

Rest Camp at Sarpi on Lemnos Island

What were the living conditions at Sarpi like?

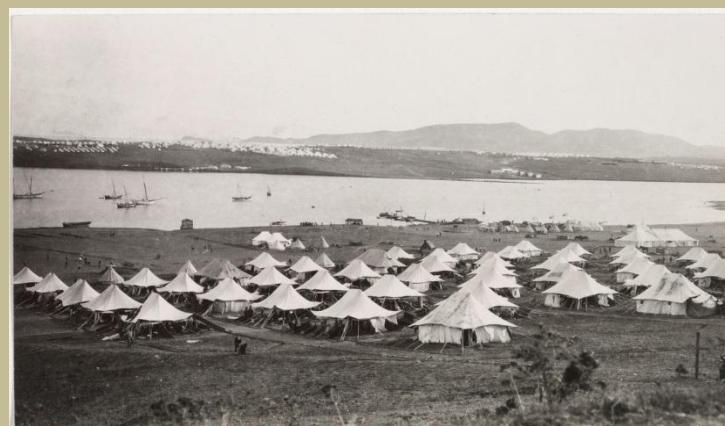
The soldiers used to live in tents while they were at Sarpi. In the winter it was extremely cold and in the summer it was extremely hot. Their diet was limited and they did not get much variation e.g. fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh milk and meat. They were able to buy tinned food from Naval Canteens and from the villages they could buy fruit and eggs. The Soldiers were delighted to receive parcels from England, Scotland and New Zealand containing pickles, jams, sweets and baking. Their uniforms were made of wool and the soldiers complained about how prickly they were.

What activities were available to soldiers at Sarpi?

Soldiers had access to items such as pens, paper, a piano, cricket sets, boxing gloves, chess, cards and footballs. They also had concerts when The New Zealand Band performed and they also had campfire concerts.

Introduction

Sarpi Camp on Lemnos Island was a rest camp for injured or tired soldiers to rest. Located a few miles inside Mudros Harbour, tents were put up to accommodate injured or tired New Zealanders. Soldiers had access to many items such as pens, writing paper, cricket sets, a piano, chess and many more things they wouldn't have got in the field. They got their clothes washed and there was water to freshen up in. They would have hated to leave the camp.



The tents where the soldiers lived at Sarpi.

What other issues did the soldiers face at Sarpi?

There were a lot of rats and flies which brought diseases to the soldiers. They suffered from Dysentery, Typhoid Fever, Influenza, Cholera, Lice and Pneumonia. Many were shipped back to England and many died on the way.



A view of Sarpi Rest Camp.

Did women work at Sarpi Rest Camp?

Women from Canada and Australia worked as nurses at Sarpi and Mudros hospitals. The women often had the same diet as soldiers, bully beef and biscuits. When the soldiers went back to the harbour to return to Anzac, the women threw them cigarettes, chocolates and tins of food. The nurses always thought first about the sick and wounded men and the soldiers thought they were marvellous.

Bibliography

www.nzhistory.net.nz

GALLIPOLI: They Fought for Us by Ruth Naumann

GALLIPOLI: Untold Stories from War Correspondent Charles Bean and Front Line Anzacs by Jonathan King and Michael Bowers