

**No. 1 NEW ZEALAND
STATIONARY HOSPITAL. III.**

NORTH OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.

By Lieut. Colonel D. J. McGavin, F.R.C.S.

The Unit sailed from Alexandria on the H. M. T. S. "Marquette" on October 19th, 1915. At the time of sailing the destination was not officially known to us, but it was surmised to be Salonika. There was a slight delay just outside the harbour owing to the steering gear not acting. It was discovered that a soldier had placed his coat in what he evidently regarded as a convenient cupboard, but which turned out to be a box containing some of the steering apparatus. The voyage for the next three days was quite uneventful—the sea was calm, and the cooler weather was greatly appreciated by all, after the heat of Egypt. The morning of the 23rd was calm, and the sky slightly overcast. There was a slight swell owing to wind the previous night. We were expecting to arrive at Salonika about 12 o'clock, and preparations for disembarkation were begun early in the morning.

At about 9.15 when still 50 miles or so from Salonika the Marquette was struck by a torpedo. The vessel sank rapidly in a period variously estimated at from seven to twelve minutes. We were then off Cap Kassandra and about the middle of the gulf, which is here 40 miles wide, and were, therefore, about 20 miles from land on either side.

The incidents of the sinking of the "Marquette" have already been fairly and fully detailed in a previous number of this paper, and also more or less correctly in various letters written by survivors. I need not again traverse this ground except to say that of our company we lost 36—viz, 10 nursing sisters, 18 N.Z.M.C. men, 4 duty "B" men attached, and 4 native Egyptians. A few days later all the nursing sisters and others who had been injured or were sick returned to

Alexandria. Two officers were also sent back to secure equipment to replace that lost. The remaining officers and other ranks were quartered in Salonika for a day or two, and then under canvas at Lembet Camp. For the next fortnight many officers, N. C. O's and men of the Company were detailed for various duties with medical units in and about Salonika.

On November 12th we took over the site of the Casualty Clearing Station with 200 patients, and on November 20th our new equipment arrived. On November 20th and for the next three days we had a very severe blizzard, and as our hospital was not completely constructed, and we had a large number of patients to deal with, we found things rather difficult. The wind was very strong and the cold severe—ink and milk being frozen. Fortunately, we were able to secure some kerosene heating stoves, which added greatly to the comfort of the patients. During our stay in Salonika we had three or four more of the blizzards, but none so severe as this first one. In the intervals between these blizzards the weather was really very good, with bright sunny days and very little rain. The construction and improving of the hospital camp was a continuous process during our stay in Salonika. A road was made up the hill, on which it was situated; the paths were gravelled—a very necessary procedure, as after any rain or snow the clay formed a mud of extraordinary tenacity; a large portable hut was put up for an X-ray room; a telephone was connected; water laid on; and shortly before we left a compound was built for the nursing sisters we were expecting to come. However, although all preparations were made for their reception the Unit left Salonika before they arrived.

We had numerous visits from hostile aircraft, including a Zeppelin. As a protection against these a large red cross was painted on the ground on either side of the Camp; also, the tents were painted with mud to render them less distinguishable to aircraft: later, dugouts were made.

During our stay of four and a half months at Salonika we had almost 4000 patients in hospital, and have had as many as 700 at one time.

We met with many cases of medical interest, such as Frostbite, Trench foot, Trench fever (including Trench Shin), Trench Nephritis, and other conditions not frequently met with in civil practice.

When we first arrived in Salonika there was naturally some confusion—the Greeks were mobilised there. The streets in Salonika are narrow and paved with cobble stones. The large numbers of troops of different nationalities and uniforms, and the quantity of the transport, varying from the pack pony of the Greeks to the mechanical transport and guns of the French and British, crowding through the narrow cobble paved streets of the town, and along a road filled with large holes and knee deep in mud out to Lembet Camp—made a striking picture. But it was not long before the conditions were totally changed—the roads were improved beyond recognition, traffic was regulated properly, field telephones laid down, and the whole organization working smoothly and efficiently. The city of Salonika is, of course, of great interest. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure any decent guidebook or reliable guide. Later, however, this defect was very efficiently supplied by one of the Padres, who joined us. Attached to us in Salonika were the...Sanitary Section,...Mobile Pathological Laboratory and...Mobile Hygienic Laboratory. These Units greatly facilitated our work.

It was with great regret that we left Salonika. During our stay there we formed an integral part of an army in the Field, and had seen the whole system develop around us from confusion to (apparently) perfection. We had made many friends, and having been there from the earliest days of the occupation, took a peculiar interest in the growth and development of the situation. However, as the notice given us to leave was short, and apparently urgent, the expectation of getting to scenes of greater activity mitigated to some extent our regrets at leaving. We were relieved by... Stationary Hospital, and embarked on the H.M.H.S. "Lanfranc" (which had brought that Unit up) on March 6th. We arrived at Port Said after an uneventful trip on March 9th.

**THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
OF THE HOSPITAL.**

BY "BIBLIQUE."

1. The Colonel is thine only Boss; thou shalt have no other Colonel but him.
2. But thou shalt make unto thyself many graven images of officers and staff officers whom thou shalt usually find in the cities and in quiet places: thou shalt stand up and salute them, for the O.C., thy boss, will be compelled to visit with field punishment unto the 1st and 2nd degree on those that salute not.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Adjutant in vain, for the O.C. will not hold him guiltless who taketh the Adjutant's name in vain.
4. Remember thou shalt not rest on the Sabbath Day. Six days shalt thou labour and the seventh day is the day when thou shalt labour tenfold; on it thou shalt do all manner of work.
5. Honour the N.C.O.'s that thy days may be long in the land of the Desert.
6. Thou shalt not bring any liquor into camp, neither shalt thou allow intoxication to get into thy legs.
7. Thou shalt not clamber for more than two pieces of bacon for breakfast.
8. Thou shalt not steal, or at any rate, not be found out.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness in the Orderly Room.
10. Thou shalt not covet a position in the Q.M.'s store; neither shalt thou covet the rations of the Q.M.'s staff, their baksheesh, nor any other thing that is beyond thy reach.