

G.
Miss J. Hubbard.
A.A.N.S.

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I embarked in November, 1915 on the "Orsova" as a passenger, with 120 other sisters. As there was so little sickness and so many sisters, there was no need for duty. After arriving safely at Suez, we entrained for Cairo, and were met by ambulances, and taken to No. 2 A.G.H. Ghezirah Palace. This Hospital was very crude at the time, and the accommodation was not comfortable. I went to the medical ward, and the work was not very heavy. We had busy and slack times, and our hours off duty varied with the work.

Any off duty times were spent seeing the sights of Cairo, and I stayed there until it evacuated to the Sporting Club, which was a large Auxiliary Hospital. Most of the cases were awaiting transport to Australia

The nineteen sisters were recalled and No. 2 A.G.H. left for France, with the unit at the end of March, 1916. We reached Marseilles on the 1st April, and stayed for three days, and then received orders to disembark and proceed to Musco, which was a delightful spot on the edge of the forest, overlooking the Mediterranean. The chateau of the estate was used as an Officers' Ward, and the rest was tented. Some of us were billeted in tents, and some in shacks.

It was only a temporary Hospital, to take sick from the transports from Alexandria. There was a large compound where the contacts were kept under supervision. At first the messing arrangements were very unsatisfactory, and we arranged with a French caterer to provide our own food and this answered excellently. After about two months here, I left with a party of forty sisters to be distributed among British Hospitals until No. 2 A.G.H. was organised at Wimereux. I was at No. 3 B.G.H. at Le Treport, a beautiful Hospital, which had been a large German Hotel, overlooking the sea. It was excellently equipped, and had every convenience, and the organisation was splendid. We were very happy there, and had good work.

While there, a large convoy of Australians came in, which made it quite home-like. The Colonel and the British Matron were extremely nice, and very courteous. I was there for about three months, but was recalled to my own unit, No. 2 A.G.H., which had by this time been established. It was a large tented Hospital and most of our patients were battle casualties, which kept us very busy. Afterwards, this Hospital was converted into huts, and they were very up-to-date. We were under canvas, which had many disadvantages as the rain came in and the cold was very severe, but the first shack built was given to the Sisters, and it was very comfortable, and contained a heating apparatus. Later on, most of the patients were put in huts, a much better state of affairs. We had excellent work here, and the food was good and plentifully supplemented by the Red Cross. Also in passing, I might add that they supplied us with clothing, and for the patients as well.

I should like to pay a high tribute to the Australian Red Cross for the way in which they looked after the boys with tobacco, clothes, etc. The amusements were not many as the patients were for the most part acute cases and we were very busy. Soon after that, a Y.M.C.A. hut opened in the vicinity and there the boys found plenty of amusement. From there, I went to No. 1 A.C.C.S., and was there for about 6 months. The whole of the Hospital was dumped down into a paddock, and told to be ready to receive patients in a week. After being established for about two months, they started to build Nissen huts. When these were completed, they were well equipped and there again, I must say that I think that the Australian Red Cross proved of great assistance to us.

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The work was extremely heavy, at times coming in waves, according to the different storms. The patients were awfully good. I was in the Resuscitation Ward, where many responded to the treatment, and a great many passed away. We were shelled frequently, but had no casualties.

After that I returned to No. 2 A.G.H., Wimereux, where I remained until it closed. We crossed to England, and after furlough, I was sent to No. 3 A.A.H., Dartford, where at present, I am awaiting transport to Australia.

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