

2/5 Australian General Hospital



1939 - 1945
Proudly we served



Copy of Notes - written by Don Mould - April 1969

Regimental Sergeant Major - 2/5 Australian General Hospital. -- POW

Formed: May 1940, Disbanded: November 1945

Service - 67 months. Unit and Elements served in Darwin, Middle East, Greece, Crete, German P.O.W. Camps, Eritrea, New Guinea and Morotai.

2/5 AGH was formed in Sydney in May 1940, under the command of Colonel W.E.Kay D.S.O. The unit trained at Greta, detached Medical Teams to Darwin, and arrived in the Middle East in November 1940.

It received first casualties at Rehovot, Palestine and sent Surgical Teams to Western Desert Campaigns.

In March 1941, the Unit moved to Greece with the 2nd ANZAC Corps.

During the evacuation of Greece, the Commanding Officer was killed under bombing attacks, two thirds of the Unit was evacuated to Crete leaving 113 Officers and men to care for existing casualties.

This was the first time Australian medical personnel had gone into captivity with their casualties. This detachment came under German command in April 1941 and in the following ten months handled over 2,000 Allied casualties from Greece and Crete. This detachment was then moved to Poland as POWs. Most came out of Germany, under exchange, 30 months later. Six of them rejoined the Unit to serve in the South Pacific.

The Unit re-equipped in Palestine under Colonel J.C Belisario, moved to Eritrea and established a 1200 bed hospital at Asmara.

Upon Japanese entry into the war, the Unit returned to Australia, retrained and reinforced at Armidale, and moved again to active service in New Guinea. It served until the finish of the New Guinea campaign.

In March of 1945, 2/5 AGH commenced its final active service in Morotai, under the command of Colonel (later Sir) Angus Murray, and in support of the Borneo attacks, and was established there when peace was declared.

Its last work was the rehabilitation of casualties from Japanese Prison Camps, and the Unit was disbanded, at Morotai, in November 1945.