

Ep. 2

RECORD FILE

D. C. R.
NO 3726
VICTORIA

Clubs for the formation
of a D.C.R.
~~Honors & Rewards~~

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

TELEPHONE NOS. (13)
249 TRAL 297
249 TRAL 298

IN REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

NO. 2M. 23/6621

HOME AND TERRITORIES DEPARTMENT.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MUSEUM

EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.

MELBOURNE. 20th March, 1923.

Dear Colonel Butler,

When I saw you a few days ago you asked me to secure for you information upon the following points:-

- (a) Decorations bestowed upon members of the A.A.M.C., and a comparison with other branches of the A.I.F.
- (b) The authority for the appointment of a D.D.M.S.

2. As regards the former, we find that to do this satisfactorily a considerable amount of work is involved. We will shortly be overhauling our record of honors and propose while doing this to extract the information you need. This may mean that it will be two or three months before we can submit to you the information you require. I understand, however, that you wanted me to procure the information for you not so much for immediate use as to have it available later on when you come to touch the question of honors in writing the history. I trust, therefore, that our proposal will be satisfactory.

3. As regards the appointment of a D.D.M.S., Mr. Pretty, to whom I entrusted this enquiry, has supplied me with the following extract from "The Medical History of the War", Volume 1. It does not, in my opinion, answer satisfactorily your enquiry and I am referring the matter back to him to make enquiries in Army Orders, in which I believe the official authority will be found:-

"The formation of the divisions into three army corps was not provided for in the 1914 edition of the "Field Service Manual for the Army Medical Service", and consequently no administrative medical appointments were authorized for them in the tables of war establishments at the time of mobilization. But Colonel T. J. O'Donnell from half-pay was appointed a deputy director of medical services on the headquarters of the First Corps, and Colonel R. Porter, also from half-pay, on the headquarters of the Second Corps, each without a staff officer but assisted by the officer in medical charge of the headquarters staff. The Third Corps was not formed until later in France; and Colonel O'Keefe, from D.D.M.S., L of C, was appointed its D.D.M.S., the post of D.D.M.S., L of C., remaining vacant for some time afterwards."

Yours sincerely,

Colonel A. Graham Butler, D.S.O.,
C/o D.G.M.S.,
Victoria Barracks,
Melbourne.