

Sheet 2.

No.2 Canadian Stationary Hospital was mobilized at Valcartier in September, 1914. It was formed from No.2 Camp Hospital, which was operated by Major Bentley, C.A.M.C., 15th Fld.Amb. (Militia), and part of his Unit. This Camp Hospital had a capacity of 50 beds and collected all the sick from Valcartier Camp and evacuated same to Hospitals in Quebec City.

Lt.-Col. Shillington, C.A.M.C., was appointed O.C. of No.2 Canadian Stationary Hospital, which had, on mobilization, an establishment for 200 beds. The strength of the Unit was - Officers - 10; Other Ranks -95.

The Unit left Valcartier on September 29th, embarked at Quebec on SS."SCOTIAN" and arrived at Plymouth, on October 14th. From Plymouth, it proceeded by train to Levington and from there it marched into Camp at West Down North. While on Salisbury Plain, the establishment was increased to a 400-bed Hospital. On November 5th, orders were received for the Unit to proceed overseas next day, and, at 9.00 a.m. November 6th, the Unit marched to Amosbury, where it entrained for Southampton, and, upon its arrival at this port, it embarked on the SS."CITY OF BERNARD" which sailed same day. On 8th November, the Unit landed at La Havre, and proceeded to No.1 Rest Camp in the vicinity. In passing, it is worth recording that this C.A.M.C. Unit was the first Canadian Unit to land in France.

The strength of the Unit on arrival in France was - Officers - 11; Other Ranks -92. On November 13th, the Unit entrained for Boulogne, leaving La Havre at 5 a.m. 14th, and arriving Boulogne, 15th. After detraining, the men went into billets. On November 18th, the Nursing Sisters arrived (54), and were taken on strength. Orders were received on November 26th to establish a Hospital at La Touquet, as early as possible. The Unit entrained for La Touquet, Paris-Flage, on November 27th, and, upon arrival, proceeded to establish the Hospital at the Hotel Du Golf, capable of accommodating 300 patients. The Hotel was a building 3 stories in height, with basement. Arrangements were made by the Base Commandant and the A.D.W. Boulogne and the owners, whereby it was to be used as a Hospital. Immediately, to the south of the Hotel, lay the La Touquet Golf Links and the men of the Unit were billeted in the Club House. The Nursing Sisters took over the Villa Tino, east of the Hospital, and the officers occupied the Robinson Villa, a little farther east. Arrangements for these villas were made between the Base Commandant, Boulogne, and the owners. The Hospital was divided into ten wards, which were named after the various Provinces of Canada. An inventory of all hotel furniture taken over for hospital purposes was taken.

On December 4th, the first convoy of patients (115) arrived. The patients de-trained at Etaples and were conveyed to Hospital in cars, a distance of 4 miles.

February 19, 1915, orders were received to expand to 560 beds.

April 19th, expansion to 560 completed. The additional beds were accommodated in tents.

June 30th, 1915, - strength of unit - Officers-30; Nursing Sisters-55; Other Ranks-126. Attached - 17.

September 25th. Orders received to expand to 840 beds.

September 28th. Expansion completed.

October 10th. Orders received to vacate the 'GOLF' Hotel and prepare to move to new location, by 21st. Further instructions directed that the Unit would proceed to Boulogne and take over buildings recently occupied by No.2 Stationary Hospital (Imperial). This building having accommodation for only 200 beds, the equipment surplus to 200 beds was returned to A.O. Stores, Etaples. Patients were all evacuated by the 10th, and, by October 21st, the move was completed. On October 25th, the new quarters were ready for patients, the capacity of same being only 140 beds.

November 22nd. Lt.-Col. Shillington was transferred to England for duty and Lt.-Colonel E.T. Clarke, C.A.M.C., assumed command.

March 25, 1916. Orders received to expand to 250 beds.

June 1st. The authorized establishment was increased to 305 beds and three large hospital marquees were erected on land adjoining the hospital.

On July 3rd, a crisis expansion of 75 beds was opened in the Canadian Red Cross Recreation Hut.

Work on the new ward huts, which were built in the grounds, to the north of the Hospital, was commenced on September 5th, and, on November 19th, the patients were transferred from the tents to the huts.

November 25th. Lt.-Col. Clarke was transferred to England and on the 28th, Lt.-Col. G.D. Farmer, C.A.M.C., assumed command.

During the latter part of December and the early days of Jan./17, there was a serious shortage of coal and it was no uncommon thing for wards to be without fires.

February 20th. The Red-Cross Hut was again prepared as a ward for the reception of patients.

On October 30th, the Hospital was filled to its crisis expansion and 20 over.

December 7th. Lt.-Col. Farmer was transferred to England, and, on December 9th, Lt.-Col. D. Donald, C.A.M.C., assumed command.

March 29, 1918. The capacity was increased to 600 beds, with a crisis expansion of 50 extra, and, on June 1st, the crisis capacity was extended to 100 beds.

In consequence of frequent air-raids, the Engineers commenced to build, in July, a series of trenches for the protection of personnel and patients.

On August 1st, there occurred a serious air-raid. Several Bombs were dropped on the Hospital premises, causing much damage to windows and doors. The O.C., Col. Donald, was seriously injured and sent to Hospital. On the 10th and 13th, other raids occurred and several bombs were dropped within a radius of 100 yards of the Hospital, causing more or less damage.

August 29th. Lt.-Col. G. Clingan, C.A.M.C., assumed command, vice Lt.-Col. Donald, who was evacuated 'injured' to England.

November 18th. Work was commenced on striking tents, reducing the capacity to 400.

December 27th. Lt.-Col. Clingan, O.C., proceeded to England on duty and Major R.Y. Kenny, C.A.M.C., assumed temporary command.

Jan. 17th, 1919. Lt.-Col. J. Hayes, D.S.O., C.A.M.C., took command.

February 13th. Orders were received to evacuate Hospital, preparatory to demobilization, and five days later (Feb. 18th), the Unit received orders to re-open the Hospital for the admission of patients, with accommodation for 150 beds, which was arranged for in 2 hours.

April 1st. The Unit proceeded to England via Boulogne and encamped at Witley, until it returned to Canada, 10-5-19.

The number of patients reported admitted by this Unit is - 17,858 - but these figures are incomplete.