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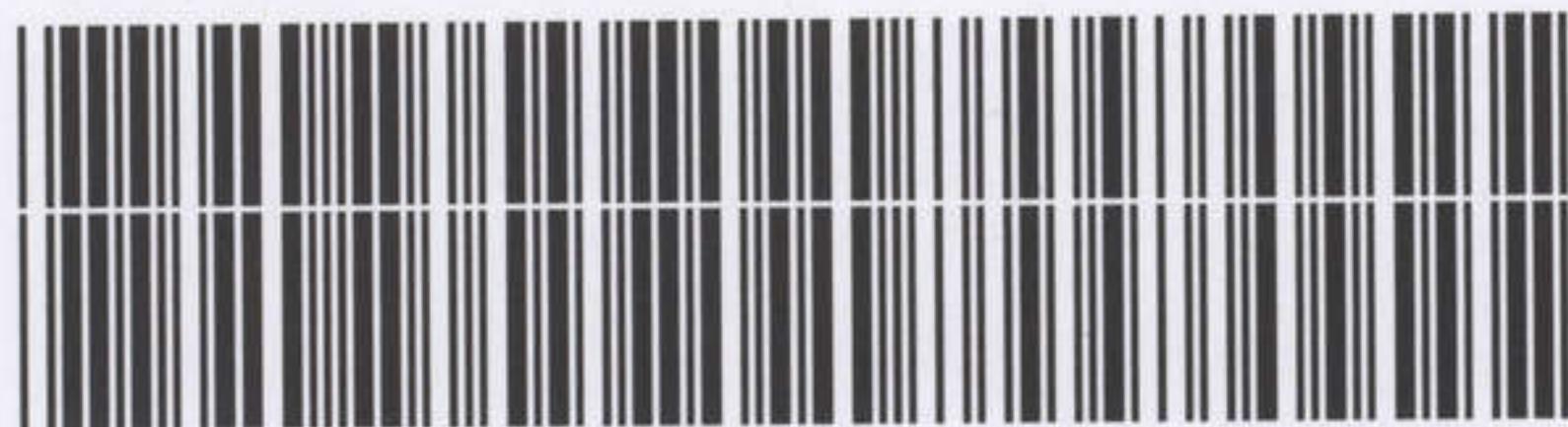
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/1/24

Title: Assistant Director of Medical
Services, Sanitation, British
Expeditionary Force

February 1918



AWM4-26/1/24

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WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.
(Erase heading not required.)

A.D.M.S. Sanitation. H.Q., L.o.f.C.



Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Abbeville.	1918. 1st Feb.		<p>I recommended that Captain R.A. Askins. R.A.M.C.T.F. O.C.No. 44 Sanitary Section, be appointed as a second S.S.O at Etaples.</p> <p>Reference the case of Plague on "Glengorm Castle", previously referred to in my diary, I received a memo from the D.M.S., L.o.f.C. stating the Field Marshal., C-in-Chief, recommends that the matter be brought to the notice of the authorities concerned in Egypt, as it is considered that this case should not have been embarked at Port Said until free from infection.</p> <p>D.M.S., L.o.f.C asks if any other cases of anthrax have been reported, ref. the case of Sapper Hole. I reported that no information regarding his condition has been received and that more exhaustive examination of the suspected shaving brushes has shown that the Anthrax like organisms observed by the pathologist who originally investigated the matter were not true anthrax bacilli.</p> <p>D.M.S., L.o.f.C forwarded application from the O.C.No. 5 Con. Depot reference increase in the bread ration. I stated that in my opinion it should be left to the discretion of the O.C. Con. Depot who is the best judge of requirements to indent for the number of full bread rations which he considers necessary on medical grounds.</p>
	2nd Feb.		<p>Forwarded 2 copies of Summary of proceedings of Permanent Board of Inter Allied Medical Comm: Sanitary Commission for Decr 1917. Two copies to DGMS and 1 copy to the Adviser in Pathology.</p> <p>Case of Relapsing Fever reported from Marseilles (14273 Cook TODI RAM; Indian) Ex "Mandalay".</p> <p>Application received through D.M.S., L.o.f.C for a third Thresh Disinfecter for Cherbourg Area. I recommended its issue.</p> <p>Report received from D.M.S., L.o.f.C regarding cases of measles arriving from Taranto by leave Train No. 39. All necessary precautions appear to have been taken in this case.</p> <p>Reference protection of horse standings in Fourth Army. I suggested to DGMS that a covering of brick earth and mud is desirable. Such mud covered walls have long been in use in this district in horse standings and has proved unobjectionable.</p>

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Abbeville	1918		Recommended that two two of the pressure steam type disinfectors be installed at Marseilles, in reply to an application from that Base dated 29/1/18.
	2nd Feb.	Ctd.,	D.G.M.S forwarded minute from the D.ofS reference vegetable butter as a substitute for fresh butter for hospital use. I asked to be furnished with a sample before giving my decision.
	3rd Feb.		D.M.S., L.of.C passed correspondence regarding cases of measles among Australian Troops arriving by Troop Trains at Cherbourg. I replied that it is well known that these troops are very prone to Measles as they are drawn from populations where this disease is not prevalent in childhood. As cases continue to arrive by troop train at Cherbourg, more rigid inspection is called for at the place where troops are entrained.
	4th Feb.		A.D.M.S. San proceeded to G.H.Q., Received copy of QL/791/G/146 dated 31/1/18 with reference to WAAC Ration. The percentages and equivalents as laid down in the Ration Pamphlet apply to this ration. Received file from D.M.S., L.of.C reference Victoria Hotel, Boulogne and its suitability for housing the RAMC Personnel of 14 General Hospital. I replied that as apparently a sewer runs through the building which at times floods the basement, I do not consider it suitable for occupation either as a hospital or for personnel. Case of Relapsing Fever at Marseilles (9196 Bearer NARSIYAN; Jodphore Cav. Field Ambulance). I recommended to the D.M.S., L.of.C that a copy of "Practical Directions for the treatment of Sullage water with bleaching powder" be circulated to all bases on the L.of.C for the information of Sanitary Officers.
	5th Feb.		File from D.M.S., L.of.C stating that a British soldier at Dieppe is charged with the murder of 2 french women. Enquiries reference testing of stains found on his clothing. File was passed to me through the Adviser in Pathology. In reply I stated that there are no chemical tests which shew the difference between the blood of man and animals; the red colouring matter, the albumin and fibrin are the same and chemical tests produce on them precisely similar results. The only test which can be relied upon to answer the question "is the blood human"

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Abbeville.	1918. 5th Feb. Ctd.		or not" is the precipitin test, which takes its origin as an offshoot from experiments on immunity in which the blood of one animal is injected into the veins of another of a different species. I agree with the Adviser in Pathology that this test could be carried out at No. 25 Stationary Hospital. The test naturally is useless, unless earlier tests have proved beyond doubt that the stain is derived from blood of some sort.
	6th Feb.		Received a wire from D.M.S., First Army to the effect that the lecture at Le Bra Sat Houdain has been arranged for the 9th instant. I forwarded a copy of same to the DGMS. Colonel Ryan (Investigation Dept) called at 10-30am. Reference Small pox at Lyon. Received from D.M.S notification that revaccination is being carried out at ST Germain au Mont d'or Camp and is now almost completed. Only one fresh case was reported last week. There are no signs of the disease spreading. Application received through the DGMS for the Naga ration to be issued to the 69th (Garo) Indian Labour Coy, who are proceeding to ABANCOURT. I replied that I recommend the same as modified by the QMG's minute No. QL/303/CD/2 of 20.1.18 and my reply to the DGMS wire No. DG/552 dated 25.1.18.
			Received Water Cart File from D.G.M.S., who enquires as to the number of clarifiers recommended for carts. I replied giving general remarks on the subject, stating that when it is necessary to clarify water two clarifying cylinders are required.
			D.M.S., L.of.C forwarded correspondence reference overcrowding in SANLC Camps in Rouen. I stated that I am in favour of obtaining for these natives the space laid down by the DW Cir, No. 238. A.in.P notified me of a meeting of the Med'l Investigation Comm; for Friday 8th Inst at Etaples.
			Wrote to General Simonin reference the outbreak of Smallpox at Lyon.
			D.M.S., L.of.C informed me that it is proposed to take no further action in regard to the shaving brushes connected with the last anthrax case. (Sapper Hole).

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WAR DIARY

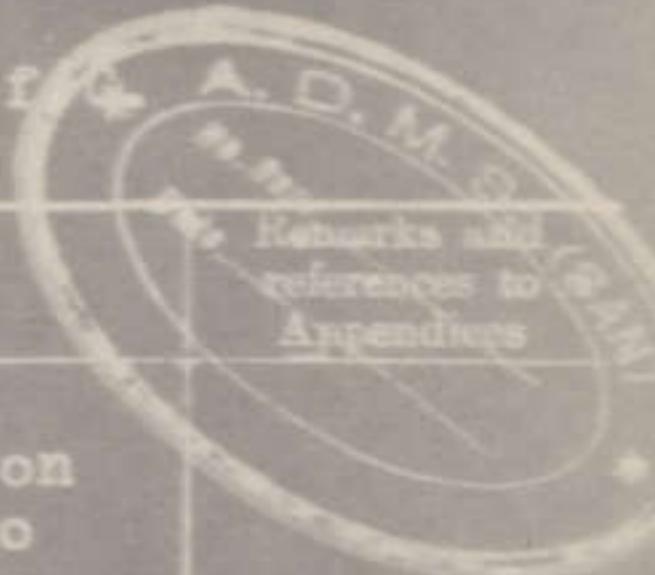
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Army Form C. 2118.

A.D.M.S. Sanitation., H.Q., L.of.C



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Abbeville. 1918.	7th Feb.		<p>Reference previous entry in my diary regarding the facilities at the Front for disinfection of clothing against lice, the D.G.M.S forwarded minute from the D.M.S., First Army who makes several suggestions on the matter. In my reply I mentioned about the proper use of Foden Thresh Lorries and also the advice and assistance which is required from O's.C Sanitary Sections.</p>
			<p>D.M.S., L.of.C forwarded correspondence ref. the proposal to move the Detention Hospital, Paris to No. 11 bis, Rue Christophe Colomb. I stated that this building appears to be satisfactory from a sanitary point of view. If the number of patients to be accommodated does not exceed 44 there should be no overcrowding. It is understood that the recommendations made by the Sanitary Officer with regard to improvement in the ventilation, the provision of bedpan accommodation and baths will be carried out.</p>
			<p>D.G.M.S passed file ref. field punishment rations for Chinese and asks whether same could be made applicable to those at the front. I replied that this scale of rations was agreed to by me for Chinese undergoing Field Punishment on the L.of.C and in my opinion is suitable for Chinese undergoing F.P in Army Areas.</p>
	8th Feb.		<p>I wrote to the D.G.M.S pointing out that in some cases Foden Thresh Disinfectors are not being worked according to the instructions issued and in consequence disinfection is liable to be imperfectly carried out. I referred to particulars regarding the steam valve etc.</p> <p>Received thro' D.M.S., L.of.C a report by the S.S.O, Havre on the working of the Levick Spray at that Base.</p>
			<p>D.M.S., L.of.C states that there are no fresh cases of Smallpox at LYON, and that the inoculation of the troops is completed.</p>
			<p>Phone message from the D.D.M.S Boulogne stating that 1500 Chinese (Mumps contacts) were leaving by the 14.30 train for Noyelles today. All precautions taken.</p>
	9th Feb.		<p>The A.D.M.S. San proceeded to the First Army on duty.</p>

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WAR DIARY

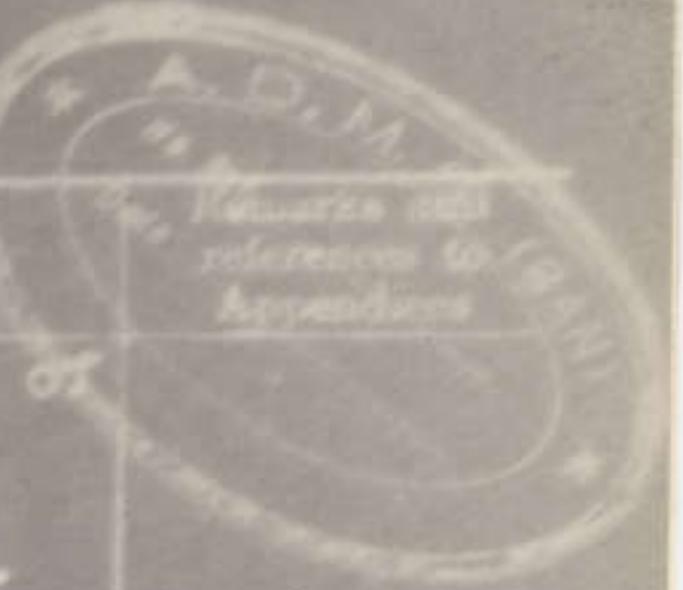
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Army Form C.2118.

A.D.M.S. San'n., H.Q., L.of.C.

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Abbeville.	1918. 10th Feb.		D.M.S., L.of.C forwarded report by the O.C. No.3. Native Labour General Hospital on the keeping of Live Stock. D.G.M.S orders a conference at his office for 12th instant to go into the subject of RETURNS. Reference vegetable butter in lieu of fresh butter for hospital (in reply to D.G. minute No. S/2307/95 dated 1.2.1918. I stated that samples have been forwarded to me by the O.C. Special Purchase Department. The vegetable butter is akin to margarine and is in no sense butter. It is quite wholesome and fit for consumption, but should be regarded as a substitute for margarine rather than for butter and from the point of view of economy its price should be compared with the former rather than the latter article. Where margarine is issued, vegetable butter may be regarded as an alternative, but I do not recommend its issue instead of butter when it is considered desirable that patients should receive butter and not margarine.
			The D.M.S., L.of.C forwards a report on LACTO by Lt. F.B. Grinnell., R.A.M.C (Harvard Unit), 22 General Hospital, in which he considers the preparation unfit for consumption. I replied that dried milk is never sterile but any sample containing marked amounts of extraneous matter such as wood and dirt should be submitted for examination to the Base Hygiene Laboratory.
			The S.S.O Dieppe Base made application for Instruments etc for his laboratory to enable him to carry out analysis of water. I stated that there does not seem to be any necessity for the establishment of a chemical laboratory at Dieppe. Water samples for chemical examination can readily be sent to the Base Hygiene Lab. Boulogne without undue delay. Bacteriological examination could be conducted at Dieppe where apparently facilities for this work already exist.
			D.M.S., L.of.C notified me that Majors H. Emerson., and H. Zinzser U.S.M.C have been granted permission by War Office to visit for 14 days in order to study methods of sanitation. These officers will report to me for instructions.
			A.D.M.S. San and DADMS. San returned from the First Army.
	11th Feb.		The O/c Base Hyg. Lab Boulogne applies for a qualified Analyst to assist him in his work. (Corrspsce passed thro' DDMS Boulogne and DMS., L.of.C.). I recommended Captain P. Hartley., O.C. No. 81 Sanitary Section for the appointment.

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A.D.M.S.

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Summary of Events and Information

Place	Date	Hour	
Abbeville. 1918.			
11th Feb.			D.G.M.S Forwarded tables of new Standard Ration etc for remarks. I stated that I agree to the amended ration tables with the exception that on the day that fish is issued on the L.O.F.C. $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of margarine should be given in addition to rice or flour thus making the margarine issue on that day up to 1 ounce. The amount of fish according to recent food values is not sufficient to replace the energy value of all the meat ration. The other marmite alternative, instead of increasing the margarine, would be to replace the frozen meat only, leaving the preserved meat as it stands.
Contd.			
12th Feb.			Received by telephone from the DGMS, a copy of a wire received from Troopers. "Ministry of shipping are unable to transport rum from abroad to United Kingdom unless it is an essential supply AAA A.M.S suggests substitute of French Red Wine subject to supply being available and your concurrence AAA Reply by telegram." I replied by wire suggesting issue of equivalent quantity of Brandy or Whisky or half litre of red wine in lieu of rum ration.
			A.D.M.S. San. proceeded to St. Pol on duty.
13th Feb.			Received B.C.I. Report No. MA/45500 from Paris. Forwarded 3 copies to the D.G.M.S and 1 copy to the Adviser in Pathology.
			D.M.S., L.O.F.C notified me that no fresh cases of smallpox have occurred at Lyon.
			D.O.F. Ord. Services reports thro' D.M.S., L.O.F.C that there are 238 Brownlow Filters in Store at Havre and Calais, surplus to their requirements, and asks if any or all can be utilised. I replied that these are of an obsolete pattern and so far as I am aware there is no use for them at the present time.
			Engineer in Chief forwarded particulars of four pumping stations on the banks of the DICKEBUSCH LAKE.
			Received report on result of examination of shaving brushes at Red Cross Stores. No trace of Anthrax has been found on them. This refers to the last Anthrax Case (Bpr Hole).
			Major. H. Zinzser U.S.M.C reported for instruction.
			A.D.M.S. San proceeded to G.H.Q. for a meeting regarding RETURNS.

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 211s.

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Abbeville.	1918. 14th Feb.		Sir W. Herrington forwarded a Preliminary Report of the Committee upon Trench Fever & P.U.O. D.M.S., L.of.C forwarded copy of Q.L./303/CD dated 12.2.1918, regarding W.O. decision that owing to great difficulty experienced in supply of rum, it should only be issued on the L.of.C when abnormal weather or work conditions exist. Ref. the question of overcrowding in S.A.N.L.C Camps at Rouen, previously referred to in my diary, the D.M.S., L.of.C noticed me that as material and labour become available, the camps will be provided, to required scale.
	15th Feb.		A.D.M.S. San'n proceeded to the First and Fourth Armies accompanied by Major. Zinzser. Forwarded my office copies Nephritis and Albuminuria Returns for wk ending 26.1.1918 to Capt. H. MacLean., RAMC. No. 46 Stationary Hospital.
			Forwarded a set of five type plans (DW 163) to Major P.P. Strong., U.S.A., 14 Rue Lincoln., Paris.
16th Feb.			Case of Relapsing Fever reported from Marseilles. 2693 Sowar Dalip Singh. me D.G.M.S notified thro' D.M.S., L.of.C that 40 copies of "NOTES FOR SANITARY OFFICERS" are being forwarded to the DMS for distribution as follows:- 1 copy to each S.S.O serving in the area. 1 copy to each O.C. Sanitary Section in the area. 2 copies to be retained by DMS. Two copies are being forwarded to me. D.G.M.S forwarded copies of tables regarding Standard Ration etc. and called for remarks. I replied on the same lines as those stated in my diary for 11th Feb 1918. Received list of M.O's who arrived at Havre from the U.K on 7. 2. 1918. Major. H. Emerson., U.S.M.C reported at this office for instruction in sanitation, yesterday, 15th instant.

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	1918.		
Abbeville.	17th Feb.		One fresh case of smallpox reported from Lyon.
	18th Feb		A.D.M.S. Sanitation returned from Armies. Office copies of Nephritis and Albuminuria Returns for week ending 2.2.18 forwarded to Capt. H. MacLean., R.A.M. Corps. 46 Stationary Hospital.
			Case of Relapsing Fever reported from Marseilles. (No. 12304 Bholi (Indian)).
	19th Feb.		D.M.S., L.O.C. forwarded correspnce ref, and application for an issue of brushes (hair) and combs for Indian Labour Units. I stated that the necessity for the issue of these articles is not apparent. Cleanliness of the head can be obtained by the plentiful use of soap and water and haircutting when necessary.
			Director of Supplies enquires whether lime juice will be required in future or whether it is proposed to discontinue this supply. I replied that it will be necessary to provide lime juice on the same scale as hitherto for issue on recommendation of Med'l authorities. Unfiltered lime-juice, prepared in such a way that its anti-scorbutic properties are not destroyed, should be asked for.
			Received full particulars of the fresh case of Smallpox at Lyon.
			D.G.M.S passed correspnce ref. an application made by Captain. H. Smith., M.O i/c 29th Div. Ammn. Column, requesting facilities for study for the Diploma of Public Health. I stated that the D.A.D.M.S. San (Fourth Army) who is qualified to certify under Rule 3, 1(f), might make arrangements for this officer to acquire the necessary knowledge either under his personal supervision or at the Army School of Sanitation. Only a portion of Capt. Smith's time would be occupied with instruction in sanitation, the remainder could be devoted to ordinary medical duties.
			Captain. Haydock., the S.S.O. Rouen Area makes application (thro' D.M.S., L.O.C) to be transferred for work in sanitation in the Front Area, and I understand from the D.G.M.S. that this transference will shortly be effected. I have spoken to Captain Haydock on the telephone and he informs me that he would now prefer to wait until the transference can be accomplished. I recommend that Capt Moss-Blundell at present O.C. No. 62 Sanitary Section, should replace Captain Haydock at Rouen in case the latter officer is moved to the Front Area.

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Abbeville.	1918. 19th Feb. Ctd.	.	<p>The D.D.M.S. Boulogne forwarded a report re BOWLER BRAND, BONELESS COOKED HAM, a considerable amount of which is held on charge by the A.D.of S at Boulogne for issue as an emergency ration in lieu of bacon. He has revised the stocks and reports on same. I replied that it is desirable that each consignment should be carefully sorted and all blown, unsound or otherwise defective tins should be condemned. A proportion of the other tins which appear sound should be opened, inspected and examined bacteriologically and the results of this examination taken into account in forming an opinion as to whether the tins are fit for issue. In cases of this sort the usual procedure is for the supplies to be examined by a Board convened by the proper authorities; you would doubtless be a member or in attendance.</p> <p>I was notified thro' D.M.S., L.of.C that the Portuguese Transport "Pedro Nunes" had arrived at Brest with a case of mumps on board, and that all troops are being kept there and quarantined. I replied that daily medical inspection of the contacts as recommended in D.G.Circ.Memo No. 19 would have met this case.</p> <p>Received thro' D.M.S., L.of.C a report on the I.L.Camps at Marseilles by the S.M.O., I.L.Corp. In my reply I stated that additional High Pressure Steam Disinfectors have already been recommended for Marseilles. In addition to the Current Thresh and R.E. extemporised disinfectors, two Clayton Machines have been supplied and if efficiently used they should help considerably to deal with the disinfestation of units. The Specialist Sanitary Officer, Marseilles, will doubtless be able to extemporise steam disinfectors where necessary until the permanent high pressure stoves are provided. The report of the S.M.O., I.L.Corp would indicate that the general conditions of the Native Labour Camps are satisfactory. The statement in the report, however, that Camp Fournier would be flooded in wet weather is surmise, and such a condition has not occurred to my knowledge since the occupation of Marseilles by British Troops.</p>	A.D.M.S. L.of.C
	20th Feb.	.	<p>Received A.Q.M.G File No. Q.L./1764 regarding facilities for disinfecting at Marseilles. I stated that with the provision of the extra Clayton Machine referred to in the minute of the Base Commdt, apparently the facilities for disinfestation at the Marseilles Camp should suffice for normal requirements. I understand that in addition to the Lahore Indian General Hospital there are two British General Hospitals at Marseilles. The two High Pressure Steam Disinfectors which I recommended in my minute No.C/974/21 dated 2.2.18 should be supplied to these hospitals in accordance with A.Q.M.G minute No. QL/1041/T/1 dated 28.6.1917, circulated by you under your minute MF/386 d/ 30.6.17. (ie D.M.S., L.of.C).</p>	X b
			A5834 Wt.W4973/M687 750,000 8/16 D.D.&L.Ltd. Forms/C.2118/13	

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A.D.M.S. San' n., H.Q., L.F.G.D.M.

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Abbeville.	1918.		D.M.S., L.of.C passed file regarding med'l arrgts for cases of Infectious Disease occurring in Paris. I replied to the effect that all cases of infectious disease considered fit to travel by the Med'l Authorities concerned in Paris could be sent for treatment in hospital at Rouen. In certain circumstances where patients are unfit to travel they might be treated locally in the Pasteur Institute.
	23rd Feb.	Ctd.	Reference the Naga Ration. The D.G.M.S asked for particulars of same in order that amendments may be made to the ration pamphlet. I forwarded same today.
	24th Feb.		I wrote to the D.G.M.S reference the proposal to replace ten bleaching powder plants on Sterilisers of Water Tank Coys by the new chlorine gas plants, and made several recommendations. Received thro' D.G.M.S a paper on a "Disinfestation Chamber for the destruction of Lice and Nits by Dry Heat" together with plans, by Capt. R. Jacobs., R.A.M.C. I returned the same with general remarks. I have recast the paper but have made no important alterations except in regard to temperature of working.
			D.M.S., L.of.C passed file reference the provision of meat safes in Chinese Labour Camps. I stated that the provision of meat stores and food safes are generally provided throughout the whole Army and should be provided in every camp according to requirements. In this connection I invited attention to D.G.Circ Memo No. 8. para. 12.
25th Feb.			A.D.M.S. Sanitation proceeded to Rouen and Havre on inspection duty. Case of Relapsing Fever reported from Marseilles. (34308 Gunner Gokal., (Indian)). Reference to visit of Lieut Colonel. G.C.Buchanan., R.A.M.C to the Allied Sanitary Committee at Paris on March 12th, D.M.S asks what places should be included on the permit of this officer. I desire to confer with this officer at Abbeville, which should therefore be included on the permit.
			D.M.S., forwarded file ref. Preventive treatment Huts for Venereal Disease, and an appln by the Tank Corps to have same erected. I recommended that the extension of these early treatment huts is very desirable and therefore recommend that 2 be provided for Bermicourt, and one each for Le Treport and Merlinmont.

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L.B.T.A.P.
Remarks and references to Appendices

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
Abbeville.	1918. 26th Feb.		Received thro' D.M.S., L.of.C reports of a bacteriological and chemical examination of the water supply at CREIL. This water should be satisfactory when chlorinated.
	27th Feb.		The D.M.S., L.of.C passed a paper on "War Nephritis" by Captain N.M. Keith., R.A.M.C., 13 General Hospital, and called for remarks on same. I considered that the same was suitable for publication.
	28th Feb.		Received copy of Q.M.G's decision regarding the substitution of worn greatcoats for hospital gowns. The proposal is concurred in. To distinguish them from ordinary greatcoats, they should be clearly stamped "H.P".
			Received copy of D.W.Circ.Memo No. 324 showing double arrangement for Hospital Nissen Huts. I replied that this arrangement appears to be simple, convenient and capable of general application in Hospital Nissen Huts.
			The D.M.S., L.of.C enquires whether the weekly A.F.W.3397 from the Bases and the weekly returns of numbers of infectious diseases from the Armies, give me all the information I require with regard to New Cases of Infectious Disease, if the Daily A.F.W. 3397 from the Bases and Armies were discontinued? Daily returns of the number of New Cases are now furnished by Bases and by Front Area Medical Units. I stated that I do not require daily A.F.W.3397 from Bases and Armies; I should however, be glad if I could be furnished with a daily list of direct admissions to hospital for Infectious Diseases by Armies and Bases in order that I may be kept informed of the prevalence of infectious disease.
			The D.M.S., L.of.C forwarded a minute from DDMS Boulogne reference calorie values of food consumed per 100 patients in hospital at that Base. In returning same I remarked that it might be well to add to the list of energy values given in the D.M.S list No. MF/1048/ d/- 11.1.1918, the energy value of milk which is 325 calories per pound.
			The A.D.M.S. Sanitation is still away on inspection duty on the L. of. C.

J. M. Hanill

Captain, D.A.D.M.S. Sanitation.
For A.D.M.S. Sanitation.