

**AWM4**

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/80/3

**Title:** 5th Australian Sanitary Section

October 1917



AWM4-26/80/3

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.

WAR DIARY  
or  
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

(Erase heading not required.)

SANITARY SECTION.  
5th  
AUSTRALIAN DIV.

Army Form C. 2118.

280

No.....

Date.....

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Frame. Steenworte	Dec.	1.	Strength 1 off 28 OR. 4 OR attached	
"	"	2.	Side car Douglas Engine No 4412 Frame No. 4641 reported for duty from 16 Supply Column.	A.
"	"	4 <sup>th</sup>	Routin Routine Order No 3. attached	
"	"	7 <sup>th</sup>	Horse temporarily attached to section from 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust Div. returned to Div <sup>n</sup> .	
"	"	"	Rearrangement of Sanitary Areas by DDMS in Ausgac. Sanitary Area of 5 <sup>th</sup> San. Sect. now consists of Corps area from 512 sheet 27. (1 kilometre west of Ludersgale) West boundary to Poppenyhe. Abeille Road. bounded N. & S. by Corps Boundary.	
"	"	8 <sup>th</sup>	1 N.C.O & 2 men temp. attached to 1 <sup>st</sup> San. Sect. for returns etc with to Steenworte	
"	"	15 <sup>th</sup>	<del>Unit Routine Order No 4 attached</del> 2nd Aust Div replaces 4 <sup>th</sup> Aust Div in the area.	B.
"	"	17 <sup>th</sup>	Unit Routine Order No 4 attached	B.

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FRANCE Stenwoorde	Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>		- 4 incinerators 12 latrines 2 coolhouses 3 grease traps erected during day in area occupied by 2nd Aust Div.	
Stenwoorde	20 <sup>th</sup>		- Stenwoorde Baths closed for reconstruction as recommended by Sanit. Sect. viz. that pipe line should be laid further up stream so that water may be drawn before it enters town & is fouled.	
"	21 <sup>st</sup>		- Building material etc. drawn Burslemoore Dump. Sewer allotment granted to this sect. from NW Angae to begin 1-11-17. AIF order 16-10-17 to hand following party. Capt V.M. Coppleson from RMO 58 <sup>th</sup> Batt to O.C 5 <sup>th</sup> San Sec. vice Goldstein 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 1917.	
"	22 <sup>nd</sup>		- Cleaning of Town of Stenwoorde <del>by</del> Town Major responsible - in addit. fatigue party of 30 men from 2nd Aust Div. reports to San. Sect. daily as gain for street sweeping, emptying public refuse boxes etc. All refuse from Town collected by Town Major's fatigue and burnt at public incinerator.	
"	23 <sup>rd</sup>		- Conference held D.D.M.S office NW Angae. Major Chapman O.A.D.M.S Capt Officer D.A.A.C. and O.Cs Sanit. Sections NW Angae. re Mutual Relations of San. Sections to Area Commandants and HQs of Div. occupying the Sanitary Areas - Foden Sorry returned for Ang. Corp. Troops supply for repair & overhaul 4 days	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE SREENVORDE	24 <sup>th</sup>	-	Outstanding indents drawn from DADOS 5 <sup>th</sup> Aust Div. at Busselboom. Winter clothing etc.	C
"	25 <sup>th</sup>	-	Notified by OC. W D.S.C. that he will be unable to return this unit after 27 <sup>th</sup> inst - Re Unit order No 6.	
"	26 <sup>th</sup>	-	Raining. 5 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Brigades. move out of area. The whole of area unoccupied except for 6 <sup>th</sup> Bde and few permanent units. Arrangements made to draw rations in future from R.S.O. Caestre. Two Brigades of 49 <sup>th</sup> Div. occupy billets vacated by 5 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Bdes. Ford Box Car sent to IC Supply Column for repairs.	
"	27 <sup>th</sup>	-	Case Typhoid reported civilian boy. DELEU age . at Town Majoro Saury 7 Rue de Watou Steenvoorde - 6 <sup>th</sup> Aust. Inf. Bde moved out of area and replaced by one brigade of 49 <sup>th</sup> Div - 14 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Bde occupied billets in Wippenbock sector of area yesterday. Census being taken by sanitary inspectors of all sanitary arrangements and billets in area.	
"	28 <sup>th</sup>	-	Rations drawn from R.S.O Caestre. Coal from No 2 Field Coy Supply Caestre. Foden Somy reported back.	
"	29 <sup>th</sup>	-	Monthly report rendered. Arrangements made with Town Major Steenvoorde for supply clean clothes weekly.	
"	30 <sup>th</sup>	-	Unit paid.	

5th. AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.ROUTINE ORDER NO. 3.4/10/17.ByCaptain V. M. COPPLESON.C. O. 5th. Aus. San. Section.10. GREEN ENVELOPES.

According to a report received from the Head Censon, considerable mention of movements and locations of Units has been made recently by Australians in letters enclosed in GREEN ENVELOPES. If such offences against the Censorship Regulations continue, there is danger of the privilege of the Green Envelopes being denied to the Units Concerned.

11. Rate of Exchange. G.R.O. 2656. Dated 30/9/17.

The rate of exchange for issue of cash to troops of the Expeditionary Force has been fixed at the rate of 5 francs equals three shillings and eightpence, for the month of October 1917.

12. IDENTITY DISCS. G.R.O. 2661 Dated 30/9/17.

Identity Discs are not in future to be worn next the person. They should be worn outside the shirt. Care must be taken when stamping the disc, that the marking is clear and effective.

13. ACCIDENTS TO GATES OF LEVEL CROSSINGS. R. O. (Anzac) 406.

"Second Army Routine Order No. 1189 of 25th. Sept. 1917, is republished for information:-

- Accidents to the gates of level crossings of railways are continually being caused by motor cars through want of care on the part of drivers."

All level crossings must be approached with care at moderate speed; special care being taken at night as the signal lamps may have been extinguished. If the gates are in the act of being lowered, no attempt will be made to rush over the crossing before it is closed. When the crossing is closed, cars must pull up at least two yards from the gates. This order will be brought to the notice of all motor car drivers.

14. SALUTES. INSIGNIA OF OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

Attention is called to G.R.O. 3 on the subject of the duty of saluting officers, and the returning the salute of soldiers, of Allied Armies, with special reference to American Troops serving in the areas of the British Armies.

Officers of the United States Army are distinguished:

- By the single band of braid worn on both cuffs of tunic, same for all ranks.
- By the block letters U.S. or U.S.R. worn on both sides of the collar of tunic, same for all ranks; the U.S. signifies that the officer is a member of the Regular Army; the U.S.R. that the wearer is a member of the Officer Reserve Corps.
- By the insignia, given below, worn on both shoulders of the tunic, which differs with the rank as shown.
- By the kind of cord worn on the service hat, which also differs with the rank as shown.

<u>RANK.</u>	<u>SHOULDER ORNAMENT.</u>	<u>HAT CORD.</u>
Second Lieutenant.	None,	Gold and Black.
First Lieutenant.	1 silver bar.	Gold and Black.
Captain.	2 silver bars.	Gold and Black.
Major.	Gold oak leaf.	Gold and black.
Lieutenant Colonel.	Silver oak leaf.	Gold and Black.
Colonel.	Silver spread eagle.	Gold and Black.
Brigadier General.	1 silver star.	Gold.
Major General.	2 silver stars.	Gold.
Lieutenant General.	3 silver stars.	Gold.

In addition officers wear on both sides of the collar of the tunic, to the rear of the letters U.S. or U.S.R. their insignia of their branch of the service

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5th. Australian Sanitary Section.

ROUTINE ORDER NO. 3.

Part 11.

STRENGTH. Taken on from Reinforcements 30/9/17

No. 14611	Pte.	JENSEN. O. T.
No. 17337	"	DANIELS. W. R.
No. 17338	"	ELSWORTH. A. E.

ATTACHED. From "K" Supply Column. 2/10/17

No. 13439 Dvr. JONES. B. H.

PUNISHMENT.

No. 77 Pte. MARTIN. J. 5th. Aus. San. Section. was arrested on the night of 26th. September 1917 at Steenvoorde, and

charged with:-

1. Out after hours without a pass.
2. Resisting arrest.
3. Using insulting language to a N.C.O.
4. Breaking window in a private dwelling.

Sentenced by C. O. 5th. Aus. San. Section to 28 days

Field Punishment No. 2. and cost of damage to window 2/11

NOTICES.

CHRISTMAS MAIL FOR AUSTRALIA.

Parcel Mails intended for delivery in Australia in time for Christmas should be posted so as to reach the G.P.O. LONDON not later than October 15th.

Letter Mail for Christmas delivery in Australia should reach the G.P.O. LONDON not later than November 1st.

In each case the Correspondence should be posted 3 days earlier than the dates mentioned.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES.

The following telegram has been issued by the Divisional Commander from the 1st Anzac Corps Commander:-

I wish to record and to convey to all ranks my appreciation of the work recently done by the 4th, 5th Australian Division. By the gallantry and steadfastness they have made greater the great traditions established by the Australian Imperial Force.

*W. L. P. / C. P.*

5th. AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.ROUTINE ORDER NO. 417/10/17

by

CAPT. V. M. COPPLESONCO. 5th. Aust. Sanitary Section.15. RATE OF EXCHANGE. A.I.F. 904 9/10/17.

The rate of exchange for issue of cash to the troops of the Expeditionary Force has been fixed at the rate of five francs equals three shillings and eightpence for the month of October 1917.

16. CASUALTIES. REPORTS OF "MISSING". R.O. 728 12/10/17.

A great deal of discontent at home and unnecessary correspondence is caused through men stating in private letters that officers or men reported missing may be assumed to be dead though the body has not been found. Men should never make statements of this sort till an official report that the missing man is believed killed has appeared in Part II Orders. Attention is called to G.R.O. 1750. The words "believed killed" should not be added to the report of "missing" by the unit unless the evidence is complete.

17. COAL GAS BALLOONS. R.O. 731 12/10/17.

Balloons of coloured paper about 5 feet long found in the area will at once be taken to the nearest Headquarters for transmission as quickly as possible to Corps Headquarters.

18. CENSORSHIP. G.R.O. 2666 5/10/17.

Distinguishing signs which have been adopted by units and formations, and the signs authorised for certain transport vehicles, are secret and must not be disclosed in correspondence.

19. COKE BURNT IN CLOSED SPACES. D.R.O. 1698 16/10/17.

The attention of all units is directed to the danger of burning coke in closed dugouts, buildings, tents etc. Commanding Officers are to use the greatest care to ensure that whenever coke is burnt ventilation is maintained, otherwise accidents due to the asphyxiating effects of the gas may occur.

PUNISHMENTS.

No. 1699 L.Cpl. Swansson P.L. charged with overstaying leave from 9 p.m. 14/10/17 to 1.30 p.m. 15/10/17 -  
AWARD - Reprimanded. Forfeits 2 days pay under R.W.

No. 9311 Pte. Banner E charged with overstaying leave from 9 p.m. 14/10/17 to 1.30 p.m. 15/10/17 -  
AWARD - Admonished. Forfeits 2 days pay under R.W.

*V. M. Coppleson*  
.....Capt.  
C.O. 5th. Aust. San. Section.

5th. AUSTRALIAN SANITARY SECTION.

Routine Order No. 5

25-10-17

-by-

CAPT. V. M. COPPLESON

C.O. 5th. Aust. San. Sect.

2. FIRES - G.R.O. 2717 - 19-10-17.

Notwithstanding the precautions against fires which have been laid down in General Routine Orders wholesale destruction of property is continually being caused by fires in houses barns outbuildings and hutments, due to the neglect of the most ordinary precautions on the part of Officers and other ranks occupying them.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

1. Fires, stoves, braziers, naked lights and smoking, are forbidden in any room or barn which contains hay, straw or other inflammable material.
  2. Where stoves and braziers are allowed in billets or huts they must be placed on sheet iron or an earth or brick floor and definite precautions must be taken to prevent ashes or bits of burning coal from falling out of the stove or brazier.
  3. No open lighted brazier or naked light is to be left unattended in any hut or billet.
  4. Cookhouses, Field Cookers, Forges and Incinerators, will not be placed against the walls of any buildings or in the vicinity of ricks or stacks of inflammable materials. Their precise position will be fixed by an Officer.
  5. Tent lanterns, when available, will always be used in billets huts or tents; When these are not available and candles are used, they must be fixed in an empty tin to protect them on three sides and top and bottom, and placed as far as possible from any canvas or tarred material in the billet.
  6. Petrol must not be used in any heating or cooking stove. Petrol, paraffin, oil and candles, must not be stored near any stove, brazier, fireplace or lamp.
  7. Buckets or tins containing water, sand, or dry earth, will be kept ready to hand in every billet or hut or tent for use in case of fire.
  8. The greatest care must be used in throwing away matches or cigarette ends, knocking out pipes, or handling lighted candles. It is the duty of every man to realize the danger to life and property caused by carelessness in such matters.
1. No stove will be brought into use in any hut or billet unless it has been inspected and pronounced safe by an Officer. It will be at least three feet clear of the wall and a clearance of at least one inch should be left all round the stove pipe where it passes through a wooden wall or a roof. The latter will be suitably protected by a metal covering round the hole through which the piping passes. Flues must be regularly swept.
  2. When a Unit occupies a billet with a fireplace which is of defective construction and likely to prove dangerous, the O.C. Unit will arrange for its use as a fireplace to be rendered impossible.
  3. No braziers or fires of any kind will be permitted in or hanging from the outside of railway vehicles used by troops



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CONTD.

when travelling.

NOTICES.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA.

The Military Savings Bank Department and Military Telegraphic Transfer Department of the above-named Bank has been transferred to the Strand Branch of the Bank at Australia House, W.C. The address therefore, is :-

Commonwealth Bank of Australia, Strand Branch, Australia House,  
London, W.C. 2.

*W. L. P. M.*  
.....Capt.

C.O. 5th. Austrn. Sanitary Section.