

THE
AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL
SERVICES

IN THE
WAR OF 1914-1918

VOLUME III

BY
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B.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Camb.)

With 85 illustrations, graphs, and diagrams

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PREFACE

THIS volume completes the Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services in the War of 1914-18. The first volume after sketching the evolution of the Medical Service dealt chiefly with the campaigns in Gallipoli, Sinai-Palestine, and New Guinea, and the related developments in Australia—the section dealing with the Middle East being written by Major-General R. M. Downes, that concerning the Pacific by Colonel F. A. Maguire and Captain R. W. Cilento, and the remainder by the present writer. The second volume—for which the present writer was wholly responsible—dealt, on somewhat broader lines, with the medical history of the warfare on the Western Front in 1916-18 as seen in the experience of the Australian Imperial Force. A particular study was made of technical developments in evacuation, and in the immediate treatment of wounds and the prevention of disease, and also of the medical administration of the Director of Medical Services of the A.I.F., Surgeon-General Sir N. R. Howse.

In each of those two volumes the problems were discussed as they evolved in the course of military events—the work was, in short, as planned, a history of the medical problems of the A.I.F. But while that plan was of special value in making clear those problems that were solved largely by administrative action, some of the most important, even of these, called for separate treatment, and it is with these, and with the final experiences of the A.A.M.S.—and of the nation so far as this service is concerned—that the present volume deals. Its arrangement is sketched in the introduction.

In its conception, its design, and its execution, the medical history of the Australian forces in the First World War has been part of the general project of the Australian Official History.¹ It thus came within the responsibility of the General

¹ Dr. Bean's original scheme, approved by the Government, envisaged three classes of work: The national history; professional histories, regimental histories. The writing of the professional histories (medical, engineering, veterinary, legal, etc.) was to be undertaken by the professions if they desired it, in which case they would receive certain help from the Defence Department. Eventually none was undertaken.

Editor, Dr. C. E. W. Bean; and the Medical Editor—the present writer—has thus had the inestimable advantage of his guidance, inspiration, and scholarly oversight. It is a duty which the writer owes—not only to himself but, as Medical Editor, to the Service and the profession in Australia—to insist upon here recording his deep obligation to Dr. Bean. Much more he would wish to say—those who have had a responsible part in the making of the Australian History of the war will themselves readily make good the omission. It is, however, necessary, since it concerns the author's personal responsibility, to add that, while every single chapter—indeed almost every paragraph—owes much to the General Editor, this has involved no sense of restraint or censorship, but rather a stimulus to self-expression.

This, it need hardly be said, does not imply the hope that even serious errors and omissions, especially in matters of professional judgment and knowledge will be absent. As to professional lapses, it should be noted that the decision not to employ a group of technical specialists, but to entrust most of the technical as well as military studies to the general writers, was made deliberately by those who organised the work, their belief being that even if it lost something in scientific accuracy and completeness it would gain in the integration of its elements into an organic whole. This decision naturally limited the field that could be covered.

The nature of the main omissions, which were deliberate, and some of the reasons for them have been made clear in the preface and text of this and the previous volumes.

One other word, however, is necessary. When the writing of this history was begun in 1922 the Editor enquired, with a view to determining his own actions, whether a history of the Australian Branch of the British Red Cross Society in the war was contemplated (as "medical collator" in 1918-19 he had been made by General Howse responsible for ensuring the col-

but, at the request of the B.M.A. the Government decided to appoint a medical historian and to be responsible for its production, the work and publication being kept entirely separate from that of the other histories. The task, however, had not gone far before considerations of convenience and economy caused the Minister to reverse this decision, the work being finally placed under a board (Gens. Howse and White and Dr. Bean), and under the general editorship of the last-named.

lection and collation of relevant material). The reply informed him that the history of the Society was being undertaken by itself. The Editor of the present history was thus relieved from responsibility other than to ensure that the service of "Voluntary Aid" fitted into its place in the work of the Army Medical Services. However no "scientific" history of the work of the Society, in all its bearings, has yet been produced.² The writer may perhaps be permitted to express his regret at this result and his hope that, in the case of the present war, such a history, and that of "Voluntary Aid" in general, may be embodied in a volume worthy of the subject.

It is impossible adequately to acknowledge the assistance of all those whose support and co-operation have contributed to the completion of this work; but the writer must record his particular appreciation of the patience of the Government, the Army Medical Service, and the medical profession of Australia in their attitude towards the long delay entailed. To them also and to Major-General R. M. Downes, till lately D.G.M.S., A.M.F., I tender my very sincere thanks that they have enabled me to see the job through.

The writer owes a particular debt to the staff of the Australian War Memorial, and of the Official Historian, as both helpers and friends through fair weather and some not so fair. Mrs. W. B. Rees has acted as my assistant with this present volume. Mr. Withers is overseas in charge of the medical records for the second A.I.F. Mr. J. Balfour has seen the volume through the press and in addition has again saved many slips. Mr. W. S. Perry, who was responsible for the maps of the previous volumes has done the graphs for this one. Miss Mary Ordish, my helper throughout, is again responsible for the indexing of this present volume. At the War Memorial the Director (Lt.-Colonel J. L. Treloar) and Acting Directors (Mr. T. H. E. Heyes and Mr. A. W. Bazley) have done much towards making the work possible, and the staff, collectively and individually has been of the utmost help throughout the writing of the history. It will not, I hope, seem invidious if I record the help given me, especially with the German histories,

² The place of such a history has in part—but only in part—been filled by the fascinating *Story of the Red Cross* by Joan and Daryl Lindsay, written for and published by the Australian Red Cross Society.

by Miss Vera Blackburn, with figures by Mr. A. J. Hanley, and with illustrations by Mr. Eric Keage.

In connection with the peculiarly difficult questions relating to the "aftermath" of the war the Principal Medical Officers of the Repatriation Commission (Colonels C. A. Courtney and Kenneth Smith) and the Commission itself have been wholly ingenuous and co-operative—so, indeed, as to earn, as I believe, the thanks not only of myself but of the Returned Soldiers and of the Australian public.

The many calls for help made to the Officer-in-Charge of the Base Records Department (Mr. A. J. Bowman), the Librarian of the New South Wales Branch, B.M.A., (Miss M. Rolleston) and Mr. R. K. Peacock, Librarian to the Department of the Army, Melbourne, have never failed to bring helpful response. The Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics most kindly worked out or verified the more elaborate tables of figures.

The personal erudition and the departmental resources of the Commonwealth Director-General of Health (Dr. J. H. L. Cumpston) have at all times been fully available, and have been freely drawn upon.

I am indebted to Mr. L. F. Fitzhardinge, of the Australian National Library, for an extensive research into classical and modern literature on the evolution of medical aid and humanitarian practice in warfare: the results of this enquiry are in part embodied in the two final chapters. So far as the last chapter concerns the Geneva and Hague Conventions, its factual content was most kindly reviewed by Lieut.-Colonel W. R. Hodgson, Secretary to the Department of External Affairs.

I should also express my appreciation as Editor and Author of the obvious care and sincerity of the reviewers of the previous volumes. The constant support and co-operation of our *Medical Journal of Australia* calls for a particular word of thanks.

The staff of the Halstead Press have earned my gratitude for their help and forbearance.

Finally I would like to make some public acknowledgement to my wife; who has had full share of the hardships and incon-

veniences, and none of the fun involved in the writing of a medical history.

.To my successor, whoever may be selected our medical historian for the Second World War, I give hail—and farewell! The Australian soldier and the Australian Army Medical Service are worthy of everything that you can put into the task.

A.G.B.

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL,

25th May, 1942.

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ABBREVIATIONS

A.A. & Q.M.G.	- -	Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General
A.A.G.	- - - -	Assistant Adjutant-General.
A.A.H.	- - - -	Australian Auxiliary Hospital.
A.A.M.C.	- - - -	Australian Army Medical Corps.
A.A.N.S.	- - - -	Australian Army Nursing Service.
A.A.S.C.	- - - -	Australian Army Service Corps.
A. & D. Books	- -	Admission and Discharge Books.
A. & N.Z.A.C.	- - - -	Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.
A.C.C.S.	- - - -	Australian Casualty Clearing Station.
A.C.I.	- - - -	Army Council Instructions.
A.D.H.	- - - -	Australian Dermatological Hospital.
Admin. H.Q.	- - - -	Administrative Headquarters.
A.D.M.S.	- - - -	Assistant Director of Medical Services.
A.D.O.S.	- - - -	Assistant Director of Ordnance Services.
A.D.S.	- - - -	Advanced Dressing Station.
A.F.A.	- - - -	Australian Field Artillery.
A.F.C.	- - - -	Australian Flying Corps.
A.G.	- - - -	Adjutant-General.
A.G.H.	- - - -	Australian General Hospital.
A.I.B.D.	- - - -	Australian Intermediate Base Depot.
A.I. Bde	- - - -	Australian Infantry Brigade.
A.I.C.	- - - -	Australian Instructional Corps.
A.I.F.	- - - -	Australian Imperial Force.
A.L.H.	- - - -	Australian Light Horse.
A.M.C.	- - - -	Army Medical Corps.
A.M.D.	- - - -	Army Medical Departments of the War Office.
A.M.F.	- - - -	Australian Military Forces.
A.M.S.	- - - -	Army Medical Service, or Staff.
A.N. & M.E.F.	- - - -	Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force to New Guinea.
A.P.M.	- - - -	Assistant Provost Marshal.
A.Q.M.G.	- - - -	Assistant Quartermaster-General.
A.R.C.S.	- - - -	Australian Red Cross Society.
A.S.C.	- - - -	Army Service Corps.
A.S.H.	- - - -	Australian Stationary Hospital.
A.T.S.	- - - -	Antitetanic serum.
A.W.L.	- - - -	Absent Without Leave—officially “illegally absent”.
B.E.F.	- - - -	British Expeditionary Force.
B.M.A.	- - - -	British Medical Association.
B.R.C.S.	- - - -	British Red Cross Society.
B.W.I.	- - - -	British West Indies.
C.A.M.C.	- - - -	Canadian Army Medical Corps.
C.C.H.	- - - -	Combined Clearing Hospital.
C.C.S.	- - - -	Casualty Clearing Station.

C.E.	- - - - -	Chief Engineer, Headquarters Army or Army Corps.
C.G.S.	- - - - -	Chief of the General Staff.
C.-in-C.	- - - - -	Commander-in-Chief.
C.O.	- - - - -	Commanding Officer.
C.R.E.	- - - - -	Commanding Royal Engineers (includes Australian Engineers).
D.O.C.	- - - - -	Died "Other Causes" (<i>i.e.</i> than wounds).
D.O.D.	- - - - -	Died of Disease.
D.O.I.	- - - - -	Died of Illness or Injury.
D. of S.	- - - - -	Director of Supplies.
D. of T.	- - - - -	Director of Transport.
D.O.W.	- - - - -	Died of Wounds.
D.A.A.G.	- - - - -	Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General.
D.A.A. & Q.M.G.	- - - - -	Deputy Assistant Adjutant and Quartermaster-General.
D.A. & Q.M.G.	- - - - -	Deputy Adjutant and Quartermaster-General.
D.A.C.	- - - - -	Divisional Ammunition Column.
D.A.D.M.S.	- - - - -	Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services.
D.A.G.	- - - - -	Deputy Adjutant-General.
D.A.H.	- - - - -	Disordered Action of the Heart.
D.A.Q.M.G.	- - - - -	Deputy Assistant Quartermaster-General
D.C.S.	- - - - -	Divisional Collecting Station.
D.D.M.S.	- - - - -	Deputy Director of Medical Services.
D.G.A.M.S.	- - - - -	Director-General, Army Medical Service.
D.H.Q.	- - - - -	Divisional Headquarters.
D.M.C.	- - - - -	Desert Mounted Corps.
D.M.S.	- - - - -	Director of Medical Services.
D.Q.M.G.	- - - - -	Deputy Quartermaster-General.
D.R.S.	- - - - -	Divisional Rest Station.
E.E.F.	- - - - -	Egyptian Expeditionary Force.
E.M.O.	- - - - -	Embarkation Medical Officer.
E.P.T. Depot	- - - - -	Early Preventive Treatment Depot.
E.P.I.P. Tent	- - - - -	European Private's Indian Pattern Tent.
Fld. Amb.	- - - - -	Field Ambulance.
G.H.Q.	- - - - -	General Headquarters.
G.O.C.	- - - - -	General Officer Commanding.
G.O.C. in C.	- - - - -	General Officer Commanding in Chief.
G.R.O.	- - - - -	General Routine Order.
G.S.O.	- - - - -	General Staff Officer.
G.S. Waggon	- - - - -	General Service Waggon.
G.S.W.	- - - - -	Gunshot wound.
H.E.	- - - - -	High explosive
H.M.S.	- - - - -	His Majesty's Ship.
H.M.T.	- - - - -	His Majesty's Transport.
H.Q.	- - - - -	Headquarters.
H.S.	- - - - -	Hospital Ship.
I.C.C. Bde.	- - - - -	Imperial Camel Corps Brigade.
I.C.T.	- - - - -	Inflammation of Connective Tissues.
I.G.C.	- - - - -	Inspector-General of Communications.
Inf.	- - - - -	Infantry.
I.M.S.	- - - - -	Indian Medical Service,
K. (German Statistics)	- - - - -	Average rate.

K.I.A.	- - - - -	Killed in action.
L.H.	- - - - -	Light Horse.
L. of C.	- - - - -	Lines of Communication.
M.	- - - - -	Missing.
M.A.C.	- - - - -	Motor Ambulance Convoy.
M.D.	- - - - -	Military District of Australia.
M.D.S.	- - - - -	Main Dressing Station.
M.E.F.	- - - - -	Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.
M.G.	- - - - -	Machine-gun.
M.O.	- - - - -	Medical Officer.
M.O.H.	- - - - -	Medical Officer of Health.
M.R.C.	- - - - -	Medical Research Committee of National Insurance.
M.T.	- - - - -	Mechanical Transport.
N.A.D.	- - - - -	No appreciable disease.
N.C.O.	- - - - -	Non-commissioned Officer
N.S.W.	- - - - -	New South Wales.
N.T.O.	- - - - -	Naval Transport Officer.
N.Y.D.	- - - - -	Not yet diagnosed.
N.Y.D. Gas	- - - - -	Not yet diagnosed Gas.
N.Y.D.N.	- - - - -	Not yet diagnosed Nervous.
N.Z.	- - - - -	New Zealand.
N.Z. & A. Div.	- - - - -	New Zealand and Australian Division.
N.Z.E.F.	- - - - -	New Zealand Expeditionary Force.
N.Z.M.C.	- - - - -	New Zealand Medical Corps.
O.C.	- - - - -	Officer Commanding
O.R.	- - - - -	Other Ranks.
O.T.B.	- - - - -	Overseas Training Brigade.
P.B.	- - - - -	Permanent Base (duties).
P.D.M.S.	- - - - -	Principal Director of Medical Services.
P.H.T.O.	- - - - -	Principal Hospital Transport Officer.
P.M.L.O.	- - - - -	Principal Military Landing Officer.
P.M.O.	- - - - -	Principal Medical Officer.
P.N.T.O.	- - - - -	Principal Naval Transport Officer.
P.O.W.	- - - - -	Prisoners of War.
P.U.O.	- - - - -	Pyrexia of uncertain origin.
Q.A.I.M.N.S.	- - - - -	Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service.
Q. Branch or "Q"	- - - - -	Quartermaster-General's Branch.
Q'land, or Q.	- - - - -	Queensland.
Q.M.	- - - - -	Quartermaster.
Q.M.G.	- - - - -	Quartermaster-General.
R.A.F.	- - - - -	Royal Air Force
R.A.A.F.	- - - - -	Royal Australian Air Force.
R.A.M.C.	- - - - -	Royal Army Medical Corps
R.A.M.C. (T.C., or T.)	- - - - -	Royal Army Medical Corps (Temporary Commission).
R.A.M.C. (T.F.)	- - - - -	Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force).
R.A.M.C. (S.R.)	- - - - -	Royal Army Medical Corps (Special Reserve).
R.A.N.	- - - - -	Royal Australian Navy
R.A.P.	- - - - -	Regimental Aid Post
R.A.S.C.	- - - - -	Royal Army Service Corps.
R.M.O.	- - - - -	Regimental Medical Officer.

ABBREVIATIONS

R.N.	- - - - -	Royal Navy.
R N. Div.	- - - - -	Royal Naval Division.
R.P.	- - - - -	Relay Post.
S. Aust., or S.A.	- - - - -	South Australia.
S.B.R.	- - - - -	Small Box Respirator.
S.D.O.	- - - - -	Senior Dental Officer
S.I.W.	- - - - -	Self inflicted wound.
S.M.O.	- - - - -	Senior Medical Officer
S.N.L.R.	- - - - -	Services no longer required.
S.O.A.D.S.	- - - - -	Staff Officer Australian Dental Service.
S.T.A.	- - - - -	Septic Traumatic abrasions.
T.A.B.	- - - - -	Mixed Vaccine Typhoid and Paratyphoids A and B.
Tas.	- - - - -	Tasmania.
Temp.	- - - - -	Temporary.
T.F.	- - - - -	Territorial Force
T.H.S.	- - - - -	Temporary Hospital Ship.
U.R.T.I	- - - - -	Upper Respiratory Tract Infection.
V.A.D.	- - - - -	Voluntary Aid Detachment.
V.D.	- - - - -	Veneral Disease (also, Volunteer Officers' Decoration).
V.D.H.	- - - - -	Valvular Disease of the Heart.
Vic.	- - - - -	Victoria.
W. Aust., or W.A.	- - - - -	Western Australia
Yeo.	- - - - -	Yeomanry.
Y.M.C.A.	- - - - -	Young Men's Christian Association