

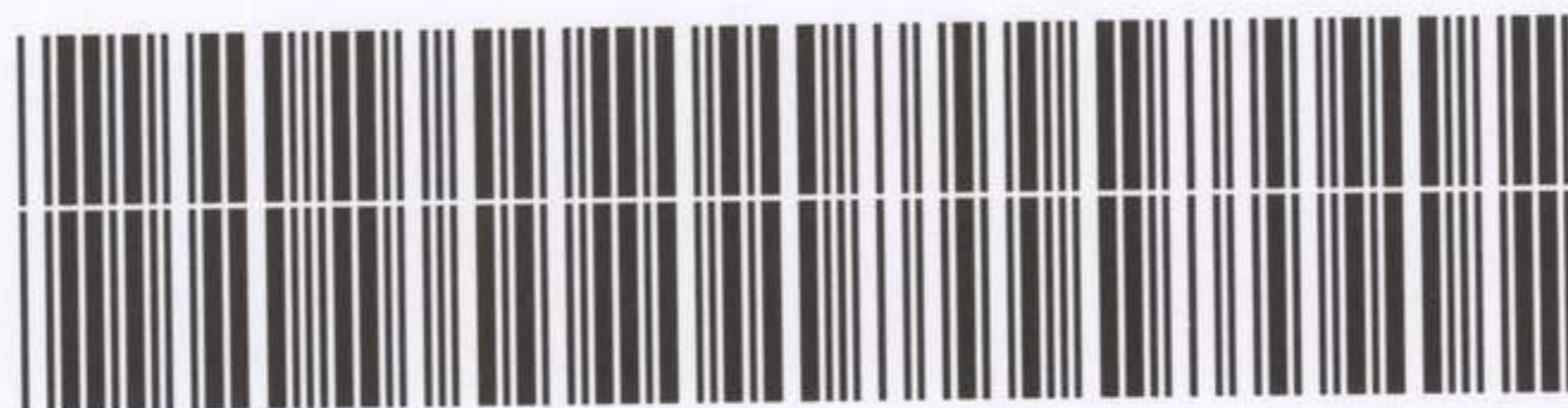
**AWM4**  
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,**  
**1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

**Item number:** 26/80/16

**Title:** 5th Australian Sanitary Section

November 1918



AWM4-26/80/16

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**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.  
~~DUPLICATE.~~  
~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

5th Australian Sanitary Section.

FOR

Month ending 30th November 1918. 191

Signature of Officer compiling Arthur Howard Capt.

Signature of Officer Commanding Arthur Howard Capt.

WAR DIARY

or

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

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.

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Place	Date	Hour	5th Australian Sanitary Section.	Summary of Events and Information	Month ending 30-11-18.	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oisemont	1st		8 O/Ranks from 14th Brigade Units reported for instruction in sanitation. No 6091 Pte Graves A			Att
	2nd, 3rd, 4th.		General routine work.			Att
	5th.		8 O/Ranks from 14th Brigade returned to their Units on completion of course of instruction.			
	6th		Routine work.			
	7th		18 O/Ranks from 15th Brigade and Divisional Units reported for instruction in sanitation.			
	8th, 9th, 10th.		The news from the front at this period was more than usually interesting, and speculation as to the early return of the A.I.F. to Australia was rife.			Att
	11th.		News received that Germany had signed armistice, and that an early peace was to be expected. The news arrived at an inopportune moment for the Sanitary School, members of which, up to this time had been taking very keen interest in the instruction given. A holiday to celebrate the event was asked for and granted. On the whole however the news was received very quietly by the troops and apart from an unusually large consumption of vin blanc, and an unofficial patriotic concert in the evening, there was little in the nature of demonstration. The civilian population were more demonstrative, and practically every house was decorated with the French tricolor, and in many cases also flags of the Allies.			Att
	12th		Normal routine work was resumed just as though the war was still going on. In the evening a Souvenir Concert was given by the 5th Divisional Concert Party, at which the Divisional Commander Major-General J. J. T. Hobbs. K.C.B., V.D., and Brigade Commanders were present.			Att
	13th		18 O/Ranks from 15th Brigade and Divisional Units returned to their Units on completion of course. It was considered that the course of instruction given was not wholly without beneficial result. Considerable and intelligent interest was displayed by those attending these courses, especially by members of the last session. The course was intended to be of as practical a nature as possible, the few lectures given being designed to give the men an intelligent appreciation of the measures which they were asked to carry out. It is now ensured that each unit in the Division has men who know the sanitary requirements of a camp, and the method of construction of necessary sanitary appliances. This will be particularly useful to those small units who are not blessed with an R.M.O. and who, in many instances, have no Pioneers. The N.C.O's and workshops personnel are largely responsible for this result.			In Appendix
	20th		Memo received from A.D.M.S. re disposal of personnel during move to the Rhine. For the purpose of the move it was arranged that personnel from the Sanitary Section be attached to each Group. Four O/Ranks to each of the Brigade Groups, and Five O/Ranks to the Artillery Group for inspectional and water testing work.			Att
	21st		Staff Captains of Brigades were interviewed by the O.C. and the nature of duties which sanitary detachments were to perform were explained. It was arranged that detachments should report to			Att

# WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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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.)

Place	Date	Hour	(S) Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Oisemont	21st		respective Brigade Headquarters as soon as instructions <del>be</del> the move were received. Detachment for Artillery Group to travel with Headquarters and report to R.M.O. 13th Brigade A.F.A. on arrival at staging area.	Att
	22nd		Warning Order wire received from A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division re date of move. Also warning order from 14th Brigade giving order in which Brigade were to move.	Att
	23rd		Detachment under L/Cpl Swansson reported to Staff Captain 8th Brigade, detachment under L/Sgt Rilstone to 14th Brigade, and detachment under L/Sgt Thomas to 15th Brigade. Wire from A.A.&Q.M.G. 5th Australian Division received giving order of movement and train timings	Att
	24th		Information regarding the sanitation of the area-giving position of public latrines and sanitary conveniences etc-together with list of tested wells and map of Huppy village were forwarded to Area Commandant Huppy Area, and map showing sanitary conveniences together with list of wells was handed to Town Major Oisemont for information of Sanitary Section taking over the area. Dump of material was handed over to Town Major, Oisemont and receipt obtained.	Att
	25th		Section equipment and 8 O/Ranks proceeded to Favril (near Le Cateau.), new site of 5th Divisional Headquarters, by lorry provided by Division.	Att
	27th		O.C. proceeded by motor transport to Favril by road. Rest of personnel of Section-1 n.c.o. and 4 o/ranks proceeded by train with 5th Divisional Demonstration Platoon. (report on move attached).	Att
	28th		O.C. arrived at Favril to find party which had proceeded by lorry already there in temporary shelter. Billet was found in shed with plentiful facilities for ventilation in both roof and sides. This village had been used as staging area by two Brigades-one of which had just moved out. Fairly severe fighting had evidently occurred about this region and every house was more or less damaged by shell fire. Billets were, therefore, not of the best. The sanitation of the place left much to be desired, much refuse of both civil and military origin was lying about, and previous occupants had added to the accumulation. Little effort had apparently been made to provide even temporary latrines accomodation, and excreta was lying about on every vacant patch of land. The same conditions prevail to a greater or less extent in all villages in the area.	Att See Appendix 2
	29th		Inspectional and water testing work in new area being proceeded with	Att
	30th		General routine work.	
	23rd		A.D.M.S. 5th Australian Division inspected the Section and expressed himself as being very pleased with the way in which the men were turned out, and with the work of the Section generally	Att

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# WAR DIARY

APPENDIX

OF

5th Australian Sanitary Section.

FOR

Month ending 30th November 1918 191

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## LIST OF APPENDICES.

No.	Subject.
1.	Monthly Report.
2.	Report on Move.
3.	Unit Routine Orders.

*Arthur Howard Capt*

5th Australian Sanitary Section

Area. During the month the Section has supervised the sanitation of the 5th Division, which has been in rest in the Huppy Area. Headquarters were at Oisemont. On 23/11/18 orders were received re the move of 5th Division to the Bohain-Busigny Area. 4 O/Ranks of the Section were attached to each Brigade during the move, and 5 O/Ranks to the Artillery Group for inspectional and water testing work. Detachments reported to Brigade Groups on 23/11/18, detachment to Artillery group to report on arrival at Busigny. Arrangements were made with the D.A.C.M.G. 5th Division for the Sections stores to be moved by motor lorry. General. Sanitation of the Area has noticeably improved during the month. There is an adequacy of proper latrine accommodation, and the majority of Units have supplied themselves with necessary sanitary conveniences. A number of public latrines, incinerators etc have been installed and existing ones repaired and improved. During the earlier part of the month the roads in some of the villages were in a very muddy state. This was especially the case in St Maxent and Huppy. On our recommendation, working parties were detailed by Units in these villages to work on the roads. Great improvement resulted, especially on cleaning gutters and improving drainage etc. Billets have improved during the month, more barns having become available, and overcrowding can now be avoided.

Water. All wells in the area occupied by troops have now been tested and appropriate notices erected.

Estaminets. Estaminets have been inspected, and general condition found fair. An estaminet at Huppy was found to be in an unsanitary state, but upon pressure being brought to bear through the A.P.M. and French Mission the proprietor had defects remedied. This is the only case in which drastic action was required.

Epidemics. There has been a considerable number of cases of Influenza both Civilian and Military. Arrangements were made for the spraying of billets, and circular memorandum re this matter has been issued to all Units. Sanitary School. During the month practical instruction in sanitation has been given to details from various Units in the Division. The course was intended to be of a practical nature and as far as possible those attending were given an opportunity of constructing for themselves various sanitary appliances, under the supervision of the N.C.O's of the Unit. There were 5 sessions, each lasting 4 or 5 days. The first was attended by 8 O/Ranks from the 8th Brigade, the 2nd by 8 O/Ranks from the 14th Brigade, and the 3rd by 18 O/Rank from the 15th Brigade and Divisional troops. Syllabus of work as under:-

Thursday -	10am. Introductory Lecture
	11am. Practical Instruction
	2pm. Practical instruction in making of incinerators, and visit to public incinerators of various types.
Friday -	10am. Lecture on Flyborne diseases
	11am. Demonstration of some anti-muscid measures.
	2pm. Practical instruction
Saturday -	10am. Parasites of man, special reference to lice.
	11am. Lecturette and demonstration of the Russian Pit Disinfector.
	2pm. Practical instruction.
Sunday -	Holiday.
Monday -	10am. Disinfection in the Field
	11am. Practical instruction- use of sprayers etc.
	2pm. Practical instruction and inspection of the village.

Units have been reminded that the services of the Sanitary Section are at their disposal for the purpose of giving advice and instruction in matters of sanitation. Several Units have availed themselves of this by sending in men to this Units workshops for instruction in construction of sanitary appliances.

*Arthur Howard*

Captain.  
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section.

26/11/18.

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APPENDIX

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5th Australian Sanitary Section.  
Report of move to Favril-site of new 5th Div., Area.  
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Arrangements were made with D.A.Q.M.G. 5th Division for Section equipment and stores to be conveyed by motor lorry.. This lorry with stores and 8 O/Ranks left Oisemont on evening of 25th arriving at Amiens the same night, where billets were obtained for the night, and proceeded on the 26th to Bertry and the 27th to Favril. Billets in Favril were already occupied by the 6th Brigade. Stores were dumped, and personnel slept in temporary shelter in yard of school house.

O.C. proceeded with attached motor transport by road, leaving Oisemont on morning of 27th, arriving at Le Cateau the same evening and proceeding on morning of 28th to Favril. Billet was occupied at No. 34 in main street. Remainder of Headquarters personnel- 1 N.C.O. and 3 men- proceeded by train with the 5th Division Demonstration Platoon and arrived at Favril on night of 29th. Detachments consisting of 1 N.C.O. and 3 O/Ranks moved with each Brigade Group.

*Arthur Howard*

Captain.  
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section...

3/12/18.

## 5th Australian Sanitary Section-Routine Orders- (2).

NOTICES.  
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A.I.F., Hall. For the convenience of Australian soldiers on leave from France and elsewhere the High Commissioner has kindly handed over to the control of the A.I.F. Headquarters a very fine hall in the basement of Australia House. This room is known as the "A.I.F. Hall" and by the kindness of the Australian Comforts Fund has been suitably equipped as a Rest, Reading, Writing, and general club room. An efficient Enquiry Bureau has been established and the combined Club arrangements will be run in conjunction with the Hospitality Department of A.I.F. Headquarters. Concerts will be given every Sunday evening at 8 pm. The Hall is open daily from 9.30am to 9.30pm (sundays included). It is hoped that the Australian soldiers on leave will regard this as their own Club Room in London.

*Arthur Howard*

Captain.

C.O. 5th Australian Sanitary Section...

5/11/18.





5th Australian Sanitary Section.

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ROUTINE ORDERS  
by

Captain. A. J. Howard

O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section.

150. Education Service. (D.R.O.429).  
It is notified for the information of all ranks that Education Officers will be appointed to the majority of Units in the Division at the end of this month. Enquiries will be addressed always to these Unit Officers. In Cases where no Education Officer is appointed, enquiries will be directed to the Divisional Officer at Divisional Headquarters. This will be the usual channel of all communications, and in no case will men communicate direct to Australian Corps or A.I.F. Headquarters

151. Pay Office, Paris. (D.R.O.430).  
The Pay Office in Paris is now situated at, The Hotel Windsor,  
36 Rue de Petrograd.  
and is 3 minutes walk from Gare St. Lazare  
5 " " " the Opera  
5 " " " Pepiniere Barracks  
Direct tram from the Madeline and Opera and is situated between two main Tube Stations- Europe and Metropolitan Line and the Liege on the Nord Sud Line- being two minutes from each.

N O T I C E S.

500 Instructors, Teachers and Lecturers in any branch of Education- general, commercial, technical, agricultural, trade or scientific- are wanted. Those willing to help should communicate with the Divisional Education Officer at Divisional Headquarters, stating rank and name, age, State, special and general subjects, educational qualifications and experience in teaching (not essential).  
"Australia at War" It is desired to bring prominently to the notice of all ranks publication of the work entitled "Australia at War" by Lieut Will. Dyson A.I.F. Official Artist. The book contains a series of sketches vividly portraying incidents of the fighting on the Western Front in which the Australians have taken such an important part, as well as some verse by the Author and an introduction by G.K. Chesterton. It is the desire of the G.O.C. that in view of the historic value of the work every facility should be afforded to those members of the A.I.F. to purchase copies of this book for friends and relatives. There are already indications of a keen demand from the public for the work, but in order to give soldiers every opportunity of procuring the bulk of the first edition is being specially reserved for them. The price is 7/6 per copy postage free to England or Australia, and orders may be given to Divisional Paymaster and Pay Sergeants of the Pay Corps or direct to O.C. Publication Section Australia House, Strand, London.

Part 2 Orders.

No. 9079 Sgt Thompson. O.F. detached for duty at Australian Corps Headquarters as from 24/10/18.  
6101 Pte Gilchrist. O. reported from Hospital on 17/11/18.

*Arthur J Howard Capt*  
Captain.  
O.C. 5th Australian Sanitary Section.

24/11/18.