



JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0001 26 April 1944.
TC : 1600 2 May 1944.
Place: England.

4th Armored Division Office of Surgeon Journal, February
24-August 1, 1944

26 April 1944.

A thorough inspection of the messes in the Devizes area was carried on by Major Mulliniks and Captain Frank. The messes were found to be below the division standard. A meeting was held with the unit commanders concerned and corrective measures discussed. Captain Kifner paid a visit to local units and inspected dispensaries and narcotic registers.

27 April 1944.

A program of instruction in first aid for the enlisted men of the Surgeon's Office was instituted. They will receive 25 hours of instruction in first aid, anatomy, litter bearing, bandaging, etc. This will qualify them to act as substitute aid men in the Administrative Center if it becomes necessary. A visit was paid and an inspection made of the dispensary of the 704th TD Bn by Captain Kifner. Major Abrams checked the loading of vehicles and medical half-tracks at the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion.

28 April 1944.

No meeting of unit surgeons was held this week due to a unit commanders meeting being held at the same time. Routine business of the office was carried on. Notification of new units being attached made it necessary for us to notify the newly attached units of the required reports.

29 April 1944.

Weekly Statistical Report 86ab was received from all divisional units. The monthly venereal report was also rendered and the following increases were noted: the number of cases of venereal disease rose from 9 to 13, the rate rose from 8.86 to 15.83. It is expected for the rate and number of cases to drop since the troops will not be able to visit the larger cities which seem to be the main sources of infection.

30 April 1944.

Colonel Rumpf, Surgeon of the XIX Corps, paid a visit to our office and gave us the benefit of some of his ideas and suggestions.

1 May 1944.

All monthly medical department reports were due today and were received from all units. Consolidation was begun immediately and vital information extracted. Reports have shown constant improvement and no errors were found in this month's reports.

2 May 1944.

A meeting was held by Major Abrams with the "CC" Surgeons and the Division Artillery Surgeon. Captain Kifner instructed the surgeons in the most common errors found in the rendition and submission of medical department reports. Consolidation of reports was stressed since there may sometime be a possibility of these surgeons acting as surgeons of separate units.

For the Surgeon:

Daniel R. Kifner
DANIEL R. KIFNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive

JOURNAL
DIVISION SURGEON'S OFFICE

From : 0001 3 May 1944.
To : 1600 9 May 1944.
Place: England.

3 May 1944.

All reports were completed and sent forth to higher headquarters. Major Abrams made contact with the 160th Station Hospital to aid us in evacuation. They will aid by evacuating the 25th Cavalry and 46th Medical Battalion. They have also opened their outpatient department clinics to us despite the short staff they are operating with.

4 May 1944.

Information copies of medical department reports were received from the 489th. The reports were good in the manner of preparation, however, this office was not notified as to what channels were being used for submitting the original. Information on these channels was requested from the Battalion Surgeon of the 489th. The division surgeon visited the unit surgeons and discussed the furtherance of medical training within units. He has set forth a series of examinations to cover the subjects covered in directives from higher headquarters.

5 May 1944.

The weekly meeting of all medical department officers was held at the 46th by the Division Surgeon. The control and diagnosis of typhus, typhoid, tetanus, and gas gangrene was discussed by Captain Berner. Delousing was emphasized and training was discussed by Major Frank and Major Abrams. Eyeglasses, Gas Mask, M-1, were received in this office from the 32nd General Hospital. The majority of glasses ordered were received, (79 pair), fourteen (14) are still to be received. Several pair of cracked lenses were received and these will be returned to the hospital.

6 May 1944.

Routine reports were received in this office and consolidated. Unit reports are satisfactory and continue to show that incidences of disease are being kept at the minimum by conscientious effort on the part of all personnel concerned. The Division Surgeon made a routine check on patients hospitalized and it is his system that permits us to give an instant report on all hospitalized personnel. The system entails a daily recording of all A & D's, a check with the units, and close cooperation with G-1.

7 May 1944.

Official mail received and perused; necessary action taken. No activity.

8 May 1944.

Major Abrams and Major Frank visited the 217th General Hospital. Laboratory techniques were discussed with the view of correcting diagnosis in venereal disease cases. Administrative measures were also discussed and patients checked on. Further training for medical department personnel was studied and examinations were made up.



9 May 1944.

The Division Surgeon, with the Division Medical Supply Officer and Combat Command Surgeons, made an information visit to a local Corps Surgeon. Supply administration and technical aspects were discussed. A dental meeting was conducted at the 46th Medical Battalion by Major Hugunin. Anesthesia and its' aspects was discussed. Captain Platz, Medical Corps, was the lecturer and many enlightening factors were brought out.

For the Surgeon:

Daniel R. Kifner

DANIEL R. KIFNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive



JOURNAL DIVISION SURGEONS OFFICE

From: 0001 10 May 1944.
To : 2400 16 May 1944.
Place: England.

10 May 1944:

Circular 99, War Department, dated 9 March 1944, was received in this office, the circular deals with the conservation of Medical Corps Officers. This provides for an MAC Officer as S-3 in the Medical Battalion (Captain); a 1st Lt MAC as Assistant Battalion Surgeon in the Ordnance Maintenance Battalion; and a Major in the Division Surgeons Office, Sanitary Corps or MAC. Circular 122, War Department, dated 28 March, provides amendments to Circular 99 by placing 1st Lts, MAC as Assistant Battalion Surgeons in the Tank Battalions. It is the opinion of this office that those changes at the present time will "hurt" the medical service of the division. Replacement of the MC officers in these jobs will necessitate revisions in many of our plans, and time is exceedingly short.

11 May 1944:

Provisions were made with the 136th General Hospital to refract twenty-one (21) men for gas mask glasses. The 136th took over the site of the 32nd General Hospital which has moved out. Capt Kifner was present at the hospital when the men were examined, the hospital staff was very cooperative. Broken lenses received in previous shipments were turned in for replacement. The Division Surgeon visited our patients with Major General Wood in the 217th General Hospital. Venereal Disease posters were received and distributed by Major Frank.

12 May 1944:

Major Abrams held the weekly meeting of unit surgeons, the following points were emphasized: Mess sanitation, narcotic registers and supervision of the use of Ethyl Alcohol and the reporting of hospitalized men to the division surgeon that are of high calibre and difficult to replace, for example, high speed code radio operators etc. Capt Kifner made arrangements with the registrar of the 217th to keep these specialized men a little longer so that they will not be transferred to their detachment of patients. Circular 48, Hq ETOUSA gives the hospital authority to originate all transfers.

13 May 1944:

Routine reports were received in this office and consolidated. The loss of twenty-five (25) men to the Detachment of Patients of the hospitals servicing us was noted. Twenty-one (21) of these twenty-five (25) men were neuro-psychiatric cases that we do not want. In another week we expect an equal number to be lost and that should leave the division free of people with possible mental conditions.

14 May 1944:

Sunday. Routine correspondence received and necessary action taken. No other activity.

15 May 1944:

Routine inspection of the hospital sick book was carried out and a check made on the number of men in the hospital and transferred. The 217th General Hospital reported a delay in the transfer of service records and allied papers in the case of men transferred to their detachment of patients. Regulations call for the transfer of these papers within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the transfer order. Proper action was instituted by the Division AG.



16 May 1944:

Routine office work was carried on. Checks were instituted on our patients in the servicing hospitals. It is the opinion of this office that the hospitals will cooperate in permitting us to retain special personnel. The 3801 QM Truck Co has been authorized to use the Medical Service of the 25th Cavalry Rcn Sdqn Mecz. A directive from IIIrd Army on Venereal Disease has accelerated our already strict program and policy on the education, treatment, and the prevention of Venereal Disease. We are instituting all possible measures to bring to the attention of each individual soldier the part that he must play to make our program a success.

For the Surgeon:

Daniel R. Kifner

DANIEL R. KIFNER,
Capt, MAC,
Office Executive.





JOURNAL

DIVISION SURGEONS OFFICE

From: 0001 17 May 1944.
To ; 2400 23 May 1944.
Place: England.

17 May 1944.

A quota of two was received for a school in shock and transfusion. Two (2) officers, MC, were chosen from the medical battalion for attendance. A quota of one was received for the school in treatment of gas casualties at the American School Center. Captain Dardess (25th) was selected to fill the allotment. Promotion of the Division Surgeon (Major Abrams) to Lt Colonel was received from Third Army. Authority was contained in Par. 7, SO# 136, Hq ETOUSA, dated 15 May 1944.

18 May 1944.

An inspection of the swimming pool at Trowbridge was conducted by the Medical Inspector and a report is being rendered. Major Frank is also inspecting unit messes, the messes of Company "B", Hqs and Hqs Company and Service Company of the 10th Armored Infantry Battalion were inspected today. Reports of inspections are satisfactory. Colonel Abrams met with the Division Surgeon of the 5th Armored Division. T/O and T/E changes were discussed and other aspects of the various situations now present were studied. Regular office work was carried on.

19 May 1944.

Major Mericle, the Division Neuro-psychiatrist, is still busy with the problem of eliminating personnel that may prove mentally unfit in combat. His present concern is with replacements and assigned units since our original unit was well cleared of undesirables prior to overseas movement. The Division Dental Surgeon is at present working in the Hqs Dental Clinic and is concerned with changes in the T/E in regard to the dental requirements. Officers of the section attended MITU demonstration on German uniforms and weapons.

20 May 1944.

Major Frank continued the inspection of messes and sanitary installations in divisional units. Results of inspection are satisfactory up to date. Weekly Statistical 86ab was consolidated and forwarded to higher headquarters, the health of the command is excellent and no outbreaks are anticipated. However, it is the opinion of this office that there must be a larger issue of insecticide spray, fly-paper and screening. The present supply is inadequate to completely control flies and the resultant fly borne diseases. Colonel Abrams met with the Division Surgeon of the 2nd Armored Division.

21 May 1944.

Colonel Abrams spent the morning working on training plans involving the 92nd Gas Casualty Treatment Battalion. Official mail perused and necessary action taken. No other activity.

22 May 1944.

Colonel Abrams completed plans for training in gas casualty treatment and conferred with Colonel Mailliard as to execution of the plan. Major Frank went to the 1st General Medical Laboratory to trace the cause of several erroneous reports. He also checked on the transmitting agency which causes a delay of eight days before our blood or water samples are received in the laboratory. Captain Kifner checked on our patients in the 217th General Hospital, the evacuation officer of the hospital stated that we will have to keep our admissions to a minimum since they are clearing out their hospital of all but emergencies. A mess inspection of the Elms was conducted by Colonel Abrams.

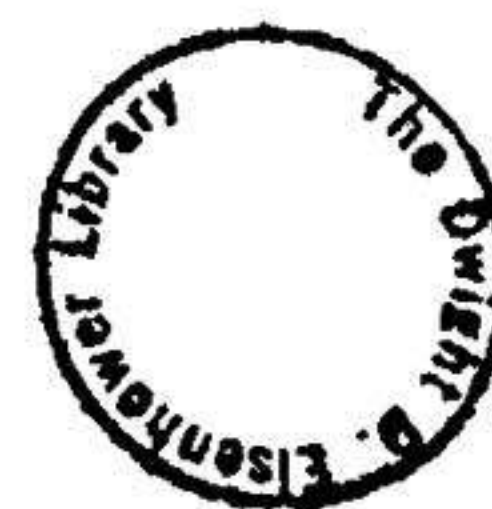
23 May 1944.

Majors Mericle, Mahowald and Frank contacted Surgeons Office of the 9th Infantry Division with a view to adding to our knowledge of conditions to be encountered in combat. Especially those situations entailing sanitation, rest camps (divisional) and other problems. An Army directive received today instructs us to send all medical department reports direct to Army rather than thru a Corps, with the exception of the Monthly Sanitary and Venereal Reports. Corps may request information copies. Major Hugunin is carrying on with his work at his dental clinic. Routine office work was carried on.

For the Surgeon:

Daniel R. Kifner

DANIEL R. KIFNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive



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From: 0001 24 May 1944.
To : 2400 30 May 1944.
Place: England.

24 May 1944.

The 40th General Hospital was contacted by Captain Kifner and arrangements were made to evacuate to them some of our neuro-psychiatric cases. Other arrangements were made pertaining to transfer of division personnel, the return of patients to duty and the channel of communication to be used. Major Frank continued with the inspection of sanitary installations in the division. Colonel Abrams held a meeting of combat command surgeons and the artillery command. Training and evacuation aspects were discussed.

25 May 1944.

Colonel Abrams visited the 40th General Hospital and took a census on the patients we have admitted there. He was pleased with the fine spirit of cooperation they exhibited. Captain Kifner started the monthly inspection of narcotic registers and narcotics. A few minor irregularities were found, however, they were rectified on the spot. Sick books were also checked and it was found they were kept in good order. The irregularities noted were not of a medical nature. The dispensaries inspected were clean and orderly, some showed evidences of original thought in arrangement of supplies and medication.

26 May 1944.

Colonel Abrams held the weekly meeting of unit surgeons at the 46th Medical Battalion. Radio procedure was stressed and studied. A complete program was formulated to promote greater efficiency in communication between the detachments and the medical battalion. Channels of supply were also emphasized. Captain Kifner continued with the inspection of detachment narcotic registers and organizational sick books.

27 May 1944.

Weekly statistical reports were submitted, consolidated and forwarded. With several units in the field there was a delay in the submission by some of the units. Colonel Abrams visited the 9th Infantry Division's Surgeon. He discussed with him various problems met with in combat. Some helpful hints on administration were also gathered.

28 May 1944.

Official mail received - no activity.

29 May 1944.

All medical department officers in the division attended a two day school in the treatment of gas casualties. The school was conducted by the 92nd Medical Gas Treatment Battalion and was located in the area of the 46th Medical Battalion. The course encompassed the treatment and decontamination of personnel, water, food supplies and other equipment. Demonstrations and lectures were excellently conducted. The chief clerk and the file clerk were sent to the AG school in casualty reporting at Marton in the Marsch. It was deemed advisable that our office know how the AG casualty division will operate.

30 May 1944.

The second day of the Gas Treatment school was devoted to demonstration of the battalion bath section and tactical employment of the gas battalion. Other subjects including gas neurosis, first aid and supply were also discussed. Major General

Wood visited the school in the afternoon and made some very interesting comments.
The Third Army Dental Surgeon and Neuro-psychiatrist visited our office and
checked on our problems and asked for our suggestions.

Our two enlisted men completed the course of instruction in casualty reporting.

For the Surgeon:

Daniel R. Kipner

DANIEL R. KIPNER
Captain, MAC
Office Executive



JOURNAL

DIVISION SURGEONS OFFICE

From: 0001 31 May 1944
To : 2400 6 June 1944
Place: England

31 May 1944

A quota of two was received for the course in Recognition and Management of Combat Neurosis. Capt. Greenberger was selected for this seven day course beginning of the 5th June at the 312th Station Hospital.

June 1, 1944

Major Frank has inspected the new areas to be occupied by our units. Sewage and waste disposal facilities were found adequate in all areas. The water supply was satisfactory in all but one case and the proper action is being taken for the correction of water facilities in this area. Col. Abrams has been at work on the reorganization of evacuation of casualties due to the movement of our component units. Monthly Statistical reports were received in our office from all units in record time and consolidation and extractions was begun immediately.

2 June 1944

All irregularities were corrected in the unit reports and a memo was sent to all units surgeons bringing to their attention the errors found. By concentrating the staff for the day without outside interference and priority use of the typewriters the reports were sent forward to higher headquarters in one day. Col. Abrams held the weekly meeting of unit surgeons at the 46th Medical Battalion, Armored. Col. Clark, C.O. of CC - "A" spoke on the organization and employment of an Armored Division. The lecture was superior in all aspects and stressed the importance of the medical service in such a unit.

3 June 1944

Weekly statistical report 86ab received in this office from all units. A certain amount of delay is now experienced due to the movement of many of our units. All other business of the day was concluded.

4 June 1944

Sunday -- Mail received. No activity.

5 June 1944

Study of Circular number 8, Hqs., TUSA was carried out in the staff section, a tentative interpretation was reached on some parts of the directive. However, further study and conference with the AG Casualty Division is indicated. Capt. Kifner started the inspection of the narcotic registers of the units that had been missed last month due to field exercises and their movement. Maj. Frank continued with his inspection of sanitary installations.

6 June 1944

Majors Mericle and Mahowald visited the hospital installations that service us to check on the disposition of our patients. Col. Abrams went to the Corps Surgeon to discuss aspects of the division Medical Service. Major Frank contacted the 302nd Station Hospital to make arrangements for evacuation of sick personnel. The hospitals previously servicing us will accept nothing but emergencies from us now.

For the Surgeon:

Daniel R. Kifner
DANIEL R. KIFNER,
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