

we were told that we were at Salonica. And mighty glad we were to get there. But, tiresome as our immuration within the confines of the ship was becoming, it was not yet at an end by a long way. The available docks were all doing a rush business as it was landing troops for transports day and night for the belated dash to Serbia's assistance and orders to disembark were cancelled day after day almost as soon as they were given. Finally we took on, by means of lighters, a load of wounded and frost-bitten patients, and proceeded to Alexandria. There we got so far as to take off the hatches preparatory to unloading our equipment when orders came to return to Salonica. Our life at this stage was, indeed, just one uncertainty after another, for we had no more than got halfway back to the Macedonian port when we were recalled by wireless to Alexandria. Altogether we had a week there. We did, however, manage to make the full distance to Salonica on the second try and, as all things must come to an end some time, we did finally land after lying in the harbor again for several days.

FIVE WEEKS ABOARD SHIP

Five full weeks we had had on board ship, the only break being a couple of hours shore leave in Alexandria, and to say we were glad to quit the sea and take to the land again is putting it very, very mildly. It was on a Sunday night, Dec. 19th. in a drizzling, chill rain, that our advance party went ashore. We had about a thousand tons of equipment to unload and the

men hustled it off with a celerity that opened the eyes of the dock officials.

Our first impression of Salonica was not exactly favorable. The sanitary squads of the Allied Forces had not made their presence felt as yet and the city looked indescribably filthy and smelled likewise. We pitched a temporary camp just off the main road on the outskirts to the southwest of the city and there we wallowed in mud and slush for several weeks until the authorities settled the question of our permanent location.

The question was settled and we set to work to lay out our hospital in the Kalamaria area about half a mile south of our first camp. The site was a splendid one, on a gentle slope close to and overlooking the harbor, and sufficiently isolated from the city to be free of its unhealthy influences. Soon we were taking in patients. Our wandering was over for some time to come—how long is a question that is agitating us now—and we settled down to steady, strenuous work.

The nursing sisters who, with Lt. Col. Robertson in charge, had left England some time after us, did not join us until later. They had been holiday-making in Cairo for a few weeks. Needless to say when they did arrive they found all the rough, preparatory work completed and were able to settle down to their ward duties with some degree of comfort.

PIONEERS OF KALAMARIA

No. 5. was the first military unit to establish its quarters in Kalamaria. We were the pioneers of the area, so