

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/70/1

Title: No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital

October 1914 - January 1915



AWM4-26/70/1

483.



AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.



1ST AUSTRALIAN STATIONARY HOSPITAL.

MA'ADI Camp.

February 1st

191 15

From O.C. 1st Aust. Stationary Hospital.

To Colonel Solheim,
Base Records Office,
K asr-el-Nil. CAIRO.

Enclosed please find War Diary written up to the
28th January 1915.

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5/2/15

H. W. Myant
.....VD
Lieut-Colonel.
O.C. 1 A.S.H.

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914 October 10 th Melbourne		Conference of Commanding Officers of Units Melbourne	
		Own appointment dating from to-day.	
Oct 13 th Adelaide		General Mobilisation	
Oct 14 th		Establishment of Base Hospital at Barracks	
		Reserve Adelaide & commencement of training of men for nursing & orderly duties in wards at Adelaide Hospital	vide appendix I
		General training of unit in Stutcher Bearing Squad Drill & Company Drill, First Aid Lectures etc.	
November 27 th Adelaide		Departure for Melbourne	
November 28 th Melbourne		arrival in Melbourne.	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1914			
Nov 28th	Melbourne	Embarked on H.M.A.T. Myara	vide appendix I
Dec 5	Melbourne	6 PM Departed for Fremantle	
Dec 12th	Fremantle	9 PM arrival at Fremantle.	
.. 14th	Fremantle	6.30 PM Departure from	
.. 24th	at sea	complaints re food water & salt.	vide appendix II
.. 26th	Colombo	5 PM Arrival at Colombo.	
.. 29th	Colombo	8 PM Departure from Colombo.	
1915 30th	at sea	attack of Malaria Poisoning	vide appendix III
January 6th	Aden	3 PM arrival Aden.	
Jan 6th	Aden	11 PM Departure from Aden	
Jan 12th	Suez	9 PM arrived at Suez.	
Jan 12th	Suez	1 PM Departure from Suez.	
Jan 13th	Port Said	2 am arrived Port Said.	
Jan 13th	Port Said	5 PM Departure from Port Said	

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
1915			
January 16 th	Alexandria 8 am	Arrival at Alexandria	
January 17 th	Alexandria	Started to disembark Equipment into Sheds (Raiders)	
.. 18 th	Alexandria	Received verbal instructions to meet Col Carruthers at Cairo from O.C. S.S. Nyarra & to take Regiment (Major Paul) also	
... 19 th	Cairo	Met Col Carruthers at 2.0 & M.J.A.C. Shephards.	
..	Visited Camp (Lt Horse ^{1st} Brigade) at Ma'adi arranged to Camp & overlooked Private House with view of turning same into ^{HWS} Private Hospital. Saw Paymaster Major Farr.	
... 20 th	Alexandria	Returned to S.S. & J. Nyarra at Alexandria	
... 21 st	Alexandria 8.30 am	Left Alexandria with Personnel & Equipment also left motor car & X Coy outfit in Nos 12 & 16 Sheds.	vide telegram 
... 22 nd	Ma'adi 4.30 pm	Arrived Station Ma'adi. Met by Capt Perry Transport Officer (Lt Horse ^{1st} Brigade). Unloaded Equipment & deposited same at House & Hospital.	

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Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
29.1.15	Ma'ada	Suggestion re presentation of Mearls etc.	appendix v
30.1.15	- - -	1st Light Horse Brigade moved out of camp at 7.30am	
		for new camp at position near	
		Hilopoleis	

Appendix 1

The selection of men for the Stationary Hospital began on the 10th September 1914, the first men to be taken on were these applicants for positions in the 4th Field Ambulance who were not required for that unit. Additional men were called for by advertisements in the daily papers on and after the 16th September 1914.

Preference was given those fitted for special work, and who had received instruction in ambulance work (Outside of the lunatic asylum, there are no male nurses in South Australia).

After enrollment a most careful examination and observation of the men was made, and the unit was not actually complete until prior to ~~leaving~~^{for} Melbourne to embark.

A temporary base hospital was established at Keswick, and the arrangements made with the Adelaide Hospital for training the men in nursing duties helped greatly in the final selection.

We have now in the Unit an expert X-Ray man, an architect, as well as several others with a good knowledge of this and other branches of electrical work, motor and other mechanics, a carpenter and a plumber.

A fifth year medical student is in charge of the operating theatre, and a recorded dentist is sergeant in charge of nursing duties. The dispenser is an analytical as well as a dispensing chemist.

We were greatly indebted to the Board of Management of the Adelaide Hospital for permission to train our men there and to the Medical Superintendent, Sisters and nurses for the help given in that training. The men attended Hospital in two shifts, the first from 6-0 A.M. to noon, the second from 2-0 P.M. until 8-0 P.M.

Instruction was given in all branches of male nursing and some of the men were taught the methods of preparing patients for operations and of preparing room, instruments, dressings, sutures, etc.

Our cooks were also instructed in special diet cooking, for Hospital purposes.

In the temporary base hospital at Keswick, the men were instructed in general hospital duties. Formalities connected with the admission and discharge of patients, all clerical work, and the disinfection of clothing blankets, etc.

Lectures were given daily on first aid and anatomical subjects; also instruction in Sanitation, and the general duties in camp life.

Instruction was also given in squad, waggon, stretcher, and company drill.

EQUIPMENT

Some confusion occurred because of the necessity of procuring a portion of our equipment in Adelaide, and some elsewhere.

If all of our equipment could not be procured in one centre, why should that obtained in Sydney be sent on to Adelaide and then back to Melbourne (Hospital tents 34) or those made in Brisbane, (tables), not be shipped there, instead of sending them on to Adelaide and then back to Melbourne. The Head Office at Melbourne had ample time to look into this matter and were specially advised the tents and tables ^{could} ~~would~~ be ~~stopped at Melbourne~~ required. This was the cause of needless expense which might easily have been avoided.

ORDERS

Verbal orders were given to entrain on the 24th November, by the D.A.Q.M.G. and instructions to start on November 21st, and in answer to an urgent wire, a final word was given to entrain on November 27th. The answer to this wire was delayed 36 hours. Tents arrived in Adelaide too late to be taken to Melbourne, and had the Kyarra left at stated times, they would not have been taken at all.

Appendix 3

Appendix 2

December 24th 1915.

The O.C. Troops,
Hospital Transport "Kyarra"

Non-commissioned officers and men in our commands have made complaints that it is often impossible for them to obtain a bath - of either fresh or salt water - between Reveille and the hour at which they must commence duty.

The causes would appear to be:-

- (1) the scarcity of bath accomodation.
- (2) The irregularity of the water supplies.

On several occasions the men have not been able to obtain sufficient water to wash the soap off their faces after shaving. This occurred this morning, and also on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

Complaints have also reached us from Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, who state that they cannot buy soft drinks and fruit from the ~~dry~~ canteen, and that for such goods as they do obtain, prices are unreasonably high.

The water available for drinking purposes is described as badly filtered, often warm and unpalatable. The inability to purchase soft drinks is therefore a hardship on the men.

As we will be experiencing further hot weather after leaving Colombo, we would respectfully request, that, if possible, arrangements be made which will remove these causes for complaint.

We would suggest that a ration of lime juice be issued daily, and that in addition, if permissable, corps be allowed to make up a drink ration containing say, Citric Acid, sugar and water, with a little Essence of Lemon, which would be issued to the men at a nominal price.

We beg to assure you, Sir, that it is our earnest desire to co-operate with you, and to assist you in every possible way in arriving at, and ~~ac~~arrying through any remedial measures considered desirable and practicable.

*Signed by all O.C's of
Units on ship.*

Lieut-Colonel Ramsey Smith, Lieut-Colonel White, myself, Major Barrett, Major Jackson, Major McLean and many of the stewards dining in first class saloon were all taken bad with Ptomaine poisoning. I myself was unable to take solid foods for three weeks, and had to live very carefully for the rest of the voyage.

A Board of Inquiry was held and came to the conclusion that the arrangements of the kitchen were bad, and that the position of same rendered it frightfully hot in the tropics. The facilities for thawing the food were bad, and the cleanliness of the place and the cooking utensils not good.

Each Unit placed batmen at the disposal of the Steward(Chief) for waiting at tables;etc, but the staff of cabin stewards was as a whole most uncivil, and threatened to strike on several occasions.

I consider that the feeding accomodation of the Kyarra was quite inadequate, and that the ship was only suitable for short trips along the Australian Coast. I also consider that she should not carry more than 500 passengers, and that she was not intended for a long voyage such as she was used for on this occasion.

The weather luckily was mild nearly the whole way, or there would have been serious trouble from various sources.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Telegram. 1

From D.A.Q.M.G. Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, Cairo.

"Twenty first You can move to Maadi, Camping Ground ready
and house sanctioned"

Telegram No 2

From Jatrophic, Cairo Station.

Jan 26th 1915

" Hold half your Hospital officers personnel and equipment
in readiness to proceed on short notice to Port Said
to open hospital there. Mattresses should be taken not
bedsteads"

Telegram No 3

Jan 27th 1915.

From Jatrophic, Cairo Station.

"Train leaves from No 2 platform, not No 1

603.

Appendix No 4



The attached is a confirmation of telephone message received on the 26th instant at 5-0 P.M. Instructions were immediately given to divide up Hospital and the Quartermaster ordered to proceed with packing, etc.

Personnel to go to Ismailia, also half of equipment, baggage, and two motor ambulances.

Officers, Major Powell in command, Major Newland, Capt Verco, and Capt, Lowry. Officers. 4

Staff Sergeant Dispenser	Sgt Ramsey.	
Head Nursing Duties.	Sgt Marshall.	
Stores.	Sgt Raphael.	
Motor Ambulances.	Sgt Duckett.	
Clerk.	Lance Sgt Luck	(Sergeants. 5
Nursing.	Cpl Smith and Lee	Cpl Bates..
Cook.	Cpl Brown.	
General Duties.	Cpl Reed.	
		Corporals. 4
Nursing Duty Section.		Privates 12
General Ward Duties.		" 7
General Duties.		" 14
Motor Drivers.		" 3

~~Personnel~~

Total. All ranks. 49

Telephone Instruction received to take bedsteads as well as mattresses, and one days ration. Major Bagshawe communicating.

On the 27th, telephone message received from D.M.S. to take seven days ration less meat and bread. The supply officer was notified

Half unit personnel, equipment, baggage and rations left as per instructions. On the 28th, applied to Light Horse Field Ambulance for transport and sent all cases fit for removal from house hospital to camp hospital, only keeping enough personnel at former place to look after any serious cases.

Have repeatedly asked for Brigade Orders but received no response.

VERY PRESSING

D/M/S/153/15

The Officer Commanding,

Stationary Hospital, Maadi.

In continuation of my telegram of this morning, the following arrangements have been made.

Four 30 ton trucks, and two flats for motor ambulances will be put down at Maadi by 7-0 A.M. 27-1-15 for loading.

These must be loaded with all baggage for Ismaⁱlia by 1-30 P.M. when they will be run to Cairo Main Station Yard.

Personnel to be at Cairo Main Station No 1 Platform by 3-30 pm 27th inst.

You must arrange for fatigue parties and transport.

Seven days rations will be placed on the train by 3-30 pm.

(Signed) H.V.Bagshawe..

Major. R.A.M.C.
D.A.D.M.S.

Cairo.

26-1-1915.

Appendix 5

Jan 29th 1915

Received notice from Abbassia Barracks that two of my men had been arrested for being in Cairo after 10-30 although I had given them leave.

These were the first two to whom leave had been granted since our arrival, and they were sent in on duty.

On making inquiries I found that all leave had been stopped on the 28th instant in camp orders. As no camp orders were issued to us, I was not in a position to instruct my men accordingly.

Lance Cpl Pride was sent with a letter to Provost Marshall at Abbassia Barracks instructing them to release men.

I went into Cairo and interviewed Staff Paymaster re Stationery and forms not issued in Australia. He agreed to pay for all stationery obtained at Whitehead Morris and Co, Ltd, and also agreed to pay for coal, coke and drugs, that we have been unable to obtain, and which are absolutely necessary for carrying on hospital.

He recommended me to order what was at present necessary, and get quotations for future stock.

In-formed D.M.S. Staff Officer re Measles in camp, and that precautions should be taken to prevent spread of same to incoming troops. Suggested to Staff Officer of O.C. Brigade that steps be taken to prevent infection of new troops coming into camp. Recommended him to have tents sprayed with Formalin with McKenzie Spray, and closed up for one day, and ~~then~~ opened to sun and air.

When new Brigade comes into camp, they should shift tents to new space of unused ground alongside their present positions.