MH 106/2208

First World War representative medical records of servicewomen, Queen Mary Auxiliary Army Corps

1919

This document is a medical report of Alice M Pym, who was part of the Queen Mary Auxiliary Army Corps, and whose medal card is also held at The National Archives.

The Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, later known as the Queen Mary Auxiliary Army Corps was formed by the War Office in December 1916. It was designed to relieve more men from non-combatant duties to be able to fight, while women replaced them in roles such as mechanics, cooking, administration and transport. Eventually 9,000 women served in these QMAAC roles in France and by the end of the war more than 50,000 women had joined the WAAC, working in places such as France, Belgium and Italy.

In this report Alice is identified as being depressed. The report was completed during Alice's stay at a detention hospital in Dieppe, close to where she would have likely been working in France.

Shellshock, now known as post-traumatic stress was commonly associated with men during war time. However many women, such as those in the QMAAC, worked close to enemy action and were equally at risk from the trauma of war.

This document is one of a sample of representative medical records of servicemen and women from the First World War. However a number of boxes focus specifically on Women's Services, documenting illness and injuries incurred by women in various services including the Voluntary Aid Detachment; Nursing Sisters; Scots Women's Hospital; Women's League and Women's Royal Navy Service.

Forms
I. 1237
12

Report of M.O. i/c Case

Army Form I. 1237.

MEDICAL CASE SHEET.* A 1/1/19

No. in Admission and Discharge Book.	Regimental No.	Rank.	Surname	Christian Name.
Year	33	F. Wm	PYM.	A.M.

Unit.	Age.	Service.
1 Bipps Q.M.A.A.C.	28	4 8/12

29/11/19 Station and Date. Detention Hospital Dippse

Disease NYD ? Mental.

Sent into Hospital ? T.B. lungs. but there is no evidence of any organic disease.

Is depressed - appears worried about something but will not say that there is anything the matter - does not agree with this assertion. There is considerable change in her demeanour during the last few months. When in Hospital a few months ago with Scabies she was bright & pleasant now she is taciturn.

I arranged for her to be evacuated to Rouen to day & she acquiesced, but when the time came she obstinately refused to go, & was so determined that nothing short of forcible compulsion would have succeeded. She gave as her reasons that it was all a plot to get rid of her out of her unit & was cool concise & determined in her opposition. I passed over the incident & made further enquiries obtaining the statement of Miss Thompson Pegg. RD attached to No. 1 Dippse unit Q.M.A.A.C.

1/12/19 To day she was obviously excited & preventing herself from emotion by a great effort of control. She confided to me in a rambling, rather disconnected lengthy statement the history of herself since childhood. The following were

...ion will be signed and transfers from ... one Medical Officer to another, attested by their signatures.

P.T.O.

Station and Date.	
	the outstanding facts in this statement is it was obvious that she suffers from delusions (1) She knows herself to be a highly nervous emotional & imaginative girl, no good at school & a failure in everything she undertook in later life
	(2) She lately has been determined to conquer her sensations & make good in spite of the opinions to the contrary expressed by her own people.
	(3) She thinks that she has "second sight". At one time she worked for the Belgian refugees & states that she knew about the atrocities in the late war before they actually occurred.
	(4) There is something else that she knows about which has not yet happened, & about which she will not tell me.
	(5) At times the fear of something going to happen works her into a state of nervous tension in which she finds it very difficult to control herself.
	(6) Does not sleep well.
2/12/19	She is now resigned & willing to be evacuated. She is rational in every way willing to work & help the sister in any way & appears happy.
	In my opinion this is a highly sensitive neurotic girl on the border line of insanity. She needs tactful & sympathetic treatment under observa

W. Symes
Capt
R.A.M.C.