

C.S.

MEDICAL (Miscellaneous) NAVAL & MILITARY (Miscellaneous)
No. 8/40.

WAR/W2H/4#1

19 40.

H. E. the Governor.

SUBJECT.

19 40.

13th January,

NAVAL WOUNDED IN HOSPITAL -

Previous Paper.

Medical Specialist for.

MINUTES.

- 1-2. Letter to Captain F. S. Bell, C.B., R.N., of 13. 1. 40.
- 3. Letter from Captain F. S. Bell, C.B., R.N., of 19. 1. 40.
- 4. Signal from H.M.S. "Exeter" of 20. 1. 40.

Hon. S.M.O.

To note.

MCH

C.S.

23. 1. 40

H.S.

Noted. Pds 2 & 3 deeply appreciated.

Q.S.

S.M.O.

24/1/40

Jh.

Submitted.

MCH

C.S.

24. 1. 40.

Subsequent Paper.

Seen

24/1/40

P.a

25/1/40.

Government House,
Falkland Islands.
13th January, 1940.

Dear Captain Bell,

The Senior Government Medical Officer has spoken to me this morning of the considerable responsibility he carries in respect of the six or eight naval patients in the Colonial Hospital with serious fractures caused by wounds received in action.

2. Dr. Kinneard is, I have every reason to believe, an exceptionally sound physician and a good surgeon, but he is not an orthopaedic surgeon and the difficult problem has arisen of whether the patients in question should be transported to Montevideo or Buenos Aires, or be taken to England, where they could be in the care of specialists.

3. I have spoken to Dr. Pennington, the radiologist from Buenos Aires, who has long been associated with orthopaedic surgeons in their work. He is firmly of opinion that the patients have been given the best possible treatment here and that for some time to come, they should not be moved. In any event the bracing climate of the Falklands and the freedom from infection of wounds appear to be strong factors in favour of retaining the cases here for some time.

4. I have considered making enquiries about the practicability of getting a specialist from Buenos Aires, but Dr. Pennington is of opinion that little or nothing could be done more than is being done for a month or two at least. The patients are comfortable and as free from pain as they could possibly be.

2.

5. Under the circumstances I am prepared to accept the responsibility of authorizing the retention of the wounded in our hospital, until any better course of action is apparent. I shall be glad to know whether you concur in this course of action.

Yours sincerely,

Captain F. S. Bell, C.B., R.N.,

H. M. S. Exeter.



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H.M.S. "EXETER".

19th January 1940.

Your Excellency,

Red 2.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 13th January 1940. The question of the retention of orthopaedic patients in the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley, has been referred to the Admiralty for decision, vide the Rear Admiral Commanding, South America Division's secret message, time of origin 1136 of 15th January 1940, sent, I believe, with Your Excellency's concurrence.

May I be permitted to say how much we all in H.M.S. "EXETER" appreciate the work of Doctor Kinneard and his staff; medical, nursing and domestic; at the King Edward Memorial Hospital.

The way in which the hospital was prepared for the reception of our wounded, the unceasing attention they have received and the cheerful atmosphere of the wards have greatly impressed me.

The present wonderful condition of the wounded, in itself, shows the efficiency of the medical treatment that is being so unstintingly given.

The wounded themselves will, I am sure, ever remember with gratitude the treatment they have received from Doctor Kinneard and his staff. I myself will assure any relatives, of the wounded left in Stanley that I may meet, of the skilled and devoted attention that their husbands, fathers and sons are receiving at the King Edward Memorial Hospital, Stanley.

I have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's,

Most obedient servant

CAPTAIN.

His Excellency the Governor of the Falkland Islands,
Government House, PORT STANLEY.

DECODE.

TELEGRAM.

From H. L. S. Exeter

To His Excellency The Governor, Falkland Islands.

Despatched : 20th January 19 40 Time : 11.48.

Received : 19 Time :

For information. The following secret cypher message has been received: begins - R.A.S.A.D. 271 (R) C)in-C.S.A. 73 from Admiralty. Your 1136 15th January. Naval Medical Specialist will be sent. T.O.C. 13/ 1326/19. ends.

T.O.C. 1148/20.

Authenticated.

F. H. Allen.

Paymaster Lieutenant.