

There has been an increase in informal activity, particularly with regard to hobbies and craft-work. Much material has been sent for this purpose.

Jayforce Times is printed weekly in New Zealand and 2,000 copies flown to Japan. At the end of 1946 the format was changed and the paper more than doubled in size.

A lending library maintained service to 36 Navy, Army, and Air Force units in the North Island. The University section has a library of 19,000 text-books. During the year, 1,377 rehabilitation students were supplied with books.

Regular entertainment was provided for ex-service patients in hospitals in New Zealand, and a concert party organized by the National Broadcasting Service played in Japan under the direction of the Australian Army Amenities Service.

MEDICAL SERVICES

The general health of troops has been good, but minor outbreaks of parotitis, chicken-pox, and upper respiratory infections have occurred. The average sick rate per thousand men per day was 25.4, and hospital admission rate 0.82.

The total deaths from all causes was 19, of which 8 were due to accidents, and the remainder to sickness.

On 31st May, 1947, 22 medical officers were serving full-time in the Army, of whom 21 were in Japan, and a further 6 were serving part-time in New Zealand. There were 53 Army nursing sisters, of whom 35 were in Japan and 18 in New Zealand.

On 1st April, 1947, all members of the W.A.A.C. Medical Division were transferred to the New Zealand Army Nursing Service. On this date 36 V.A.D.s were serving in Japan and 14 in New Zealand.

The general reduction in numbers of mobilized troops in New Zealand has made possible the discharge of all full-time medical officers except the A.D.M.S. at Army Headquarters. The health of troops in camps is now maintained by periodical visits of part-time medical officers. The hygiene and sanitation of occupied camps remains good.

As from 1st April, 1947, the responsibility for residual medical stores was resumed by the Chief Ordnance Officer.

During the year, provision of optician services has been entirely carried out by approved civilian opticians, with satisfactory results. Three thousand five hundred full visual investigations have been carried out, and 2,200 pairs of service-pattern spectacles have been provided.

DENTAL SERVICES

On 31st May, 1947, there were 12 dental officers serving in the Army, of whom 5 were in Japan. As the dental condition of recruits has not improved in comparison with earlier intakes, the reduction in the strength of the Dental Corps (from 42 officers in 1945-46) has made it impossible to deal with all the treatments required. Nevertheless, due to the excellent work of the personnel available, all emergency treatments have been effected, and a high proportion of serving personnel in both Japan and New Zealand have been given routine examinations and treatment.