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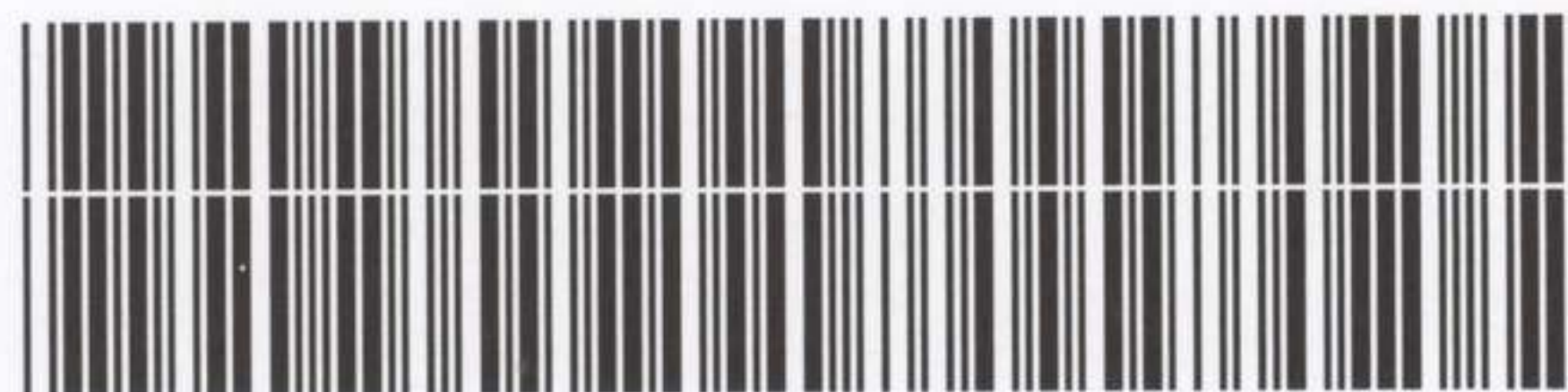
**Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War**

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/24/23

Title: Assistant Director of Medical
Services, Australian Mounted Division

July-August 1919



AWM4-26/24/23

CONFIDENTIAL.

ORIGINAL.
DUPLICATE.
TRIPLICATE.

Australian Imperial Force.

WAR DIARY

OF

A. D. M. S.

AUST. MOUNTED DIVN.

FOR

JULY - AUGUST 1919

Signature of Officer compiling

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Signature of Officer Commanding

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L. Col

ADMS
and M.D.

Instructions regarding War Diaries and Intelligence
Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
will be prepared in manuscript.

WAR DIARY
or
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Summary of Events and Information

Remarks and
references to
Appendices

Date. Place.

| Place | Date | Hour |
|----------|---------|--|
| MOASCAR. | 25:7:19 | A.D.M.S., Ausdiv. left MOASCAR TO Take over duties as S.M.O., H.M.T."BURMA". Embarked 1230, took over medical stores. |
| KANTARA. | 26:7:19 | Equipped hospital from ships stores. Main party embarked during morning. H.M.T."BURMA" sailed 1430. |
| SUEZ. | 27:7:19 | Left Suez at 0900. Owing to heat it was recommended that prisoners be allowed to sleep in Y.M.C.A. room. <u>Appendix No.1.</u> Issued Medical Order No.1. <u>Appendix No.2.</u> |
| AT SEA. | 28:7:19 | Weather extremely hot. In order that troop decks might be washed down it was recommended that the scuppers, sealed down by the authorities in U.K., be opened. |
| AT SEA. | 29:7:19 | Hot weather continues. Recommended that prisoners be allowed on deck for a few hours daily. <u>Appendix No.3.</u> |
| AT SEA. | 31:7:19 | Passed ADEN this morning at 1130. Weather much cooler. |
| AT SEA. | 1:8:19 | Encountered stormy weather this evening. |
| AT SEA. | 3:8:19 | Weather still stormy. Many cases of sea-sickness some of which have been admitted to hospital. |
| AT SEA. | 5:8:19 | Weather calmer. Much excitement caused by one of the crew falling overboard. He was rescued after being in the water 45 minutes. Passed the Island of MINIKOY at 1030. |
| AT SEA. | 7:8:19 | Weather fine. Sighted COLOMBO at 2030. S.M.O.'s Voyage Report. <u>Appendix No.4.</u> |
| COLOMBO. | 8:8:19 | Leave to COLOMBO granted to all ranks. Party left for KANDY at 0530. Sgt.YEATMAN evacuated to hospital for operation. Indented for and received medical stores. |
| AT SEA. | 9:8:19 | Steamed out at XXXX 1200. Weather rainy. |
| AT SEA. | 12:8:19 | Commenced medical examination on all ranks for purpose of completing A.I.F., Forms. 536 |
| AT SEA. | 15:8:19 | Passed COCOS Islands at 1130. |
| AT SEA. | 16:8:19 | Sports held this afternoon. |
| AT SEA. | 18:8:19 | Completed A.I.F., Forms 536 for all ranks on board. Inspected balance of the potatoes remaining for issue found them unfit for consumption and recommended that they be disposed of. <u>Appendix No.5.</u> |
| AT SEA. | 19:8:19 | In communication with FREMANTLE. |
| ATSEA. | 20:8:19 | Medical inspection of all ranks. No case of infectious found. |

G. Hawthor Clarke
h.c.

(10340) W4 W3500/P713 750,000 J/1 E 2688 Forms/Cars/16
D. D. & L. Long, L. C.

Army Form C. 2118.

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Place

Date

Hour

Date. Place.

22:8:19 ~~xxx~~ Arrived FREMANTLE 0800. Leave granted to
FREMANTLE. all ranks from 1100 to 1400.
Do. Voyage Report. Appendix No. 6.
Sailed at 1700.

27:8:19 ADELAIDE. Arrived ADELAIDE 1200. Sailed from
~~ADELAIDE~~ at 1700.

GENERAL.

Chart of hospital admissions. Appendix No. 7.

General Voyage Report. Appendix No. 8.

S. Hawthorn Clarke
he. Col.

ADMS. Aust. Mounted Divⁿ

WAR DIARY

OF

A.D.M.S., AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED DIVISION.

FOR

period 25:7:19 - 29:8:19 191

LIST OF APPENDICES.

| No. | Subject. |
|-----|--|
| 1 | Memo recommending that prisoners be allowed to sleep in Y.M.C.A. room. |
| 2 | Medical Order No.1. |
| 3 | Memo recommending that prisoners be allowed on deck for a few hours daily. |
| 4 | S.M.O.'s Voyage Report. (SUEZ -COLOMBO.) |
| 5 | Memo recommending disposal of potatoes. |
| 6 | S.M.O.'s Voyage Report. (COLOMBO - FREMANTLE.) |
| 7 | Chart of Hospital Admissions. |
| 8 | General Voyage Report. |

APPENDIX 1.

O.C.,
Troops H.M.T. "BURMA".

Owing to heat and consequent ~~viti~~
vitiated atmosphere in the quarters occupied by
prisoners it is recommended that the five prisoners at
present in the General Cell be allowed to sleep in the
Y.M.C.A. room tonight and as long as conditions remain as at
present.

Chouther Clarke

5050
27:7:1919.

Lt. Colonel,
Senior Medical Officer H.M.T. "BURMA".

MEDICAL ORDER No. 1.

By,

Lt. Colonel C.L. CLARKE S.M.O. H.M.T. "BURMA"

Appendix
2

(1) DUTIES. Medical Officer on duty Hospital. Capt. TREMBATH (Cabin

Orderly Medical Officer. Capt. TREMBATH (Cabin 37
" HUMPHRIES (Cabin 27
" MORRIS (Cabin 27

in above order commencing 27th. instant.

Orderly Sister. Sister. BRIGGS
" PERRIER
" KELMAN

in above order commencing 27th. instant.

HOSPITAL. Sergeant in charge. Sgt. AXELSEN.
Orderlies Pte. GOURLAY.
" TAYLOR.
" SUTERS.
" FIDDES.

DRESSING STATION. Pte. MYLES.
" KIRK.

DISPENSARY. S/Sgt. DeGRUCHY.
Pte. SMITH.

SANITARY N.C.O. S/Sgt. PALMER.

(2) HOSPITAL. Sick Parades. 0730 and 1730.

Dispensary Hours. 0730 - 0800
0830 - 1000
1330 - 1415
1730 - 1800

Hospital Meals. Breakfast 0830
Dinner 1300
Tea. 1730

REQUISITIONS. Red Cross and other indents must be submitted to S.M.O.'s office by 0930 daily.

COMFORTS. All indents for special articles chargeable to A.I.F. such as brandy, soda-water, etc. must be signed by S.M.O.

LINEN. The greatest care must be exercised in the use of linen owing to absence of laundry facilities.

PYJAMAS AND HOSPITAL SLIPPERS. Will be ~~XXXXX~~ withdrawn from patients on discharge.

INSPECTION. The hospital area must be ready for C.O.'s inspection at 1000 daily.

DENTAL TREATMENT. This will be commenced on 28th. instant and regulations published in Ships Orders.

28th. July 1919.

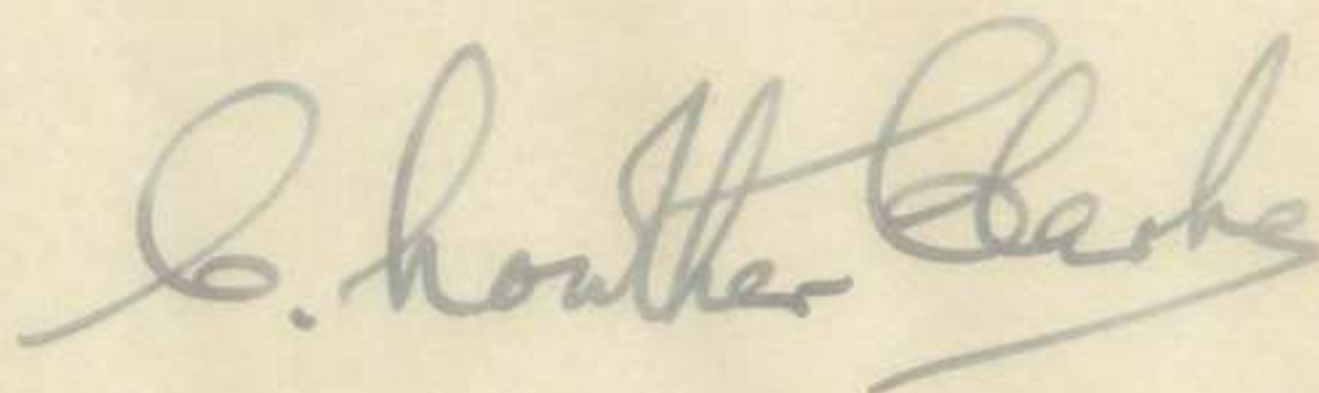
Lt. Colonel
S.M.O. H.M.T. "BURMA"

C. L. Clarke

O.C.,
Troops H.M.T. "BURMA".

The cells occupied by prisoners are at present unfit for occupation owing to the heat.

It is therefore recommended on medical grounds that the prisoners be allowed on deck for two or three hours.



29:7:1919.

Lt. Colonel,
Senior Medical Officer H.M.T. "BURMA".

VOYAGE REPORT

By,

Lt. Colonel C.L. CLARKES.M.O. S.S. "BURMA"8/8/1919.GENERAL HEALTH.

The voyage from KANTARA (EGYPT) to COLOMBO has occupied approximately 12 days and during this period 38 cases have been admitted to hospital.

The following is the classification of diseases:-

| <u>Diarrhoea.</u> | <u>Malaria.</u> | <u>Debility caused by sea sickness.</u> | <u>General Surgical</u> | <u>General Medical</u> | <u>Tonsillitis</u> | <u>Pyrexia.</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | 13 | 6 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | | <u>Venereal</u> | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | |

The only serious case of illness is that of No. 2478 Sgt. E.P. YEATMAN A.A.S.C., M.T. who was admitted on 1st. August and diagnosed on the 2nd. August as acute appendicitis. The question of immediate operation was considered and it was decided after a medical consultation that operation was not justifiable under the circumstances. The ship was rolling excessively in rough sea caused by the South - West Monsoon and it was ascertained that it was not possible to place the ship in any position which would render her steady enough to enable an operation to be performed.

The condition of Sgt. YEATMAN renders an operation in the near future necessary and he is to be landed at COLOMBO for the purpose.

The number of cases of malarial relapses has been low considering the large number of men on board who have been infected in PALESTINE and SYRIA.

The great heat of the RED SEA caused a large number of men to suffer from sudaminal rashes.

The rough weather encountered on passing out of the GULF of ADEN into the South-West Monsoon caused a lot of sea-sickness and 6 cases had to be admitted to hospital.

SANITATION.

The sanitary ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ conveniences on board have proved ample so far and no insanitary conditions exist at present.

Troop decks and mess tables and utensils have been well kept.

No vermin have been reported.

VENEREAL.

Two cases of Venereal disease have been reported, one of Syphilis and one of Gonorrhoea.

GENERAL.

The whole of the military personnel on board were examined on August 7th. before reaching COLOMBO for infectious disease and also for Venereal disease.

There is nothing further to report at this stage. Full report will be made in the Voyage Report on other medical matters.

C. L. Clarke

Lt. Colonel,
Senior Medical Officer H.M.T. "BURMA".

8/8/1919.

APPENDIX 5.

O.C.,
Troops H.M.T. "BURMA".

This is to certify that I have this day
inspected the balance of the potatoes remaining for issue
to the troops.

I found them unfit for consumption and
recommend that they be disposed of at once.

G. Hawthor Clarke

17:8:1919.

Lt. Colonel,
Senior Medical Officer H.M.T. "BURMA".

Appendix 6

VOYAGE REPORT.

(COLOMBO to FREMANTLE.)

By,

Lt. Colonel C.L. CLARKE

S.M.O., H.M.T. "BURMA".

22:8:1919

GENERAL HEALTH.

During the thirteenth days at sea between the above ports 39 cases have been admitted to hospital. The following is the classification of diseases.

| <u>General</u> <u>Surgical.</u> | <u>General</u> <u>Medical.</u> | <u>Malaria.</u> | <u>Pyrexia.</u> | <u>Debility from</u> <u>Seasickness.</u> | <u>Tuberculosis</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| 11 | 13 | 10 | 1(1) | 3 | 1 |

There has been no serious sickness of any description. One case has been diagnosed as probably tuberculosis. The surgical cases included 4 of furunculosis and there have been several other cases treated for this condition as out-patients. The prevalence of boils can be ascribed to lack of exercise and the full diet. There have been a number of cases of bronchial and pharyngeal catarrh but in only a few of these has there been any fever and then only transient. They are due to the rapid change from hot to cold and damp weather, and have presented no signs of influenzal origin. The weather conditions have been unfavourable throughout and it has been impossible for some days for men to sleep on deck.

FOOD.

On the whole this has been quite satisfactory. On one occasion it was necessary to replace an issue of fish, owing to its high smell, but this fish had appeared wholesome on inspection prior to cooking. Such cases must inevitably occur when foodstuffs of all sorts are crowded in one refrigerating chamber. On August 17th. it was found necessary to condemn the balance of the potatoes remaining for consumption by the troops. These were bought in ENGLAND at a bad time of the year and it had proved impossible to augment the supply at PORT SAID. The potato ration has been made up in other vegetables.

SANITATION.

All arrangements have been satisfactory and no defects or insanitary conditions have been noted. No vermin have been reported.

VENEREAL.

Before landing at COLOMBO all troops were addressed by the S.M.O. on the precautions necessary to avoid venereal disease, and a supply of "Blue Label" outfits was made available to the troops. Only one man reported for prophylactic treatment, and as a venereal inspection on August 20th. - 12 days after shore leave - revealed no V.D., it is reasonable to hope that no one became infected.

GENERAL.

Every member of the A.I.F. on board has been examined by a Medical Board since leaving COLOMBO and the A.I.F. Forms 536 have been completed.

Full report on Hospital, Sanitary conveniences etc. will be rendered on completion of voyage.

C. L. Clarke

22:8:1919.

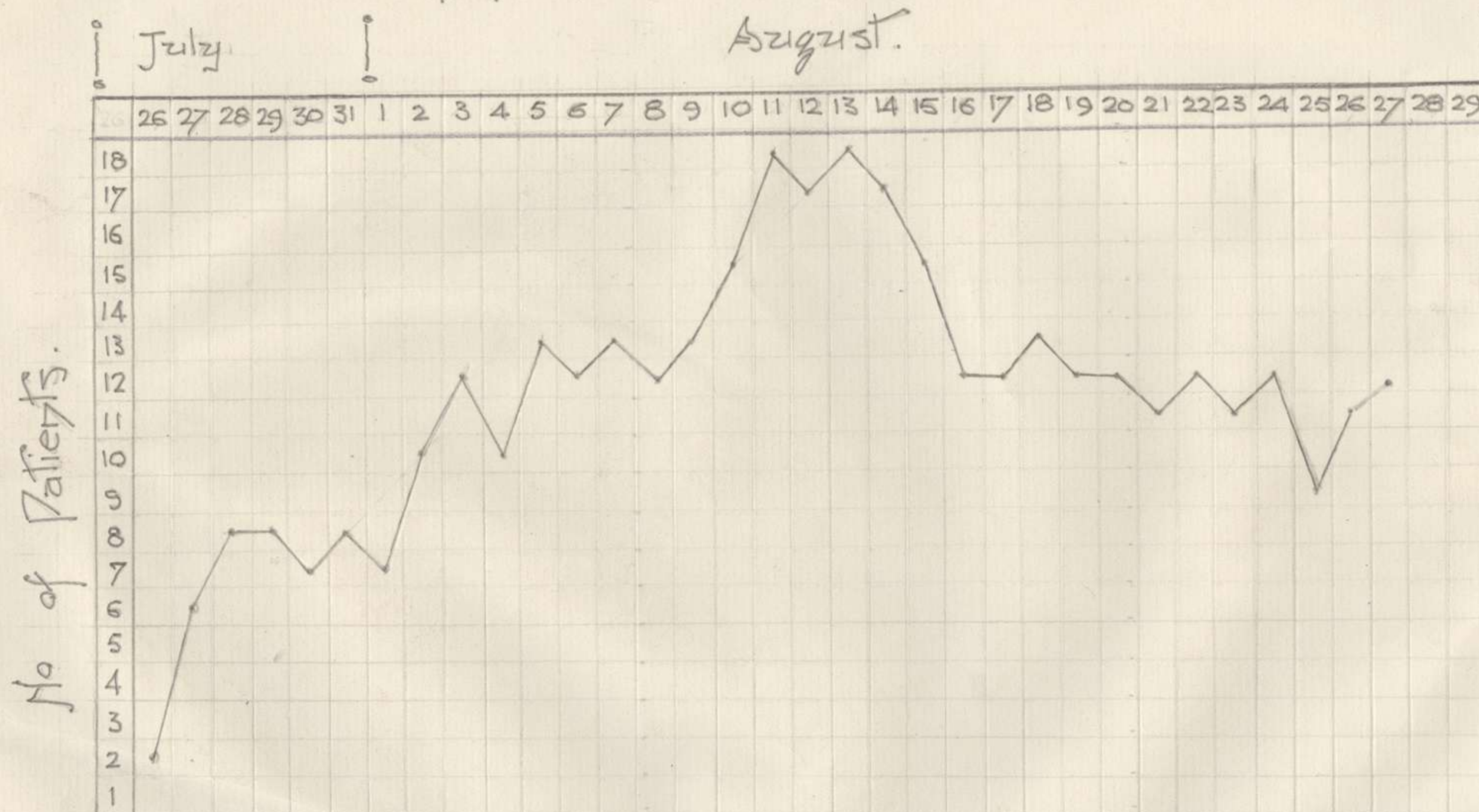
Lt. Colonel,
Senior Medical Officer H.M.T. "BURMA"

Appendix 7

CHART OF ADMISSIONS - S.S. BURMA

From 26.7.19

To 29.8.19



Appendix

VOYAGE REPORT.

By,

Lieut. Colonel C. LOWTHER CLARKE

S.M.O., H.M.T. "BURMA"

- (a) GENERAL HEALTH. The general health of the troops on board has been excellent throughout the voyage. Only one case of serious sickness has occurred, a case of acute appendicitis which it was deemed advisable to land at COLOMBO as explained in Voyage Report handed in at COLOMBO.

During the early part of the voyage a fair number of malarial relapses were reported, but not to the extent that might have been expected, considering the number of men on board who had been infected with the malarial parasite during the last two years. Furunculosis was unduly prevalent and many men were treated as out-patients in addition to those admitted to hospital.

The complete lack of any form of exercise for men on a full dietary is undoubtedly the explanation of these cases. After reaching the colder weather colds became numerous but were not marked by more than a very slight initial fever in any case. No case occurred of influenza throughout the voyage, nor any case resembling this disease.

- (b) CASUALTIES. Deaths Nil.

ACCIDENTS.

Only two accidents occurred on board, one scalding of a minor degree and the other backward dislocation of the elbow joint which was immediately reduced under general anaesthesia.

ADMISSIONS
TO HOSPITAL.

From 26:7:19 to 28:8:19 the number of patients admitted to hospital was . Maximum number of patients in hospital 18.

SICK
PARADES.

Numbers of men reported sick with minor conditions such as :- Colds, boils etc. and treated as out-patients.

- (c) DISEASES.

The following is the classification of diseases of patients admitted to hospital.

| <u>Miscellaneous</u> | <u>Miscellaneous</u> | <u>Furunculosis</u> | <u>Malaria</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <u>Surgical.</u> | <u>Medical.</u> | | |
| 17 | 15 | 6 | 26 |
| <u>Tonsillitis.</u> | <u>Pyrexia N.Y.D.</u> | <u>Seasickness.</u> | <u>Debility.</u> |
| 6 | 2 | 8 | 3 |
| <u>Tuberculosis ?</u> | <u>Syphilis.</u> | <u>Gonorrhoea.</u> | |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | |

- (d) HOSPITAL
ACCOMMODATION.

The hospital accommodation consisted of :
(1) A General Hospital containing 18 berths of which 2 were swinging cots. This hospital was placed in a most suitable position and remained cool during the passage through the RED SEA and the GULF of ADEN and was sheltered from the cold winds experienced later in the voyage. The ventilation was good and the fittings adequate in every respect.

(2) An Isolation Hospital. containing 10 berths and having a bath-room attached. This hospital was used for 2 V.D. cases until reaching FREMANTLE, when it was cleaned and disinfected in preparation for any possible influenzal cases.

(3) An Auxiliary Hospital containing 6 berths. As this hospital was not required for patients it was used as a store-room for medical supplies and stores until reaching FREMANTLE, when the only remaining V.D. case was transferred to it from the Isolation Hospital.

(d) continued. Owing to the immunity from serious sickness during the voyage and the entire absence of infectious disease, the above hospital accommodation proved more than adequate. Patients were most comfortable, in short, the hospital arrangements could scarcely have been improved upon.

The hopper of the main hospital latrine was broken during rough weather and could not be repaired. Owing to the absence of infectious disease this caused no inconvenience, the isolation hospital latrine being used. The venereal cases were allotted a 2 seat latrine on the aft well deck close to the hospital.

Hospital Diet. This was completely satisfactory. The Chief Steward supplied as many diets of soup, fish, chicken pudding etc. from the saloon galley as were requisitioned daily.

The Australian Comforts Fund stores on board provided mineral waters and any other articles not supplied by the Red Cross Society.

The Red Cross stores were ample and varied and of every kind of invalid food and comfort was available.

All patients were well fed and supplied with every possible requirement.

(e) SANITATION
AND
SANITARY
ACCOMMODATION.

The sanitary fittings on board were more than adequate.

Latrines. The latrine accommodation consisted of:-

42 seats for all other ranks, being 16 seats in excess of the standard laid down in Transport Regulations.

The flushing system worked satisfactorily and no serious stoppages occurred.

Urinals. These were more than sufficient and caused no trouble.

Wash Houses. Wash basins were fitted on a generous scale, 64 in all, that is about 7 per 100 men.

Showers. Twenty six salt water showers were fitted and were much appreciated during the earlier part of the voyage.

Sanitary Control A Staff Sergeant was placed in charge of the sanitary party. All latrines etc. were hosed out each morning and were constantly during the day. Any blockages occurring were immediately reported and remedied by the ships staff (when necessary) without delay. By this means it was possible to prevent the occurrence of any insanitary condition.

Sanitation of Troop Decks The troop decks were on the whole kept in good condition. Mess tables and messing utensils were invariably clean.

Carbolacene. was used freely on floors etc. and troop decks were notably free from any stale or greasy smell throughout the voyage.

The scuppers on the troop, leading to the bilge tanks, had been sealed up before leaving ENGLAND by order of the inspecting officers but this prevented the proper washing of the floors and dirty water tended to accumulate in the corners of the decks. It was therefore recommended that these scuppers be reopened. This was done and found to be a great advantage. A careful watch was set for any smell coming up these scuppers from the bilge tanks, but at no time was any such smell detected.

(f) VERMIN.

Vermin. During the voyage no cases of vermin were reported.

(g) MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL
SUPPLIES.

Before leaving KANTARA I was called upon to sign a certificate to the effect that the medical and surgical supplies placed on board were adequate. It is obviously impossible, unless one has been employed on transport duty for sometime and has a standard equipment for purposes of comparison, to judge on this matter by perusing the list of articles placed on board. After leaving SUEZ it was found, for instance, that there was no frontal mirror in the equipment, though ear specula were

(f) continued.

provided. This defect would have been serious, had it not been that there was a privately owned mirror on board.

As regards drugs - some were supplied that were never required and some greatly in excess whilst the supply of other was insufficient. Drugs supplied in excess include :- Zinc Sulph, Alumen Pulv., Tab. Plumbi c Opio, Santonin, (2oz) Calc. Hydras., Tinct. Chlor. et Morph. Co., and lastly Quinine Sulphate and Bi-hydrochloride. The supply of Quinine Sulph. was 37½ lbs., sufficient for 100 malaria cases on full quinine treatment for 2½ months!

Drugs supplied in insufficient quantity include :- Tinct. Camph. Co., Spt. Ammon. Arom., Spt. Aeth. Nit., and Tab. Pot. Chlor. - sufficient allowance not being made for the inevitable prevalence of colds with the rapid change from tropical conditions to cold weather.

The following drugs might with benefit have been supplied:- Ammon. Carb., Amyl. Nitrate, Vin. Ipecac., Pot. Cit., and Inf. Buchu.,

Speaking generally, however, supplies proved adequate (with the exception of drugs for the treatment of coughs and colds), thanks to the remarkable absence of serious sickness. Sera and Vaccines were stored in the cool chamber throughout the voyage and were not required.

(g) RECOMMENDATIONS.

The only recommendation I consider it necessary to put forward is that more attention should have been given, in the fitting of this transport, to the question of deck space. This matter is dealt with under "General Remarks".

(h) GENERAL REMARKS.

Food. In my opinion the food supply to the troops throughout the voyage has been sufficient in quantity and of good quality. On two occasions only has it been necessary to condemn food and in each case the articles condemned had apparently been in good condition when taken from the refrigerating chamber. The supply of potatoes was exhausted shortly before reaching FREMANTLE and the reasons for this have been set out in the Voyage Report handed in at FREMANTLE. The comforts supplied by the Australian Comforts Fund were varied and in great quantity, and the dietary of the troops, thus supplemented, was very satisfactory.

Accommodation. The main defect in the accommodation for troops, from the point of view health, was inadequate deck space. It was impossible to conduct physical drill or healthful sports and games, and in my opinion the health of the troops suffered in consequence. The lack of exercise gave rise to constipation and anti-intoxication of which boils were one expression. The troops would have been landed in much better physical condition had exercise been possible. One cannot refrain from commenting on the amount of deck space taken up by office stores etc. while space was wasted on the deck allotted to prisoners and particularly on the bridge space of the main deck, used as Sergeants Mess. This latter space could have provided ample accommodation for Sergeants and also contain Canteen, Offices etc.

Detention Cells. These were 3 in number and communicated with a small guard room. These quarters were quite unfit for permanent occupation by prisoners during hot weather and it was found necessary to recommend to O.C., Troops that the prisoners be allowed up on deck during the day.

Medical Examinations.

(1) The day before reaching COLOMBO all troops were examined for infectious disease and venereal disease.

(2) During the run from COLOMBO and FREMANTLE all A.I.F. personnel were examined by a Medical Board and finding recorded on A.I.F. Form 536.

(3) The day before reaching FREMANTLE another examination for infectious and venereal disease was conducted.

(4) Before reaching ADELAIDE all troops were again examined

(h) continued.

for infectious disease.

At ADELAIDE the quarantine officials took the temperature of all on board, the troops mustered in good order and a complete examination was effected rapidly. Co-ordination. My relations with the O.C., Troops, Adjutant and Quartermaster were all that could be desired, and any recommendations or requests met with immediate and sympathetic attention. The Master, Chief Officer and Chief Steward did all in their power to assist in the preservation of the health of the troops. A.A.M.C. Personnel. The Medical Officers in addition to myself were:-

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Capt. H.G. HUMPHRIES | D.A.D.M.S., Aus. Mounted Divn. |
| " W.R. TREMBATH | 3rd. Light Horse Field Ambulance. |
| " E.S. MORRIS | 4th. Light Horse Field Ambulance |

These officers carried out their duties with exceptional efficiency and willingness.

The A.A.N.S. Staff consisted of :-

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| S/Nurse M.E. BRIGGS. | (incharge) |
| " L.J. KELMAN. | |
| " M.A. PERRIER. | |

The work and conduct of these Sisters was excellent in every respect.

The nursing orderlies were drawn from the 5th. Light Horse Field Ambulance. Sgt. AXELSEN was placed in charge of the hospital and carried out his duties to my complete satisfaction. I wish to call particular attention to the work done by this N.C.O. and the orderlies working under him.

The Dispenser (S/Sgt. DE. GRUCHY) and Stff. Q.M.S. AUSTIN, who supervised all clerical and quartermaster's duties for the hospital and S.M.O.'s office were both efficient and hardworking.

The Red Cross Stores were in charge of Sgt. TAWSE who embarked with these stores in ENGLAND. All stores were carefully guarded and issued and no abuse in their distribution occurred.

Conclusion. This report may appear unduly satisfactory, but in stating that all the medical conditions on board were completely satisfactory and that all concerned worked and behaved in an exemplary manner, I am stating no more than absolute facts. The voyage has been an exceptional one and those responsible are fully entitled to the commendations they have earned.

B. H. Clarke

Lt. Colonel,
SENIOR MEDICAL OFFICER H.M.T. "BURMA"

23:8:1919.