

Miss E.D. Jackson,
A.A.N.S.



I embarked 12th June 1917 on the "Wooltan" with 300 sisters bound for Salonica. We disembarked at Suez and entrained for Alexandria where we remained four days waiting for transport. We then embarked in the "Shrayres" for Salonica, where we arrived after an interrupted voyage. We were five days getting over having to put in at Greek Island for protection on account of submarines being in the vicinity. On arrival we were met by British Ambulance Transports and taken to a place called Hortiach about 17 kilos from the sea front. It was a very dusty drice amongst hilly country. I was detailed for duty at the 80th General Hospital which was a large tented hospital. Principally malaria and dysentery cases were taken here. We worked under very good conditions. At times food was very scarce, but that was due to the loss of ships carrying food to us, and also owing to the big fire at Salonica. The boys responded very well to the treatment and they were extremely patient and most grateful for anything that could be done for them. There was absolutely no amusement here for the boys; no papers or books of any kind being available for them. The officers in the transport on which I came were extremely good to us. On every trip over they would bring us packets of chocolate, books, etc. from Egypt. I cannot speak too highly of their consideration and kindness to us.

We were very comfortably billeted and the food was fairly good. I found the R.A.M.C. male personnel most considerate for us, and altogether we worked very happily together. I remained for a fortnight and then went to the 66th General which was only 3 kilos from the 60th and was a very similar Hospital to the 60th General. The conditions here were also very good. I remained for three weeks when I went down to the 52nd which was about three kilos from Salonica. Here the weather conditions were much more trying, but the hospital was more comfortable being a hutted one and very well equipped. The patients were all malaria cases and it was here that the special Commission sent by the War Office to investigate the malaria conditions started their various treatments, several wards being set apart, each one for a different treatment. They then compared them for the best results. They found the most successful treatment was a 45 grain dose given in three doses, 15 grains each dose for 2 days a week and then a lapse and the same treatment for 2 days the next week. This was given by mouth. This treatment involved a lot of work as there was so much clerical work and so much charting. Food conditions were much better here and the Australia Red Cross helped us considerably sending big supplies from Egypt.

There were no amusements here as the cases were so acute. We were very comfortably billeted and had the great advantage of being able to go to the sea for a bathe. Later on when the September stunt took place we had to convert a portion of the hospital into an acute surgical hospital. The wounded did splendidly here. Following this rush was the severe epidemic of influenza, when we lost a considerable number of patients. They were in such a very poor condition owing to so many attacks of malaria that they had no resistance and did not respond to any treatment.

Our hours off duty varied according to the amount of work some weeks not having a minute off. While in Salonica we were



given a fortnight's furlough and sent to a Convalescent Home up in the hills. I felt the extremes of weather greatly, especially the intense cold. The first winter we had a limited amount of charcoal, but the second winter we had no fuel at all, thus adding greatly to our discomfort. We suffered greatly from the Vardar Winds which blew continually for three days, our tents being frequently blown down and when it rained it was of a very severe nature, the mud being so thick that it was with difficulty we walked from place to place.

The sisters suffered very greatly from malaria and dysentery, 75 being boarded for Australia, some absolute wrecks, but we only lost one sister from malaria in Salonica.

I remained at the 52nd until it was practically closed. I reached England in February, 1919. After furlough I was sent down to the 3rd A.A.H., Dartford where I am now on duty.

I would like to pay a tribute to the wonderful behaviour of the British Tommy. He was so excellently behaved and well disciplined and a most grateful and respectful patient for any little attention.
