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[961]

The Official War Historian of the Commonwealth Government (Dr. C. E. W. Bean), after his study of the collection of private war records preserved in the Australian War Memorial Library, wrote :—

"The private diaries in this collection furnish some of its most valuable historical records, but, like all private memoranda which were regarded as first-hand evidence except where it is certain that they are so. The diarist is almost always sincere in his desire to record accurately, but he is subject to no obligation or inducement to tell him by friends or heard at third or fourth hand at the moment. Thus, in some of the diaries in this collection, scenes described with vivid detail, and without any warning that they are told at second or third hand, have been found to be completely inaccurate in important details. A certain number also have been written up or revised long after the events, though doubtless usually from notes made at the time. In most cases the reader must rely on his experience and on internal evidence to guide him in judging what is and what is not likely to be historically accurate."

2a

Interview taken down in longhand by Medical Collator
A.I.E. from Sister De Mestre A.A.N.S.,

- a. New Guinea Expedition and Hospital Ship 'Grantella'
- b. No. 3 A.C.H. journey to England and to Lennor -
Early work at Lennor.

The relation was much the same as in a summer
but - traps. were set then. That is to
say they took them out from the traps.
chiefly. Some were well trapped - others
none at all.

We tried in the few holes. Of course there were
traps but not much was done
as we were so sick.

The situation was generally better - up to
the 10th of June when we started.
The fittings were fair. but there were some
considerable defects.

1. The sunken was a feature though
beautifully fitted - because
it had water enough by a very long
way.

(2) The heat in the tropic was so
great from there (it was in a low point
that it was impossible to work
there.

There was better for

The water holes were - fitted up for
the case & we used them a lot when
we were down. Which we were actually
on the voyage.

Every available man was fitted up
for a task of work.

I think we had ^{about} 2000 lbs. of rice but I
can't remember.

Swampy Cots - ports secured with diodes.

We also had Coburn's

Theater. Amundsen's Park Hotel fitted - lot of
X-ray room with good light fixture etc.

Engine room & stores secured plentifully - but I think
was provided as for cold climate.

And not for hot & we had a lot
to put our patients with cool for pain as
they were all ill.

USS - Albatross 88° 3' Westfall (South American land)
? 8
Plano.

Dr. James (Pauls.) West in (Sagcon)
Capt. Overley

Capt. Tamm (after Regulas 603 284)

Exterior - Interior - Deck - Cabin - 2 - stater
Jetties by Red + with curtains - chairs
+ carpets on. locks

We had our own lunch room -

We had a Stewardess - two - orderly

Estab. - one - saloon - 6 - stater (all from France
Autism Alfred Staple.)

The stater is. have looked part of
we look - but we thought that it
was a proper Ant: afford that that
we had be among the first Chosen +
through our own lack - as a matter
of fact it did us badly, as far
as promotion to seniority was concerned
though the experience was fine.

Narrative. Townsville 4-5 pts. we had two hoops +
all trade stuff and example crew - The
was properly made to cross the Huge Ship.
On Sunday in the ev. we left land.

We had no idea what it was: some
soldiers that came alongside in the harbour
+ we found out we were at San Francisco

Photo from stater of stomping patients on board }
The same afternoon we got our first
patients - the first was a Cherokee
who had injured himself. two wounded
men - these were from boats -

Dr. West was in that day that there had
been fighting of Pokhly and of killed - that was
we did not receive any cases from disappointed
stater because they were unlucky and
were travelling.

We only took in the afternoon of that day
cases from stater from that day on.

We got no word at anytime. Under
the cases were opening - tuberculosis of
lungs - or (if lungs at 21) no tubercles
nothing if any interest - no typhoid -
a few measles. The medical work was
most interesting. A lot of fresh letters
of a Dutch boat man. Was travelling
Cruiser - opening.

We went in shore once for a few hours in
the 30th. Not safe. Nothing but
badly hot. Could not sleep in. Cases
we had very much. Infection not
too bad. It was very - but really hot.
Saw that we went to Java (21) & got
much the same sort of cases. Just enough
to keep going.

Got back at Raboul (Singapore) & then we
heard news that co-5. English letters
has arrived to take over the patrol
My stayed a while in Java and
then returned home again.

I got arranged at Abbeville - to Arras:
Even made Adams Abbeville }

At 21, we got ashore Oct. was inter-
esting - the people were offended to
us. We had malaria every day &
had a poor time -

Then the beginning of Dec. & returned home
about 23 Dec. Pumping the cases -

Came back empty and were all paid off as
fading shadows. We had all had good health.

Mountain work off - again without rules. &
went for 10 days to the Indian. She was
then present as too small.

Reported to P. T. H. again &
went on with my old work.

Shipping Grand my name was still in the
role for Entering - & I am given
my source - Isaac Levi Abel at Sydney Hospital
in April. Soon after was told that there
were so many soldiers joining our (old) firm.
P. Alfred, who we wanted. Later we found
that it was as found. Staff of 20? 25? 30?
We were medically examined (nearly before sailing,
I found an Attestation paper (10 months after
the war) Re: a list from the doctor of
the clothing & shoes - & told to let our
uniform - we got about 200 I think
some of it I think came from the
Red + - We were told exactly the
uniform to get. Dark suit, red caps - but
we had brownish and big outdoor caps
(which in Egypt were too hot and in
now changed + uniform changed outdoor
to coat + shirt + hat) (2nd uniform)
|| We^{each} had to take with us out of the £20 a
lot of gun paint - thermometers - rubber
plum - medicine box - set of instruments -
rubber catheters
(get list) & besides this for
Dinner - tea pot - basin - 2 plates
knife fork & spoon & a wood lat.
bath - [Not leaving much to
have for clothing] - also I think an
aid box and lig.!!

We did not take the uniform - when we were
told we came on board the ship.
We embarked in the hospital a hall of a lot of
Duties our room. 100 feet off at 8th.
We were kept busy on board - kind of
lecturing & training soldiers - for 2 wks.
In the pm - we had lectures by two officers
on G. Hygiene - treatment of wounds - nothing

which has any special bearing on
any humanism, except that the
other day lectures which you would
be in a "rounding training".
There was no "tumbling" of any kind.
One lecture by Dr. Franchi was an
interesting work: the last book dealt with
"humanism" & we had some ^{physical} ¹⁹¹⁴ ¹⁹¹⁵ ¹⁹¹⁶ ¹⁹¹⁷ ¹⁹¹⁸ ¹⁹¹⁹ ¹⁹²⁰ ¹⁹²¹ ¹⁹²² ¹⁹²³ ¹⁹²⁴ ¹⁹²⁵ ¹⁹²⁶ ¹⁹²⁷ ¹⁹²⁸ ¹⁹²⁹ ¹⁹³⁰ ¹⁹³¹ ¹⁹³² ¹⁹³³ ¹⁹³⁴ ¹⁹³⁵ ¹⁹³⁶ ¹⁹³⁷ ¹⁹³⁸ ¹⁹³⁹ ¹⁹⁴⁰ ¹⁹⁴¹ ¹⁹⁴² ¹⁹⁴³ ¹⁹⁴⁴ ¹⁹⁴⁵ ¹⁹⁴⁶ ¹⁹⁴⁷ ¹⁹⁴⁸ ¹⁹⁴⁹ ¹⁹⁵⁰ ¹⁹⁵¹ ¹⁹⁵² ¹⁹⁵³ ¹⁹⁵⁴ ¹⁹⁵⁵ ¹⁹⁵⁶ ¹⁹⁵⁷ ¹⁹⁵⁸ ¹⁹⁵⁹ ¹⁹⁶⁰ ¹⁹⁶¹ ¹⁹⁶² ¹⁹⁶³ ¹⁹⁶⁴ ¹⁹⁶⁵ ¹⁹⁶⁶ ¹⁹⁶⁷ ¹⁹⁶⁸ ¹⁹⁶⁹ ¹⁹⁷⁰ ¹⁹⁷¹ ¹⁹⁷² ¹⁹⁷³ ¹⁹⁷⁴ ¹⁹⁷⁵ ¹⁹⁷⁶ ¹⁹⁷⁷ ¹⁹⁷⁸ ¹⁹⁷⁹ ¹⁹⁸⁰ ¹⁹⁸¹ ¹⁹⁸² ¹⁹⁸³ ¹⁹⁸⁴ ¹⁹⁸⁵ ¹⁹⁸⁶ ¹⁹⁸⁷ ¹⁹⁸⁸ ¹⁹⁸⁹ ¹⁹⁹⁰ ¹⁹⁹¹ ¹⁹⁹² ¹⁹⁹³ ¹⁹⁹⁴ ¹⁹⁹⁵ ¹⁹⁹⁶ ¹⁹⁹⁷ ¹⁹⁹⁸ ¹⁹⁹⁹ ²⁰⁰⁰ ²⁰⁰¹ ²⁰⁰² ²⁰⁰³ ²⁰⁰⁴ ²⁰⁰⁵ ²⁰⁰⁶ ²⁰⁰⁷ ²⁰⁰⁸ ²⁰⁰⁹ ²⁰¹⁰ ²⁰¹¹ ²⁰¹² ²⁰¹³ ²⁰¹⁴ ²⁰¹⁵ ²⁰¹⁶ ²⁰¹⁷ ²⁰¹⁸ ²⁰¹⁹ ²⁰²⁰ ²⁰²¹ ²⁰²² ²⁰²³ ²⁰²⁴ ²⁰²⁵ ²⁰²⁶ ²⁰²⁷ ²⁰²⁸ ²⁰²⁹ ²⁰³⁰ ²⁰³¹ ²⁰³² ²⁰³³ ²⁰³⁴ ²⁰³⁵ ²⁰³⁶ ²⁰³⁷ ²⁰³⁸ ²⁰³⁹ ²⁰⁴⁰ ²⁰⁴¹ ²⁰⁴² ²⁰⁴³ ²⁰⁴⁴ ²⁰⁴⁵ ²⁰⁴⁶ ²⁰⁴⁷ ²⁰⁴⁸ ²⁰⁴⁹ ²⁰⁵⁰ ²⁰⁵¹ ²⁰⁵² ²⁰⁵³ ²⁰⁵⁴ ²⁰⁵⁵ ²⁰⁵⁶ ²⁰⁵⁷ ²⁰⁵⁸ ²⁰⁵⁹ ²⁰⁶⁰ ²⁰⁶¹ ²⁰⁶² ²⁰⁶³ ²⁰⁶⁴ ²⁰⁶⁵ ²⁰⁶⁶ ²⁰⁶⁷ ²⁰⁶⁸ ²⁰⁶⁹ ²⁰⁷⁰ ²⁰⁷¹ ²⁰⁷² ²⁰⁷³ ²⁰⁷⁴ ²⁰⁷⁵ ²⁰⁷⁶ ²⁰⁷⁷ ²⁰⁷⁸ ²⁰⁷⁹ ²⁰⁸⁰ ²⁰⁸¹ ²⁰⁸² ²⁰⁸³ ²⁰⁸⁴ ²⁰⁸⁵ ²⁰⁸⁶ ²⁰⁸⁷ ²⁰⁸⁸ ²⁰⁸⁹ ²⁰⁹⁰ ²⁰⁹¹ ²⁰⁹² ²⁰⁹³ ²⁰⁹⁴ ²⁰⁹⁵ ²⁰⁹⁶ ²⁰⁹⁷ ²⁰⁹⁸ ²⁰⁹⁹ ²¹⁰⁰ ²¹⁰¹ ²¹⁰² ²¹⁰³ ²¹⁰⁴ ²¹⁰⁵ 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Some other things good - People were very
good to us that time - (So different to
the next time we came over from
Egypt - two years after - we were both very
tired & we had a terror of
a time)

We embarked from Southampton. Sailed on one
ship. Staff mess in another - Sailed
separately & were in the staff mess.

The ship was full of troops going to
Alex - on a private ship. Turkish.

Submarine perambulations - saw several "ex-
-cursions & alarms" ship unballasted
or but got up through to Malta - got
to shore - then in to Alex - disembarked.

Cairo went on to Aleppo.

Stayed 24 hrs. then & embarked on a private
ship for Sumner. We took the rest

of the morning staff in Egypt - got back
to the army camp with us - & we went
together to Sumner.

He explained to us our then equipment for
Syria - water, food, blankets, etc.

Had some of the things over to our equipment
we heard that they were starting good

stuffs - (conditions)

We were given no information what we

he wanted. - We found, as a matter of

fact that we would have been

ready "with the stuff" without it

though we received no warning
that we should take it: my feeling is

that Col Smith (then Major) was such a
fairly good, cool headed, ^{man} that I think
he probably was responsible for
pulling us the tip to get the things.
Sailed at Sumner. And were landed at

Got lunch in large boat taken
by Col. Searcher & Sgt. Wankler &
we "fanned four" and marched
to the Hapt. led by Cpl Wankler
"Mazing the Rappaper".
We found full table polished for us. There
were only few others - 2 Swedes
only in a bell tent - just tables.
We had a tent - 2 canvas tents &
ready - no seats of course. our
equipment did so. someone told later.
We had our "Kupers & Jakes". Capt
platoons that we brought from
Australia.

We arrived at 11 a.m. had lunch - bread.
I am the "Swedish Stunt"
on with the "Theater" they got.
In a canvas tent there was party.
Any thing there & there was no equipment
the others had. You had been there
a week - the team were all in
them duty khaki - the quivering
your the most awful sight I
have seen. We cut off running
from the "Plank" as we wanted
it. there was our small the.
- stage for "baking" of "torture".
We had to stop at each point
because there was no left
the patients were all had wandered
away - head - abdomen - chest
all hurt - "wulph" wound
all in them duty clothes - no
chance to wash them - there
was no soap so we had to
keep them in their filthy clothes
Some of the "wound" had

Walters a Glauert - others had
been that. I was in the J. Theater that
day - I had a walk to camp an
heat day started at 7 breakfast at 6.30
I had a ward - tent roughly packed
a 40 case - I can't at walk
in bet' the Walters the cases
were on - in their blocks -

Walters took the case a box
clean bed pans - I went to
clean up their clothes for towels
to wipe them with - no linen
a fever - a few tiny cans pro-
vided by Adair, but mostly
can less cut down for cups.
Had for patients was asleep at
night - badly cooked, bread very
bad - I a

The timber was almost all timber - but
very - bread etc - was very bad quality -

The people in the heavy ships however
soon found us out -

(Ward) came along and they
but in bread I can't find the steps!

Stoys about a yard - we began
to go on our Gumpert we took
two beds - a ward - then 4 or 5
in the Gumpert - a few plants
for bad cases in about a
Santogor