

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

Chaplains

**Item number:** 6/4/1 Part 1

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

August 1914 - October 1917



AWM4-6/4/1PART1

**CONFIDENTIAL.**

ORIGINAL.

~~DUPLICATE.~~

~~TRIPLICATE.~~

Australian Imperial Force.

**WAR DIARY**

OF

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,  
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

FOR

*5<sup>th</sup> August, 1914, to 31<sup>st</sup> October, 1917,*

*from which date Monthly Diaries were submitted.*

Signature of Officer compiling

*J. Mills*

Signature of Officer Commanding

*J. Mills*

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,  
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.

"O.P.D." Chaplains'

WAR DIARY

by J.J. Miles,

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,

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.

①

INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<u>INTRODUCTORY</u>			<p>When war led to the formation of the First Division of the Australian Imperial Force, there were in the Commonwealth Military Forces a number of chaplains of the Baptist Church, several belonging to the Congregational Churches &amp; a few representing the Churches of Christ. Under new Chaplaincy Regulations these three had been grouped for administrative purposes under the title of "O.P.D." i.e. "Other Protestant Denominations" (Main Church of England) Presbyterian or Methodist. For the A.I.F., chaplains were appointed on a percentage basis, the denominations being called upon to supply chaplains in proportion to their percentage of the population as shown by Census. In this way the "O.P.D.'s" came to be represented.</p>	
<u>"O.P.D.'s"</u>				
<u>Salvation Army.</u>			<p>The S. Army had "stood out" of the above-mentioned "Combine". It was decided to send a Salvation Army representative with the A.I.F., and in practical work in this Force it was found advisable to include the Salvation Army Chaplains under the term "O.P.D.". The arrangement has worked satisfactorily. Later it was considered wise to add the Hebrew Chaplain to the department for statistical &amp; record purposes, tho' it is obvious that the Senior Chaplain of the Dept cannot, &amp; does not desire to, exercise any control over the <sup>spiritual</sup> work of the Jewish representative.</p>	
<u>Hebrews</u>				<u>While</u>

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>UNOFFICIAL USE OF "O.P.D." in the U.K.</p> <p>AUSTRALIA</p> <p>3rd Military District - Broadmeadows Camp</p>	<p>1914</p> <p>August &amp; September</p> <p>Sept 14.</p>		<p>While there is general cooperation between the five chaplaincy departments, there is naturally a much closer bond between the Presbyterian Methodist + O.P.D. branches. They generally arrange the posting of their chaplains in conjunction so as to secure the greatest advantage of the minimum of overlapping. In the A.I.F. Depots in the United Kingdom, as a result of actual experience + close association, <sup>there has evolved</sup> an unofficial use of the term by which all the Protestants in a camp or group, other than those of the Church of England, are gathered up for chaplaincy purposes under this term. While for practical purposes this practice may be useful + profitable, it should be clearly noted that it has no official sanction. It did not originate with, &amp; is not so used by, this Department.</p> <p>The first "O.P.D." Chaplain appointed to the Australian Imperial Force was the Rev. F. J. Miles of the Baptist Church. Previous experience included service with a for British + Australian troops from 1885, Chaplaincy in Commonwealth Military Forces from 14/11/07; Senior Baptist Chaplaincy in Victoria for five years; 6 1/2 years service with regular army in United Kingdom India + Ceylon. He went into Broadmeadows Camp when it was opened. No chaplains were appointed but he deemed the work so important that he did it without charge to the Government until officially appointed on Sept 14<sup>th</sup> 1914. (Commission actually dated 5/8/14.) He remained with the unit that he had lived with</p>	

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Melbourne	1914 - cont		<p>with from the opening of Broadmeadows Camp, the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion (2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bgde). He was engaged in Sports, Social + Spiritual service in the Camp. Before the 1<sup>st</sup> Division sailed he organised a farewell service in the Camp for all denominations except the R.C. + C of E, for special communion service to follow, &amp; for the Ministers of all the Churches in + around Melbourne from which the troops came to be present at this farewell to their members. Similar gatherings were managed by him for the Victorian Christian Endeavour Union + other kindred organisations. He compiled the necessary lists + worked with the Committee for the presentation of a wristlet watch to each of over 200 North + West Melbourne men who joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, the State Governor actually making the presentations at the North Melbourne Town Hall.</p>	
		Sept 25 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Wm McKenzie was appointed Chaplain - the Salvation Army's first representative with the A.I.F. He had had no previous military experience, but he thoroughly knew + understood men.</p>	
		Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>	<p>He sailed from Sydney on the "Euripides", the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf Bgde Headquarters, 3<sup>rd</sup> + 4<sup>th</sup> Inf Battalions, the 1<sup>st</sup> Field Ambulance on board. Was the head + heart of all good work for the troops on board.</p>	
		Sept 21 <sup>st</sup>	<p>Rev F. J. Miles sailed from Melbourne on the "Hororata", the 6<sup>th</sup> + 7<sup>th</sup> Battalions being on board. Served the troops on board in varied ways + at ports en route served troops on other vessels in the convoy carrying no chaplain.</p>	
		Oct 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<p>Rev. Gordon Robertow, Congregationalist, appointed Chaplain, 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Horse Brigade</p>	
		Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	<p>Chaplain McKenzie arrived Alexandria + proceeded to Mena Camp. } after troops had settled down at Mena Camp</p>	
EGYPT		Dec 5 <sup>th</sup>	<p>Chaplain the Rev. F. J. Miles 1<sup>st</sup> Div was allotted the chaplains to units. Chaplain Wm McKenzie was posted to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade + lived with the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn; Rev. F. J. Miles was posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade + continued to live with the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>MENA CAMP</p>	<p>1914, December; to 1915 April 4th</p>		<p><u>Battalion.</u> Chaplains Wm McKenzie + Rev J. Miles served their own units particularly + the 1st Division generally throughout the period from Dec. 28, 1914, to Easter Sunday 1915, when the Division moved off to embark for Alexandria en route to Gallipoli. They also served other Australian troops who arrived from Australia during the period, notably the 4th Infantry Brigade + first regiments of 1st Horse. In addition to Church Parade Services, they each regularly conducted a Voluntary Service on Sunday nights, a number of week evening meetings + Bible classes; while Mr Miles also organised a Christian Endeavour Society for the Endeavourers in all units at Menzies. Sports were arranged + a continuous series of lectures + concerts managed. Chaplain McKenzie was indefatigable in his service. Mr Miles had studied Archaeology + was able to get into touch with Dr Riseney of the Harvard University Excavation Dept + was given a special permit to conduct expeditions of officers + the Messing Staff of the A.I.F. over the excavations adjoining the Pyramids. The chaplains in conference drew up a roster for hospital visitation as this work developed, each chaplain taking the sections of numerous hospitals in turn. By common consent Mr Miles was asked to undertake the special work at the Dermatological Hospital. He conducted all services, etc, there, + the other chaplains stayed away, so that when men returned cured to their units they did not feel that their chaplain would look down upon them because he knew of the disease they had contracted. It was considered that this experiment was fully justified in practice. Messrs McKenzie + Miles went everywhere with their units; they accompanied them on all day manoeuvres in the desert, on long route marches, shared with them the night attacks and bivouacs + so laid the foundation of comradeship + intimate knowledge that stood them in greater stead than any other factor in later days.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ANZAC GALLIPOLI	1915 April 4 <sup>th</sup> April 25 <sup>th</sup> to Dec <sup>r</sup> 17 <sup>th</sup> 1915.		<p>days. Neither of these Chaplains took leave or was off duty during the whole currency of the Mena Camp up till the date of leaving for the Dardanelles. During that period they served throughout the whole 1<sup>st</sup> Division, <del>but</del> generally, their own Brigades more particularly; except when any of the Troops were away, a half of the Miles' Brigade (the 2<sup>nd</sup>) were for a few days at the time of the Turkish attacks on the Canal at Kutara.</p> <p>On April 4<sup>th</sup> 1915, they both embarked with their units at Cairo for Alexandria en route to the Dardanelles. They arrived at Mudros Bay, Lemnos, &amp; spent the hazy time with their units there until Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup>, when they sailed; arriving at Gallipoli in the early morning of April 25<sup>th</sup>. All chaplains were specially warned not to leave their ships, so they did not land then. They were engaged in tending the wounded as they were brought from the shore. Mr Miles took charge of the organisation of the improvised operating room on the "Suleika" &amp; worked alone there for three days &amp; two nights without a break. They subsequently landed &amp; worked with their own units in particular, but because of the great need &amp; the shortage of padres, with all troops in the Anzac Section right up till the evacuation in December, except as specifically stated below, &amp; apart from the fact that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde, to which Mr Miles belonged, was sent to participate in the advance on Krithia from Cape Helles (May 8<sup>th</sup>), necessitating Mr Miles' going there for a brief period. It is not easy to place on record what the padres did at Anzac &amp; one is hardly handicapped because one knows one's own work so much better than it is possible to know the work of others. Yet the writer saw a great deal of the work of the others &amp; would place on record that anything he may write here of his own work could be just as freely written of most of the others, &amp; more emphatically of Chaplain Wm McKenzie. During the middle months of the period we worked on an average sixteen hours per day. There were periods when we could not bury owing the day times. Bodies were collected in the Mortuary in Monash' fully during the day &amp; brought down from there after 10 pm &amp; buried in the</p>	

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ANZAC  
GALLIPOLI

April 25th to Decr 17th, 1915. (Continued)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
			<p>The Shrapnel Gully Cemetery between 10 pm &amp; 2 am. Burials in this and the other cemeteries were frequently interrupted &amp; burial parties were withdrawn by the chaplains until the firing of the enemy ceased. During the period May to August the work was carried on without a break. Voluntary Services on Sunday evenings &amp; Holy Songs on week-evenings were carried on after dark, as the Turks did not send shells over after night had closed in. These were most successful &amp; excellent results were realised. Chaplain Miles conducted a Holy Communion service in a gully off Shrapnel Gully every Sunday morning for ten Sundays, attended by an average of 50 Communicants. To reach the "quiet" place where the service was held a small hogs back in full view of the Turkish Chessboard had to be crossed. The Turkish snipers were always busy &amp; almost every day men were hit while crossing this spot, yet not once was a man wounded when going to this service. The front line trenches were visited every day by these padres; most of the daylight hours were spent in visiting various units; censoring &amp; correspondence occupied a good deal of time. Together with all others at Anzac the padres who lived with their units, were constantly under fire &amp; had many remarkable escapes. Mr Miles was wounded, being struck on the head by a 5 lb piece of 6" shell, the force being broken by its having to carve its way through the overhead camouflage of his dugout, on June 28th, but at his own request was not evacuated. In the month of July Mr McKenzie took his turn of seven days visitation of the hospitals at Lemnos. Mr Miles showed that June he was ministering to a large number of reinforcements in a camp, a New Zealand Chaplain went instead, while chaplains were regularly stationed at the hospitals at Lemnos at the end of August the Gallipoli Chaplains spent 7 days each in turn visiting the sick &amp; wounded there. In July when the intense heat &amp; other bad conditions brought a plague of flies &amp; an epidemic of diarrhoea &amp; dysentery. Mr McKenzie suffered from the latter very badly; he was so weak that he could scarcely walk, yet he persisted in "carrying on". The present writer cannot adequately praise the fine spirit that was manifested by this chaplain &amp; his special grit at this time. In September, when the 8th Brigade left the Peninsula for a rest at Sarpi Camp,</p>	

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ANZAC  
Salisbury  
Camp

April 25 to Dec 17, 1915.

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	April 25 to Dec 17, 1915.		<p>Despatched from Lemnos he was from four weeks leave to proceed to Egypt. Apart from this one break, the chaplain had no rest or change throughout the occupation of ANZAC. On August 2<sup>nd</sup> his wife was ordered to proceed to Lemnos for the week's hospital work. On the 8<sup>th</sup> the Senior Chaplain, Rev. J. McPhee, sent word that a more would be heavy casualties he must use his judgment as to returning at the end of the 7 days. No relief came - none could come - but he remained for a time. The "Aquitania" was converted into a temporary ambulance carrier. 3,000 wounded were placed on board, many of them New Zealanders + Australians. There was no Chaplain, so arrangements were made by wire with Corps Head Quarters + the Rules was sent on board. He travelled to Southampton + back, rejoining his unit, which was resting at Lemnos + with it returning to ANZAC. Troops at ANZAC were in sore straits early in August only the scarcity of water. Mr Miles was asked by the Staff of the G.O.C, L of C, to undertake to collect + despatch water to ANZAC. A motor boat was placed at his disposal + on Aug 5<sup>th</sup> he scoured Mudros Bay visiting many ships of the mercantile marine. From some he procured empty petrol tins, from one he obtained 300 fantases, a working party of artillery men on another made plugs for these, the first water for filling these receptacles was obtained from yet other vessels. At 5 pm the "Clacton" sailed to ANZAC with a load of water, as the result of the day's work. The chaplain was heartily thanked by the G.O.C, L of C, + by Genl de Labiniere, Director of works, for this piece of special service.</p> <p>The Rev. T. John Robertson, Congregationalist, arrived at ANZAC on May 15<sup>th</sup>. He worked with his own unit, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. H. Brigade, + when the Rev. J.C. McPhee was Senior Chaplain + subsequently when he was away ill, he did duty in addition with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Brigade. He covered a wide sweep of work never sparing himself, rendering exceptionally fine service. For a couple of months he lived with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bn, rejoining his own unit on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>. He was evacuated to the 1<sup>st</sup> A.G.H. with P.U.D. on Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, sent to Australia for three months on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. He wore himself out with unvaried + devoted work. The boys spoke of him as the historical preacher because he so constantly linked up past history.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
<p>ANZAC Gallipoli Continued</p>	<p>Dec 1-9</p>		<p>of people &amp; places to which present circumstances linked our troops. It is greatly to be regretted that so fine a chaplain should have been lost to our service during so over work during the hot &amp; distressing months at Gallipoli, when we were unavoidably short handed. Appl terminated in Australia - 3/4/16</p> <p>Chaplain S. T. Walden, D.M.A. (Church of Christ) was appointed chaplain to this Force in March 17th, 1915. He had previous experience as a chaplain with the C.M.F. from 15/9/13. Left Sydney with the 18th &amp; 19th Battalions on the "Ceramic", 25/6/15; arrived Alexandria 22/7/15 &amp; Gallipoli - 19/8/15. Unfortunately his health failed &amp; he was evacuated on 7/9/15. While Oct 12th he was in the P.S. Hospital, Malta, when he was sent to Italy to recuperate till 11/XI/15. He was then sent to Alexandria &amp; posted to Hospital work 1/XII/15.</p> <p>Rev. F. J. Miles left Gallipoli for Sarpi Camp, Lemnos, with his unit on Dec 15; Mr. McKenzie following to the same place with his unit 2 days later. Both served the units coming there for the evacuation process until the close of the year.</p>	
<p>EGYPT</p>	<p>Dec 14</p>		<p>Rev. Donald McNeill (Baptist) was appointed Chaplain to this Force, 16/X/15. He had been a chaplain with the C.M.F. from the previous January &amp; had been a Scripture Reader in the Royal Navy. He reached Egypt with the 8th Infantry Bde on Dec 14th, 1915 &amp; went into camp at Tel El Kehir &amp; on the Canal.</p>	
	<p>Dec 19th</p>		<p>Rev. A. H. Teece, D.M.A. (Congregationalist) was appointed Chaplain to the A.I.F. 16/X/15, having had previous experience with the C.M.F. from January of that year. He reached Egypt &amp; went into camp with the 2nd Light Horse Bde (his appl was vice <del>Teece</del> on Dec 19th, 1915).</p>	
<p>EGYPT &amp; ANZAC</p>	<p>Dec 9th 13th</p>		<p>The Rev. D. J. Freedman, D.M.A. (Hebrew) was appointed Jewish Chaplain to the A.I.F. 1/X/15. Previous experience in the C.M.F. from 11/3/11. Left Australia 2/XI/15, arrived Egypt 23/XI/15. Arrived at Gallipoli 9/XII/15 but as evacuation had been decided upon left again on 13/XII/15, being</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT	1916		<p>being sent to Mudros, Lemnos.</p> <p>Rev. F. J. Miles left Lemnos with 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bgd on Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 1916, arrived Alexandria on the 6<sup>th</sup> and Tel El Kebir on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Carried on usual Chaplaincy work at this Camp till the 24<sup>th</sup> + on that date went with unit to Serapeum East for Canal Defence. On Jan. 27<sup>th</sup> marched out into desert between 6 + 8 miles. While the night of March 22<sup>nd</sup> stayed out in the desert, camped on the track covered by the Turks when they attacked Kantara, seeing the 5<sup>th</sup> + 6<sup>th</sup> Battalions of Infantry, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Company, Aus<sup>n</sup> Engineers, etc; covering several camps over a breadth of front of about 8 miles + linking up with the work carried on by Chaplain Mackenzie + others at Setel Habita on the left. All Chaplaincy work for this half Brigade was continuously maintained until the departure for Alexandria en route to France on Mar 22<sup>nd</sup>; when he + the other padre of the Brigade travelled with the Bgd Hdqrs, + onboard the transport "Linda" with the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn of the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. <sup>Mar 22<sup>nd</sup></sup></p> <p>Appointed Senior Chaplain, O.P.D., on Mar 1<sup>st</sup> + during that month <del>visited</del> <sup>visited</sup> reported to 18<sup>th</sup> Div Hdqrs + the Principal Chaplain, Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, at Ferry Port, Smailija, + after conferring concerning the appointment of Chaplains to the newly organized Division (4<sup>th</sup> + 5<sup>th</sup>), proceeded to Tel El Kebir + Cairo to arrange the transfer of Chaplains, etc. This Senior Chaplaincy in the A.I.F. added somewhat to Mr Miles' work as Senior Chaplain in the Brigade + Division, but not sufficiently to seriously cause his own unit's work to suffer. During this visit to Ferry Port + Tel El Kebir Mr Rev. D. Mc Nicol (Baptist) was transferred from the 8<sup>th</sup> Brigade, where there were five padres, to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division + posted to the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade + attached to the 18<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He left Egypt with the Battalion for France on Mar. 18<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Chaplain W. M. McKenzie (S. Army) served with his own unit, the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn, at Tel El Kebir on the Sinai Peninsula during the first three months of the year. He rendered complete and continuous Chaplaincy service during this period. For his splendid service rendered on Gallipoli he was awarded the Military Cross (A.I.F. List 62, London Gazette 29608, 3/6/16) + mentioned in despatches (London Gazette, 29664, 12/7/16); his recommendations being sent in during this period in Egypt on the Canal Defence.</p>	
	Jan			
	4 <sup>th</sup>			
	6 <sup>th</sup>			
	24 <sup>th</sup>			
	27 <sup>th</sup>			
	to			
	Mar			
	22 <sup>nd</sup>			
	23 <sup>rd</sup>			
	Mar			
	1 <sup>st</sup>			
	Mar 7.			
	18			
	Jan			
	Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>			

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT Cantons	1916.	January to March	He sailed from Alexandria for France on the "Sivola" with the 2nd Bn the padre of the 2nd Inf Bde on Mar 23rd, 1916.	
	Feb. 10th		The Rev. D. J. Freedman, B.A. (Hebrew) was appointed Jewish Rabbi to all men of the Hebrew faith in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force on 10/2/16. As a matter of fact Mr Freedman had served others than members of the A.I.F. before this. During the month of Dec 1915, e.g. he was the only Jewish padre on the Island of Lemnos. He worked with our 1st Division at Sorpi, held regular services with the 2nd Division near Salamander, visited the 13th & 14th Divisions at East Mudros, the hospitals on Turks Head, & served the British Regiments & the Zion Corps, the latter being made up from young Jewish refugees from Palestine. Mr Freedman visited all our units in Egypt in turn. During this period he arranged with Major Inayat of the Ordnance Dept for the manufacture of emblems for Jewish <sup>soldiers</sup> <del>soldiers</del> <sup>grants</sup> which were made in the form of the Shield of David. During the latter part of March Mr Freedman arranged Passover banquets for soldiers & hospitality was obtained for them in Jewish homes in Cairo. Port Said & Alexandria. Parcels from Australia & literature from England were distributed to Jewish troops during the month. It will be convenient to compile the record of Mr Freedman's service here up to his sailing for France. In April Passover Services were conducted for the troops & various units were visited. During May various units were visited, more particularly in the Canal Zone. Hospitals were regularly visited - there were 1277 Jewish Soldiers of the M.E.F. in hospital during this month. Leave	
		March to April		

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EGYPT Com B	January to June		Leave for the Pentecostal Festival was arranged for men of the Jewish faith. The padre continued his work among all units of the M.E.F. until he sailed for France by the "Caledonia" from Alexandria on June 21st. See Padre's Reports Appendix I.	
	Jan 28		Rev. A.H. Teece, B.A., Congregationalist, was officially posted to the 2nd L. H. Bde from Reinforcements - List no 20 - 28/1/16.	
	Mar 1st		Chaplain J.P. Guthrie, Church of Christ, after a year's previous experience in the C.M.F. in the S. Army, was appointed 4th Class Chaplain in the A.I.F. 1/3/16 left Australia (Adelaide) - the "Africa" with the 4th Bn + other units 9/6/16, arrived in U.K. (Southampton) 23/8/16 & served the 3rd Division - general & the 4th Bn in particular.	
	Mar 1st		Rev. G. Gunnson, B.A., Angl., after 12 months previous experience in the A.I.F. was appointed Chaplain 4th Class in A.I.F. 1/3/16. Left Australia (Melbourne) on the "Runic" - 19/6/16, with the 38th Bn + other units, served the 3rd Division & particularly the 38th Bn in U.K.	
	Mar 7th		Mr B. Orant, S. Army, after previous troopship & camp work & a year's experience in the C.M.F. was appointed Chaplain, 4th Class, in the A.I.F. 7/3/16. Left Melbourne on the "Wiltshire" with reinforcements 7/3/16: arrived Suez 10/4/16 & was posted to the 5th Pioneer Bn + 5th Div's Troops. Left Alexandria in the "Canada" & arrived at Marseilles, France, 25/5/16.	
	Feb 29th		Mr G.T. Waarden, M.A., Church of Christ, served at Gezzein Palace April till 29/11/16, then at 7th Training Bn till 15/4/16 when he was transferred to the 13th Inf Bde & the 50th Bn, leaving Alexandria with them on the "Ascania" 6/6/16, reaching Marseilles, France on 12/6/16, continuing to serve the same unit.	

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O.P.D. Chaplains

WAR DIARY

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	1916 March June		<p>Senior Chaplain Miles served at the Canal Zone till March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Then proceeded to Alexandria &amp; embarked on the "Siula" with the other 3 Chaplains of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. &amp; the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn. Disembarked at Marseilles on 30<sup>th</sup> March. Travelled with the 4<sup>th</sup> Bn &amp; remained with them at Staple near Hazebrouck until the 2<sup>nd</sup> Div arrived on April 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; joined the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. At Esquingham assisted in preparing the Brigade for going into the line under the new conditions, &amp; during Holy Week conducted special "Company" services for each small unit in turn, with splendid results. Held special gatherings on Anzac Day. Brigade inspected by the C-in-Chief on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Sir Douglas Haig, after the parade rode up to the Chaplain in order to congratulate him upon his work. Moved up into Fleurbaix area (Bois de la Fosse) &amp; spent 14 days on front line at Wye Trench with 6<sup>th</sup> Bn on April 30<sup>th</sup>. At the end of 14 days the 8<sup>th</sup> Bn relieved the 6<sup>th</sup>. The 8<sup>th</sup> Bn padre having broken down Mr Miles remained in the line for 14 days with Mal unit. Then the 6<sup>th</sup> returned to the line &amp; the padre thus completed 42 days without a break in the front line trenches: a record. During this time the 5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 7<sup>th</sup> Bns occupied the trenches on the right of the 6<sup>th</sup> &amp; 8<sup>th</sup>. Those on the left were occupied by units of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division, chiefly the 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> Bn, whose padre was back running a canteen. Thus Mr Miles had 3 Bn fronts to attend to. He mostly made two hours of every day each day &amp; went through two heavy attacks and raids by the enemy. As a consequence Sir Hope arranged special leave to Sirighty for the padre on June 6<sup>th</sup>, during which period he visited a number of bereaved relatives in England. The Arch Bishop of Canterbury held a most helpful conference for Chaplains at Popperidge on May 17-19, when Messrs Deffer &amp; Miles represented the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, A.I.F.</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	1916	A.M.	<p>July to Dec<sup>r</sup> Rev. J. Miles, Senior Chaplain, O.P.D. A.I.F., lived with the 6<sup>th</sup> Bn, served the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde + 1<sup>st</sup> Div, occasionally visited his chaplains in the other Divisions. Early in July served in area opposite Messines among other work carried out burials at Botho Extension + La Plus Douave Farm Cemetery. Had several narrow escapes during the period. In the Doullens + Vignacourt area later; reached Albert Buckfields in preparation for Pozieres on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Small preparatory services for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde held on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup>. Served in the front advanced out post, 200 yards from Pozieres for 3 days against all service for wounded on top, while two M/Os, Captains Wall + Hazyn, dealt with cases he sent down into deep German dugouts, buried dead in the locality. Under heavy shell fire during the whole period. Relieved by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Bn at 1 am, 27<sup>th</sup>. Thanked by French workers + Forsyth on the 28<sup>th</sup>. After a term in the Vaden court area, returned to Pozieres (Sunken Road) on Aug<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>th</sup>. Opened a new cemetery in Sunken Valley. Moved back to Albert on the 21<sup>st</sup>. During these two periods Chaplain Miles was the only padre in the front line, all others being ordered to stay with reserves of officers, though several of them visited the men in the trenches by day. Served in the Ypres Salient from end of August through September, + on Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> crossed to England in order to visit chaplains in Camp + Hospitals in the U.K. On completing his inspection duty, returned to France, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>, rejoining the 2<sup>nd</sup> Inf Bde at Eperlecques. Appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Chaplain while holding the position of Senior Chaplain on Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Division moved to the Somme again via Albert + Pommiers + Reumont. The 6<sup>th</sup> Bn went into the line at Fuedecourt on Oct 29<sup>th</sup>, returning to Bernafay Wood on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Strained without ceasing + water was up to hips + snails in the trenches during the whole period. The padre went round the trenches daily cheering the men who of course could not see him during the period. They behaved magnificently, their cheery conquering of their conditions was, in the chaplain's judgment, one of the greatest achievements of the war, most of the movements had to be made over the top; there were either no communication</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	1916	July 26	Communication Trenches on they were so badly broken as to be unusable. The 6th Bn "Wood" & marched back to the guérouet, arriving there on Nov 18th. While there Mr Miles recd instructions to proceed to England & open an office at administrative HQ in London, on Dec 1st. This was done: Mr Miles returning to France with the Rev. J. Mackay for a tour of inspection on Dec 29th. In Dec Mr Miles was "mentioned in despatches" for previous work. (16/XII/16. He was awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous service, gallantry & devotion to duty - 29 - XII - 16. Copy of orders appointing Chaplain to Ad HQ in London attached as Appendix II	
	Sept 25		Chaplain was Mackenzie, S. Army, rendered consistent & consecrated service in every kind, physical, social, mental & spiritual during his half year. He ran the Pipe Band of his Battalion (the 4th) he managed the 1st Bde Canteen: in every thing he was a tower of strength to the officers & a comfort & help to the men of his Bde. He never spared himself in any way. He was promoted to 3rd Class man A.I.F. Order 677, 25/9/16.	
	Nov 26		Rev W. H. Gunson, Bay Cough, & Chaplain J. P. Cuthiss, Church of Christ, continued to serve their units & the 3rd division on Salisbury Plains until they crossed with their Battalions to France - 26/XI/16. As a result of defence ruling regarding either a Methodist or Presbyterian Chaplain being with each div Bde Mr Cuthiss was transferred to the 3rd Pioneer, 24/XII/16 & Mr [unclear] to the 5th A.D. B.D. on 26/XII/16	
	Dec 24			
	26			



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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE	July-Dec	24	<p>Mr B. Brames, S. Army, continued to render splendid service to 5th Divl Troops in general &amp; especially to the 5th Pioneer Bn. He managed the Pioneer's Canteen, their Bn funds &amp; their sports organisation with conspicuous ability.</p> <p>Mrs. T. Bradley, Church of Christ, served the 13th Bde during this period, seeking to provide for the all round needs of the troops. He was so markedly successful in managing the Bde Canteen, securing the country to provide his men with food &amp; comforts, that during this time he earned the sobriquet - "The Canteen King".</p> <p>During July &amp; August he headed the O.P.D. party with the 18th Bn. He Rev. D. McNeil, Baptist, began to put. The S/Chaplain visited him regularly &amp; finally recommended his return to Australia (at his own request).</p>	
	Sept 26		<p>He crossed to UK, 26/9/16, embarked on the "Karoola", 16/11/16, reached Australia, 2/12/16 &amp; was discharged. His ill health greatly and unfortunately impaired his work during this period.</p>	
	Dec 2		<p>Rev. H. A. Pyke, Baptist, was app'd vice McNeil. He had had a year's experience in the C.M.F. at Liverpool Camp, N.S.W. He was app'd 4/IX/16, left Sydney on the "Sydney" with R.F.C. on 4/IX/16 &amp; arrived in France 2/XII/16 &amp; was posted to the 2nd Divl Troops - 4th A.I. Bde.</p>	Egypt

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
EG 1/16			<p>Rev. A. H. Teece, Compt, cont'd to serve the 2nd A.I.F. H. Bode with great devotion - He displayed great courage &amp; skill. He rescued a wounded man under heavy fire with great gallantry &amp; was awarded the Military Cross - 13/X/16. He left for Australia for termination of app't, at his own request - 21/XI/16</p>	
			<p>Rev. J. Dempsey, Compt, was app'd to succeed him 14/XII/16. He had had 2 years experience - He came to Australia in the "Aeneas" with reinforcements on 30/IX/16, reached England 20/XI/16 &amp; served on Salisbury Plains &amp; on Hospital Visitation under the direction of the S/Chaplain while awaiting transport.</p>	
VOYAGE ONLY CHAPLAINS IN ENGLAND			<p>The following gentlemen were appointed chaplains for "Voyage only" &amp; served as under -</p>	
			<p>Mr. J. C. F. Pittman, Church of Christ, left Aus. on the "Aeneas" with Rft's 30/IX/16, arrived in UK 29/XI/16 &amp; served in Camps &amp; depots in UK, while waiting return.</p>	
	4/9/16		<p>Rev. A. H. Austin, Compt, left Aus. on the "Aeneas" with Rft's 30/IX/16, arrived UK, 20/XI/16, &amp; served Camps &amp; depots, UK, &amp; doing Hptl visitng while waiting return.</p>	
	30/9/16		<p>Rev. E. S. Moulton, Baptist, app'd 7/XI/16, left Aus 9/XI/16 "Benalla" with Rft's, arrived UK 9/XI/16 &amp; served in CSD while waiting return.</p>	
			<p>Rev. B. C. Weiland, Compt, app'd 20/XI/16, sailed 29/XII/16 on "Persia". For reference to</p>	
			<p>Rev. D. I. Freedman, Cong, Jewish Chaplain to the A.I.F. during this period see Page 19</p>	

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
Jan - June	1917.		<i>"Peruic" - page 19</i>	
<u>AUSTRALIA</u>			Rev. D. Mc Nicol (Baptist) app't terminated in Australia - 18/1/17. in A.F. Teece, (Congl) - 14/1/17.	
<u>U.K.</u>			in A.H. Austin, (Congl) Voyage Only served units on Salisbury Plains and milit hospitals until he embarked for Australia on the "Bellona" - 17/3/17.	
			Chaplain J.C.F. Pittman (Church of Christ) Voyage Only served units in Camps & Depots until posted to "Peruic" for return to Australia 10/5/17.	
			Rev. H.S. Perkins, Congl, was appointed Chaplain 4th Class - the A.F., 20/1/17, after a year's previous service - the Congl. He left Australia on the "Milhades" with Rfts on 24/1/17, and U.K. (Plymouth) 27/3/17 & served in Camps & Depots in the U.K. Kingdom.	
			Rev. E. C. Walshy, (Baptist), Voyage Only, was app'd 6/2/17. Left Adelaide on the "Teany" with Rfts on 10/2/17: arrived Plymouth 21/5/17 & proceeded to Camps & Depots - U.K. for service where awaiting return, 23/5/17.	
			Rev. E.S. Moulton, (Baptist) Voyage Only, arrived Plymouth 9/1/17 & served at 1st Command Depot & Army Training Depot. Was app'd for "Continuous Service (C/R 4306-51/6) but was unable to accept the app't (family reasons). Left for Australia on the "Karoola" 22/2/17.	
			Rev. B.C. Wieland, (Congl) - Voyage Only, joined the A.F. 20/11/16, left Australia on the	

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Place	Date	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
W.K. Contd	1917 Jan - June	<p>The "Persic" with Rft. and Plymouth 3/3/17. from leave without pay in order to serve the Colonial Missionary Society. Discharged in U.K. at own request 17/9/17. was permitted to wear Chaplain's uniform while voluntarily visiting hospitals, 14/5/18, until after the armistice.</p> <p>Rev. S.E. Dorman, (Baptist) after 2 years C.M.F. experience, was app'd Chaplain, 4th Class, - AIF 18/5/17. Left Australia on the "Clan Macmillan" with Rfto 2/5/17.</p> <p>Chaplain H.A. Procter, (May, Church of Christ) was app'd Chaplain, 4th Class, - the AIF - 1/5/17 - left Melbourne on the "Imperial" with Rfto 11/5/17.</p>	
U.K. & EGYPT		<p>Rev. J. Dempsey (Congl) app'd Vice Teece, arrived in England enroute for Egypt 18/2/17 &amp; was engaged in Rftl visitation until he proceeded to Egypt on the "Arcadian" 28/3/17. Unfortunately the ship was torpedoed &amp; Mr Dempsey was in the sea for 6 hours. He subsequently developed Septic Pneumonia from which he died - 13/6/17. He did excellent work &amp; his early death was deeply regretted by all ranks.</p>	
<u>FRANCE</u>		<p>Chaplain W. Mackenzie (St. Ann's) served the 12th Bde &amp; especially the 4th Bn during the whole of this period &amp; earned the good will &amp; thanks of all ranks by his continued contribution to the physical, moral &amp; spiritual wellbeing of the troops.</p> <p>Chaplain J.T. Walden, (May, Church of Christ) served the 13th Inf Bde during this period &amp; particularly added to his reputation as the "Lancaster King". He was promoted</p>	
		<p>T/3rd Class" under AIF order 677 - 17/3/17. He seems to</p>	

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FRANCE  
 (Contd.)

FRANCE  
 &  
UNITED KINGDOM

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	1917		<p>June to have covered the whole country, on foot, horse, bicycle, etc. - in search for comforts for his troops.</p> <p>Rev. W. N. Finson, B.A. (Congl.) rendered satisfactory service at the 5th A.D.B.D., Le Havre;</p> <p>Chaplain J. P. Curtis (Church of Christ) continued his activities in the interests of the 3rd Pioneer Battalion in particular in the 3rd Division - general.</p> <p>Chaplain P. Orames, (St. Andrew) served the 5th Pioneer Bn with ever increasing efficiency.</p> <p>Rev. H. A. Pyke (Baptist) satisfactorily served the 2nd Div. Troops, more especially the Field artillery units.</p> <p>Rev. S. J. Freeman, B.A., Jewish Chaplain, rendered excellent service during his period, a full report of same being attached to this diary as <u>Appendix III</u></p> <p>Rev. J. Smith, D.D., S/Chap. O.P.D., completed his visit to all units in France, with Rev. J. Mackay, returned to London during the 3rd week in January. He settled down to the re-organisation of his department &amp; the arrangements for hospital visitation, etc. He was invited with the D.D. by His Majesty the King at Buckingham Palace on Feb 2nd. All chaplains serving in France were again visited during April &amp; May. During the latter part of June the Northern &amp; Scottish Commands were visited, during the six months all chaplains were communicated with &amp; advised, a regular system of reports (scheduled) was instituted. All graves arriving at or passing thro London were interviewed personally. During the six months 7891 Australian patients were visited in 86 hospitals &amp; their auxiliaries in all parts of the United Kingdom. Some idea of the work &amp; travelling involved may be gathered from the fact that some large hospitals had scores of auxiliaries spread over an area of approximately 50 miles. The <u>men</u></p>	

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FRANCE & U.K. (C18)	1917 Jan - June		<p>men were not merely visited as by a professional padre: (there were chaplains at all hospitals - the visitor satisfied himself that these were attending to their duties) - but as by a friendly officer representing all departments of the A.F. The men's complaints were listened to &amp; any grievances they had were redressed. The working of many depots was greatly helped in this way &amp; the lot of the wounded made more comfortable &amp; pleasant. It will be convenient to continue this statement of the Senior Chaplain's work up to the end of Oct/1917, when the monthly war diary was commenced, at this stage. 69 Hospitals with their auxiliary housing arrangements were visited called for and during this latter period 2846 men were seen. Services were conducted &amp; lectures &amp; addresses given wherever possible, esp. lectures at Horseferry Road in Camps &amp; Depots - &amp; at Bristol on each visit service was taken at Bishop's Knoll also. No foot purpose was served by detailing all these.</p>	
	July to Oct 31st		<p>Chaplain M. McKenzie (S. Army) continued to serve the 4th Battalion. During this period, however, family affairs &amp; matters within the religious organisation which he represented began to call urgently for his return home. At the end of this period a cable was received from Mrs. Mackenzie asking for his return &amp; nominating for his relief Mr. R. C. Henry (S. Army). This gentleman was a S. Army Secretary with the A.F. He travelled from Australia on the "Nestor", leaving Melbourne, 2/8/16, served the A.F. in U.K., at Base Depots - Etaples &amp; Le Havre, &amp; had control of S. Army Funds for erecting huts &amp; running outposts. He was appointed Chaplain, 4th class, 16/9/17, (but for pay &amp; allowances the appl. dates 12/10/17 - see at List 245), subsequently relieving Mr. Mackenzie.</p> <p>Chaplain J. T. Walden, M.A. (Church of Christ) continued to render valuably friendly service to the 13th Brigade during this period.</p> <p>Chaplain J. P. Curtis (Church of Christ) satisfactorily served the 3rd Pioneer Battalion, &amp; Chaplain J. P. Curtis (S. Army) gave splendid service to the 5th Pioneer Battalion, &amp; Rev. W. N. Gunson B.A. (Congl) served the 5th A. B. D. during this period.</p>	Rev

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FRANCE & UNITED KINGDOM (Contd)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FRANCE & UNITED KINGDOM (Contd)	July to Oct 31/17		<p>Rev H. A. Pyke (Baptist) contd to serve 2nd Divl Artillery until he was hit by a shell in the Bichenish area, was evacuated &amp; admitted to the 3rd L. S. Hospital - 5/1/17. The Rev. H. S. Perkins (Congl) was sent to 2nd Divl Troops (4th a. F. a. Bgde) vice Pyke, 5/1/17.</p> <p>Rev. E. C. Walsh (Baptist) voyage only, marched out of C &amp; D in UK &amp; sailed for Aus - 26/9/17.</p> <p>Rev. B. C. Wieland (Congl) voyage only, was discharged in the UK, at his own request, 17/9/17.</p> <p>Rev. S. E. Dorman (Baptist) arrived at Plymouth (see page 18) 27/7/17 &amp; immediately went to work at Camps &amp; Depots on Salisbury Plains, where he rendered excellent service.</p> <p>Chaplain H. A. Procter, M.C. (Church of Christ) reached Plymouth (see page 18) 25/7/17, proceeded to Veme Citadel, Portland, rendering satisfactory service till he went overseas to the A.D.B. 5/1/17.</p> <p>Rev. J. V. Donnelly, B.A. (Congl) after previous experience in camps, was appointed Chaplain, 4th class, in the A.F. 1/7/17, left Port Melbourne on the "Sydney" with Rfts 16/7/17, arrived England (Liverpool) 16/9/17 &amp; was posted to Veme Citadel, Portland, 28/9/17, in order to release Procter for overseas.</p> <p>Rev. J. Robertson, (Baptist) after 4 years C.M.F. Experience, was appointed Chaplain, 4th class, in the A.F. 1/7/17, left Melbourne in the "Themistocles" with Rfts 4/8/17, arrived England (Fleets) 2/1/17 &amp; was posted to Camps &amp; Depots on Salisbury Plains, 11/1/17.</p> <p>Chaplain A. E. Forbes, D.C.M. (Church of Christ), had previous experience in the 1st war, was appointed Chaplain 4th class, A.F. 1/8/17, left Sydney in the "Anchises" with Rfts 7/8/17, and Liverpool 2/1/17. Posted to Camps &amp; Depots in UK.</p> <p>Rev. R. Turney (Congl) had 5 years C.M.F. experience when he was appointed to the A.F. as</p>	

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(Cont 3)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
	<i>1917</i>		<p><i>A.I.F. as Chaplain, 4th Class, via Dempsey (deceased). He arrived at Suez 19/x/17 (having left Melbourne - the "Kyarra" with Lt. Rpts on 7/x/17) &amp; was posted to the 2nd Aus. Div. 26/x/17.</i></p> <p><i>The Rev. D. J. Freedman, B.A., Jewish Chaplain, continued his work for all units during this period (see report attached). He was promoted T/3rd Class under A.I.F. Order 677 1/x/17. During this period he &amp; the Senior Chaplain, O.P.D. conferred. It was thought advisable for the Jewish Chaplain to concentrate on work in France. The Aus. Y.M.C.A. had appointed a Jewish Secretary, Mr Harold Boas. He was resident working at Camps &amp; depots in Salisbury Plains. Mr Freedman agreeing with the Senior Chaplain the latter recommended that Mr Harold Boas be appointed "deputy accredited representative of the Jewish Chaplain to the A.I.F. - Camps &amp; depots in the U.K. Kingdom." This was approved &amp; the arrangement worked well. During this same period Mr Freedman's people were pressing him to return to Aus. The matter was delayed for some months as he was greatly needed in the A.I.F. Intermittently arrangements were made for his return &amp; a relief was catered for.</i></p> <p><i>The Monthly War Diary was called for at this stage - &amp; commencing with November, 1917, a monthly war diary was submitted.</i></p>	

*[Signature]*

SENIOR CHAPLAIN, O.P.D.,  
AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.