

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

Chaplains

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Title: Senior Chaplain, Other Protestant
Denominations, Headquarters AIF,
London

December 1917



AWM4-6/4/3

O.P.D. Chaplains Department

WAR DIARY submitted by
or
Rev F. J. Miles, D.S.O.;
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,
(Erase heading not required.) AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

Army Form C. 2118.

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.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			DECEMBER, 1917.	
			IN THE EGYPTIAN COMMAND.	
	Dec 1-31		<p>The Rev R. C. Turner (Congregationalist) is the only O.P.D. Chaplain in this Command. He is stationed at No 2 Australian Stationary Hospital, ^{ISMAILIA} where he has conducted services in the General + Venereal Blocks during the month, holding a special service of Holy Communion on Christmas morning. He has repeatedly visited the wards + attended to the many matters that concern a hospital chaplain. He has also visited + conducted Parade + Voluntary Services at the Light Horse details "Main" + "Isolation" Camps at Moascar. In all over 20 services were conducted by him, the number being less than usual owing to the visit of Rev John McNeill from England, who held many services. Mr Turner is the only Free Church Chaplain visiting + working in this camp.</p>	
			FRANCE	
	Dec 1 st		<p>Chaplain W. McKenzie, M.C., (Salvation Army), 1st Inf Bde (4th Pon), handed over to Chaplain R. C. Henry, (Salvation Army) + reached England on the 1st inst.</p>	
	1-31		<p>Chaplain J. T. Walden, M.A., (Church of Christ), 13th Inf Bde (50th Pon) conducted the usual services within the Brigade in co-operation with other chaplains of the unit. He, in addition to social + recreational work, specially concentrated on the supply of articles needed by men of the Brigade, by means of his successful management of the Brigade Canteens.</p>	

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	Dec 1-31		<p>Chaplain G.P. Cutbiss, (Church of Christ), Third Divl Troops (2nd Pioneer Bn). Companies of the Bn being scattered over a wide area made chaplaincy work very difficult. Sunday services + week evening Bible Readings have been maintained. Divisional Burials Officers work very heavy during month. Owing to pressure of this work + that of writing the Divl History, the management of the Canteen was handed over to Battalion Officers by the Padre. Literature provided. A successful Pierrat Troupe organised + managed by the Chaplain. Two Canadian companies without a resident chaplain served by Mr Cutbiss during the month.</p>	
	Dec 1-31		<p>Rev. W. W. Gussow, B.A. (Congregationalist), 5th A.D.P.D., has conducted the usual Parade Services, while the Voluntary Gatherings on Sunday evenings have been specially successful. Band + other Concerts have been conducted. Comforts were distributed to drafts leaving for the front + a short religious service held prior to their departure. This chaplain is Sports Representative for his Bn + takes the lead in matters athletic. Hospital work is allotted to numerous chaplains at home. Mr Gussow visited No 2 General during December.</p>	
	Dec 1-31		<p>Chaplain B. Orames, (Salvation Army), 5th Divl Troops, (5th Pioneer Bn). manages the Unit Canteen - most successful; turnover for a year over £10,000! Part of this month, the Bn was divided into 13 working sections. This made chaplaincy + canteen work very difficult. Comforts provided for men. Mrs Orames, wife of the chaplain, has a special committee at work in Aus. Special provision was made for the troops at Xmas. Few services held owing to most of the month being spent in the line.</p>	
	Dec 1-31		<p>Rev. H. S. Perkins (Congregationalist), 2nd Divl Troops, (11th Battery, 4th A.F.A. Bde), was out of the line with his unit in the beginning of the month. as chairman of the 4th Bde Sports + Amusements Ctee, arranged around of</p>	

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			<p>of Sports + Amusements for the Bde. Football, B. Games, etc; also Coffee and Milk for morning States were obtained thro' the Comforts Fund. With other chaplains allotted to 2nd Div. Troops arranged services for all units while out of the line. Special services held at Xmas, very small, most of the gunners at their guns. While in the line this chaplain daily visited the gunners + carried out all burials for the Bde.</p>	
	Dec-31		<p>Chaplain H.A. Procter MA, (Church of Christ) 4th A.D.B.D, waiting to move up the line. Has carried out Church + Social work in conjunction with Mr Jusson (see above).</p>	
	Dec-31		<p>Chaplain R.C. Henry (Salvation Army) having relieved Chaplain McKenzie at the 4th Bn, put in his first full month as a Chaplain. His service was most satisfactory. One Sunday marching, one in front line, left three on which Parade service were held. Voluntary Sunday + week evening meetings were also held while out of the line. Three Concerts + two "Snip songs" were carried through. Bible Cinema visited the unit on two nights. Sports were held. While in the line Mr Henry ran a "Cocoa-snack", earning 50 gallons of cocoa weekly. He managed the Bn canteen.</p>	
	Dec-31		<p>Rev. S.E. Norman, (Baptist), 1st A.C.S. Recovering from indisposition, has put in a good month's work, holding services, visiting wards, providing gramophones + records, managing reading + recreation room, etc.</p>	
	Dec-31		<p>Rev. D.J. Freeman, (Hebrew) Ret'd to France on the 2nd, joined 2nd Division on the 5th, visited Hebrews of all Ranks in 1st, 2nd, 3rd + 5th Divisions, held three services, visited Hebrews in all A.C.S. in our area, + also Aus. Corps Headquarters. During the month, owing to pressure from Australia, Mr Freeman decided to ask to be allowed to return to Aus. Preliminary arrangements were made to enable his request to be granted.</p>	

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UNITED KINGDOM	Dec 1-31		Chaplain Wm McKenzie, M.C., on leave till Dec 17th, then visiting hospitals in the London Command while waiting for transport to Aus. 504 patients visited.	
	Dec 1-31		Rev. H. A. Pyke (Baptist), in hospital (shell wound in right shoulder) on convalescent leave.	
	Dec 1-31		Rev. F. V. Dowling, B.A., (Congregationalist), No 2 Command Depot, Vene Citadel, Portland. Conducts Parade & Voluntary Services. Constant visiting of men in this & the other camps of the Command. Hospital regularly visited.	
	Dec 1-31		Rev. J. Robertson (Baptist), Pioneer Training Bn at Sutton Veney. Held regular services & threw himself heartily into new arrangements for sports, etc, for the men; consequent upon the reorganisation of the Tg Brigades. Very successful in this.	
	Dec 1-31		Chaplain A. S. Forbes, D.C.M., (Church of Christ), No 3 Camp, Parkhouse. Not many men in camp during the month. Services (as many as 5 on a Sunday) were regularly held, as were also week evening meetings. Keelhi, Parkhouse & Bulford Hospitals were visited (about 1,000 patients). Special sports arranged for Xmas. Band concerts organised.	
	Dec 1-31		Senior Chaplain the Rev. F. J. Miles, D.S.O., Administrative Head quarters, London. Administrative work & correspondence. Work for War Museum & Record - providing photos, etc. Reports sent to Church authorities in Australia. Senior Chaplains Conference on the 3rd. Chaplain McKenzie visited hospitals under his direction during latter half of the month. Chaplains Travers & Pyke also reported for direction. 2nd Southern General & Beaufort Hospitals & auxiliaries visited and special Xmas services conducted for the Australian patients at Bishop's Knoll, Bristol. Took part in opening of Aus. Y.M.C.A. Theatre at Aboynton Dec 8th & preached there on Dec 16th. As other Senior Chaplains were away a good deal, it was arranged that Mr Miles should be mostly at the office; a fair amount of work carried out, therefore, will not properly be recorded in a purely 'OPD' diary - mere reporting of Chaplains of other denominations, for instance.	

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