

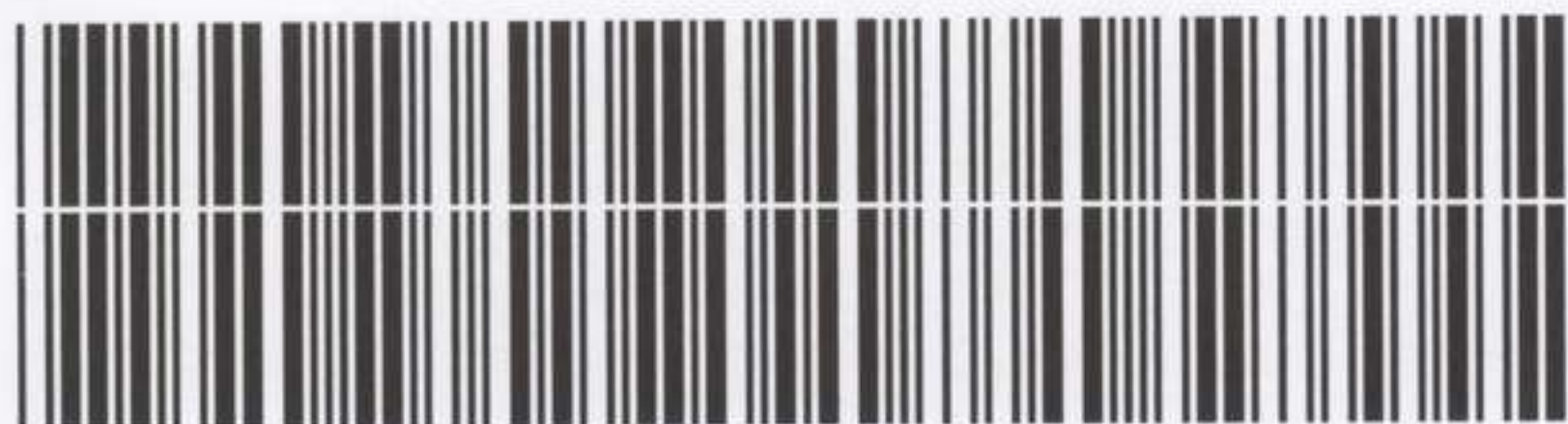
AWM4
Australian Imperial Force unit war diaries,
1914-18 War

Medical, Dental & Nursing

Item number: 26/67/1

Title: No 3 Australian General Hospital

May - September 1916



AWM4-26/67/1

WAR DIARY

Army Form C. 2118.

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Summaries are contained in F. S. Regs., Part II,
and the Staff Manual respectively. Title pages
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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.

(Erase heading not required.)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABBASSIA	1916 May		<p><u>No. 3 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL.</u></p> <p>At this time Australian Infantry were leaving Egypt and arrangements were being made for the following Australian Hospitals to be closed-; No. 3 Aust. Gen. Hospital, Nos. 1 and 2 Stationary Hospitals; 1st, 3rd and 4th Auxilliary Hospitals, and No. 1 Australian Dermitalogical Hospital. Owing to the shortage of Medical Officers at the time it was proposed to establish a temporary Stationary Hospital with a staff partly Australian and partly R.A.M.C., to attend to the needs of the Anzac Mounted Division. It was considered that the 3rd Australian General Hospital and the other Australian Hospitals would be ready to go overseas about six weeks after the Australian troops had left Egypt.</p> <p>All Hospitals were instructed to indent for a full month's supply of drugs. No. 3 A.G.H. was not very busy, some of the wards were shut and the number of patients in the Hospital on May 24th was only 483.</p> <p>They were experiencing difficulty owing to the deficiency in the water supply. The engineers were called in to remedy this but only slow progress was made, and by the end of the month the trouble still existed.</p> <p>During the month Lieut. Colonel Springthorpe, who returned from Australia, was attached to the Staff, in place of Lieut. Colonel Stawell who was returning to Australia. A Nominal Roll of the staff at date 30th May 1916 is attached hereto.</p>	
	JUNE		<p>At the beginning of the month there were between 800 and 900 patients in Hospital. The trouble with the water supply still continued, but was considerably improved by the middle of the month.</p> <p>The Quartermaster's Department was favourably commented on by the A.I.F. Auditor. The changes on the Staff during the month left vacancies for two Majors and eleven Captains, to complete establishment. Lieut. Colonel Stawell and Majors Trethowan and Stewart were returning to Australia, and Major Wassell was to join 3rd Division as D.A.D.M.S. It was expected that the vacancies for Captains could be filled when the Auxiliary Hospitals were closed. No other Medical Officers were available as reinforcements were coming through slowly.</p> <p>Lieut. Colonel Springthorpe was appointed Chief of Medical Staff, but he developed Pyelitis, and was admitted to Hospital.</p> <p>About the middle of June the number in Hospital was approximately 1000 (including 400 boarded cases) and arrangements were being made to accommodate up to 1200.</p>	Appen No. 1

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ABBASSIA	1916 JULY		<p>Everything at the Hospital was working well, and though the number of Medical Officers was under strength it was sufficient for the work. The rest of the personnel was complete.</p> <p>Delta District, who had previously made an attempt to use the swimming bath at the hospital, tried to do so again, but Colonel Newmarch and the A.D.M.S. successfully objected to this because the use of the bath rendered the Hospital short of water.</p> <p>The number of patients in Hospital at the beginning of the month was 32 Officers and 776 O/Ranks, including 400 boarded cases. By the 7th of the month these figures had fallen to 9 Officers and 488 O/Ranks, including 200 boarded cases. It was expected that these 200 cases, as well as all other boarded cases in Egypt, would be clear of Egypt for Australia by the middle of the month. This together with the discharges from Hospital, it was considered would reduce the number of patients by the end of the month to 100. By July 21st the numbers had fallen to 9 Officers and 358 O/Ranks, of whom 3 Officers and 140 O/Ranks were awaiting transport to England. Practically all Invalids for Australia had now left Egypt. Lieut. Colonel Springthorpe was among the boarded cases for England, but was instructed to remain in Egypt pending the decision of the I.G.C.</p> <p>The Medical Officers from the Auxiliary Hospitals were now going overseas, so reinforcements for the Field had to be drawn from No. 3 Aust. Gen. Hospital.</p> <p>The D.M.S. E.E.F. pointed out that 14,500 Australian and New Zealand Troops would remain in Egypt after the removal of the Infantry, and he considered that No. 3 Aust. Gen. Hospital should not be moved overseas, though at the time they were not doing much work.</p> <p>Towards the end of the month the number of patients rose to 15 Officers and 484 O/Ranks, of whom 9 Officers and 94 O/Ranks were boarded patients waiting to go to England.</p> <p>Capt. Davidson was appointed to Double Squadron, and Captains Page and Burge proceeded to Tel-el-kebir to await transport to England, so the Hospital was getting fairly short of Medical Officers.</p> <p>During the month very little work of a serious character was done, but owing to the movement of troops a large number of men had been weeded out, and it devolved on No. 3 Aust. Gen. Hospital to board them. No less than 406 men passed through the hands of the Medical Board for return to Australia. The majority were unfit for further service, and a considerable portion were found to be classed as "men who should never have been enlisted" Many were returned to Australia without having done one full days work since enlistment.</p>	

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ABBASSIA	1916 JULY		<p>For the period between June 25th and July 24th, the number of admissions were ^{was} 1206 and the number of discharges was 1337, and the number remaining in Hospital on 24th July was 522. Two deaths occurred, one being from Smallpox the other from Septicaemia. A report from the Commanding Officer showed that the death rate since the opening of the Hospital was .44%, and including deaths from Smallpox .52%. He pointed out that the abnormally small death rate was due to the fact that most of the cases were "very slight". He considered that the Hospital at this time had become a huge Casualty Clearing Station, and was not doing really important work.</p> <p>During this month eight Infectious cases were admitted and transferred to other Hospitals :</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Enterica....6 Sycosis1 Scabies1</p> <p>Lieut.Colonel McKnight, Senior Physician, reported that very few acute cases had been admitted. Twenty one cases of Amoebia Dysentery and seven of Bacillary Dysentery recovered or were relieved. There were ten cases of Malaria during the month and five cases of Pneumonia, all of which recovered.</p> <p>On the Surgical side, under Capt. McClure, little of importance was done. Seventy four operations were performed, but the larger proportion were trivial cases. Eleven cases of appendicitis were included.</p> <p>Capt. Anderson in charge of the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Department, reported a decrease in admissions, though the outpatient attendances remained about normal. In this Department for the month the figures were:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Admitted 96 cases Operations 14 " Out Patients 160 cases.</p> <p>In the X-Ray Department there were :</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">79 patients examined. 108 Skiagrams taken. 11 cases screened.</p> <p>The Pathological Department under Lt. Col. Martin, did a large amount of valuable work. A large amount of work was done by the Dental Department, under Lieut. Marshall, no less than 1046 patients were seen and attended to.</p> <p>The changes in the personnel of the Medical Staff were, as follows:</p>	

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ABBASSIA	1916.			
	JULY			
		30:6:16	Capt. Norris (No.2 Sea Transport Section) attached for Temporary Duty; left for Australia, 10/7/16.	
		5:7:16	Capt. A.M.Davidson attached for temporary duty.	
		11:7:16	Lt.Colonel Springthorpe boarded for England, transferred to Ras.el-tin Hospital to await transport.	
		5:7:16	Capts. Brown, Railton , Mackay, Voss, Loxton, Fraser, Nott, Van Someren, Money, Harrison and Nott, attached for Rations and Quarters pending transport to England.	
		6:7:16	Major Lockhart Gibson returned to Australia on completion of service.	
		9:7:16	Lieut. Lambert, Dental Corps, transferred to 2nd L.H. Field Amb.	
		18:7:16	Major C.E.Wassell, transferred to Ras-el-tin Convalescent Depot, awaiting transport to England	
			At the end of July representations were again made to D.M.S., E.E.F., with the view to sending No. 3 A.G.H. overseas. It was pointed out that at the time the Hospital only had, 15 Officers and 504 O/Ranks , and that of these 2 Officers and 200 O/Ranks had been boarded for Australia and were likely to go within ten days, and that 5 Officers and 94 O/Ranks had been boarded for transfer to England.	
			The admissions and discharges were in the ratio as 1 is to 1½.	
	AUGUST.			
			At the beginning of August the Hospital became a little busier. A few wounded came in from Romani, and at the beginning of the month the figures went up to 22 Officers and 712 O/Ranks. This increase was largely due to many men having been weeded out and sent to No. 3 A.G.H. before the Infantry left.	
			As No. 1 A.D.H. had now only very few cases, and the Hospital was ready to go overseas, it was suggested that their remaining cases should be handed over to No. 3 A.G.H. for treatment. Later in the month it was decided that the V.D. patients should still remain at Abbassia Barracks, but they should be under the Officer Commanding No. 3 A.G.H. for administration and treatment.	
			When it was known that No. 14 A.G.H. was leaving Australia for Suez, arrangements were made to have No. 3 A.G.H. ready leave at short notice.	
			Assessment of tonnage showed the following :	
			Bedsteads and bedding 150 tons.	
			Tents 85 "	
			Other equipment 250 "	
			Total 485 tons	
			(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D.D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.	

(A7092). Wt. W12839/M1293. 750,000. 1/17. D. D. & L., Ltd. Forms/C.2118/14.

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Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
ABBASSIA	1916		<p>It was estimated that the Hospital would be ready to shift within ten days after the arrival of the new Hospital. The cable from Australia notifying the departure of the new Hospital read as follows, begins: "W 12771 19th AAA Single General Hospital Personnel complete 22 Officers "43 Nurses 168 rank and file sailed for Suez to relieve No. 3 A.G.H. as ordered by D.M.S., A.I.F. "taking equipment except drugs, Dressings X-Rays and some minor stores. 9 Officers 33 Nurses "168 other ranks leave by Karoola, remainder following." - ends.</p> <p>The question arose as to whether No. 3 A.G.H. should take its full equipments overseas, or whether there should be some exchange between the two hospitals. It was decided decided that No. 3 A.G.H. should leave equipment for a 500 bed hospital, with additional bedding sufficient for a further 520 patients. Instructions from D.M.S., A.I.F. London, directed the Officer Commanding, No. 3 A.G.H. to leave as much X-Ray equipment as was necessary for the adequate working of No. 14 A.G.H.</p> <p>The monthly report of the Officer Commanding, covering period between July 25th and August 24th 1916, is attached hereto.</p> <p>This period was a busy one. The Katia engagement necessitated the opening of new surgical wards and re-arrangement of staff. A nominal Roll of Staff of Hospital on 31st August 1916, is attached hereto.</p> <p>The number of patients in hospital increased up till August 12th when the number was 1060, from that date there was a steady decline to 630 on August 24th.</p> <p>The number of cases admitted during the month was 1219.</p>	<p>Appen. No. 3</p> <p>Appen. No. 42</p>
	SEPTEMBER		<p>At the beginning of the month the number in Hospital was : Officers 28 , O/Ranks 393 (ordinary) and 65 (venereal)</p> <p>The figures remained about the same till the arrival of the 14th A.G.H. on September 20th 1916. On arrival, No. 14 A.G.H. only had 11 officers and 30 Nurses, some under direction of D.D.M.S., L. of C., it was arranged that 10 officers and 14 Nurses of No. 3 A.G.H. should remain with the new Hospital till the rest of their staff arrived.</p> <p>It was decided that the equipment of the new hospital, about 60 tons, with the exception of a small amount of specially purchased material, should remain on the Karoola, which was proceeding to Alexandria, to embark No. 3 A.G.H. there, and that the equipment of No. 3 A.G.H. with a few exceptions, should be left behind for No. 14 A.G.H.</p> <p>The D.D.M.S. E.E.F. would not allow No. 3 A.G.H. to take with them their surplus equipment to a 520 bed hospital.</p> <p>The two Hospitals changed hands at 0900 on 23rd September 1916.</p>	

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ABBASSIA	1916 SEPTEMBER		<p>Lieut. Colonel Martin remained with the new Hospital to dom their pathology, till their own pathologist arrived, and Capt. McClure remained to instruct an officer of the new Unit in V.D. work. The rest of the Unit went overseas with the exception of the following officers, who were left to temporarily complete establishment of No. 14 A.G.H.</p> <p>Lieut. Col. MacKnight. Capts Lawton. " MacClure. " Stewart. " Haste. " Baker. " Shelley. " Lowe " Gwynne-Hughes " Guymer.</p> <p>With the exceptions of Capts. Shelley and Baker, who were replaced by Capts. Hayward and Glisson, these officers entrained for Alexandria for embarkation on October 14th 1916.</p>	<p>Appen No. 3.</p>

APPENDIX No. 2

No. 3 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Nominal Roll of Staff on 31st August 1916.

Colonel.	Newmarsh.	
Lt. Col.	McKnight	C.C.
Major	Smith	K.
"	Kay	W.E.
"	Porte	H.R.J.
Capt.	Matthews	W.F.
"	Lawton	F.D.
"	Maclure	F.
"	Stewart	R.S.
"	Steele	K.N.
"	Lowe	G.B.
"	Guymer	E.A.
"	Kellaway	C.H.
"	Gwynne-Hughes	
"	Cahill	A.J.
"	Baker	R.A.
"	Shelley	E.J.
"	Haste	R.A.
Lieut.	Hill	J. (Dispenser)
"	Marshall	F. (Dentist)
"	Glen	R. (Quarter-master)
"	Hazlett	H.

Chaplains.

Colonel	Shannon	W.F.
Major	Makeham	E.
Capt.	Campbell	T.

Attached.

Lt. Col.	Martin	C.J. (Pathologist)
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APPENDIX No. 1.

No. 3 AUSTRALIAN GENERAL HOSPITAL.

Nominal Roll of Staff on date 30th May 1916:

Colonel	Newmarsh	B.J.
Lt. Col.	Stawell	R.L.
"	Springthorpe	
"	McKnight	C.C.
"	Martin	(attached)
Major	Lethowam	W.
"	Stewart	H.J.
"	Smith	K.
"	Gibson	L.
"	Wassell	C.E.
Capt.	Matthews	W.F.
	Lawton	F.H.P.
	Anderson	T.L.
	Maclure	F.
	Stewart	K.N.
	Ercole	Q.
	Page	E.
	Kay	W.E.
	Gwynne-Hughes	
	Bruce Burge	
Lieut.	Hill	J. (Dispenser)
"	Marshall	F. (Dentist)
Hon. Lieut.	Hazlett	H. (Quarter-master)
W.O.	Glen	R.
"	Craig	J.E.
"	Hookaway	

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Capt.	Matthews	W.F.
"	Lawton	F.D.
"	Maclure	F.
"	Stewart	R.S.
"	Steele	K.N.
"	Lowe	G.B.
"	Guymer	E.A.
"	Kallaway	C.H.
"	Gwynne-Hughes	
"	Cahill	A.J.
"	Baker	R.A.
"	Shelley	E.J.
"	Haste	R.A.
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"	Marshall	F. (Dentist)
Hon. Lieut.	Hazlett	H. (Quarter-master)
W.O.	Glen	R.
"	Craig	J.E.
"	Hockaway	

From O.C., No. 3 A.G.H.

24th Sept. 1916.

To: A.D.M.S., A.I.F.

The following Officers, Sisters, N.C.O's and men belonging or attached to No. 3 A.G.H., are being left in Egypt. I take it that later on they will rejoin this Unit.

Lieut. Colonel McKnight.

Captain	Lawton.
"	MacLure.
"	Stewart.
"	Haste.
"	Baker.
"	Shelley.
"	Lowe.
"	Gwynne-Hughes.
"	Guymer.

Lieut.Col.	Martin)	Supernumerary, attached
Pte.	Domaille)	to Pathological
S/Nurse	Williams)	Department.

Lieut.	Glen Q.M.)	Left to hand over
Sgt.	Connors)	equipment to
Pte	Stronghill)	the 14th A.G.H.
"	Walker)	

Cpl.	May	(In No. 17 Gen. Hosp. Invalided to Australia.)
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S/Nurse	Patterson	M.
"	Berryman	E.
"	Tighe	E.L.
"	Wearne	D.
"	Robertson	D.N.
"	Hutt	E.W.
"	Proctor	S.
"	Parnell	L.S.
"	Donnelly	C.
"	Doyle	K.
Sister	Clouster	R.
S/Nurse	Davies	L.M.
"	Fegan	R.

Sgd. B.J. Newmarsh Colonel
O.C. No. 3 General Hospital
A.I.F.

From O.C., No. 3 A.G.H.

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"	Wearne	D.
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"	Hutt	E.W.
"	Proctor	S.
"	Parnell	L.S.
"	Donnelly	C.
"	Doyle	K.
Sister	Clouster	R.
S/Nurse	Davies	L.M.
"	Fegan	R.

Sgd. B.J. Newmarsh Colonel
O.C. No. 3 General Hospital
A.I.F.