

Major General W.L'E. EAMES, C.B., C.B.E., V.D. did not Serve with A.I.F. but commanded the Australian Voluntary Hospital at Wimereaux (Boulogne) during the War, later being appointed C.O. of No.32 Stationery Hospital, R.A.M.C. Other biographical details concerning him are: Surgeon, of Newcastle, New South Wales, born Neemuch, near Poona, India, 18th July 1863, the son of Rev. W.L. Eames of Dublin, Army Chaplain, educated at Oswestry Grammar School, Caius College, Cambridge, and at Trinity College, Dublin, came to Australia in 1887, joined the N.S.W. Medical Corps in 1891, served as a Major in No.2. N.S.W. Bearer Company in South African War; became P.M.O., 2nd (N.S.W.) Military District, served in R.A.M.C. during Great War. 1914-1918.

THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL.

PRESIDENT: H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY.

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Mrs. McBride
Miss Margaret Baxter.
The Countess of Dudley, (Hon Lady Superintendent of the Hospital)

THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL.

One of the many voluntary efforts with which Britons from all parts of the Empire rallied to the help of the Mother Country during the War, was that of the Australian Colony located in London, who, realising the great distance of their outpost of Empire from the seat of War, were anxious to be represented as soon as possible at the Front. With this idea in view Lady Rachel, Countess of Dudley, who but shortly before had returned from occupying a Vice-Regal status in Australia, was empowered by the Australian Colony to offer to the War Office an Australian Voluntary Hospital. On August 6th 1914 after an interview with His Majesty the King the proposition was referred to Lord Kitchener the Secretary for War. The offer was accepted, despite the War Office regulation that "no voluntary hospital would be accepted for war service excepted under the aegis of the British Red Cross Society.----An agreement was drawn up by Lord Kitchener, Sir Arthur Sloggett the Director-General of Medical Services, and Lady Dudley, whereby it was agreed that

- (1) A field hospital of 200 beds would be accepted.
- (2) It should be staffed as far as practicable by Australians.
- (3) The War Office would look to the Australian Committee for funds to pay the expenses of personnel, outfit etcetra---
- (4) The War Office would transport and feed the Unit and would send it to France.
- (5) The War Office reserved to itself the right to appoint and pay a Medical Officer to organise and command the Hospital.

On August 6th 1914 a meeting of Australian Doctors in London was held at the High-commissioner's offices in Victoria Street, Westminster. Fifty were present at the meeting and it was

resolved, that the services of those present should be offered to the War Office through the High Commissioner. This resolution was conveyed to Sir George Reid G.C.M.G., but it was till August 15th that his approval was obtained and a letter handed to Lt- Col W L'Estrange Eames G.B. to convey to the War Office granting the necessary permission. Meantime a Medical School of instruction had been inaugurated by these Medicos at the historical and ancient School of Westminster, which was on vacation and had been very kindly loaned by the school authorities.

On August 15th on the receipt of the approval of the High Commissioner, the Director General Medical Services gladly accepted the services of the Australian Doctors, and many of them were immediately attached to regiments proceeding overseas. Lt-Col Eames was instructed to proceed to Ireland to take charge of a Cavalry Ambulance forming there and to call at the War Office that evening for his movement order. However on presenting himself he was detailed to organise and command a voluntary hospital which the War Office had accepted from the Australian Colony in London. On expressing a preference for the Cavalry Ambulance, he was met with, "These are your orders. Report to the D.G.M.S. at 9am to-morrow 16th to meet the Countess of Dudley and to receive your instructions." This was done, and the instructions were (1) To organise and command a 200 bed field-hospital as laid down in the R.A.M.C. regulations. (2) To buy the necessary equipment. (3) To engage as far as practicable Australian medical officers, nurses and personnel. (4) To look to the Australian Committee for funds. (5) To report to the War Office when ready.

On Monday 17th August an advertisement appeared in the daily papers calling for Australian volunteers as medical officers, nurses, and personnel for the Australian Voluntary Hospital

On August 19th the Unit as detailed in routine order No. 1. was mobilised in camp in the grounds of the Ranelagh Club in London, which had very kindly been loaned for the purpose. Officers were detailed to various duties, and the buying of medical equipment, stores etc. On August 27th the War Office was notified that the Unit was ready to take the field.

On August 28th a movement order from the War Office transferred the Unit to Southampton where it embarked on board the transport "Siptah" and arrived at the Port of Havre. On the morning of the 29th Lord Dunraven's Yacht "Greta" which had been accepted and commissioned by the Admiralty to act as a hospital transport for the unit sailed from Southampton with several of the officers, nursing staff and part equipment belonging to the Unit.

On August 29th Lt-Col Eames reported the arrival of the Australian Voluntary Hospital for duty to the D.D.M.S. Havre and was informed that twelve regular hospitals were there also awaiting employment. However the D.D.M.S. was glad to make use of the motor ambulance, which a Mr Mills of London had presented to the Unit.-- This was, I believe, the first motor ambulance to be landed in France with the British Forces since the commencement of hostilities.-- The D.D.M.S. further stated that motor ambulances would be gladly accepted if any more could be obtained. This request was conveyed to the Countess of Dudley who immediately communicated with her friends in London and some 53 motor ambulances were within a few weeks collected on behalf of the hospital and eventually handed over to the B.R.C.S. at Boulogne.

While the Unit was encamped at Havre the- Orders came for the equipment to be stored at the docks and for the unit to be ready to leave Havre at a moment's notice, as the Germans were in the vicinity of the town. On the evening of the 2nd Sept- the stores were loaded on H.M. Trans-

port "Victorian" together with two horses presented for ambulance purposes to the unit by "His Majesty the King". On the Erd Sept Havre was evacuated and H.M. Transport "Victorian" sailed with twelve other hospital units on board. The Countess of Dudley, and her Secretary the Hon Mrs Cyril Ward with several of the Staff Officers embarked on the Hospital transport "Greta". The Matron and nursing Sisters went on board the Hospital Ship "Asturias". The whole Unit arrived at ST NAZAIRE on the morning of Sept-5th and were disembarked mainly by the use of the motor launch belonging to Lord Dunraven's yacht "Greta".

As the Unit was the first to report for duty the D.D.M.S. St NAZAIRE gave orders for a field hospital of 100 beds and an Officer's hospital of 20 beds. Owing to the kindness of the Mayor of St Nazaire a park in the middle of the town was secured for the field hospital with room for expansion, and a modern hospital building was rented as a hospital for officers. Sick and wounded from the retreat from "Mons" were received in hospital on the 6th Sept., and on the evening of the 5th the Hospital Transport Yacht "Greta" cleared for Southampton with several wounded Officers.

Up till the 8th Oct- the Unit was busily occupied in handling and treating wounded and sick. Its X-ray Equipment, which had been presented to the Hospital by Captain Herschell Harris was busily occupied during this time as it was the first X-ray equipment to get into running order in the base.

On Oct 8th in consequence of a wire from the D.M.S. the hospital was closed down and packed up ready to move. the wire read-: "The Australian"

Voluntary Hospital should be held in readiness to move. Motor ambulances up to thirty should be collected if possible. From-D.M.S. L of C. A number of motor ambulances had been arriving from time to time, a large number of which had been held up at Boulogne awaiting the return of the unit. On Oct-26th a movement order was received and the Unit entrained for Boulogne where it arrived on the evening of the 29th

On arrival, the train was shunted on to a private line in front of the Hotel du Golf, five miles North of Boulogne, which had been rented as a Hospital. The following day was occupied in fitting the building up as a hospital, and on the night of the 30th Oct- 150 badly wounded were received from the first battle of YPRES. Here again The X-ray equipment of the Hospital was the only one in working order at that time in the Boulogne base, and rendered excellent service. As the first battle of Ypres was raging the Unit was working night and day trying to keep pace with the enormous influx of wounded. The motor ambulances belonging to the Hospital during the first day of the battle transported to various hospitals over 1000 cases.

On Nov-22 a blizzard made short work of all the canvas which housed the officers and male personnel of the Unit and on the morning of the 12th the N. cos and men were temporarily transferred to the railway waggons which had transported them from St Nazaire and which were still on the siding, while a building near the hospital was being prepared as a barracks. The Officers managed to secure accomodation in the Golf club house from the Wimereux Golf Club, and eventually rented the building as an Officer's Mess.

On Nov-22nd in consequence of instructions from Headquarters 36 N. cos and men were released from their engagement with the unit to proceed home to complete their studies. The majority of these were medical students, and the majority of them in place of completing their studies joined up with fighting units many as officers. The vacancies were filled with enlisted R.A.M.C.

The Hospital working steadily as the War dragged on and was viewed favourably by the authorities as from time to time it was increased in size by the addition of hospital huts, and eventually on July 1st 1916 was taken over as a going concern by the War Office

and renamed No 32 Stationary Hospital. This action was brought about by the refusal of the Australian authorities at Australian Head Q Quarters to accept the Hospital as an Australian Unit, or to allow the Australian Red Cross who were perfectly willing to do so. The Australian Committee in London considered that as Australian troops were now arriving in France in large numbers their obligation to carry on the expense of the Hospital was no longer necessary, and as the Australian authorities had declined to take it over as a going concern, they offered it to the War Office.

On May 31st 1916 instructions were received from the Committee to give one month's notice to all concerned to terminate their engagement. On that date the Hospital was visited by the Right Honble W.M. Hughes P.B. the Prime Minister of Australia, accompanied by the High-Commissioner, with an offer to continue to pay the expenses of the Hospital, but negotiations with the War Office for taking over the Hospital had been finalised, and it was too late to accept the offer of the Prime Minister.

As No 32 Stationary Hospital this Australian Hospital continued working steadily and up to May 1st 1919 when Bt Col W L'Estrange Eames resigned his command, 73,868 cases had been treated in its wards. When the British withdrew from France it was about the last hospital to close down at the Boulogne base.

From the beginning of the War and until Australian Troops began to arrive in large numbers in France the Australian Voluntary Hospital was generally recognised as representative of Australia, and the wishes of the Australian Colony in London to have their outpost of Empire represented was satisfactorily confirmed.

That the influence of the Hospital was felt throughout the Medical Services of the Army may be gathered from the fact that early in 1915 up to the end of 1916 meetings for discussing War Surgery and Medicine were held at intervals of every three weeks. This work was then taken over by the British Medical

These Meetings were attended by representatives from all the Hospitals in the Boulogne area as well as from the various British Armies in the French theatre of War, including Consultants and Headquarter Officers. The first discussions on Gas-gangrene, Trench-feet, Trench-fever, German poison-gas, War-wounds, and many other subjects of War-Surgery and Medicine were first discussed at these meetings held in the Officers' mess room of the Australian Voluntary Hospital.

Later on, after the Hospital had been taken over by the War Office and renamed No. 32 Stationary Hospital and the Portuguese troops had arrived in France, 600 beds were for eight months reserved for Portuguese Wounded and sick, and a number of Portuguese Medical Officers were attached to the Hospital Staff. Eventually when their own Hospital had been built at Ambleteuse Portuguese Medical Officers and Patients were transferred there.

The President of the Portuguese Republic visited the No. 32 Stationary Hospital and thanked them for the way they had looked after the Portuguese sick and wounded.

The Countess of Dudley's initiative and activities during the War were not confined within the Hospital. She was also responsible for the founding of Officers' Clubs in France. After many vain efforts to get permission for Clubs to be started Lady Dudley induced the I.G.C. General Clayton to look favourably on the project, and with the help of money collected from friends in addition to a large sum from her own purse, the first Officers Club was founded in Boulogne. This proved such a success in providing a place for Officers to meet and rest, that the B.E.F. Canteens eventually took it over and established Officers Clubs at all important centres, Appointing Lady Dudley As Honorary Lady Superintendent to advise them. The very important role that Lady Dudley played in the collecting of motor ambulances at a time when these were badly wanted in the Army should not be overlooked, and eventually some 53 were handed over to the B.R.C.S.

Then again, in the later stages of the War when the strain on Manpower was so great that women were employed in many avocations previously held by men, Lady Dudley came forward as an anaesthetist and frequently gave as many as 25 anaesthetics in a day.

Of the Matron and Nurses, all Australians, I cannot speak in too high terms. There were no better nurses in the theatre of War, and for this the A.T.N.A. standard of training in Australia was largely responsible. The initiative and pluck displayed by these women during the hardships which were unavoidable from the early stages of the War was remarkable, and assuaged the sufferings of the wounded who passed through the hospital regardless of whether they were British, Allied or German.

Of the Medical Officers, all Australians, despite the fact that they could have done better for themselves by returning to Australia to join the A.I.F. they stuck steadily to their posts doing magnificent work; and the estimate in which the Hospital was held by the Director-General and his Staff of Consultants was solely due to the excellence of the results obtained. On one occasion I remarked to the D.G. "You very rarely visit us, Sir." He replied: "My dear Eames, that is the greatest compliment I can pay you and your hospital. Frequent visits from me would indicate that all was not going well with the Hospital."

For the early arrival of the hospital in France, thanks are due to the way Lord Kitchener honoured his agreement with Lady Dudley, and to the great assistance which the Earl Dunraven gave by the use of the Hospital Transport Yacht "Greta".

To show the initiative of the Officers, on arrival at St Nazaire on H.M. Transport "Victorian", with 12 other Hospital Units on board, it was felt that the only chance of obtaining work at an early date was to be ashore first. Neither the Captain of the Transport nor the O.C. Troops would allow any communication with the shore; but Lord Dunraven's

"Greta" was anchored half-a-mile distant, and in order to establish communication with her and get the use of her motor-boat Major Dick seized a megaphone that was standing on the deck, and hailed a mud-punt that was passing to deposit its load of silt in the deep waters of the Bay in his best French and told the Officer to send out a tug-boat at once. The Officer on the mud-punt saluted and within 10 minutes of his return to the harbour of St Nazaire a tug-boat was seen to leave and approach the transport. Major Dick and I having obtained a rope ladder dropped down on board and instructed the Officer to proceed to Lord Dunraven's yacht. We then proceeded on shore by the motor boat belonging to the yacht and reported to the A.D.M.S. St Nazaire. As we were the first Hospital to report for duty we were asked: "Could we supply an Officers' Hospital of 20 beds, and a Field Hospital of 100 beds?" I replied. "Yes." A visit to the Mayor, and facilities were immediately forthcoming.

That the Hospital was favourably looked on in high places can be inferred from the fact, that the King presented the Unit with two of the Royal horses, and favoured the Hospital with a visit the day before the unfortunate accident when His horse reared and fell on Him in France. After visiting the wards and speaking to many of the wounded, His Majesty on leaving, remarked to the O.C. "I am very Pleased" Amongst the many notables who were attached to the hospital for one duty or another was Captain Towse V.C., who joined the Unit on Dec 31st 1914. His work of visiting the wounded and sick in the hospital and personally sending type-written letters to the friends of those who were from wounds or disease unable to write, was so remarkable and had such an influence for good on so many of the worst cases; to see a blind man doing such a work so impressed them, that they were encouraged to take their bundle with courage for the future. So remarkable was the result of Captain Towse's visits on the badly injured that Head Quarters specially appointed him as Honorary Consultant to visit all seriously wounded in the Boulogne base. Many and many a home in

Australia, as well as other parts of the Empire, has to gratefully thank Captain Towse V.C. not only for news of their dear ones, but also for the plucky way they fought against their disabilities.

All work and no play is of no use to units employed in a campaign. One can gauge the talent of the members of the Hospital by this copy of a programme one Xmas.

Early in September 1914 so struck was General Keogh, then head of the BRCS in France and afterwards Director-General at the War Office, at the work of the Hospital that he offered to make the Hospital No. 1. British Red Cross Hospital in France; but this offer although very flattering, was declined so as not to lose for the Unit its Australian individuality.

The following was published in the "Daily Mail" Newspaper on Thursday January 7th, 1915.

SURGEONS WHO MAKE WHAT THEY LACK.

How Australians run a Model Hospital --- By Frank Hillier.

Boulogne.

On the topmost part of the Northern cliffs of Wimereux there stands an hotel, the Hotel du Golf, "a red, rambling building in the centre of a small brood of smaller erections, like a hen among her chickens, open to all the winds that blow, a place to resort to when getting well is the chief object in life. Last summer it was filled with people in this condition; this winter it is still full, and for the same reason, but the circumstances are different.

On Oct 29th a train stopped on the line which runs through the settlement which served formerly for the transport of bricks and mortar. From it there descended a hundred and twenty men and women, who brought with them strange bags and bundles. They took that Hotel in hand and made it, in the space of a few hours literally, a hospital

in good sooth.

Now it is known as the "A.V.H.," the Australian Voluntary Hospital, a triumph of overseas enterprise and inventiveness.

It is in keeping with the tradition of vigour and ready resource which is so much the pride, while the qualities are characteristic, of our over-seas cousins that within twelve hours of the arrival of the train aforementioned there were a hundred and forty-seven stretcher cases being treated in the new hospital, which had in the mean time been cleared, cleaned, fitted, and furnished from the first bedstead to the last towel. The authorities would have made no complaint had they taken a week over the business. What the Australians lacked they made or invented. An operating theatre was, of course, needed. The most suitable room having been decided upon, it was a question of workmen to transform it. There were none. The men, were busy lifting, and carrying, so three Sisters rolled up their sleeves and "turned to" themselves. They scraped every inch of paper off the walls at a rate which would have caused a paper-hanger to faint. Then the tallest Sister of the three mounted on an improvised scaffolding and manipulated the white-wash brush. A case for instruments was improvised from an exhibition case for chocolate which had formed part of the hotel fixtures, and still does duty. It was the spirit which enabled men to make homes out of nothing in virgin forests and construct smiling paradises with wilderness as the sole material.

Marvels-in-twelve hours.

In the first twelve days of the theatre's existence seventy-nine serious operations were performed in it. But other marvels were performed in the twelve hours. Even the X-rays apparatus was installed and working, in charge of Mr. Herschell Harris, whose work in this department has been one of the chief factors in the great success which the Australian Hospital has achieved. He invented one day a

simple apparatus which has proved of the utmost value in examining X-ray negatives. It is a box one side of which consists of a ground-glass screen illuminated from within by an electric lamp. It is portable so that while the surgeon is operating he can refer to the X-rays negative of the part on which he is at work. The screen is large enough for three large negatives to be examined at once.

The building is not a large one, but so skilfully has the space been employed that 186 cases can be comfortably accommodated under normal circumstances, and I was assured that if it were necessary to take another fifty the thing could be done. And it did not seem possible to doubt it. As it is, the hospital will soon be enlarged by the erection of an annexe close by. The staff, which numbers 120, including 36 nursing sisters, is accommodated in a building apart, so that once the spell of duty is over a complete change of atmosphere and environment is available. The doctors are housed in the golf club-house a few hundred yards away, and here also is the bacteriological laboratory, for there is nothing which this wonderfully equipped hospital lacks. Such a laboratory, about which alone an article might be written is almost indispensable to a "war-hospital" for testing for such germs as those of tetanus, gangrene, enteric, the latter being one of the most difficult as well as one of the most important diseases to diagnose. It is one of the discoveries in a bacteriological laboratory that gangrenous wounds must be kept open, because the bacillus is aerobic, that is to say, it cannot live on air, - so stitches are taboo, and the wound, swabbed with hydrogen peroxide and irrigated with carbolic or saline solution, is kept open till the bacilli have been destroyed. The bacteriological laboratory will show at once whether a wound is infected or not, and with what, and the treatment is determined accordingly. As regards the outside equipment of the hospital, there are available nearly fifty motor-ambulances.

Australians all.

The personnel is almost entirely Australian. The medical staff all volunteered at a meeting of Australian doctors who were in London when the War broke out. The commanding officer is Lieutenant-Colonel Eames, who carried out the organisation of the hospital, his second being Lieutenant-Colonel Horne. Both officers hold their commissions in Australia in the Australian Army Medical Corps. The medical staff consists of Sir Alexander MacCormick, Mr. T. Thring, and Major Dick. All the nursing staff, with very few exceptions, are Australians, and it is in keeping with the general spirit which pervades the A.V.H. that some of them actually paid their own fares from Australia to come and offer their services; and they all work with splendid energy, which may be imagined from the fact that on one occasion work went on continuously from six o'clock one morning till 2 a.m. on the following day. The whole installation of the hospital shows signs of this business-like, efficient disposition, coupled, of course, with that pioneer ingenuity of the Colonial. Here is a new split which permits of the dressing of a wound without the necessity of removing the splint; there is a simple apparatus for the extension of a wounded arm. "If you haven't got a thing, invent it" seems to be the motto; and in war surgery so many unusual situations arise that the faculty is of sevenfold value.

As the staff and methods are Australian, so is the money; the donations have been on a generous scale, and this is only one of the respects in which the Australian Hospital is in the very first flight of the many voluntary institutions which are doing such yeoman service.

This is a brief summary of the history of the Australian Voluntary Hospital but it would be far from complete ^{without} ~~with other~~ references to persons and incidents that played an important part in the career of the hospital.

In the first place, the hospital undoubtedly owed its origin to the initiative and personnel of Rachel the Countess of Dudley, who, out of her love for Australia aroused the Australian Colony of London to fall in with her ideas for having Australia represented early in the war in France. Unfortunately, she acted impulsively, and without the official approval of the High Commissioner, Sir George Reid. However, thanks to the initiative and excellent work of the Australian ^{officers} medicals, nurses, and personnel of the unit, and owing to the kindly view the War Office took of all the circumstances and origin of the unit it survived all and undoubtedly

It is given to but few of us to experience such feelings of pride in being a Britisher or to realise to what extent the British spirit of endurance dominates the boys at the Front who are giving everything they hold most dear to their King and Country.

It is necessary to visit one of our big Base Hospitals in order to appreciate this great inexplicable something which we are in the habit of gläubly referring to as the true Bull-dog spirit, before one can thoroughly understand what it means and I venture to suggest there is something approaching reverence in the manner in which we regard our Boys after an experience such as I was privileged to enjoy the other evening and which I am about to relate.

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It is a still clear evening following the oppressive heat of the day. Just one of those delightful evenings which we experienced in Northern France in July ^{of} 1914. On the balcony of the Hotel du Golf two or three small groups of enthusiastic golfers are vivaciously discussing, over their Dubonnet, the merits of each others play during the day. Facing them stretching away to the East ^{is} the famous Golf Links with its wonderful hazards and superb greens. Here on the left is the fifteenth hole where a player who has been "going round" alone before dinner is taking his "pill" out of the hole, with a faint suspicion of weariness as he glances over towards the right and observes he has still some 800 yards to go 'ere he will reach the Club-House, and more, for between the fifteenth hole and that low red brick, rather picturesque looking building are two very formidable bunkers. Huge sandpits they appear to him, specially designed by some evil genius to annoy and disturb him, and if he plays as badly as he has been for the last hour, to delay his arrival for dinner.

On the opposite side of the Hotel and only a few yards from it, there is a wide expanse of sea running due North and South. The sun, sinking majestically in a deep red glow is now almost on the horizon and a faint blue haze is hanging over the water. Far away, only just discernible, one can make out a long grey line which, ~~are~~ ah! sweet land of joys and happy memories, is the cliffs of England.

The air is strangely calm and everywhere little groups are strolling about enjoying the serenity and stillness before the gong announces that dinner is about to be served. Twenty minutes later in the Grand Salon there is a scene of intense activity and amid the clatter of table crockery and that exquisite sound created by drawing a cork from a fine old vintage champagne, one can faintly hear the strains of the charming Viennese Orchestra out in the Cafe.

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~~The~~ A little more than a year ~~has~~ passed but during this short time all has changed. Sixteen months of War, with all its horrors and crudities have produced a strange and weird effect.

The hour is 6.p.m. and outside the Hospital the night is ~~dark~~, so dark in fact, even at this comparatively early hour, that with the rain falling in torrents and driven by the wind with terrific force, it is only with extreme ~~at-af~~ difficulty one is able to keep ^{to} the road.

As I step inside the Hospital I am greeted by my friend Capt Erskine the Orderly Officer for the day. I experience at once a sensation of comfort and warmth, striking in deep contrast to the darkness outside, where the wind is howling and the sea beats furiously against the rocks, so that it seems as if the very elements themselves were at war also.

We stroll along the corridor into the largest ward where my guide informs me are the most serious ~~by~~ cases in the

Hospital. I can hardly recognise in the scene before my eyes the capacious Salon where a year ago I dined lightheartedly and chatted about a thousand commonplace things. My eyes search unsuccessfully for the deep rich carpet on the floor; for the magnificent and invaluable oil-paintings on the walls and the little tables dotted all about. Instead, I find a remarkable change. In place of the carpet the floor has been polished, so that not a speck of dust is visible anywhere. The walls have all been stripped and a pale green distemper applied. The tables have been displaced by four rows of bed-cots, all painted white. The whole scene is distinctly pretty and the rows of white bed-cots each covered by a scarlet blanket all combine with the pale green of the walls and the red shades to the electric lamps which hang solemnly from the ceiling, to produce an appearance of delightful comfort. By the side of each bed is a small locker, where each patient can keep his few articles of personal interest. It is interesting to the visitor to notice that most of the patients have one article carefully placed in safety in these lockers. It is a bullet or piece of shrapnel of varying size which has been extracted by the surgeon from some part of the body and is preserved by the patient with great care as a "souvenir".

The Sister in Charge of the Ward, a tall, fair, handsome woman^{up}, looked ~~at~~ from the huge bowl of flowers she was arranging as my friend and I entered the ward and greeted us with one of her most winning smiles, calculated I should say, to dispell the very thought of pain. She took us from one patient to another giving us little histories of them, telling us how each one had been wounded. There was not a ~~case~~ single case in the whole ward of 25 patients whom she did not know intimately. She makes a point of getting on the best terms with all her patients as soon as they arrive, and when they, ~~are~~ after a short stay, are transferred to "Blighty" she feels as if she had lost a friend, and they too, say they wish they could stay longer.

When we had visited all the patients she said, addressing the entire ward

"Now boys just show our visitor what you can do by giving him a tune"

It was then that a most wonderful thing happened and a scene was enacted before my eyes, which, come what will, is so deeply impressed on my memory, I shall never forget. Several hands stretched out towards the lockers by the beds and in a few seconds I was listening to the most delightfully refreshing sounds I had heard for days. Here were two or three mouth-organs, there several combs covered with a "fag-paper" and the remainder were lustily singing at the top of their voices with the Charming Sister leading the chorus. The effect was simply wonderful and as they played and sang chorus after chorus I stood spellbound. At last I turned to my friend Capt Erskine and said "Surely these men are practically recovered?" Imagine my surprise then when he informed me that on the contrary every patient was very seriously wounded.

"You see that boy over in the corner negotiating the comb and fag-paper" he said, "well, last week I was terribly anxious about him. ~~and~~ He has a fractured thigh and suffers great pain.

That boy of nineteen on the right has lost his arm and this one in front has his leg shattered, but observe how happy they are with their mouth-organs"

And so it was, every man in that ward, many of them merely boys of twenty or twenty-one ^{were} was suffering from the most ghastly wounds imaginable, and yet they forgot them all and were as happy as ~~children~~ ^{school children}, playing their extraordinary instruments, but all harmonizing in a wonderful manner. I even saw one man playing a mouth-organ as if he were on Hampstead Heath on August Bank Holiday, while ^{— and on this point, but equally allowing as the doctor in charge} on e of the sisters ~~was~~ dressing his wounds, a nasty hole

THE AUSTRALIAN
VOLUNTARY HOSPITAL

1914—1915



... The ...

Australian Voluntary Hospital.

Patron :

H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF ALBANY.

President :

GEO. P. DOOLETTE, Esq., J.P.

Lady Superintendent :

THE COUNTESS OF DUDLEY.

Officer Commanding :

LT.-COL. W. L'ESTRANGE EAMES, C.B., V.D.

Executive Committee :

THE HON. SIR JOHN McCALL, K.B., M.D., LL.D. (Chairman).

LADY WOLVERTON.

LADY HUGH GROSVENOR.

MRS. C. FINK.

LT.-COL. THE HON. SIR NEWTON G. MOORE, K.C.M.G.

THE HON. SIR PETER McBRIDE.

MAJOR SIR THOS. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

DR. JOHN SHIELDS.

SIR LEONARD LUCAS TOOTH.

THE HON. BERNHARD WISE.

THE HON. FREDK. YOUNG.

Hon. Treasurer :

HENRY BULL, Esq.

Hon. Secretary :

MRS. A. POPPLEWELL.

Assistant Secretary :

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Australian Voluntary Hospital, St. Nazaire.

The Australian Hospital in France.

(Reprint of an Appeal published in Australia, September, 1915).

ON the 21st August, 1915, it will be just a year since the Australian Voluntary Hospital left London for France. It is, therefore, perhaps the right moment to render to Australian citizens here and in Australia, a brief account of the history of the Hospital during its first year of existence, and of the work which their generosity and quick support has enabled it to perform. The Hospital, which is designated by those in authority as a Voluntary Military Unit, was offered to the War Office on behalf of Australian citizens during the first week of August and immediately upon the declaration of war. It was at once accepted. In as short a time as possible the staff and personnel were appointed, and the necessary equipment procured, so that within three weeks of its acceptance, the hospital was ready and on its way to the theatre of war.

It is not necessary perhaps in a short summary such as this to enumerate by name the many well-known and distinguished Australians who have during the past year been attached to the Hospital as members of the staff abroad, and have joined the Committee of direction in London. With most, if not all, of them the Australian public is already familiar, and the valuable assistance which they have been able to

render all through the past months of tragedy and stress, is realised and appreciated to the full within the Great Dominion which has sent so many thousands of her sons and daughters to rally round the flag of the Mother Country. Suffice it to say that towards the end of August, 1914, the Hospital staff with full equipment sailed from Southampton to France on board the yacht "Greta," which had been lent to serve as a transport for the Hospital. It reached Havre at the critical moment when the first German attack was being hurled upon France through Belgium, and the British Expeditionary Force had joined with the Allies in a resolute and stubborn resistance. The first of the British wounded were pouring into Havre, but as already the French and British Commanders-in-Chief had decided upon what will be known hereafter as the boldest and most successful retreat ever recorded in military history, Havre was in process of being temporarily abandoned as a base, and the Australian Unit did not, therefore, establish itself there. During the few days the Hospital staff remained in Havre, certain of its members were invited to assist in tending the wounded at the largest of the Base Clearing Hospitals still open. Their services were very useful and greatly appreciated. Subsequently on 2nd September, when Havre was temporarily evacuated, the Australian Hospital sailed for St. Nazaire, which had been chosen as the new base. Upon arrival there, its Commanding Officer, Colonel Eames, was requested by the Base officials to open it as quickly as possible to receive wounded officers and men. In an incredibly short space of time this was accomplished, the task being rendered easier by the fortunate circumstance which placed a large

private Nursing Home with two operating theatres at the disposal of the Australian Unit. This was at once prepared, and a suitable house close by taken as well for the use of the nursing staff. The hospital tents and equipments were landed from the "Greta" and erected on a piece of ground near the building. Also a neighbouring school was taken over and transformed into additional wards.

When the first batches of wounded arrived at St. Nazaire from the Front, the Australian Hospital was ready and in perfect working order to receive them. During the whole occupation of St. Nazaire as a base, the staff worked incessantly and with splendid results which gained for the Hospital unqualified praise, and established its reputation throughout the zone of the army.

In order to appreciate the work which was accomplished, it must be borne in mind, that during these early weeks of the war, hospital relief was carried on under circumstances of extreme difficulty. The great Retreat was in progress, the German army had advanced so far that the shock of its guns was vibrating within the walls of Paris. The obstacles in the way of quick transport for the wounded were insurmountable at that time. The journey to the base was painful and prolonged. The condition of the wounded on arrival was such as to tax the resources of the most skilful surgery and nursing to the utmost. But the staff of the Australian Hospital from first to last was equal to the strain. It is to be regretted that those staunch Australians who had so hastily equipped and endowed this hospital to enable it to

carry the Australian Flag into the war area many weeks before any other voluntary hospital crossed the sea, should not have been in a position to witness the splendid results of their generosity.

To any member of the staff looking backward now, there must arise many memorable scenes which can never be effaced from the tablets of memory. Such an unforgettable one, was the first influx of wounded into St. Nazaire, when ambulance after ambulance discharged its burden of twisted, bandaged men at the gates of the Australian Hospital.

It was early morning, and within a few hours the tents, school, and buildings, were filled to overflowing. The greater number of the staff and personnel were new to the work of a war hospital, yet there was no fuss or hurry. Every need was quietly met. Everything was done with organised precision. The nursing staff worked indefatigably. During the morning the surgeons went methodically from bed to bed making swift diagnoses, and at noon they took their stand by the operating tables which they never left for more than a few moments until 2 a.m. on the following morning.

The organisation of the whole Unit worked equally smoothly and effectively throughout the weeks which followed, during which the Australian Hospital loyally supplemented the efforts of the Government Units to meet every need as it arose in this time of unparalleled stress and emergency. Sepsis, Gangrene, Tetanus, and all the many complications which make the conditions

of work in a war hospital so full of difficulty and strain, were dealt with and modified by every device known to science. And through it all the indomitable Australian courage and optimism shone like a star above the darkness of that time of trial.

It is possible to recall an exquisite evening in early Autumn, when during a lull in the fighting, the Unit mustered its members round the camp fire for a sing-song, and the startled inhabitants of that French coast town heard—probably for the first time—the true Australian cooee which echoed far out to sea. And of the work which was carried through no better record is required than the numberless letters which exist from officers and men of all ranks as well as from their relatives, expressing the deepest gratitude and appreciation for the tender care and attention which was shown to the wounded by every member of the Unit.

Perhaps the best summing up of all in closing a reference to this St. Nazaire chapter of the history of the Hospital, is that what the Australian Unit did there was worthy of Australia, which leaves nothing more to be said.

In October the British Expeditionary Army moved northward, and Boulogne replaced St. Nazaire as a base. The site allotted there to the Australian Hospital was at Wimereux, where it established itself in a large hotel overlooking the sea, flanked by a tented annex. The staff and personnel were accommodated in two adjoining buildings and the golf club house. Within twenty-four hours of the arrival of the Unit at this new

base every bed was full, and for weeks following the work was heavy and continuous during the desperate fighting maintained round Ypres and along the Yser through October and November. It was not until the end of December, when the opposing armies entered into the monotony of the winter campaign, that the members of the Unit were enabled to rest from their labours and recover from the prolonged strain to which they had been exposed. The Hospital remained open and at work all through the winter, in spite of the fact that the numbers of wounded became considerably less, and that some other hospitals closed down until early summer.

Advantage was taken of this easier time to thoroughly overhaul the hospital, paint it from garret to cellar, re-enamel the beds and nursing furniture, improve and drain the site of the tent hospital, and generally bring it, inside and out, to the highest possible standard of perfection. Owing to the conduct of the war the work of the hospitals is of necessity intermittent in character. Times of severe stress are followed by some weeks of easier work, according as fighting is severe or the reverse. But even in slack intervals the whole personnel of the Hospital has to be perpetually on the alert, so as to be ready to meet every sudden emergency.

At the present time of writing the severe fighting of May has been succeeded by some weeks of comparative inactivity within the war zone, but if rumour is correct, and the German legions are being flung from the eastern to the western theatre of war,

the Australian Hospital will soon again be working at full pressure as before. It is greatly to be regretted that Australians on the other side of the water cannot glimpse for a moment this Hospital which they have endowed. If they could enter its portals, which have been a refuge to so many shattered broken men, and could glance into big Ward "A" on the left of the hall way they would see its great windows through which you could throw a stone on to the beach, its neat rows of white beds and furniture showing daintily against cool green walls tinted like the hollow of the waves outside. They would look into the many other wards, on the ground floor, all fresh and clean and uniformly green; into the operating theatre, perfect in every detail; and into the Roentgen Ray installation, where can be seen films recording some of the marvels of surgery which have been performed. They would find every one of the airy wards on its three floors equally orderly, neat and sanitary, with the sea wind blowing through them.

Even the briefest account of the work accomplished would be incomplete without some mention of the invaluable help rendered, particularly at the Boulogne base, by the Australian ambulances.

Their labours in times of stress continue by day and night. It is possible to recall one autumn evening when, in a drizzle of icy rain, train after train was emptied of its load of wounded, which were transferred as quickly as possible into the waiting ambulances. There came a moment when the last of these had crept away with its weary load and still the stretchers lay

thick upon the platform. One transport officer on duty cast an anxious look into the darkness outside. A few seconds passed and then he turned smiling to the station officials. "It is all right," he said, quietly, and then he added, quaintly, "As usual, 'Advance, Australia.'" The moment of anxiety was over. Out of the darkness a convoy of ambulances raced quietly alongside, turning and backing to receive the wounded, while the station lights gleamed upon the "Australian Voluntary Hospital" painted upon the cover of each. There was not much in the incident, perhaps, but it had its interest and significance, all the same.

It is to be hoped that Australians who have so generously supported their Hospital up to the present time will continue to do so until the end of the war. Up to now, since the initiation of the project to send this war Hospital to the Front no appeal has been made for money. But the moment has come, when, if the prolongation of hostilities is to be met by a continuance of hospital relief, further funds must be forthcoming to meet the continual strain. This hospital, which began its active work during the second week of the war, is the only Australian Unit with the British army in France.

It would be a calamity from an Australian point of view if the flag, which was the first of many to cross the Channel in the wake of the Union Jack, instead of being kept flying, were to be prematurely furled. "L'Hopital Australien" has become almost a household word in more than one district in France. It has received unqualified praise

from the Allied armies. Its staff has been mentioned in despatches, and their valuable work widely recognised. It is a fine Citizen Hospital, promoted and directed by patriotic Australians, and it deserves well from the Great Dominion which it has represented in France throughout the war, and whose traditions it has faithfully upheld.

The number of cases treated at the Hospital since its opening at St. Nazaire to 30th June, 1915 (ten months), reaches a total of 6,500.

Subscriptions and Donations should be sent direct to :—

G. P. DOOLETTE, Esq., J.P.,	} Worcester House, Wallbrook, London, E.C.
or to President.	
HENRY BULL, Esq.,	
Treasurer.	

marked "Australian Voluntary Hospital."



Australian Hospital.

Present Working Staff of the Australian Voluntary Hospital in France.

Lt.-Col. . . W. L'Estrange Eames, C.B., V.D.
 Lt.-Col. . . G. Horne, V.D.
 Lt.-Col. . . Sir David Hardie.
 Major . . R. Dick.
 Capt. . . R. V. McDonnell.
 Capt. . . W. R. Reynell.
 Capt. . . M. C. Gardner.
 Capt. . . S. W. Patterson.
 Capt. . . B. T. Edye.
 Capt. . . G. A. Paul.
 Lieut. . . T. W. Jent.
 Lieut. . . E. H. Mills.
 Lieut. . . R. Hall.
 Capt. . . E. B. B. Towse, V.C.
 Capt. . . W. Cope.

Rev. J. Gibbs. Mr. H. Seymour.

Lady Superintendent . . . Countess of Dudley.

Matron I. Greaves	Staff Nurse H. Helms
Sister A. Wylie	" B. McGennan
" E. Dalsell	" M. A. Nicholson
" M. L. Dow	" J. B. Whiteley
" E. C. Walter	" J. M. Dalgleish
" N. Reay	" E. M. Overend
" A. B. Gabriel	" M. Forrest
" H. Bowie	" L. Suttor
" E. McGregor	" M. Rawson
" J. B. Buckham	" S. Greaves
" P. O. Anderson	" M. Shoobridge
Staff Nurse L. H. Saw	" A. Fallon
" M. Benalack	" A. Evans
" R. M. Dowling	" A. Cameron
" E. Mundell	" G. H. Faddy
" M. A. McKenzie	" M. M. Robertson
	" H. F. Hall

Present Working Staff—continued.

Reg. No.		Reg. No.	
	Sgt.-Maj. C. R. Williams	46921	Private H. Dickinson
12	Stff.-Sgt. S. V. Jarvis	49764	" J. G. Ellenden
16	" C. Whomersley	49763	" J. Foster
		46928	" J. Gaut.
29	Sergt. E. P. Brown	46920	" T. Gibirdi
46932	" D. R. Creed	46924	" R. Graham
84	" F. W. Dabbs	46911	" G. Gray
11	" G. H. Jones	56957	" G. Cles
46916	" F. Roberts	56961	" R. Harwood
39	" B. Wigmore	59307	" J. W. Hartley
		59304	" J. W. Hoyle
56951	Lce.-Sgt. H. Pickering	49762	" J. H. Hodge
		46935	" D. Howarth
46904	Corporal G. H. Bowling	46915	" R. Hubberstey
46925	" A. J. Barker	49761	" R. Hurworth
56956	" E. Johnson	46901	" N. Jackson
46905	" F. Maxfield	46914	" A. James
		46926	" C. Kellett
46912	Lce.-Cpl. R. Brindle	46908	" H. Kishaw
31	" P. G. Bull	46930	" J. W. Lamb
46936	" W. T. Clegg	49760	" A. Lawson
46923	" T. P. Greenwood	46903	" F. A. Lowcock
30	" W. A. Simmons	59308	" J. H. Lord
		49759	" J. A. Mason
46906	Private R. H. Ager	56952	" J. W. Morton
56958	" J. Anders	47514	" J. McArthur
49766	" J. Beaver	49758	" P. Palin
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56960	" G. Booth	49757	" J. J. Swarbrick
56955	" A. W. Britcliffe	49756	" T. Thornton
49765	" A. Chattington	46933	" J. H. Walker
46922	" J. Coton	46902	" J. Wigley
56950	" A. A. Crabtree	56954	" A. Wigdall
56959	" J. Curley	49755	" W. Wright
59305	" R. Dagger		

Civilian Cooks—

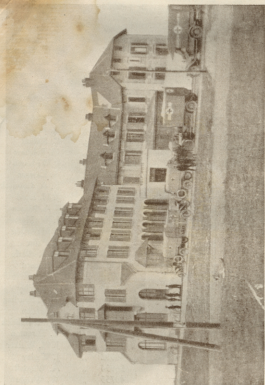
Sgt.-Chef W. Ward, A. Riddell, C. Cooper, W. G. Colbeck.

Sister's Housekeeper . . . Miss M. Pritchard.

 " Cook Mrs. Wilson.

Wardmaids—

Misses D. Stephens, N. Stephens, I. Cavender, N. Rennie.



Australian Voluntary Hospital, Wimmerus.



SURGEONS WHO MAKE WHAT THEY LACK.

HOW AUSTRALIANS RUN A HOTEL HOSPITAL.

By FRANK MILLER.

In the western part of the northern state of Queensland there stands an hotel, the "Hotel de Luxe," a well-kept, beautiful building in the center of a small town of another province, like a few years ago it stands open to all the world that there is place to build an where they will in the west about as this. Last year it was filled with guests in the conditions of the winter in a well-kept, and for the same reason, for the circumstances are unusual.

The hotel is a town situated on the low hills that rise through the settlement which served formerly for the business of hotels and taverns. From its store department a limited and limited one and more, who brought with them strange bags and boxes. They took their food in hand and made it in the space of a few hours finally, a hospital in good health. Now it is known as the "A. P. H." the Australian Federal Hospital, a group of men who were admitted and hospitalized.

In its keeping with the tradition of a good and good service which is in the spirit, when the operations are demonstrated, it was not surprising that within three hours of the arrival of the first demonstrated there were a hundred and fifty cases of patients being treated in the new hospital, which had been in the meantime closed, closed, closed, and then opened from the first judgment to the last hour. The operations would have made an excellent bed they take a well over the business. That the Australians looked they made an excellent. The operations finished, and of course, needed. The most notable were having been made as in the a number of machines in readiness of. They were over. They were now here living and working, as those who called up their names and "worked at" themselves. They worked every inch of paper with the work of a table which would have been a paper-hanger to look. Then the next stage of the show reached an an important and anticipated the different parts. It was for the instruments was important from an indication was the character which had been given at the hotel business, and still then there. It was the spirit which would have been a better one of working in single threads and machines making possible and substance in the settlement.

WORKING IN THE HOSPITAL.

In the first week days of the hospital's activities, including various operations were performed in it. The other patients were put down in the waiting hours. From the 20th morning was complete and perfect, in the hands of Mr. Richard Smith, then with in the department was known as the first patient in the great success which the institution hoped for achieved. He received very few a simple operation which had proved of the most value in restoring a good patient. It is a few days after which patient of a general nature were provided from patients by an electric case. It is possible, as that there are others in operation in the state for the things together of the part in which he is at work. The work is large enough for these large operations to be considered as well.

The hospital is not a large one, but in this city for the space has expanded that the work can be satisfactorily accomplished under several circumstances, and I was assured that it is very necessary to take patients like the things would be done. And it is not very far from the center of the city. As to the development will soon be required by the number of the patients that it. The work which requires that, including the staff and through means, is concentrated in a building apart, so that even the spirit of duty is not there is a complete change of atmosphere and environment available. The hospital is located in the quiet suburbs a few hundred yards away, and has also in the neighborhood following, for there is nothing which the hospital is completely equipped for the hospital. Such a building, which which about an acre might be called, is almost indispensable to a "new hospital" but having the work given in those of various patients, which, the latter being one of the best difficult as well as one of the most important classes in diagnosis. It is one of the difficulties in a hospital which following the progress made must be proved by being kept open, however the hospital is better, that is to say, it means that in all the patients are now taken, and the present, combined with hospital periods, and will give with patients of other patients, is kept open till the health have been developed. The technological laboratory will show an very similar a record in history of the, and this will, and the treatment of the patients will, such. As regards the general equipment of the hospital, there are available nearly every article available.

WORKING IN THE HOSPITAL.

The present is almost entirely completed. The medical staff of the hospital is a number of surgeons from the state, in London that the the first one. The remaining staff is concentrated in the hospital, the second being the Australian Federal Hospital. This staff will have operations in Australia, in the Royal Army Medical Corps. The responsible position of the hospital is held by Mr. J. Smith, and Major Hill. All the waiting hours, with very few exceptions, are Australian, and it is in keeping with the general spirit which pervades the hospital that some of these patients and their are from some hospitals in this and other directions, and they will with special energy, which can be compared from the fact that the operations were being the necessary in the operations through the an which has nothing but it is in the hospital.

The whole institution of the hospital, which is of the hospital, which is a number of patients, with that patient together of the hospital. There is a new spirit which pervades the hospital, and it is a good thing that the hospital is a complete apparatus for the treatment of the patients and. "If you have not a thing, make it" seems to be the motto, and it is this motto in every detail of the hospital which has the history of an excellent one.

In the end and methods are developing, as in the service, the operations have been an a general work, and this is the part of the hospital in which the Australian hospital is. In the very first days of the new hospital the operations which are being with patient services.

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