AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES
ACCESS STATUS

OPEN

SISTER G.M. DOHERTY.



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:

War Menorial Library, wrote :—
"The private direct in the collection furnish some of its most validable lateriar erosets, but the oil private mannism which were regarded an fact-hand collection crops where 2 its cretain that they are not to be compared to the collection of the coll

MATRON Muriel Knox DOHERTY, R.R.C. A.A.N.S. & R.A.A.F. Nursing Service

Served as Sister in the A.A.N.S. & Matron & Principal Matron in the R.A.A.F. Nursing Service. Collection of personal & official records concerning service & Services. Illus. with photographs.

Note: Matron Doherty's certificates of service and other private papers are included in the collection. Please note certain conditions govern personal daries & one envelope of personal papers.

The collection is most comprehensive and has been catalogued under headings:
Armies: Australian: A.A.N.S.

" : A.A.M.W.S. Airforce: Aust.: RAAF Nursing Service

Ariore: Aust.: RAAR Mursing Service
"Redical Air
Evacuation Unit
Biographical: Doherty, Matron Muriel Kmox
Books & Forms
Dress: Aust.: A.A.N.S.
" : RAAF Mursing Service

" : RAAF Nursing Serv Pay Pictorial: Photographs Training: Aust. Voluntary Organizations: Aust. Women's Services: V. A.D.

> V.M.B. 22/9/1960

EXPERIENCES IN A.A.N.S. OF MISS G.M. DOHERTY.

I sailed out of Fremantle on the S.S. "Moolton" conveying passengers and troops and sisters on May 24th 1915, and after calling in at Columbo Bombay Aden, we arrived at Port Suez on June 17th from where we disembarked and caught a train to Cairo the same day. More we disembarked and caught a train to thirt the same day. Some of us were billeted at Drainin Palace and others at Gordon Housem Heliopolis, numbering in all thirty five siters. Went on duty the following dat at Luna Park, which was occupied as a convalencent Home. The place held over a thousand beds which strength was kept up. These beds were not ordinary hospital beds but made by the natives out of came and were most unsuitable for the purpose, being most uncomfortable and hard. There was a room on each floor where the dressings were done of the patients soid which did very well.
If a patient became ill he was transferred to the Palace to receive proper attention which could not be giventhere, owing to lack

I spent two months at Luna Park and was their transferred to the Palace Hospital. I commenced duties there in a large ward dealing with typhoid dysentsy and spinal meningitis. From there I was sent to Abbasieh with four others to open an Auxiliary Hospital. The first patients received were wounded from the peninsular . Some time later it was turned into an infectious hospital. After spending about six months there I was sent back to the Palace Hospital and from there to the 3rd A.O.H. at Abbasieh.

I came across to France with No.1 A.G.H. on board a Hospital Ship We came up to Rouen from Marseilles by troop train which took two days to do the journey. Many of the hospitals in Rouen put us up for the night and the following day we were all attached to different hos itals for duty. I went with seven others to Le Havre where I spent three months in a hospital on the Quay in an acute ward on night duty all the time. The ward only held ten patints and I also had to attend to others on a balcony, but they were all very bad cases. It was calledthe "Bath" Ward as all the bad limbs were kept in baths for days. There were baths for all kinds of wounds and "Carters" beds to make the nursing easier as three of the patients had both legs off.

They could be lifted into the air while the beds were changed which was far less distressing then being turned.

After my three months there I was recalled to Rouen to my Unit where I remained until February 1917. We had very busy times at No.1 and of course the work was very interesting to us.

In March 1917, I joined No. 3 Australian Casualty Clearing Station which took me four days to reach from Rouen. I spent one night at Abbeyville and the rest of the time in the trains. We changed trains several times and were held up on sidings frequently for hours at a time. All the trains were crowded with troops going up the line. I went by Ambulance from Amiens to Edgehill where the C.C.S. was stationed. There was some very heavy fighting going on in the line in front of us and crowds of wounded m3n came through the place during the following week. The hospital trains that carried the wounded away to the Base Hospitals used to draw into the siding just in front of us.

I was only there a couple of weeks when we got orders to advance the C.O., S. closer up to the line. Our Marquees were pulled down and taken up to Grevillers on the left of Bapaume on 8th April and we went up the day following in a coupke of Ambulances along the Albert Bapaume Roaf which at that time had two large craters in it which the Germans had blown up when they retired. It was our first sight of the battlefields and we were all deeply impressed.

It was very cold and snowing and all along the road we saw the boys in their dugouts sitting around small fires trying to keep themselves warm. The wounded were coming down as we were going up.

We went on duty streight wary just as we were in our macintoshes and gum boots. There were no floors to the marquees owing to the Shortage of duck boards which were urgently needed in the laim. The ground was soft and saturated and we were soon wading about in mud.

I was put in the theatre where operations essemmicested commenced before everything was unpacked. There were no beds mattresses or pillows steadily stretchers and blankets as as a constant the was operated on and put back on the stretchers it conduct that in the mud. There was no time to remove the men's alother and boots. Then we were just shout thill a hospital train ones in and relieved the pressure. The stretcher bearers had a fearful time wading through the mud carrying the seen to the carriages. There was enother big buttle on the lith and 15th of the same month but by the 15th things had improved considerably and we were running much more smoothly as the floors had been put down and we were more settled.

The next busy time we had was during the battle for Bullecourt between 50 and 16th May 1817, and we had a fearful number of casualties through. We had over one hundred and thirty deaths. Two other C.C.S. then came up and we were relieved of much of the work. We were getting the men in at first just over an hour after they were wounded. There were four tables going day and night in the theatre. The patients were first brought into the admission tent where their wounds were examined and marked accordingly A.B.C. or D. All "As were urgent cases which were carried streight into the preparation tent where they were undressed and put in pyjamas if possible and from there they went to the theatre. All A cases were attended to first then the others in order. If the casualties wer very heavy C.& D cases were sent down in the trains without being coverted upon.

In July we moved up North with our own troops while the C.G.S. was being eracted we were stationed at Francat in No.6 Stationary Hospital New work and the state of the ward of the state of the work of the state of

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(Signed) Gertrude M. Doherty.

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