THE RAMC IN 1914

A Talk to the Friends of Millbank

Brig (Retd) Alistair Macmillan DL
Journal
of the
Royal Army Medical Corps

VOL. XXII
January-June 1914

Kegan Paul, Trench & Trübner, Ltd.
London and New York
Medical Officer 1914
RAMC Soldier 1914
RAMC CAP BADGE 1914
REGULAR AND TF SHOULDER TITLES
Sir Alfred Keogh
Sir Arthur Sloggett
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Station</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1, 2, 3</td>
<td>Aldershot</td>
<td>18, 35</td>
<td>London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 5, 21</td>
<td>Netley</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cosham</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Tidworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Devonport</td>
<td>22, 23, 24</td>
<td>S Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>York</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Bermuda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Colchester</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Ceylon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Chatham</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Hong Kong/S China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Shorncliffe</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Gibraltar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12, 34</td>
<td>Woolwich</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Jamaica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14, 17</td>
<td>Dublin/Curragh</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>India (Deolali)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Cork</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A, B, C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>RAMC Depot</td>
</tr>
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## RAMC Personnel Numbers 1914

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Officers</th>
<th>Other ranks</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>1090</td>
<td>Regular</td>
<td>3797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>Reserve</td>
<td>4937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Reserve</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>Special Reserve</td>
<td>1435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1467</strong></td>
<td><strong>10169</strong></td>
<td><strong>11636</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### However:

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>333</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>229</td>
<td></td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home</td>
<td>83</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>645</strong></td>
<td><strong>1300</strong></td>
<td><strong>1945</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR BEF** 9691
Field Ambulance

Marriage of Bearer Company and Brigade Field Hospital
3 per Infantry Division (ratio 1 per Brigade)
9 MOs, 1 QM and 224 ORs
A,B,C Sections, each with bearer and tented elements
10 Horse drawn Ambulances

Cavalry Field Ambulance (ratio 1 per Brigade)
5 MOs, 1 QM and 118 ORs in A, B Sections
6 Light Horse drawn Ambulances
17 Field Ambulance on Parade
Clearing Hospital 1914

Created in 1910
Lesson from Russo-Japanese War
Ratio of 1 per Division
7 MOs, 1 QM, 86 Other Ranks
Light and Heavy Divisions
No Transport
200 Beds
No QAIMNS until 1915
1915 becomes Casualty Clearing Station (CCS)
Stationary Hospital 1914

200 Beds
Ratio 2 per Division
7 MOs, 1 QM, 86 ORs
Initially no QAIMNS
No Transport
On the Lines of Communication, staging facilities
Stationary Hospital
General Hospital 1914

520 Beds
Ratio 2 per division
20 MOs, 1 QM, 143 ORs, 43 QAIMNS
No transport
Later doubled in size and some beyond that
Located at the Base
Ambulance Train

2 MOs, 45 ORs, 4 QAIMNS

33 Casualty Coaches each four stretcher frames which could accommodate 3 stretchers

Other coaches for staff, restaurant, supplies and ‘walking wounded’
Ambulance Train
# New Staff Nomenclature 1909

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DMS</th>
<th>Army</th>
<th>Surgeon General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DDMS</td>
<td>Corps/LofC</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS</td>
<td>Division/HQs</td>
<td>Colonel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DADMS</td>
<td>All HQs</td>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

October 1914

| DGMS      | GHQ              | Surgeon General (3*) |
BEF Medical Order of Battle Aug 1914

1 Division 1, 2, 3 Field Ambulance
2 Division 4, 5, 6 Field Ambulance
3 Division 7, 8, 9 Field Ambulance
4 Division 10, 11, 12 Field Ambulance
5 Division 13, 14, 15 Field Ambulance
6 Division 16, 17, 18 Field Ambulance
BEF Medical Order of Battle Aug 1914

1 Cavalry Division  1, 2, 3, 4 Cavalry Field Ambulance
5 Cavalry Brigade  5 Cavalry Field Ambulance

Army Troops
19, 20 Field Ambulance

Lines of Communication
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Clearing Hospital
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Stationary Hospital
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 General Hospital
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 Ambulance Train, 2 x sanitary sections

Convalescent Depot,  3 x hospital ships
**BEF Medical Personnel Requirement**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Officers</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quartermasters</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Ranks</td>
<td>9000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9856</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QAIMNS</strong></td>
<td><strong>528</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Later Medical Order of Battle Additions 1914

7 Division 21, 22, 23 Field Ambulance
8 Division 24, 25, 26 Field Ambulance
   (1/1, 1/2, 1/3 Wessex Field Ambulance)
27 Division 81, 82, 83 Field Ambulance
   (1/1, 1/2, 1/3 Home Counties Field Ambulance)
2, 3 Cavalry Division 6, 7, 8 Cavalry Field Ambulance
   (6, 7 from TF volunteers, 8 from 1/1 West Riding)
Later Medical Order of Battle Additions 1914

7, 8, 9 Clearing Hospital
   (8 from 1/1 West Riding Clearing Hospital)
13 Stationary Hospital
13, 14 General Hospital
7, 8 Ambulance Train
Mobile Hygiene Laboratory
Mobile Bacteriological Laboratory
1, 2, 3 Motor Ambulance Convoy
Divisional Sanitary Squads
Territorial Force

Fourteen Infantry Divisions
  Each three field ambulances
Fourteen Mounted Brigades
  Each one Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance
Twenty three General Hospitals
  24th formed August 1914
Fourteen Clearing Hospitals
Two Sanitary Companies
14 Territorial Divisions

Highland 1st London (City)
Lowland 2nd London (County)
Northumbrian Home Counties
East Lancashire East Anglian
West Lancashire Wessex
North Midlands Welsh
South Midlands West Riding

Later numbered in the order they were deployed overseas 42 Div onwards
TF Field Ambulances

Three per division

Identical, at war, to Regular equivalent

Named after Division
  eg 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd} Highland Field Ambulance

Second and third echelon
  eg 2\textsuperscript{nd}/1\textsuperscript{st}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}/2\textsuperscript{nd} Home Counties Field Ambulance

Retained these titles when parent division and constituent brigades numbered
Extract from the Journal of the RAMC
November 1914

John Macmillan:
To be Lieutenant
28 September 1914

5th London Field Ambulance
14 Territorial Mounted Brigades

Highland
Lowland
Yorkshire
Notts & Derby
North Midland
1st South Midland
2nd South Midland
Welsh Border
South Wales
1st South Western
2nd South Western
Eastern
South Eastern
London

Each supported by their own Mounted Brigade Field Ambulance modelled on the Cavalry Field Ambulance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Eastern</th>
<th>Cambridge</th>
<th>1st Scottish</th>
<th>Aberdeen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Eastern</td>
<td>Brighton</td>
<td>2nd Scottish</td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st London</td>
<td>Camberwell</td>
<td>3rd Scottish</td>
<td>Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd London</td>
<td>Chelsea</td>
<td>4th Scottish</td>
<td>Glasgow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd London</td>
<td>Wandsworth</td>
<td>1st Southern</td>
<td>Birmingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th London</td>
<td>Denmark Hill</td>
<td>2nd Southern</td>
<td>Bristol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th London</td>
<td>Lambeth</td>
<td>3rd Southern</td>
<td>Oxford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Northern</td>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>4th Southern</td>
<td>Plymouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Northern</td>
<td>Leeds</td>
<td>5th Southern</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Northern</td>
<td>Sheffield</td>
<td>1st Western</td>
<td>Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Northern</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>2nd Western</td>
<td>Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Northern</td>
<td>Leicester</td>
<td>3rd Western</td>
<td>Cardiff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kitchener’s New Army

Britons

"Thank you"

Join your country's army!

God save the King
Field Ambulance marching off to War
Mons
Le Cateau
The Marne
Ambulance Train
1\textsuperscript{ST} Ypres
SB Parties

THE WORK OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.
R.A.M.C. orderlies gathering the wounded from a trench after a severe engagement.
Mk 5 Ambulance Wagon
Motor Ambulance
Capt Harry Ranken VC RAMC

RMO 1st King’s Royal Rifle Corps

Hautvesnes, Belgium

19-20 September 1914

Died of his wounds
Lt Arthur Martin-Leake VC and Bar RAMC

His first VC in S Africa 1902

With 5 Field Ambulance

Zonnebeke, Belgium

29 October–3 November 1914
Postscript

The world wasn’t built in a day,
And Eve didn’t ride on a bus,
But most of the world’s in a sandbag
The rest of it’s plastered on us.
Questions?