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MARY GRACE SHEEAN.

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[1039]

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 memoirs which were not compiled with any historical purpose, they should not be 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 indicate whether he is recording his own observations or incidents told him by friends or heard at third or fourth hand at the mess-table. 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 student 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."

Salonica 113/131

Left Melbourne in August 1916 for India to
horse British Troops, arrived India in Sept.
1916. Was here detailed to the Victoria War
hospital where I remained until
July 1917. The first few months we were
very busy with surgical cases from
Mesopotamia, for the last five months
we had Turkish prisoners of war,
surgical again. This was a very heavy
time indeed. The climate of India is
very trying, but our hours were good
three hours off one day & one half-day
off at 1 o'clock, with one whole day a
week.

Left Bombay July 1917. to join up with 300
nurses from Australia for Salonica
to relieve the Canadian. Here.
Stayed in Egypt ten days, five of which
I was on duty at the 15 B.G.H.
Arrived in Salonica in August 1917.
Here we were sent to the 62nd B.G.H.
Palmaria, a hut of hospital of 600
beds. mostly medical cases. malaria
etc.

In May 1918 transferred to the 42 B.G.H.
"Byseby" & Banas. 1,500 beds.
here the work was very heavy.
The summer was very hot & the
winters extremely cold.
Left Salonica Feb 1919. Arrived
Sutton Ferry March. 1919.

Mary Grace Shean



Australian War Memorial

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