

13th. Aus Field Ambulance.

13th AUSTRALIAN FIELD AMBULANCE, 4th AUS. DIVISION
No. 1829
Date

A. D. M. S., 4TH AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. W 2/84
Date

No. G. 16/1411.

Headquarters,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION,
18th March 1917.

All Units,
4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

During the German retreat it has been the practice of the enemy to set various booby traps, with the nature of which all ranks should be acquainted. The following are some of those discovered to date :-

- Dug-outs :- Series of bags of red explosives are contained in sides of shafts near the stairways; these are connected by a fuse which sets them all off together and blows in the entrance, thereby burying anybody who is inside. Artificial flowers, bits of evergreen, pieces of shells or wood on the walls and floors of dug-outs when lifted, ignite a charge which blows the entrance in. Pieces of wood having the appearance of a hand-rail to stairway down a dug-out have wires with electric spark attached; these have explosive wires attached to them.
- Badges :- The badge off a German soldier's cap attached to a piece of string or wire, when raised from the ground causes an explosion, this also happens in the case of German helmets, nose caps, and other souvenirs which soldiers are likely to pick up.
- German Wooden Handle Hand-Bombs :- These are buried in walls of trenches with just the bare handle showing, all the safety covers off, allowing the fuze string with bead attached to hang; tied round these again is a piece of telephone wire with a loop in it; if this is pulled or tripped up against the bomb immediately explodes.
- Water :- It has been proved that many wells in the country, through which the enemy is retreating have been poisoned. All ranks are to be thoroughly warned against using any water which has not been examined by the A.A.M.C.

Vide D.R.O. 1130, 2nd March 1917.

G. S. K. [unclear] Capt. 4/5.
* Lieut-Colonel.

G.S. 4th AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

130
4/17

A. D. M. S.
4TH
AUSTRALIAN DIV.
No. 202/9
Date

First ANZAC 168/12.
Ia/51001.

Fifth Army.

13th AUSTRALIAN
FIELD AMBULANCE,
4th AUS. DIVISION
Date 1989

There is definite evidence that the Germans are adopting the following ruses in connection with their retirement;

- 1st. Mines, actuated either by clockwork or chemical apparatus so as to go off after a given period of time, are being left in buildings and dug-outs.
- 2nd. An agent has been captured in possession of a bacteriological culture for spreading glanders.

With regard to the first of these, all houses left standing and all dug-outs and shelters apparently overlooked in the general work of destruction should be carefully searched.

With regard to the second, there is no reason to believe that the enemy will confine his efforts to spreading the particular disease mentioned, or direct them against animals only.

G.H.Q.
27th March, 1917.

(Sgd) L.E. KIGGELL,
Lieut-General,
Chief of the General Staff.

(2).

Fifth Army.
S.G.235/5.
28th March, 1917.

V Corps.
1st ANZAC Corps.

Forwarded for information.

(Sgd) E.M. BIRCH Lt-Col.
for Major-General, G.S.

(3)

Forwarded for information.

R.H. Osborne Capt for Brigadier-General,
General Staff,
First ANZAC Corps.

2nd April, 1917.