

Camp Crane History

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THE DETACHMENT MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

By

Hospital Sergeant S. Glass

"Necessity is the mother of invention." This saying would really answer were anyone to ask why the Detachment was organized. In the early days of the Camp, when the U. S. Army Ambulance Service was in training, it was necessary to detail various Non-Commissioned Officers to perform essential duties about the Camp. These details would interfere with their duties in the Ambulance Sections and consequently, the efficiency in both the Sections and the various departments would become impaired. It was, therefore, decided to select a certain number of efficient Non-Commissioned Officers who were on details too essential to make them available for further duty in their sections, and to examine these men for permanent warrants in the Medical Department.

After authority had been requested and obtained from the Surgeon General's Office, these men were examined and on November 20, 1917, warrants were granted appointing Leon C. Altman, Donald C. Evans, Wm. V. Garrison, Wilbur P. Hunter, Allen H. Quirk and Herman N. Schwartz, Sergeants First-Class; Dan A. Bell, Clyde J. Douglas, Henry L. Fisher, Solomon Glass, Ernest R. Hart, Wm. W. Moss, R., Frank Hoddell, Derval Jones, Wm. A. Cannon and Wm. W. Faries, Sergeants.

On December 1, 1917, orders were issued organizing the Detachment, Medical Department, with First Lieutenant, now Captain Clifford A. Truesdell, in command; the sixteen Non-Commissioned Officers forming the personnel.

With a personnel of six Sergeants First-Class and ten Sergeants on December 1, 1917, the Detachment has rapidly grown, and after a period of one year, during which its personnel has rendered most efficient service in the various departments necessary for the proper maintenance and administration of a Camp of this size, its roster shows a personnel consisting of ten Hospital Sergeants, twenty-nine Sergeants First-Class, thirty-eight Sergeants, thirty-one Corporals, four Mechanics, eighteen Cooks, and ninety-six Privates First-Class and Privates--a total of two hundred and twenty-six men, an increase of two hundred and ten since its organization.

Of the original sixteen Charter Members, four are now First Lieutenants, serving with organizations in France and Italy; three entered Officers' Training School and earned their bars; four more became Hospital Sergeants, two of whom are now in Italy. The balance of these Charter members are overseas, either in France or Italy. Two of the old-timers, however, are still on the job at Camp Crane: Hospital Sergeant Altman and the writer, who, no doubt, will have the honor of being among those present when the gates of Camp Crane will be locked, and leave with fond remembrances of having served with an organization, though its ~~name~~ <sup>has</sup> never been cited for bravery or gallantry on the battlefield, ~~they~~ <sup>its men</sup> have rendered a service on this side of a character worthy of recognition.

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