

**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SERVICES
DURING THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN
April – December 1915**



**Rotary Club of Hawthorn
15 April 2014**

GALLIPOLI PENINSULA





Anzac Cove today



Anzac Cove 1915

AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL SERVICES DURING THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN April – December 1915



View of No 1 Casualty Clearing Station (CSS) taken about 4 weeks after the landing. Washing is hanging on a line in right background. Three Red Cross flags are flying

**At Gallipoli in 1915,
the Medical Staff didn't have:**

- X Antibiotics**
- X Intravenous therapy**
- X Blood transfusions**
- X Anaesthesia (limited)**
- X Pathology (very limited)**
- X X-rays (very limited)**
- X U/S, CT, MRI**

“John Simpson” Kirkpatrick

“The Man with the Donkey”



Private John Simpson

1892 - 1915

- Born in England as John Simpson Kirkpatrick
- Enlisted in Perth as Jack Simpson
- Stretcher bearer in 3rd FAB
- On 25 April 1915, Simpson landed with others of his unit at North Beach.
- During the landing, the unit lost three stretcher bearers killed and another fourteen wounded.
- Next day, he found a donkey he called “Duffy” to carry wounded men from the firing lines down to the Casualty Clearing Station on the beach.
- Despite being under constant fire, in 24 days he rescued over 300 men.
- Recommended by General Monash & others for the V.C but never awarded.

John Simpson Kirkpatrick

"The Man with the Donkey"



**THE
"MAN WITH THE DONKEY"
GALLIPOLI APRIL 25 to MAY 19, 1915
IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE VALOUR AND COMPASSION
OF THE AUSTRALIAN SOLDIER.**



SIR NEVILLE HOWSE, VC

- Soldier-surgeon
- First Australian to win V.C.
- Only Australian doctor to win V.C.
- Mayor of Orange, NSW
- Senior M.O. at Anzac Cove
- Director of AIF Medical Services
- Knighted three times
- Member of Australian Parliament
- Minister for Defence, Health, Home & Territories and Repatriation



Captain Neville Reginald Howse earning his Victoria Cross



Captain Neville Howse from the NSW Medical Corps carrying a wounded soldier, during action near Vredefort in 1900.

For this act of bravery Captain Neville Howse received the first Victoria Cross to be awarded to an Australian.

It is also the only Victoria Cross to have been awarded to a medical practitioner.



Col. GRAHAM BUTLER DSO

Awarded *Distinguished Service Order* for his work “*without sleep or rest*” from 25th to 28th April.

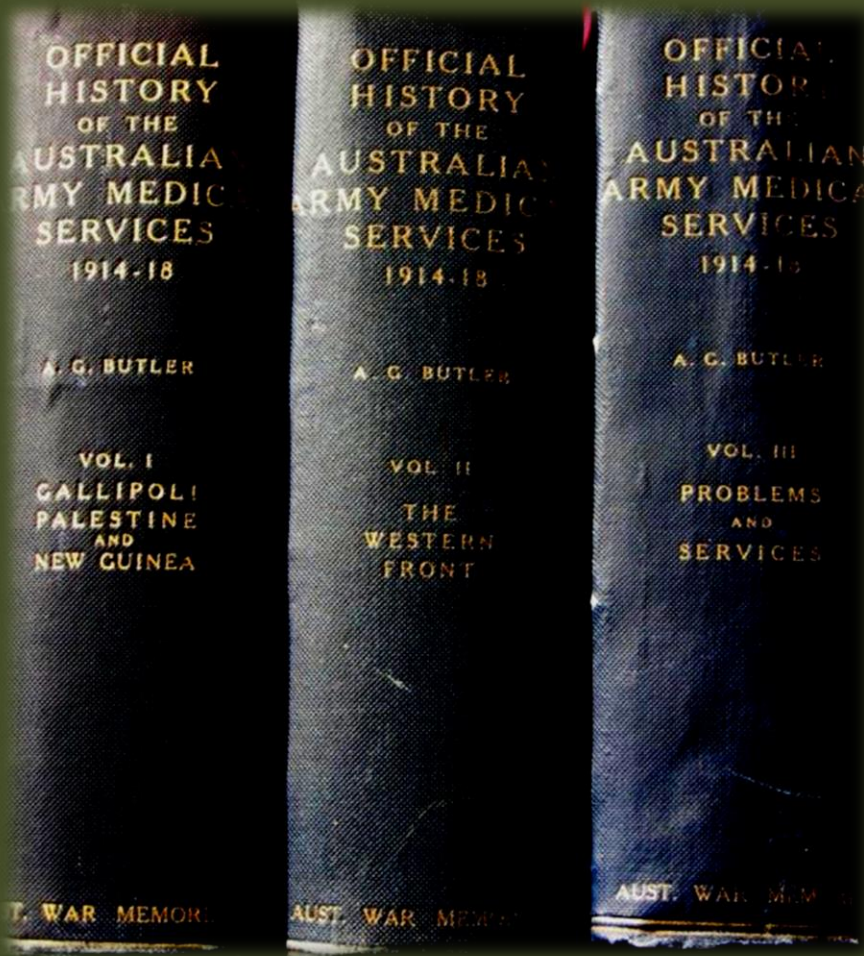
Served in 3rd Field Ambulance at Gallipoli & 3rd Australian General Hospital in France & Belgium.

Commanding Officer 3rd AGH.

Author of *Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services 1914-1918*.



The Official History of the Australian Medical Services 1914–1918 by Colonel A. G. Butler



THE
AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL
SERVICES
IN THE
WAR OF 1914-1918

VOLUME I

PART I
THE GALLIPOLI CAMPAIGN

by
COLONEL A. G. BUTLER, D.S.O., V.D.; B.A., M.B., Ch.B. (Camb.)

PART II
THE CAMPAIGN IN SINAI AND PALESTINE

by
COLONEL R. M. DOWNES, C.M.G., V.D.; M.D., M.S., F.C.S.A.

PART III
THE OCCUPATION OF GERMAN NEW GUINEA

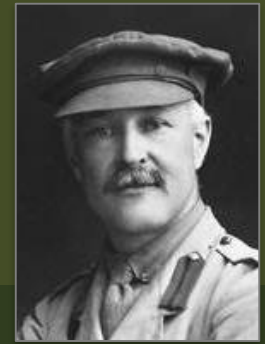
by
COLONEL F. A. MAGUIRE, D.S.O., V.D.; M.D., Ch.M., F.R.C.S.
and
CAPTAIN R. W. CILENTO, M.D., B.S., D.T.M. & H.

*Captain M. C. Verso
A.A.M.C. (Med)*

*Inscribed, with Central Re-
-fards, 'at the Australian
War Memorial, Canberra,
Feb. 21st. 1947*

*G. J. Lambert Butler
Col (Ret) A.A.M.C*

The Responsibilities of an Army Medical Service



1. To the military command:

- *Preserve manpower for the purposes of war.*

2. To the nation:

- *At the end of their military service to return soldiers to useful civil life.*

3. To humanity:

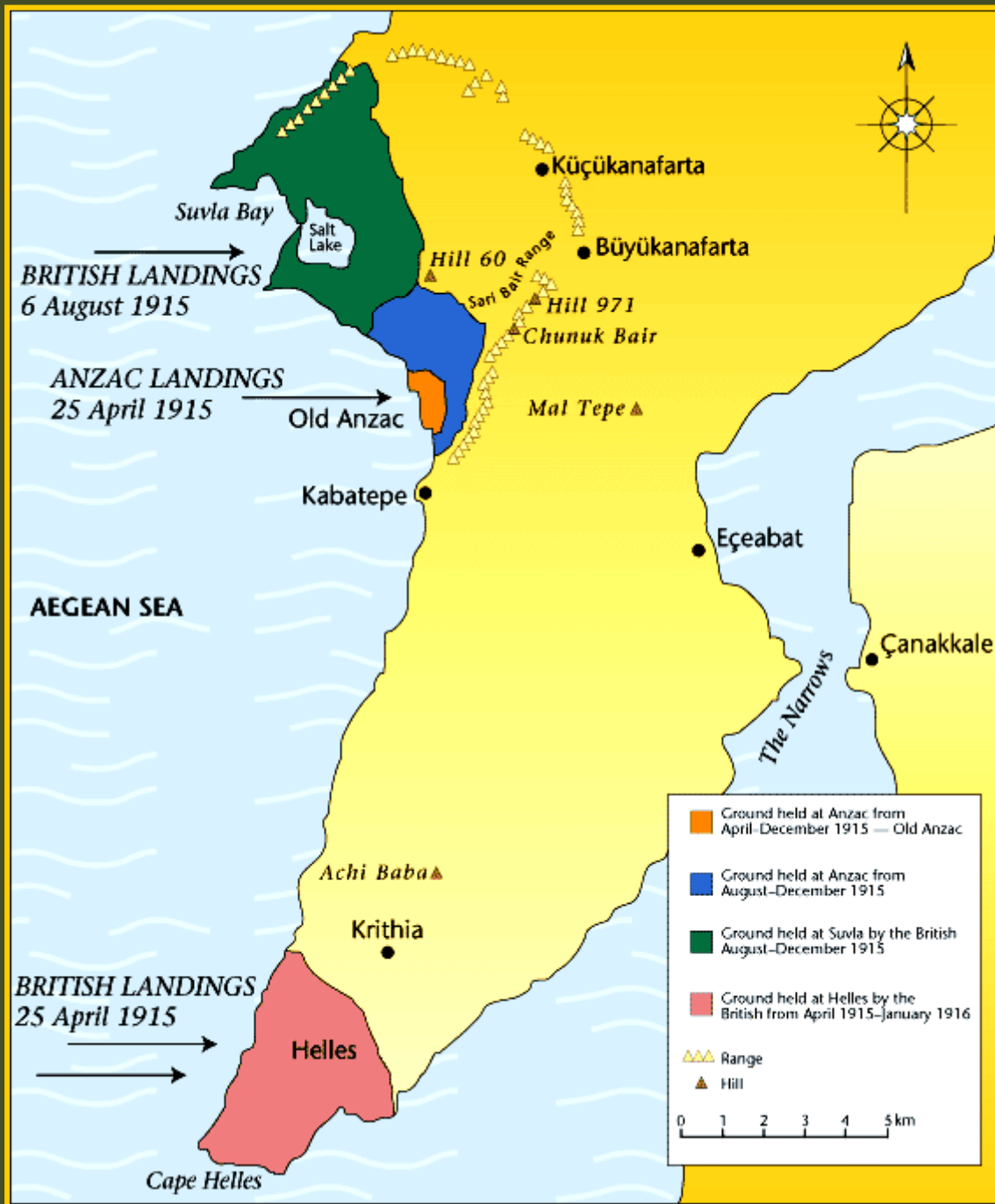
- *Minimize the individual suffering of the combatants on both sides.*

Ref: *Official History of the Army Medical Services*
by Colonel A.G. Butler , Volume II, Page 263,1940

Gallipoli Timeline

DATE	EVENT
25 April 1915	Gallipoli landings by Allied Forces. 16,000 Australians and New Zealanders land
18 May 1915	The Turkish Offensive. 40,000 attacked & 10,000 Turks are left dead or wounded
19 May 1915	John Simpson Kirkpatrick is killed by machine gun fire.
24 May 1915	A formal truce is declared to allow the Turks to bury their dead.
Summer 2015	Disease outbreaks
6-25 August 1915	The August Offensive. 2,200 Australian casualties, the Turks more than 5,000.
6 August 1915	The Battle for Lone Pine begins
Autumn 1915	Stalemate and deteriorating weather
7-19 Dec 1915 & 7-9 January 1916	The successful evacuation (planned by Brigadier General CB White) is regarded the best planned part of the campaign.





Recruitment of the Australian Imperial Force (First A.I.F.)

First Division

Formed August 1914

1st Brigade (New South Wales) :

- 1st Battalion
- 2nd Battalion
- 3rd Battalion
- 4th Battalion

2nd Brigade (Victoria) :

- 5th Battalion
- 6th Battalion
- 7th Battalion
- 8th Battalion

3rd Brigade ("All Australian"):

- 9th Battalion (Queensland)
- 10th Battalion (South Australia)
- 11th Battalion (Western Australia)
- 12th Battalion (SA, WA, Tasmania)

1st Light Horse Brigade (NSW, Qld, SA, Tas)



Recruitment of the Australian Imperial Force (First A.I.F.)

First AIF Infantry Divisions

- 1st Division (1914)
- 2nd Division (1915)
- 3rd Division (1916)
- 4th Division (1916)
- 5th Division (1916)
- N.Z. & Aust. Division (1915)
- 6th Division (1917 – never deployed)



Each **division** comprised **three infantry brigades** and each brigade contained **four battalions**. A battalion contained about **1000 men**.

331,814 Australians were sent overseas serving in the AIF

64% were killed or wounded.

61,859 (18%) were killed.

2,100 women served with the 1st AIF, mainly as **nurses**.

ALL VOLUNTEERS!

WW1 Enlistment Standards

Requirements in August 1914

Age: 18 - 35 years

Height: 5ft 6 ins.

Chest: 34 inches

"Physically fit on medical examination"

33% of volunteers rejected

Poor dentition or poor eyesight were common reasons for rejection.

Changes in June 1915

Age: 18 - 45

Height: 5ft 2ins.

Changes in April 1917

Height: 5ft.



Civilian doctors, using ambiguous guidelines, often certified men fit for service who were not.
(37 men were put ashore before the 1st Division left W.A.)

Organisation of AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS (AAMC) 1915

- Modelled on British (RAMC) pattern.
- At outbreak of WW1 AAMC consisted of :
 - Director of Medical Services (Surgeon General W. D. Williams)
 - Permanent Administrative Staff (4 officers & 29 other ranks)
 - Militia Army Medical Corps (183 officers & 1649 other ranks)
 - Volunteer Army Medical Corps
 - Army Nursing Service Reserve



AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, 1915

Organisational Hierarchy

- Regimental Aid Post (RAP)
- Field Ambulance Unit (FAB)
- Casualty Clearing Station (CCS)
- Australian Stationary Hospital (ASH)
- Australian General Hospital (AGH)



Doctors from Victoria
(2nd FAB) in Egypt.

Regimental Aid Post (RAP)

Basic Medical Unit

- Accompanied infantry into battle.
- Consisted of the regiment's doctor (RMO), 2 orderlies & 16 stretcher bearers (e.g. bandsmen...)
- RMO selected a site to set up RAP (e.g. sheltered gully, tent...)
- Stretcher bearers brought wounded to RAP.
- First Aid given, wounds dressed & soldier returned to front if possible.
- If wounds or illness severe, soldier evacuated to Field Ambulance Unit.



Dr. Harry Carew Nott (1888-1973)
10th Battalion RMO at his R.A.P.

Field Ambulance Unit (FAB)

- Basic function was to facilitate the early evacuation of serious casualties from the battlefield.
- 10 officers and 224 other ranks
- Consisted of a *"bearer division"* & *"tent division"*



Field Ambulance Units (FAB)

Attached to each Brigade

Same numbering & recruitment pattern as the parent brigade:

- 1st** Australian Field Ambulance (NSW)
- 2nd** Australian Field Ambulance (Victoria)
- 3rd** Australian Field Ambulance (Qld,WA,SA & Tas.)

10 officers (doctors) and **224 other ranks**

Each FAB organised in 3 sections (A,B & C) each with 3 doctors

Each section could care for 50 sick or wounded.

Each section divided into a tent and a bearer subdivision.

Tent subdivision ran dressing stations.

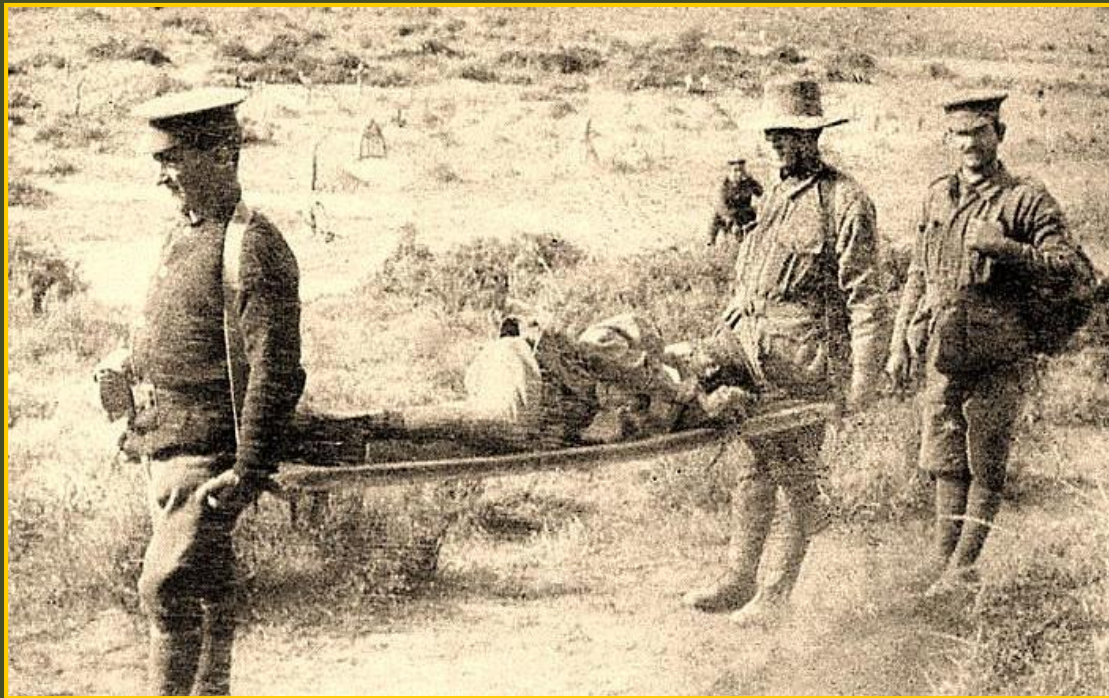
Stretcher bearers carried wounded back to dressing stations or casualty clearing stations.



3rd Field Ambulance in W.A.



John " Simpson" Kirkpatrick is in the back row, third from the left, holding his hat.



Anzac Sector Gallipoli 1915

**Stretcher bearers
("body snatchers")
carrying wounded
soldiers down to the
beach for evacuation.**



Brown leather medical pouch as carried by members of Australian Field Ambulances during WW1



CONTENTS

- Hypodermic syringe
- Khaki cotton bandage
- Elastoplast tape
- Bottle of salicylate (i.e aspirin)
- Bottle of phenoacetin
- Bottle of bicarbonate of soda
- Bottle of potassium pemanganate

Casualty Clearing Station (CCS)

- Its role was to clear the ambulances of their casualties to allow the bearers unimpeded traffic to & from the lines.
- Cared for all wounded until evacuation.
- Staffed by 8 officers & 77 other ranks.



1st Australian C.C.S at Anzac Cove, 2nd May 1915

Australian Stationary Hospital (ASH)

- Nominally 200 beds
- Placed at or in front of main base.
- Received patients with minor injuries & illnesses nursed until returned to front.
- 8 officers & 86 other ranks.
- Tented hospitals in Gallipoli campaign



No. 1 A.S.H. at North Beach, October 1915

Australian General Hospital (AGH)

- Largest medical unit of AAMC
- Equivalent of a major city civilian hospital.
- Various departments (medical, surgical, laboratories)
- 520 beds (grew to 3500 in Cairo)
- 21 doctors, 43 nurses, 143 other ranks



Nursing staff, First A.G.H. in Cairo

Diseases on First Convoy

38 ships carried **29,185 ANZAC** troops from Albany WA to Alexandria, Egypt. During the 5 week journey, more than 1200 developed infectious diseases.

Cases being treated at Colombo, Ceylon:

- Venereal disease x 67
- Measles x 62
- Influenza x 55
- Pneumonia/pleurisy x21
- Tonsillitis x 14
- Diarrhoea x 13
- Rheumatism x 8
- Other minor complaints x 89

- 5 Required operations
- 8 Put ashore
- 6 Deaths (all from pneumonia)



Ref. A. G. Butler: *Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services*
Melbourne 1930, Volume 1, p. 39

Work of AAMC in Egypt

1. Establish hospitals:

No. 1 AGH in Heliopolis Palace Hotel

No. 2 AGH in Mena House

No. 1 ASH at Maadi Camp

No. 2 ASH at Mena Camp



**Heliopolis Palace Hotel
occupied by No. 1 AGH**

AAMC Ambulances in Egypt



Work of AAMC in Egypt

2. Managing disease outbreaks:

- **Influenza & other respiratory infections**
- **Venereal disease** (2000 cases in 4 months)
- **Gastro-intestinal illness**
(undiagnosed diarrhoea, typhoid x 16, paratyphoid x 2)
- **Typhus** x 3
- **Small pox** x 5
- **Scabies** was rare
- **Hernia surgery** x 72 cases
- **Other surgery**
(varicose veins, varicocele, hydrocele)
- **Dental problems** were common



Work of AAMC in Egypt

3. Training of non medical personnel:

- First aid
- Sanitation
- Practice “in the field” with other troops, setting up dressing stations, collecting “wounded” etc.

4. Assessment of fitness to serve:

- 168 invalids
- 132 disciplinary cases were returned to Australia
3rd February 1915



Giving cholera inoculations

Preparation in Egypt



General William Bridges and his staff watching the manoeuvres of the 1st Australian Division in the desert in Egypt, March 1915

Painting by George Coates.

The Anzac Day Landing



10th Battalion assembled on the *Prince of Wales*
and climbing down to the tow boats.
25th April 1915



**Medical Officers of the 2nd Field Ambulance watching the landing.
Commanding Officer Lt. Colonel Alfred Sturdee third from right.
25th April 1915**

Medical Care at The Landing

1. Regimental Medical Officers x 12

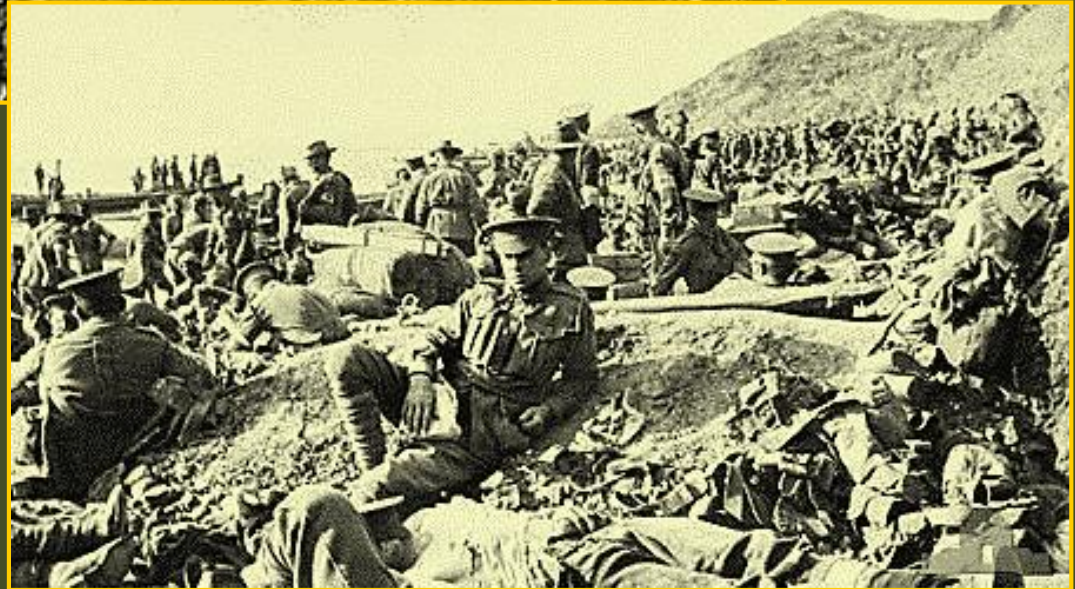
- Went ashore with each of their battalions
- Made their way inland with them
- Under great difficulty set up aid posts
- By nightfall, each battalion had an aid post on the battlefield.

2. Field Ambulance Stretcher Bearers

- Landed at 4.30AM (3rd FAB), 6.30AM (2nd FAB) & 9.30AM (1st FAB)
- At great risk, searched for & retrieved wounded in the gullies, ravines, on cliff tops.
- Used stretchers, makeshift splints (e.g. rifles) to return wounded to beach
- Only 200 stretchers for an invasion force of 24,000 soldiers.



The Landing 25th April 1915



**Wounded crowd
the beach**

Medical Care at The Landing:

3. Many individual casualties made their own way down to the beach.

- Every soldier carried a Field Dressing (bandage, gauze, pins etc) in a pocket in his tunic.

4. Wound Classification system:

RED Label = Serious wound

WHITE Label = Minor wound

The system broke down under weight of numbers.



Medical Care at The Landing

5. Casualty Clearing Stations x 2

- Established during the morning
- 1st CCS at north end of beach (Major Howse)
- N.Z CCS at south end (Col. Manders)
- 8 officers & 77 other ranks
- Not well sheltered & exposed to gun fire.



Medical Care at The Landing

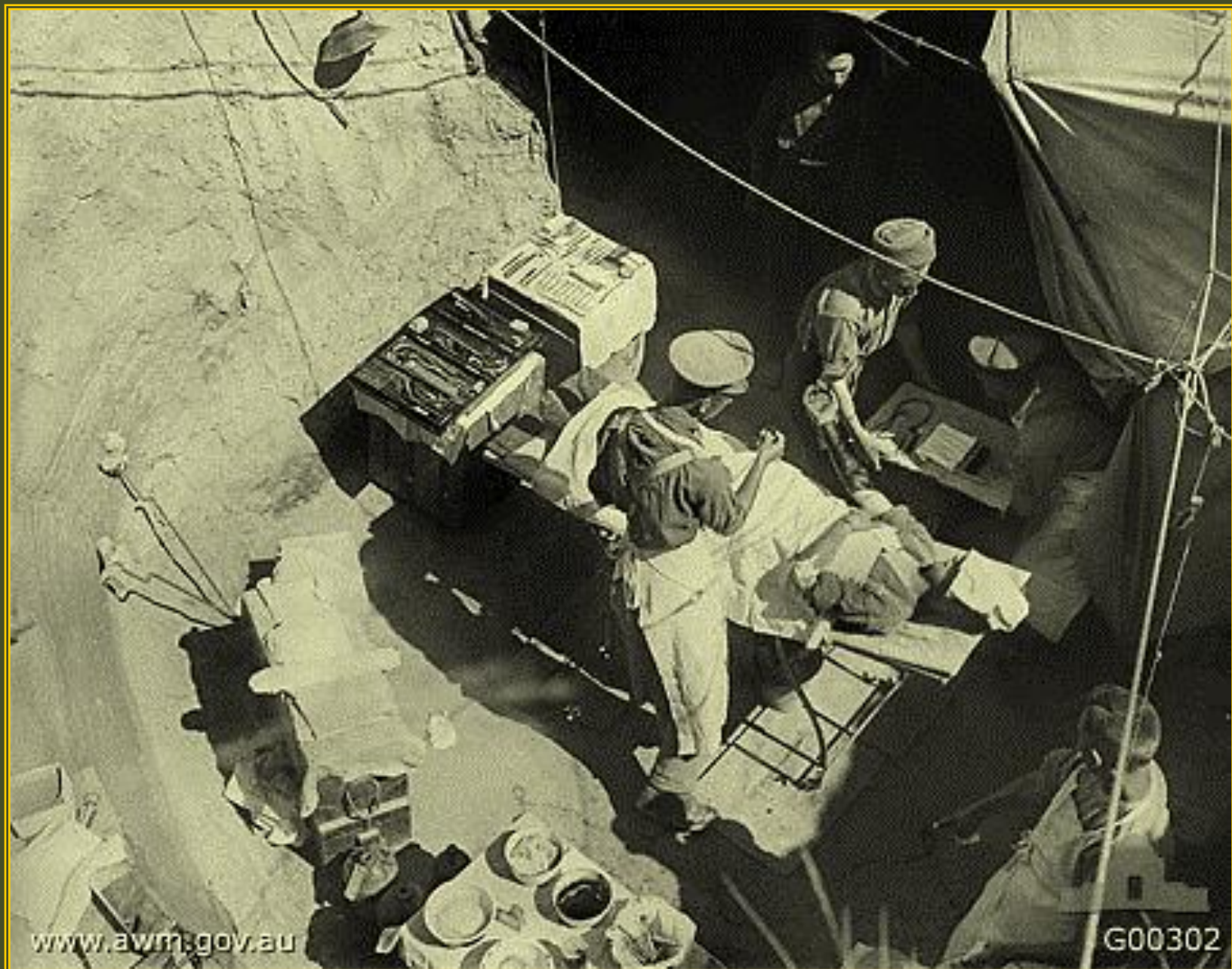
6. Injuries treated at C.C.S.

- Lacerations, sprains
- Depressed fractures of skull
- Compound fractures of thigh
- Abdominal wounds

Urgent surgery

was attempted on the beach with N.C.O.'s giving chloroform anaesthetics.





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Medical Care at The Landing

7. Evacuation of wounded

- By 2.00PM, 500 wounded lying on beach.
- No ground had been captured to safely set up a field hospital.
- When infantry landed, empty tow boats were, by order, *“not to be used for wounded”*.
- At 5.00PM, Col. Howse decided that situation was so desperate that all wounded (serious & light) had to be evacuated.
- “Empty tows” were made available to take wounded to ships off shore.
- Hospital ship, *Gascon*, and transport ships, *Clan Macgillivray* & *Seang Bee* were over whelmed and other ill equipped transport ships had to be used.

Medical Care at The Landing

7. Evacuation (continued)

- Fearing a Turkish onslaught, Howse and his team worked all through the night carrying out first-aid, emergency surgery and supervising the evacuation.
- Waiting on the beach, the wounded were given hot drinks, some food & cigarettes!
- When being rowed from shore to ship, they were without blankets and became very cold, sea sick and some died.
- Remarkably, by 3.00AM the beach was clear.
- 1700 cases had been evacuated, 500 of them stretcher cases.
- Only the dead & dying, sedated with morphine, remained.



- *H.M.H.S. Gascon*
- Barges carrying wounded
- Wounded on board *H.M.T Galeka*

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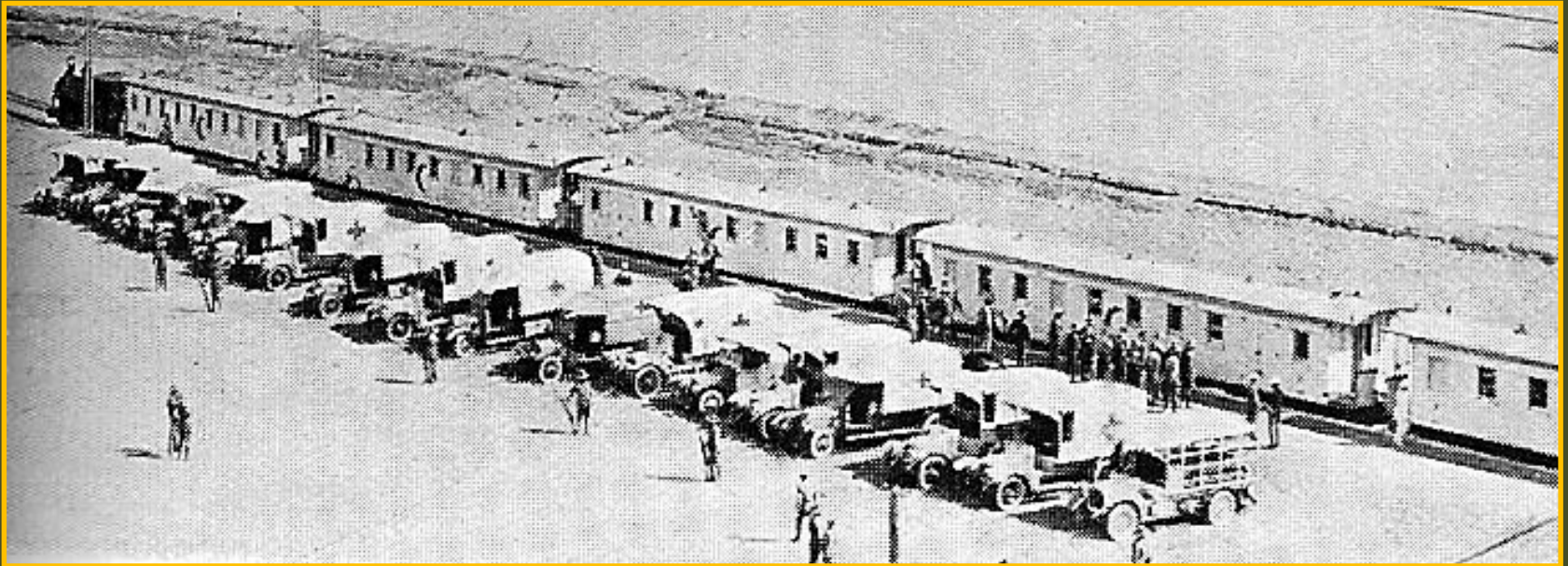
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Alexandria, Egypt. 1915.
Patients from Gallipoli being transferred from the hospital ship *Gascon* to a hospital train for movement to Cairo.



Patients & nurses
at the
No. 2 Australian
General Hospital,
Cairo



Lemnos Island

- **60 miles** (95 kms.) from Gallipoli
- **4 hours** by sea
- Large harbour at Mudros
- Became major supply base & medical centre for the campaign.
- Australians established **3 large hospitals**
 - No. 3 A.G.H.
 - No. 1 A.S.H.
 - No. 2 A.S.H.
- 2 smaller British hospitals, 2 Canadian hospitals and an Indian hospital also set up.
- No. 1 A.S.H. only one with **x-ray** equipment
- **97,000 patients** treated August to Nov. 1915

Disease outbreak at Gallipoli

1. Enteric fevers

- Typhoid (7%)
- Paratyphoid A & B (93%)

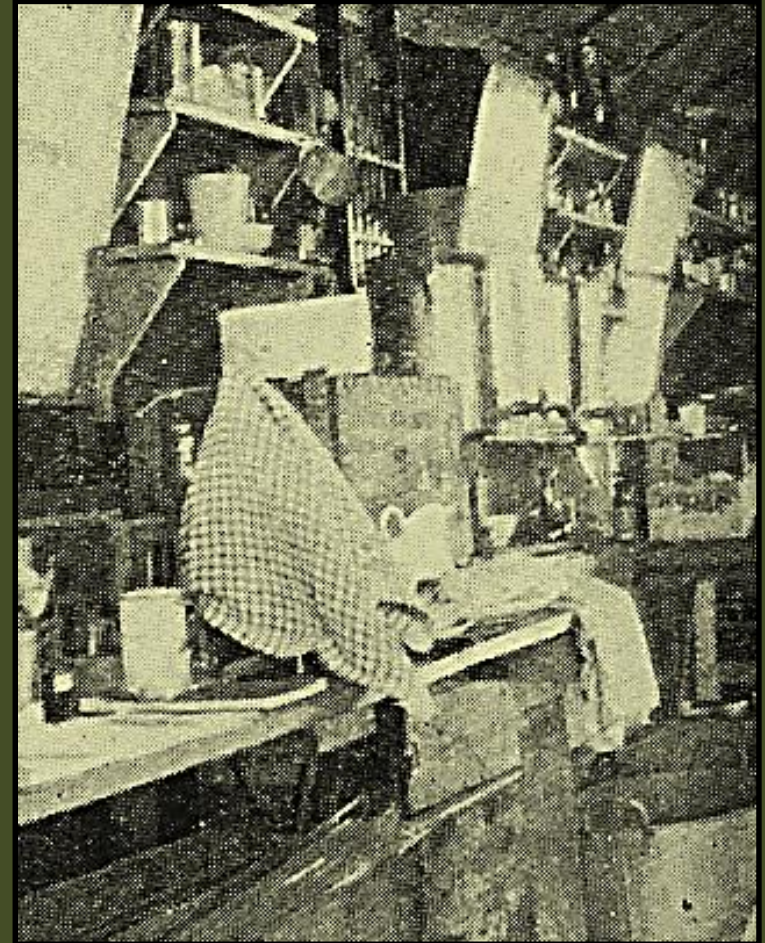
(Australian doctors at Lemnos made and tested a combined typhoid & paratyphoid vaccine - "T.A.B.")

2. "Dysentery"

- Entamoeba histolytica
- Bacillary
(e.g. shigella, salmonella)

3. Epidemic diarrhoea

- ? Giardia
- ? E. coli



Bacteriological laboratory,
No. 3 AGH, Lemnos Island

Disease outbreak at Gallipoli

4. “Epidemic jaundice”

Became frequent from Sept. to Nov.

No cause found

Was it Hepatitis A (Infectious hepatitis)

5. Other infections

e.g. Mumps, measles, scarlet fever,
diphtheria, meningitis, influenza.

6. Vitamin deficiencies

Scurvy (lack of vitamin C)

Beriberi (" " " B1)

Disease outbreak at Gallipoli

7. Dental problems

Dental caries & pyorrhoea very prevalent
No Aust. dentists (Two from N.Z.)

A.G. Butler: *"Civilized man is largely dependent on artificial dentition."*



Diseases which did not occur:

- Cholera (partially due to vaccination)
- Malaria (endemic on the peninsula)
- Trench fever (rickettsial infection)
- Scabies

Surgery at Gallipoli

Region of body.	Total wounds and accidents.	Total died from wounds in medical units.	Mortality rate per cent.
Head (including scalp) ..	2,120	381	17.9
Face	1,346	76	5.6
Neck	398	28	7.0
Chest	1,104	159	14.4
Abdomen (all) ³⁹	736	287	38.9
Perineum ⁴⁰	90	9	10.0
Back	1,367	107	7.8
Upper extremities	6,323	122	1.9
Lower extremities	7,663	302	3.9
Unclassified ⁴¹	433
	21,580	1,471	6.8

Reference: A.G. Butler, *Official History of the Australian Army Medical Services 1914-18.*

Vol. 1, p. 471



Medical Officers of the AAMC and the RAMC following a lecture by Sir Victor Horsley on "*First Aid in Head Injuries*" given at Gallipoli on 5th October 1915.

Anzac Medical Society

- Intended for professional development & unity.
- Inspired by a lecture by Sir Victor Horsley on the effects of gunshot wounds to the head.
- Convened by Colonel Neville Howse
- Lecture based on direct personal observation and not necessarily on conventional teaching.
- Topics: - *Pre-evacuation wound management*
 - *Lice*
 - *Jaundice*
- First meeting held on 7th November despite shells flying over the tent.
- Fortnightly meetings & minutes kept.
- 86 doctors attended on 21st November.
- 5 attended on 19th December.
(*The day before last troops evacuated.*)



Drs. Howse &
Horsley at Gallipoli

MEDICAL JOURNAL of AUSTRALIA

Editorial - 22 April 1916

“ Men who are capable of founding a debating society under such conditions as those which obtained at Anzac, and of conducting the meetings with the whistling of bullets and shell in the air, are men of whom Australia can be proud. They are born to do great things.”

Conclusion...

- 270 doctors served at Gallipoli or on Lemnos
 - Less than half on the peninsula at any one time
 - 13 doctors were killed or died in 1915
 - 16 more died later in WW1 or WW2
 - Treated 19,441 wounded plus 1985 who later died from wounds
 - Cared for 63,649 sick of which 569 died
 - Many suffered from the same diseases
 - Two (2) awarded DSO, Three (3) Military Cross and 34 Mentioned in Despatches
 - Many took up leadership roles in the post war years
- All received the gratitude of the soldiers they had cared for.**

