

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

Chaplains

**Item number:** 6/3/14

**Title:** Senior Chaplain, Presbyterian,  
Headquarters AIF, London

February 1919



AWM4-6/3/14

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.

(Australian) INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A.I.F. Headquarters

London

Page 92.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>February 1919</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. F. J. Paton (9<sup>th</sup> Battalion) joined this battalion about the middle of the month from the 14<sup>th</sup> Battalion. His period of service with the latter was exceedingly happy, and speaks most highly of both officers and men. What is left of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Battalions have been joined under one Commanding Officer. Mr Paton counts this present position a most promising one for good spiritual work. He holds parade services as regularly as possible and has given several lectures on Pacific Ocean problems; he has voluntary services too which are well attended and much appreciated. Educational classes are held regularly in English, French, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, and mechanical subjects. Compulsory popular lectures are delivered, &amp; Mr. Paton give four mornings each week to speak at these: the lectures taking 50 minutes each, and requiring careful preparation. A Bible Class is held every Sunday afternoon and every Wednesday evening. He holds a weekly meeting for the men every Thursday. And he gives lectures to other Brigades than his own when opportunity permits, so he is by no means idle. He works in great harmony with the YMCA, and with the C. of E. Chaplain. The social side of the men's life is well looked after.</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. R. J. W. G. Cranford (20<sup>th</sup> Battalion) moved with the Brigade from Pay to</p>	
			<p>Mr. J. L. Telleue, &amp; services were held every Sunday.</p>	

(Australian)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

A. I. F. Headquarters

London.

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.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>February 1919</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. E. N. Merrington - (5<sup>th</sup> FAB) carries on the usual work at the billets of the Brigade in Thuin, and gave many lectures (lantern and other) to the men there, and to other units when opportunity offered. Services were held regularly on Sundays.</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. R. C. Racklyeft (A. I. F. D.) - This and the A. G. B. D. are now being used as demobilization centres, and very large numbers of men pass through almost every day. The Ymca services, conducted by the Chaplains &amp; others, held on Sundays and Tuesdays have been extremely well attended. Comforts for the Comforts Fund &amp; Ymca have been liberally distributed. Pleasant afternoons are arranged for the men, and lectures given on incidents connected with the history of the district. The Chaplain visits regularly the local camp hospital daily, the field post hospital compound each Sunday, and the Officers Hospital and the Contact Camp occasionally. The O.C. (Col. O'Donnell) gives the padre every courtesy and consideration.</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. G. M. Baird (2 A. G. H. Boulogne) helps at Ymca Sunday morning service in Wimereux. Held evening service in the Hospital. A special Church parade was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> in which the C. of E. chaplain joined, it was well attended. Similarly he attended on a weeks funeral duty at Thurlingthun Cemetery, and had an average of three funerals per day for the week.</p> <p>Chaplain Rev. John Smith (2 Com. Depot, Weymouth) holds service regularly at Monte Video camp, and it is well attended. He also helps at the Ymca on week nights.</p> <p>Demobilization and Education Supply a little change from ordinary employment.</p>	

Senior Presbyterian Chaplains  
(Australian)

WAR DIARY

Rev. W. Floyd Shannon

Army Form C. 2:18.

A. 9. 7. Headqrs-

London

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.)

Page 94

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	February 1919.		<p>Chaplain Rev. P. A. Smith (1 AESH, Sutton Army) held Sunday services at No. 10 Camp Sutton Army, and at the Overseas Tng. Brigade, Devill, several times during the month. Also held voluntary services at the Hospital, two Sundays, - (this service is united and taken alternately by the Pres. &amp; the C. of E. Chaplain. Also preached at YMCA Greenhill House. He regularly visited the hospital, including 103 visits to those on the seriously and dangerously ill lists. Helped by stationery and distribution of fruit, wrote 44 letters for patients, conducted 9 funerals. Concerts are very frequently held, but most of the amusements are run by the YMCA, so the Chaplain does not require to give much aid. Mr. Smith was twice in London during the month, being called up both times on duty: once to attend a special Conference of Chaplains and YMCA representatives, and on the other occasion to take part in the funeral service of the Rev. A. E. Bate, a fellow Presbyterian Chaplain.</p> <p>Senior Chaplain Rev. W. Floyd Shannon (A. 9. 7. Headqrs. London) spent the greater part of the month in France on a visit of inspection to the Chaplains of his denomination. He left London on January 27 and returned on February 24. Owing to the strike at Calais, the prolonged frost of unusual severity early in February, and the succeeding thaw cutting up the roads, travelling was much interfered with, and delays occurred, which were unavoidable. He was able however to see all his Chaplains but one who, on the evening previous to the Senior Chaplain's arrival at his unit, had left for England being recalled for transport duty to Australia. Everywhere the</p>	

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.

(Australian)

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

A. 9. 7. Headqrs.  
London

Page 95.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	February 1919.		<p>Commanding Officers and other officers in the various units did all that was possible to make his visit successful and comfortable, and he acknowledges their courtesy and consideration all through.</p> <p>He deeply regrets that during his absence, Chaplain Rev. A. E. Bates, who had been on duty in 3<sup>rd</sup> A. A. Hospital at Dartford, Kent, died there on the 9<sup>th</sup> inst. of lobar pneumonia following influenza. The funeral was carried out with due military honors on 13<sup>th</sup> inst. at Brookwood, Surrey. Chaplain Bates though only recently arrived from Australia had done his work with great efficiency, earnestness, and success. His early death cast a gloom over all the chaplains who knew him, for he was a man of noble character, and very highly esteemed. Chaplain Rev. Frank H. L. Paton who took ill of the prevalent influenza in Havre was evacuated from hospital there to England, and was only discharged from the 3<sup>rd</sup> L. G. H. on 28<sup>th</sup> inst. for a fortnight's convalescent leave. An important Conference of Australian Chaplains of all Protestant sections with representatives of the Y.M.C.A. was held in London on 25<sup>th</sup> inst. when several important subjects bearing on the present and future condition of our soldiers were ably discussed, and arrangements were made for a further conference later on.</p>	

4