

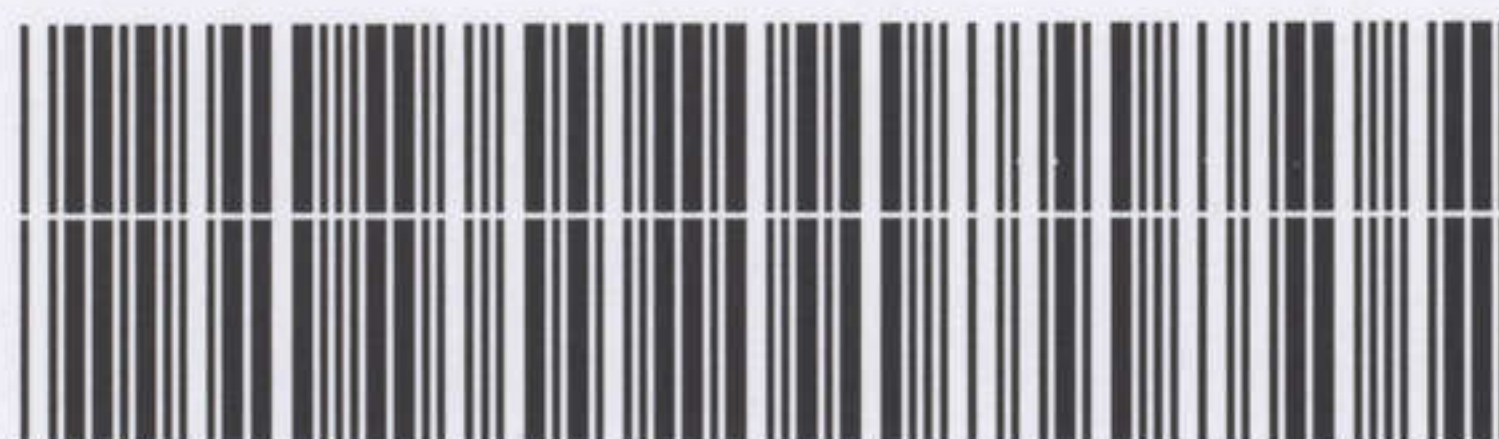
AWM4
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/5/3

Title: Deputy Director of Medical Services,
Australian Imperial Force in Egypt

May 1918



AWM4-26/5/3

Original

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
CAIRO	1918 May 1		<p><u>Sister WOOD</u> an Australian Nurse, who has been working at Red Cross Hospital, Giza, called to see A.D.M.S. for assistance in transferring to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service. A letter recommending was accordingly sent to Matron-in-Chief E.E.F.</p> <p><u>18933 Pte. TAYLOR C.W. A.A.M.C.</u> a clerk in Medical Section, A.I.F. Headquarters, promoted to the rank of E.R. Sergeant.</p> <p><u>Captain VAN EPEN T.W. A.A.M.C.</u>, admitted to hospital with mucous colitis.</p> <p><u>Sea Transport Sections.</u> A wire was today sent to "ADMINAUST" London requesting permission to utilize nurses of No. 4 and No. 7 Sea Transport Sections, as staff on Invalid Carriers returning to Australia, since no transport to United Kingdom will be available for some time.</p> <p><u>"PORT SYDNEY"</u> The P.N.T.O. requested that the A.D.M.S., A.I.F. should inspect the "PORT SYDNEY", with a view to fitting her out as an Invalid Transport.</p> <p><u>No. 7 SEA TRANSPORT SECTION.</u> As accommodation at the Empire Nurses' Club is being strained by the continued residence of these Nurses, Matron Marshall with three Nurses were today posted to 14th A.G.H., to be attached for rations, and the remaining three posted to 31st General Hospital, pending embarkation.</p> <p><u>"PORT SYDNEY"</u> The A.D.M.S., A.I.F. proceeded to Port Said and inspected the above-named ship with the D.N.T.O., Port Said and made arrangements and for fitting to accommodate invalids. D.N.T.O. estimates that this ship cannot be ready for over a month.</p> <p><u>14th AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL.</u> The A.D.M.S., A.I.F. inspected 14th A.G.H., Port Said. The Convalescent Ward is greatly improved, and has been made by the Red Cross Society, attractive and satisfactory for convalescents. It was considered that matting for covering the floor was necessary to complete the comfort of this Ward. Recommendations were made to the Red Cross Commissioner, accordingly.</p> <p>A.D.M.S., A.I.F. returned to Cairo by 0815 train from Port Said.</p>	<p></p> <p><i>D</i></p> <p><i>D</i></p> <p>1</p>

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CAIRO	1918 May 4		<p><u>A.A.N.S. SALONICA UNITS , MESSING ALLOWANCE.</u> Wire received from "ADMINAUST" London in reply to cable from A.D.M.S. requesting that "the Salonica Nurses should be paid the difference between the value of the ration and three shillings, approximately ten pence, and thereby placing them on the same footing as Imperial Nurses" The wire from "ADMINAUST" London reads, "Copy of letter to War Office posted you 3rd May, awaiting arrival of D.G.M.S. from Australia for final decision."</p> <p><u>4th LIGHT HORSE FIELD AMBULANCE</u> Information received today that 14 Other Ranks of this Unit are missing and probably captured.</p> <p>5. <u>Lieut. JONES L.L., masseur</u> (Smallpox patients ex H.S. "Kanowna") reported from Suez for convalescence.</p> <p><u>SEA TRANSPORT SECTIONS.</u> Wire received from "ADMINAUST" London agreeing to the nurses of these Units being utilized as staff on Invalid Carriers to Australia.</p> <p>6. <u>INVALIDS EX UNITED KINGDOM.</u> A.D.M.S., A.I.F. proceeded to Alexandria to enquire into the condition of Australian Invalids, ex United Kingdom. Visited Montazah Convalescent Home and interviewed Commanding Officer, Montazah and the Invalids themselves. The majority of the Invalids were quite contented there. Some made complaints of not being granted sufficient leave and they all made anxious enquiries as to pay. There were also some men who were in need of hospital treatment. Interviewed A.D.M.S., Alexandria District, who agreed to transfer some of the men to hospital, and the malcontents as regards leave to Mustapha Depot.</p> <p><u>MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION BOARD</u> held at Moascar.</p> <p>7. A.D.M.S., A.I.F. returned from Alexandria by 2330 train.</p> <p><u>Major DOUGLAS, S.O.A.D.S.</u> who has been off duty with Phlebotomus Fever appeared before Medical Board and was granted two weeks convalescent leave, with allowances, and proceeded to Alexandria.</p> <p><u>MEDICAL CLASSIFICATION BOARDS</u> held in Cairo on personnel of Australian Depot Stores, Gezireh, and Australian Headquarters, Cairo.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">P</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P</p> <p style="text-align: right;">P</p>

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CAIRO	1918. May 7.		Major BROWN E.E. A.A.M.C. reported back from Convalescent Leave and returned to 14th A.G.H. for duty.	D
		8.	<p><u>AUSTRALIAN INVALIDS EX UNITED KINGDOM.</u> A.D.M.S. A.I.F. made arrangements with Staff Paymaster A.I.F., Egypt, for pay officer to be dispatched to Alexandria to pay above mentioned invalids.</p> <p><u>INVALIDING.</u> Copy of cable sent by "Naval Ports" Cairo to Admiralty on 6/5/18 forwarded to these Headquarters for information. The cable points out that the "PORT SYDNEY" would take one month (after discharge of cargo on 15th inst.) to fit out as Invalid Carrier, and suggests that in view of the long delay and great expense in fitting out ships as Invalids Carriers, in Egypt after they have been invariably dismantled in Australia, arrangements could be made with economy for a Hospital Ship to do an occasional trip to Australia and on return journey surrender her privileges under the Geneva Convention and carry cargo.</p>	D
		9	Nothing to report.	D
		10.	<p><u>Major DANGAR C.C., 13th Hussars attached Anzac Mounted Division Headquarters.</u> Memo. in reply received from D.M.S. E.E.F. approving of invaliding to Australia of this Officer.</p> <p><u>A.A.N.S. at Imperial Hospitals, Egypt.</u> Memo. sent to D.D.M.S., A.I.F. in Egypt requesting that it be submitted to D.M.S. E.E.F. that all the above nurses be concentrated at one Imperial Hospital. A.D.M.S. A.I.F. interviewed Matron-in-Chief E.E.F. on the same matter and obtained her verbal sanction.</p>	D
		11.	<p><u>FIELD EQUIPMENT FOR A.A.N.S.</u> Staff Nurses Moore and Robertson called and applied for refund of money they had paid for the above.</p> <p><u>Matron UREN E.R. and Sister YOUNG M.F., A.A.N.S.</u> proceeded to Port Said to embark for Salonica.</p>	D
			<p><u>Lieut. HINTON R.A.F.</u> Application received from this Officer for approval to marry an Australian Nurse, and for her to remain in service after marriage. Memo. in reply in the negative despatched.</p>	D

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CAIRO	1918 May 11		<u>BOARDED INVALIDS.</u> 78 Invalids were today transferred to Port Said Rest Camp, to make room at 14th A.G.H. for Invalids from the Field. Nominal Roll of same received.	D
		12.	<u>H.T. "PORT SYDNEY!"</u> P.N.T.O. telephoned from Port Said instructing that the above-named ship will not be fitted for Invalids owing to the long delay and expense which would be entailed, but that she will return to Australia on completion of discharge of cargo.	D
		13.	<u>AUSTRALIAN INVALIDS FROM UNITED KINGDOM.</u> Necessary transfers effected from Montazah, one O/Rank to 2nd Aust. Stat. Hospital, two to 14th Aust. General Hospital, six to 17th General Hospital, six to Mustapha Depot. There are also two at 21st General Hospital at Alexandria. This leaves 271 at Montazah.	D
		14.	<u>A.A.N.S. in Egypt . PROMOTIONS.</u> Memo. sent to D.M.S. A.I.F. requesting a ruling as to reversion to substantive rank of the Temporary Sisters.	D
			<u>H.T. "PORT SYDNEY"</u> Memo. confirming telephonic communication of 12th inst. received from P.N.T.O. and informing that the "PORT DARWIN" due to arrive 2nd June is partially fitted for Invalids and will be available as an Invalid Carrier.	
			<u>CONVALESCENT HOME.</u> Cable received from Defence Department reads : "Red Cross Society "seeking advice regarding establishment of Home, indicating that "unless Red Cross does so Canon Garland proposes to take it up AAA "Advice whether convalescent Home considered necessary and if so should "it be provided by Department or Red Cross. Give reason for course "recommended."	
		15.	<u>H.T. "PORT SYDNEY"</u> Shipping Company advise that they will not agree to take "other reasons men, prisoners or civilians, without a Medical Officer. A wire was accordingly sent to D.D.M.S. A.I.F. in Egypt requesting approval to send Captain Van Epen T.W. A.A.M.C., who has been granted four weeks leave in Australia and is awaiting transport.	D
			<u>HOSPITALS.</u> As 14th Aust. Gen. Hospital is now full, A.D.M.S. A.I.F. today interviewed A.D.M.S. Force in Egypt and arranged with him that no more admissions should be made to 14th A.G.H. until further ordered, and that Australian Invalids	

4

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CAIRO	1918				
	May 15		<p><u>HOSPITALS (continued)</u> from the Field should be sent to 31st General Hospital, Abbassia.</p>	P	
		16.	X	<p><u>A.A.N.S. SALONICA UNITS.</u> Cable in reply received from Principal Matron McHardie-White asking that twenty Staff Nurses be sent as reinforcements immediately. A.D.M.S., A.I.F. accordingly interviewed Matron-in-Chief E.E.F. and the latter agreed that all the balance of A.A.N.S. 4th Salonica Unit, now in Egypt, who are considered by Medical Board as fit for service in Salonica, should be forwarded to Salonica at an early date.</p>	P
				<p><u>Army Forms 3034</u> Memo in reply received from D.M.S. E.E.F. agreeing to above forms being rendered showing A.I.F. Officers and O/Ranks on the same form.</p>	
				<p><u>H.T. "PORT SYDNEY"</u> P.N.T.O. informs that this ship will not sail until 19th inst. at 1330. Wire received from D.D.M.S. A.I.F. in Egypt approving of Captain Van Epen T.W. proceeding on this ship as Medical Officer.</p>	
	17.		<p><u>Major DANGAR C.C., 13th Hussars, attached Anzac Mounted Division Headquarters.</u></p>	P	
			<p>Arrangements made for this Officer to proceed as an Invalid on H.T. "PORT SYDNEY" to accompany his family.</p>	P	
	18.		<p><u>H.T. "PORT SYDNEY"</u> left Port Said for Suez.</p>	P	
	19.		<p><u>KITS OF BOARDED INVALIDS.</u> Memo. in reply sent to Commanding Officer 14th Australian General Hospital suggesting that he obtain the opinion of Major C.L. Clarke (ex Registrar) before requesting that the present system of dealing with Invalids' Kits be changed.</p>	P	
			<p><u>L/Cpl. RODGERS C.E.G., Aust. Signals.</u> Memo received from A.D.M.S. Alexandria District with Medical documents, requesting the transfer of the above-named N.C.O. to 14th Aust. Gen. Hospital, as he had been recommended for invaliding to Australia. Arrangements were made accordingly.</p>	P	

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CAIRO	1918.			
	May 19		<u>Lieut. GRAHAM G.S., 2nd A.L.H.</u> This Officer reported today and proceeded to Alexandria for 21 days Convalescent Leave, with allowances.	D
		20.	<u>2nd AUSTRALIAN STATIONARY HOSPITAL.</u> Memo sent to A.D.M.S., Delta District, requesting that the question of improving accommodation of the above Unit and transferring it to a more suitable site be put before the A.D.M.S., Force in Egypt.	D
			<u>Sister B.E. VEIT, Q.A.I.M.N.S.R.</u> Memo. received from D.M.S., E.E.F. requesting a duty passage to Australia for the above Nurse, who is an Australian and has been granted four weeks leave in Australia. Memo in reply despatched promising duty on the first Invalid Transport,	
		21	<u>CONVALESCENT HOME.</u> Reply received from D.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt sending cable for transmission to Defence Department, stating that the Convalescent Ward which had been established at 14th Aust. Gen. Hospital with the assistance of the Red Cross Society, is working satisfactorily and that a Home is not considered necessary.	D
			<u>TRANSPORT DUTY APPLICATIONS.</u> Memo. in reply received from D.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt instructing that above applications should come direct to A.D.M.S., A.I.F. at Australian Headquarters from the A.D's M.S. of Divisions, or C.O's of other Units.	
		22.	<u>MAJOR C.L. CLARKE, A.A.M.C.</u> This Officer reported from Suez Camp, where he had been relieved by Capt. H.G. Leahy, and instructions were received from D.D.M.S. A.I.F. that he is to report to Australian Receiving Station, Jericho.	D
			<u>SEA TRANSPORT SECTIONS.</u> The Nurses of Nos. 4 and 7 Sea Transport Sections proceeded by 0715 train for Alexandria to embark for United Kingdom.	
			United Kingdom had been approved by D.M.S., A.I.F. accompanied them, attached for voyage to No. 7 Section.	

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CAIRO	1918 May 23.		<p><u>CONVALESCENT HOME.</u> A.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt proceeded by 1815 train to Desert Mounted Corps Headquarters to confer with D.D.M.S. A.I.F. Egypt re Convalescent Home, as it was considered that the D.D.M.S. A.I.F. had not been kept properly in touch with the crowded condition of Hospitals and that it was necessary to put the position clearly to him before sending cable in reply to Defence. Major C.L. Clarke, A.A.M.C. accompanied A.D.M.S., A.I.F..</p> <p><u>CONVALESCENTS.</u> The Registrar of the 31st General Hospital telephoned stating that there were 246 Australian Patients in Hospital and 68 who must be discharged for convalescence and requesting to know where they were to be sent. The Rest Camp Port Said, informed on the telephone that as they had 1039 men in camp already and were expecting a leave party from the Desert Mounted Corps, the convalescents could not be sent there. Arrangements were accordingly made for convalescents to be discharged to an Imperial Convalescent Depot.</p> <p><u>INVALID TRANSPORTS.</u> P.N.T.O. informs that a cable was received from Admiralty stating that the "DEVON" and "ZEALANDIC" might be used for Invalids to Australia, provided no delay is incurred in altering structure of ship.</p> <p><u>CONVALESCENT HOME.</u> A.D.M.S. A.I.F. Egypt interviewed D.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt at Headquarters, Desert Mounted Corps, re convalescent home, and put present figures and situation as regards Australian Invalids and Convalescents, to D.D.M.S.</p> <p>D.D.M.S. A.I.F. Egypt conferred with G.O.C. A.I.F. Egypt and both agreed that a Convalescent Home is now necessary, the only proviso made by the G.O.C. A.I.F. Egypt was that the Home should be situated at Port Said. A cable in reply to Defence Department was accordingly drafted by D.D.M.S. A.I.F. and approved by G.O.C. A.I.F. stating that a Convalescent Home has now become necessary and that it is considered that the Defence Department should provide the Home, and the Red Cross Society, help in equipping.</p> <p>D.D.M.S. A.I.F. instructed A.D.M.S. A.I.F. to send this cable to Defence Department, and to obtain approval from D.M.S. E.E.F. to establish such Home, and gave A.D.M.S. a free hand to proceed with the matter.</p> <p>A.D.M.S., A.I.F. left Desert Mounted Corps Headquarters and proceeded to General Headquarters, E.E.F. and interviewed D.M.S. E.E.F., who verbally approved of the establishment of an Australian Convalescent Home at Port Said, and instructed that the matter should be submitted to him in writing.</p>	<p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p> <p><i>[Handwritten initials]</i></p>
		24.		
		25.		
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CAIRO	1918 May 27		<p><u>INVALID TRANSPORTS.</u> P.N.T.O. telephoned that the "ZEALANDIC" and "DEVON" would not be available for three or four weeks, and stated that as the "PORT DARWIN" should then be available he did not propose using either of the above-named vessels for conveying Invalids to Australia.</p>	2
			<p><u>INVALID NURSES.</u> Memo. received from D.A.D.M.S., E.E.F. stating that three Invalid Nurses, A.A.N.S. from India would arrive at Suez on H.S. "DEVANHA" and if fit to travel would proceed to 14th Aust. Gen. Hospital for accommodation, pending embarkation to Australia.</p>	
			<p><u>MEDICAL TRAINING CADRE MOASCAR.</u> A.D.M.S. A.I.F. inspected this Unit today and found it in a satisfactory state.</p>	
			<p><u>No. 2 AUSTRALIAN STATIONARY HOSPITAL.</u> A.D.M.S., A.I.F. inspected this Unit today. The Hospital is well administered in all departments, but the present site is by no means satisfactory as a permanency owing to the amount of dirt to which the patients are subjected. A.D.M.S. A.I.F. with Commanding Officer inspected the site on Chevallier Island, to which the latter is desirous of moving the Unit. This site would be a great improvement on the present one. The hospital would be freed from a great amount of dust, the patients would have the advantage of bathing right at the door and the number of "B" class men required as guard for the V.D. Block would be greatly reduced, as the bridge connecting the island with the mainland would be the only place necessary to picket.</p>	
			<p>+ <u>SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION FOR SENIOR N.C.O.'s.</u> A.D.M.S., A.I.F. interviewed Q.M. and Hon. Major Green, A.A.M.C. in regard to School for Senior N.C.O.'s, and instructed him to submit a syllabus to D.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt with his suggestions as to date for and duration of School.</p>	
	28		<p>* <u>A.A.N.S. SALONICA UNITS.</u> A.D.M.S. A.I.F. interviewed Matron-in-Chief E.E.F. who informed him that the balance of the 4th Unit in Egypt have all been medically examined as to fitness for service in Salonica, five are considered by Medical Board as unfit and 37 as fit. These 37 are now concentrated and are under orders to embark.</p>	2

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CAIRO	1918 May 28		<p><u>2nd AUSTRALIAN STATIONARY HOSPITAL.</u> A.D.M.S. A.I.F. Egypt interviewed A.D.M.S., Force in Egypt and A.D.M.S. Delta District and arrangements were made that A.D.M.S. Force in Egypt would visit Moascar on 31st inst. and inspect the proposed new site for this Hospital on Chevallier Island.</p>	
			<p><u>INVALID TRANSPORTS.</u> Memo. received from D.N.T.O. confirming telephonic message of 27th inst.</p>	
	29.		<p><u>No. 53 Sgt. BELL W.J., A.A.M.C.</u> Proceedings of Court of Enquiry on above-named N.C.O. received from D.A.A.G., Moascar. The Court found "that this N.C.O. committed suicide at Moascar on 26th inst. by cutting his throat, and that he was not in his right mind at the time, as he was suffering from Neurasthenia brought on by chronic alcoholism"</p>	
			<p><u>INVALID NURSES.</u> Cable received from Salonica informing that Sisters Coate and Rodger and Staff Nurses McNally, Campbell and Murrell, A.A.N.S. embarked on 23rd inst. for Egypt for invaliding to Australia.</p>	
			<p><u>VENEREAL PROPHYLAXIS.</u> A special messenger was sent with all available Prophylactic equipment, to be deposited at A.I.F. Canteens, Jerusalem, to be taken over by D.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt for use of A.I.F. in Desert Mounted Corps. Wire informing sent to D.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt.</p>	
	30		<p><u>A.D.M.S., A.I.F. Egypt</u> proceeded to Port Said by 1815 train to endeavour to find a site for Australian Convalescent Home, and to inspect ship.</p>	
			<p><u>CONVALESCENT HOME.</u> Memo. sent to D.M.S., E.E.F. requesting to establish a Convalescent Home at Port Said for O/Ranks of A.I.F. in Egypt.</p>	
			<p><u>VENEREAL DISEASE PROPHYLACTIC ORDERLIES.</u> Memo. sent to D.D.M.S. A.I.F. in Egypt requesting that one or two men from each Field Ambulance might be sent to 2nd Aust. Stay. Hospital, Moascar to be attached for two weeks training on Prophylactic Duties under Captain Silverton.</p>	

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CAIRO	1918 May 30		<p><u>Capt. PARRY E.L.D., A.A.M.C.</u></p> <p>Application for transport duty to Australia received from this Officer and forwarded to D.D.M.S., A.I.F. in Egypt.</p>	<p><i>D</i></p>
		31. *	<p><u>CONVALESCENT HOME.</u></p> <p>Said in regard to above. The Base Commandant stated that there was only one suitable site available in the town and that the would put this at the disposal of the A.I.F. for a Convalescent Home. This site was then inspected. It is situated on the sea front, behind the bathing boxes about midway between Casino Palace Hotel and Desert Mounted Corps, Rest Camp. It is undoubtedly the best position in Port Said. The vacant block of land runs from the main beach road, southwards to the next parallel street, which runs east and west, to which two houses have a frontage. These are owned by a Greek merchant named, Psorulla, who lives in one himself and had the other one rented to an Austrian Doctor, who has now left the country. Behind these two houses is another vacant site. It is considered that on these two sites with Psorulla's house (formerly occupied by the Austrian Doctor) for Staff etc. an excellent Convalescent Home could be formed. A.D.M.S. A.I.F. and Commandant interviewed Mr. Psorulla in regard to renting the vacant house from him. He would not entertain the proposition in any way, and stated that he would shortly be bringing down some additional members of his family and installing them there. A.D.M.S. A.I.F. interviewed the Base Commandant accordingly, who advised A.D.M.S. to apply to Capt. Bartlett, Requisitioning Officer "Q" Branch, 2nd Echelon, General Headquarters, and request that this house be requisitioned.</p> <p><u>PAYMENT OF AUSTRALIAN INVALIDS IN IMPERIAL HOSPITALS.</u> Memo sent to A.D.M.S. Force in Egypt, requesting approval to pay, A.I.F. Invalids in Imperial Hospitals, fifty piastres per fortnight, as is done in Australian Hospitals.</p> <p><u>Sister MCKENZIE M.E., A.A.N.S.</u> Notification received from Principal Matron A.A.N.S. A.I.F. Egypt that the above-named nurse was married on 27/5/18.</p>	<p><i>D</i></p>

WAR DIARY

OF

A. D. M. S., A. I. F. in EGYPT

FOR

~~APRIL~~ MAY 1918

LIST OF APPENDICES.

- | No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1. | Report on Stretchers for use with Ambulances in Sinai and Palestine. |
| 2. | Closer relations between Australian Medical Administration in Egypt and the Defence Department in Australia, in place of Administrative Headquarters, London. |
| 2a. | Closer relations between the Australian and Imperial medical Administrations in Egypt. |
| 2b. | Placing the control of Nursing Units in Salonica under a Principal Matron, in close relationship with Imperial Authorities, with authority to make temporary promotions, and return nurses to Australia.

In addition the proposals of the Commandant, Australian Headquarters, Cairo, involves :- |
| 2c. | Control of the Nursing Units in India from Australian Headquarters, Egypt. |
| 3. | A.A.M.C. Weekly Strength in Egypt. |
| 4. | Graph Drawing, illustrating:-
(a) Total Sick & Wounded in Hospital.
(b) Venereal Patients.
(c) Invalids awaiting return to Australia. |

To D.M.S. G.H.Q.

D. D. M. S.
No. R9/28/87
Date 12/1/18 12

Reference your D.M.S. 4765/6/G of 8/5/18.

It has always been found necessary with the Mounted Troops operating in SINAI and PALESTINE to make use of a light portable or improvised stretcher as the service pattern ~~stretcher~~ more often than not is unavailable; the latter cannot be carried on horseback on account of its weight and in sand or hilly country, where most of our operations have taken place, it has been impossible to use the Maltese Carts in which the service stretchers are carried; in any case carriage in a Maltese Cart does not allow of dispersion of the stretchers throughout the Squadrons of a Regiment that are frequently widely separated.

In 1916 blanket stretchers of the type described in the R.A.M.C. Training Manual were first used, but the blankets available became too poor in quality for this purpose and otherwise were not completely satisfactory. Accordingly a light portable stretcher was looked for, the first pattern being used in June or July of 1916. The provision of suitable light poles has always been the main difficulty and from that date to the present time the Ordnance Department has been unable to supply them.

In September 1916 a supply of light bamboo poles was obtained from the Australian Red Cross Society and the Anzac Mtd. Division was equipped with portable stretchers at the rate of 3 per Regiment, 16 per Ambulance and one for smaller Divisional units. These poles were not strong enough and began to break in a few months but were of considerable service in the actions at MAGHDABA and RAFA early in 1917. A fresh supply of poles of better quality was obtained from the same source early in 1917 but was eventually paid for by the Imperial Government. By August 1917 these were mostly lost or unserviceable and authority was granted for the issue of 12 poles per Regiment and it was stated by the D.O.S. ALEXANDRIA that suitable ones were available. When these were supplied shortly before the BEERSHEBA and GAZA attacks they were found to be signal bamboo poles and quite useless. The regiments consequently were unequipped with portable stretchers on the beginning of our offensive; authority was obtained later for all captured Turkish lancers to be used for this purpose, but not many were obtained.

Just prior to the recent operations at ES SALT 200 poles were obtained from the signal service. Yesterday information was received that the poles ordered from INDIA in October had arrived. It remains to be seen if they are suitable. T

The portable stretcher, the specifications of which you have forwarded me, has been in use in this Corps since October 1917 as far as the shortage of poles would allow. The special point in it differing from other patterns is the provision of pockets for the ~~spreaders~~ ^{traverses} which is a great improvement; this pocket was added by the Wellington Mtd. Rifles in the first place, who made use of signal poles also.

- The essentials in such a pattern of stretcher are:-
1. Canvas of about the dimensions of the service stretcher.
 2. Poles, whether bamboo, signal poles, lancers or from broken ~~amboplans~~ ^{amboplans}; length about 7' 6" and diameter $1\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{3}{4}$ ".
 3. Traverses are strongly advisable but the stretcher can be used without; the arrangement for preventing their loss used in the pattern under notice is the best brought forward.
 4. Slings.
 5. Straps and buckets to carry them mounted.

The sketches attached do not quite shew the normal method of carrying the stretcher. It is usually carried on the off side, the bucket is attached to the off stirrup and is slung by a strap to the saddle wallets. This allows the rider to dismount or mount quite unimpeded by the stretcher.

The Indian Cavalry Regiments and Ambulances use portable stretchers of different patterns but I have not seen sufficient of them to contrast their value with the kind used here.

I think it would be a pity to label the stretcher in question with the name of any individual who has been responsible for one part of it, when the apparatus is the evolution of the efforts

efforts
of the medical personnel generally of the Anzac Mounted Division.

I consider a portable stretcher is essential for this Corps and the pattern described in the attached is the best to date. The present number authorized makes no provision for any replacement of stretchers by ambulances in exchange or to cover breakage which will frequently be necessary. A better allotment, therefore, would be 6 per Regiment, 12 per Mounted Ambulance and 1 per Machine Gun Squadron or a total of 93 per Division. In the event of wheeled transport being impracticable Field and Signal Squadrons, Divisional Headquarters and R.H.A. Batteries should be provided with one each. The great and only difficulty in the provision of these stretchers has been the poles and if sufficient aeroplane tail booms are available it would be an improvement on the difficult supply of bamboo poles from INDIA.

Headquarters
12/5/18.

D.D.M.S.

Colonel
Desert Mounted Corps.

To A.A.G., A.I.F. in Egypt.

The suggestions made by the Secretary of Defence that affect the A.I.F. Medical Services in Egypt are:-

1. Closer relations between Australian Medical Administration in Egypt and the Defence Department in Australia in place of Administrative Headquarters, London.
2. Closer relations between the Imperial and Australian medical administrations in Egypt.
3. Placing the control of nursing units in Salonica under a Principal Matron, in close relationship with the Imperial authorities, with authority to make temporary promotions and return nurses to Australia.

In addition the proposals of the ~~Administrative~~ Commandant, Australian Headquarters, Cairo involves:-

4. Control of the nursing units in India from Australian Headquarters, Egypt.

(1). From the point of view of the A.A.M.C. and A.A.N.S. in Egypt, control from London has been unsatisfactory and detrimental to their efficiency.

There has not been a hard and fast rule that communications from the Medical Services in Egypt must always pass to the D.M.S., A.I.F., and never direct to Australia; in fact nothing definite has ever been laid down on this matter - with consequent confusion. The delay caused by communications which eventually must reach the Defence Department, passing through the D.M.S., A.I.F. has been so great that, generally speaking, for any important matter this method of procedure has been useless; accordingly any requirements in personnel have as a rule been cabled to Australia and have always been met.

It has been understood that broad questions of principle should be referred to D.M.S., A.I.F. and this procedure has been followed. It is felt however that the Medical administration in London is perhaps a little out of touch with the requirements and conditions of the A.A.M.C. in the E.E.F. as it is now over two years since any officer from that office has been in Egypt, nor has any responsible officer from the A.A.M.C. in Egypt been to Administrative Headquarters, London during this period.

I should therefore strongly recommend direct relationship between the D.D.M.S., A.I.F. in Egypt and the D.G.M.S., Australia in place of that at present existing with the D.M.S., A.I.F. in London.

If such a procedure be adopted it is thought that substantive promotion of officers should be on a general list for the whole A.A.M.C., A.I.F., as some officers in France or Egypt would otherwise certainly be superseded at times entirely through the accident of location and through no fault of their own. Promotions necessary for command in the various countries that involve supersession of officers in other countries should be temporary and local. This should apply equally to promotions in the A.A.N.S..

A small system of exchange of officers between France and Egypt would sometimes be necessary to regulate this, and otherwise would be of advantage when special officers are required to fill special positions in either country; there are also cases where a change of scene increases the efficiency of the individual.

(2). The relationship of the Australian Medical administration in Egypt and the Imperial administration is already very close, particularly as regards the nursing services. I do not think it could be made more intimate unless an A.A.M.C. officer were attached to the Staff of the D.M.S., E.E.F. and this does not appear necessary.

(3). For practical purposes the A.A.N.S. in Salonica at present comes under this office, almost as much as the A.A.N.S. in Egypt, for instructions were received direct from the D.G.M.S. Australia concerning promotions and transfers of these nurses on their passage through

Egypt; the D.M.S., A.I.F. calls on me for returns and all information concerning these units, and the Principal Matron demands reinforcements from this office as required, from one of the Salonica units which remained in Egypt.

I think the most suitable arrangement would be that proposed by the D.M.S., A.I.F. of a Principal Matron for Egypt and Salonica attached to A.I.F. Headquarters, Egypt, and coming under the D.D.M.S. A.I.F. in Egypt.

In the event of the proposal of the Commandant, Australian Headquarters being adopted this lady could act for units in India also. It would however be necessary, in my opinion, for a Matron doing duty in Salonica and India to be her direct local representative for communicating matters affecting promotion, reinforcements and to a lesser extent posting of nurses; this Matron should be in close touch with the British Matron-in-Chief.

I consider that it is more satisfactory for all promotions of nursing personnel to be made by a G.O.C., A.I.F. on the recommendation of the Principal Matron through the administrative Medical Officer than for a Principal Matron to have this power subject only to the veto of the Defence Department.

(4). It is considered that the same objection of delay in communicating from India to Australia via Egypt would obtain if the A.A.N.S. in India were under the administration of Headquarters in Egypt, as holds for the present mode of communicating medical matters from Egypt to Australia, via London. Apart from this I see no objection to the organisation proposed as it affects the A.A.M.C. in Egypt, but I have too little knowledge of the A.A.N.S. in India to form an opinion on any advantage that might accrue to it. It would certainly be necessary for periodical inspections of the units there, as in Salonica, by an officer from Egypt, if A.I.F. Headquarters in Egypt were to administer them.

HEADQUARTERS.
7th. May 1918.

R.M. Dowling
COLONEL.
D.D.M.S., A.I.F. in EGYPT.

To A.A.G., A.I.F. in Egypt.

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If such a procedure be adopted it is thought that substantive promotion of officers should be on a general list for the whole A.A.M.C., A.I.F., as some officers in France or Egypt would otherwise certainly be superseded at times entirely through the accident of location and through no fault of their own. Promotions necessary for command in the various countries that involve supercession of officers in other countries should be temporary and local. This should apply equally to promotions in the A.A.N.S..

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HEADQUARTERS.
7th. May 1918.

COLONEL.
D.D.M.S., A.I.F. in EGYPT.

A. A. M. C. STRENGTH 6/5/18

18

UNIT.	OFFICERS	NURSES	O/RANKS	Att."B"Class.	PATIENTS.		
					Off.	O/R.	V.D.
<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	17	93	194	7 T.B.) 37 P.B.)	30	1198	
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>	9	-	119	19	10	139	224
<u>Moascar T.C.</u>	3	-	55(45 available to reinforce 10 in isolation)				
<u>Govt. Hosp. Suez.</u>	2	12	16				
<u>Rest Camp, Port Said</u>	1	-	7				

DETACHED PERSONNEL.

<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	1(sick) 2(sick) 15(sick) 1(leave) - 1(NCO.Sch. of Instr.)	10(NCO Sch. of Instr. Moascar)
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>	1 (Aust. Provost Corps) 5 (NCO Sch. of Instr.) 1 (Sch. of Cookery. Alex.)	

ATTACHED DENTAL UNITS.

Dental Hospital, Moascar .	4 Officers	12 Other ranks.
2nd A.S.H., Moascar	1 "	3 " "
14th A.G.H. Port Said.	1 "	3 " "
Rest Camp, Port Said.	1 "	3 " "
Camel Details, Abbassia	1 "	3 " "
1st Light Horse Field Amb.	1 "	3 " "
2nd " " " "	1 "	3 " "
3rd " " " "	1 "	3 " "
4th " " " "	1 "	3 " "
Aust. Camel Field Amb.	1 "	3 " "
5th Mounted Brigade	1 "	2 " "

	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>NURSES</u>	<u>O/RANKS</u>
AUSTRALIAN PATIENTS IN 70th GEN.HOSP, ABBASSIA.	-	-	18
BOARDED PATIENTS WAITING RETURN TO AUSTRALIA.	3	-	166
SICK IN SINIA AND ASIA MINOR.	3	1	48
SICK IN EGYPT.	36	9	1528
TOTAL STRENGTH OF SUEZ CAMP.	109	-	2632

A. A. M.C STRENGTH 13/5/18.

UNIT	OFFICERS	NURSES	O/RANKS	Att. "B" Class	PATIENTS		V.D.	19
					Off	O/R		
<u>14th A.G.H</u>	18	89	191	7 T.B. 33 P.B.	42	1324	-	
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>	10	-	117	13	11	126	224	
<u>Moascar T.C.</u>	3	-	52	(39 available to reinforce (10 at Sig. Unit Sch. of Instruction) (3 awaiting transport duty)				
<u>Govt. Hosp. Suez.</u>	2	10	14					
<u>Rest Camp Port Said.</u>	1	-	8					

DETACHED PERSONNEL.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Nurses</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	1 (N.C.O. Sch. of Inst. Moascar)	2 (sick)	10 (NCO Sch. of Inst. Moas)
		1 (leave)	15 (sick)
		1 (Hosp. train)	3 (leave)
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>			1 (Aus. Prov. Corp)
			1 (Cookery Sch. Alex)
			5 (NCO Sch. of Inst. Moas.)

ATTACHED DENTAL UNITS.

	Officers	Nurses	O/Ranks.
Dental Hospital, Moascar	4	12	O/Ranks.
2nd A.S.H. Moascar	1	3	"
14th A.G.H. Port Said	1	3	"
Rest Camp, Pt. Said	1	3	"
Camel Detls. Abbassia	1	3	"
1st Light Horse Field Amb.	1	3	"
2nd " " "	1	3	"
3rd " " "	1	3	"
4th " " "	2	5	"
Ausr. Camel Field Amb.	1	3	"

	Officers	Nurses	O/Ranks.
AUSTRALIAN PATIENTS IN 70th GENERAL Hosp. ABBASSIA	-	-	20
BOARDED PATIENTS AWAITING RETURN TO AUSTRALIA	3	-	177
SICK IN SINAI AND ASIA MINOR	3(3)	-	82
SICK IN EGYPT	54	10	1912
TOTAL STRENGTH OF SUEZ CAMP	6	(Camp)	129
		(Hosp)	45

A.A.M.C. STRENGTH 19/5/18.

UNIT	OFFICERS	NURSES	O/RANKS	Att. "B" Class	PATIENTS		
					Off.	O/R	V.D.
<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	18	89	180	7 T.B. 41 P.B.	45	1440	
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>	8	-	116	13	11	125	224
<u>Moascar T.C.</u>	3	-	42 (29 available to reinforce) (10 at Sig. Sch. of Instruction) (3 awaiting transport duty)				
<u>Govt. Hosp. Suez.</u>	2	12	14				
<u>Rest Camp Port Said.</u>	1	-	8				

DETACHED PERSONNEL.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Nurses</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	1 (N.C.O. Sch. of Instr. Moascar)	1 (sick) 2 (leave) 1 (Conv. leave) 1 (Hosp. Train)	15 (sick) 2 (leave) 10 (N.C.O. Sch. of Instr.) 1 (temp. dtchd. Fld. Op. Unit)
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>			1 (Aus. Prov. Corps) 1 (Cook. Sch) 5 (N.C.O. Sch. of Instr.)

ATTACHED DENTAL UNITS.

Dental Hospital, Moascar	4	Officers	12	O/Ranks.
2nd A.S.H. Moascar	1	"	3	"
14th A.G.H. Pt. Said	2 1	"	3 4	"
Rest Camp, Pt Said.	1	"	3	"
Camel Dtls. Abbassia	1	"	3 2	"
1st Light Horse Fld. Amb.	1	"	3	"
2nd " " " "	1	"	3	"
3rd " " " "	1	"	3	"
4th " " " "	2	"	5	"
Aust. Camel Field Amb.	1	"	3	"

	Offrs.	Nurses	O/Ranks.
AUSTRALIAN PATIENTS IN 70th GENERAL HOSPITAL, ABBASSIA	-	-	20
BOARDED PATIENTS AWAITING RETURN TO AUSTR/a	3		177
SICK IN SINAI AND ASIA MINOR	3		35
SICK IN EGYPT	60	14	2067
TOTAL STRENGTH OF SUEZ CAMP	3	(Camp)	86
		(Hosp)	26

A. A. M. C. STRENGTH 26/5/18.

UNIT	OFFICERS	NURSES	O/RANKS	.Att."B"Class	PATIENTS ²¹		
					Off.	O/R.	V.D.
<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	18	88	183	6 T.B. 40 P.B.	43	1341	-
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>	8	-	110	11	11	121	231
<u>Moascar T.C.</u>	3	-	46	(available to reinforce - nil) (Sig. School of Instruct. 10) (awaiting Transport Duty 3)			
<u>Govt. Hospital</u> <u>Suez.</u>	1 2	12	13				
<u>Rest Camp,</u> <u>Port Said.</u>	1	-	8				

DETACHED PERSONNEL.

	<u>Officers</u>	<u>Nurses</u>	<u>O/Ranks.</u>
<u>14th A.G.H.</u>	1 (N.C.O. Sch. of Instr. Moascar)	3 (sick) 2 (leave)	15 (sick) 10 (NCO Sch. of Inst, Moas.) 1 (DMC F.Op.Unit) 1 (AFC for interview)
<u>2nd A.S.H.</u>	-	-	1 (Aust, Prov. Corps.)
<u>Govt. Hospital</u> <u>Suez.</u>	1 (sick)	1 (sick)	1 (sick)

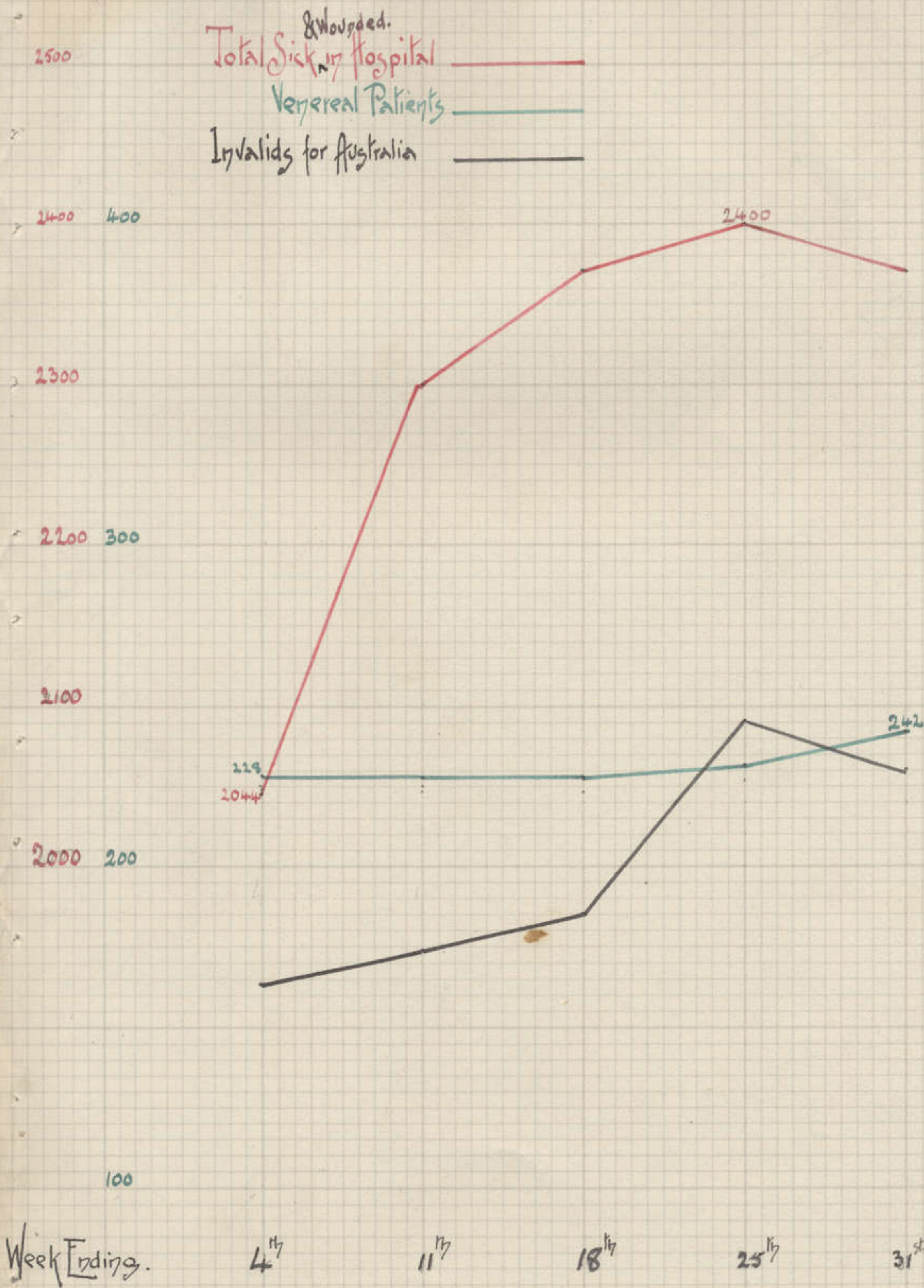
ATTACHED DENTAL UNITS.

Dental Hospital, Moascar	4	Officers	12	O/Ranks.
2nd A.S.H. Moascar	1	"	3	"
14th A.G.H. Port Said	2	"	4	"
Rest Camp, Port Said.	1	"	3	"
Camel Details, Abbassia	1	"	2	"
1st Light Horse Fld. Amb.	1	"	3	"
2nd " " " "	1	"	3	"
3rd " " " "	1	"	3	"
4th " " " "	2	"	5	"
Aust. Camel Field Amb.	1	"	3	"

	Offrs.	Nurses	O/Ranks.
Australian Patients in 70th Gen. Hospital, Abbassia	-	-	14
Australian Patients in 31st Gen. Hospital Abbassia	10	-	383
Boarded patients awaiting return to Aus/a	7	-	231
Sick in Sinai and Asia Minor	2		56
Sick in Egypt	62	17	2028
Total Strength of Suez Camp.	3	-	(Camp) 100 (Hosp) 15



MAY 1918





MAY 1918

— % of Total A.I.F. under treatment for Venereal Disease
 — % of Total A.I.F. admitted weekly to Venereal Disease

1.30
1.29
1.28
1.27
1.26
1.25
1.24
1.23
1.22
1.21
1.20

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Week Ending

4th

11th

18th

25th

June 1st

