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THE MEDICAL SERVICES IN PALESTINE, 1936.

BY MAJOR-GENERAL R. W. D. LESLIE, O.B.E.

THIS outline of the work of the Medical Services in Palestine during 1936 is perhaps chiefly of interest in showing in Phase I the stages of development of the different medical organizations which catered for the requirements of the gradually increasing force—culminating in the arrival of the 1st Division.

The operations in Palestine offered little or no scope for the tactical employment of medical units, and from this point of view interesting situations are lacking.

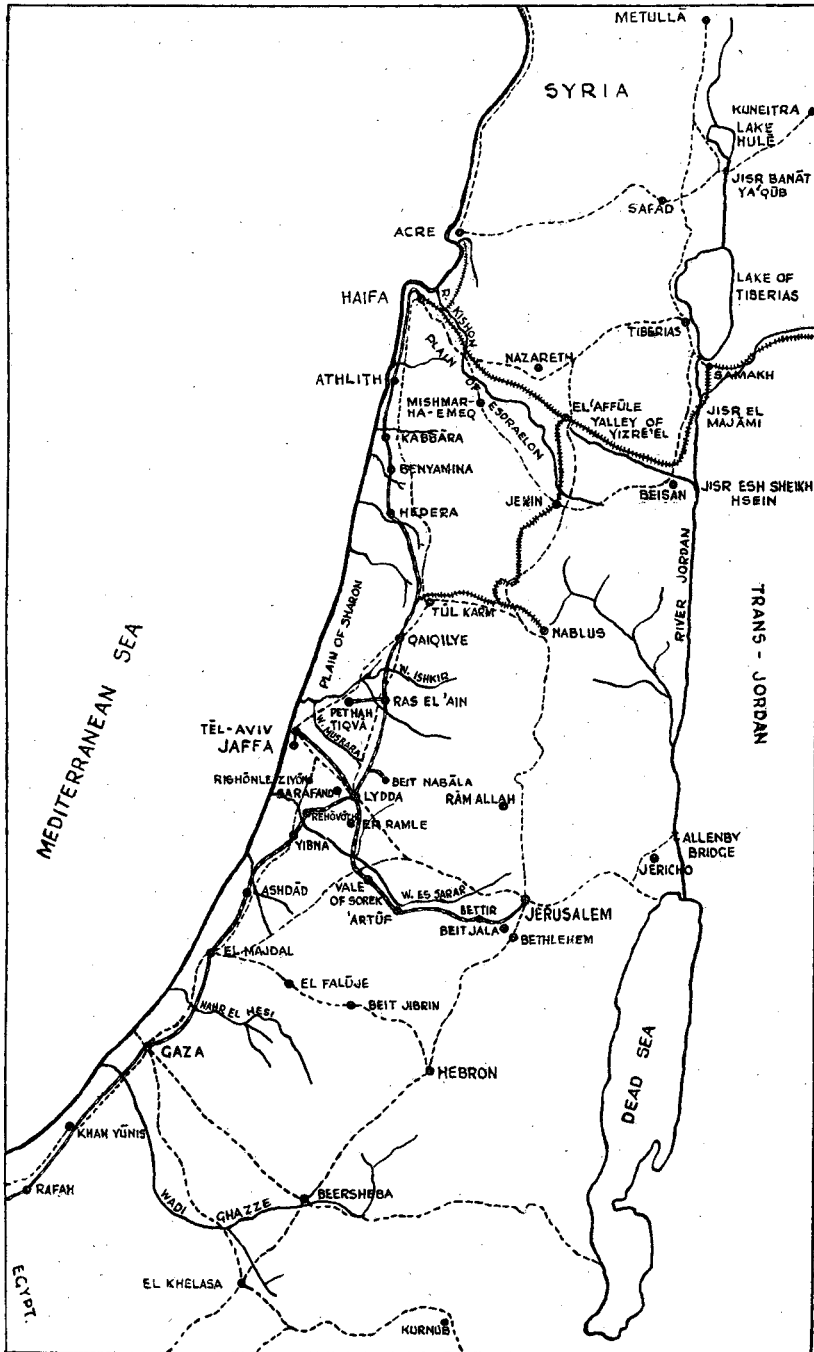
A brief description is given in Phase II of the reduction of the medical organizations which followed on the withdrawal of troops from Palestine and the establishment of a semi-permanent garrison.

PHASE I—CONSTRUCTION.

In normal times the British troops in Palestine, in addition to the R.A.F., consisted of two infantry battalions, one company of R.A.S.C., and a detachment of R.A.M.C. made up of two officers and twelve other ranks. These troops were under the orders of the Air Officer Commanding the British Troops in Palestine, but for administration and training they came under the General Officer Commanding the British Troops in Egypt. Of the two infantry battalions, one was stationed at Jerusalem and the other at Haifa.

The medical establishments consisted of the R.A.F. General Hospital

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at Sarafand with accommodation for 126 patients, and Reception Stations at Jerusalem and Haifa with accommodation for ten and eleven patients respectively. These reception stations were staffed by R.A.M.C.

The Chief Administrative Medical Officer was the P.M.O., R.A.F. Palestine and Transjordan.

In April, 1936, the Arab strike was declared, and by June the garrison in Palestine had been increased by six more battalions, one motorized cavalry regiment, two field companies R.E. and one company R.A.S.C. The Headquarters 15th Infantry Brigade was also moved from Egypt to Palestine.

To cope with this increase the R.A.F. General Hospital at Sarafand was expanded to take 216 patients, by utilizing verandahs and erecting tents, and the Reception Station at Jerusalem was increased from ten to thirty-eight beds by taking over adjacent barrack huts. In the same way the Reception Station at Haifa was increased from eleven to thirty-six beds. Extra personnel for staffing the reception stations was sent from Egypt. On June 26 extra huts were taken over by the Reception Station, Haifa, and accommodation provided for one hundred patients; the name then being changed to Military Hospital, Haifa. The staff of this hospital was increased to four officers and twenty-seven other ranks. Additional ordnance and medical equipment was supplied from Egypt where an Advanced Depot of Medical Stores was established.

As the situation in Palestine developed two more battalions arrived in July, making the total of infantry battalions ten. The R.A.F. General Hospital was then increased to 230 beds.

The 3rd General Hospital, with accommodation for 1,200 patients, had been sent to Alexandria during the Italo-Abyssinian emergency and was available for cases from Palestine, but although a certain number was evacuated to this hospital the journey was a trying one. Patients were carried in rail ambulance coaches attached to the ordinary Palestine-Egypt train which travelled very slowly on account of the danger of sabotage. Attendants and equipment had to travel in the coaches with the patients, and feeding arrangements were difficult to arrange.

One more battalion of infantry was sent to Palestine in August, but no further increase in medical establishments was made.

The Force in Palestine still remained under the orders of the Air Officer Commanding except for administration, which continued under the General Officer Commanding the British Troops in Egypt.

Early in September, owing to the threatening attitude of the Arabs, Corps Headquarters, the First Division from Aldershot and Headquarters 5th Division from Egypt were ordered to Palestine. Additional troops, including a Cavalry Armoured Car Regiment, one company of Light Tanks, R.A., R.E. and R.A.M.C. units were also despatched.

The whole Force then came under the orders of Lieutenant-General Dill as an independent command, although certain administrative details

still continued to be dealt with by Headquarters, British Troops in Egypt. For the administration of the Medical Services a D.D.M.S. was appointed assisted by a D.A.D.M.S. and a D.A.D.H. Each Division had its A.D.M.S. Corps Headquarters, Headquarters 1st and 5th Divisions and advance troops arrived at Haifa on September 23, and the remainder rapidly followed. Corps Headquarters and Headquarters 1st Division went at once to Jerusalem, but Headquarters 5th Division remained at Haifa as this Division was taking over the Northern Area.

The distribution of the Divisions was as follows :—

Northern Area.

Headquarters 5th Division	...	Haifa.
13th Infantry Brigade...	...	Nazareth, Tiberias, Safed.
15th Infantry Brigade...	...	Haifa, Acre, Mishmar, Hadera.
16th Infantry Brigade...	...	Nablus, Tulkarm, Jenin.
An Armoured Car Regiment at Jenin.		

Southern Area.

Headquarters 1st Division	...	Jerusalem.
1st Guards Brigade	...	Jerusalem, Beit Jala.
2nd Infantry Brigade	...	Jaffa, Sarafand.
3rd Infantry Brigade	...	Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron.

One motorized Cavalry Regiment was at Gaza with a Squadron at Beersheba,

An armoured train manned by the Royal Navy operated in the Northern Area.

Medical units allotted to the Force consisted of No. 4 Field Ambulance, the 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance, No. 3 C.C.S., No. 7 Field Hygiene Section, and No. 3 M.A.C.

No. 4 Field Ambulance arrived in Palestine from Egypt on September 17, and took over the Military Hospital, Haifa, with orders to increase it to 300 beds. This was almost completed by the time the First Division arrived. Accommodation was made for 150 patients in huts, the remainder in marquees. The situation of this hospital was not ideal, as it was right in the midst of the infantry units in the barracks, and lighting in the tents at night was inadequate—only hurricane lamps being available. As an emergency measure, however, it served its purpose.

Six members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S., including a sister-in-charge, were sent from Egypt to work in this hospital and their services raised the standard of nursing considerably.

The Field Ambulance had not all its personnel with it at Haifa as half "A" Company had been sent previously from Egypt to increase the staffs of the reception stations in Palestine, and a number of the personnel of "B" Company had been distributed amongst the battalions in Palestine as orderlies in charge of Medical Inspection Rooms. "B" Company men were, however, recalled, as the regiments had their own personnel for this purpose.

Of the other medical units allotted to the Division, the only one in Palestine was the Field Hygiene Section—also at Haifa. The 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance was still in Egypt and No. 3 C.C.S. was on the way from England and not due to arrive in Haifa till early October. A number of motor ambulances from No. 3 M.A.C. were already in Palestine but the Headquarters and two Sections (less vehicles mentioned) were in Egypt. The Headquarters eventually arrived, but this Motor Ambulance Convoy was never employed as a unit in Palestine.

The position as regards medical units in Palestine on the arrival of the 1st Division was, therefore: the R.A.F. General Hospital at Sarafand with accommodation for 230; the Military Hospital, Haifa (No. 4 Field Ambulance), with accommodation for 300; and the Reception Station at Jerusalem with sixty beds.

The Base Hospital for the Force was the 3rd General Hospital at Alexandria, and the method of evacuation by (a) Rail Ambulance Coaches; (b) Hospital Ship—the Royal Naval Hospital Ship "Maine" had been placed at the disposal of the G.O.C. Force in Palestine, but was not due at Haifa till September 29.

As the margin of beds available for casualties and sick was not very wide and H.T. "Nevasa," which had special accommodation for invalids, was arriving at Haifa with troops about September 24, it was decided to make use of her to evacuate patients to Alexandria on her return journey to the United Kingdom. Seventy-two cases were embarked on September 25, and sailed for Alexandria the same day. An Embarkation Medical Officer was appointed at Haifa, but as several hospitals were usually involved in an embarkation, the allotment of berths, preparation of nominal rolls, etc., were centralized at Corps Headquarters. Each hospital was ordered to send daily to Headquarters the number of patients awaiting evacuation.

When the Hospital Ship "Maine" arrived the alternate ways of employing her—i.e. as a carrier or base hospital—were carefully considered and it was decided to use her as a "carrier" at the outset. The reason for this was that as a hospital ship she could only take about 100 patients in cots; the rest of her accommodation being in three-tier berths, which would be unsuitable for nursing when the ship was stationary. As a hospital, therefore, she would not be able to relieve the situation to the same extent as a "carrier," and with the comparatively few beds available, this was important. Ambulance coaches were, of course, available in emergency, but it was thought better to evacuate patients in comfort by hospital ship rather than by a trying railway journey. 166 patients were accordingly embarked in the "Maine" on October 7, and she sailed for Alexandria the same date on her first trip.

The 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance arrived on October 9 with a strength of five officers, including a quartermaster, and seventy-five other ranks, and immediately proceeded to Nazareth under orders of A.D.M.S.,

5th Division, to open a main dressing station there in the Hospice Casa Nova to deal with light cases from the Northern Area and relieve the strain on the Military Hospital, Haifa. The ordnance equipment for this main dressing station was drawn from the Ordnance Depot at Haifa and included barrack bedsteads; while medical equipment was issued from the Military Hospital, Haifa. This enabled the Field Ambulance to keep its own equipment more or less intact and not lose mobility to any marked extent—an important consideration, as this was the only really mobile medical unit with the Force; the 4th Field Ambulance being occupied in staffing the Military Hospital, Haifa.

On October 12, No. 3 C.C.S. disembarked at Haifa and was transported to an Arab Industrial School, about seven miles from Haifa on the Haifa-Acre Road, with orders to open as a hospital there for 240 patients. This school had only just been built—in fact, it was still in the hands of the contractors—and owing to this there was some delay before this hospital opened, which was eventually on October 26. Meanwhile, an advance party had been sent by the 4th Field Ambulance to take over the Hospice Notre Dame in Jerusalem with a view to opening a 200-bedded hospital there when the casualty clearing station was established at Haifa; and on October 13 accommodation for fifty patients was available in the Hospice. These extra beds in Jerusalem were very welcome, as the sixty beds in the Reception Station there were insufficient to take the strain off the R.A.F. General Hospital at Sarafand.

The advance party from No. 4 Field Ambulance to start the new hospital in Jerusalem consisted of three officers, including a quartermaster and twenty-nine other ranks, R.A.M.C. The sister-in-charge and one other member Q.A.I.M.N.S. accompanied the advance party; four additional members arriving later. A matron and nine members Q.A.I.M.N.S. arrived with No. 3 C.C.S. and were temporarily employed with No. 4 Field Ambulance in the hospital at Haifa pending the opening of the new hospital in the industrial school.

The Force in Palestine now approximated to 22,000 and the total hospital accommodation in medical units in Palestine amounted to 580 beds of which over two-thirds were occupied. There were in addition the sixty beds for light cases in the reception station at Jerusalem and a few beds available in the Government hospitals at Haifa and Jerusalem—the latter had already been very helpful in admitting emergency cases unfit to move to Sarafand.

Casualties were mostly due to sickness, but a certain number resulted from encounters with Arabs. Fortunately the weather was excellent and the sick rate remarkably low.

On October 15 arrangements were made for the Hospital Ship "Maine" to take another convoy to Alexandria and 170 patients were embarked. Prior to this embarkation the vacant beds had fallen to just over 100. Steps were meanwhile taken to make up a complete ambulance train with

accommodation for 120 patients by utilizing the four ambulance coaches of the Egyptian State Railway and adding a kitchen coach and one for personnel and equipment.

This ambulance train being quite self-contained provided a much greater degree of comfort than ambulance coaches attached to the ordinary train. The coaches were ferried across the Canal at Kantara.

No. 3 C.C.S. opened as a Military Hospital, Haifa, in the Arab Industrial School on October 26, taking in ninety-one patients from No. 4 Field Ambulance which closed preparatory to moving to the Hospice Notre Dame, Jerusalem, to join the advance party. On the same date the Hospital Ship "Maine" made its third and last trip to Alexandria, embarking 140 patients, the majority coming from 4th Field Ambulance. This embarkation was timed to coincide with the closing of 4th Field Ambulance and opening of the casualty clearing station and so lessen the number of patients to be transferred from one to the other. The Hospital Ship "Maine," after arrival at Alexandria, had orders to proceed to Malta to resume her legitimate duty with the fleet, but subject to recall to Haifa at eight days' notice. It was felt that with the number of beds now available, and the presence of the ambulance train, there was no necessity to keep the hospital ship standing by; furthermore, orders had just been received regarding the withdrawal of some of the troops from Palestine, commencing with the release of all Section "A" Reservists and the 5th Division.

On October 27 the position of medical units in Palestine was as follows:—

The 4th Field Ambulance had opened the Military Hospital, Jerusalem, in the Hospice Notre Dame, for 200 patients; No. 3 C.C.S. had opened the Military Hospital, Haifa, at the Arab Industrial School for 240 patients; the R.A.F. General at Sarafand had accommodation for 230 patients, and the reception stations at Jerusalem and Haifa had reverted to their original accommodation of ten and eleven beds respectively. The 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance had accommodation for light cases in the Hospice Casa Nova, Nazareth. The total number of hospital beds, therefore, amounted to 670, which proved ample for the requirements of the Force, and except for a few special cases no further evacuation of patients to Egypt took place.

MILITARY HOSPITAL, JERUSALEM (HOSPICE NOTRE DAME).

The Hospice Notre Dame is a large three-storied building with a central block and two wings; the central block being entirely occupied by a church except on the ground floor. Half the accommodation on the first floor was reserved for the Fathers of the Order, but otherwise the whole building with the exception of the church was available for the hospital.

Owing to the fact that the accommodation consisted mainly of numerous small rooms, adaptation as a hospital was not easy, but on the ground floor the dining rooms, sitting rooms and vestibules made quite effective wards.

There was an excellent kitchen and a large dining hall connected by a covered way with the main building. Water from the Municipal Water Supply was good and adequate, and electric light was supplied from the main Jerusalem supply.

A good deal of preliminary work was necessary, such as the provision of heating, lighting and plumbing for the operating theatre; provision of a hand-operated lift from the ground to the third floor; provision of shelves and racks in pack store, linen store, medical stores, etc.

The annexes were good and modern in design, but some of the W.C.s had to be converted into bed-pan sluices. Baths were not sufficient, but this was overcome by converting some of the bathrooms into "showers-rooms." Sinks were installed in rooms used as ward sculleries and clinical side room.

All the rooms were already furnished but the furniture was cleared and stored in one of the partitioned off passages with the exception of beds, mattresses, bolsters and pillows and a few items likely to be useful in lieu of barrack equipment.

The accommodation was normally for 200 patients, but in emergency, this could be expanded to 240.

The more serious cases were put on the ground floor to avoid carrying up and down stairs as there was no lift—the hand-operated lift could only be used for small articles.

The portion of the Hospice used as a theatre block consisted of a dining room used as a theatre proper, and four small rooms which became respectively pre-operation room, sister's room, store room and sterilizing room.

The theatre was specially fitted with an operating light, scrubbing up sink and a general purposes sink.

A separate radiator system was installed with a William's Oil-O-Matic furnace which supplied hot water for the heating and washing. It proved very convenient and efficient in practice.

The disinfecter was a portable Manlove Alliott. Instruments were boiled in small sterilizers heated by primus stoves.

Ordnance and medical stores were received from Headquarters No. 4 Field Ambulance, Haifa, Ordnance Depots and medical units in Egypt and Palestine.

Except for the limited work which could be carried out in the clinical side rooms, special investigations were done in the Government Laboratory, Jerusalem, by arrangements with the Department of Health. X-ray examinations were carried out in the Government Hospital, Jerusalem, or at the R.A.F. General Hospital, Sarafand.

Sisters' quarters were in a wing on the first floor and R.A.M.C. personnel were accommodated on the second and third floors, where room was also provided for a N.A.A.F. Institute.

The officers messed and lived in a Pension close by.

A total of 15 officers and 478 other ranks were treated in this hospital and 52 surgical operations were performed.

There were two deaths, both from pneumonia.

This hospital was initiated and maintained entirely by No. 4 Field Ambulance until the phase of closing down commenced, when certain of the personnel as they returned to the Home Establishment were replaced by personnel from the 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance.

The nursing, cooking and general duties were very efficiently carried out and the general standard was high. The presence of members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. enhanced the nursing arrangements.

MILITARY HOSPITAL, HAIFA (No. 3 C.C.S).

The Arab Industrial School, Haifa, consisted of two large two-storied buildings with several smaller ones. The main building provided most of the hospital accommodation and also an excellent kitchen and large dining hall. The other large building formed the administrative block, dispensary, pack store, laboratory, etc. and provided accommodation for convalescents.

This school was more adaptable as a hospital than the Hospice Notre Dame in Jerusalem, on account of the many large well-lighted and ventilated rooms which made excellent wards.

Certain small structural alterations were, however, necessary and proper cooking apparatus had to be installed in the kitchen as this had not been provided. A Warren range, supplemented by oil cooking stoves, gave satisfactory results.

Most of the wards had an annexe but the native pattern latrines had to be converted to the European pattern.

There was a central hot water system and hot water could be procured from the annexes.

The room selected for an operating theatre was situated between the two main surgical wards and was fitted with special light, wash hand basins, etc. The casualty clearing station brought its own mobile disinfector which was housed in a specially constructed hut alongside the theatre.

A pathological laboratory was fitted up with special equipment sent from Egypt and a large amount of pathological material was dealt with.

The X-ray department ceased to function a fortnight after the hospital opened owing to a break down in the X-ray plant, but X-ray examinations were carried out at the Government Hospital, Haifa.

One hundred and ninety beds with equipment were taken over from the Military Hospital, Haifa (No. 4 Field Ambulance), when it closed down; the other fifty beds being casualty clearing station equipment.

The scales of medical equipment normally allowed for a casualty clearing station had been increased before No. 3 C.C.S. left England, but additional medical and ordnance equipment was drawn as required from Palestine or Egypt.

As already stated there was an advanced depot of medical stores in Egypt and the R.A.F. General Hospital had also a large reserve.

The disposal of sewage was by septic tanks originally intended to cater for 120 individuals. These, however, proved inadequate for the number of patients and personnel in the hospital and entailed a great deal of labour in the construction of special trenches and pits. The labour, however, did not fall on the personnel of the casualty clearing station.

The water supply was from a well which was pumped by an electric centrifugal motor pump into storage tanks on the roof of the main building. Owing to the comparatively close proximity of septic tanks to the well and the presence of pyocyanus found in the water on frequent examinations, chlorination was carried out.

Lighting was by electricity.

Sisters were quartered in a small modern house in the grounds, with two marquees in addition, but the latter were replaced by huts which were completed just before the rains broke.

R.A.M.C. personnel—officers and other ranks—were housed in tents near the main building, where tents for the N.A.A.F. Institute were also provided.

There was a railway siding about a hundred yards from the main building, and connected with it by a road specially made by the Royal Engineers.

Cases totalling 507 were treated and 79 operations performed. There were no deaths.

The same efficiency which marked the work in the Hospice Notre Dame, Jerusalem, was evident here, and the high standard of nursing reflected great credit on all concerned. The presence of members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. contributed much to the excellent work.

MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The troops were very widely dispersed and on this account an ambulance car was attached to each unit under Divisional arrangements. In addition there were ambulance car pools at Jerusalem and Haifa and the 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance had its own transport.

Casualties in any one action were comparatively few and in no instance was a mobile medical unit necessary; a sufficiency of motor ambulances being all that was required. Operations were confined to numerous patrols, convoys or small columns making local "drives."

Owing to the number of patrols and convoys it was impossible to furnish medical personnel for each, and regimental medical officers were, therefore, instructed to train as many men as possible in first aid and these, with the provision of first aid outfits, met the situation.

Casualties in action were taken to the nearest military, Government or voluntary hospital after receiving first aid. No difficulties arose in this respect.

Government hospitals were situated in Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa, Gaza, Nablus, Safed and Beersheba; and voluntary hospitals in Jerusalem, Haifa, Jaffa, Gaza, Nablus, Safed, Nazareth, Beersheba, Affuli, Tiberius, and Hebron. Every permanent police post was equipped with a first aid outfit and a stretcher.

Cases treated in Government or civil hospitals were removed to the nearest military hospital as soon as they were fit to travel.

In order to keep the distribution of the sick to hospitals as even as possible, normal routes were laid down as follows:—

In the Northern Area.—Sick from the 15th and 16th Infantry Brigades (except Nablus) were sent to the Military Hospital, Haifa. Those from the 13th Infantry Brigade were staged through the 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance at Nazareth. Cases from Nablus were evacuated to Jerusalem.

In the Southern Area.—Cases from the 2nd Infantry Brigade went to the R.A.F. General Hospital direct, and those from the 1st Guards Brigade and 3rd Infantry Brigade to Jerusalem. The unit motor ambulance was the usual method of transport, but the railway was used in certain instances.

If the emergency demanded it, cases could be transported by air, but as the main roads were excellent and hospitals comparatively close at hand, this method was rarely called for.

As in the cases of casualties in action, sick could also be admitted to the nearest civil or voluntary hospital in case of necessity; all unit medical officers being provided with a list of these hospitals. Certain outlying regimental units had a few beds for the detention of minor cases.

SPECIAL CASES.

The R.A.F. General at Sarafand had a limited accommodation for infectious cases, but as a rule these patients were admitted to the nearest Government Hospital. V.D. cases were concentrated at the R.A.F. General Hospital where facilities for special treatment existed.

Arrangements were made for eye cases to be treated in Jerusalem at the Ophthalmic Hospital of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. Patients were admitted if necessary, but the majority attended as "out-patients," being accommodated at the Reception Station, Jerusalem, if coming from out-stations.

An ear, nose and throat specialist was also available at the Government Hospital, Jerusalem, and the same arrangements for attendance were made as in the case of ophthalmic cases.

A consulting surgeon and a consulting physician for the military Forces in Egypt and Palestine were appointed. They remained normally in Egypt and visited Palestine as required. When their services were asked for, a special telegraphic code was adopted by which the degree of emergency was made known. In very urgent cases the telegram was

repeated to Headquarters, R.A.F., Cairo, to ensure a plane being in readiness to bring them to Palestine.

There were four dental officers with the Force including one R.A.F. dental officer at Sarafand. The A.D. Corps officers were situated at Jerusalem, Haifa and Nablus and the senior dental officer (who was provided with a travelling outfit) also visited some of the more distant stations.

There was no inspecting Dental Officer with the Force, but the Inspecting Dental Officer, Egypt, acted in this capacity.

HEALTH AND SANITATION.

The health of the troops on the whole was very good and with the exception of sandfly fever there was no marked incidence of disease. Troops in or near Haifa were the worst sufferers from sandfly fever, and troops guarding railway lines were specially affected as they were necessarily split up into small parties, and although nets and bamber oil were ordered for all sentries, supervision was difficult.

Malaria cases amongst the troops were relatively few owing, in no small degree, to the excellent anti-malaria work carried out by the Civil Health Department, and also to the fact that troops in the very malarious regions were few and for considerable periods at a stretch there were no British Troops in the Jordan Valley.

At one place on the coastal plain, Ras-el-Ain—the headquarters of the Jerusalem Water Supply—the incidence of malaria amongst the troops guarding the pumping station was very high, but when their huts were mosquito-proofed and personal prophylactic measures enforced a marked improvement was effected.

All troops were provided with nets and those going to known malarious regions were given prophylactic quinine.

Dysentery cases were also few in spite of the flies which, needless to say, abounded. The usual battery of lethal weapons, including fly-sprays, fly-papers, fly-traps and flaps were employed; and cookhouses, dining rooms, etc., were protected by wire gauze.

Ten yards of muslin for food protection were authorized for each company.

All officers and other ranks were fully protected by T.A.B. vaccine and although typhoid and paratyphoid are endemic in Palestine these diseases were negligible as far as the troops were concerned.

As regards conservancy, the fly-proof bucket system was in general use. The night soil was removed by contractors and buried, as incineration was impracticable owing to lack of fuel.

The disposal of sullage water in Palestine is a problem owing to the poor absorptive capacity of the soil, and this added to the difficulties of dealing efficiently with water from laundries, ablution benches and cookhouses.

Most of the troops were housed in billets which varied considerably, and included private houses, schools, stores and hotels. On the whole they were reasonably good and commodious.

Those for whom billets were not at once available were accommodated in tents, but as the rains were expected to break in mid-November efforts were made to have all troops in billets before then. This was not, however, managed and some troops had to move into hastily found billets when their camping ground was rapidly converted into a quagmire. Fig. 1 shows the appearance of a camp site on the second day of the rains.



FIG. 1.—A camp on the second day of the rains.

All men were provided with bed boards and straw palliasses; the boards being raised off the ground by trestles.

During the strike most battalions had men at posts (guarding railways, roads and water-works, etc.), which varied in size from half a dozen men to a company. Some were billeted, some in tents and some in bivouacs.

The wide dispersal of a unit made the task of the regimental officers none too easy.

Safe water in reasonable quantities presented no difficulty owing to the excellent work carried out by the Department of Health, in finding and utilizing new sources. In a few instances bathing was restricted until

a pipe line could be laid and showers installed; and one or two units carted the water from the nearest municipal well.

The water supply to Jerusalem, which was inaugurated early in 1936, is piped from springs at Ras-el-Ain about 40 miles away.

The rest of the water supply in Palestine comes from wells which are carefully supervised and examined by the Civil Department of Health.

Chlorination was rarely necessary.

PHASE II—REDUCTION.

This phase was to some extent a reversal of Phase I, but complicated by the fact that some of the R.A.M.C. personnel in Palestine belonged to Egypt (Normal Tour), some to Malta, and the remainder had come direct from England or from Egypt—after the Italo-Abyssinian emergency—and it required a good deal of adjustment between the medical units in Palestine to arrange the medical establishment for the final garrison.

The withdrawal of troops from Palestine commenced with the return to England of all Section "A" Reservists, and as No. 3 C.C.S. was almost entirely composed of this class they had to be replaced with personnel from the 2/3rd Field Ambulance and No. 4 Field Ambulance—the casualty clearing station at this stage had a good many patients in the hospital at Haifa and was not likely to close for several weeks.

The 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance at Nazareth was the first medical unit to close down, after which it proceeded to Jerusalem, where it was the intention to store the equipment, park the vehicles and reduce the personnel to a cadre. Many of the personnel had already been distributed to other units.

As the withdrawal of troops from Palestine proceeded, admissions to the Military Hospital, Haifa (No. 3 C.C.S.) and the Military Hospital, Jerusalem (4th Field Ambulance), gradually decreased, and on December 15 orders were issued for the two hospitals to close for further admissions and to transfer any remaining cases, as soon as they were fit to move, to the R.A.F. General Hospital, Sarafand; those from Haifa being sent by rail ambulance coach and those from Jerusalem by ambulance car. At the same time the Reception Stations at Jerusalem and Haifa were expanded to thirty beds each and equipped as small hospitals, the staff of each reception station including two members of the Q.A.I.M.N.S.

The R.A.F. General Hospital at Sarafand with the two expanded reception stations constituted the final medical establishments of the semi-permanent garrison of seven battalions and ancillary troops.

The 2/3rd Cavalry Field Ambulance with its cadre of twenty other ranks moved from Jerusalem to Sarafand where its equipment was stored and the vehicles parked.

The bulk of troops, including R.A.M.C., surplus to the semi-permanent garrison had left Palestine by December 21, but "rear parties" of the R.A.M.C. remained until January with No. 3 C.C.S. and No. 4 Field

Ambulance respectively to complete the closing down of these units, handing over buildings, etc.

The following table shows the casualties which occurred in encounters with the Arabs :—

			Killed	Wounded	Injured in action
Officers	3	19	—
Other ranks	22	92	19
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	25	111	19

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