

68. I thought you said there were not many—first twelve and then twenty cases?—We had sixty-seven cases altogether.

69. But not like they had at Trentham?—They began the same as at Trentham, but we stopped them before they got so bad.

70. You have not had to improvise a hospital to meet a sudden emergency?—No; I would not have to improvise, because I would organize before having to improvise.

JAMES HARTLEY sworn and examined. (No. 50.)

1. *Mr. Salmond.*] What detachment do you belong to?—To the 1st Battalion.
2. And you are now at Rangiotu?—Yes.
3. When you were at Trentham were you living in huts?—Yes.
4. From the time you first went there?—No. I was first in a tent and then in a hut.
5. Do you remember the number of the hut you were in?—I think No. 38, but I am not certain.
6. Do you know a man named Private Solomon?—Yes.
7. Were you in the same hut as he was?—Yes.
8. Can you say how many men used to sleep in that hut?—I think seventy-two at first.
9. *The Chairman.*] That would be in both sides of the partition?—No, in the one compartment.
10. That was from the time you began to occupy it?—Yes.
11. *Mr. Salmond.*] And how many afterwards?—They dwindled down to about fifty.
12. How long did the number take to reduce?—From the time the main body first came into camp—about six weeks.
13. How long do you suppose there would be seventy men in the hut?—About the first fortnight, perhaps.
14. Was that too many?—Oh, yes.
15. Were you crowded and uncomfortable?—Yes.
16. Did you see men sleeping under the tables?—Yes.
17. It was gradually reduced to fifty: was that because of any complaint?—No; it was on account of the men being sick and going on leave.
18. What was the cause of that crowding?—There was not sufficient accommodation for us.
19. Were the huts finished?—One hut was finished, but it was occupied by the workmen of the Public Works Department.
20. Do you remember how many huts were being made at the time?—There were two undergoing construction from the top end, where we were.
21. *Mr. Ferguson.*] How many huts were finished when you were there?—I could not tell you.
22. They were all occupied, were they?—Yes, as soon as they were finished they were occupied.
23. *Mr. Salmond.*] Which did you prefer, huts or tents?—Tents, because we seemed to enjoy better health in the tents.
24. Were you not well?—No.
25. Were you quite well in the tents?—Yes; I have been greatly improving since I have been in a tent after leaving Trentham.
26. Were you well when in the tents at Trentham?—For the first fortnight, and then I had a bad cold.
27. How long were you in tents altogether?—About a month.
28. Did you feel the huts were cold and draughty?—Yes, they were cold and draughty.
29. Did the men generally complain about that?—Yes, they did complain.
30. Were they altered in any way?—No.
31. Was there room in the hut you were in for all the men to have meals on the table?—No.
32. What happened?—They ate their food off the floor.
33. Do you remember how the bread was brought to the huts?—In blankets, I believe.
34. Do you remember ever seeing bread brought from the store to the hut?—I think I do remember it being brought in a blanket, and I made a remark about it—that it was not very nice to bring it in the blankets the men had been sleeping on. I am not certain.
35. *Mr. Ferguson.*] Have you seen it brought in the ground-sheets?—Yes.
36. *Mr. Salmond.*] Did you see that being done?—Yes.
37. Was it done regularly?—I could not tell you. I very seldom saw the bread brought.
38. Whose business was it to bring the bread?—The quartermaster-sergeant and a fatigue party.
39. Would two men go for the bread?—More than that: one for each twelve men.
40. And did they fasten the bread up in the sheet or blanket and make a bag of it?—No, not to my knowledge.
41. How were they carrying it?—Just slung in the ground-sheet; they would get hold of the corners together.
42. Can you describe how the men got tea: had they teapots or anything like that?—They had camp-kettles.
43. How did each man who wanted a cup of tea get it?—He dipped his pannikin into the tea-kettle.
44. Had you any complaint to make of the quantity or quality of the food you got?—Very rarely. We made complaints of its not being properly cooked on several occasions.
45. You had very rarely to make complaints?—Yes.