

## *Correspondence*

From LIEUT.-COLONEL E. GREY-TURNER, M.C., T.D., R.A.M.C. (T.A.)

SIR,

The forthcoming celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Territorial Army prompts a question. Which is the senior Territorial medical unit? I venture to suggest that the 167 (City of London) Field Ambulance can claim this distinction.

In 1883 Sir James Cantlie, F.R.C.S., who was then a Demonstrator of Anatomy at Charing Cross Hospital, and an Assistant Surgeon (with the rank of Lieutenant) in the London Scottish Rifle Volunteers, formed the first Volunteer medical unit. It was entitled the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps, and was at first composed entirely of medical students, but in 1884 a "lay" company was formed from students attending the Birkbeck Institute.

On 1st April, 1885, the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps was officially gazetted and included in the Army List. Its constitution was described as four companies, with an Adjutant, Quartermaster and a Surgeon-Commandant ("J. Cantlie, M.B.").

In due course, units of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps were formed in other parts of the country, and the original unit in London became known as the "London Companies." Of these, three continued to consist almost entirely of medical students while two were composed of laymen. After a time the medical students comprising the medical companies transferred to the Officer Training Corps (presumably of London University). In 1906 the remaining companies became part of the R.A.M.C. (Volunteers), and in 1908 these companies provided the nucleus for one of the units of the new Territorial Force, the 3rd (City of London) Field Ambulance. The Commanding Officer, the Field Officers, the Captains and the senior Lieutenant of the new Territorial unit had all held commissions in the old London Companies of the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.

In 1922 the 3rd (City of London) Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. (T.A.), was merged with the 1st and 2nd (City of London) Field Ambulances to form the 167 (City of London) Field Ambulance, R.A.M.C. (T.A.). This unit therefore appears to be the present-day heir and successor of the original Volunteer Medical Staff Corps raised in London 75 years ago, and as such it seems to have a strong claim to be regarded as the senior medical unit of the Territorial Army.

I am, etc.

E. GREY-TURNER.

167 (CITY OF LONDON) FIELD AMBULANCE,  
R.A.M.C. (T.A.),  
57A, FARRINGTON ROAD,  
LONDON, E.C.1.

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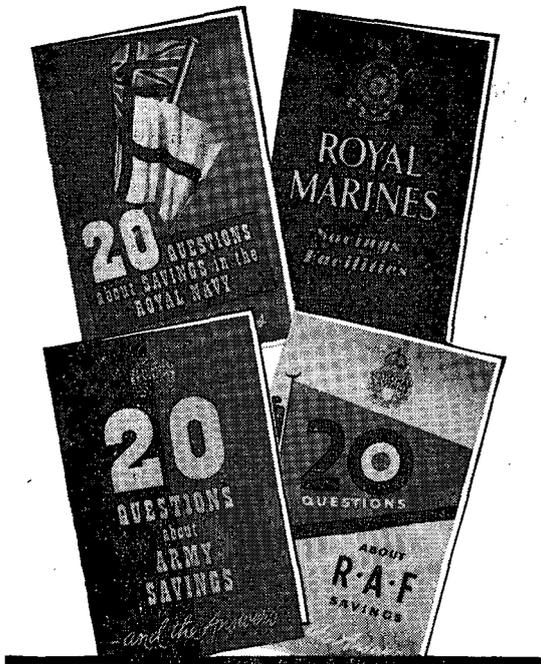
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*from the Chairman of*

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*Director-General, Army Medical Services*

*Frontispiece*

A MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY  
QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER  
ON THE OCCASION OF THE DIAMOND JUBILEE  
OF THE  
ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

CLARENCE HOUSE, S.W. 1

I am very pleased to be able to send a message of congratulations to the Royal Army Medical Corps on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee.

Since its formation sixty years ago, the Corps has served in every theatre in which the British Army has been engaged: in the South African War and in two World Wars, as well as in many smaller campaigns.

The record of gallantry is plain for all to see. Fourteen Victoria Crosses, two with Bars, and the award of a George Cross bear ample testimony of this.

The relief of suffering and the care of the wounded have called for a standard of skill and efficiency which has been acclaimed throughout the world.

These splendid achievements of the Corps have been brought about not only through the loyalty and devotion of its Regulars, but also by the Officers and Men of the Reserve and Territorial Army, and, more recently, by the National Service men. This combination of experience and initiative has greatly added to its proud record.

We must not rest on the laurels of the past, for the future holds a great challenge, a challenge which I know will be met, and I am confident that in the years ahead the fine traditions of the Royal Army Medical Corps will be most worthily maintained.

ELIZABETH R.,

*Colonel-in-Chief*

*June, 1958*

## COMPLIMENTARY

THE following messages have been received on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Corps.

*From Major-General W. D. Refshauge, O.B.E., Q.H.P., Director-General of Medical Services, Australian Military Forces.*

Congratulations and best wishes to all ranks Royal Army Medical Corps on the occasion of their Jubilee from D.G.M.S. and all ranks of Royal Australian Army Medical Corps.

*From Brigadier S. G. U. Shier, O.B.E., C.D., Q.H.P., Director-General of Medical Services, Canadian Army.*

I am delighted to extend on behalf of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps sincere congratulations to the Royal Army Medical Corps on its Diamond Jubilee. We value most highly the affiliation with our parent Corps and we are proud of your great traditions attained through valorous and glorious achievements. Our very best wishes for the future.

*From Lieutenant-General W. A. Burki, C.B.E., H.S.P., Director-General of Medical Services, Pakistan.*

I am delighted to extend sincere felicitations on behalf of myself and all ranks of the Army Medical Corps to the Royal Army Medical Corps on the auspicious occasion of their Diamond Jubilee.

These are the sentiments of old friends and reflect the high appreciation of the most helpful co-operation we have always received. We confidently hope that your future will be even brighter, and that our ties of friendship and comradeship will become stronger than ever before.