

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

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/70/2

Title: No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital

February 1915



AWM4-26/70/2

War Diary

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.
Feb 1 st 1915	Maadi	arrival of 2 nd L.H. Brigade from Australia	
Feb 2 nd	Maadi	Correspondence from D.D.M.S. & J.D. Exped Force, enclosing	Appendix I
		Report of Col Chauvel 1. L.H. Brigade. & Reply.	
Feb 3 rd	Maadi	Report on Autoclave sent in Medical Equipment	Appendix II
Feb 4 th	" "	12.26. Telegram Jatrophi re Motor Car.	Teleq. I.
Feb 11	---	D.D.M.S. re Stationery & books (Reply to Letter).	Appendix III
Feb 5 th	---	Sgt Coates sent Alexandria for Motor & X Ray Plant.	
Feb 6 th	Maadi	Correspondence re agreements & hiring House at hand.	Appendix IV
Feb 7 th	---	Operation for Hernia. First Cases performed here.	
Feb 6 th	---	Re Reinforcement & Horses to O.C. 4th Field Amb.	Appendix V
Feb 13 th	Maadi	General Williams visited Camp with Col Rogers.	
"	---	Received £100 from Gen. Williams for Improvement of Equipment	

War Diary

Date.	Place and Time.		Remarks or References to Appendices, &c., attached.	
Feb 13.15	Masada		authenticy given to hold Boards on Officers O.C.O's & men of D.D.M.S Egypt.	appendix 6.
Feb 13.15	---		Correspondence re Turkish Prisoners	appendix 7.
Feb 15-	---		Visit to Kasr el Aini Hosp to see Turkish wounded.	
Feb 16.	---		Requesting D.M.S (A.D.F.) for Stationery, Forms & Books.	
Feb 17 th	---	3 PM	Meeting at Palace Hotel Helipolis of O.C's Units Gen Williams in chair re Venereal Diseases	
Feb 24 th	...		Report on Venereal Diseases to Gen Williams D.M.S	appendix 8.
Feb 25 th	---	4 PM	General Williams inspected Camp at Masada	
Feb 26 th	Cairo		Selecting & other instruments (surgical) for Equipment	
Feb. 27 th	Masada	5 PM	Return of $\frac{1}{2}$ unit from Ismailia	
Feb 28 th	...		General Williams at Head Quarters Hosp. Masada. Inquiring into food & living stores & state of unit to leave at 12 hours notice	

FIRST AUSTRALIAN LIGHT HORSE BRIGADE.

Headquarters, Heliopolis.
2nd Feb 1915.

From Brigadier, 1st.A.L.H.Brigade.
To A.D.M.S. Australian and N.Z.Division.

I have to report that on the establishment of the 1st Australian Stationary Hospital at Ma'adi, after consultation between the 1st L.H.Field Ambulance, and the C.O. of the Stationary Hospital, a number of cases of measles and some of other sickness were admitted to the Stationary Hospital for treatment.

On the 29th instant, the O.C. Light Horse Field Ambulance was informed by the C.O. 1st A.S.Hospital that two of these cases(suffering from acute tonsillitis) were being returned as fit for light duty. At 7-30 A.M. on 30th inst, an orderly from 1st L.H.F.A. was sent to the Stationary Hospital to take over these patients, and was informed by a corporal on duty that they would not be fit for duty for two days. These men were kept in the Stationary Hospital until the Brigade had marched from Ma'adi for Heliopolis, and were then discharged to find their way to Heliopolis was best they could.

The 1st L.H.Brigade left Ma'adi for Heliopolis at 9-30 A.M on the 30th instant, and after its departure a number of acute cases, including measles in an infectious stage, were discharged from the Stationary Hospital and were sent by train to Heliopolis not arriving at the new camp until 5-30 P.M. As no isolation accomodation could be provided at short notice, fourteen measles cases were taken in the Field Hospital, and the remainder (including some measles in an infectious stage) returned to their regiments.

(sgd) H.G.Chauvel. Colonel.
C.O. 1st L.H.Brigade.

(2)

Headquarters,
New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

Feb 2nd 1915.

To S.M.O.
1st Aust. Stationary Hospital.
Ma'adi.

Forwarded for your information, action and return please.
(sgd) W.J.Well. Colonel. A.D.M.S.

Ma'adi Camp.
February 4th 1915.

From O.C. 1st Aus. Stationary Hospital.
To A.D.M.S. New Zealand Division,
Expeditionary Force.

My reply to Colonel Chauvel's report is as follows:-

- (1) After consultation with the O.C. 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance, I agreed to take a number of cases over from him including measles, and placed the measles cases in tents by themselves, and the non-infectious cases in other tents.
- (2) The correspondence dated 29th Jan 1915 to the O.C.L.H. Field Ambulance is signed by me, ~~and is attached~~ the men being Ptes Brett and Kemp. Re information by a corporal. There is only one corporal who has had charge of these patients (Cpl Hansen). He states that no orderly reported to him about taking over these men, and that at no time did he state that cases under his care would or would not be fit for duty. The two cases of the L.H. Field Ambulance were sent under an N.C.O. on the 30th Jan under Major Priestley, who had undertaken to receive them. He also signed for them.
- (3) On the 29th January 1915, a letter in which it was clearly stated that the patients were convalescents and not acute cases, and suggesting that measles might be placed in tents by themselves if they so desired, was sent to the C.O's of units. Later on in the evening of the 29th Jan, a letter was sent to the O.C's, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Light Horse Regiments stating the names of men of various units intended to be discharged, and clearly separating the infectious from the non-infectious cases. In consequence of an objection raised by the C.O. of the 1st L.H. Regiment, they were retained in Hospital. No objection was raised by the Regimental Surgeon or the C.O. No 2 Light Horse Regiment. The regimental surgeon of the 3rd Light Horse Regt personally signified his willingness to take over all cases belonging to his unit, and his ability to deal with the convalescent cases. With reference to cases not being sent in time to be received by the 1st L.H. Brigade, this was their own fault, as they had been notified and should have sent an N.C.O. over to receive them. As no one came, they were sent over in charge of one of our own N.C.O's, with a note of transfer to their Regimental Surgeon, and accompanied by a list of names. This list was signed by the M.O. of 2nd L.H. Regiment. This officer said that as all transports had gone, would we give these men their mid-day ration. This was given them. Major Priestley who was the officer left in charge of the camp issued an order that the men be paraded at 3-0 oclock P.M. at Headquarters. This order also was carried out.

I trust that after my explanation, Colonel Chauvel will see that there has been no omission of duty or precaution on the part of my command.

(Sgd) H.W. Bryant.
Lieut-Colonel.
O.C. 1 A.S.H.

Appendix ~~NE~~ II

Ma'adi.

Report on autoclave supplied to No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital.

This instrument was supplied with neither pressure gauge nor thermometer. The gauge glass which had been left on the instrument instead of being packed separately, was broken at both ends.

On testing, the brazing between the flat and curved parts of the lid was found to be faulty allowing a copious escape of steam. In addition the hinge for the lid is so constructed that the latter cannot be screwed down on the packing sufficiently hard to render it steam tight.

The rubber packing supplied for the lid is unsuitable owing to its liability to perish under high temperatures, and should be replaced by asbestos.

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Telegram No 1

EGYPTIAN STATE TELEGRAPHS..

4th Feb. 1915.

12-38 P.M.

From Cairo.

To O.C. Stationary Hospital. Ma'adi.

HAS YOUR MOTOR AMBULANCE ARRIVED
YET.

(Sgd) Gatrophic

Replied No.

H.W.B.

Appendix. II Cont.

Copy of report received from Messrs Moring & Co. Midan Suarees,
CAIRO.

Feb 18th 1915.

The P.M.P.
No 1 Staty Hospital,
Meadi.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Steam Sterilizer sent to us to repair and returned as unsatisfactory, we have closely examined same and find materials of the sterilizer are unfit for the use you require for same. The lid bends when pressure is made, and even if a new one was made which would mean considerable expense, the inner chamber would not stand with safety the pressure required by a manometer but only with a thermometer at 120 of centigrade.

The above report has been made by expert from Sanitary Department as suggested by Dr Madden.

Will you kindly inform us what we shall do re above, and oblige.

Yours faithfully,

Moring & Co.

APPENDIX 3.

Ma'ADI.

Jan 26th

1915.

From O.C. No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital.

To. D.M.S. Cairo.

I should be glad if you would supply me with a
copy of each of each of the following books:-

Manual of Military Law.
Standing Orders for Egypt.
Regulations for Army Medical Service.
Regulations for allowances.
Financial Instructions.
Standing Orders for R.A.M.C.
Manual for R.A.M.C.
Field Service Manual (Army Medical Services)
Schedules of Hospital equipment.
Nomenclature of diseases
Hospital Ready Reckoner.
Manuscript list of returns to be rendered.
Sudan Almanac.
Egyptian Almanac
Hospital Receipt book (Patient's valuables).

(sgd) H.W.Bryant. VD.
Lieut-Colonel.
O.C. 1 A.S.Hospital..

(2)

The O.C.
No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital.
MA'ADI.

I regret I cannot supply any of these books.
Application should be made to the War Office. For the
Sudan and Egyptian Almanacs write to the Publications
Office, Government Press, Boulac.

(Sgd) N.Manders. Colonel.
D.D.M.S.

Cairo..
4-2-15

Appendix 3.

From Major Wilson and Capt LeMessurier.

To O.C. No 1 Australian Stationary Hospital.

We have to report that we have this day examined the men of the No 1 Stationary Hospital at Ma'adi for venereal disease, and that there were not any cases discovered.

(Sgd) T.G.Wilson.Major.

(Sgd) F.N.LeMessurier.Captain.

Appendix 4

Copy of correspondence with Surgeon General. D.M.S. in Egypt.

From D.M.S. With reference to the hiring of a house at Ma'adi as a
Hospital. as the O.C. No 1 Stationary Hospital apparently
to made all the arrangements, he had better complete the necessary
Hqtrs. arrangements. Up to the present an agreement for electric light
only has been received.
A&NZ AC.

The above was forwarded to this Hospital by Lieut-Colonel
Lesslie, A & N Z Army Corps with the following comment:-

"Forwarded for necessary action".

Feb 2nd 1915.

Reply of Lieut-Colonel Bryant.

Feb 6th 1915.

Arrangements for hiring house at Maadi were not made
by me.

Received from Lieut-Colonel Lesslie.

Feb 5th 1915

In continuation of my No A 928 of the 4th inst, the
following message received on the 5th instant from D.M.S.
the Force in Egypt is forwarded for necessary action please.

" Agreement for the hiring of the house at Ma'adi as a"

" hospital urgently required to report to war office."

" Please expedite letter sent you 2nd Feb.

Reply of Lieut-Col Bryant.

Feb 6th 1915.

With reference to AA974, I only received AA 928
on the 5th instant.

APPENDIX 5



Ma'adi Camp.

February 6th

5

To O.C.
4th Field Ambulance,
Zeitoun Camp,
HELIOPOLIS.

Reinforcements

Could you inform me whether the four men attached to
"B" Section from my unit came over with you.

Horses.

Could you give me any information of the three horses
that were to be brought with you. Their numbers were 16426,
16424, and 16430.

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

(2)

From Commanding Officer,
4th Field Ambulance.

To C.O. 1st A.S.H.

Re the above. The 4 reinforcements referred to were not
brought over by me, no instructions having been received that
they were to embark with my unit.

The 3 horses were taken off Transport A 41 and put on
train at Alexandria as per instructions received from Disembarkation
Officer but their destination was not known.

A reply to your letter of the 6th, was sent you on the 9th.

Aerodrome Camp.
Heliopolis.
17-2-15.

no reply was received

H. W. B.

(Sgd) Dawson.
Capt and Adjutant.
4th Field Ambulance.

Appendix 6.

Director of
Medical Services.

8 Feb 1915.

No 5/10/15.

EGYPT.

To O.C.
No 1 Stationary Hospital.
Ma'adi.

You are authorised to hold Boards on N.C.O's and men who require invaliding, Cases should be made out in duplicate on Army Form B 179 and forwarded to this office for approval.

Nominal roll of men in duplicate, shewing diseases brought before the Board, should accompany the documents.

In applying for a Board on a officer, a case sheet should be sent for perusal.

(sgd) G.Manders.

& Cairo.

Colonel.
D.D.M.S.

8-2-15.

(2)

Noted and returned.

(Signed) H.W.Bryant. VD.
Lieut-Col.
O.C. 1 A.S.H.

Ma'adi.

10-2-15.

APPENDIX 7

D.M.S.
9 Feb 15.
No 215-15.
EGYPT.

The O.C.
No 1 Stationary Hospital.
Meadi.

Please note that a camp for Turkish prisoners is being formed at Tourah. You will detail an officer to be in medical charge of this camp in addition to his present duties. He will treat sick not requiring admission to hospital, and will be in charge of the sanitation of the camp.

Please submit the name of the officer detailed.

(Sgd) H.V. Bagshawe.
Colonel.
D.D.M.S.

Cairo.
8-2-15.

(2)

Returned to D.D.M.S.

Have noted your instruction re medical attention for Turkish prisoners at Tourah, and Major Wilson is detailed for this purpose.

Ma'adi.
10-2-15.

(Sgd) H.W. Bryant. LT-Colonel.
O.C. 1 A.S.H.

(3)

Returned to O.C. 1 A.S.H.

These instructions are now cancelled. Dr. F.J. Scrimgeour will perform the duties of M.O. of camp for Turkish prisoners.

Headquarters.
12-2-15.

(Sgd) H.V. Bagshawe.
Major.
for Colonel. D.D.M.S.

Returned to D.D.M.S.

Noted and returned.

Maadi.
Feb 13th 1915.

(Sgd) H.W. Bryant.
Lieut-Colonel.
O.C. 1 A.S.H.

Appendix 8

Ma'adi Camp.

21st February

5

From O.C. No 1 Aust. Stationary Hospital.

To the Director of Medical Services,
Australian Imperial Force.

Sir/

I have the honour to bring under your notice the number of Venereal cases that have been treated in the No 1 Aust. Stationary Hospital at Ma'adi, since the 24th January. The accompanying Field Service Army Form A 36 (called Appendix "I") gives all the information that I think you desire in regard to the number treated, and those still under treatment. This does not account for the number who had Gonorrhoea, Soft Chancres, or Syphilis in the First Light Horse Brigade, as only complicated cases were sent to the No 1 A.S.H., the remainder being kept in their lines under the supervision of the Regimental Medical Officers; and they were treated daily by Captain Fraschi of the 1st Light Horse Field Ambulance, whose opinion on these cases might be obtained.

(1)

The question of Military assistance.

To put areas out of bounds would no doubt be good policy if adequate Military Police control could be obtained. Stricter discipline must be adopted than is at present in vogue, and men disobeying orders and behaving like blackguards and lunatics whenever they take a few drinks should be cleared out of the country, as well as severely punished.

(2)

Prophylaxis

Your suggestion to establish one or two places in the City where men who had exposed themselves to infection could immediately go and receive preventive treatment would be effective, but as well as this I would suggest that a tent be set apart in the lines of each unit, in charge of a competent orderly, where men could go at any time, day or night, and get preventive treatment. In my command, I have encouraged the men to report immediately after leave of absence, if they have exposed themselves to infection, and they have been injected with a weak Pot Permang Solution, and then with 5% solution of Argyrol, and well washed with Sol Hydrag Perchlor, and a Calomel ointment applied(vide Appendix 2)

So far, we have had no cases since our arrival in Egypt (vide Appendix 3)

The distribution of circulars among the troops, very strongly pointing out the danger to their after-lives, and the disgrace they are bringing on themselves, their relations, and their native land, if they contract syphilis, etc, must have a deterrent effect on a large number, and so this plan should be continued.

(3)

General Treatment.

(a) Primary Sore: Application of Argent Nit, followed by the use of Lot Nigra or Calomel Powder. If Salversan could be obtained, nothing clears this up so quickly, otherwise Mercurial treatment in some form must be adopted, the method being left to the discretion of the M.O. in attendance.

(b) Soft Sores(or Chancres) Our experience with reference to both soft sores, and bubos that have been opened or discharging, is that they take some time to heal. The bubos discharge a grumous, sero-sanious fluid, and often have indurated, everted edges, which are ~~specifically~~ suspiciously like specific ulcers. Suggestions for treatment : Application of Argent Nit to soft sores, followed by Calomel powder, the latter dusted on two or three times per day.

(3)cont.

(b)cont. All bubos should be freely opened and washed out with 1 in 8 H_2O_2 . They are better not fomented when discharging freely, but should be left open after filling the cavity with an Iodoform Emulsion. This could be done two or three times a day if much discharge, and the treatment modified according to circumstances. I consider that in all these cases, the Ultra-microscope should be used to find if Spiro-chaetae are present, and Wasserman blood tests also could be made, and the internal treatment could follow on these reports and action taken about sending these cases back if necessary.

(c) Gonorrhoea: The treatment of this disease at present seems to be causing a good deal of controversy, every M.O. having his own views on the subject.. There can be no doubt in the acute stage, complete rest in the recumbent position, cleanliness, light diet, and an occasional saline aperient are necessary. Then comes the question of local treatment and my experiences all point to frequent irrigation with weak Pot Permang or Zinc Solutions, starting the irrigation with the douche, not too high up, and lessening the frequency of the douching as the discharge gets less. The internal administration of an alkali and a sedative, i.e. Soda or Pot Bicarb with Soda or Pot Bromide gr X, with M XX, Tinct Hyoscyami in water for a few days, is very soothing if the urine is acid and burning much whilst micturating..

In chronic cases:Protargol, Argyrol, Argent Nit, may all be used as required with or without Urethroscope. Later on the careful use of bougies to prevent stricture, should be a routine procedure..

Most of the Gonorrhoea cases should be well in from three to six weeks, and quite fit for the firing line, and there is no necessity for sending them away as permanently unfit.

(4)

Convalescent Depots.

I would prefer to call these places for the treatment of Venereal Diseases, and insist that the cases be sent into them at once, and then teach them, after the first week's rest, how to follow out the treatment themselves. Let them have private places where they can go and douche themselves, or syringe as the case may be, as often as ~~required~~ ordered, and it would not require the services of many M.O's or orderlies to look after them.

(5)

Destination.

The syphilitic cases should all be sent back to Australia, as soon as possible.

The soft sores cases, if proved by Ultra-Microscope or Wasserman to be specific should also be sent back.

The Gonorrhoea cases can be treated as I have suggested above under the heading of Convalescent Depots, and then drafted back to their units as the M.O. in charge may decide. It does not seem necessary that any large staff should be required to attend to these cases, as the percentage at the very most cannot be more than from 3 to 5%, and I feel sure from what I have heard that syphilis is not more prevalent here than it would be if these troops were in any of the large Australian cities.

(Sgd) H.W. Bryant. VD.
Lieut-Col.
O.C. 1 A.S.H.

Appendix 11

Venereal Prophylaxis adopted at Alexandria.

The penis and pubes are well washed with Mercuric Perchloride 1 in 4000 in water.

Three injections of weak solution of Pot Permang were then given, and the parts thoroughly dried and smeared with Ung.Hyd.Subchlor. special attention being paid to the corona of the penis.

The numbers treated were:-

Jan 16th	10
17th	2
18th	11

These dates included the first days leave after a long sea voyage. In all cases injections were made on the men's return to the ship, that is, probably within 6 hours of the time of exposure to the infection.

Since coming to Ma'adi, prophylactic injection has been carried out in the same way, using Argyrol 5%.