

Papers of Colonel J.E. Squire, A.M.S. (V)

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A WEEK'S TRAINING WITH THE
MEDICAL STAFF CORPS AT
ALBUQUERQUE.

With the defection of the 32 Division of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps left England on the evening of Friday, August 15, it is expected to have a good week's training in Italy before making on such a complete tour as they have prepared for there. At Albano the headquarters of the Medical Staff of the British Army—much was to be expected, as the representatives of the only British Volunteer Medical Staff Corps Institute organized in America were not disappointed.

[illegible]

Monday, the first day of the week, the whole church was filled with excitement. The services seemed to follow in the footsteps of the previous week. The spirit and enthusiasm were the same. The choir, the organ, and the congregation all seemed to be in the same mood. The services were held in the same place, and the same people were present. The same music was played, and the same prayers were said. The same people were present, and the same spirit was there. The same people were present, and the same spirit was there. The same people were present, and the same spirit was there.

At the first people the London company was not interested in. They thought that the market was kept on the side of the "big" company. The first company was not interested in. They thought that the market was kept on the side of the "big" company. The first company was not interested in. They thought that the market was kept on the side of the "big" company.

Some of the work had, of course, been pre-
tended before, but the drill with mock
miners, watchmen and railway workers,
a few, it was said the formation of a
Tread Arrow kitchen, when the non-com-
munist officers and fire men are employed,
generally take their leave to not say, but
plenty of willing hands it was really for one
and a half hours, and capable of meeting
200 men.

[illegible][illegible]

On Friday the night was again uneventful, the start by the 21st Airborne V.M.C. was to the 1000 ft. level. The next day was a day of training in action. The training consisted, with some, and I was going on the backs of the machine. 25 divisions was this time attached to the

stars, but they differed greatly in the actor's engagement. They were considerably difficult in knowing lines to which the frequent pauses, and the long intervals between scenes, were a great help. The first party told the heroes in Dutch, so each of them had to learn the lines in Dutch. The second party, however, was told the lines in English, and some lines after "come here" assumed. The third party, however, was told the lines in English, and some lines after "come here" assumed. The third party, however, was told the lines in English, and some lines after "come here" assumed.

and soon he was the top line man in the world's leading. It would have been difficult to have done more in the time. Inside the actual intervention, a standard of efficiency for others to work up to. In the evening the atmosphere of the dinner gave a glimpse to which the arrangements were consistent, and the interview soon proved a great success. Finally we saw a brief day, getting ready for departure. There were a few more interviews, and a meeting with another at 10.30 a.m. for the transportation by the emergency services. The day was closed with a meeting with the emergency services, and the day was closed with a meeting with the emergency services, and the day was closed with a meeting with the emergency services.

[illegible]

passed out of the body, and have not been found ; their fellows were conical revolver-bullets. In the case of David Garner, aged 26, the entrance wound is on the inner side of the left thigh, five inches below Poupart's ligament, close to the inner side of the femoral vessels ; the aperture of exit is situated quite posteriorly, three inches below the gluteal fold. A probe introduced into the aperture of entry passed upwards and away from the femur for two or three inches, and no bone could be felt ; when introduced into the back wound, it passed for about the same distance, and no communication was detected between the two wounds. The use of the limb remains unimpaired. The patient struggled with the burglar for some time after receiving the wound, and can now freely flex and extend the

They have paraded twice, first as a battalion and then as a company, at Wimbledon Camp. In Hyde Park and at the Health Exhibition the public have had an opportunity seeing the kind of work meant to be done. On Friday last, the corps paraded before the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne in St. George's Barracks, Trafalgar Square. The students, to the number of 70, appeared in uniform, the same as that worn by the Army Hospital Corps. There are now about 350 men in training, but the process of getting into uniform is slow, owing to each man having to provide his own. The proficiency of the corps is excellent ; and under the command of Mr. Cantlie, with Dr. Squire as adjutant, it is well handled.

from the attacking force.

Just as the firing began, after the mid-day halt, No. 2 Bearer Company, formed of the newly-enrolled Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, came upon the field and at once, with quiet precision, made their arrangements to perform the duties which might be required of them in war. They had marched from Newick, and on reaching the foot of the Downs had been compelled to make a long *détour* towards Lewes before they found a road up which the heavy Commissariat and Transport Corps wagon containing stretchers and surgical stores could be drawn. This company, under the command of Surgeon-Major Norton, 12th Middlesex, numbered three officers, four sergeants, and 39 stretcher bearers. For practice certain members of the company were placed at various points along the line of fire with tickets indicating the nature of the injuries they were supposed to have received, and very soon a knot of deeply-interested and, until the nature of the proceedings was understood, sympathetic spectators gathered round each of the carefully-tended and bandaged subjects. No. 1 Bearer Company, commanded by Surgeon Cantlie, was with the attacking force.

loyalty, often going beyond mere words, and proposing to present large sums of money to the Government.

Mr. Grant Duff, presiding at a meeting in Devon College, on Wednesday last, expressed his views on the situation. He said that he had fully hoped, and now believed, that we should not have war on this occasion. There might be wars in the future, as there had been in the past ; but when war was so near as it had seemed to be recently, it was delightful to see England spring to arms with the same alacrity as in the time of the Spanish Armada. There were never more persons averse to war than now and never had those persons so strong an influence on the Government ; but at no time had we been so well prepared at all points.

(BY TELEGRAPH.)

ST. PETERSBURG, APRIL 2.

It is reported that troops are now moving from the south in the direction of the Transcaspian.

tioned near Saratoff it is

Edward Squire.

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JANUARY, 1886.

WITH THE SUAKIM FIELD FORCE
1885.By J. EDWARD SQUIRE, M.D., Lond., M.R.C.P.
AN OLD L.I.C.*(Lately Senior Medical Officer of the Red Cross
Society, with the Forces).*

You will remember the excitement which was felt all over the country when the fall of Khartoum was announced, last February, and the enthusiasm with which the sending of an expedition to Suakin, to open the Suakin-Berber route to Khartoum was received. Among the many offers of men from all parts of Great Britain and the Colonies, was the offer of a Bearer Company fully equipped from the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps. We had no difficulty in getting sufficient men, for, in less than a week, more than the number required had sent in their names; and, in the event of their services being accepted by the Government, I was asked to take the command.

This offer of organized help from the Medical Students was much appreciated by the authorities, but sufficient men were already prepared for the requirements of the force. The National Aid Society were at this time preparing to send out medical officers and stores, and I received a request from their commissioner that I would go out for the Society. This was quite a different matter to going out with a Bearer Company, and at first I refused the offer. This was the first occasion in which this society had worked with a British force, although it had done much good service in Continental wars,

and it was thought that there might be a difficulty in arranging for civilians to work with the military medical men. The society therefore wanted some one with some small knowledge of Army medical organizations, to arrange how their surgeons might best work in with the medical arrangements of the force, and I was persuaded to go. I accordingly left England on March 6th as Senior Medical Officer to the National Aid Society at Suakin, travelling overland with the Society's Commissioner.

The last few days in England had been fully occupied in arranging what medicines &c., were to be taken out and in getting my kit: which, of course, had to be specially adapted to the climate of the Soudan. We were requested to wear Kharki clothing, similar to that worn by the troops, and appliances to protect against sand and flies, such as veils, goggles, &c., were necessary.

Considering that it was my first campaign I was wonderfully pleased to find that while I had hardly any things that I did not require, there were very few that I did want that I had not taken.

The chief omission was one which would, I think, never strike a novice, namely a couple of pillow-cases. The continual state of perspiration in which we were day and night, made my feather pillow so damp that it was not dry when I got home, and a clean pillow case would have been a great comfort. I also forgot to take a portable bath, but fortunately I got one lent out there.

The journey to Brindisi is so well known that there is no need to say anything about it, though however many times one may go over this route it could never be wearisome. Through the greater part of France there is certainly a flatness, which begins to tire, especially in the train, but as the train nears the Alps the scenery makes one forget the fatigue of travelling. On either side of the Mount Cenis tunnel, snow was lying thick close to, and even some distance below, the line, and it was intensely cold. All down Italy we had bright sunshine, making a pleasant change from the cold we had left in England, and we spent most of our time on the

platform of our Pullman car, which was at the rear of the train, looking at the blue Adriatic on the one side or the hills on the other. At every station where we stopped the people crowded round our carriage, to see the English officers going to the Soudan, though the majority had gone some days before we left.

At Brindisi we found the P. & O. vessel, *Lombardy*, waiting for us with the usual line of deck chairs with their noisy vendors, although it was past midnight.

We had a lovely passage to Alexandria, enlivening the voyage by a concert one evening in aid of the Princess of Wales' branch of the N. A. S. At Alexandria we were in the midst of new and strange sights. Dirty Arabs in blue gowns and turbans, Egyptian soldiers in white uniforms and fez, and everybody making as much noise as possible, while the passengers who were going straight through the Suez were getting into the train which was waiting on the quay. As Mr Barrington had some business in Alexandria, I went for a drive with the ship's surgeon through the town, and I shall never forget the scene in the streets. Amongst the crowd of people of all shades of colour and in all kinds of garments, none were more striking than the women in their dark blue costumes with their faces hidden by the *gasmack* and many of them riding donkeys, sitting across men's saddles and with their knees almost to their ears. In the midst of all these Orientals was Tommy Atkins in his red coat, looking as much at home as if he were in Portsmouth or Aldershot. The Grand Square is still half in ruins and the town still shows many signs of the destruction of 1882. ~~Stopped at gate from Docks by customs.~~ After one night in Alexandria, we took the train to Cairo and during the journey became aware that there is much sand in Egypt. Everything was one colour when we arrived at Cairo, from a thick coating of sand accumulated in our five hours' journey. All along the line we passed strings of natives, recalling the biblical pictures of the Magi, &c. Camels shuffling lazily along, tied one behind the other; or a poor donkey already well laden before the master got on its back, while the woman following on foot had a heavy load to carry in addition to her baby.

At every station dirty children with flies sticking as close together as they could hold round their inflamed eyes called loudly for backsheesh, but never brushed away the flies; while men and women walked up and down the platform shouting 'moya' and selling water to the dusty travellers.

The railway journey to Cairo was very interesting, as all was strange. First the groves or palm trees and big houses near Alexandria; then the mud hovels of the native villages and curious groups of natives, on foot or riding donkeys and camels; often the man riding and his wife walking and carrying the luggage. The natives are very dirty, and covered with vermin; their hovels are filthy square mud boxes, with only one opening, the door; no window; it is a wonder how they can live at all. The journey was awfully dusty; men came at each station with feather brushes to clear the seats of the carriages. We passed through some of Arabi's earthworks left since the '82 campaign. Nearer Cairo the vegetation gets thinner, and in the distance sand-hills are seen—the edge of the Desert; at the foot of these, Cairo is built. I called on Goodall Bey, the Khedive's private secretary, at the Palace, and was most kindly received, quite in the Oriental manner. Next day I went over the citadel and hospital with Surgeon-Major Beatty. I was much struck at Cairo with the "runners" that precede each private carriage of importance; they run about five yards in front with a long stick, shouting to other carriages, &c., to keep out of the way.

At last we got in right of the desert and soon arrived at Cairo, where we put up at Shepherds'. My first morning was spent in looking over the Citadel hospital, which was the palace of Mehemet Ali. From the Citadel you can see the pyramids standing up in the desert, about nine miles off. I intended visiting them in the afternoon, but the Kamsin or hot wind from the desert sprang up and I concluded to wait till the next day. However, I was disappointed, for in the afternoon I got an order from General Stevenson, commanding the troops in Cairo, to proceed at once to Suakin with a mule battery of the Royal Artillery, which was leaving for Suez at six o'clock.

At the station I found the mules were all in the train, and we were soon off, leaving civilization behind for a while.

The men were in open trucks and I think were better off than we were in a stuffy carriage, but the officers of the battery had not forgotten the grub hampers, and we made a very decent dinner of sardines and potted meats. At Zagazig we stopped to give the men coffee, and then again on our slow journey, rolling ourselves up in our coats and getting some sleep.

We arrived at Suez at four a.m. and after waking up the people on our transport, which was lying alongside, we got on board. Then began for the soldiers about the hardest Sunday's work I

have seen, getting the mules on board. The men of this battery were all big fellows and tackled the mules wonderfully. At last we got our complement of 300 mules on board, and left harbour at about five p.m.

The voyage down the Red Sea was uneventful but for comfortable travelling I cannot recommend a ship full of mules, for they seem to start a quadrille every night, just as you are getting to sleep and to keep it up till morning, when they look as innocent as ever.

On our way down the Red Sea I and the surgeon of the battery put the men through some ambulance drill, to prepare them for emergencies.

The British soldier in his fighting dress of Khaki is a very different figure from the same man at home, all looks like work and there is nothing left for show. Our fellows were very anxious to be in Suakin before the 20th of March, as we had heard at Cairo that the first big fight was to take place on that day.

On the morning of the 19th when we got on deck, we were inside the reefs and could see the shore plainly, and such a shore! A stretch of sand dotted over with low bushes and bounded by some hills about 10 miles inland. No sign of life anywhere.

As we approach Suakin we could make out the masts of the ships in harbour, and a moving cloud of dust on the desert towards Hasheen, shewed us that our troops were out. They were making a reconnoissance in preparation for the fight next day. Outside the harbour we came to; waiting for the pennant to be lowered from a gunboat inside, as our signal to enter. During the night we had overtaken the troopship *Clyde*, but while we were waiting she came up and entered the harbour without waiting for signals and got in first after all. After waiting impatiently for some hours, we saw the welcome launch bringing the naval officer whom we expected to take us in, but to our disgust we got orders to go down to the Southern Anchorage till the morning.

Suakin, from the sea, looks quite a fine town—that is, when you are far enough away—the principal houses are built of white stone and with a number of large ships in the harbour, the effect was imposing. The town is built on an old coral reef and the stone used for building purposes is all coral. The harbour is large, and deep enough for big vessels quite close to the shore, but the channel by which it is entered is narrow and S shaped, making it difficult to navigate. The whole coast is fringed with reefs.

On the morning of the 20th we got away from

the anchorage and entered the harbour. The men and mules were landed in horse-boats and I went on shore in a "dug out" to report.

The "dug out" or native canoe is simply a tree trunk hollowed out and sharpened at each end, making a narrow round bottom boat which gives one the impression that it will upset with very slight provocation. Where they get their trees from is what puzzled me, for besides a few palms in Osman Digna's garden the only tree visible from Suakin was a fig tree between the two water forts. The native boys manage these canoes very skilfully with their clumsy paddles.

As soon as a ship arrives some these native boys come alongside in their canoes and howl for backsheesh. The boys are black with pleasant faces and fuzzy hair in a tuft, the rest of the scalp being shaved; almost all are marked with three long scars on the cheek. Their whole clothing is a white loin cloth, which they soon unwind and they take to the water like ducks, diving for coppers which they catch before they reach the bottom.

On landing I asked for the principal medical officer, with whom I had orders to discuss and arrange how we could best make ourselves useful. Two N. A. S. surgeons had come out in the Hospital ship *Ganges* and had already arrived, and a fourth was to follow.

I had landed on Quarantine Island and the appearance of the whole place was strange and warlike. Tents pitched as close as they could be, wooden huts for the navvies, piles of stores of all descriptions, being packed on railway trucks or camels, or being stacked by the side of the line. This was done by groups of natives, who accompany their work with a sing song, while the leader stands on the top of the bales and keeps time by clapping his hands and leads the song. Here you saw a detachment of Egyptian soldiers, or again a gang of Indian soldiers or coolies, all hard at work. Looking inland there was the long stretch of sand bounded by a range of hills about 10 miles away, and dotted over in the fore-ground with the white tents of our camp, and one or two small redoubts. Just across one arm of the harbour was the town of Suakin.

I enquired for the principal medical officer and was directed to a tent which I entered, and was soon asked to tell my business.

As Surg.-Gen. Barnett was out with the force I signed the arrival book, and then went back to my ship to wait till morning, but hearing that an engagement (Hasheen) was going on I went back to the Island and asked the senior medical officer therefore, permission to go to the Base Hospital, and assist in dressing any

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wounded who might come in. "What! to-day?" he asked.—"Why not? I came here to work."

This settled my difficulties, for, saying he liked the way I set to work, he offered to do anything he could to make me and the other N. A. S. surgeons comfortable.

On my visit to Dr. Barnett next morning I was given a warm welcome, and after half an hour's pleasant conversation, it was settled that the surgeons of the N. A. S. should be treated the same as the medical staff officers, and that we should do the same work, orderly duty and all. This offer to do the drudgery as well as the medical part of the work pleased the Army men, and we soon found ourselves treated in all respects as officers of the medical staff for the time.

I was at once posted to the Base Hospital with orders to report myself there on the next day, March 21st. Here I met again with a hearty welcome and soon made myself at home. I was to share a tent with one of the medical officers, who unfortunately spoke such broad Irish that it took me several days before I could understand him.

We had an ordinary bell tent between us which we found rather hot, the temperature inside being one morning, soon after I got there, 102° F. However, we had a promise of a square tent as soon as more could be obtained.

The Base Hospital to which I was attached was posted at H redoubt. (*Medical Press April 22, page 353*).

The Camp was surrounded by a wall of coral blocks with a trench outside, and the redoubts occupied one corner. There were two Krupp guns at this corner and at night the men forming the camp guard were posted in couples all round the walls, sleeping at their posts with their rifles resting against the wall ready for immediate use.

During the night we were occasionally waked by the sound of firing, and I confess it took me some little seasoning to get to sleep again before the firing stopped. It was no good getting up as you were safer lying still, and the more people moving about the camp the more chance of being hit, so I lay still and got to sleep again.

My tent companion always slept with his loaded revolver under his pillow and expressed his determination to fire without challenging at anyone showing himself at the tent door, which was awkward, considering I was often called up at night to my patients. My revolver was always handy but I never had occasion to use it.

I was posted to No. 3 division, and had plenty to learn in the way of paper work, and the routine of a military hospital.

Some of the wounded from the fight at Hasheen were in the hospital, and we had not long to wait for more, for on the 22nd March. (Sunday) occurred the memorable fight at the Zareba (To Frik). From the top of the redoubt we could tell that a heavy fight was going on. We could see the smoke and flashes of the rifles and could plainly hear that it was independent firing, which after a time settled down to the roar of volleys. Then we saw men galloping in as if for their lives, and as one passed us we asked for news. His answer was "all cut to pieces" and we knew that if this were true we should soon have the enemy on the camp. All was therefore prepared to give him a warm reception, and we could see the guards marching out to reinforce the Zareba.

But a welcome message by heliograph stating that the Zareba was all right brought them back into camp.

Grenfell—separated from his horse in the scrimmage and had to run. Davis got a hatchet and layed about him. A Cavalry officer lost his horse by a spear, ran till dead beat and sat under a bush with his revolver, found by Indian cavalry, and mounted, but bolted into a lot of Arabs. Saddle twisted, and both off, but ran into square. Birch, M. I., looking through glass. Revolver unloaded and sword blunt. Set on by six men. Wounded, but kept the spear.

We knew we should have a large number of wounded in soon, so got ready.

At about six o'clock the first dhoolies arrived, bringing in three wounded, all engineers, two sun-stroke cases and three dead bodies, the latter having fearful wounds (*see Lancet*). One man had to be operated on at once and I gave the anaesthetic. We did not get our dinner till half-past eight after attending to our new patients.

So far we had no mess tent and had to feed in the open, but soon we got the top of a tent, the sides being dispensed with, for the sake of air, and this made a good mess tent.

Our daily routine at this time was as follows: up at five, when we had a cup of tea in our sleeping suits. Then we dressed and had breakfast at eight after which the morning work in the wards. Lunch came at half-past one, and in the afternoon we had a second visit to the wards. From afternoon tea till dinner we had to ourselves, except when on duty as orderly medical officer.

Dinner came at seven, and consisted of broth and stew, the latter sometimes being too tough to eat. Then we sat outside the tent smoking and singing till 10 when we turned in. As the weather got hotter we altered the time of the morning visit to seven o'clock and had breakfast at nine.

We lived almost entirely on bread and jam and potted meats, and our mess expenses were only about 1s. 3d. a day. Our drinks were coffee and lime juice.

On the morning of the 23rd we cleared out as many sick as possible in anticipation of the arrival of the wounded from the Zareba. This clearing out of the hospital which had to be done frequently, was done by sending the patients who could be moved down to the Auxiliary Hospital on Quarantine Island, or to the hospital ships in the harbour. The men who could not walk were carried down in dhoolies.

Each convoy of sick was accompanied by the medical officer next for duty. Those for the ships were taken from Quarantine Island in horse boats towed by a steam launch. One had to pick up a few words of Hindustani to manage the dhooli bearers, as they could not understand English.

About six o'clock the wounded came in. The arrival of a convoy of wounded by moonlight is a ghastly sight.

The long line of dhoolies file in noiselessly, and the bearers deposit the dhooli on the ground and squat beside it. Then the medical officers go round with an orderly carrying a lantern, and the curtain of the dhooli is lifted and the man's name and regiment is taken and he is then told off to a division. The ward master of the division (a sergeant) tells him off to a tent and he is taken off and put to bed. This convoy consisted of 65 wounded, many of them severe cases, so we had our hands full for a time, and we did not get to bed till near midnight. In preparation for the wounded, we had a large supply of beef tea made, and took it round in pails to distribute.

Next morning we began the operations, and amputated a thigh before breakfast. I was appointed administrator of anaesthetics to the hospital in orders, so had to be present at every operation, and was hard at work in the operating tent the whole day. I was orderly medical officer of the day, but never had time even to go round for meals. However, fortunately my appointment relieved me from ward work, while we were at dinner I was called to a wounded officer just brought in, and found it was one of my friends in the Marines, shot through the leg. The next day brought in another big batch of wounded, and I had to take a convoy down to *Ganges* before breakfast, to make room for them. We made up for the long tramp down to the Base, by getting a square meal on board the *Ganges* whenever we could, and this morning I got a regular good breakfast. The people on the

Ganges always lived as well as if they had been in a London hotel, so it was a great change for us to get a meal on board.

Up to this I had no servant of my own, but now I got an Italian, who had been found stowed away on one of the ships from Suez. His English was very scanty so we had to invent a new language made up of English, Italian, French, and practical demonstrations with boots thrown in. What with an Italian servant, an Arab groom and an Indian to flick away the flies and run messages, I had some difficulty in picking my words, but I got on very well.

The flies were a fearful nuisance, I never saw such a quantity as we had in camp. With flies, heat, sand-storms, and mosquitoes, we were not always comfortable. I had to move my tent once in the middle of a sand-storm. All my baggage, bed, &c., were taken out and the tent pulled down, and everything was half-an-inch thick in sand in no time. When a sand-storm occurred during meals, we had to eat bread and sand, sardines and sand and sand and jam, getting our life's "peck of dirt," all at one meal. It was not so hot now as it became before we left, but still we felt it rather warm. It was 90° F in the shade soon after the sun rose and got up to 98 and 99 during the day. Before I left it was considerably over 100, 114° F being registered in the shade. At night we lay outside our blankets, perspiring till everything was soaked, though for the first month after I got out, we were glad to get under the blankets for the last hour or so before sunrise.

One evening I had an invitation to dinner in the town. We dined at Adams' the chief restaurant in the town, and had a very good dinner, but the getting home again was not altogether pleasant. We had to walk through the beastly town, across the causeway, and then about a mile of sand to the camp. Every few yards we were challenged either in English, Turkish, Hindustani or Arabic, and some kind of answer had to be given quickly or a shot would be sent after you. Fortunately my companion spoke Hindustani or we might have been kept in the town all night, by the Indian Guard at the gate. The Egyptian sentries had a way of firing first, and challenging afterwards, and the Indians were said to fire very soon after the first challenge if it were not quickly answered, but we consoled ourselves with the thought that a man who fires off his rifle in so great a hurry is probably too funky to aim straight. I often had invitations to mess at the various camps, for I had friends in the Marines, Artillery and Guards, and soon made others in other regiments, but the difficulty

of getting back after dinner made me refuse most of these.

On Sunday the 29th March the Australians arrived. I was on duty so could not go to see them come in, but from the camp I saw them marching across the sand to their camp. They looked well in their scarlet, and got a good cheer as they reached the camp. You can imagine my surprise when I found that their principal medical officer was an old University house surgeon, and a great friend of mine—W. D. C. Williams. I sent him an invitation to lunch at once, and we saw a good deal of each other.

The Australians arrived in time to take part in the advance on Tamai, which commenced on April 2nd. The troops marched out part of the way and made a Zareba for the night, continuing their march to Tamai the next day.

We expected a stubborn resistance, but everyone was disappointed at finding the place deserted. Everyone looted what he could pick up, and the place was burnt.

We had one or two men wounded by long shots from the Arabs at a distance, but the enemy would not come near. This was almost the last of the fighting, till just before we left, and attention was turned to pushing on the railway. All the plant and materials for the railway were sent out in sections of five miles, that is to say, everything requisite for completing and working five miles of line was unloaded at the same time, so that successive lengths could be laid without delay. This was a very wise plan as it was impossible to give up more than one pier to the railway and this would soon have become blocked if several ships had to be unloaded before a start could be made. As it was, the railway never reached 20 miles, and out of the large number of transports which went out filled with railway plant only one I believe was unloaded. The rest were sent to the Southern Anchorage 10 miles off, where they remained till time to come home, without ever touching the cargo.

I don't know whether it was ever intended to take the line anything like all the way to Berber, but certainly at the end of four months it had not gone further than 19 miles, and this was certainly not for want of men or material. The number of Civil Engineers with nothing to do at Suakin must have cost a good deal in food and drink to say nothing of their pay, of two guineas a day for six months.

The navvies were a fine set of men physically, but were a great contrast to the soldiers in other respects. They were far better paid and better fed than the troops, but showed none of the patient endurance of discomforts and hardships

that was so marked in the soldiers. I never heard a grumble from a soldier, but the navvies were always at it. To see these big fellows, working under a tropical sun in the velvet or corduroy waistcoats that they wear when working on the railways in England, was astonishing, while alongside them were Coolies from India in next to nothing but their blue turbans. The sleepers were merely laid on the sand and the trains passing over the rails afterwards did the levelling. It had a most curious effect to hear the engine whistles especially at night; giving a taste of civilization to the desert. The most noticeable thing about the railway was its appearance of being only temporary, no chairs, no fish-plates. Even when the line was laid over gullies where there would evidently be a stream or perhaps a torrent during the rains, there was not even a culvert to let the water pass, and it looked as if the first rain would wash the line away.

Yet in spite of this appearance of a mere temporary railway the trucks and wagons had Suakin Berber Railway painted on in big letters. Before we came away I heard a suggestion from some junior officer to paint out the word Berber and substitute Otao—the furthest point reached. It was also proposed to put Lucas and Aird's flag on Quarantine Island at half-mast to designate failure, though it was not their fault. pro

I travelled to Handoub by railway one day to visit friends up there and see the country. We had to sit on open trucks loaded with rails, and toiled along at a rather slow rate. It was a very hot day and we had about an hour's baking over the desert before we reached our destination.

Handoub is just at the point of one spur of the hills about 15 miles North-West of Suakin. There was a native village here, but that was burnt—as the houses were only built in the usual way with sticks and matting. I found a regular platform at the Handoub station and heard that a station-master was appointed.

Our camp was close to the station, and well strengthened with wall and ditch. On a detached hill overlooking the camp were some Artillery guns; and wells had been dug for a supply of water for the animals just outside the camp.

The railway was laid a little further, but passengers were not then allowed beyond Hanboub. At the head of the railway were some troops to protect the working gangs and eventually a force was stationed at Otao, which was the furthest point reached. The railway was described as "starting from nowhere and going nowhere else."

Our life now began to get somewhat monotonous. Rumours of war with Russia and the

movement of the Suakin force to Afghanistan, were followed by rumours of a general return to England. At this time we were constantly getting half-a-dozen different reports in one day, all to be contradicted sooner or later. Now, Osman Digna had fled to the hills deserted by his followers. Now, he was dead; then, he was preparing a grand attack, and again he had sent a flag of truce. At last the rumours of return home began to be more definite. Lord Wolseley was at Cairo and was coming to Suakin, and we waited eagerly to hear what news he would give. At last he came, and we heard definitely that the force was to be withdrawn.

No one was sorry at the chance of getting away, but several were sad of the chance of being kept behind as a garrison when the rest of us left. At last the first definite order to embark came and the guards left us, only to be stopped at Alexandria which made us fear a countermanding of our orders home. When most of the regiments were gone, we got orders to close the Base Hospital, which was now left quite in the front; and, as we got rid of our patients, we struck the tents. At length, on May 26th, we had sent away all our cases, and nothing was left of the Base Hospital except the officers' tents, and those of the M.S.C. detachment.

We looked quite deserted and wanted to be off too. I had not long to wait, for while I was writing my letters about 11 a.m. on the 27th, an orderly came from the P. M. O., of the Base, with an order for me to embark, in medical charge of the transport, *Saleham*, to be on board by noon. I did not grumble at having only half-an-hour to pack and get down to the Base; but, finding a mule cart just starting with another fellow's baggage, I packed in about five minutes, and was off. I picked up any knives and forks I could get from the mess tent, and crammed my things into my trunk, finding when they were on the mule cart that I had left out all that was hanging on the tent pole. However, I got down to the Base by noon, and I did not leave much more than a pair of boots and a flannel shirt behind. I found to my disgust that I had to bring home a load of navvies, and I felt myself rather strange when I found I had only a medicine chest on board, and had to do all my own dispensing. I found an old man-of-war's-man among the navvies, and made him my orderly, and he soon picked up some dispensing. The attempt to measure out powders in a high wind with the ship—which was a professional roller—rolling about 35° as I had to do in the Bay, was worth a picture in the Graphic.

I had several bad cases of enteric fever and

dysentery on board, and one of these I landed at Port Said, the remainder I was pleased to get safe to Plymouth, though from the condition of some of them, when I put them in the launch for conveyance to the Station Hospital, was such as to make it doubtful if they all got any further. On June 19th we anchored for the night in the mouth of the Thames, and next morning got up to the docks by eight o'clock. Having seen all the navvies off, I was able to leave the ship, and arrived home in time for a second breakfast, very pleased to get back after my four months' wandering.

Football.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE v. RICHMOND.

Played in the Old Deer Park on November 7, and resulted in a win for the visitors by two goals to a try. Mr. Ladell gained possession, and, putting the ball down when collared, dribbled over the line and scored the first point. The kick by Braun succeeded. From a combined rush of the College forwards, Mr. Tootell picked up and run in, Braun landing the ball between the posts. In the second half a try was obtained for the home team, the kick by Kell failing. Besides those already mentioned, for the College, Holman, D. Kell, and Catelin played well, while for Richmond, Hinds, Groome, Bailey, and Holdenstein were most conspicuous. Sides:

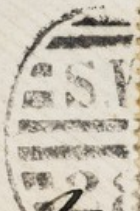
London International College.—P. Tootell, Esq., C. Pharazyn, R. A. Currie, E. Daubeny, C. W. H. Braun (captain), C. L. A. Kennett, S. Bullock, D. Kell, J. Schunck, forwards; A. Catelin, P. H. Illingworth, half-backs; P. Docker, H. R. Ladell, Esq., W. G. Holman, three-quarter backs W. M. Bond, backs.

Richmond.—A. Hinds, T. Lee, A. G. Werché, J. C. Groome (captain), A. C. Skinner, R. W. Poole, H. Hinds, P. Grain, A. H. Godfrey forwards; H. P. Prior, E. W. Martelle, half-backs; A. W. Kitson, C. B. Kell, J. Bailey, three-quarter backs; H. H. Holdenstein, back.

LONDON INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE v. BLACKHAETH.

Played at Spring Grove on November 28 and, after a stubbornly contested game, resulted in a win for the latter by one goal to nothing.

RAMC 967/3



J. E. Squire M.D. dond:
with the National Aid Society
Hospital Ship
Ganges
Egypt Suakin

14 Suffolk St

Ball-mall

London S.W.

April 24th
1885

My dear Annie

Many thanks

for your letter duly received.

We are progressing well

here, 1st about the appoint-

ment. I was gazetted

about ~~three~~^{four} weeks ago

Surgeon. Commandant

and Surgeon Lee, H. A. M. S. S.

Adjutant. The other

appointments to appear soon

are Surgeon-Major Squire,

Norton, Malt & Carson

Surgeons Millett Stephenson

Raw and Sutton. The

other four Surgeons I have

kept open pending events.

P.S. The copies were
enrolled
April 1st.
with kind
regards to
Maudy return

2nd We have taken Head Quarters
at 26 King William St^h
Strand next door to Theatre.
3rd We appeared
at the Brighton Review.

one Company No 1 under
myself. No 2 under Norton

We marched Friday &
Saturday had a good
time. some difficulties
with our Ambulance
waggons. we getting blocked
on a hill behind broken
clown transport waggons;
another had to have the
horses taken out and the
men pulled it up the
hill &c &c.

At the march Preston
did well. The Duke of
Cambridge rode up
after we passed, stopped &

and addressed us thus

"This is the new corps
newly enrolled I believe"

"Yes Sir" "How long have
you been enrolled" "Four

days" says I. "Good G-d
extraordinary" says he.

Elkington then said
"but these young gentlemen
have been working
hard for some time"

"They seem to have
been by their marching"
says H. R. H.

Cross who was instructor
at Aldershot, now
attached to the Grenadier
Guards. was P.M.O. of
the marching Column,
and acted as our C.O.
on Monday.

4th - When I sent to your name
for Surg: Major, I sent a

" letter with it saying you
were now in Egypt, but
that if any objection
was raised to your being
appointed from that fact
that you would be back
here in one month. I hope
I said right but I don't
think there will be any
objection on that score.

Poor Conolly my dear
friend died at Korti last
week of enteric fever. We
saw your name now &
again in the papers in
which you are always well
to the point. I shall send you
a clipping from the Gazette
with your appointment as it
is soon as it appears. We
shall be glad to see you back
as soon as you can. I saw Goodall
the other day in London he dined
with us. Yours very truly
James Cantlie

RAMC 967



HARRISON & SONS, London.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

No. of Message.

If the accuracy of an Inland Telegram be doubted, the telegram will be repeated on payment of half the amount originally paid for its transmission; and if it be found that there was any inaccuracy, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded. Special conditions are applicable to the repetition of Foreign Telegrams.

Dated Stamp of

N.B.—This Form must accompany any inquiry made respecting this Telegram.

Charges to pay £.....s.....d.

Handed
in at the

West End

Office at

12 10 .M.

Received
here at

12 21 .M.

Delivering Office

From

To

Canterbury
Charing Cross Hospital

Dr Squire
6 Orchard St

men go this afternoon at
four Prince of Wales to
be there



Field Force Orders.

21st March 1885.

The undermentioned details having disembarked
on the 20th inst. they are taken on the strength
Accordingly.

Staff

D. E. J. Squire M.A.S.

True Copy

A. Allan

Surgeon Major
M.S.

Extract from Field Force Orders.

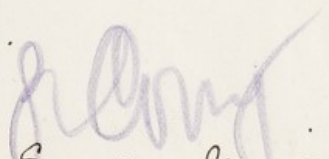
By Lieut-General Sir G. Graham V. C. K. C. B

Head Quarter Camp Suakim

21st March 1885

No 6. D^r L. I. Squire National Aid Society, will be attached to Base Hospital, where rations will be drawn for him

True copy.


Surgeon Major
M. S.



NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AID TO THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN WAR, LONDON.

The following RULES are issued for the guidance of Agents of the Society:—

1. Agents of this Society are selected, after a personal interview, by the Executive Committee in London. Candidates, who must be British subjects, are required to fill up the Form of Application, and should be prepared to undergo any examination which the Committee may deem advisable. The acceptance by Chief Agents, of the services, as Agents of the Society, of persons who have not, from whatever cause, personally applied to and been selected and commissioned by the Executive Committee in London, is strictly prohibited. A good colloquial knowledge of the languages of the Combatants is necessary for Surgeons. The professional qualifications of Medical Applicants are examined by the Medical Sub-Committee.

2. CREDENTIALS.—Each person selected as an Agent will, after signing a contract of service with the Society, be supplied with—

- (a) A Copy of the Rules for Agents.
- * (b) A parchment Certificate, signed and stamped with the seal of the Society.
- * (c) A Foreign Office Passport, *visé*, and bearing the seal of the Society.
- * (d) A Brassard, duly stamped.
- (e) A Cheque on account of travelling expenses.
- * (f) A Pay Certificate (to be produced on return to London).
- (g) Any special written Instructions.
- * (h) A Pocket Case of Instruments.
- (i) A Case containing Medicines and Surgical Necessaries.

} For medical men only.

3. UNIFORM.—Agents of this Society are in no case to wear any sort of uniform, or other than Civilian Clothing, with the Brassard issued by the Society.

4. PAY AND ALLOWANCES.—The travelling expenses to and from the seat of war will be paid by the Society, and an allowance to cover all expenses (except such as may be unavoidably incurred in travelling on the Society's service) of £1 *per diem* will be made for each day of service, that is, from the date of leaving London in the service of the Society. The Chief Agent of each establishment of the Society is authorised to issue, from time to time, pay to his subordinates, but such pay should be kept in arrear, as there should always remain a balance payable to an Agent on his personally reporting to the Society's Office in London his return from service abroad, and producing his pay certificate, and returning the above mentioned documents marked *. In case of a Special Outfit being necessitated, a written application for an allowance towards covering its cost may be made to the Committee on the Agent's return to London.

5. CONDUCT.—On arrival at the place to which they are commissioned, Agents should at once report themselves to, and await orders from, the Society's

Chief Agent there. On passing through any place where the Society has a Representative, Agents should report themselves to him, and show their papers and instructions. Any case of misconduct may entail the immediate removal of an Agent from the service of the Society. All suggestions relating to the Society's work should be made to the Chief Agent only, who will act upon them, if necessary, and transmit to the Executive Committee a statement of his reasons for adopting them. No one but the Chairman of the Executive Committee is authorised to make public communications, or to afford to any person information which may be publicly used, relative to the proceedings of the Society. The use by an Agent of the Society of knowledge which may in any way give intelligence to the opposing forces, will entail instant dismissal, the cancelling of the protection of the Red Cross, and forfeiture of all pay due. Unqualified medical students will act as dressers, and will obey the instructions of, and be subordinate to, any surgeon in the service of the Society.

6. REPORTS.—Chief Agents will make their Reports to the Committee as often as possible on every subject relative to the Society's work, for the information of the Committee. Heads of Hospitals and of Transport Service will fill up once a week the form provided for the purpose, and dispatch it direct to London—sending at the same time a duplicate to the Chief Agent of their district.

7. WOMEN NURSES.—Should they employ Women Nurses at the seat of war, preference will be given, first, to those available from the Staff in training under the auspices of the Society at Netley, or to those who have become qualified, and are on the Register kept by the Society for that purpose; second, to detachments of trained nurses, members of a Sisterhood, or otherwise under rule, offering service under their own Director or Superior.

By Order,

Geo. J. Stokes

Secretary.

5, YORK BUILDINGS, DUKE STREET, ADELPHI,

LONDON, 1885.

NOTE.—As the Society cannot, by its fundamental rules, engage in work during war, except with the approval and co-operation of Her Majesty's Ministers, its Agents abroad consequently enjoy, during a war, the full support and protection of the authorities of the Combatants.

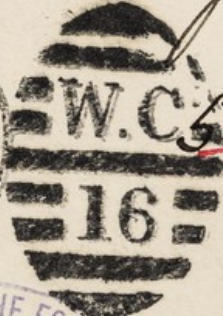
RAMC 967/7

52. Madely Road
Ealing



Surgeon

W. Colonel J. Edward Lewis



~~Calthorpe Street~~
~~Grays Inn Road~~
~~London~~



K.C.



THE ROYAL HOSPITAL

DUBLIN

Nov 1st 1899

Dear Sir,

I am very
grateful to you
and to the Corps, for
the honour you have
done me in asking
me to distribute
the Prizes, and it
would have given
me great pleasure
to have come amongst

you for this purpose.
I am sorry to say,
however, that my
time is so fully
occupied during the
winter months here
that it is hardly con-
possible for me to get
across to London except
for the most urgent
business, I must therefore

deny myself the
pleasure I should have
had in being with
you, on the occasion
of the distribution of
Prizes to your Corps.
and in presenting
the Prizes.

Believe me
Yours very truly
Robert

Surgeon M. H. J. E. & Co.

S U N G at ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S the GREAT - SMITHFIELD ON THE
OCCASION of the CHURCH PARADE of the LONDON COMPANIES R. A. M. C. V.
on the RETURN of the DETACHMENT from the S. AFRICAN (BOER) WAR - 1902.

-----60o-----

A T H A N K S G I V I N G H Y M N.

ALMIGHTY GOD , whom Worlds obey,
 Who lov'st the creatures Thou hast made
 And watchest O'er them night and day,
 To give, to all in peril, aid.

We, who have felt Thy loving care,
 And passed unscathed through dangers nigh,
 Assembled in this house of prayer,
 Raise grateful thanks to Thee on high.

Not only they who travel far
 From home and friends, by land or sea,
 Nor those who brave the risks of war,
 Owe thanks, for dangers past, to Thee.

In daily task and common round -
 E'en here with perils we may meet;
 Disease and hurt too oft are found
 In peaceful home or busy street.

Dangers unseen, both great and small,
 Surround us all till life is done;
 But He who notes the sparrow's fall
 Keeps loving watch o'er everyone.

So may we banish doubt and fear
 Though risk in duty's pathway lies;
 The certainty that God is near
 Will blot out all uncertainties.

 J. E. SQUIRE C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P.

LT. COL. & Hon.COL. Cdg. LONDON
 COs. R.A.M.C.V.
