

Camp Crane History

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MEDICAL HISTORY OF CAMP CRANE

Shortly after the opening of Camp Crane on June 1, 1917, a Camp Infirmary consisting of a few hospital tents was opened on the tract of ground now occupied by the present Infirmary building. The medical work at this time consisted largely of the care of minor ailments, the examination and inoculation of recruits.

Because of the lack of permanent buildings in the Camp, at this time, and the absence of facilities for the care of the more seriously ill, arrangements were made with the Allentown Hospital for the nursing of the hospital cases under the direction of the Camp Surgeon and his corps of officers. This arrangement has held since, making it possible to give the soldiers the advantages of the excellent equipment of the Allentown Hospital and nursing such as the Camp was not able to supply.

It was believed during the summer of 1917 that the Camp would be maintained only temporarily and would be emptied of soldiers in the early fall. As a consequence, the first cold weather found the patients of the Infirmary still in tents. Pending the completion of the present Infirmary Building, then under construction, sick call was held during November, December, 1917 and part of January 1918, in the basement of the Allentown Hospital. Infirmary patients were placed in the hospital during this time.

On January 10, 1918, the present Infirmary was opened with beds for 24 patients, dressing and examining rooms and the office of the Camp Surgeon. Patients too ill to remain in quarters and not ill enough to go to the hospital are placed in the Infirmary. Sick call is also held here.

Three times in the Year 1918 quarantine restrictions were placed upon the Camp, the first from January 31st to March 15th, 1918 for measles in the Camp as a protection to the town. During this epidemic, 162 cases occurred among the soldiers.

The second restriction lasted from June 21st to Aug. 1st, 1918 and was designed to protect the Camp from the City of Allentown. In this period, 46 cases developed in Camp, while the town had about 2000.

During the recent epidemic of Influenza, a restriction was again imposed, lasting from Sept. 27th to Nov. 11th, 1918. During this time there were 348 cases of Influenza in the Camp with 12 deaths, the result of pneumonia.

It is estimated that 25,000 men have passed through Camp Crane on their way overseas. All of these men, at some time during the period of training, passed thru the hands of the Hospital Staff; many as patients, for inoculation and vaccination or for overseas physical examination. Seven thousand were excused from duty because of illness. Among these 300 were surgical cases.

Following is the roster of Camp Surgeons of Camp Crane with dates

of service as such:

<u>NAMES OF SURGEONS</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DATES OF SERVICE.</u>
George H. Clapp	1st Lt. M.R.C.	June 1, 1917 to July 26, 1917.
Charles D. Lockwood	Major, A.A.S.	July 26, 1917 to Aug. 17, 1917.
Sydney E. Bateman	Capt. M.C.	Aug. 17, 1917 to Feb. 4, 1918
Charles L. Gandy	Major, M.C.	Feb. 4, 1918 to Apr. 18, 1918
Wilson T. Davidson	Lt.-Col., M.C.	Apr. 18, 1918 to May 30, 1918.
Dale Martin	Major, M.C.	May 30, 1918 to -----

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