

Miss Kidd-Hart.
A.A.N.S.

I embarked on the 5th December, 1914, on the "Kyarra". This boat was an Inter-State boat, converted into a Hospital Transport Ship, and it carried the personnel of the 1st and 2nd A.G.H., and No. 1 Stationary. We were frightfully crowded, and the trip over was not very comfortable. We started out as passengers, and then I specialised a sister who was very ill. We called in at Perth, and had three days shore leave, and incidentally, had a very good time.

We had nearly three days land leave at Colombo, and I visited Kandy.

An extraordinary feature of the trip was that the coldest part of the voyage was coming up the Red Sea.

We arrived at Alexandria, and thinking that we were going straight to France had a few days leave to Cairo. However, after a week, orders came that we were to dis-embark, and proceed to Cairo, and we arrived at Heliopolis Palace on the 25th January.

The advance party had prepared the Hospital to a certain extent for our coming, and as it had previously been a large hotel, there were numerous floor coverings and furniture to remove.

We were one hundred strong, and as they had not prepared for our arrival, the larder of the Heliopolis House Hotel was taxed to the utmost.

We were billeted in one separate wing of the hotel, and it was very comfortable indeed.

The early stages of the messing arrangements were very bad, but they improved afterwards, although they were most expensive.

I was detailed for duty in the Officers' ward, but it was very difficult to manage, owing to the smallness of the numerous rooms. The Hospital itself, however, was very well equipped. The food was at first very poor, but after being placed in the hands of a caterer, it improved wonderfully.

The work was very heavy, especially after the landing of our troops at Gallipoli. We found the heat very trying and the flies and dust made it very difficult to bear.

I stayed at the Palace until January, 1916, and saw it struggle into existence, watched it through its various phases, until it was well equipped and running smoothly. Our hours off duty varied with the work, but when possible we had every other half day off duty.

After that, I went to No. 1 A.S.H., Ismailia, and this was an extremely nice Hospital. It was beautifully situated, and here we were excellently equipped and perfectly happy.

Most of our patients were from the camps in the desert until the Romani stunt, and then we got the severely wounded. The amusements were very good; we had boating and bathing in the lake, and in the summer, the gardens were beautiful.

I remained until we handed over to a British Stationary Hospital Unit, and left Egypt in September, on a Hospital Ship.

MMC

On arrival in England, we were billeted at Southall, for a few days, and then the whole unit of No. 1 Stationary was detailed for duty at No. 3 A.A.H., Dartford, to open it up. We went down there early in October, 1916, and found that it was a very large hatted Hospital, beautifully equipped, it having been a pre-War British Hospital. It was very easily run, as we worked under excellent conditions. The work was not very heavy at first, as all of the Australian patients from the British Hospitals were being concentrated here.

In the early days there were not many amusements for the patients, excepting their own pleasures in the way of whist drives, etc. but there was a good band attached to the Hospital, formed by British tomnies, and they were very good.

We were very comfortably billeted, each having a separate cubicle, and there was central heating in all of the shacks. I was here until the 2nd March, 1917, when I went down in charge of Cobham Hall Convalescent Hospital for Officers. This was a beautiful residence, and we occupied a part of the Countess of Darnley's country home.

The Officers were not really ill, being quite convalescent. They had a fair amount of amusements in the way of tennis, golf, and two motor cars took them for drives round about.

I remained here until July, 1917, and after furlough, I was detailed for duty at No. 3 A.G.H., Abbeville, France. The conditions here were excellent, and we were kept very busy, with cases straight from the line. These were very severely wounded men.

There were practically no amusements, as so many of the boys were acute cases, but we had a recreation hall, and the Y.M.C.A. did a lot towards amusing the men.

I stayed here until November, when I went in charge of No. 5 Stationary Hospital, Dieppe. This was a British Hospital, staffed with Australian Sisters, and R.A.M.C. male personnel. In my opinion, I do not think that this is a very happy combination.

This Hospital was principally for the local sick, and was excellently equipped and organised. Later on, during the retreat, we had the wounded from Le Treport, who evacuated to us.

I was here until April, 1918, when I rejoined No. 1 A.G.H., Rouen, and was there for some very heavy work from the retreat, also the advance, and the severe influenza epidemic. The Hospital was well equipped and excellently managed, and I stayed until it closed down, and then crossed in the unit to England.

On arrival, we went to Sutton Veny, where we took over from the R.A.M.C. This was a large hatted Hospital, where we took in the troops from the surrounding camps. It was a concentration Hospital for patients from English Hospitals who were awaiting transport to Australia.

I remained there until March, 1919, and after furlough, I was sent to No. 2 Command Depot, Weymouth, in charge. The work here was not severe, as the Hospital was on the eve of closing.

I stayed until it closed and then went to No. 3 A.A.H., Dartford, where I am now awaiting transport to Australia.

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