



THE HEALTH SERVICES OF THE MILITARY EXPEDITIONS TO ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE. MEDICAL RECORDS IN TIME OF WAR.

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Abstract

The military expeditions to Angola and Mozambique were organized by the legislation of the army N° 19, I serie, August 18th 1914, by the Ministry of War and Ministry of Colonies. Between 1914 and 1918, two expeditions were sent to Angola and four expeditions were sent to Mozambique. Basically, their mission consisted in: increase the military force, in case of need to defend the colonies of a german border attack; to control a possible rebellion from the natives; to start a possible cooperation with the ally British Army; and the last, to prevent Mozambique from becoming a theatre of war between belligerents. To carry out this mission, the expeditions were counting on several sections, organized since the beginning, like vehicle section, *etâpes* section, supplies section and health services.

In Angola and Mozambique, the portuguese militaries faced diverse diseases, that clearly they were not able to deal with. The proof of that is the large number of internments in the hospital and deaths because of diseases, some of them tropical ones.

The health services were composed by hospitals, nurseries, first aid station, ambulances, pharmacy, and medicines and health equipment. Among their documentation we highlight the register of patients, hospital charts, register of deaths and its cause, sick leaves and hospital discharges and medical examinations by *Junta de Saúde*. The aim of this paper is to present through the analysis of the documentation produced by the health services of the expeditions, a reflection on their organization, logistics and the solutions applied to the adversities found in Africa.