23.50	Entrained with unit and stores and left Moascar.	
ALEXANDRIA	19.3.16	0800	Arrived GADBERRY DOCKS and embarked on LLANDOVERY CASTLE. Reported to O.C. TRANSPORT also O.C. 6 th Fld ambulance.	
	20.3.16		Left Alexandria.	
AT SEA	21.3.16		Took over Sanitation of the Ship.	
	22.3.16		Did rounds and handed in report to O.C. 6 th Fld Amb.	
	23.3.16		Went rounds of ship and handed in report	
	24.3.16		Went rounds of ship and handed in report	

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MARSEILLES	25.3.16	1600 (about)	Arrived MARSEILLES.	
	26.3.16	1110	Left MARSEILLES with Pioneer Battalion in special troop train	
	27.3.16		In the Train	
	28.3.16	1700	Arrived at BERGUETTE at 1700. No one to meet me. None of the Section detailed for baggage guard. I detailed Cpl Read and 1 man as guard to collect goods and stores on charge to Sanitary Section. Marched till 2400.	
	29.3.16	0100	Found bed at Le chateau at Les Ciseaux SERCUS. Reported to A.D.M.S. at BLARINGHEM at 1000. Found billets for men at SERCUS.	
LES CISEAUX	30.3.16		Cpl Read arrived at LES CISEAUX with all stores which he was allowed to put on the wagon. Rest of luggage put on wagon containing equipment of 22nd Battalion. O.C. and Section took up billets at Les CISEAUX.	
	1.4.16		Went to see A.D.M.S. at BLARINGHEM.	
			at 2245 received call to see Sgt GOVERN 18th L.H. Andon arriving a few minutes later found him dead. History - Rheumatic fever in Australia, enteric on the peninsula. Invalided for $\frac{6}{12}$ but got out of it and rejoined his unit.	
	2.4.16		Reported Sgt GOVERN'S death to A.D.M.S.	
			No 7431 Pte Rowe sent to Hospital. No 7417 Sgt THOMAS EW. sent to Hospital	

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	3.4.16		Handed in written report to A.D.M.S. to Sgt Govern.	
	4.4.16		Left BLARINGHEM at 10.45 for CROIX-DU-BAC to meet Sanitary Officer 34 th Division. Arrived midday. Spent afternoon going round area with Major BURKE (34 th DIV) and Major FRY (D.A. DMS.).	
	5.4.16		Spent day going round 34 th Division area with Capt EDWARDS DIV SANITARY OFFICER. RETURNED TO LES CISEAUX.	
	6.4.16		Reported to A.D.M.S. at BLARINGHEM and collected information for him as to accommodation for wounded available at SERCUS LES CISEAUX STEENBECQUE, BOESEEGHEM.	
	8.4.16	0900	No 7431 Pte Rome ^{S.A.} rejoined unit from Hospital.	
	9.4.16		Left LES CISEAUX for CROIX DU BAC. Reported 1130 to A.D.M.S. 34 th Division. Talking matters over with Capt EDWARDS DIV Sanitary officer R.A.M.C.	
	10.4.16		2 Transport Motor Drivers attached Visited Bombing School with Capt Edwards. Took over Area from Capt Edwards R.A.M.C. Did San Officer. 2 Cases of Diptheria. Driver Thomas Sgt Holman 20 th Battalion Visited STEENWERCK. Sgt Thomas there $\frac{3}{12}$ Sgt Holman 1 night. Visited camp of 20 th Battalion. No 7425. Pte Cook W. 7 days No 2 F.P. Drunk on active service.	

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	10.4.16		Cpl Read and 9 men detailed for duty in ERQUINGHEM District. Daily Routine. Inspection of billets. Supervision especially of Latrines and building Incinerators where necessary. Billets cleaned up. Gutters cleared. Billets sprayed etc.	
	12.4.16		Went round the trenches taken over from 34 th Division	
	17.4.16		No 7424 Pte Collins L sent to Hospital	
	20.4.16		No 2424 Pte Collins L rejoined unit. Gutters in Rue de Biez at Armentières cleaned out and sprayed.	
	24.4.16		No 7431 Pte Rowe S.A. absent without leave and drunk on active service awarded 28 days No 2 F.P. Two Incinerators started.	
	26.4.16		Incinerator built at 6 th Field Ambulance. 19 th Battalion lines sprayed.	
	27.4.16		Incinerator started at 13 Light Horse Billet. Gutters sprayed. Visited Flembaix district.	
	28.4.16		Cable section Billet and Divisional Signaller sprayed. Inspected Croix du Bac. Divisional Incinerator and Horse lines of 105 th How Brigade at ERQUINGHEM.	
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	29.4.16		Inspected billets and Horse lines. Visited ERQUINGHEM.	
	30.4.16		Inspected lines left by 8 th Battalion before taken over by 21 st Battalion. Inspected 13 th and 15 th Battery lines also 2 nd Mobile Veterinary lines. Civilian Labourers reduced to 20.	
	1.5.16		Cpl Moses made Sergeant. a/Cpl Read made Corporal Pte Collins made Corporal. Fleurbaix district was taken over by 1 st Aust Division. Two of detail at ERQUINGHEM withdrawn and attached to Headquarters Sanitary Section.	
	2.5.16		Billets sprayed in Croix du Bac.	
	3.5.16		Billets of 24 th Battalion sprayed. Visited 6 th Brigade Headquarters. Manure and refuse to be carted away.	
	4.5.16		Billets sprayed. Incinerator at 4 th Mobile Hets.	
	5.5.16		attended conference at Estaires on flies, sanitation etc	
	6.5.16		visited Pioneer Battalion Headquarters, Bomb School, Soldiers Club, 25 th Battalion lines.	
	7.5.16		NO 7437 L/Cpl Wheat T.B. removed to Hospital.	
	8.5.16		Incinerator for 24 th Battalion 4 started	
	9.5.16		visited 5 th Field ambulance. Incinerator for Pioneers.	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	10.5.16		Incinerator built at Rue Marle. Question of water supply for advanced dressing station for 6 th Field Ambulance gone into inspection of surroundings.	
	11.5.16		Sgt Crosser went on leave to England.	
	12.5.16		Incinerator built for Divisional Signallers No 9425 Pte Cook W. awarded 28 days No 2 F.P. for drunkenness while on active service.	
	13.5.16		Incinerator started for 104 th Howitzer Battery.	
	14.5.16		Case of diphtheria reported. Billet sprayed.	
	16.5.16		Case of small pox amongst civil population. Billet sprayed. No 7426 Pte Chequiddeu F.W. admitted to Hospital No 7435 Pte Jelwood S.G. awarded 28 days No 1 F.P. for being absent after 8.30	
	17.5.16		Incinerator built for 28 th Battalion also for 22 nd Howitzer	
	18.5.16		Case of diphtheria at 23 rd Battalion. Billet sprayed.	
	19.5.16		Incinerator built at 5 th B.A.C. Sgt Crosser returned from leave to England.	
	20.5.16		2 Incinerators built for 21 st Battalion. One for 19 th Battalion one for 22 nd Battalion and one at 6 th Brigade Headquarters.	

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	21.5.16		New motor Torry arrived. Pte Chegwidder returned to duty from Hospital. Reports on water supply available in whole of Divisional area were obtained and supply was found to be sufficient for summer. Report on same handed in.	
	23.5.16		Incinerators built for 13 th Battery and 18 th Battalion.	
	25.5.16		NO 7437 L/Cpl Wheat T.B. invalided to England.	
	26.5.16		Incinerator built for 11 th Battery.	
	26.5.16		NO 7422 Pte Batley on leave to England. L/Cpl Wheat admitted to Hospital in England.	
	29.5.16		Incinerator built for 37 th anti-aircraft and 28 th Battalion	
	30.5.16		Bullet of T.M. Battery sprayed.	
	31.5.16		Incinerator for 27 th Battalion.	
	1.6.16		Incinerator for 6 th Brig T.M. Battery.	
			Inspection at Croix du Bac by Mr Hughes and Mr St. Hel. NO 8997 Pte Walker S.W.E. transferred from 5 th Aust fld Ambulance and taken on strength of unit.	
	2.6.16		Incinerators for 106 th Battery, 2nd D.A.C., Police Guard at Erquinghem	
	3.6.16		Pte Batley returned from leave to England.	

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	4.6.16		Inspection of Estaminets in Voix du Bac and found that generally clean but and method of washing glasses satisfactory.	
	5.6.16		Butchers shops at Rue were found in a very dirty condition. Making sausages and selling them to troops. Incinerator for 5th Machine Gun Company. No 7472 Pte Miller F. H. sent to D. A. S.	
	6.6.16		No 7429 Pte Stobley L.S. made lance corporal	
	8.6.16		No 7472 Pte Miller evacuated to C. C. S.	
	9.6.16		No 7472 Pte Miller admitted to 26 Gen Hoop Etaples	
	11.6.16		No 7436 Pte Shakespeare went on leave to England. No 7417 Sgt Thomas rejoined unit as a Reinforcement.	
	12.6.16		No 7472 Pte Miller invalided to England	
	13.6.16		No 7472 Pte Miller admitted to Royal Victoria Hospital England No 7434. Pte Robertson evacuated sick.	
	14.6.16		Incinerator rebuilt for sanitary section	
	15.6.16		Incinerator at 155 Battery lines	
			<i>Subjunct</i> Capt	

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	16.6.16		No 7436 Pte Shakespeare returned from leave to England Rooms of Y.M.C. a building sprayed.	
	17.6.16		Sprayed room occupied by erysipilis patient Incinerator for 26th Battalion.	
	20.6.16		Sprayed dug outs in front line for 19th Battalion. Section attended Gas School to go through a demonstration	
	21.6.16		Incinerator for 19th Battery. Sjt Thomas transferred to 5th Aust Field Ambulance.	
	22.6.16		Pte Robertson evacuated to No 2 C.C.S.	
	24.6.16		Sprayed Billets 20th Battalion at Bois Grenier In all 45 Incinerators were built in area occupied by 2nd Division and all billets were left in a clean condition by outgoing troops	

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Croix-du-Bac	25.6.16		Moved Officers' Billet and office to same billet as A. D. V. S.	
	26.6.16		2 Sgts and 27 men reported to Divisional Baths.	
	27.6.16		Tins from Divisional Incinerator being carted away and buried.	
	28.6.16		Four men of 5 th Field Ambulance reported for being out of billet after 9 p.m. on the previous evening. Remanded to their own O.C.	
	30.6.16		Obtained a specimen of water from billet, from which suspicious case of diphtheria was removed, for purpose of making a test.	
	1.7.16		Incinerator started at Croix du Bac 21 st Battalion Billets.	
	2.7.16		O.C. reported to O.C. 24 th Div Sanitary Section.	
			Lorry loaned to 5 th Field Ambulance and went out to Neuve Eglise Road. Cpl Read, L' Cpl Fishleyk and Pte Davidson reported to A.C. Sanitary Section 24 th Division. L' Cpl Fishleyk and Pte Davidson left behind to perform duties of Water Patrol.	
			O.C. 4 th Australian Divisional Sanitary Section arrived at Croix du Bac. Left his Staff Sergeant behind, whom he later ordered to report to 1 st Australian Divisional Sanitary Officer.	
			Cpl Read and Pte Henrys reported to O.C. 24 th Division Sanitary Officer. Pte Henrys detailed as carpenter to O.C. Div Baths.	
			O.C. interviewed O.C. 24 th Div Sanitary Section.	
			Cpl Read reported back. All civilians at Erquinghem and Croix du Bac paid off. Lorry left for Crucifix Hill (site of new billet) Belgian Border.	

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Cincipia Hill Belgian Border	9.7.16		Lorry left at 8 a.m. for Hondegheve. Main party left shortly after. Arrived Hondegheve at 12.50. Section arrived at 9 p.m. U.C. reported to D.H.Q. at Menin at 11.10 p.m. Arrived back Hondegheve at 1.30 a.m. 10.7.16	
Hondegheve	10.7.16		Received orders from D.H.Q. at Rensselaere and movement arrangements. U.C. reported at Hazebrouck Railway Station to D.A.D.R.T. at 7.30 p.m. Left Hazebrouck 8.43 p.m. Arrived Abbeville 4 a.m. Arrived Longeau 6.45 11.7.16. Arrived Amiens 11.40. Left Amiens 12.18 for Ailly-sur-Somme.	
	11.7.16		Lorry transported section to Fort Rouge. Section marched to Arques and entrained at 2 p.m. on 12.7.16. Lorry reported back to Caestre at 10 a.m. and moved up into column. Column left at 1 p.m. Arrived Abbeville about 8.30 p.m.	
	12.7.16		Column left ABBEVILLE at 8 a.m. Reported to O.C. at 11.30 A.M.	
Ailly-sur-Somme	13.7.16		Main party arrived at 5 a.m.	
	14.7.16		Inspection of billets. Guards placed on Latrines and Incinerators. Fatigue Party supervised.	
	17.7.16		Stretchers drill. instruction for the section.	
	20.7.16		Moved to Rubempre. Lorry arrived at 12 noon. Main party arrived RUBEMPRE 4 p.m. All D.H.Q. offices were swept out and sprayed thoroughly.	

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RUBEMPRE	21.7.16		Fatigues round D. H. Q and billets. Inspection of billets and latrines constructed. Incinerators attended to.	
	23.7.16		S. Sgt Macfarlane and 10 men reported to O.C. NO 3 C.C.S. at PUCHEVILLERS for duty at 9 a.m.	
	25.7.16		Inspection of billets and general cleaning up of surroundings	
	27.7.16		D. H. Q moved at 7.45 for ALBERT. Lorry left at 9 a.m. Main party arrived ALBERT at 1 p.m.	
ALBERT	28.7.16		⁷⁴²⁶ Pte Chequidew awarded 28 days No 2 F.P. for gassing prisoners. All empty billets around D. H. Q. cleaned out. Roads cleaned. Latrines constructed. A Public Latrine erected. Section standing by in readiness for bearing stretchers if required. S. Sgt Macfarlane and 10 men reported back to unit from No 3 C.C.S.	
	29.7.16		Lorry employed in carrying wounded from BRAY-VADENCOURT.	
	1.8.16		No 7430 Pte Molyneux awarded 28 days No 2 Fd Punishment. Sent to Detention Camp.	
	4.8.16		O.C. dressing wounded prisoners.	
	5.8.16		Lorry carrying wounded prisoners to VADENCOURT.	
			S. Sgt Macfarlane Sgt Moses and Cpl Read and 17 men reported to O.C.	
	6.8.16		5th Aust Fld Ambulance at BEYCOURT CHATEAU for duty. Party reported back from O.C. 5th Aust Fld Amb at 7 p.m. to unit.	

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