MONTMORENCY PETRIE PARK PROBUS NEWSLETTER

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Vol 2 No 5 **April (2ndEd) 2020**

President's Message

Hi everyone, I would like to start with how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected our lives, maybe probably forever, as we never dreamed of an event that would have such a great impact. It has distanced us from our families and friends, but it has shown us that we are learning to be more independent with our daily lives. It may have changed the way we live, but it doesn't change who we are, and, while we must be isolated, we can remain connected. We are lucky and we must thank those people in the front line like our nurses and doctors and everyone else connected in trying to help those infected and battling to contain and beat this virus that landed upon us.

I also want to acknowledge those of us who are staying at home and abiding by the safe distance rule, helping to protect the vulnerable, and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones.

Also, when this goes to print, ANZAC Day will be upon us – our annual commemoration for those who lost their lives in the defense of our country, our values and freedoms.

We might remember that in the aftermath of the Great War, in 1918/19, the world was devastated by the "Spanish Flu". It was estimated that millions more died from this deadly infection than from the war itself. The world survived that disaster; and we should look forward to coming out to the other side of the current crisis with our own positive approach, the help of significantly better medical knowledge and effective prevention strategies – especially when the all-important medical breakthrough has been found and provided to all populations – making the Coronavirus just another inconvenient seasonal or winter bug.

I like to think that through all this drama and disruption, we must always maintain who we are as people and hopefully we will get through this safely and well.

Meanwhile, remember those three words, Fun, Friendship and Fellowship.

Keep safe and well and remembering 25th April - Lest we Forget.

Tony Haritos (president)

Thank You George McMurtry

George was at the very foundation of Montmorency Petrie Park Probus Club. Together with Dr Ian McPherson from Eltham Rotary Club he organised the formation of the Club. At the inaugural meeting on 18th June 2008 George was appointed Foundation President and served until March 2010, building the strong and vibrant Club we have today.

Throughout all the following years George has made huge contributions to the benefit of the Club. His persistence and friendliness enabled him to organise many activities such as bus trips and Melbourne Cup Sweeps, as well as enthusiastically participating in club events.

With some regret George has now tendered his resignation because he has become very busily involved with other activities. George, we all thank you most sincerely for all the support you have given us, and wish you much happiness and success in your new interests.

Dot Jackson

What's On April/May

Sat 25 April ANZAC Day
Tue 28 April Coffee Club at 12 md (see below)
Fri 1 May Book Club
Wed 13 May Committee Meeting
Fri 15 May Book Club

Coffee Club

A Coffee Club will be conducted at 12 md on Tue 28th April on ZOOM. My spies tell me that the MPP Probarians have been developing skills using ZOOM. The Book Club and the Committee met using ZOOM and now it is time that the rest of the Club members were given the opportunity to catch up using this technology. I will be sending out an instruction email at the weekend, and hope you all make a big effort to attend. **Julie Fechner**

JUST FOR FUN

In an unsettling reversal of my teenage years I am now yelling at my parents for going out, and threatening to ground them

Side effects of quarantine is it's really hard to end phone calls. Twice today I almost said "okay, I have to run" before realizing I had nowhere to run to.

The first time in history you can save Australia by doing nothing.

Don't screw it up!

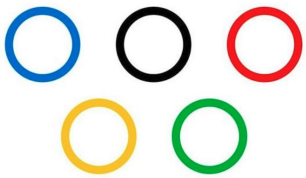
Me drinking alone in 2019
Sad
Disturbing
Loser

Me drinking alone in 2020
Good citizen
Inspiration
Hero

Coronavirus in New York

A young boy was sleeping at his grandparents house for the first time. His parents were a bit unusual and unbeknown to the grandparents they called wanting to pee as wanting to sing. So the grandparents got him settled into bed between them. The boy said to his grandma "I want to sing" she said we will sing together in the morning. He keep repeating this over and over

In the end grandma said to the boy go on and sing quietly in grandpa's ear



OLYMPIC GAMES TOKYO 2020
(SAFETY DISTANCE)

Prediction: There will be a minor baby boom in 9 months, and then one day in 2033, we shall witness the rise of THE QUARANTEENS.

Annual fees are now due $30.00

Membership fees are now due and payable. It was agreed at the AGM that fees would remain at $30.00 As we cannot pay in person all fees to be paid by EFT.

We have two bank accounts. It is important that your money goes into the correct account so the treasurer can reconcile your payment. AND IT IS NOT LOST

Please select the correct account:

Joining and/or Annual FEES Only

BSB: 033-053 Account number: 579467

Please send email to Pattiash@hotmail.com confirming your payment, and include your receipt.

This is not the account that you have been using for outings, you must check in your internet banking.

If you do not have access to internet banking please contact Treasurer Patti on Mob: 0418 335 481 or *Pattiash@hotmail.com*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Julie

I have officially handed over my role to Patti

I have completed reconciliations to 31 March & have given copies to Tony & Patti for distribution to the new committee

There will be quite a number of refunds to be made once we have received the refunds from Ticketek & the Arts centre. In addition, there may be refunds for other outings once they have been cancelled

I suggest that a note be placed in the April newsletter advising members refunds will be made in due course. From a treasurers viewpoint there is quite a bit of work involved in making refunds apart from just drawing the cheque/direct deposit refund. All refunds have to be posted to the ledger & there at least 3 entries required for each refund, (name, event , amount, reconciliation). In addition there are entries to be made in the bank account so I suggest that a note to members to be patient at this time wouldn't go astray

Again it is now fee time & there is a tremendous amount of work required to post & account for all this money.

Best wishes to the new committee in this time when life is placing many challenges to each & every one of us.

Stay safe, do some exercise, watch movie, share jokes thru Julie for all to have a laugh & Wash those hands

Thanks **Mike Said**

(Thanks for a job well done Mike. I think Mike is saying that Patti has a big job, so we must be patient Ed)

Hi Julie,

Just hoping you could mention how pleased I was to receive a lovely get well card from Monty Probus after my recent Hip replacement surgery. I have received many good wishes and calls over the past few weeks It is just over a month since the op and today I have graduated to one crutch instead of the pair.

Thanks again to Lola for checking up on me and everyone else for their best wishes.

Stay safe and looking forward to catching up with everyone VERY SOON!!!

Val Stafford

(I am sure everyone is pleased to hear of your recovery under difficult circumstances. Ed)

Lola Williams was going to write to me to point out my gross mistake in the last newsletter. She and husband Tom share the same email, so when I checked the email in the Footy tipping I just presumed that Tom was the *tipper* and I was wrong, very wrong. I hereby publicly apologise.

Not only did Lola show the rest of the competition how to tip, she will be on the top of the tipping ladder for the foreseeable future.

This newsletter editor position seems to get me into trouble because I fail to check my facts. **Julie**

Entertainment Films and Theatre

Just for fun, here is a list of movies that I could watch more than twice. People are entitled to not agree but these are amongst my favourites for various reasons. I have tried to sort by genre along with a brief summation

Genre	Title	Summary
Foreign	Cinema Paradiso	A story of a young boy and his link with the local cinema. It embraces joy, sadness and the lives of the little town
Spy	A Bridge of Spies	Spielberg's story of Russian spy and the Gary Powers incident and what followed.
Spy	Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy	John le Carre's great novel brought to life with a superb cast.
Drama	Schindler's List	Spielberg again with the story of Oskar Schindler and the holocaust and his saving of hundreds of Jews.
Thriller	The Sixth Sense	It is only at the end you realise what has happened.
Space	The Martian	Mainly because it gets all of the science correct.
Western	A Big Country	Great cast, great music.
Western	The Magnificent Seven	The original, with Brynner and McQueen. And the theme.
Musical	Singing in the Rain	Not just Kelly but O'Connor in some of the best dancing ever.
Comedy	The Muppets Christmas Carol	Dickens is sort of recreated by the Muppets. It's fun and faithful to a timeless tale. My annual present to me.

Thank you John McCully

Dine Outs and Dine Ins

Message from Barb Mammone

Hi everyone. Due to having plenty of time to do whatever I like, I have been catching up on some of my old recipes that were passed to me from my mother-in-law who was a beautiful Italian Nona. Even after 50 years I still cannot quite get that pasta 'just right' as she always told me! Maybe in another 50 years I will have mastered it!!!! Wish me luck!

As you know all future dine-outs have been cancelled and Patti (our new Treasurer) is in the process of dealing with the banking changes and possible refunds. This is a huge task even without the current COVID-19 restrictions and may take much longer than expected. Please let me know if you would be happy for the Club to retain the money paid for the Fondata lunch for a future date (hopefully soon), or if a refund is required. My contact details are: 0418 342 586 or bmammone@hotmail.com. Please provide bank details when requesting refunds.

Now back to my pasta making! And my addiction to Monopoly Cards.

Ciao for now!!

Thanks Barb, I am sure we will all be over for Nona's pasta when all this is over. Ed

Welfare From Lola Williams

Margaret Cam is home and doing really well. Maureen Jenkins has had one course of Chemotherapy and is now in the middle of a second. I am sure if anyone would like to phone her that would be great. Also spoke with Val Stafford and she is also managing well.. (A big thank you to Lola for keeping tabs on all our members. You are doing a great job Ed)

What Day Is It ? ? ?

So, we are in COVID19 lockdown. Something we had never imagined could happen. Life sure has changed. Even before this I could lose track of which day it is, but as with all our normal routines and structures shattered in is nearly impossible to keep track.

Luckily we have this handy gadget on the wall - The Seven Day, Clock –

A real boon for retired folk !! You can see that I took the photo mid morning on Friday. That means it's time for morning coffee on the veranda couch. When the hand moves to about the middle of Friday it will be time for lunch. Sometime before the hand reaches Saturday it must be time for bed. All sorted.

Whatever day it happens to be the diary is now likely to list Facetime with grandchildren, scheduled Zoom meetings with various other folk, a tele-consultation with your doctor, or maybe the joy of delivery of your online grocery order. And my favourite - Virtual Happy Hour with a few like minded friends.

The upside is of course that now there is time to cull all those drawers and cupboards, to read the mountain of long hoarded books, and if desperate keep busy with lots of 'odd jobs', doing sundry repairs and gardening. If this goes on for too long I may even get some ironing done !!

Dot Jackson

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Book Review

Arafat to Everest by Mark Squirrel

Mark Squirrel (Squiz) wrote this book about his life after receiving the Green Beret for his role as a Commando with the Australian Special Forces. He wanted to put his skills to use, so he joined the World Food Program (WFP) His trek to the summit of Everest was driven by his passion to raise the WFP Flag to raise awareness of the plight of so many throughout the World who have been affected by War and its aftermath. (especially Children).

It covers the following Wars: East Timor (1999), Albania (2000), Sudan (2001), Afghanistan (2002), Palestine (2002) and Nepal (2004).

It was when in Nepal he decided to climb Everest .

I thoroughly enjoyed his personal accounts of the people he met, and the experiences he had, including meeting Yasser Arafat in Palestine . His varying experiences with children brought me to tears. I also enjoyed the blossoming romance between Ingrid (Nud) and he.

Because I was aware of all the varying War Zones he entered, (from the Media), I found it very enlightening and informative.

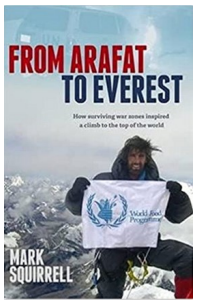
The descriptions of his climb to the top of Everest were amazing and heart stopping.

The pain he and his fellow climbers endured was remarkable, and the role Sherpas play in guiding the climbers to the top is eye opening.

There are numerous photographs included in the book.

A highly recommended read

I know Ingrid and Squiz from the Tennis Tournaments our Grandchildren and their Children are involved in . Recently when we were at our annual Cobram tournament I told him about my love of reading, so he went back to his caravan and presented me with a signed copy of his book. If anyone wants to borrow my copy you are welcome and if you wish to purchase one I feel Squiz would be happy to oblige.



Di Fletcher

Book Club

Today we had our first Zoom meeting of the Book Club. As the book club is one of the original continuous groups operating in our Probus club, we all felt that it was important to continue as a group as long as we can.

It was a lot of fun and after quite a bit of giggling and excitement, there were eleven happy faces up on the screen.

We each took turns in discussing and recommending various books that we had read or were still in the process of reading.

We are now going to have a Zoom book club meeting each fortnight and hopefully all of our book club members will be able to join in our next meeting on Friday 1 May.

Cheers to everyone in our great Probus Club from **Sue Bush**.

From Neil Fletcher

Good Wishes to all Probus Petrie Park members. I hope you are coping well during these challenging times.

Having been a Military Conscript who served in Vietnam during my early twenties, Anzac Day has been a significant date on my Calendar. I expect this is the case for all Veterans and Australians.

It is very disappointing, though necessary, that the annual celebration for our ANZACS and all those who served for good and our freedom over many conflicts; will be restricted this year.

It is unimaginable that we will have an Anzac Day without the marches across the country. Without the community gatherings at a sombre service accompanied by the haunting sound of the bagpipes, and without the round of drinks with ex military mates and others, at the local RSL.

Hopefully, the Australian Community will unite this year, while abiding by the recently introduced restrictions, to find their own special way to recognise those who served, have given their lives, and suffered in the service of this wonderful country.

I offer these brief comments with thoughts of my late father who served in Egypt during WWll.

Neil Fletcher

Charles Fletcher

LCpl Neil Fletcher

Memorandum on Infectious Nursing in Egypt by Sister Ida O'Dwyer AANS Australian War Memorial 399/78

Ida O'Dwyer left her home in Bendigo to commence nursing training at St Vincent's Hospital, and graduated in 1902.

She was one of the first Sisters to join up with the Australian Army Nursing Service, in 1904, and when war was declared in 1914 was called for service with the AIF. She embarked on SS Kyarra, December 5, 1914. As a Senior Sister she served in Egypt Helliopolis No1 AGH until November, 1915. She transferred to England with a number of Sisters awaiting transfer to France, and served in Bagthorpe Military Hospital. November, 1916, left for France and was appointed Sister- in-charge of third Australian Casualty Clearing Station, where she remained until November, 1917. In 1917 she was transferred to England to take charge of Mrs. T. S. Hall's Hospital for Sick Australian Nurses at No. 12 Southwell Gardens, Kensington. In 1918, she returned to Australia to take charge of No. 16 AGH MacLeod Military Hospital until its closure. April, 1920, she was appointed Matron, No. 11 AGH Caulfield Military Hospital, On reconstruction of Army Nursing Reserve, she was elected Principal Matron in Victoria until 1931. First President, St. Vincent's Nurses' Association, during which time the first bed was presented by Nurses for sick members of their profession.

In December 1917 Ida O'Dwyer was awarded the decoration of Royal Red Cross 1st class "in recognition of her valuable service within the armies in the field". After the war she continued to care for sick and wounded soldiers as Matron of Caulfield Military Hospital.

Sister O'Dwyer is the Grandmother of Judy Keighran. A big thank you to Judy for finding these wonderful accounts and transcribing from the AWM Ed

The nursing of Infectious Diseases plays a very important part in time of War, as such large numbers of men living in close company infection is so easily spread, and an epidemic takes a firm hold very quickly. Troops are hardly settled in a new camp before cases of all kinds present themselves.

As soon as the Australian troops arrived in Egypt, Hospitals were immediately established —a large aerodrome being taken for the Infectious cases with a staff of Medical Officers and Orderlies to attend to the patients. This was satisfactory until severe complications presented themselves, principally pneumonia with measles, which

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

must have the attention of a trained nurse, and the necessary equipment for Acute Nursing.

For this the patients had to be transferred to the base hospital, the General Hospitals being then large hospitals being commandeered by the Government— with the understanding that no infectious cases could remain there, so the only thing to do was to start an infectious section in the grounds— being still the winter months this could be done. This was started with four bell tents— three for patients and one for administration— out on the sand in a far corner of the grounds, wired off from everywhere else.

Very soon this camp started to grow every day adding new tents and the bell tents were soon replaced by marquees which was the first step to making the work easier as the conditions in such a camp were very bad. The whole camp was pitched on soft sand without floorboard or duckboard of any kind either in or out of the tents—very soon the beds would sink inches into the sand. This was a camp for acute cases only. A patient was immediately returned to the infectious camp as soon as he started to convalesce.

During the day every man ran a temperature of between 101 and 106. As the heat in the tents even in winter was intense during the day then immediately after sunset the night would start to get very cold— often a difference of 30-40 degrees would be noted, these extremes were felt very keenly by the patients who were unable to battle with them making the death rate very high.

All manner of diseases were nursed there, complications of both measles and venereal diseases—mainly Pneumonia, Pleurisy and Follicular Tonsillitis, Scarlet Fever in its worst forms, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and very septic Surgical cases and Eripseles. Also, the worst forms of infected eyes which meant constant treatment.

To nurse cases such as these, convenience with regard to administration was necessary. There was none at all, being a temporary arrangement all possible expense and labour was spared, and in the early days of war there was much greater difficulty to get any kind of work done. This entailed seriously heavy work on the nursing staff as there is so much disinfecting detail to be dealt with. Everything had to be carried as there was not even temporary water laid on or sanitary arrangements.

But all these difficulties could be met. The difficulties peculiar to Egypt arose such as plagues of locusts which came every day and lasted for hours, the air being thick with them, insects three inches long and more. Another drawback was the *Khamseen Wind* which sort of heralds the arrival of Summer. it comes across from the desert at terrific high speed and pressure holding the desert sand in the air. This was almost fatal to patients either with chest wounds or throat trouble and more so to the badly infected eyes.

It was quite a usual occurrence to have the tents blown down, including the administration tent with everything in it, the sand penetrating everywhere into beds, foods and into medicines. A wind like this would often last 48 hours to 3 days and the mental effect on the patients was very bad.

As the summer approached the heat became more and more intense, the thermometer in the tents often rising to 125 and 130 degrees and remain so from 3 to 5 hours, during which time everyone was prostrate but the nursing and sponging had to go on day after day, nurses broke down under this strain and the deathrate of patients increased, that at last the authorities were forced to give up a building for these cases, the only one being available was one previously a skating rink in a sports ground which was used until a properly built hospital for infectious cases was given up to them.

For the Fallen

By Laurence Binyon

With proud thanksgiving, a mother for her children,
England mourns for her dead across the sea.
Flesh of her flesh they were, spirit of her spirit,
Fallen in the cause of the free.

Solemn the drums thrill; Death august and royal
Sings sorrow up into immortal spheres,
There is music in the midst of desolation
And a glory that shines upon our tears.

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.

They mingle not with their laughing comrades again;
They sit no more at familiar tables of home;
They have no lot in our labour of the day-time;
They sleep beyond England's foam.

But where our desires are and our hopes profound,
Felt as a well-spring that is hidden from sight,
To the innermost heart of their own land they are known
As the stars are known to the Night;

As the stars that shall be bright when we are dust,
Moving in marches upon the heavenly plain;
As the stars that are starry in the time of our darkness,
To the end, to the end, they remain.

A Descriptive Narrative Account of the Conditions of Nursing in an Australian Casualty Clearing Station

Written by Sister Ida O'Dwyer AANS January 1918 (AWM 509/173/9)

After nursing patients for some time in a base hospital with its varied treatment of wounds and routine method of work, a Nurse is naturally anxious to get to a Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) where she will come more in touch with the wounded man as a soldier, and actually see and nurse the badly wounded that never get any further down the line - and this is nearest nurses get to the actual fighting.

Her first sight of the Camp causes a great impression and the first thing to be noticed are the rows of duckboards everywhere connecting all the wards and the quarters right out to the road, this seems very strange after the well-regulated lines and hard paths of the base hospital.

The Nursing Staff of a CCS varies in number according to the work. If a battle is likely to take place the staff is usually got up to strength beforehand, about 24 hours is the longest notice given - often not that, a large part of the Staff arriving after the battle starts.

Wards are prepared in a great hurry, not the comfortable bed ward of the base but mostly stretchers on the ground one or two bed wards for the most collapsed cases more often than not the unit has just moved to that new area with only tents erected and no flooring down and there is only the very scanty equipment allowed for a hospital in the field and the Sisters must be prepared in a few hours to receive and nurse hundreds of wounded admitted in numbers that can hardly be realized. They have not only to be admitted but are to be classified, dressed - fed and evacuated - with the same speed and still keep her ward in a state that she can pass through hundreds more. One particular CCS which was in full working order of receiving, operating and evacuating patients continually all day suddenly received the order that the unit was to proceed to a still more advanced area, and had exactly 3 days to do it in - choose the site and plan the camp; evacuate the present patients - pack-up, move and rebuild the hospital and be ready to receive patients again and this was done; the first patient being admitted exactly one hour under the 3 days.

It was early April and the snow lying about everywhere, but in the excitement of real work and Sisters were among the keenest, they soon donned the garb of bad weather - gumboots, mackintoshes and rain-hats. There was no ambulance train due for evacuation till 9am next day. All patients were transferred into as few wards as possible and treatment went on, and within an hour equipment packing was started every ward packing and labelling its own, any old available petrol case or red cross box being brought into us. As many tents as possible were immediately struck and in a few hours the first lorry load of equipment, tents and duckboards started off with a cheer to the new home taking with it a very big advance party. Early next morning was the evacuation of patients who had first to be fed and wounds dressed and labelled. Almost more important with regard to a patient than his wound is the Field card and Smith Dorien bag which must go with him - never forget those though you may forget to feed him - but he won't forget that. In about 10 hours the remainder of the hospital was packed which left the Sisters free for about 36 hours. What did it mean - not idleness - They realize there are no luxuries in forward areas and having clothes washed was certainly a luxury, so they set to and washed and ironed all their own clothes, knowing there would be no time to look for laundresses in a shelled area.

Sister Ida O'Dwyer

For 24 hours they waited in an empty hospital even their own mess packed up, and living on army rations. At last the call came over night. Ambulances took them and their luggage at 8 am to their destination. A Sister's luggage is one of the trials of the army it is her all, bed bedding, clothes uniform, yet its transport is more trouble than the equipment of a hospital, if she travels by train it is invariably lost by the official and may be missing from two days to a month and she is in a constant state of packing and unpacking it from either being moved through shelling or bombing or the unit moves.

The Sisters were soon very welcome in the wards which at that time were only tents on the mud, in about 4 hours they were hardly to be recognized. The 1st work was to classify the wards with the sisters and Orderly staff for each - in no time floors were down boxes open beds and stretchers arranged every half hour and making a wonderful difference.

Now a Casualty Clearing Station is just what it is called therefore the method of working it must be continuous there must be two main roads to the street as admission and evacuation are being carried on together and

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

must not clash. So the line of tents is generally continuous. In the admission tent he is received and classified - he is either for evacuation or remaining for operation A.B. or urgent for resuscitation if collapsed or for special ward without operation - on the outlet of the admission is the resuscitation Ward at one side and the pre-operative opposite - next to the theatre opposite the theatre is the Acute surgical - then the chest these all being bad cases are stretcher cases and nearest to the evacuation area. Then follow the evacuation wards lying and walking.

The first thing a Sister realizes is not what is to be done but what must be done first - In this particular instance she was somewhat handicapped - patients arriving an hour after she did, but she had ready one acute ward and one walking ward - also the pre-operative and the theatre. This was also a tent - dark and with all its disadvantages of flapping sides and poles in every inconvenient spot. There being a very limited nursing staff and before the day of operating teams, only four Sisters two day duty and two night for the four tables at work continuously - operations having started three hours after the arrival of the Sisters - though every available man was required for the erection of the hospital which has many more tents to be erected and fitted up apart from wards, yet a most important factor had to be dealt with the lighting of the theatre for 24 hours carbide flares had to be held over each table then by that time an electric light plant had been installed and the theatre excellently lighted in 48 hours all the acute wards and administrative tents were likewise dealt with. This class of work was all very new to the Sisters having come straight from base hospital where everything is at hand before they· start work, and yet they carried on in the usual calm way as if nothing were out of order.

There is one continuous rush between cases the Sister clearing her tables and re sterilizing her instruments and dishes while the orderly is dispatching the patient and receiving the next, while the Surgeon attends to the Field Card everyone has his or her set duty and so the theatre is a continuous round of work, perhaps not a word spoken for hours except may be to call for a special instrument or dressing. During a rush of work they have to be reminded that there are meals to be partaken of, work will stop for about an hour, which to the Surgeon does not mean a rest , he is urgently required to see special cases for perhaps more urgent operation, as for the Sister who makes the most of the short time after a hurried meal to readjust her table and get stock ready to continue endless operations This pressure continues for some days to a week during a battle everyone working a period of 16 hours a day. After 12 hours assisting at operations, the Sister overlooks the preparation of sutures gloves and splints for endless operations of the next day.

A Sister's whole time is spent in relieving pain, giving nourishment and making them comfortable that the main duty of the base is here completely forgotten to keep them tidy, if she can manage a few minutes to give some of them a wash it is immediately done, but very seldom in a rush. Now we come to the walking wounded who are mostly coiled up on their stretchers fast asleep.

As nothing matters now they are seated about in little groups, friends having each other telling of experiences of the last 12 hours or so. The night staff come on duty some hours before the day staff go off, but they must carry on where the others left off continually receiving and evacuating. There are usually two or three CCS in one area who receive patients in turn of about 2 to 300 each.

These CCS are not always put out of the danger zone. War of the present day brings the enemy near with aerial bombing and long range shelling - the Hospital must be put in a spot convenient to a ward and railway, which is usually a target for the enemy, and it is not necessarily the Hospital that is aimed at though it very often suffers. This brings a big disadvantage as most of the work is done at night with practically no light and now-a- days the Gothas do not always wait for the full moon. They come night after night and drop bombs on all the areas round looking for railway dumps and camps, this effects the condition of the patients very much as they feel so there is no protection and they are so helpless-the buzz of the enemy engine is familiar to all and everyone knows of his presence in the sky long before these searchlights appear in the sky from all corners.

The rush at CCS does not last forever, the winter bringing with it the cold and mud which prevents all heavy fighting that winter preparations must be started to cope with the hundreds of sick Trench Fever, Rheumatism and Trench feet, you begin to wonder what their billets and camps are like when one of these sick men lies on a hard stretcher for hours inside a tent gets a few hot meals, then turns round and thanks you saying it is just a touch of heaven: Receiving and evacuation still goes on but slowly every few days not few hours as when a battle is in full swing.

(These stories remind me of the 2014 mini series *ANZAC Girls* Ed)