

3rd Field Ambulance Unit Diary 7th April - 1st May 1915

Diary written by Commanding Officer 3rd Field Ambulance Colonel Alfred Sutton Aboard Destroyer HMS Nizam

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ENTRY</u>
7.4.15	7am	Mudros Bay HMT Nizam	No.3 Field Ambulance, less Bearer Division (<i>B Section</i>) and wagon orderlies, transferred from HMT Malda to HMT Nizam. Later in day (hour unknown) Captains, McWhae, Conrick and Fry with Bearer Division and wagon orderlies transferred to HMT Ionian.
8.4.15	5pm	Mudros Bay HMT Nizam	C Section Tent Sub-Division with Major Butler and Captain Ingram transferred to HMT Suffolk.
9.4.15		Mudros Bay HMT Nizam	Ten wagon orderlies transferred from HMT Ionian to HMT Nizam. Three water carts transferred to HMT Suffolk. One light transport wagon transferred to Ionian. Four drivers and 8 draught horses transferred to HMT Suffolk. Reported to Brigadier at 9am on HMT Malda. Details given us to landing. This is to be done by echelons, A,B,C & D for No.3 Field Ambulance.

<u>SHIP</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>O. RANKS</u>	<u>HORSES</u>	<u>2 WHEEL</u>	<u>4 WHEEL</u>
HMT Ionian	3	114	—	—	1
HMT Suffolk	2	25	8	3	—
HMT Malda	—	—	—	—	—
HMT Devanha	—	—	—	—	—
HMS Nizam	5	93	92	—	19
	10	232	100	3	20

REMARKS:

Each man transferred carried one iron ration, 2 ordinary rations. The 7 day landing rations for men were transferred with parties.

19.4.15	4pm	Mudros Bay HMT Nizam	Bearer Division, less 3 buglers, transferred from HMT Ionian to HMT Suffolk. Went aboard HMT Minnewaska and attended conference with COs with General Bridges. Received further instructions as to landing.
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SPECIAL REPORT BY CAPTAIN FRY...THE LANDING AT ANZAC

This is a copy of the report furnished direct to the ADMS by Captain Fry, the senior Officer of the Bearer Division No. 3 Field Ambulance.

Report of 3rd Field Ambulance Bearer Division April 24th 1915 – May 1st 1915

24.4.15	Anzac Cove	On April 24 th at 10.30pm the Bearer Division of the 3 rd Field Ambulance – 3 Officers, Captain D. M. McWhae commanding, and 114 men transhipped from HMT Devanha to torpedo boat HMS Ribble together with a company of the 12 th Infantry Battalion.
25.4.15		HMS Ribble, on the left flank of flotilla, approached the coast where landing was made at 4.30am. The disembarkation into tows was made under rifle fire and 2 men were wounded on the torpedo boat and left behind. The unit disembarked into 2 boats of 2 nd tow about 5am. Captain McWhae with C Section was in one boat and Captains Fry and Buchanan with A and B Sections in the other. Landing was effected under heavy shrapnel and rifle fire and several casualties occurred. The boat parties in 2 groups took shelter from direct fire under the sand banks at the back of the beach and were shortly after enfiladed by a party of Turks along the curve of the beach. Fortunately, their hits were not many and about 20minutes later the enfilading party was driven back by a further landing party. For another hour it was impossible to do more than attend to our own wounded as heavy sniping was still coming down on our position. The coast being then moderately clear, the men were set to work improving shelter to make collecting posts and attending to and bringing in wounded from nearby. Officers and Sergeants then went out with squads not needed at collecting posts and scoured the country along the shore and up over the hills as far as possible. Our fighting forces were largely composed of scattered groups at the time, so a thorough and systematic search was impracticable. Wounded were dressed and taken back to the collecting posts. By midday when Officers returned to the station, about 100 cases had been collected. About 1.30pm the left flank was retiring when it appeared that the position of our collecting posts was in danger. The

wounded were quickly evacuated to the main beach, the final patients being embarked on a boat sent by the ADMS for the purpose. On the main beach till late in the evening. Officers and men were assisting the 1st Clearing Hospital in dressing and evacuating wounded to the hospital ships. At the end of the day our casualties were reported...2 killed, 18 wounded and 4 missing.

- 26.4.15 Anzac Cove At 3am the Ambulance was roused under orders to re-embark and 2 stretcher squads went out and brought 2 wounded patients who were reported. The re-embarkation order was countermanded shortly after. At 4am Captain Buchanan went out with 4 stretcher squads near the head of Long Valley, rendering first aid at the firing line and sending back wounded. At 5am Captain Fry followed up with 4 more squads, established a dressing station and worked further up the valley. When parties returned later in the morning, the dressing station was handed over to Captain Thomson. Captain McWhae then went out with the majority of the squads of B and C Sections. They were detained for a short time in the valley by heavy shrapnel and then went on to the 3rd Brigade Headquarters where they worked that day and through the night. Captain Fry went out shortly after with 16 stretchers and collected wounded from the left flank of the 3rd Brigade and from Captain Thomson's station. In the meantime, Captain Buchanan received a call to 1st Brigade Headquarters and went up with 2 stretcher parties and brought back wounded. Our men were now worked to a standstill and a message asking for assistance was received from 1st Brigade Headquarters. Application was made to Major Stokes of the 1st Field Ambulance and Captain Wassel went out with a section of stretcher bearers accompanied by Captain Buchanan as a guide and Captain Fry. On the way, a call to the 3rd Brigade Headquarters was intercepted by the party and Captain Fry went up with 2 stretcher squads and brought back a wounded Officer. On return a further call to 2nd Battalion Headquarters was responded to and wounded evacuated. Our 3 Officers returned about 4am. During the day our casualties were...1 killed, 1 wounded and 1 man missing on 25th turned up.
- 27.4.15 Anzac Cove About 3am Captain Buchanan went out with A Section and founded a dressing station at the head of Long Valley and worked there all day. In the afternoon about 5pm Captain McWhae went out with C Section to evacuate the collecting posts of the 9th and 10th Infantry Battalions - Captains Butler and Nott. Heavy shrapnel fire...was searching the valleys all day and up to 11pm at night. While going out Captain McWhae was hit by a fragment of shrapnel, wounding forehead and right eye and he had to retire to the beach. Captain Fry went out at the same time and assisted in evacuating Captain Buchanan's dressing station and later completed the evacuation of Captain Butler's station. One man besides Captain McWhae was wounded on this day. One more man was missing at end of day.
- 28.4.15 Anzac Cove Captain McWhae was removed to hospital ship and Captain Fry took command of the bearer Division. With the exception of a call to Captain Luther's station in the early morning, the ambulance rested during the day. Captains Conrick and Goldsmith reinforced the unit in the afternoon. At 6pm the 3 sections of bearers went out in 3 parties and evacuated collecting stations on the right flank and other stations in the centre. Right up to this time there was great difficulty in founding systematic work as the valleys in the area were intricate and at the time tracks were ill defined and difficult to recognise. Further, fighting units were inter-mixed and split up and few could give directions to the location where help was required. No casualties occurred on this day.
- 29.4.15 Anzac Cove The quarters of the Ambulance were transferred to Red Cross Hill to the south of Shrapnel Valley and the day was spent digging in. During the day the Tent Sub-divisions of A and B Sections, with Colonel Sutton commanding 3rd Field Ambulance and Major Dixon, joined the Bearer Division. Stretcher parties went out in the evening and evacuated collecting [posts as before. During the day several men were stung by shrapnel fragments but there were no serious casualties.
- 30.4.15 Anzac Cove On this day Captain Goldsmith took the place of the Medical Officer of the 12th. A system was organised by which 4 collecting stations were served. One squad was kept in waiting at each station and while returning with a patient, a detail reported and another squad took the place of the squad returning. During the night Captain Conrick stood by in Death Valley with 2 stretcher squads as these seemed to be signs of imminent heavy fighting.
- 1.5.15 Anzac Cove The above routine of serving collecting posts was continued. Captain Buchanan formed a dressing station during the day and assisted RMOs in Death Valley in attending wounded. During the night Captain Fry relieved RMO of the 4th Battalion who has been continually working since the 25th. The behaviour of the men in view of their rude introduction to the circumstances of war was splendid. The 3 Sergeants of the Sections showed great keenness and backed up the Officers well. These were MO.9 Sergeant Gunn, MO.161 Sergeant Sanders and MO.167 Sergeant Hookway.

MO.178 Private Rosser was conspicuous on the day of the landing in attending the wounded under fire and in his general conduct throughout the day. MO.151 Lance Corporal Farnham and Private T H Watts have at all times been prominent in their ready response to any call and in keenness in their work. MO.202 Private Simpson has shown initiation in using a donkey from the 26th to carry slightly wounded cases and has kept up his work from early morning till night every day since.