

2/5 Australian General Hospital



1939 - 1945
Proudly we served



Details of the Hospital Units of WW2

Maximum age for recruits for the AIF in WW2 was 39.

The Hospital Ship Manunda was commissioned in July 1940
The Hospital Ship Wanganella was commissioned in July 1941

In 1941 the Dutch Government loaned Australia the 20000 ton ship Oranje.

The 6th Division called for 104 Medical Officers

The age limit was to be between 20 and 45, but there were only two lots of reserves:
St John Ambulance Brigade and the Voluntary Aid Detachment.

By 1944 the AAMC had 32000 members, representing 8% of the Australian Military Forces.

Lt / Colonel N.R. Wyndham, of the 2/5 AGH, aboard the Mauritania, complained of a shortage of equipment such as lumber puncture needles, urine testing outfits, nothing for feet, Gonorrhoea or blue light outfits, no dressings, no antiseptics and no forceps.

In January 1940, it was decreed that all Australian wounded were to be treated in their own Hospitals such as 2/1 - 2/2 AGH etc.

13 February 1940: The 2/1 Field Ambulance, 2/1 Field Hygiene, 2/1 Convalescent Depot, 168th British Car Field Ambulance and the 2/1 Cavalry Field Ambulance were taken under the wing of 1st Hampshire Regiment.

In December 1940 the 2/5 AGH arrives in Rehovot - Palestine and the 2/2 Casualty Clearing Station arrived at Amiriya.

The 8th Australian Special Hospital specialised in Venereal Disease cases, the 2/2 AGH specialised in Orthopaedic and Physical. The 2/1 AGH specialised as a Thoracic Unit and the 2/1 Australian Convalescent Depot worked as a 570 bed station.

Units at the end of 1940:

Colonel W. Kay DSO. VD. 2/5 Australian General Hospital
Lt/Colonel A.J. Cunningham 2/1 Field Ambulance
Lt/Colonel H.G. Furnell 2/2 Field Ambulance
Lt/ Colonel L.E .Le Souef 2/7 Field Ambulance

Lt/Colonel J.K. Adey 2/1 Australian Casualty Clearing Station
Colonel N.L. Spiers 2/4 Australian General Hospital
Captain R. Drummond 2/1 Australian Field Hygiene Unit
The 2/4 AGH became the principle treating centre and also a Casualty Clearing Station.

Units in the Middle East - 1941:

British and New Zealand medical Units
2/1 - 2/2 - 2/7 Field Ambulance
2/3 Casualty Clearing Station
2 Field Hygiene Unit
Part of the 2/1 MAC
2/5 Australian General Hospital -- Colonel W. Kay
2/6 Australian General Hospital -- Colonel R.A. Money.
Set up at Kephissia was 2/3 CCS - Lt/ Colonel J.C. Belisario

The Germans commenced their attack on 6 April 1941 and the 2/6 AGH set up at Volos on 10 April 1941.

General Blamey then renamed "The NZ Division and 6th Division" as the *ANZAC Corps*.

On the 8 April 1941 General Wavell begins implementing the Evacuation of Greece

On the 16 April 1941 all nurses are ordered to be evacuated from Greece

On the 18 April 1941 the 2/6 AGH was withdrawn from Piraeus

On the 27 April 1941, at Ekali, Major Brooke Moore, six officers, 2 Warrant Officers and 148 men were caring for 112 wounded and sick patients who were too ill to be moved. And all were taken Prisoners of War.

On the 7 April 1941 the hospital was moved to the school building at Piraeus.

On Crete, the Germans began to evacuate the wounded back to this 2/5 Australian General Hospital, now under German Command.

In 1942 the Australian Army Medical Corps comprised of 97 separate Units, scattered through Malta, Cyprus, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Transjordan and Akaba.

On the 1 December 1942 the AAMWS was formally formed and called for 4000 volunteers.