Correspondence


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.
EDITORIAL NOTICES

Original articles, notes and letters bearing upon either the medical or the military aspect of the work of the Corps will be gladly received. All papers intended for publication should be typewritten (not duplicated), double-spaced and fully corrected. Proofs are not sent to authors serving out of the United Kingdom.

All Communications or Articles accepted and published in the “Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps” will (unless the author notifies at the time of submission that he reserves the copyright of the articles to himself) become the property of the Journal Committee, who will exercise full copyright powers concerning such articles.

Communications in regard to editorial business should be addressed: “The Editor, JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, London, S.W.1.”

Twelve off-prints will be sent to contributors of all main articles. Additional off-prints will be supplied on payment (1s. per copy) if ordered when the manuscript is submitted. All off-prints of articles written by more than one author are sent to the first named unless, before publication, the Manager is asked to distribute them otherwise.

MANAGER’S NOTICES

Cheques, etc., should be made payable to the “Journal R.A.M.C.,” and crossed “Glyn, Mills & Co.”

The Annual Subscription to the JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS is £1 5s. (including the ARMED SERVICES MAGAZINE): for the Journal only £1 (in each case payable in advance). Single copies 7s. 6d. per copy.

Changes of address and rank, which should be promptly notified, should be sent to Gale & Polden Ltd., The Wellington Press, Aldershot, Hampshire. To take effect for the next issue alterations must be received by the 15th of the month before the month of issue (the 15th of December, March, June or September, as the case may be). Communications regarding subscriptions, etc., should be addressed to “The Manager, JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, Royal Army Medical College, Millbank, London, S.W.1.”

ADVERTISEMENTS

Communications regarding advertisements should be addressed:

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER, JOURNAL OF THE R.A.M.C., GALE & POLDEN LTD., THE WELLINGTON PRESS, ALDERSHOT.
A MESSAGE
from the Chairman of
HER MAJESTY’S FORCES
SAVINGS COMMITTEE

If you haven’t already started saving, you should try to develop the savings habit while you are in the Services.

There are excellent facilities for saving in all Units of the Services in every part of the world—in fact the slogan of H.M. Forces Savings Committee is “Wherever you serve, you can save.”

We have an excellent series of leaflets (as illustrated above) which tell in simple language all about Forces Savings.

Why not write for a copy of the leaflet which applies to your Service? Write to me personally:

Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Saunders,
GCB, KBE, MC, DFC, MM.
Chairman, H.M. Forces Savings Committee,
1, Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Issued by H.M. Forces Savings Committee

Who said Scotch?

I say
QUEEN ANNE
Scotch

HILL THOMSON & CO. LTD., Edinburgh

PLEASE MENTION
THE
ROYAL ARMY
MEDICAL CORPS
JOURNAL
WHEN DEALING WITH
ADVERTISERS

Printed in England by Gale & Polden Ltd., at their Wellington Press, Aldershot, Hants.—3443-M
LIEUT.-GENERAL SIR ALEXANDER DRUMMOND

Director-General, Army Medical Services

By courtesy of the Birmingham Post and Mail

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.,
June, 1958

Colonel-in-Chief
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.