



Miss F. L. MacKay.  
A.A.N.S.  
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I embarked in June, 1917, on the "Somali", and did no duty, and had no sports with the other sisters, owing to attacks of seasickness.

We reached Colombo after three weeks, and stayed there for six days, and were entertained by the leading people there.

We went to Kandy for two days, and while there, visited the King of Kandy's palace.

I embarked again on the "Dimera" and landed at Bombay, on the 30th July. Here I went to the Victoria War Hospital, which was a British Hospital staffed by Australians. The principal Matron, A.A.N.S., had her Headquarters here.

The Hospital was fairly well equipped, and we worked under fairly good conditions, but we felt the heat very much, as it was during the monsoon season. We had both medical and surgical cases here, from Mesopotamia, and some of them were very ill indeed. We had some Turks for some time, and I was looking after them. They were frightfully emaciated.

The food was plentiful, and the amusements were not bad, as we had concerts, theatres, drives, etc. We were fairly comfortably billeted.

The Hospital was a building three storeys high, capable of holding two hundred patients in each ward. Each ward was divided into sections of 100 beds.

I stayed there for six months, and was then transferred to Bangalore. This is a huge military station in the South of India, and we had at that time about 22,000 troops stationed there, so that we took in mostly local sick from the surrounding camps.

The Hospital was very badly equipped, and we were billeted in tents, which we found very cold, and during the monsoon season, we were almost washed away. Later, however, they built huts, and when we were billeted in them, we were very much more comfortable.

There were not many amusements, but the people were very good to us, and we were made Hon. members of all the clubs. We had tennis, driving, and picnic parties, and every second half day off duty.

The work here was very hard, because the Hospital was so large and scattered, some of the sections being as much as ten minutes walk from the mess, and the staff was very small, consisting of nine sisters, and 2 V.A.D.s to about 1,000 patients.

The cases were nearly all cot cases, both medical and surgical. We also had an infectious block, where we had small-pox, cholera and influenza.

The orderlies, although not trained - we trained them ourselves - were very good.

HMC.

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There were only two sisters on night duty for the whole of the Hospital, and only a limited number of orderlies.

After twelve months, I left and reported at Bombay, from which place we entrained for Ceylon, where we embarked on the "Wiltshire" for Suez. We dis-embarked here, and went to Cairo, and while waiting for a boat, went on duty.

We were billeted at the 45th Indian General, which was most comfortable, and spent our times off duty, seeing the sights of Egypt.

We left Port Said in January, on the "Kaiser I Hind" for Marseilles, came across France in an ambulance train, and reached Cherbourg, where we crossed on a packet steamer to Southampton.

After a fortnights' furlough, I joined No. 3 A.A.H., Dartford, where I am now on duty, while awaiting transport to Australia.

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