

they can be supplied. For the present we will work under our canvas. The weather is in great contrast to that of Malta and Egypt, and is decidedly cold at night, but we manage to keep quite comfortable, as we have plenty of blankets along. At first of necessity we had to rough it a bit, and live on bully beef and biscuits, but in a couple of days had the mess running and now we are getting good plain food, well prepared.

"There has been an endless amount of work to be done, and we have been on the go practically night and day. The transport people moved all our equipment at night, and we had to have a party at the wharf and have another here. During the day we are busy pitching our tents, laying out the camp, arranging and unpacking our stores, getting our kitchens established and trying to arrange some order out of the awful chaos that exists.

"You may scarcely believe it, but within 30 hours of the time we landed from the boat, we admitted several patients, and within thirty-six hours had fifty of them. They have been arriving steadily ever since, and we now have about 125. We are placing our hospital canvas as fast as we can, and placing beds and bedding almost as soon as the tents are standing. In this way we have already 220 beds ready for occupation.

"There are plenty of troops in the area for us to draw from, and each night we get a consignment from the front, so I fancy when we are established it will not be long before we are running at capacity. We are certainly a really lucky unit to have this opportunity.

"It looks like real action in this area, and we are in the midst of it, as we could never be in France.

"All our officers are delighted at the prospects of being able to do so much valuable work, and they are so keen to see the hospital in running order that one and all are pitching into the work and getting up the tents and furnishing the various departments.

"Besides all the above, we have pitched the officers' encampment, and to-morrow hope to get up that for our nurses, who are now in Malta and Alexandria, but I have sent for them, and they are to arrive about next Friday. I will have everything comfortably fixed up for them long before that time, so they will be called upon to do as little roughing-it as can be avoided under the circumstances.

"It is my intention to have the huts for the nurses erected as early as possible, and then they should be fairly happy.

"Major Hendry has been the greatest comfort imaginable to me. He and Middleton have looked after the erection of the canvas and have certainly made it grow at a great rate."