

DIARY FOR MONTHS OF FEBRUARY & MARCH 1915

[Embarkation at Melbourne, visited Colombo, arrived Aden.]

[First entry in diary] Thursday 25th Feb 1915 Up fairly early. Prepared to receive horses - laid down mats etc. Horses came on at about 8. Embarkation finished at about 11. Letters from Ruth, Mary and at last moment - one from Nina. Lost & found keys. Left at about 1 o'clock. Was below getting money at time. People not allowed on Pier at all. Paid men & collected the £9. Anchored in bay for an hour or so. Were steaming ahead when Runic called us up & asked us to wait. Best anchor till next morning.

Nice to see horses on board again. Like old friends. Pennington showed Dale & myself the wireless & took us through refrigerator & engine room. Simply splendid.

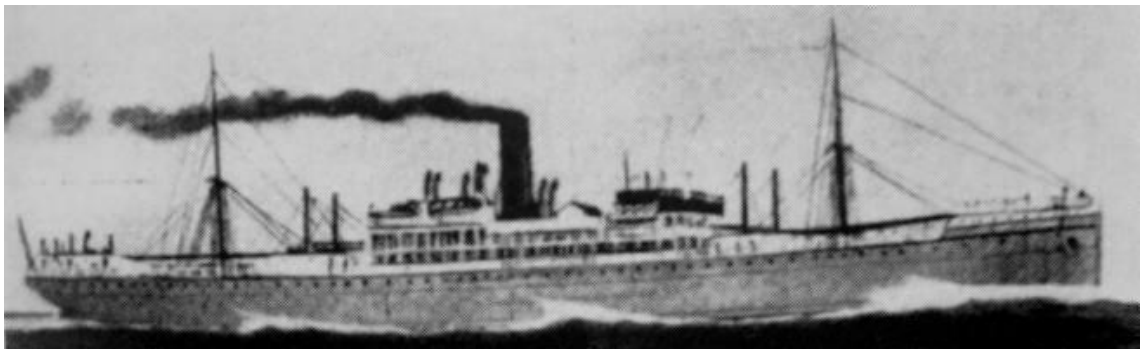
To bed a little after 11. Wrote letters to Mother & Nina before I went to bed.

26/2/15 Reveille at 6. Did nothing much all day except square things up a little. Boat started at about 5 a.m. Rip was quite calm. Pilot took our letters ashore. Sea quite calm comparatively but a fair number were seasick. Towards evening it grew a little rougher and a few more were sick. Last bit of land we saw - Cape Otway. Doing about 12 knots. Horses are taking it very well indeed but a few are frightened.

Orderly officer today. 'Tis fine having a top bunk & was worth the fight I had to put up for it last night. Sort of strained expectancy throughout boat today - each suspecting the other of being seasick. Some wait at the sides with mouths partly open & seem quite disappointed when nothing came. To bed quite early. Need a bit of sleep.

27/2/15 Orderly officer. Up in fair time. 9 a.m. parade, physical training for men but could not give them much as they were a bit groggy. Gave them games etc instead. Sat after with Penny for a short time. Most enjoyable. The wireless is very interesting indeed. Listened to Sydney speaking during the evening. Yarned till about 11 & then buzzed off to bed. Rain during day.

28th Feb Woke up feeling splendid & had a warm bath. Runic a long way behind & we had to slow down to about 9 knots for her instead of going at 12. Church parade at 10 a.m. Hymns were nice & band played well. Parson was unable to preach a sermon - frightened of losing his breakfast. After church we had practice in falling in on fire stations & boat stations. Pretty rough sea today now that we are about the middle of the



HMAT A16 Star of Victoria which departed Melbourne with 8th Light Horse Regiment on 25 February 1915.

Bight. Horses are standing it very well indeed & are able to get a fair amount of exercise. Letter to home.

Paraded in blue uniform in evening & it felt quite nice. Had good yarn to Penny in evening. Saw CO about attending signaling. Having a Sgt instructing when one of our RMCites can be made use of! Won't stand it.

1st March Up in fair time. Did not attend signaling in a.m. Only a few men available for 9 a.m. parade so did not hold one. Weather rough. Read Military Law & King's Regs. Read same in p.m. No parade till further orders. Did bit of physical training together. CO had to put 1/- in box for late at meal. Letters to Gladys, Olive & Nina. Yarned with Penny till 12 & then got to bed pretty slick.

2nd March Up pretty late for once. Sea beautifully calm but our boat cannot do more than 9 knots on account of the broken steam pipe. Runic has to wait for us now & tables are reversed. Gave men some gun section work & got rifles cleaned. Fixed up rifles in racks during the afternoon. Did a little sword drill under SSM Gilman. Had a game of cricket on board also. Gummed up about 300 letters in evening. Post to be cleared tomorrow. Yarned to Sparks till twelve again. Got our subjects for lectures. No drink allowed in saloon.

3rd March Got up & saw land once again. Looked very fine indeed. Very pretty coast. Made the harbour a little before breakfast. Runic in a little before us. Such a beautiful bay I have never seen! Past description. Township very picturesque. No parade all day. Nobody allowed ashore except a select few.

Letters to Mortimer. Helped Padre with letters in p.m. & evening. Concert in evening. One or two good items. Spent rest of evening with Penny, yarned till midnight again. The beautiful moonlight scene on the water I cannot forget or describe! Impression beautiful. The world is indeed beautiful.

4th March Did a bit of physical training again in a.m. Makes one feel fit for meals & work. Interesting work for gun section. Range finding on to shore & instruction in range taking. Judging distance not at all bad. Showed them how to work the clinometer. Went for long row in p.m. till 4 p.m. Good exercise. Byrne left ashore but came later in evening. Spent evening with Penny. To bed early for once.

5th March Wrote letter to Garfield first thing in a.m. & posted it with Padre. Did no work in a.m. In charge of cutter & went ashore with Doctor and 2nd Mate. Hard pull & I did a bit. 2nd not much of a sport I fancy. Would not have a sail. Had nice cup of tea ashore & some cake.

Bought some postcards. Posted one to Nina & one home. Rain for short time. Back in time for dinner. Semaphore in p.m. Officers of Star of & Runic had a boat race. They won by a little. Our men & their men had a go & they won easily. Lovely little kangaroo on board now. CO brought him on last night. Cleaned out my box in evening & got my valise up ready for sleeping out. To bed early & slept out.

6th March Up pretty early. Did semaphore, bayonet fighting in a.m. & inspected rifles. Men keen on semaphore. Sailed away at noon & met a fairly rough sea to start with.

The last sight of Australia - fair land - for some time. Slept in p.m. in Penny's room. Felt good after it too. Had a good yarn to Chief Engineer after tea. Fine old fellow I think! Yarned in evening till 11 p.m. Thos Hill confined to cells for drunkenness! Confound him. Got jagged for typhoid. Not too bad.

7th March Up pretty late. Rest for once in a while. No church parade in a.m. Too rough for Padre. Was told I would have a lecture tomorrow evening. Read "In Deadly Peril" for a few hours. Church parade in p.m. at 4.30. Hymns not up to much & no sermon. Very nice going to day. Padre had evening service - too formal. Hymns good all the same. Spent some time preparing lecture - pretty dry one.

8th March Troop deck orderly officer. Had to get up a little earlier. Signalling again in a.m. Lecturette on combined sights. Marked identity discs. Landscape target in p.m. signalling & physical training. Caught some fellows gambling. Gave them a good talking to. Had the required effect I think. Gave lecture in evening. Had singsong after it & came up to see Penny. Read a little of book. To bed late. Thomas passed nasty remark at table in a.m. about me. Miss not seeing Penny much today. Steering of ship very bad indeed.

9/3/15 Woke up very sleepy indeed. had a good bath for once. Got in before the other crowd. Did a little physical training. Could not do much in a.m. or p.m. on account of very strong wind blowing. Gave a few odds & ends & a little signalling. Read "In Deadly Peril" a little more. Debate for œ3 in evening on "White Australia: is it justifiable?" Pros won. Yarned with Penny but got to bed earlier.

10/3/15 Rained in early morning but slept well. Had to have an understanding with Penny. Did no physical trg. Started on new gun section in a.m. Men seem to be smart & keen. I was a bit rusty at first. Broken up in p.m. Had to read out about Laws & Customs of War to men. Had a good go at punching ball & then had cold bath. Lecture in evening by Mitchell. CO not up to much. Saw whales spouting in a.m. Sea calm. Lovely sunset. Had tiff with Q'Master. Adjutant amuses me.

11/3/15 Reveille late. Had dip & did not have long to go for breakfast. Saw Runic in far distance & also saw a shoal of little flying fish enter water. Did little more work with new section in a.m. Very hot & small tropical showers. Boat signal at dinner time. Men learned how to put on life belt in p.m. Took my own section in afternoon. None to brilliant at the work. Had yarn with Thomas after 4 p.m. Not a bad sort of chap & then had long one with old chief engineer. Lecture by Andy on movement by rail. Pretty dry. Had yarn to Penny & went to bed rather earlier than usual.

12/3/15 Orderly officer for last time I hope today. Did a little signalling, cleaning of rifles & landscape targets. Morning went very quickly indeed. Men to parade in bare feet from this on. Afternoon occupied with some lectures. Tried some communication drill with gun section. Not too good. Very hot indeed today - sultry & sweat just poured out of us. Got up Tug-of-war team. Loaded our revolvers with ball. Choir competition in evening. Very good to listen to - C squadron won. Read book & got to bed fairly late. Penny got a bad shock today. Gave us a bit of a scare too.

13/3/15 Very heavy rain. Wet over bed clothes. Had a good shower & soaking in it. Put clothes out to dry in very hot sun. Adjutant very annoyed in a.m. about order of going in for inoculations. Got guns painted & they look very nice indeed. Quite businesslike indeed. Gave team practice in tug-of-war. We were jagged in arm again for typhoid.

Terribly hot day. Sweat just poured out of us in pints. Sports in p.m. & not too bad at all. Finished book. Had lecture on tropical diseases & venereal disease from Dr. Very sensible lecture indeed. Had long yarn to Penny after lecture. Getting to know him more & more now.

14/3/15 Sunday, Learnt a little knotting & splicing from chief. Got guns painted. Look rather fine after their second coat. Church parade. Sermon not at all bad. Text "For England, Home & Beauty." Letter to Mother. Fooled about all p.m. Sat on Marconi deck. Lecture by Charlie Dale in evening. Wrote letter to Mary in evening. Penny thinks I am wild at something. Electrician & 6 & 7th engineers played joke on me. I threw water on them. They then wanted fight. Rain again. Lovely sunset. Padre had sermon in evening.

15/3/15 Watched officers doing semaphore in a.m. Bayonet fighting in a.m. Had argument with Gilman over small pt. Sword exercise pretty stiff. Lecture in p.m. Had practice at tug-of-war. Real thing came off at 4 p.m. We won one heat & had tremendous pull to win it. Other one came too soon on it & we lost. "B" squadron came out on top. Map reading etc in evening by Deeble. Bit of a song & went to bed late. Lovely sunset. I am not prudent enough with Adjutant such as we have.

16/3/15 Little work on stoppages in a.m. Men reading the semaphore excellently. Some of them can read as fast as I can send. Few small tugs of war in p.m. also. After dinner we got ready for Neptune's parade. Ceremony started at 2 p.m. Heralds - trumpeters - came along to give warning of approach of Neptune. Neptune came along in carriage with Queen, accompanied by mermaids & policemen armed with big waddies. The dressing was fine get up. Neptune in his seaweed, crown etc, mermaids in their seaweed, the Doctor dressed comically & so on. Trial took place. Treatment by Doctor. Treatment by barbers & then the drowning by the mermaids. It was most enjoyable. All the officers done first & then a few sgts & cpls as time allowed. Speech by Doctor & then by Chief & Captain. I secured razor & got my certificate.

Revolver practice afterwards. I actually got top, 6 hits out of 6 shots, 3 bulls & 3 inners. Fired with Webleys. Ingenious way of arranging targets. Lecture in evening. CO a bit angry over results of his speech to squadron leaders. Boxing contest after it. Part of it very funny indeed. Letters to Lizzie & Arch. Cpl Latter won his bout. Clean fighter.

17/3/15 Airing of sea kit bags in a.m. Will do men's clothes good. Made sure that men's uniforms were complete for going ashore. Spare parts in p.m. Time went wonderfully quickly. Had photo of gun section taken. Lecture by Major Deeble again. Boxing again in evening. Cpl Latter lost to Shaw but he is plucky. Had look at Great Bear, Southern Cross etc. Letter to Olive.

18/3/15 Sighted land when I woke up. Saw various ships moving about. Glad sight. Came to harbour at 9 or 10 a.m. Saw the "kata morangs" for first time & saw the coppery

natives for first time. Men allowed ashore 50% at a time. Runic not allowed ashore. Thank goodness for that. At 2 p.m. troops were towed ashore and I followed later. Went to P.O. & wrote & posted various letters for other people. Spent almost whole of remainder of p.m. spent in shop looking at silks, ivory etc. Made a few purchases and then went & had light luncheon at Globe hotel which seems a decent enough place. Got back to pier as boat leaving. Tried to catch them but could not. Rain & wind came on & natives had hard job pulling boat. I got wet thro'. Paid natives too much - worst of being too soft hearted. Got changed into blue & went ashore again to see Colombo by night. Took rickshaw and wandered through native part of town. First question by ricky is "Woman? Woman?" and same question is asked by other natives further along. Got my parcel & saw a fair amount of interest and then came back. Went to bed quite late.

Some fine buildings in Colombo. Bullock transport was most amusing. Oxen seem made for the job. Rickshaw not bad travelling at all.

On has to learn from experience how to deal with natives of this island Ceylon. They seem fairly intelligent but terribly servile to white men for money. Begging is something disgusting. Saw some good diving for money but water police stopped it.

Not a man of the 8th tried to stay ashore! A bit of a record.

19/3/15 Up late. Second batch went ashore at 8.30 & had leave till 12 noon. I went ashore again and decided to have a cruise round. Went with Capt Day & Penny. First to P.O. & then by rickshaw to Budda's Temple. Saw Budda & various images of a fairly old age - 1000 or so. Bought a bible & wrote our names in the book. Went to temple & had our boots taken off first. Saw Budda in various positions, the Budda to come and his 55 disciples. Fairly impressive. But the constant begging spoils things. The guide & all the little temple boys expect something. Came back as quickly as possible to pier. Got car & flew out to Mt Lavinia. Trip was lovely and driver was a good one. Shade very tempting. Saw many sights to amuse. Got back just about 12 after buying some mangos.

Not a man absent. CO, Naval people & all officers pleased with the men. Were ready to sail when Runic gave an exhibition. 3 boatloads of men mutinied & made for shore. Woods cut one load off & tried to persuade them to come back. Our men supplied a guard & brought most of them back but there are still a number of men ashore. S'pose they will play old harry. A fine thing for the authorities at home to hear about! Runic moored out to sea a little as numbers of men had swum ashore during night.

Heavy rain in evening. Nice lightning exhibition in evening.

Got washing back from D'man & done just beautifully. Honest old beggar & reasonable.

20/3/15 Started on voyage again at 3.30 or 4 a.m. Runic started before us by about 4 hours. Saw the most southern portion of India. Very fine appearance presented by the high rugged mountains. Saw land till evening. Very little doing in a.m. & washing in p.m. Sports on again in p.m. but I read most of time. Very fine sunset. Fires on the mountains looked alright. Had a good feed of mangos & bananas. Boxing took place in evening. Not bad goes. Had bit of a [uncertain] with Penny. Went to bed quite early.

21/3/15 Up late. Aired bed clothing on top of horse box. Best thing in place of washing. Fairly enjoyable service in a.m. - in fact very good. Band almost a negligible quantity. Read newspaper in a.m. Men paid œ1 in p.m. Just about time too. Saw land again in p.m. Something in the wind Runic not quite settled yet I fancy. Finished paper & had lie down in p.m. Lecture on [uncertain] in evening. Song service in evening I quite enjoyed in very much indeed. Sat out on top again. Lister not very agreeable man to get on with. Smells too much of Port Melbourne for my liking. Maggie went wrong. Stayed up till after 12 fixing it.

22/3/15 Up fairly late. Vaccinated again in a.m. I got done again just to make sure. Most of morning occupied by this. Stripped gun in p.m. & went over mechanism. Men surprisingly bad. Showed gun to chief. He seemed very interested indeed. Hat badge stolen from my hat. Lecture in evening. Boxing contest finished. Austin won in heavyweight easily. Gave elephant & handkerchief to Billy. Like the little kid.

23/3/15 Put No 10271 gun together again. Went alright. Gave section a fair bit of practice at semaphore. Had them on the [uncertain] again. Not too brilliant. Lecture in p.m. Colonel got me on deciphering but could not do much. Potato & spoon race in p.m. at 3 p.m. Skipper gave prize - fairly tame. Lecture on outposts in evening. Saw ship on horizon afterwards but it disappeared suddenly. Went to bed fairly soon for once. Throat not too good & arm itching.

24/3/15 Semaphore. Physical trg & mechanism in a.m. Lecture in p.m. & belt filling. Court Martial in p.m. from 4 - 5. Then a little sabres & cricket. Read a yarn in a magazine. More sketching in evening. Musical competition. Sentimental pieces. Gribble sang but did not get a place. To bed late.

25/3/15 Up early for once. Did a fair amount of physical training. Rifle inspection, bayonet fighting and semaphore in morning. Belt filling & physical training in p.m. Men improving at filling & enjoying phys. trg. Court martial again but did not quite finish it. Crawl put in his place. Officers seem to be sweep mad lately.

Did a little revolver shooting with automatic. Will carry much further than Webley. Lecture by Major Greg. on information. Not much. Competition again in evening. Gribble came first & Bateman second in Scotch songs. Bit of swat before bed.

26/3/15 Section improving at semaphore. Crawl addressed section on sleeping out. Made a fool of himself too. CO gave me job of making enlargement of a map. Belt filling improving. Little landscape target training & physical training which seems to be doing men much good. Comic songs & recitations in evening. Not up to much. Bit of filth once again. Finished map for CO. Gun Section played C squadron cricket & won easily. They are getting their peckers up. Getting a rather bad cold I fancy. Saw sparks in evening.

27/3/15 Started doing a little signalling with officers this morning. Very little doing in a.m. Wrote letter in p.m. & saw coast of Arabia for a time. Cricket match in p.m. Gun Section got beaten this time. Saw good tug-of-war between C & A squadrons. Lecture by Higgins in evening & then we heard the quartettes & duettes. My men really won & that was the general opinion but they did not get the prize. Got to bed late.

Letters to Mother, Gladys, Olive, Ruth.

28/3/15 Sunday. Saw land in a.m. & came to anchor outside Aden at about midday. Had church service earlier on a/c of expected arrival. Coast has a peculiar rugged grandeur about it. Not a tree to be seen anywhere, only hard rock with a few buildings & forts about. Natives a better class than the last lot - came round in boats selling things. I bought a necklace of shells & beads. Interesting to watch bargaining. Saw some fine boats & one merchant cruiser Empress of Asia. Saw Indian troops homeward bound. Higgins and Borthwick got ashore & I was able to send my parcel home. Cost only 2/-. Made a panorama sketch or two of Aden heads. Left harbour at about 6 p.m. Bit of a sing song in evening. Not as good as usual. I bought 100 cigarettes & paid thrower 2/- for a fund for naval people. Heard very little war news at Aden.

[ADEN written vertically in the margin beside this entry.]

29/3/15 My section formed a fatigue for once and the last time I fancy. Did only a little signalling in a.m. Passed Percin [?] in early morning & other volcanic looking islands during the day. Did a bit of real work with the gun section in p.m. Did a little sword work & another court martial. Good lecture by Major Deeble in evening. CO bit of a bore. To bed fairly early. Had washing done & done well by mess boy. Very dissatisfied with the CO. Seems to have no faith in our light horse.

30/3/15 Men are on fatigue again. Crawl an ass. Got permission to fire one belt. Got target ready with help of the Mate. Fired in p.m. Drew a bit of a crowd. Guns fired well with new barrels & different weight of [bugee ?], spring. Firing fairly successful. Not one stoppage. Horses got a fright. Had some revolver practice in p.m. with Charlie Dale. Not bad. I didn't attend the [uncertain] lecture. Crawl [uncertain] map reading in evening followed by concert by A Squadron. Went down to Engine room with Andy. Very interesting. To bed fairly late.

31/3/15 Slept badly - wind. Rumours of action at SUEZ. Got orders from CO to fill 10 belts and get guns ready for action. Prom deck being barricaded with bags of ashes. News seems to have upset men & made them sort of joyful. Filling bags going on all night. Concert by C Squadron in evening. Very good indeed. Hope we do better. Had go at swords with Gilman. Got a few cracks but gave a few & did not mind.

Letters to Mother, Dave, Olive, Gladys, Garfield, Lizzie, Gregor, Ruth.

DIARY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1915.

[Arrival in Egypt, training, visits to Cairo, rumours of landing at Dardanelles.]

1/4/15 Had a good April fool's day joke played on us. We were warned CO wished to see us in his cabin. Thoughts of news of movement went through our minds. Arrived in saloon, no one there. On return were greeted with cheers. Got barricade prepared in a.m. Lecture to NCOs in p.m. & then gave men some good physical training. No lecture in evening. Had row with Major Gregory who said some cruel things. Never felt so cut before. That Anderson has caused enough trouble lately. Concert given by MGS & Hqrs in evening. After it apologised to Major Greg. Capt Day is a brick the way he comforts a fellow. Letters to Will, Hebbie.

2/4/15 Good Friday. Church service at 9 a.m. by Pte Vickers. Very good & effective I thought. No parade for men for rest of day. Saw Sinai Peninsula in a.m. but not Mt Sinai. Cool change. Number with colds today. Saw a number of ships. 2p.m. letters distributed to men. Men paid El. Came to anchor at Suez at about 4 p.m. Heard news that we were to disembark & go by rail to Cairo. News verified by CO later on. Heard that Aust force had gone to Dardanelles. Men were got into uniform & their kit bags got up ready for disembarking. I got my boxes ready also. McFarlane came into saloon while we were having tea & talked a little about a little. Finished packing in evening. Two men of war in harbour and a number of other vessels. Death on board Runic today & burial took place at about 2 p.m. "Lights out" blown by bugles. Took some quinine in evening for first time.

3/4/15 Heard we were to go ashore at 9 a.m. Pulled alongside after Runic birds disembarked at about 10. Got men's kit bags & officers heavy baggage off into trucks. Blankets, messing Material etc collected & returned. My section & infantry to be rear party. Would rather not have had them & asked [uncertain] to take them off with him. [Sarola ?] all trucked. Horses and troop trains to be in 3 divisions, to go at 2, 4 & 6 a.m. My sick men went with 2nd. I went to bed & men also. Adjutant woke me up & gave me my instructions re ship. Crowl conducted the auction sale in evening at tea. His old game.

4/4/15 Easter Sunday Up fairly early & did some mucking out before breakfast. Ship very dirty indeed. Worked all morning & p.m. Landing of fodder went on all day. Did work on cattle deck in p.m. Could not get wagons up today. Natives are messers altogether. Saw 3 train loads of Indian wounded arrive & go aboard the Syria. Went over Syria & found her beautifully fitted with all conveniences. Let men go ashore from 6 - 8 to see place. They soon fraternized quickly with the Indian soldiers. Infantry lads Kicked up a noise ashore & did not come back that night. Slept in saloon cabin.

5/4/15 Easter Monday! Up early & did little more cleaning before breakfast. Rest of fodder off shipped. Wagons unloaded, put into lighter & towed ashore. Arrived across, we found no crane there. Asked for it & were told it was too rough to get it. Had to tramp back again & leave guard on stuff. Would get crane in a.m. at 5.30 of [uncertain]. Fixed up things in p.m. & evening, saw railway manager & tramped after

Capt Woods, but could only see his representative. Fixed up warrants. Good news, was told I would get trucks at 7.30 this evening instead of 9 a.m. tomorrow. To bed fairly late after a yarn to the skipper & a hot bath.

6/4/15 Up at 5.15. Got men up & we went across to barges. No crane. Crane arrived 1 hour late & then we had to wait for steam. Bustled the beggars up & did wiled of unloading & loading in about one hour. Saw Major who reminded me of the inf criminal. Back for breakfast & packed up ready to go. Said goodbye & off we went. Inf tried to get away. Train left at 11.15 & we had 3rd class carriages to ride in. Journey along very interesting indeed. Area affected by irrigation reaches as far as the eye can see on either side of the railway. Good crops of rice & millet right along. People very busy indeed. Nothing but donkeys & a few camels & cows. Peculiar to see camel & cow working in plough together. Little donkeys carry enormous loads. Scows sail up the canals or men pull them. Saw villages, cymetries [sic], temples, veiled women, queer water wheels, queer processions - everything tended to make the journey extremely interesting & to make time fly. I observed from a motor car in a truck. Reached Cairo at 6.30 p.m. & disembarked at Abu-el-ela. Met a brute of a Major. Natives soon unloaded train & I had to have a guard of 12 men & Sgt in charge of stuff. Small hand bag containing pay books etc stolen by guard. Came out from Cairo to Mena by electric tram. Men had to sleep anywhere they could - no blankets or beds. Infantry birds had same fare. Sent back food to men on guard.

7/4/15 Up fairly early & saw our horses. Gave men spell for short time. Secured part of one shed for our own mess & stores. Infantry had to be a fatigue for unloading fodder & stores. Our wagons came in also but things seemed to have been moved a little. Drew blankets at last & got tents up. Went for a ride in p.m. to artillery camp & saw [Voweles ?] but did not see Bunny & the others. [uncertain] seemed to be alright. Buzzed into Cairo in evening to try to get on to the pay books. No luck. Back fairly late. Letters from Mother, Gladys, Nina, Lizzie, Ruth.

8/4/15 Had good sleep. Horses led out to water in a.m. & I spent my time buzzing round after things for our section. Got two more tents, wagons into place etc. Arranged tents in afternoon. Had to shift one tent. Ordered machine gun covers. Experience with man who had been done out of 5 piastre piece. Lecture at 8 p.m. by McFarlane. Saw Huchinson, MacKenzie, McWilliam, Robinson in evening. Mess meeting - still 3/6 per day. Led horses again & tried to get our equipment back. Overhauled wagon. In afternoon dubbed saddles & harness & shifted my tent. Got a tent to myself but not sure about keeping it. Bought some matting - dear & also got waterbag. Went to Cairo to see about bag but got no satisfaction at all. Saw one or two sights. Got in after 11 & went to bed & none too early.

10/4/15 Led horses again. Went into Cairo again to see about the pay books. No trace anywhere. Sent our other things instead by donkeyman. Came out to dinner at about 2 p.m. & went back to see sights. In by car & went to Continental & Shepherd's Hotels. I went out to Heliopolis & saw Arthur, Hamilton & Boyle (Saw Dunlop & Logan at Continental). Had dinner with 14th who were ready to go & came into Cairo at

about 9 p.m. Struck Thorn, Howard, Deeble, Tunbridge & Fry & went to the Kasel & a few dancing places - Cassino. Pretty rotten & do not wish to go again. Saw Bird, Kennedy & Bremner. Came home by about 2 p.m. Did not feel at all satisfied with day.

11/4/15 Reveille at 5 a.m. Church parade at 7. Breakfast at about 8.20. Not a bad sermon at all. Communion service held after church. Fooled about in a.m. & took things easy. Gave £4 to Cpl Latter, .30 pt per man. Very few at lunch - away on pleasure. Had my fortune told but do not believe it much. Bought 35[?] worth of silks. Really beautiful work. Wrote letters again in evening & posted them. Fixed up pack & wagon drill with Sgt Newland. Letters to Mother, Nina, Mrs AC - Walker, Mortie.

12/4/15 Had row with Adjutant over leading horses in a.m. Checked horses finally & find 3 missing. Sat on board of enquiry in a.m. for about an hour. Letters from Billy and Penny. Kit inspection in p.m. & checking of horses. Got muzzles at last & got some old plumes from Paddy. Lecture by Bde Major in evening. Had meeting of Gun Section COs after it & sent in one recommendation for improvements.

13/4/15 Leading horses in a.m. Remainder judging distance & gun drill. Route march in p.m. of about 4 miles - fairly solid but not bad & some men fell out. March discipline bad. Brig roused on Jimmie a fair bit. Had a few delicious oranges after coming back from march. Men enjoyed them. Lecture by Crowl in evening. Woods half drunk [uncertain] see about new mess.

14/4/15 Horses nearly stampeded in night owing to dust storm & fire in a building. Did a little trench digging as well as leading horses in a.m. Went into town in p.m. & fixed up about pay books. Got them alright & will get back pay. Home for tea after afternoon tea at Shepherds. Made out pay books in evening & talked to my Sgt & Corporal. Letter to Billy.

15/4/15 Horses branded at last. Practised horses in lying down. Took scouts & range takers out in a.m. Traversing fire in p.m. Letters from Mother & Nina. Lecture from M.O. on diseases. Got paid at last. Lecture by Capt [Gibbs ?] on wagon packing. Fixed up pay books.

16/4/15 Overslept a little. Took pack saddles out fully packed for first time. Horses took it well and men enjoyed being aback again. I know I did. Inspection of short arms in p.m. & swimming parade in Mena House bath. Men enjoyed it. Had Col Forsythe, Col Long & Col Down to tea. Had wine served out for "the King". Did not go to boxing in evening. Fooled about in tent.

17/4/15 Went out with packs again & did a little work at action. Time flew. Went into Cairo at 4 p.m. to see Citadel. Got guide in there & went to it. Very fine & the mosque was most beautiful inside & out. History very interesting as far as it went. Went to Bazaar. Went to Shepherds for tea which cost 44p.t. Met others there. Went to Kessal & saw good show. Then went to Cassino & was not struck with it. Came home by Motor & got to bed by 1.30.

18/4/15 Church parade at 7. Did not want to get up at 5 a.m. reveille at all. Began letter & sat easy. In p.m. decided to go with Anderson to Sphinx, Pyramids etc. Took

camel there & saw things. Wonderful stones. Saw inside pyramid & was disgusted with natives. Went to Cairo after a cup of tea & went to Bazaar. Bought two vases, a silk scarf & a riding whip. Caught motor & came out for 30p.t. Home in time for tea. Logan there. Talk at table getting lewd lately. Letters to Mother & Garfield.

19/4/15 Actually up before reveille. Mounted work again. Horses learning to lie down well now. Mine fairly hard to get down. March in p.m. along road. Saw Cpl Holland in Mena Hospital. Fixed up pay books with Mr Collins who seemed decent chap. Lecture in evening by Wire Naih.

20/4/15 Pack saddles again in a.m. A fair amount of good instruction derived from it. Came back early. Toasted Mothers, Wives etc at dinner. Bought suit of drill from Indian. Started letter to Gladys. Sgt went to Hospital.

21/4/15 Up early & roused men out of bed early. Went out to Arab village for exercises. Camels frightened horses very much. Arab wanted backshees for going on his crop & for holding stirrup for me. Very hot day - perhaps hottest so far. Paid men in p.m. & went for route march. Great rouse about men's lunch. Tried to serve whole regt from one pot of tea & one oven. Took over 1/2 hour to serve alone. Saw Robinson in evening & went with the swine to Capt McFarlane re Gun Section. He is impudent to his superiors & cannot stand him at any price. To bed in fair time.

22/4/15 Had most interesting MGS work in a.m. Had one gun coming into action against another. Effect on men very good. Men can paddle up pack saddles in 2 1/2 minutes. Longer route march in p.m. & better step set. Lecture in evening by Major Renell on scouting. Secured some stuff from squadron for tomorrow's parade. "C" Squadron Q.M.S a Sport.

23/4/15 Up early & got stables etc over early. Procured plumes for men. Full marching order parade at 9.30. Inspection by Brigadier at about 10. Moved out to Cairo & back & got back at about 2.30. Solid on horses. Horses very frightful of camels & donkeys & trams. Better on return journey though. Had early tea. About 50% of our officers left for Luxor, whole trip costing £4/10/0. I went up & saw L/Cpl Holland in hospital & had an interesting chat in his ward till 9 p.m. Sent Cpl Latter in with 100p.t to try to get a pair of clippers to be independent of the natives. To bed rather late.

24th April Cleaning parade in a.m. Got rifles, buns & tent. Cleaned up. Went out on my horse in p.m. with Sgt Newland, partly to give my horse a canter, to look at country & mainly to see how he took revolver shooting. He took it very well indeed & lay down a few times without resistance. Back in time for stable. Fooled about my tent, hot bath & got to bed about 11.15.

25th April Church parade by Makeham. Short lecturette on C of E service. Very dirty day & simply had to tie down tent & sit & write letters. Letters to Gladys, Mother, Lizzie, Ruth, Mary, Dave, Olive, Garfield, Pennington. Parcel to Gladys & Mother.

26/4/15 Pulled up cable horse lines & laid down rope ones for remaining few days here. Timed saddling up. All out in 10 minutes. First gun out in seven minutes complete. Did some most interesting work - one gun coming into action against another.

Sgt quite good. Much interest & enthusiasm aroused. Judging distance & small lecture in p.m. Knight went off in a sort of faint. Had to carry him in. Lecture by Bde Major & Maily in evening. Listeners most awfully boring in their questions. Beautiful night.

27/4/15 "B" Squadron left in a.m. at 9 a.m. We got some amm blank and went out on tactical work again. It was a fair success. Cpl does not use quite enough imagination for the work though. Back late. Time of saddling up getting more satisfactory now. Dropped tents in afternoon. Went for ride on my horse, gave him a few jumps & a little climbing exercise. He took it very well indeed. Dropped my own tent in evening. Seemed rather peculiar without tent but quite comfortable.

28/4/15 Went out on packs again but work was not quite as good as usual. Colonel came out & Cpl Latter rather spoilt things. Packed wagon in p.m. & let men go for a swim. To be a court of inquiry into loss of my kit etc from boat. Paid mess bill 375p.t. To bed fairly early after packing finally.

29/4/15 Up at 4.30. Had job to get things going but left by about 6.45. Fairly enjoyable march but dead slow. Had headache & pains in joints. Arrived Heliopolis at about 12.30. Had to carry arms unslung a fair amount on trip & Bde Major went off at me over carrying a stick. Had to throw it away but it was picked up for me. Did not take long in settling down & are with "B" Squadron. New ofrs mess very comfortable indeed. Rumours about engagement at Dardanelles. Verified later on. Apparently we have suffered pretty badly. Had talk to two of the wounded in evening & they were able to give us a little information re Turks etc.

30/4/15 Gave horses a rest all day & took opportunity to get most of them clipped @ 7 p.t. Look well too. Fixed up anchors, feed boxes etc & lines generally. Spent whole evening in preparing cash book till 11.30.

DIARY FOR MONTH OF MAY 1915

[Landed at Gallipoli, heavy fighting.]

1/5/15 Kit inspection & cleaning parade. Issued remainder of kit to section. Now they are pretty well complete. Went to Heliopolis hospital in afternoon with Capt Day & then went into Cairo. Looked for bullets, had afternoon tea. Saw Ray Broadbent & Bird & came out in time for tea. To bed fairly early after a bit of fooling.

2/5/15 Sunday Early church parade. [uncertain] orders for a check of kit. Busied ourselves with that for most of morning & part of p.m. Went to Hospital but saw no one fresh. Had tea & went for ride & took Sgt Newland but we were a little late for daylight. Letters to Mother & Dorothy Skewes.

3/5/15 Up at 5 a.m. Marched out at 7.30 to our manoeuvre ground. Favourable for MG work. Worked at coming into action with wagons & quick change of position. Came back at about 12. Afternoon off. Officers supposed to do sword drill but did not. Got Roberts to put up notice board. Lecture by Capt Pelkan.

4/5/15 Regimental manoeuvre all a.m. MGs in defence. Scouts walked on top of them & within 30 [yds] of them without seeing them. Manoeuvre a bit of a failure on the whole. Back late. Officers had to do sword exercise in p.m. under Gilman.

5/5/15 Could not take horses out on account of their feet. Looked over kit & did a little tapping work. Got 3 horses shod. Brigade drill by Bde in a.m. Heard 'twas fair. Paid men in p.m. Egyptian money a bit of a worry at first. Took a stroll round Heliopolis in evening with Robbie. Pretty crock having Padre in my tent.

6/5/15 Regimental drill again. Col White broached question to us of going dismounted to front. Weight of opinion seems to be in favour of going to the front to see some fight[ing] i.e. go dismtd. Did some entrenching. Broke a pick in doing it. Lecture on hygiene in evening. Had long talk to Capt Week about machine guns & decided to have some field firing by night. Had yarn to Huchinson [sic]. Heard Arthur was killed.

7/5/15 Drill by pack. Did some foot work too. Beastly to think that we cannot have our horses in action. Went to Heliopolis to see about some boots & photos. Came back & was called for at Bde office. Machine guns of Bde to go to front on Monday under Capt Hastings. Went into Cairo at once to see about condensers & came out at about 8.30 & had dinner at Bar restaurant. Met Capt Gibson & Mr Lewis again. Just like old pals. Said goodbye to him. Something to live for now! Something in life!

8/5/15 In to Cairo early to get condensers put on. Got them on alright. Bought hair clippers & came out. Busy packing up for rest of evening. Wrote letters till about 12. Bought stores for men out of funds & got my boots.

9/5/15 Stayed off church parade. Fixed up wagon. Gun section cheered on parade. Busy all day till a few hours before starting. Brigadier spoke to me. Seems a bit cut up at our going. Regiment gave me a great cheer & Col White made nice speech as we went.

Cheered & depressed us a little. Set out at 6 p.m. & train left Abu-el-ela at 11.47. Had to leave Jones & Woods behind. Regained my [uncertain] at last moment. Quite a reunion of old Duntrooners in train.

10/5/15 Arrived Alexandria at about 4 or 5. Detrained everything & led our horses on to boat - Cameronian - a good horse boat. Wagons aboard after breakfast & remainder of time taken in putting on fodder & odds & ends. Went to base records office & heard of list of Duntrooners who were killed. Delayed till night when 12 horses had to come off with pneumonia. Letter to Mother, Garfield, Gladys, Mrs AHC-W, Major McCartney, Penny, Billy, Col White.

11/5/15 Orderly officer once again. Good deal to do too. Cleaning of guns in a.m. but nothing much done all day. Boat stations 4 p.m. Left Alexandria a little after breakfast. Chat by Capt Hastings in evening & went straight to bed. Seem a fairly decent lot of fellows tho' discipline not quite strict enough.

12/5/15 Got guns up & inspected ammunition. Got blanket covers put on guns. Sgt Newland made good job of them. Inspection of guns in p.m. & issued 120 rounds per man. To bed early after a bit of a chat in saloon.

Cape Helles

13/5/15 Up fairly early. got stables done before breakfast. Had to mount our guns amidships. Fired a few rounds in a.m. & overhauled [uncertain] down below. Procured some oil from ship & fixed up M.G. protectors. Land Lemnos in p.m. & saw some airplanes flying over it. Later saw Cape Heles & saw battleships firing in distance. Anchored at about 7.30 p.m. amongst other ships. Fixed up saddle, kit etc & ready for [uncertain]. Wrote a few more past cards.

14/5/15 Ordered back to Lemnos for orders. Saw the battleships move out to work again. Arrived Lemnos at about 11 a.m. Were shown way in through boom by a little armed boat. Capacity of harbour developed itself as we went in further. Scores & scores of ships of all kinds stored away there. Spent most of day looking at incoming and outgoing boats. Hastings went for orders but got nothing definite. Will probably leave in the morning. Battleships moved out in stately way in evening towards the Dardenelles. Fine to see them. Had photo taken of officers on board. Spent œ2 on tobacco for men.

15/5/15 Got to work on stables & exercising horses. Good mornings work. Watched shipping for most of day.. Moved off at 6.30 & waited outside boom till dark. Made a dash for it with lights out. Men in high spirits. Got my Sam Browne ready for work.

16th Sunday Woke up at about 5.30 & heard firing going on. Waited about for bit & then got orders to disembark. Got ready & disembarked at about 5 p.m. Left Canna , McKenzie, Knight , Bateman behind to look after the horses. Sorry to have to leave them but they were worst in section. Came ashore by lighter. Marched up to our dugout. Artillery & rifle fire kept up the whole time. We must have plenty of ammunition.

Bang! Bang! going on all the time. Probably for wounded. We put into dugouts in sides of hills. Got our infantry equipment issued. Men enjoying the game so far.

17th Firing went on during all the night & was quite heavy at times. Guns were at it pretty early and battleships had a bit of a go also assisted by a big sausage balloon. Razed a village as I heard. We spent most of day digging our dugouts, making track etc. Had a bit of a look round but could not see much of the Turks. Had swim on beach while shells were coming. [Uncertain] at in evening. Saw shell go in horses boat. Battleships were nearly hit by a few big shells. Howitzer battery got into positions in evening. Saw a few shells had themselves in a bank opposite us. To bed early.

18/5/15 Woke up hearing a very heavy shelling going on. Howitzer shells droning over us & shrapnel coming down into sides of valley. We dug our communication trench all day & nearly finished it. Pits still to be done. Was able to watch the Turkish battery south of us firing our way at our battery. Battleships having a go at it. Heavy firing near Cape Heles. At tea time we had the heaviest cannonading yet. Shrapnel tore down our valley & black smoke shells were fairly frequent. Was called out in evening & given my post in case of alarm. Had to get ready to move out. Were wakened up about 12 & had to get [uncertain] & guns ready. Went back to bed in uniform.

19/5/15 Nothing further happened except a terrific fusillade of musketry & MGs. Slept well thro' it. Shelling going on in a.m. & men did not like idea of getting out of their dugouts. Fresh orders in a.m. Had to take one of my MGs up for some goat or other to experiment with who had probably never fired one before. Got up there & had to come down again - fresh orders. Had to report to Ys section which was under Col McLagan. Had a hot time getting across the track with our load of guns etc. Bits flew very close to me but all arrived safely at HQrs. Saw Col Mac & Major Ross. Very pleased indeed at seeing them. Major took me around trenches & showed me position for gun in trenches. Sgt to take charge of one of 9th & one of my guns on right flank of position. Men pretty done after their exertions of the day. Got my other gun ready & went to bed.

20/5/15 Relieved other gun by other. Sgt came right back to HQrs when he should have stayed in support trench. Fooled about for most of day. Got word of an intended attack in evening & toward dusk prepared place for our gun. Had to work like fury to get it done under a fairly heavy cannonade by Turks & finally rigged up a fairly decent little place. Took watches and got a few minutes sleep. Saw nothing worth firing a machine gun for. Around us was fairly heavy fire at invisible & imaginary enemy. Barnes had rifle hit. LH arrived.

21/5/15 Came back to camp in a.m. about 5 after not having fired a shot. Slept most of the morning as well as the men. No need to be asked to sleep. In p.m. had gun pit improved considerably & Major Ross passed his approval. Saw Kennedy also heard that 2nd Bde had landed & 3rd on transports. Went into pit again in evening & things were very quiet indeed. Did a little more digging by moonlight. Had a fine sea bath in a.m. without being shot at.

22/5/15 Got word to return to my own unit in a.m. Packed up everything & had dinner consisting of bread, fresh meat & a new kind of chutney - mixture of plum jam & mustard. Trudged back to our old place once again after two trips. Beach quite quiet this time. Had tea & a spell. Saw Capt Hastings & then went to see Col White. Saw number of officers & had yarn to them. Crawl there as usual with his orders & stuff. Jimmy quite scarred of the shrapnel - more scared than the rest who seemed pretty frightened. Saw [uncertain] is on. Had talk to Charlie Dale & then came away after hearing nothing definite. Dunlop left to relieve me in evening. Went to bed feeling ready for sleep after so hard a days work. Letters from Gladys & Mina. Barnes to hospital.

23/5/15 Sunday. Immediately after breakfast got orders to report to C.S.O. did so & got orders to take guns to Col Chauvel Comdr No 3 Sect. Fixed up with Major Reid & Major Willesley about transport. Was lucky enough to be promised it by latter. Had dinner & set off to see Col Chauvel. Reported to him at his headquarters & had to wait for Capt Rose who is i/c of MGs. Meanwhile went up to fire trench & had a look at things. Saw A Top A Squadron again. Saw Capt Rose later on & got his instructions & went back to camp. Had tea & got safely to our destination. Sgt Newland to go to Courtney's post & I to go to Pope's hill. Reached my position & got to bed at about 12. Saw Ray Broadbent. Anderson left behind.

24/5/15 Stood to arms from 3.30 to about 4.30 & went back to bed. Woke late & had breakfast very late. Armistice declared from 7.30 to 4.30 but 3 men shot after 8 a.m. My men busy burying dead. We spent our time working at our dugouts all day. In p.m. sent men back for wood, blankets, food & I went & had a look at Ray's guns. Funny to see our men mingling with enemy. Saw Col Rowell & Sid O came again. Cpl Hallam & food arrived at about 9.30. - got [uncertain] and soon went to bed. Things started very quietly in the way of shooting. Rattle at about 9.

25/5/15 Got message in a.m. that section was to relieve 14th Battn in Courtney's post as both their guns were blown out. Hard luck & hard work having to shift from our comfortable dugouts again. Went & saw Capt Rose as to chance of getting back later on. Had narrow escape from shrapnel as I was down there. Few wounded at same time. No hope excepting a complete shift. Rain started as I got back & the whole hillside became greasy as wet rails. Got ready to come down but had to postpone moving. Dried a little & down we came in full marching order. (Before coming down to see Capt Rose the Triumph sank. Saw the whole thing. The column of water, the steam exuding from funnel, the destroyers speeding to the rescue as well as whalers & all sorts of small craft, the fort firing a shot on the rescued, the destroyer firing at the submarine, the slow listing to port, the turning upside down & the final disappearance. Terribly sad thing to watch. Destroyers had great chase after submarine & aeroplane gave assistance. Did not hear that submarine was caught. A hot sweaty party reached the summit of Courtney's post but we soon settled down & got guns in position. The [uncertain] of guns were something terrible for any MGs. Saw young Farnback. Slept in trenches but all serene. 6 men per gun. 294 [or 2 & 4]

26/5/15 Three men on each day. Found myself with a cold. Sgt Newland was standing cutting bacon at end of our dugout & was shot thro' armpit. Annil[uncertain] artery cut & he bled badly. Sent off to hospital. Later on earth fell on Jackson & hurt him a little. Had a sleep in a.m. & made an oven in p.m. Went down & saw Sgt Newland in base hospital. Gave him some cash & his glasses. Went over & saw Col Hughes & most of the other knobs. Saw Anderson & he took me to see Col White who was pleased to see me. They are on Walker's Ridge. Asked him for 5 more men and secured 4 water tins on way back.

27/5/15 Nothing much doing all day. Went for swim & enjoyed it very much. Saw two Japanese trench mortars working near us against the Turks' trenches. Great little things. Worked reliefs with Cpl Latter during evening. Had a great fire poured into us early in morning. Beggars can see our every movement with the moon fairly on us.

28/5/15 Slept till pretty late. Wrote letter to Mother. Slept in p.m. Went into trenches for all night. Fixed up new loophole in parapet in moonlight & Turks never fired a shot at us. Must have weakened their front to concentrate against Quinn's. Everything very quiet - too quiet.

29/5/15 Fired about one & a half belts at the beggars in the early morning. Nearly got me a few times but escaped somehow. Had a few shots at sniper also. Roberts, Jarvey & Cpl Hallam were standing near loophole while Roberts was firing. Jarvey got hit badly in the head & Cpl Holland got bullet through the eye. Britains both of them the way they stood it. Seemed no hope for Jarvey at first but he seemed alright & may get through. Turks attacked Quinn's post in a.m. after letting off a mine under it. Were punished severely although some of our men had awful wounds. Slept in p.m. Changed position of one gun before moon came up. Did it fairly successfully. Very quiet all night.

30/5/15 Sunday Kept gun dismounted all day. Put new men on. Had shave & swim & went down to see about mail, Jarvey & Cpl Holland. No mail & latter had been transferred to Hospital boat. Sniping bad in Gully. Heavy bombardment of Turks at midday for an hour or so. Sortie made by 13th. Turks terribly jumpy & it was amusing to watch their unaimed firing & futile stone or bomb throwing. Rifle fire & bombs kept up most of day & I mounted my gun which is in really a good position. Sent Roberts across to 8th with a message to Col White. McWilliam killed. Guns at Gabe Tepe must be [uncertain] for yesterday there were hundreds in swimming on beach. Destroyers were firing pretty fast. Aeroplanes fairly busy against Turks. Few Jack Johnsons arrived.

31/5/15 Capt Rose told me I would be relieved tomorrow by Wellington people. New Zealanders relieved 14th & a different atmosphere flooded the trenches at once. Sniping stopped at once. Bit of a sortie to take place at one but we heard nothing of it. Kept up till nearly moon rise & then went to bed till about 3.3.a.m. Bullet thro' flash absorber.

DIARY FOR MONTH OF JUNE 1915

[Improving MG positions, Turkish artillery troublesome; Major Gregory and Captain Crowl, both 8th LH Regt, killed by shells.]

1/6/15 Up early but nothing much for MG to fire at. Had short sleep but was wakened to go & see Col Malone of N Zealanders. Fairly self willed man to deal with. Letters to Mother & Gladys. To be relieved by Wellington MG Capt Rose tried to show his office to NZ'ers. Saw the MG ofr of Wellingtons. Bit of a kid too. Packed up in evening & took our kits across to regiment. Two new men joined us just a little too soon. Went through sap & found it good. Came down & got guns, ammn & everything down to depot ready for mule transport. Blessing to get transport but it only took us to bottom of hill. Heavy march up top. To bed about 1 a.m.

2/6/15 Woke about 7.30 a.m. and did not stand to arms with rest. Felt refreshed. Saw Col White & had breakfast with HQrs. Went to see about transport & had to wait for it till 2 p.m. Came back & went round trenches. Saw McKenzie & a few others. Good to see them. Saw Capt Wallingford [?] in p.m. & got into my dugout on exposed part of hill. Adjutant didn't put himself out about us at all. Everything fixed up by evening.

3/6/15 Woke up at about 7 & found out sentry had forgotten to wake me at 3 a.m. to stand to arms. Mooched about all day & had guns etc gone through well. Took new men for short time on gun. Battleship opened up in p.m. & gave about 10 broadsides on to Turks - probably reinforcements - sounded alright. Saw Capt Wallingford re guns. Does not seem a bad sort of a bird at first sight. Things very peaceful this side of things.

4/6/15 Capt Wallingford roused foolishly about our way of standing to arms. He was quite in the wrong. Had a spell all day. Tremendous bombardment taking place at Cape Helles. Just like heavy thunder & lasted for a fair time. Went round trenches & could scarcely recognize the position from this direction. Man shot in head near our dugout as he was coming over the hill. No hope about our mail. Letter to Olive. Wakened up at about 11 to take one gun into firing line, attack on Quinn's post by us.

5/6/15 Stayed in trench till late in morning supporting our men in their attack on Quinn's post. Sinful waste of ammn in the night but we could see something for our expenditure in the morning & could see something to fire at. A great noise was kicked up till about 9 o'clock. Hand grenades hurled by Turks. We did the same & sent in some Jap bombs & shrapnel as well. Nothing but a shambles the trenches looked in the morning & Turk must have lost heavily. Shrapnel got on to our gun twice which showed that we must have been causing trouble. Everything died down about midday & I was told I would stay in the trenches & relieve the Canterbury Section. Did so & got things fixed up in p.m. Had good sleep in p.m. & part of evening.

6/6/15 Sunday Very quiet all day - too quiet in fact for our friends. Rumours of the regt shifting but did not take place. Howitzer finally set up & will speak soon. Things are mapped out nicely for Turk. Very great deal of digging going on in p.m. on Battery point & to our front. Tried some indirect fire on [uncertain] Had few sniping shots that

way. Turks do not respond to fire now except to the Jap bombs. They have been told to be careful of amm. Had splendid sleep.

7/6/15 Nothing doing in a.m. Snipers pretty hot on our dugouts now. Seem to have the range at last. Regiment moved out in p.m. & I had dinner with our mess once again. Pegg hit by sniper soon after they left, hit in shoulder blade. Bullet just near collar bone. Seem to loose my best men each time. Beggars nearly got me too as I was jumping into my dugout. Saw Col [name uncertain] about moving into safer place. The NZ people are much weaker than the LH in numbers. Did not get much sleep all night.

8/6/15 Went for a swim at about 5 a.m. Felt much lighter [uncertain] way. Sap cut all the way to the beach now. Snipers done out of their job. Nothing much doing all day except that the howitzer got going in the evening on to some target in the way of a traction engine. Did a little shooting at the flashes of Turkish rifles where we suspected some bomb throwers to be. No letters again. Saw Logan.

9/6/15 Slept till late, fine to be able to sleep well. Did very little all day. Started letter to home. Had very amusing talk to Byrne in p.m. & saw Andy to have a talk to. Heard the beastly rumour that Jarvey was dead. Hope, I hope not. Our artillery shelled the Turkish trenches heavily. Turks replied with one gun only. Seems as if they will not be drawn out.

10/6/15 Bit of a rattle on our outpost position in early morning. Some rumour that the Turks tried to cut them off. Nothing doing all day. Had bread for dinner & tea - good bread too. Fancied we found Turkish sniper & gun position - waited till evening. Turkish artillery spoke feebly again but we have not seen any Turks for the last number of days. Letters to Mother & Dave.

11/6/15 Bit of a splash at 2 a.m. by our side. Star shells thrown & bit of a fusillade of bombs & bullets. Nothing happened. Their artillery wake up a little once more & sent a few rottenly aimed shells about the beach & trenches. Nothing doing for rest of day. Scarcely a shot being fired. Party of bomb throwers being started & these are attached to the gun section. Howitzer Bomb it is called & range is varied by varying the charge. Took a turn on all night.

12/6/15 Night quite quiet. Turks shovelling all day, otherwise nothing doing in our part. Couple of shells did a lot of damage on the left. Budget of letters arrived at last, at last. Letter from Mother, Garfield, Gladys, Lizzie, Ruth, Hilda.

Sunday

13/6/15 Went for swim at 5 a.m. I saw two battle ships come up & pour a few into the Turks & go away again. Had aeroplane observing for them. Turks opened up with their artillery on our guns. About lunchtime the mountain battery near us caught a little fun. Turks using some of the French 75s against it & they did make a little bit of a mess of the trench but did not hurt gun much. Letter to Mother. They have received parcel alright. Monitor to work in evening. Aeroplane came over & dropped some powerful bombs. Cheer went along trench.

14/6/15 Nothing doing all day. Had a general clean up in way of shave, wash & washing clothes. Capt Wallingford makes his presence felt in a fairly distasteful way lately. We have a fairly powerful bomb now & it seems to be making Turks sit up a little. Bit of an artillery duel in p.m. Mountain battery battered.

15/6/15 Felt even better on having less sleep. Got on to the donkeys most of day & I shot a man up on hill - saw him fall at any rate. Were getting on to them in evening when we were rewarded by a few 75 shells landing near our gun. Very little doing all night. Saw Ray Broadbent.

16/6/15 Worked most of day at improving trenches & at making a new gun platform which was quite a success. Mounted No 1 gun on new platform & fired about half a belt. Great duel between artillery today. Shrapnel becoming objectionable again. Crawled out in front of trench today but was not spotted. Had a bit of a rattle at new Turkish form of defence in way of gabions. Rained a little & was quite a cool day. Atmosphere wonderfully clear & had a beautiful sunset.

17/6/15 Nothing doing except having a pot at Turks & mules in valley road. Funny to see them scoot along once the bullets fly round. Letter from Mortie which was welcome indeed. Did a bit of a crawl over parapet to break away some bushes to enable us to see valley road from No 1 gun. Bit of a hum out there. Fixed up parapet safely. Heavy rifle fire at Copes.

18/6/15 The centenary of Waterloo! Ought to have done something today. Turks opened up with a gun from a new & unknown position this morning. Could not place it. Beggars did us out of our target of the last few days viz. Valley Road with its Turks & donkeys. They deepened it. Anderson hit in shoulder with stray shrapnel bullet but not seriously. Off to hospital ship.

19/6/15 Very quiet again. No targets at all. Aeroplane did bit of daring work again & dropped bombs on Turks. Letters to Lizzie & Garfield. Col Hughes sick & will probably go back to Alexandria. Decided to take up some land when I get back to Australia.

20/6/15 Regiment came up with its usual bucketing etc. Saw Major Gregory & arranged to mess with him. Heavy bombardment down below.

21/6/15 Finished sap for gun & started on another. Good news from down south at last. Thought something was doing after that bombarding. Letters from Janette, Lizzie, Will & Pennington & Jones who gave me news about the wounded. Jarvey died on ship, Barnes at hospital. Sneaked out at night again & cleared line of fire for gun & incidentally got some firewood.

22/6/15 Nothing much doing all day. Got to work on mu own [sap ?]. A quarter or half an hour passed without a shot being fired. Turks sent in some six inch shells in evening & one [uncertain] the parapet a yard from No 2 gun. Narrow squeak. Quite a number came in about the mountain battery, but very little damage was done. Cut some more bush outside parapet. Messed with A Squadron.

23/6/15 B'dier & Capt Henderson came round again. I like the latter the more I see of him. Sap going ahead well now. Did a little work myself. Turks rocked in the 6 inchers or Black Marias & did a little damage & sent in some 75s as a sort of [ichs ?]. They sent shrapnel in from a new direction well after dark. Some flashes or other up north but could not find out what they were.

24/6/15 Enjoyed a good swim in a.m. Very quiet day up here, not even a bombardment by Turks in evening, but it was different down on the beach. Altered trench in night.

25/6/15 Did not get up for stand to arms. Did not feel too well on a/c of diarrhoea. Got to work on deepening our trench etc instead of sapping. Our destroyer gave Turks a bit of a doing at midday. Letters from Janette, Mother & Hilda. No Black Marias. Another fusillade during night lasted only about 10 minutes.

26/6/15 Went down for swim with Andy. Very nice in. Letter to Janette. Turks sent in shells almost into where we were having mess today. Put some near our machine gun. Shell came near Byrne - very excited about it too. Bit of tailoring in p.m. Adjutant made a few fairly nasty remarks about the gun section re "culls" etc. Does not realise value of machine gun. Had yarn to Major Greg.

Sunday

27/6/15 Wakened up hearing the rattle of musketry & the dull explosion of high explosive shells. They did make it willing. Few shells lobbed near us but nobody in section hurt. Gun casing pierced. Bad day for us! Bad indeed! Poor Major Greg & Capt Crawl were killed by two shells & were badly knocked about. CO slightly wounded in head. Poor Capt Day! Think of poor Major Greg's sisters! Had gun mended in p.m. Deeble is now CO. Capt Day OC A Squadron & Charlie Dale to be Adjutant. Attended the Major's & Capt Crawl's funerals during stand to arms.

28/6/15 Our artillery [uncertain] them up to some tune in the morning. Got very few from them in return. Great bombardment at Helles & troops landed this side of Cape. Our right advanced a little also. Finished MG sap. The Turks sent some 6 & 8 inch shells over and a great number did not burst. We counted eight out of about 12. German aeroplane flew over our trenches in a.m. asking us to surrender. Couple of demonstrations in evening.

29/6/15 Good news from down below & on our right flank progress made. Letters to Gladys and Mother. While writing one to latter an 8 inch shell came into the earth about 5 yards from me but luckily failed to explode. I got the fuze from it. Time for about an hour after that was spent in watching for them and we were able to avoid them all. About 8 did not explode. Bit of a demonstration by Turks at about 11 p.m.

30/6/15 3 a.m. terrific outburst of fire on our right & on our left by our men. Could not glean any information of what was doing as all seemed quiet on the Turkish side. We did not fire a shot and the 75s came over fairly thickly. Went round & had a look at the scene of operation which was on the neck opposite the 8th & 9th LH. Fairly ghastly sight & showed how dearly the Turks had paid for it & all done by rifle fire.

Men were very cool indeed. Put No 1 gun in our new sap & now she is ready to fire. No attack came but we had a fine thunder storm with a little rain. The lightning would prevent any funny tricks by Turks.

DIARY FOR MONTH OF JULY 1915

[More digging, a little shelling, sick, spent several days on hospital ship.]

1/7/15 Had to turn out of my dugout in the morning to allow overhead cover to be put on the trench & to widen latter. Nothing much doing except our artillery throwing some high explosive into Turk's trenches. Turks did not reply. Did not feel well all day.

Turned out that the Turks' show of yesterday was got up for Abdul Pasha.

2/7/15 Felt like a wet rag all day - like the Indian who asked for medicine to die. Started digging my own sap & dugout. Little more high explosive sent in again but saw no Turks to shoot at. 9th went out into rest trenches. Overhead cover finished & slept under it for the night.

3/7/15 Felt pretty bad again. Did not stand to arms in a.m. Mail arrived. Letter from Mother, Gladys, Olive, Garfield, Mrs McC & W, Ward. Wrote letter to Mother to catch mail in time. Finished my dugout in evening & it is quite comfortable. Found out for certain about Arthur. He was cool to the last.

4/7/15 Sunday Felt a little better after the medicine. Wrote letter to Mr & Mrs HCC-W & received one from Penny again. Nothing doing all day. Col White came back. 8th went into rest camp again. We tickled them up with our artillery.

5/7/15 Enemy opened up with his artillery in early morning but turned it mostly on to the right. Died down in a few hours. Letter from Penny. Started reading the Refugees. Monitor came along but did nothing.

6/7/15 Nothing doing opposite us all day except a few shells being dropped in their trenches by our howitzers. They have turned their big guns down south on to Courtney's now & their six inch shells go off sometimes there. Letter to Lizzie.

7/7/15 Destroyer tickled them up in the early a.m. by the aid of their searchlight. Had to reprove a NZ officer for talking to my men over my head, a one star officer. Letter to Garfield. Nothing doing all night but a bit of draw-me-fire.

8/7/15 Letters to Gladys, Olive, Dave. Nothing doing all day. Saw a Turk in trenches opposite us for once & I had a shot at a periscope.

9/7/15 Dead quiet all day. Went down & saw the regiment which seemed to be in rather a bad way lately, but they will soon be climatised to it.

10/7/15 Went for long walk after dinner. Went to Plugge's plateau & from there to see Col McClaghan. Like him the more I see of him. Poor old Major Ross does not seem to bright on it. Had a very enjoyable chat & p.m. tea. Saw Fullo, Tom Elliott &

Blu Thossie & Chris Car-. So 'twas a good day for me. Arrived home late for tea & ate heartily for once.

11/7/15 Sunday Enjoyed a swim at 4.30 a.m. Everything quiet out in front. Wiltshire & Hyde had a bit of a set to. They can waste their energy on the Turks. Finished reading through the life of St Paul in Acts, & found it fascinating. Had Andy Crawford up to visit me. Some of the regiment were inoculated for cholera. Received papers from home. Very acceptable indeed. Bit of reading takes the "cobwebs" out of one's brain.

12/7/15 Read papers most of day & found them splendid reading. Demonstration in the morning by us. Turks sent in a fair amount of shrapnel round our gun but nobody was hurt. Couple of NZers hit. Tremendous bombardment down south in p.m. & musketry was rattling away. Sounded like a roar up here. Secured some [uncertain] in the evening. BYRNE SAYS I WILL BE MARRIED AT OR BEFORE 25. (ie 5 either way) Bit of a demonstration at night.

13/7/15 Quiet all day had few shots at heads etc. Mail in evening, letters from Mother, Dave, Olive, Gladys, Garfield, Lizzie, Mary, Mrs Hebbie, Mrs ACC-W, Edie, Mina & Anderson. A fine mail. Bit of firing by Turks in night. Must have been new troops in the trenches.

14/7/15 Started on MG tunnel & made good headway. Wrote letter to Mother but had no time for more. Went down to regiment & saw about stores etc. Capt Day to Hospital. Courtney's copping it badly from 6" shell

15/7/15 Nothing doing all day. Letter to Hebbie. Felt crook in the head & had to lay out to it in evening. Saw Doctor & he gave me some pills to take. Could have gone to [uncertain]. Capt Campbell badly wounded. Vomited badly in evening.

16/7/15 Felt crook all day. Eat or drank nothing. Monitor bombarded Battery Point very heavily. Hope it made up for Courtney's affair. Doctor from 9th came & saw me & ordered me down to Ambulance & from there I was ordered to Fleetsweeper. Reached hospital ship late at night, had a lovely bath & turned in. Poor Capt Campbell died. Met a Footscray boy on way to boat. Head still bad.

17th Woke up feeling little better. Had lovely bath. Met George Wootten. Moped about most of day. Head only fair again. Gen Birdwood came aboard for the day. Had a short talk to him & he seemed a fine little man.

18th Sunday Nothing unusual. Still on the beastly light diet. Must get off it. Started reading the "Weaker Vessil". Had shave from native & got toothbrushes, paste etc.

19th Nothing doing. Read most of day & saw [Carry ?] for part of day. Seem to be getting well fairly quickly. Went to meals all day, enjoyed the third one decently enough but not the first two.

20th Nothing doing. Felt good oh! 'Tis certainly enjoyable to see some women folk once again & in the attractive garb of a nurse. The food seems almost too civilised for

one on active service. Saw Sandy McClelland in evening. Heavy firing on the right flank. Letter to Garfield & Mary.

21st Saw Doctor about going off today. Got parcel wrapped & gave it to Carry to post at Alexandria or elsewhere. Gave nurse a driving band for a keepsake. She has been good to me. Heard that Capt Wallingford was back & working the men hard so that my place was back. Found it untrue when I got back & will see Beeching about it. Said goodbye to Major & left on pinnace. Hard climb up hill after diet on board. Found two letters waiting for me - one from Dorothy Skewes & one from Mother & home. Kicked Andy out & went to sleep.

22nd Carried on with the usual routine once again. Nothing doing all day but a few shells by either side. Letter to Dorothy Skewes. Spent most of day in dugout. Saw Hogg once again & heard some queer talk about him. Aeroplane came over & dropped two nice eggs which hatched rather violently for Abdul. They had a great number of shots at it but did not hit it. Bit of a rattle about 12.

23rd Read the papers sent me most of the day & enjoyed them. The sugar & meat questions are quite interesting to me now. Seems a young country has to pay through the nose at first. Our Howitzers send over a fair number of shells now. Saw Col Hughes again. Seems a little better. Nothing happened in evening.

24th Nothing doing worth mentionin'. Went round & saw Huchie & his guns. Bit of an experiment under General's supervision. Poor old MG comes in for a good deal of [chipping ?] about by most knobs. Capt Wallingford seems better for his stay. Received cigarette lighter in evening and letter from [uncertain]. Letters to Gladys & Olive.

25/7/15 Sunday Very quiet even for a Sunday. Went for a bit of a stroll around the positions with Robbie but did not gain much. Recommended Cpl Latter for Sgt, L/Cpl Roberts for Cpl & Gribble & Huchinson for L/Cpl. Colonel approved of them. Col came up in evening & was pleased to see him. Charlie Dale came up also. Instructions from Capt Wallingford to prepare for advance of one gun. Nothing doing in evening at all. Humphreys wanted to go to another battn.

26/7/15 Nothing unusual happened. Very few shot of any sort fired by either side. Cleaned up 'house'. New man arrived.

27/7/15 McConnan was sent up but Barnes & Woods arrived from Heliopolis & he was sent back. Very pleased to see those two & their reports on the horses were favourable. Humphreys sent in his application for a transfer but the CO blocked it. Saw Major McLaurin in a.m. & he promised me some writing paper. Three reinforcements came up in p.m. No fighting all day. Letter to Mother.

28/7/15 Bit of a bombing at dawn. Bugle calls went. One of the usual bluffs I suppose. Had good mornings shooting at [uncertain] Turks. Went round position with Capt Wallingford to choose emergency gun position. Quite affable. Felt very tired after it though. Humphreys played more or less the [man's ?] part & spoke out yesterday. Seems like putting the cart before the horse. Battleship let a few go in evening but little

further happened. What a time & great chance we are giving the Turks to strengthen their resistance.

29/7/15 Nothing doing all day. 8th came up into trenches & relieved that happy-go-lucky 9th fellows. Had a little sniping in a.m. Dug gun emplacements in evening & Turks had a few shots at us. Had yarn to Charlie Dale & saw Woods for first time. German aeroplane came over in evening & ours did not chase it & nobody fired at it.

30/7/15 Old [Taube ?] came saucily in the early a.m. Went & had my meals with HQ 8th. Deeble's 2nd in command. His appetite is good. Great bombardment of Achi Baba in evening & news of victory in Persian Gulf came in to hand. Taube came over again. We fired a feu-de-joie & cheered over the victory. Letter to Ruth.

31/7/15 Capt W. found fault with stand to arms in our section. Old S.M. style cannot be got rid of easily. Received revolver back from Cpl Holland & a note from him. Bit of an attack on the right in the evening & we fired a few rounds to keep those people opposite us down. Result of 1st Bde's attack unknown.

DIARY FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 1915

[Recalled to 8th LH Regiment following the disastrous attack at the Nek to take over as Acting Adjutant; promoted to Captain.]

1/8/15 Sunday. Results of nights action came to hand late in day & news was to the effect that the objective was gained and two lines of trenches won. Casualties 20 & 60. Very quiet day indeed. Am feeling well these last few days & fit for anything. Turks very quiet indeed lately. Very few visible now.

2/8/15 Results of Tasmanian Post affair known, 11 & 74 casualties and the object attained. Had fine swim in [] after stand to arms. Makes one feel like a new man. Nothing doing all day. At night, Turk showed up his search light & battleship had a go at it. Letter to Nina.

3/8/15 Quiet again. Hear that certain troops landed in the night but not certain. Mail came in & turned out to be a very poor one for me. Letters from mother, Garfield & KW[?]. Wrote letter to mother. Rumours of an advance floating round. Called down to BOC HQs in evening. We drew Turk fire well later on.

4/8/15 Nothing absolutely all day. 75 lobbed close to dugout. Wrote letters to Bob, Garfield, Mr Gobb, Lizzie during day & by candle light. Had look at the various orders, plans etc & buzzed round. Would like to get a mail soon. Bit of a demonstration at 9.30 - nothing much.

5/8/15 Have to get rid of & store all our papers etc today in view of the advance. So Ta!Ta! old diary for the present. Let us hope you may see me again soon when we have beaten Abdul. In case I do not return I will say good bye to those at home and those away from home. It ought to be a decent go at any rate..... Not gone yet. It has been a busy day getting ready for "things" at any rate. Saw Percy Prisk in evening. He has had a bullet through his head. Attack did not come off after all.

6/8/15 One of the clearest & most beautiful days we have had for some time. Could see numbers of ships over at Imbros. Saw Abdul's M.G. for first time for some time. No 2[?] gun goes beautifully. Letter to Penny, Gladys, Dorothy (5th). Walked round a good deal making sure of line of advance etc. Bombardment by our guns & couple of ships in evening. Abdul seems to be expecting something. People near Johnston's Jolly made a splendid advance. Great to see it & it was successful. Got ready for our [uncertain] in a.m.

7/8/15 Woke up in a.m. about 4 a.m. tremendous heavy firing opened up on neck & from Pope's. We got ready to go, but could see no sign of advance anywhere & just got to work on Abdul near Pope's. Latter was a terribly poor affair. Losses there were few but on the neck Machine guns spelt the story. Line after line mown down. Could not advance. Muster a pitiable thing p.m. 194. Very few ofrs came back. Andy hit badly in head he pegged out later. Crawford & Robinson hit. McLaurin broken up. Deeble, myself, Higgins the only 3 ofrs fit for duty. Gave a bit of a hand to get regt settled down. Watched attack on 971 in p.m. Was told I would be A/Adj to regt & left MG in

evening. Went into bivouac on terraces. P.m. CO & Charlie Dale still out there too. I hope they may come back tonight (see over)

8/8/15 Up fairly late and bucked[sic] with work at once. Can't remember all I did. Returns, messages & what not! But the work is a much harder thing & more like that will benefit me. Spent a lot of time getting away poor fellows private kit. Terrible lot of it too. Recommendation for promotion in. Things reported to be going right all around Abdul. Seems to be no hope of poor Col or Charlie returning. Terrible. 'Tis fine to see so many ships in the harbour. Mules were being landed on the beach from motor barges. Actually saw horses being ridden on the beach today. Did not seem like Sunday at all.

7/8/15 (Continued) Abdul got his surprise. During the night 6/7 British troops were landed in the little bay north of us and went for hill 971. As far as we could see, they made good advance & the naval guns played havoc with the enemy. Our men had made good Rododendon Ridge leading up to 971 but that hill blocks further view. Terrible number of forms lying about the outposts & those hills there but no living Turks there. It was fine to see some open fighting again & made me wish to be into it instead of this beastly trench fighting.

8/8/15 Fairly heavy rifle fire most of day but we got good supporting fire from our ships. "The Navy has deserted us" said Abdul some time ago! Base free from fire now. Howitzers coming into position in open. Turks using our Red & Yellow flags.

9/8/15 Had to stand to arms in a.m. on a/c of heavy fire by Turks, & our battleships opened up smartly. Few big 8"s came over again & a few exploded. Went through mail in, got word to shift bivouac. Midday moved up to the "Top" to be a reserve to 9th & 10th. Got settled after a little trouble. Fatigue very worrying now. Felt exceptionally fit today. More troops being landed up north. Steps being taken to recover bodies of ofrs & men outside trenches.

10/8/15 Very heavy fight going on for RODODENDON RIDGE in a.m. Turks copped it heavily from our artillery. Bodies blown 50' into the air at times. They fought gamely tho' at end of day we had the ridge fairly secure. Fair bit of day during day. [uncl] mail came but none for me. Man hit badly alongside me on gun pit. Promotions came out in evening. Major Deeble CO & tempy Lieut Col. I am appointed Captain & still in charge MGs. Some of promotions beastly. Poor old Strong [or Strang] passed over again for promotion. Attack expected. Put at post.

11/8/15 Things comparatively quiet now. Very little news at hand. Major Redford's body was brought in & I had the unpleasant job of getting his things. Had long yarn to Huchie in evening. Met someone who knows Dad's people in England. Wrote letter to Mother, Janette, Lizzie, Ruth, Mary Dorothy.

12/8/15 Had to wake up & go round with Major Deeble. Post not on that was detailed. Got mail away at last & did a little work all day. Had some good meals cooked by our new cook. Very little news available. Achi Baba getting a hot time again & heavy firing on our left in evening. Our plane chased a German dog away.

13/8/15 Did not wake up to stand to a.m. Haylock cooking good meals for us now. Nothing much doing all day. Major McLaurin came back again. Letters from Mother, Ruth, Garfield [2 words uncertain] of a mail after waiting so long. Wrote letter to Gladys, Don, Olive, Garfield & got to bed fairly late after it. Wish our regiment could get reinforcements quickly now & keep up our fighting strength.

14/8/15 Got down for a swim at last! It was great. B'dier congratulated me on my third star. Worked at returns etc most of the day & late into the night. Poor old Byrne seemed a little lost now that I have very little time to talk to him. Practically no firing at all today. We are loosing men through sickness & not getting many back at all. Our losses from the last action 26. 76. 131. [probably means 26 killed, 76 wounded and 131 missing] Our losses up to date are not far off 100% now I reckon.

15/8/15 SUNDAY Got to work on BFB 213 early & fixed up board of enquiry at last. Quiet a relief to get the week end work over, but the day does not seem like Sunday at all. Mail came in but none for me again. Food with HQrs is really good. Advance made in the early morning I heard. Letter to Bob. Bob Baker came back.

16/8/15 Nothing much doing all day except getting things up to scratch. Our small numbers are getting smaller & smaller lately on a/c of these small diseases. Fixed up private kits at last. Letter to Mr & Mrs Dale.

17/8/15 Quiet again. Had great job to supply the fatigues. Asked too much of us. Went down to B HQrs & had a yarn with a few odd ones. Feel more at ease today in way of work. People remarking on how well I'm looking lately. Had my ear syringed out. Deaf in left. Wax closed up. Letter to Mr Hocking.

18/8/15 Duty regiment again. Inlying piquet again. Fatigues required for the dugout again. Made me feel angry indeed. Wrong spirit certainly but it was not fair to the men in my opinion. Very quiet all day & very little doing. Took map reading class at 3 p.m. again. Beath pretty ill with a cold. Had yarn with him till late.

19/8/15 Buzzed around & got timber for the dugout & helped to put roof on. Could not supply our fatigues completely today. Went for swim in the p.m. & enjoyed it to the full. Good to be able to have a swim in comparative safety. Felt at peace with things in the evening somehow or other. Work getting a little more shipshape too. Got a letter from Gribble who has enteric fever. It rained last night for first time. Indication of what is to come.

20/8/15 Nothing much doing all day. Things running fairly well now. Men had good meal today. Map reading quite interesting in a way. Saw S/Capt in evening & borrowed Kings Regs from him. Things ominously quiet tonight. No 1 gun reported not doing well.

21/8/15 Nothing much doing again. Bit of a battle at about 2 a.m. Went down to base to find out about a man in p.m. Walked about a lot but gained little & missed seeing the attack on [?] hills which was helped by ships & land batteries. Attack unsuccessful as far as we were able to hear late at night. Heavy firing well into the

night. Observed the effect of searchlight at 10 p.m. Byrne out of it with diarrhea pretty bad.

22/8/15 Sunday Quite chilly of a morning. Quiet out on left. Got A.F.B 213 well away. Went down to Beach to find out about pay but had no luck. Could not strike the right man. Communion service in morning & service in evening which I enjoyed very much indeed. Wish we could hear a little more. Very little news from left flank during day. Bit of a battle during night. Had talk with Byrne in evening. Very solicitous about the company I keep in the regiment. Oh! for wisdom to act wisely with those with whom must come in contact!

23/8/15 Nothing doing. Had a pretty bad cold & a big head in the bargain. General news fairly favourable all along. Nights chilly. Letter to Gribble. Password was "Timbuctor". Leinsters very amused by it. "Where's that choom?" they say.

24/8/15 Did not stand to arms! Signaller did not wake me up. Rumours of mail but none came. Rumour of Greece declaring war & of a successful naval engagement against the Germans. Dugout is finished at last.

25/8/15 More fun about duties today. All fatigues fairly short of men. Nothing much doing otherwise. Good rumours of a spell at last & good news re Italy & Russia v Germany. 20th Battn on inlying piquet. Different spirit in Broadway tonight. In sharp contrast to the subdued whisperings of the tommies we have the outspoken, argumentative Australian with his very [...igated"] form of speech. Let's hope they are a little cleaned in habits than the same tommies. Letter to Mother.

26/8/15 Had orders to be ready to move at any time. Got most things packed up ready for moving. It was rumoured that Lemnos or Imbros was our destination but that does not seem likely. Letter from E.L.Jackson who has typhoid. Had instruction to coach 20th inf in trench work. Pretty green on it but the spirit is there. Letters to Gribble & Jackson. Bit of a tiff with CO who showed none [uncertain] nice a spirit.

27/8/15 Nothing doing. No spell in view today at any rate but probable destination No 6 section. 9th, 10th & MGs went out there & we go probably tomorrow. Had to coach 20th again. Heard that "Blue" Thorn was shot on right flank. Big attack by 18th in left. Solid going. Heard that 9th took part in scrap too but nothing definite.

28/8/15 Got things fixed up finally ready for moving out. Got word just before dinner time that I was to go out & report to Gen Cox & find out our positions. Took my kit out & took Byrne & Edwards with me. (-expected Edwards to take his kit out there & then come back for his own!) Found Gen Cox. Found our place & went to it. Saw 9th & 10th & went into firing line. Got back to our bivouacs & found all ready to move. Saw B.M., went to beach with Regt & set out for AGHYL DERE. Got [uncertain] about 9 p.m. Poor men were loaded up like mules. I felt angry with QM for not getting mules. Were not long in getting there but CO was a bit anxious & I had a roaring pain in knee. It was refreshing to see new country but the walking came a bit solid after trench work. Had a bed in fresh whiskered wheat.

29th Sunday Up fairly late & still feeling a little stiff & sore. Sent in returns to B HQrs. Paid visit to Gen Russell's HQrs & received instructions in pm re entering the trenches, 50 & 2 to go in. We all went round trenches at about 5.30 p.m. & the [uncertain] was very terrible. Dead Abduls & Austs lying all over the place. One trench full of dead & sap had to be dug alongside it in order to make roadway & to get dirt to fill up trench. Felt fairly tired again in evening. And Sunday ends. Letter to Mother & flowers.

30th Shrapnel valley flying round [uncertain] & few men knocked out. We suffered no casualties in night and 19th seem to be good men by all accounts. We put 25 in trenches tonight and one. No news of mail yet. Went into trenches in p.m. to see how men getting on. They like the food brought in hot. Trenches deepened a little since yesterday. Spoke to Gen Russell & he was in excellent mood. Seems to be a fine man altogether like most of the NZ staff. Caught a bit of influenza & took stuff for it.

31st. Felt a little better in a.m. & popped round trenches a couple of times during the day. Improving a little by degrees. Gun section arrived during the night & kicked up a fair row. Temp down in p.m. & took a little more medicine at night. Went for swim. Water was wonderfully phosphorescent, regular jewels. Mail came in Hurrah! Higgins & party went as escort to Gen HQrs at Imbros [uncertain]!

DIARY FOR MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 1915

[Relinquishes post of Acting Adjutant and returns to MG- section; wounded and evacuated by hospital ship]

1st September Around trenches early. One casualty, Hill of gun section. sorted mail in p.m. Letters from Mother, Ollie, Dorothy, Garfield, I/{i}I, Mrs [uncertain] and Capt Davis. Good to get a mail at last. Letter to Dorothy. Col Deeble OC, post. Doctor would not let me go into the post on a/c of temp. Did not feel too good as matter of fact. Saw Bill Stevens.

2nd Took it easy all day & did very little work. Could not get my appetite back & that's a bad sign for me. Word came for 60 rifles & 3 ofrs to remain & rem[ain]der to go to table top at night. Simply sent MG away & let all rest remain. Yarn to Sgt Latter.

3rd Felt better & more ready for action in a.m. sat about most of day. Went for swim in p.n. with Beamish, Ted Wicker & RSM McGrath & enjoyed it very much indeed. Was advised not to go in trenches for another night at least & did not.

4th Went into trenches in a.m. Col Deeble not looking well at all. "Hum" of trenches is still pretty bad & bodies are still uncovered. But it is not nearly so bad when the wind blows strongly as it eases the heat on the poor beggars in trenches & makes things fresher. Trenches much safer. Met Gen Cox going round & he remembered me to my surprise. Territorials in trenches now & they are far & away better than Kitch's army or even our own new men who are not shaping too well yet. Letter to Garfield. [Maler uncertain] shot in arm in dugout.

5th Sept Sunday Pretty quiet Sunday all day. Took four Hours in trenches during day & four during night. Terriers what I have seen of them are not bad in the trenches at all-.Got the spirit. Church parade in evening but couldn't go.

6th Felt really well all day & went down for a swim in early afternoon. 'Twas splendid in & good to forget everything for I time. Walk across plain country not quite enjoyable. Had a man shot dead in trenches. No rumour of being relieved from here or peninsula yet. Letter to Olive.

7th Beautiful morning. Everything felt well somehow. Nothing doing all day. Wrote letter to Mother. Swim with Jim Sproat in p.m. & enjoyed it very much. Rumoured first Aust Divn going for a [uncertain]. Beautiful sunset & clear evening.

8th Went along to ANZAC in a.m. with Jim Sproat & walk did not seem extraordinarily long to what we expected. Saw much change alongr beach. No paymaster had arrived. Had yarn to various knobs & heard Col G[uncertain] was at ANZAC but could not find him. Got maps for opie[?] & dodged back again in time for a late dinner which was most acceptable. Heard orders to move at 8 p.m. tonight. Went for swim & got packed up. Carried my own pack which reminded me of old times and arrived at TABLE TOP at a fairly late hour. Everybody tired & a little "out" especially CO. Got men to bed & crawled in & slept at once.

9th Up early & got things under way. Buzzed about a good deal. Saw MacKenzie & old Huchie once again. Mac a Staff Captain. Set out various posts. Found it difficult to supply men for fatigues etc. Went round trenches in p.m. Oliver came back. Very good food today, fresh meat & eggs.

10th Up fairly & got things on move a little. Went up to the Top again & got parties on digging a connecting sap. Brig came round & flustered CO about getting g. My

opinion of him fell a little. Fatigues numerous in p.m. Sent for goods left at Walker's Ridge. Had to take on [uncertain] while Huch is sick in bed. Wandered round guns in evening & found trenches very narrow indeed. Got to bed & slept well. Byrne sent to field ambulance at last.

11th Up at good time again. Goods from ridge arrived during night all right. Canteen stores ready for issue & got things ready in a.m. Issued them out satisfactorily in p.m. & all seemed satisfied. [Uncertain] had good share this time. Ruffed up by Bde over fatigues. Had splendid tea & dinner. Went round trenches again with Cpl Pascal & enjoyed the walk. Lovely evenings for sleeping.

12th Sunday Day seemed nothing at all like Sunday to me. Walked round guns & saw Turkish field guns shelling our shore stations. Our reply was weak indeed & slow. Saw B'dier who has his crossed swords & baton up now. Fatigues pretty solid now. Set out path for men to dig. Bit of a tiff with CO again. Pretty solid the things he says in front of other people. Just result of a joke to the engineer Capt too. Wonder when I shall do things right, Saw Col Antill in evening & went round guns.

13/9/15 Buzzed round fixing up a quittance rolls etc for most of morning. Co1 chipped me about these. wish he would let me do things my own way. He was fairly insulting today. Makes everything miserable. Went on rounds in p.m. came back & found Col & Mr Wilson had. flown away. Co1 & he both pretty sick. Bit of a surprise. Went down to Bde to find out about things. Major Scott to be CO. B'dier want me to take [uncertain] MGs in the absence of Mr Huchenson & Mr Higgins to be Adjutant when he comes back. Saw Major Scott in evening after yarn with Brig then terminated my a'ship.

14/9/15 Letter to Mother. Up fairly early & got ammo states etc away. Major Scott to command regt for time being & I feel that I will like him too. Fixed up about canteen business & went round trenches with Brown. Went for pay in p.m. & drew what I wished. Pay master seems a very decent fellow indeed. saw Sid Rowell & Wm Dunlop & heard a little news about other RMCites. Some news bad too. On way back called into Bde Major & he roused a little about not visiting him. Went round trenches again after tea & got back to bed at about [no time given].

15/9/15 Rained during night but our W-P sheets turned out fairly water tight & we woke up dry. Paid out money to A & C squadrons & went round trenches with Capt Rose in p.m. & again at night. things very quiet indeed but we can hear Abdul digging over the valley. Higgins came back & I hand over job of a/ad; to him tomorrow morning. Started out to go to hospital ship to see CoI Deebte but heard it was useless as he would have gone to [Ma-d-s uncertain] at once. Byrne came back. Letter from Mother, Gladys, Garfield, Alex, Mrs A W & Gribble.

16/9/15 Stood to arms at 0435 -- 0515. Seems to make nights steep short. Very heavy dew during night. Handed over job of a/Adj to Higgins but I camped with 8th as usual to help him on with-job & for messing purposes. Went round trenches with Higgins in a.m. & got a good general idea of our line from artillery officer. Fixed up pay in p.m. Went to B Hqrs, round trenches & off to bed. Few shell lobbed down at B HQ & B.M. seemed to be a bit upset about it. Rained again in p.m. Am to be staff officer to our Bde Mjr.

17/9/15 Had small conference of officers in a.m. Capt Rose came round & arranged about training 4 M gunners for regt. Saw McKenzie & he is much better than goodness. Made a start on [uncertain] at last. CO wants me to act as 2nd in command in

conjunction with other job SO MGs of our brigade. Like Major Scott very much indeed & would not mind doing anything for him. He is a "man" & a fighter. Saw OCs units re men in p.m. & went round guns. Had to scuttle about in open looking for positions for MGs & had a little strenuous work on hands & knees. Secured a new W-P sheet & a travelling rug, jolly handy things, both of them. Our battleships sent in a few shells to 971 but we had no response from Abdul. Moon fairly well [on her back. Uncertain] Letter to Mother.

18/9/15 Started instructing new M Gunners & find them fairly intelligent at the game. Went round trenches with Brown & started sketch of our Bde area. Late for dinner. Demonstration by Turks in p.m. but nothing came of it. Two lovely letters from Dorothy & Mother. Went round trenches fair number of times during day. Letter to Dorothy. Very keen pleasure from her letter & mother's.

19/9/15 Sunday Went on with instruction to class & did little more to sketch. Church service on but I could not attend unfortunately. Heard a little of it. Went on to Table Top in p.m. & spent most of time tilt about 5 p.m. there. BM unwell B'dier down with a high temperature. Things look glum. Cp1 Hutchinson went away. Had bit of a yarn in evening. Had to buzz round trenches at about 11 to find out about large Turkish sapping party reported working. Two of our men shot (26th) working in moonlight. To bed about 1 a.m.

20th Took class again & men are picking up well so far. Round trenches again. Don't seem to get a minute to spare lately, not even to write letters which I would love to do. Ruled paper for sketch in evening but got no further. BM would have nothing but 40 [yards] to the inch. General went away sick at last. Inevitable.

21st Decided to spend all day & finish sketch. Spent what time I could on it & finished it roughly in evening. Worked with Brown who seemed to get tired fairly quickly. Felt quite brain tired after it. Too much like swot. Went round trenches in evening late & made a moonlight traverse sketch as I went round. Beautiful night. Could see Abdul working away & peppered him a little. I received a copy of "Dun". Poor Charlie Dale was waiting to see it too. To bed late. BM to act as B'dier & Billy Hughes as BM.

22nd Buzzed round most of day & spent time fixing up bivouacs etc. Shifted into a new & more comfortable dugout. G.O.C. was round & seemed fairly jovial too. Col Abbot of 10th seems to be a beaut fellow & some think the Bde will not bluff him too easily. Did not go round trenches in evening but turned in -- not feeling to good. Garfield's birthday.

23rd Went round guns at stand to arms in a.m. & did not get back till late owing to my stopping & talking to Major Nicholas who seems to be such a fine fellow. Took class & did the rounds. Sent sketches in in p.m. of our trenches and area. Saw G.O.C in evening. I fear fire water had been too much in evidence. State of BHQ offers much ground for criticism and amusement at present. Late for tea but secured a little oatmeal. Shell sent over our way for first time, one of our men killed and about five of other regt wounded. Went round trenches late & was able to find some sandbags for my dugout. Rumours of an attack on APEX.

24th Did not go "rounds". Took walk to BHQ to keep warm and found none standing to arms there - all quiet & sleepy. G.O.C. went round trenches & tried to choose place for a MG. It was useless & did not start on it. Fixed up dugout. Few shells came over again on to our "bivies" but did no damage to us. Bit of a demonstration in evening &

Abdul bit. Put another gun in trenches. To bed fairly late. (B'dier amused [uncertain] apparent copies of sketches made by officers instead of their own.)

25th Fairly chill at stand to arms. Wrote letter to Gladys. Round trenches in a.m. a waited on B'dier but he did not come - hours wasted. Fooled round with maps in the p.m. & finished off Major Scott's. Went to BHQ & heard most disappointing news that Major Scott has got to leave us to rejoin his regt & Major Nicholas is to take his place. Round trenches again in evening & had a good moonlight [uncertain]. Abdul has been firing some high explosive bombs today but nobody has been hurt yet. They have long wooden trailers. In luck's r/iyay! Received letters from Gladys, Garfield, Olive, Lizzie, Ruth, Mary. Reveille!! Reveirle!! to be at 0645 each morning. Pretty tough.

26th Sunday Buzzed round trenches & inspected new gun position. Think I can prove L Bull [possibly Ball] that he has no right to try & choose position for me. He should indicate task to me & then let me carry it out my own way. Took class for stoppages & got back in time for church. went to try on a pair of boots. First wham I [uncertain] a little "messenger" which hit my left foot with a thud when I had my boot off. Beggar lodged somewhere in other side & caused a little trouble. Packed up my kit & went down to hospital in p.m. and on the hospital ship *Gloucester Castle* by about 12. could not sleep well.

27th Did not sleep well during night. Had a good wash and lay down all day. Wrote letter to Garfield good long one too. Day seemed very long indeed after so much action & life at ANZAC. Fix up trenches on maps [uncertain]. Had foot dressed & sister was none too gentle either. Bullet not to be taken out on board. Moved away from ANZAC to Lemnos & waited there for orders. Night sister very much nicer than day one.

28th Sept Did not get much of a view of Mudros even though we went right up into the inner harbour in the morning. Could not stand up without beginning to pain. Bullet will probably not be taken out on this boat. Don't know why at all as they have every convenience. Bit inflamed too. Heard good news at Mudros about big French advance and favourable news re Russia. Let us hope a few more pushes are made in quick succession. Busied myself with a sketch of our position on Rhodo Spur. Just the thing for making time fly.

29th Nothing much doing all day. Finished sketch, read Shakespeare and wrote letter to Mother. Foot giving a good deal of pain in afternoon & night. Fairly inflamed & swollen. Bullet will probably have to come out tomorrow. Hope so. Fairly heavy sea for most of day & swayed a little. Had interesting talk to some of the y nurses, should like to see a little more of them just to get their measure, Had yarn to Mack most of p.m.

30th Sept Was able to get no sleep during the night. Another night like that and a fellow might have gone silly. Had my foot x-rayed in a.m. saw bullet which seemed to be wedged in above one bone & the other. woke up finally in p.m. after a good many tries & a little bit of foolish talk. Felt inclined to do nothing but sleep. Foot paining a little. Had some morphia injected & slept beautifully during night.

DIARY FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 1915

[Hospital in Malta, hospital ship to England, hospital in London. 1

1st October Woke up with pleasant sensation and feeling no pain in foot. [Part of this sentence is obscured by a Malta halfpenny postage stamp. The obscured words have been re-written around the stamp.] Not feeling much inclined for eating after the chloroform. Saw foot dressed & they did make a big gash. Arrived Malta dawn & left boat in a.m. Went to St Andrews Hospital by motor. Malta & Valetta most interesting, everything in stone and sort of breathing of past history & romance. Day seemed very long indeed with dressings & so on. Heard that Bob Baker was down below and that some of Duntroonites were on the island. L1/1 [or i/i] captain kindly sent word round to [Nim ?] Clowes that I was here. Had long talk with him. Had the pleasure of a two hours foot bath. Didn't she make me groan inwardly. Foot felt better though & I slept well.

2nd Oct Up fairly early & heard the bugle going once again. Felt much better today & eat a little more. Doctor took tube out of foot. Have to have two hour baths twice daily. I've practically got to live for my foot so sister says. Wrote letter to Dorothy & read as much as I could. Had haircut. Bought some articles in Maltese [lace ?] to value of £1-15-6. Rather good value I think,

3rd Oct Sunday Rather a beautiful day. So lovely to wake up & hear the clocks chiming the hour in different tones. Letter to Capt Beamish & finished *Merchant of Venice* which reminded me very much of old times at [Contia ?] & R.M.C. Started *The Tempest* but did not feel much inclined for reading today - bit off colour & foot would not rest properly. Letter to Gladys.

4th Felt much better all day. The two hour baths seem to go a little more quickly now. Note to Major Nicholas & letter to Alex. Learnt yesterday that I just missed losing my foot! Doctors pleased with foot lately but it still looks ugly. Read English & Malta papers.

5th Procured "History of Malta". Not a well written book at all & I pity the kids that have to learn it. Nothing much happened all day. Letters to Olive & Mary. Lord Methuen & his daughter came to see the patients, but I did not see them. Received a parcel containing a pipe, some soap, a handkerchief and some writing material from the red cross societies. Very nice indeed but do not know whom to thank for it. Eat a big dinner at night - terribly big for me.

6th Time passed fairly quickly. Used the wheeled chair and went for a bath in a.m. Much better. Letters to Dave, Lizzie & Ruth during my "hours of tribulation" - my time spent with that foot in the bath. Best way of making time fly. Foot tried to play up a bit in p.m. & caused bit of trouble. Three Aust officers went back to Anzac & jolly fine fellows they were. Governor was round again but did not see him. Got to bed

early & slept well. Sister McQ- is a nice sort of nurse. She is amused at me and I at her. She calls me "boy" and "my child" but it doesn't worry me much seeing that I am young. She laughs at my inquisitiveness.

7th Nothing much doing all day. Read & wrote as usual - letters to Bob & Nina. Doctor pleased with foot. Sister very good to me. Had me put out on balcony and I did little but sleep. Fresh air was indeed good & it was fine to see something, Strong winds

& rain came up in evening. Could not sleep for some reason. May have been because Doctor told me I was to be sent off to England by hospital ship. Sent souvenirs to Dorothy & Mother.

8th Procured a large history of Malta & read it with pleasure. Had no peroxide squirted into my foot all day. Must be getting better. Heard that I was to go off to England probably tomorrow. Seems strange when foot is not very far advanced. Sister does not like it at all. Had a padre with his dog in to see me. Letters to Will. Edie, Major & Mrs MacCartney.

9th Nothing doing all day out of the ordinary. My roommates are out most of day now and I am left on my pat, most of time. Plenty of time for reading. Sister McHugh asked Doctor not to let me go to England yet. I don't mind at all. Got out on to balcony in p.m. & had good view of [uncertain] & Valletta. Would love to get there & see things. Heard that Mr Liddelow was on the Island after being to Florence. Hope he comes up here. Dreamt last night that I saw an aeroplane duel on the penin and our man shot the Turk. Very vivid right up to where the Turk ended in dust etc on the ground. Don't sleep too soundly these nights for some reason or other.

10th Sunday Very quiet all day. Read a little & wandered out on to the balcony in the p.m. Great luck! Mr Liddelow & Ed Wilton came to visit me & we had quite a long talk on various things. They had just come back from Florence where they had had a good time. Sister Gowing stayed and had quite a nice talk in evening. That is the thing to make time fly when the foot is in the bath. Slept much better in evening" Slept in Robinson's bed. He went off to England & seemed rather down hearted at leaving.

11th Was told I was to go today & made all prep to do so. Sister gave me new pyjamas & socks, chocolate & cigarettes, but I then was told I would not be going today. Just as pleased to stay. English papers came. Danny Bremner came to see me in p.m. & also Mr Liddelow. Jove I'm lucky in the way of visitors lately. Letter to Mother' Sister Gowing very kind to me. Comes & chats before tea & tonight she brought me in a lovely cup of tea & a piece of cake. The night sister is so ladylike also & I like her - like them all - but I am "only a boy" of course. Letter to Major Nicholas but did not post it.

12th Mr Liddelow came again in a.m. & went into Valletta. Brought back my watch and came again in p-m. Had a great talk and a number of us had afternoon tea together - Sisters Gowing & McHugh. Capt Baker - [Pariold ?] Bob came up to see me at last. Mr Liddelow, MF Johnson & myself. 'Twas splendid. After that Mr Liddelow & I had another long yarn about Florence & Rome & he showed me photos & post cards etc of places he had been to. He stayed to tea and until about 10 o'clock, One of the best days I have spent for some time. Got some more lace from the lace seller - old rogue! Letter to Gladys.

13th Nothing much a-doing & foot doing well. No peroxide used now to syringe it out. Mr Liddelow came again & kindly sent a cable home & to [banks ?] and also purchased some sweets. Showed me some of his films of Rome. Jolly fine. No signs of my going yet. Wrote letter to Dorothy in evening. Seven pages bless "yer" soul ! Could not get to sleep till after twelve.

14th Very dull morning, Mist over harbour. Day became quite fine in p.m. & I went out and had Food sun bath. Felt good after it. Bob Baker & Mr Liddelow came to see me in p.m. Latter did little fixing and his prints are jolly fine, He stayed till nice & late but did not stop for tea. Made bargain with Sister Gowing by which she has to come and

see me every day. Sister McHugh is really very impulsive and really very nice. Slept like a log all night but evening very warm owing to Scirocco wind.

15th Table upset during night with prints on it. Some of prints spoilt. Mr Liddelow came for them in a.m. & again in p.m. telling me that he would be going tomorrow. Shall miss him very much indeed. Gave me a photo which he took of Bob Baker and myself. Came out rather well. Did not feel too good all day. Very dull, damp day nearly all day. Letter Mr & Mrs HC. C-W. Sister Gowing did dressing and she seemed rather downcast & sad, Very rough sea on during night, simply roaring.

16th Fairly cold, windy day. Sea rough & all ships seemed to [dip ?] to it. Mr Liddelow to go away today at about 3 p.m. Popped in & saw me. Came a cropper & banged my foot on floor. Made me turn a somersault backwards. Bob came up in p.m. & had yarn & got photo. Looking much better. Paid a visit to some English officers further along & listened to a gramophone for some time and it only made me hungry for music. Mr Liddelow didn't go after all. To go at 10.30 tomorrow. Sea tremendously rough late in evening. Forster same in and had a yarn.

17th Sunday Tremendous wind & sea in a.m. Sea breaking splendidly on the shore & hurling up the foam. Had only a short bath in a.m. & now in p.m. Great without it for once. Letter to Mr [Gable ?] . Kicked up a great row in our room in early morning. Doctor & sister interested what was up but it was only towel-flicking and hockey! Had fine p.m. tea party with sisters & few others, otherwise day very very quiet.

15th Quiet all day. Wandered out on to balcony & enjoyed the sun very much indeed. Bob Baker came up. The queerest woman I've ever struck met me on the balcony. Preserve me from any such society "nuts". Letter to Garfield. Capt Adams will allow me to go out in a car. Must shake it up & make it good. Sister McHugh very interested in the "bullet". Went to sleep early. seem to have luck to sleep really well lately. Foot is not giving nearly so much trouble.

19th Nothing doing. Hobbled round in sun during morning. Sea gone down & was quite calm today, Sister Watson visited us from below. Seems to be rather a decent sort. She knows how to buy this Maltese lace at any rate. Stopped hot baths & foment & took to dry dressing. Foot doing splendidly. Letter to Mother.

20th Seems very quiet without the foot baths, for so long a part of the day. Spend most of my time on the balcony now. Very little doing all day. Had bit of a yarn to Capt Chaplain Tobias who seems to be a decent chap. Has been in Malta for four years. Had bit of fun with Mr Stafford Badger in evening as we both were feeling frivolous. Bunch of post cards to Garfield.

21st "Om [or 'Our'] day" in Malta. Had yarn on balcony with Capt Tobias. Got word to be ready to go at 1.30 today. Got "dressed", had lunch and left hospital. Saw only Sister McHugh to whom to say goodbye. She is good indeed. Travelled by very circuitous roads to the docks and got on board an Italian hospital ship. Not much to talk about in the way of officer accommodation but nothing to growl about. Hopped up to dinner. Italians are awful "yabberers". Little sister very nice indeed & she dressed my foot for me. Ward stuffy for sleeping. Letter to Mother & posted one to Major Nicholas.

22nd I did not feel too fresh after sleep in the close cabin. Preliminary to breakfast at 7 a.m. Breakfast proper at 11 a.m. Tea at 3 p.m. & dinner at 7 p.m. Such are the queer meal hours aboard the ship. Food is good but a few of the peevish ones are not satisfied. Some people never will be! Macarone [sic] plays a great part in the main meal & Joves

the Italians are the ones to eat it. The fat waiter seems to take great interest in me and helps me to & from table. Did it without anybody asking him too. Spent great part of day on deck & enjoyed it. Ship doing a fair pace. We are none too bright a lot at table yet. Three colonels, two captains, four, three lieuts, one nice lieut doctor & a fat Capt Padre who has not impressed me favourably. I like the Col of Ghurkas [sic]. Could not get to sleep very easily. Foot bit of a nuisance.

23rd A little more used to Italian meal hours today. Foot not too bad at all. Bigger discharge from round wound towards ankle. Doctor none too gentle but seems to know his game. Spent all day on deck. Had final lesson in chess from Mr Law who is a very nice fellow, the fat kind old waiter came right down to cabin for me. Like the old chap. The old consulting doctor wants me to rest foot more. He's a dear old chap & I like talking to him.

24th Sunday Wound much better this a.m. Had fine bath after dressing & went on deck. The old Padre held service. Remained on deck all day & wrote letter to Mother. Slept a good deal. Started the "Itinerant Daughters".

25th Beautifully breezy day and it was a treat to get on deck. saw Gibraltar early in the morning, rough and bristling with guns. Went into harbour to let a man ashore and saw Gib from the other side. 'Tis indeed a strong place and I should not like to try & take it, from either land or sea. Left at about breakfast time and as we got. further out Gib. looked more like what one sees in pictures. Saw fine shoal of dolphins going at some pace. Played bridge in p.m. and watched games of chess in evening. Foot looking pretty well. Nearly lost my pretty bullet. The poor little colonel of artillery is still peevish and I cannot help pitying waiter. My fat friend did not like my taking two sticks with me yesterday & being independent of him. Had bit of fun with old Doctor in guessing my age. Said 28 at first. Met a sister who had been tending Tom Elliot Capt in Malta.

26th Ocean rough all day. Biggest waves I have ever seen and the ship did dip to it. A few people sea sick and did not appear at breakfast. Had game of chess in a.m. but I'm afraid did not show much improvement at it. Felt uncertain about my seaman's qualities but along with Mr Law I enjoyed watching the big waves and having my lips wet with spray. Foot looking much better today. Saw coast of Portugal & city of Madrid. Coast presented very rugged appearance but the cultivation inland could be seen.

17th Sea much quieter. Saw Cape Finisterre in p.m. Played cards most of day but I feel very awkward at it among good players. Saw some fine porpoises in p.m. with their joyous dives. Doctor pleased with foot. It certainly looks & feels better. Had yarn to sisters in evening. one of them silly. Came a flopper on deck & hurt my hand a little.

28th Ship had a big roll on most of day & made hobbling about on sticks rather dicky. Spent morning on upper deck in sun & [uncertain] with a canary. Watched seamen being paid. Terribly wooden looking lot. Bridge in p.m. The padre an awful beast at tea and a rotter at night. Selfish and vulgar. Foot looking good. Saw Brest lighthouses after dinner.

29th Saw the coast of England in the distance when we first got up. Spent most of time watching the coast of Isle of Wight and it was indeed pretty. Chessboard landscape. Lovely looking little towns perched right on the seashore. The whole thing looked homelike. One of best features was the way the landscape changed as we went along (all colours subdued) and the beautiful colours of the sea. Of course it was much

more pleasant watching these things along with a nice little Lancashire lass (Sister Walsh M.E.). Took a fancy to her hearty and pleasant ways.

Saw the boom, the strong [basin?] forts sit down here & there in the sea & bristling with guns of different calibres, the fine hospital at Metley & a hundred & one other things. Came alongside the pier at Southa[mpton?] at 4 p.m. (The old padre had to fork [line obscured by a halfpenny English postage stamp] dressing gown and the slippers which he seemed to want to get away with. Horrible old brute!)

Left the pier by train to London, (Sisters saw us off) and arrived at our destination in about 1½ hours. (Foggy & very raw.) Had the misfortune to travel by same taxi as the padre to 3rd. London Gen Hospital. The silence was about as chill as the weather, With difficulty the chauffeur found his way through the fog & I arrived at hospital at about 8 p.m. Cold! Cold as charity! London in semi darkness owing to new regulations re lighting.

30th Very heavy fog in a.m. and fairly nippy. Had foot dressed in p.m. & I had to go back to old hat baths & fomentations as it was swollen & was a little dirtier about the wound. Saw Kennedy who is here from enteric, Jervois who has lost a leg but not his objectionable aloofness (maybe his nature), Hodgson who has been still on his back since practically the first landing and Bird Nimmo in evening, Saw Major Scott of 9th also. Read most of day but could not write owing to my kit not arriving. Had some sun in p.m. and it cheered things up' All the trees are bare.

31st Oct Sunday Not nearly so cold. Rained during day and things looked pretty bleak outside. Very draughty in our room & I was pretty glad to sit by our stove most of day and read & write. Hot baths in action once again now and hot fomentations. Heard church bells ringing & was rather a nice sound. Letter to Mother , Dorothy, Sister Walsh, Beamish, [Mr Law or Mc Law ?]. Heard Capt Day in ward near me. Night sister a real sport. To bed about 11.

DIARY FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 1915

[Hospital in London; foot responds slowly to treatment; visitors, military and civilian.]

November

1st Rain again but a few blinks of sunshine later. Doctor ordered me back to bed & I was unable to visit Major Day as I had promised. Read a little & wrote letter to Sister McHugh. Very sleepy in evening & slept like a log for most of night. Foot looking cleaned.

2nd Nothing much doing all day. Bit of a nuisance being in bed. Had my foot x-rayed again and fracture was discovered. 'Tis probably that that has been doing all the damage. Saw good old Major Day on way back. Looks comparatively well considering what he has passed through. Saw Fulton in p.m. & he looks well. Letter to Cook & Son. Measured for suit.

3rd Again woke up with that queer sort of headache. Doctor has decided to have slice at foot to let out pus more quickly. Not healing as it should. Felt very restless & discontented for some reason & would have loved to have got up & got round a little. Saw Regie Legge in p.m. & also Col Smyth of the 12th Bn. Large number of lady visitors in p.m. but none mine. Saw Carrington Junr & he looks well.

4th Nothing doing out of bed yet. Had Majors Day & Scott to see me during day. "The White Sister" very interesting. Fulton came to see me late in evening and my head ached with laughing over the moonlight episode behind the gym at R.M.C. Saw McGrath. Letters Olive & Dave.

5th Saw Capt Day in the early morning and again in the p.m. when he told me that he would be leaving tonight. Gave him a few odds & ends and my bullet to take home. Should have liked him to have been here when I am able to get round. Had my first lady visitor to speak to me today. She had a deal of powder on too. But they gave us cake & that might excuse it. Saw Fullo, Legge & Percy Prisk came to stay in our ward. Had yarn to him in evening. Letter to Gladys.

6th Nothing doing - the same sort of remark that one had to use re life on Russells Top before the Nek. Read all day & finished "The White Sister". Had to start hot baths again & foot looks a little better. Saw Pender of 9th.

7th Sunday Read all day. Saw Jack Pain & a stranger or two. Lovely little baby boy came into our ward. Drinks for officers are limited now & their diet sheet decides what they are to have. Had long yarn to Fullo who brought his young lady in. He had to send home for money. Ha! Ha! London too much for him.

8th Read newspapers most of day. Doctor decided to make an incision in foot tomorrow. Got gloves & sweater from the agent. Very little doing all day.

9th Had incision made in foot & tube put in. No anaesthetic & was just as pleased. Nothing doing all day. Letter to Mother. Rain all day, Lord Mayor's show.

10th Received my Xmas cards during night and got at them early in the day. Got most of them away by the evening. Saw Gen MacClaghan & Mrs MacClaghan in p.m. Great to see him again.

11th Anniversary my first day in A.I.F. Sent off a few more Xmas cards. Letter to Lizzie, Ruth, Mary. Have dated today's letters at 11th and thought of it as such. Still have to stay in bed.

12th Foot looking splendid. Got my II FS Regs at last. Said goodbye to Fullo, on his way back to front. Carrington came in in p.m. but did not stay long. Had Baptist parson in to see me but I did not cotton to him much. Had some lady visitors in p.m. They brought book, cake & fruit. Letter to Gribble. Saw little chap Price from 6th inf. Last & only time I saw him was when we were changing guard at Broadmeadows.

13th Percy Prisk & the others were prepared for their operations. Percy was a long time in & was pretty bad when he came out. Letter from Gribble & Anderson. Teddy Wilson came to see me & Wiltshire both of whom I was pleased to see. Buckley's sent my clothes along & they tried to work a trick on me with British warm - wrong fleece. Had an Australian nurse in our ward. Fine stamp of woman too. Saw Carrington again. Percy still sick in evening. Feel [or feet] [uncertain].

14th Sunday Nothing doing at all. Tube to remain in for a day or two. Potter came with a lady of sorts & gave me the news about the Light Horse officers having to collect at Weymouth. Percy much better as well as the other victims. Had Wiltshire and Carrington to see me.

15th Doctor came round & took tube out. Gave me permission to get up as long as I kept my foot raised. Was up & dressed & about in chair in no time. Berkley's clothes are very badly made & they will have to go back. Went into recreation room for lunch & stayed in room for most of day. Deeble came into ward but I avoided him so that we did not meet. Missed my motor car ride in p.m. Col Were left & we're not sorry.

16th Letter to I Anderson & started others to Mother but had to let them go for lack of news. Went for a motor ride in a.m. 'Twas lovely & fresh after the snow had fallen & made everything white and beautiful. Went as far as Walton on Thames through parks all leafless but pleasant with carpets of fallen leaves & snow. Plenty of deer to be seen too. Trees about to shed their leaves looked good - dun-brown-red colour. Trip was through Richmond Gardens, [uncertain], Hampton Court, Horcham, Walton on Thames. Came back late for dinner but the place seemed suddenly to have grown cramped. Very frivolous all day & evening. Letters from Gribble & a lady whom I scarcely know. Saw [Miles ?] of 10th. Toast for supper. Letter to Mother.

17th Started letter to Mr Liddelow and finished off one to Mother. Decided to go for a motor trip in p.m. in car kindly lent by Mrs Bingham. Percy & I went together. Saw old Haddo in p.m. also & he is looking much better. Reminded me of the book McGlusky which he was reading. Jervois & I did a lot of screeching on our cars - wheeled chairs.

Started on drive at about 2.30, went thro' Kingston Park & saw main camp, came back through main part of London - Hyde Park pretty dreary looking - and went to the rooms which Mrs Bingham has put at the disposal of officers for afternoon tea. She has a little lapdog of a queer type - Pekinese. She smoked cigarettes - lighting one with the butt of the other - stood up & talked by the yard. Cannot stand a woman smoking cigarettes at any time. Home in time for tea & went off to bed. Percy tired. Letter to Liddelow.

18th Letter to Dorothy Xmas cards to Col Parnell & Colin. Went for ride in car lent by Lady Shaftsbury. Went with Capt Jervois and enjoyed ride in same direction as yesterday. Sent tunic back to Berkleys to be finished off & altered. First edition of our ward paper came out & caused much amusement.

19th Fooled round all day. Letter from Cooks & Son to the affect that my boxes had arrived in London. Replied to it & sent on œ2.0.7. They had insured boxes for œ14 at 12/6 per cent. Got out our ward paper in evening & Jerri read it out.

20th Letter to Gribble. Greeted Sister Moore with her [chorus?] in the morning. Major Dunhill amused with the skit on him in "our paper". Went for a motor ride in p.m. for an hour or so. Went out Micham way & enjoyed it. Along with fellow called Hall.

Four pages in today's issue of our paper. Uproarious time in evening. Saw sisters off as far as the main gate. To bed late comparatively. Letter from little sister Walsh.

21st Sunday Very little doing all day. Letters to Sister Walsh & Gladys. We were all comparatively quiet all day for a wonder. Sister Moore off all day and Sister Marsh in charge. Bit of an argument with her in evening.

22nd My boxes arrived and were all correct. Seemed like quite old friends to me as I looked at the trunks & the things in them. They will save me a little extra expense at any rate. Got out another edition of our Wrinkles in evening. Foot still a little bit of a nuisance and I felt fit to do anything at all.

23rd Felt off & fairly out of sorts. Very little doing. Letters to Dave & Olive. Got out another issue of our paper. To bed late for once. Heavy fog all day.

24th Letter to OC 8th. Put some weight on foot for first time. Felt off in head. Loafed round all day. Got paper out again. Post card from Mary E Walsh from Naples. Issues of paper not bad. Got about on sticks.

25th Went for motor with Percy in a.m. and brought back tin trunks. In p.m. we went to a violin recital given by Leita Doubleday in the Leighton art room. Recital just simply splendid. Stayed behind and had a short talk with her. A girl that Percy knew was very taken with my plume. Came home with sad spirits - due to being attentive to music Shakespeare says. No Wrinkles. Lace to Lizzie and Mother.

26th Had a good lay in bed & felt better for it but still feel far from well. Started on Moore's poems and like them well. Got out another copy of Wrinkles which took well.

Rumour that Major Dunhill is leaving us. Foot looking fairly bad tonight & broke out in fresh place tonight.

27th Nothing doing all day. Went to a concert in evening & enjoyed it. Can get about on one leg quite easily now.

28th Went to church (after having a complete bath first time for some weeks). Enjoyed singing. Met McGregor of the N.Zs. Went for lovely motor ride in a big open motor in p.m. as far as Dorking. Put LH badge in Sister Lowe's auto[graph].

29th Nothing doing all day. Letter to Mother. Asked for a board & Doctor scorned the idea. Said that he could send me to Australia in a hospital ship. Not too pleased about it.

30th Letter to Garfield and received one from him dated 6th Sept. Letter to Cooks. Made prep fro more Wrinkles and got them out in the evening. Caused great amusement too. Sister Deacon probably leaving us shortly. Had great sing song in evening and our Anthem went off well. Met Mrs Buckley in p.m and was introduced to a Belgian general. Great joke with [Desaren?] in evening - was such a [jerry?].

DIARY FOR MONTH OF DECEMBER 1915

[Hospital in London; foot has improved, but still gives trouble; walking with stick; Christmas in England; anxious for permission to return to duty.]

1st Dec Sister Deacon gone for good I fear, to 4th London Gen Hosp. Ward seems very dull without her and I feel almost spoilt. PC from Sister Walsh & wrote letter to her. Bit of bone came out of foot and a fair sized piece too.

2nd Bobby Weddle, Deraven leaving us for good today and Doc till Monday. After lunch we all went to Horseferry Road together and gathered in the pay office. From there Percy & I walked to Berkleys to Myers and caught tram and bus home. New way of travelling & much better for finding ones whereabouts. Went to nice concert in main hall in evening and felt good at end of day after excitement and exercise.

3rd Major Dunhill to leave us in a few days worse luck. Walked without sticks today but felt fairly wobbly "on the left". Played billiards for past of day and enjoyed on game with Lloyd.

4th Letters from Dorothy, Hilda, Nina & Ruth. All of a fairly recent date 18th Oct. Decent to get a line or two. Letter to Dorothy. Went for a motor ride with Miss Buckley and went to her place to tea afterwards. Very nice & good drive home.

5th Sunday Saw Gen Hughes and went to church with him. Great to see him once again. Went to a concert in p.m. given by Lady Faulkner Wallace. Was not bad but I have no time for society. Could not help speaking my mind about ladies smoking cigarettes. Met one nice girl.

6th Dear old Gen Hughes came and took me for a motor ride to Harfield to the hospital there where his daughter was. Splendid ride and enjoyed the scenery to the full. It must look lovely in spring. Got back at about 5.30 feeling well. Letter from Col Abbot. Jervois left and I did not see him off!

7th Saw Gen Hughes in a.m. but did not find out till afterwards that he was leaving for good. Went to concert & enjoyed it. Xmas card to Hilda. Major Dunhill said goodbye and we're jolly sad to loose him.

8th Went to town in p.m. First to Regents Palace & had p.m. tea. Got separated from Lloyd & did some shopping, walked round, went to pictures, to dinner and finally to the Criterion Theatre "A little bit of fluff". Well acted but suggestive. Home at 11.30 p.m.

9th Up early despite late night. Spent quiet day at home. Letter to Rev Greenwood [uncertain] to go for motor drive with him. New patients came in during the night and seem a decent lot. Saw Ray Broadbent. Certain people seem to look upon our recreation room as a sort of harem or receiving room for ladies.

10th Nothing much doing in a.m. Letter to Sister Deacon and Xmas cards to Sisters Walsh, McHugh, Gowing and letter to Mother. Went out for motor drive with Rev Greenwood, Secretary to the Baptist Association, through London and then back to his

place far afternoon tea. Enjoyed ourselves - Percy & I fairly well. Had good feast of muffins and went to bed. Don [or Doc] Leary back but no bed for him.

11th Fooled about in morning. Very wet in p.m. & almost decided not to go to see Sister Deacon and have tea with her. But it cleared up and we went by bus. Good to see her again. On way back did some shopping and bought underclothing, bags etc. Got home after dinner feeling as though we had had a real good day out.

12th Sunday Very cold morning and a little sleet came down. Did not go to church but did Sister Saunder's autograph. Letters to Mary Lizzie.

13th Saw Capt Goss about going in a.m. and he arranged for us to leave at 2.30 p.m. My bags etc from Aiding & Hobb did not arrive till I was leaving. Said Ta! Ta! and off at about 3 p.m. by motor. Cold ride but fairly enjoyable. Ran into a cart but very little damage done on either side. Arrived Welwyn and were welcomed by Mrs Ackland at p.m. tea. Turned in and slept soundly. Letter to Mother.

14th Filled in morning at jig saw puzzle etc. Had foot in hot bath. Went to a gymnasium in p.m. & enjoyed it immensely. A few pieces of simple apparatus and some fine electrical worked massage machines. Felt nicely tired after it.

15th Letters from Gladys, Olive, Dorothy & Sister McHugh. Went into London by train with Percy in morning. Train fairly fast but I enjoyed the slow ride behind the old horse just as much. "Village Fly" was the name of the cab affair we travelled in. Went by tube to Victoria from Kings Cross. Jolly fine affair to ride in and went on the moving staircase. Had dinner at Grosvenor Hotel & Percy got his room and we then both went & had our photos taken. 24/- for [day?, dog?]. Separated then & I went to Samuel [uncertain] for [boots?] etc and rushed out to Wandsworth by rail & bus, back again by bus, rail & tube & caught the 7 p.m. from Kings Cross. Home just in time for dinner. Wore a boot the whole day and used only one stick. Letter from Beamish.

16th Letter to Gladys & Olive. Colonel McLaurin came down to see us and I asked him for a board. Went to the gym in p.m. - walked there and back too. Felt pretty sore from the Tuesday's experiments there. Went to a concert in evening. Rather good and short. Home in good time.

17th Received great batch of letters from Australia and my first from Mother since I left the penin. Worked out and finished jigsaw puzzle and played billiards for most of day.

18th Motor drive to St Albans in a.m. and did some shopping purchasing shoes and a camera. Short walk in p.m. Letter from Ruth and not a cheerful one. One would almost think it was written from a sheer sense of duty and to an infant. Very stiff indeed. Snooker in evening.

19th Sunday Church in a.m. but did not enjoy service. Hymns strange, sermon no sermon at all and bad reading. went for walk with Percy in a.m. and got back late for lunch. Letters to Mother, Dorothy, Dave, Phillips, Col Abbot, Sister Deacon.

20th Went in motor to a "meet". Hounds and the red coated whips looked very pretty. Went out shooting in the p.m with Peter and the old game people. Bagged a few rabbits and enjoyed the walk very much indeed. Letter to Liddelow. Billiards for evening. Heard of the retirement from Anzac & Suvla - Cruel.

21st Went for walk to Welwyn for haircut and purchased a few odds and ends. Came back and went out for another walk after lunch. Finished off the film recklessly. Came back feeling tired. Developed films in evening and mine were not successful. To bed at 11.

22nd To London in a.m. Dinner at Grosvenor H. Got some pay, paid for clothes, purchased gun and came out. Lost Percy at the pay office. Saw some 8th people. Cannot get a board before 5th Jan! Rotten luck. Came home by 5.40 with Finn and Stewart. Photos came out badly. Have it taken again. Rotten mood all day.

23rd Sunny morning. Went for walk & polished off another film. Gun arrived all correct. Took off moustache once again. Had fairly big party in p.m. for a bit of an entertainment given by Dr --- a padre. Very good. Letter from Garfield of an ancient date.

24th Wet day. Went to London by 11.10 and wandered round till the 6.15. Purchased a few silly things and sent off Tasie's parcel & letter. Did all our travelling by bus though it was wet. Walked home from station.

25th Xmas Day in England! Woke up and found a great big stocking on my bed and received different kinds of toys. Quite amusing. Church in morning. Hymns good. Sermon no good. Xmas dinner went off well with its pudding served up afire, its crackers etc. In evening another enjoyable meal. Buckleys came over for tea and we had a merry time round the Xmas tree. I got a loaded riding whip. Had game puff billiards. Screechingly funny. Carols in evening as well as in morning. [Duff?] up at night. We put stink bomb in Sydney ward & they attacked our ward with flour bombs.

26th Sunday Sunny day till after dinner! Took some photos as I went for a walk. Went to church. Poor sermon. To Buckleys in p.m. & had a merry time at their concert. Got button out of Acklands pudding at midday. Letter to Capt Davis & card to Capt Davis, Sister Deacon & Mrs MacClaghan. Will not forget the kindness of the Ackland family this Xmas. Things could not be better & I now appreciate an English Xmas.

27th Billiards in a.m. Foot discharging a little more & swollen. Went to Buckleys in p.m. and had a happy afternoon of it with singing, foxtrotting etc. Walked home. State of hostility between Melbourne & Sydney wards. Letter to Mother & Dorothy.

28th Went to town & met Percy Prisk. Took my gun stock back to have a new striker put in. Had lunch at Grosvenor but did not enjoy it. Out to Wandsworth but found most people gone. Got Roberts to send out parcel for me. Home by 5.10. Letters from Australia again. Good [budget?] this mail.

29th [entered 1st Jan 1916] Nothing much doing in a.m. Five of us to St Albans in p.m. to buy musical instruments for our New Year concert. Had good drive and an

amusing time there. Had a go in at "real" music in the night. Gas attacked Sydney ward properly.

30th Went into Welwyn to buy bottle and a few odd things. Just went for my constitutional there. In p.m. Fin, [Becard?] & myself went into Welwyn, made purchases and had a nice little p.m. tea in a little room in a hotel there. Had supper late at night in billiard room.

31st The last day of 1915! Very wet but went for a walk in a.m. Feel off if I do not go for my walk each day. In p.m. Percy & I went to St Albans by rail. Made few purchases there and had a nice little afternoon tea. Came back nice and early. While in there, we had an amusing time with a lying salesman in Boots shop and a jolly time at the p.m. tea. Kept awake till a little after 12 and after blowing zinc [vabrianate?] under Sydney ward door, went to bed. No chiming of bells to see the old year out and new year in. Very little fuss seems to be made of New Year here.

DIARY FOR MONTH. OF JANUARY 1916

[Hospitality from several English families; medical board approves a return to duty in about a month; visit to Scotland and North of England]

1st Once more we start off on our little periods that which they say make us old. Helped Fin to get up the big program for the concert. Buckleys came for the evening meal which went off quite jolly as well as the concert after it. Dunraven [?] had just enough in him to know what he was doing and no more. Had the ceremony of the snap dragon before dinner. Snapping up and eating raisins afire with brandy and afterwards gathering round the flames as salt was thrown on. Fin had a good deal during and after the concert and was about off when I went to sleep.

2nd Sunday Up late for once. Walked across to Welwyn church for the morning service. Rather enjoyed the whole affair (here I go as per old diary!) Fair sized church, nice organ, good choir and above all a padre who could preach a little from his own mind. Came home in rain. Saw a LH of at church. Letters to Garfield and Dave. Col Acland won the tournament but I cannot say I would give extra much for him as a "sport" altogether, Had a bit of a sing song in the evening but did not enjoy it as well as our last.

3rd Monday Sunny day. went for a walk for whole of a.m. and took few photos. Developed them in p.m. but cannot get used to films yet. Read a little also in p.m. first time for some time. Fin, Stew, Willie & B[rc ?] went into Welwyn and came back with fair skin full of it. Fin a bit nasty over a fine levied in fun and pressed for in earnest and which I was fairly tardy in paying purposely. Betting & gambling element coming a little bit strong among them.

4th Tuesday Had game of "stickey" in a.m. again which is a sort of indoor tennis. Played two sets and that was enough sweat lost for one time. Went to Buckleys in p.m. & had quiet time there. My film did not come out to be much – under developed I fancy. Got ready for early start into town tomorrow and went to bed. Willie's snap of me as I was sleeping yesterday was quite good.

5th Wednesday Caught 9.1 train into London and took a room at the Grosvenor Hotel. Attended the board at 2.30 p.m. and results of same were quite satisfactory to me for other people seemed to think that I would get 3 months doled out to me. I got one month & have to get foot x-rayed. Paid Berkley's bill and found that the govt. did not allow £11.11 as I was told. Paid Samuel's bill for the field boots also had to draw more cash at Horseferry Road (10+20). Went to the Gaiety and saw "Tonight's the Night". Enjoyed it to the full. Music good & very pretty setting. Slept at Grosvenor - Letter to Mr Hobblewhite (up to before Xmas). Saw Col Cannan at the offices and met a bird who knew Deeble. Not much appreciated.

6th Thursday Had breakfast at Gros^r. Left it and went out to Wandsworth. Had foot x-rayed. Went to Y ward and had a yarn to the sister and the officers I knew there. Orbell, Tubby, Phillips and a few others were there. Had a good yarn to them as well as to the sisters. Came home by the 2.30. Found a lot of letters awaiting me. Very nice ones too for most part. Pretty solid G having to leave home.

7th Friday Walked to Welwyn without a stick to purchase shoes for "stickey". Made enquiries for a horse but was unsuccessful. Received boots from Samuel Bros. Played "stickey" in p.m. & enjoyed same. Dancing on after that but did not have much time for

it. Billiards instead. Percy went to town again. Fin & Stewart got ready for a trip to Scotland in a.m. Mann seems to be disliked for his sarcasm & aloofness in bearing.

8th Saturday Buzzed up to town & took field boots back to be stretched a little. Bought a little more clothing. Back quite early. Letters to Dorothy, Mother, Sister Walsh. Felt just a little off colour today & did not eat dinner. Developed one of Percy's films and photos of myself & him came out well. Fin and Stewart left for Scotland by the 9.1 a.m.

Sunday 9th Jan

Did not go to church. Too late for Welwyn and don't care for the padre at this church somehow. Letter to Col Abbot. Started reading "The Sky Pilot" and like it well. Went to Mrs Rose's for p.m. tea. They have a nice house and seem to be nice people altogether. Bocard[?] & Mann came home the worse for it and Bocard decidedly bad. Rather crook of them. Took a print of one or two photos today. Mrs Acland & others away except Kathrine.

10th Monday Went for a ride on a horse (kindly procured for me by Miss Acland) as far as Hertford. Fine morning and a good horse. Nuff said. The way back had some jumps and horse seemed to enjoy them. Felt a bit off in the saddle for a start off. My sit me down was fairly sore for rest of day but that's a mere detail. Finished "the Sky Pilot" in p.m. & thought it splendid. Feel restless again today. Letter to British Australasian for books 10/-.

11th Tuesday Decided to have a day at letter writing but did not get very far. Letters to Beamish, Nina, Byrne, Dawson PO Asst. Went for a drive in a.m. in Acland's dog cart. Got as far as Knebworth and enjoyed it thoroughly. Called in at Buckleys on way back. Little more attempting at letter writing in p.m. Lady De la Ray came across and invited us to her place. Nothing doing with her sort. Suffragette I believe. She can talk enough for twenty. Snooker in evening.

12th Wednesday Went for ride in a.m. on black mare. Got short distance, met steam engine. Horse broke rein & came home without me after rubbing me against a muddy bank. Created consternation at Aclands. But I got on her again and went for a pretty decent ride.

Found out afterwards that at about the same time, Kath ran into a butchers cart while driving the baby car & bent steering gear. Then we found out something was broken in the buggy we used yesterday. Played stickey in p.m. & I beat Willie. Billiards also for part of day. Felt terribly stiff in riding muscles. Letter to Garfield. Sallie came back but does not look too well at all. Chaffed a good deal about coming off today. Feel nettled too over it.

13th Thursday Fooled round in a.m. Letter to Gladys (Scolding her rather I fear). Stickey in p.m. but not many games. All went off to Buckley's except Percy & I who played snooker instead. Doctors examined us in p.m. Had a shot at my piece of [necrose? bow?, bone?] but could not pull it out. Letter to Pennington. Letter from Stuarts (Nurse Haig's people) in Edinburgh asking me to tea there. Mrs Acland & Peter back.

14th Friday Received letter instructing me to report at Hferry Road on Monday to see about. going back to hospital. Doctors must have decided it on their way back yesterday. Went for walk with Percy and did some punting on the lake. Took some photos also. Fell in lake. Fairly cold. Went punting again in p.m. and enjoyed it

immensely. Game billiards with "Rath" in evening. Developed film in evening and photos of Percy came out rather well.

15th Saturday Percy & I set out for town by 9.38. Percy buzzed out to his friend on arrival at Grosvenor. I went to Kodak's purchased camera (£8) and went to Horseferry Road. Could not see Cross. Tea at the grill room and went to see "Puss in Boots" Drury Lane. Enjoyed it. very well and it was interesting to visit a place which has been patronised by so many of our great literary men.

15th Sunday Up too late to go to St Pauls. Went for bus ride to Threadneedle Street and around east end of London. Perfectly disgusting. Dirty streets, dirty people, rowdy markets in full swing etc. Fancy living in a place like that. Dinner at the Grosvenor.

Went to 3 p.m. service at Westminster Abbey. Queer sort of feeling possessed me when I went therein. Sort of felt you were in a place where you could hear the nation's heartbeat. In the presence of something great. Enjoyed service. Form took a minor and not first place for once. Place crowded. Felt more hopeful for England when I left it. Felt that the nation's heart was right.

P.M. tea at Strand corner house. A crowded house indeed. Went along to Threadneedle Street but Col Abbott was not to be found. Went to St Pauls and found no service on. Found myself at St Dunstons in the West. Good homely sermon & once again I felt satisfied.

17th Monday Up fairly early. Went along to Samuel Bros, a few other places and finally to Horseferry road. Did not have to go to hospital but may do so later. Fixed up about warrant to Scotland & North England. Drew £40 in view of trip. Back to Grosvenor too late to have dinner. Paid a/c £1.4 and went off to Charlie's Aunt. Laughed very much indeed and enjoyed myself. After that, w€ came home by 5.49. Changed into Sydney ward. Bit of a welcome home by the Aclands.

18th Tuesday Walked to Welwyn in a.m. Serviette rings not done yet. Bought watch (16/-). Dunraven left today for Australia. Went up to London in car along with Sister, Miss Acland, Percy & Carter. Left Carter at hospital. Got ready for trip tomorrow. Letter to Mrs Stewart & D.D.M.S.

19th Wednesday Caught 9.1 into town & left London by 9.45 Great Northern. Breakfast & dinner on train. Naval ofr as train mate. At dinner came into contact with a newly made Tommy ofr who just about made me sick by his display of ignorance of ordinary things. Great run to Edinburgh which we reached at about 6 & from there an hour to Glasgow. Very strong wind blowing. Put up at Grand Hotel. Extraordinary sameness about the country I passed through, but it was decent to see so much land under cultivation compared to central England. Atmosphere at this place is simply splendid & fresh. Letter to Percy.

Thursday 20th Did not rise as early as I wished to. Breakfast at about 9.15 & went off for a car ride thro' Glasgow. Went into the art Gallery & museum and spent most of the morning there. Came back too late to go into council chambers. Rained & hailed most of day. Stopped in p.m. Letter to Sister Deacon & Miss Acland, Went for another long car ride through the hail. In evening, went to a circus & enjoyed myself. Came back & found Finn, Stewart & Samson enjoying themselves. Fancy they are doing too much boozing lately. Am not hanging after getting round with them too much.

Friday 21st Went for bit of a stroll in a.m. and purchased camera case 13/6. Had bit of a yarn to an intelligent (nervous) fellow and did not get back till about 11.30. Finn,

Stewart & I then went to Peter Dawson's for a bit of a chat etc. Fine old fellow he seemed. Gave us cigars & whatever drink we wanted. I seemed all out of place not smoking or drinking anything but don't see why I should start now. Went with Mr Campbell, after meeting Mr Dawson's daughter & arranging a trip up the Clyde, to dinner at the Grosvenor.

Tried some oysters before it but did not care for them at all. Left Herbert at a manicurist and Stewart & I went for walk. Dropped into some beastly, slobbery picture show but soon came out. Had dinner early and went to the King's Theatre altogether. "The Light Blues" on. Very enjoyable. Came home, had supper and I went to bed at about twelve.

Saturday 22nd Up late again. Started to go for a walk out west but came on to rain so went back for long tram ride. Walked good deal of way back for exercise. Set out for football match at about 1.10 from St Enock station. Ticket & entrance to ground free. Arrived Ayr about ½ hour before match began. Queens Park v Ayr, Very windy and terribly cold. Game not up to much. Final scores respectively 1-4. Treated to dinner after match. I came away early on account of pretty awful neuralgia. Finn & Stewart came later.

Arrived Glasgow, got something for the tooth (Smellie would not let me pay for it,!) & I then had a game of billiards with Smellie & "Afex" & wandered home. Found Mr Renfrew & Mr Jamison in Finn's room & we had a good time together -- speeches etc. Party broke up at about 12. Also present was the sec of Queens Park football club - Mr Robinson who also was a decent Scotsman.

At Ayr saw the famous "brig" which Burns mentions in his poems - the old Roman bridge. Used now for pedestrians only. Big camber as per old style. At the match saw queer sight - people watching a football match with backs to ground. This on a/c of the rain & sleet but 'twas queer sight. Letter to Cockburn Hotel.

Sunday 23rd Feeling more & more sleepy each morning now. Woke at 8.45 this a.m. At last moment, decided to go to church & did. Went to a Free Church "St Matthews" nearby. Glad I went. Same sort of service we have in Australia. Hymns, organ, sermon all were good & I came away feeling better for it.

Went to Mr Samsons for dinner and tea. Lovely people and really homely. I think it must be just the fact of being taken into the home circle that is so fine. Fine family: Mr & Mrs Samson, Beatrice, Mary, George, Jock. Others present were Uncle Andrew, Mr Dunsmore & his daughter, Mr McDonald & Norm[?] Moffatt. Went for walk with George & Jock. Had game billiards & Herbie & I won. Took snap of Jock & George. Tried bit of mesmerism in p.m. with cards & coins.

Left there at about 11 p.m. after spending a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. People simply splendid. Shall not forget them easily I guess. To bed at about 1.30 a.m. Beatrice a Scotch lassie & not a bad sort. Mary a nice little thing. Neuralgia.

Monday 24th Not up till somewhere near 10 a.m. Went to Peter Dawson's business house, and from there went with him and Mr Campbell to dinner. Gave me an eating set and I took snap of them. Good dinner. Home to hotel. Took film to be developed. Had tooth done - nerve killed roots filled, neuralgia finished! - and went to pictures.

Home again and went with Finn & Stewart to Peter Dawson's house to tea. Met Miss Dawson & Rupert Dawson's wife, a French Canadian. Once again I was the only TT there and non smoker. Played table bowls, had supper and came away at about 11. Fairly stiff evening in a way and did not thaw properly somehow. Herbert's way did not break the spell this time.

Tuesday 25th Stewart & I went for a walk in p.m. to the George Hotel and along to railway station to enquire about trains etc. Purchased map case on way back & few other odds & ends. On way back met Beatrice. Went for stroll and persuaded her to p.m. tea & saw her on to tram. Never know what to do with myself or other people when I meet them. Letters to Dorothy, Stole P.O. & Percy. A little after 7 we three and Mr Campbell set out for Mr Renfrew's place. Met his wife & boy Robert, Mrs Headreck & her daughter quite a nice little thing and one other man. Had yarn, played whist and had dinner.

Herbert held his own at solo whist despite Mrs R's fame in that direction. She was very boisterous. After dinner which ended at about 12, we had another game of cards. Mrs R beaten at solo whist must come over and spoil our game by playing for Stewart. Mrs & Miss Headreck left at about one o'clock and we left at about 2. Stewart just about "inked". We had to make speeches at the dinner and all went well. By the way, had the famous Scotch dish "haggis" and enjoyed it. Mr Renfrew is a fine old chap.

Wednesday 26th Up for breakfast for a wonder but did not feel up to much. Went for stroll and got my prints from Scott's. Ones of Jock & George were not at all bad. Did not bother having midday meal. After dinner went with Stewart for walk, along to pictures and then along to dentist. Finished the job 12/6. Letter to Mother, short one too. Paid weeks bill £3.8.0. Samson came to dinner with us. Went to a musical concert in p.m. free as usual-. Very fine music indeed, Came home early I'm pleased to say. Don't care too much for (Kilburn?) Neither does Herbert.

27th Thursday Up at 8. Had breakfast. Left Queen St at 9.31 but got out at first station. Came back to Queen St and caught fast train at 10.5 which got to Edinburgh before the first one. Went to the Princes St Hotel (Caledonia) getting there at about 12. After lunch, went for walk round about and finished up at the old castle. Fine old place but could not stay long - shut at 3.

Back to hotel for dinner and went to the Lyceum (Tina [?]) at night. Quiet enjoyable though nothing extraordinary. Straight back to bed. Saw an acquaintance of the HS [Hospital

Ship] *Re d'Italia* & met an Australian who belongs to Lord Lovatt's Scouts. Very beautiful city is Edinburgh. Sorry at not staying longer.

28th Friday Breakfast at 10. Set out for Forth bridge on bus at 11.15 along with an Austⁿ called Moore of 3rd A.I.F. Saw bridge from distance, the 3 immense girders standing out reminding me of the pyramids - colossal. Walked across the bridge, back again and could not help marvelling at the wonderful work.

Had dinner at hotel. On way from hotel to bus, opened my camera, looked at view finder but as it was misty and as good P.Cs of same could be bought I did not take photo. Luckily too! Had just stepped on to bus & got seated when a breathless sgt came up and wanted me to give up my camera. Mentioned something about police station. I refused and told him to come along to Pce Stn. Old fool would not take my word or that of Moore that no photo had been taken.

Went along & saw some bird or other with a crown on his shoulder strap and explained things to him. carrying a camera in that area is an offence I learned. Wanted to catch 2.15 bus so left my name and address and film and "got". Nothing will come of it because no photo had been taken and I knew not about carrying a camera. Told the bird that I was going to take a snap but suddenly remembered that photos of such works

were not allowed. But I am afraid that the film got fogged as I took it out. If I had taken a photo on it that would have saved me. one of those amusing episodes!

Back at Hotel; paid bill and left Edinburgh by 4 p.m. train arriving at Glasgow an hour later. Herbert & Stewart looked chirpy despite their night out last night which they told me about. Saw Samson, Campbell & Renfrew - good chaps. After dinner Herbert met a girl and took her to his room. Stewart & I went for a walk. He was on for girls and I was not. This is their last night here & they want to make the best of it, of course.

Queer thing about above mentioned episode- Last night I dreamt my camera fell into water and I spoilt a film,

29th Saturday Breakfast in bed. (Stewart & Herbert wakened me up at about 2 this morning & did a step dance. Had restless sleep before they came in. Began to feel sorry that I shouted them those six bottles but they call it amusement ergo -). Got up at about 10. Went for walk, bought books & had haircut. Had light lunch and the three of us set out in taxi for P.D.'s.

Met Campbell there and off we went to the wharf. Got on board the ship Clan McLachlin & were sort of introduced all round by a Mr Mea[?] Met the first mate and Captain McClean. Set off at about 2 p.m. down the Clyde. All admiralty work and no mercantile going on. Saw TBDs, submarines, submersibles, dreadnoughts, cruisers etc under construction. 'Twas splendid to see them. Saw Yarrow works. On bridge practically the whole time. Capt McClean a great sport & the [pilt?] was interesting.

All had a spot in cabin. Later on when on bridge Herbert wanted to - two guesses. What should the Capt do but order "the boy" to bring up a - two guesses, and Herbert was satisfied. Ah he! Saw Dumbarton rock on way down, monument to Bell & his house, Denny's house and places too numerous to mention. The Clyde is a very small river - a ditch as they call it - the navigable channel varying from 50 to 100 yards across. Looks a big river at high tide for which all big ships have to wait.

Capt McClean gave us each a plate 30 yrs old - a coffee cup & saucer to mind us of the ship - and also a ½ doz bottles. Paddle steamer came alongside at Grennock and we went on it by gangway. To get to wharf from paddle boat, we had to use an open gangway about 18" broad. Herbert assisted by Campbell went to cross when Crash! I yanked Campbell back - couldn't believe it but he was inked for sure! - and Herbert got across on his rump.

It appears Herbert intended going across that way but Campbell did not understand. However, we got ashore safely and I regained my stick which I thought lost in water. There was a big crowd to see us arrive unfortunately.

Went to station refreshment room and had tea & sandwiches. Campbell wanted to go elsewhere but we finally got away by the 6.15. on way home, played that gambling game

sticking pin into letters in paper - penny a time etc. Samson there at hotel. Left for station at 9.30 and had to work our way through crowd to get to footpath - draught going off or something.

Some girls met Finn & Stewart on station and he kissed them all goodbye except one or two who refused. Two "pieces" went on to platform with them and I did not think much of them at all. I would not allow them within more than two feet of me. Well we saw them off by the 10.20 & we left. Very wet & blowy night.

Went home to Campbell's place, met Mrs C & coy. Very fine little woman she is too. She twigged to Campbell's unsteadiness straight away. Left there about 12 and walked home, Campbell coming part of the way.

30th Sunday Up at 9.30. Went to church but did not enjoy sermon as much as last Sunday. Campbell came for me at one and we went off to his place after a walk & tram ride. Very fine day. Got to his place at about 2, took photo, had dinner, enjoying same. Had bit of a yarn & came away at about 4.30. Very fine people they are Mr & Mrs & the two boys Colin and Major[?].

Came to hotel and then buzzed off to Mr Samson's getting there at about 5.30. Had tea, saw Mary who was ill, had chat and came away at about 9.30. Miss Dunsmore there too and Beatrice looked nice rather lovable girl. Saw Miss D on her way and Beatrice saw me on mine. She may see me off in the a.m. Shall feel disappointed if she does not now. Paid bill when I got home, packed up and went to bed at about 11.30.

31st Monday Up at 7.30! ! Had breakfast, paid tips and left. Hurrah! Beatrice came to see me off. Awfully pleased about it. I'd be head over heels in it if I let myself go I fear. Why shouldn't I? Mr Campbell and Mr Samson also came to see me off. Left at 10 a.m. Uneventful train journey, country in Scotland quite pretty & in north of England but further south, was not up to much all the same. Reached Crewe at about 3.45 and left for Stoke at 4.74. Reached Stoke at about 4.45 and went to the North Stafford Hotel. Found some letters for me at Stoke P.O. mostly dated 14th Dec.

Met manager after dinner & asked him about going over potteries. That will be OK. Met a Capt Pervis of King Edwards Horse, brother of the 8th LH Pervis who was killed on 7th Aug. Had chat to his people afterwards. Started letter to Garfield but did not get far. Billiards with Pervis. Rumour about Zepp. Heard some explosions.

DIARY OF MONTH OF FEBRUARY-1916

[Returned from visit to Scotland; reported to Weymouth; resumed training; voyage to Egypt to rejoin unit.]

1st Feb Tuesday The explosions of last night turned out to be Zepps after all. Bombs landed about a mile from here but did no damage. More harm done at Derby though. Saw Nix, manager of hotel, who phoned to Minton's Pottery that I was coming to have a look round. Was taken round all the pottery and china works. The whole thing was most interesting from the rock and clay to the finished article. Some of the china work was simply beautiful and one appreciates it more when one knows the amount of work required to turn out the finished article.

Went back to lunch, went for walk towards where bombs dropped but did not get that far, had footed dressed, walked back to hotel, back to Mintons and purchased some chinaware, back to station fixed up about train, purchased crest china, back to hotel, packed up and left by 5.10 to Stafford and there joined up with London train.

Arrived London at about 9.30, (Euston). Went to Grosvenor Hotel and got to bed by about 11.30. Lost my Ingersoll watch on way. Had job to get meal on train down to London. Had supper at Grosvenor and paid a high price for practically nothing.

2nd Wednesday Had breakfast in bed, had bath and came out at about 11.30! Not bad for a beginner. Hair treatment and went down street to Westminster Abbey. Went through the fine old place and into the royal chapel (a privilege free to all uniformed men) and got back to Horseferry Road just in time for my board. Saw Col Deeble, Weddel & a few others there. While at the board, they took the piece of bone out of my foot and I was able to prevail on them to pronounce me F.I.T. Surprised a lot of people but I am pleased. Went home by 6.18 to Welwyn. Saw Herbie, Stewart & the rest, one addition to the family - McEllory. Otherwise little change. Letter to Beatrice.

3rd Thursday Up at the usual 8.30. Walked to Welwyn, took boots to be repaired, bought watch £2.5, bird did not have rings ready. Had game stickey in p.m. with Stewart. Letters to Mother, Garfield, Ruth. Billiards before tea and after it. Enjoy snooker. Received a few letters again today and some very old ones amongst them. Rain & wind most of day. Mrs & Miss Acland back again, Arthur has his commission. Fine specimen!

4th Friday Letter from OC coast defence Scotland for me to go & see him "before leaving Scotland". Letter also telling me to report to Savoy House. Letter to OC Scottish Coast Defence. Percy & I went out punting for an hour after Stewart and I had a few sets at stickey. Stickey again in p.m. Walked into Welwyn, got boots & serviette rings. Good game of snooker in evening.

5th Saturday Letter from Savoy House telling me to report Weymouth on Monday. Went to town, fixed up boxes at Wandsworth and came out again. Received letters from home (29th Dec) & another from Hilda (hang it all). Billiards & snooker in evening. My shoes came back from Lee who left for Weymouth yesterday. Realised in evening that it was Weymouth and not Savoy House at which I was to report.

6th Sunday Packed up bag & went into London by 2.2I. Took taxi to Wandsworth, sorted out boxes & came back by taxi after paying a flying visit to Y ward. Taxi came to 17/-. Tea at the Gt Northern Hotel and home by the 6 p.m. Had long yarn to Percy after dinner and we waxed confidential. Packed up my box ready for leaving. Photos to Mother & Dorothy. Book to Mother. Letters to Mrs Sampson & Campbell. Photos and rings Via Herbert. To sleep at about 12. 'Twas 11.30 by the time we talked McElory

who had come home boozed, into going to bed. Sister and Miss Acland saw him too. Silly beggar. (Miss Acland motored me to 2.21.)

7th Monday Up fairly early. Packed finally, said "goodbye" and caught the 9.38. Left one bag at Digswell [?]. Miss Acland came into London by the same train as myself. Very decent girl she is. Went straight to Waterloo, put bag in cloak-room & went to see Pam [?] at Savoy House and also to Horseferry Road to draw money owing to me. Got to Waterloo by 12. Met Morrison there and we both set out for Weymouth by the 12.30. Arrived there at about 4.30. Took cab to camp. Reported, went to my room and went round meeting people I knew. Saw Col Courteney at 6 p.m. and he remembered me. Blowed if he did not give me job of taking map reading instruction! Just my luck, but could not very well refuse seeing that I have done a little of it at the R.M.C. Dinner at 6.30. Met quite a number of friends after it Lee, Mann, O'Donnell, Col Weir, Scogel etc, etc. Had game draughts with Mack and went to bed. Room quite fairly comfortable though most civil birds would not say. This a.m. had letter from Major Smith finishing off the camera matter in Scotland. Letter to Percy.

8th Tuesday Up at about 7 after a real good nights sleep. Feel OK after it-. Cold night it was though. Breakfast at 8 a.m. First parade at 9.30. simply went round the blocks & orderly room with Major Borne. Came into the smoke room and found I was on the next draught to go. Could scarcely believe myself but it was true. Went for route march in p.m. & took men for rifle exercises. Was inoculated for enteric once again. Went into town (Weymouth) sent wire to Cpl Fulward & Capt Prisk, bought camera VPK (50/-), enquired about my luggage at station. Not there yet. Home in time for dinner. After dinner found I had to give lecture on "Map Reading and Field Sketching" tomorrow. Had yarn to Capt Week. Buzzed off to room. Letter to Brown & Percy. Arm giving me rats. To bed at about 9.30.

9th Wednesday Did not hear reveille. Woke up with an awful head as result of inoculation. Did not go on parade all day, but stayed in prepared lecture and tried to do some letter writing. Letter to Beatrice. Went for walk in p.m. but did not go far. Took couple photos. Went for another walk with Les after p.m. tea. Lecture on Map Reading by myself to NCOs of our company at 7.30. Ran out of chalk at critical moment. Game billiards. Letter to Mother. To bed at 10.45. Had few words with Courteney about Arthur.

10th Thursday Heard reveille once again. Frost on the ground but a mild morninWent out with draught in a.m. Rather funny position. I was senior officer on parade but a sub had charge. Could not take charge seeing that I have not been assigned any job officially. Probably be righted by tomorrow. Route march rather enjoyable. Back by 11 for pay but none available. Letter ta Dave. Did not go on parade in p.m. but went out with Carr & Stroud range finder & took some ranges where I intend making a sketch. Very cold on top of hill . Buzzed into Weymouth and bought a few things. Heard my box had arrived at last, but had no time to get it. Prepared another lecture & got to bed. Foot entirely healed up now.

11th Friday Took draught for route march in a.m. Rather enjoyed it and men had little exercise. Back by 11. Read book. Book & boots arrived in p.m. Boots as bad as ever. Took draught for squadron drill in p.m. Not bad for first day for some time. Inoculation affected a few too. Prepared lecture in evening and gave it after mess. Field Sketching. Think I made some see daylight. Received hat & cap from Percy. Had game billiards & to bed about 10.30. Like Major Borne well. Most of our officers down with inoculation.

12th Saturday Went for route march in a.m. along a very pretty road. Enjoyed it very much. Foot stood it fairly well. No parade in p.m. Walked into Weymouth. Foot did not stand this too well. Made few purchases £6.6 for a leather vest for one & came out in a military car. Received hat & cap from Welwyn. Read all the evening. To bed to sleep well.

13th Sunday Breakfast half an hour later this a.m. Started out for walk to Dorchester this a.m. at 9.45 along with Les. Very decent morning & country was simply lovely. Saw the "Wishing Well at Upwey" . Drank from it & wished that we both meet again in Australia. Reached Dorchester in just about 3 hours. Should not have liked going much further. Had dinner at the [space] hotel and afterwards went to see the German prisoners at the camp. Had glimpse of them at recreation. Not a bad lot of fellows physically. Wandered round the town till our train left at 4.45 (due to leave 4.19). Taxi from Weymouth. Eat ravenously as at midday meal. Foot felt very sore indeed. Letter to Percy.

14th Monday Had a practice parade in a.m. ready for the p.m. parade. Rain came on and we dismissed. Got some things from Q.M. Stores. Spent some time at the orderly room. Paraded in p.m. Were inspected by Newton Moore, Andy Fisher and the latter made a little speech to us. Marched past in fours and then buzzed off out of rain. Walked in and out Weymouth in evening. Got photos. Read in evening. Tried to write and could not settle down to it. Draught to leave on Wednesday.

15th Tuesday Had lovely shower in a.m. Went to start on board in a.m. but could not. Had to work on lists and kept at it all day. Had not finished by night time either. Guest night. Healths drunk & speeches made. Buzzed in to town but did not get in till shops had closed. Got my photos & came out by Staff car. Am to be physical training instructor on boat. Packed up in evening. Letters.-to Percy. Mrs Campbell. Washing from Welwyn.

16th Wednesday Up at 5.30. Finished packing. Breakfast at about 6. Parade at 6.30. Started to rain heavily and we had to wait in it till about 7.15 when we marched out for Weymouth. Entrained on arriving there almost straight away. The men seemed to have formed plenty of acquaintances among the women folk of the district judging by the number who came out to say goodbye on the way.

Train left at about 8 and arrived Portsmouth at about 11.30. Settled down as far as possible without higher supervision. Blackmore mucked things up generally. Pay at 2 p.m. Rest of p.m. in fooling about. Letters to Mother, Percy but don't know how long they will be in getting to their destination. Letters to Percy & Mrs Campbell. Bought pipe & started smoking again. Read a little & off to bed. Saw Carrington. Had to wear life belts all day from today on.

17th Thursday Woke up with pretty thick head for we had gone to bed with port closed & heater on. Nothing much doing all day. Fell in on our alarm posts in a.m. from 10 - 12 & stayed there in the cold. From 2 - 4 fell in again & were told off into our boat parties. After four did a little gymnasium work. Had a long walk about mile and ¼ round deck - five times round. Had read and went to bed early. Rumours of boat leaving at 10 tonight. Hope so at any rate. The sooner we get off the better. Messing for men none too good. our own fairly good.

18th Friday Wakened by steward at 7.30 after a pretty good night. Parades from 10 - 12 & 2 - 4 as usual. Little bit of physical training and an apology for medical inspection. Fair number seasick. The tommies seem to give in early. Poor beggars! a great number

of them are miserable sights for fighters. Gym in p.m. hot bath, hair cut, tea & off to bed. Very strong wind blowing & ship rolls a fair bit. Saw McClelland today. Ha-de-dah! O1d Col Dean is in command of our draft for the time. Col Weir being in charge of another section of ship.

19th Saturday Alarm practice in a.m. Physical training also. We officers had fine go at the medicine balls. Great exercise throwing them about. Bit of a parade in p.m. and we went off early to more exercise. Am feeling much healthier for the exercise of late. Had game of "Euchre" - of all games - with Col Weir and never put in such a slow time for some time past. Game out of date. The man - ?

20th Sunday No chaplain on board, so parades as usual. Physical training in a.m. & sports in p.m. Ship kept changing her course a good deal today as though she wanted to hang back and not reach Gib till dark. Beautiful sunny day and a calm sea. Had few games of our tennis. Letter to Garfield. Fooled about after tea, had bath and got to bed fairly late. Passed Gib at about 8. Did not go up to see it. Believe they put the searchlight on to us which seemed strange. Went at fair speed from Gib on. Weather getting much warmer as we go down south. Feels like beginning of Summer.

21st Monday Twenty one today! Sun shone as per usual - perhaps a little brighter. Physical training in a.m. Half holiday in p.m. Letter to Olive, Gladys. Spent good deal of p.m. on deck playing at deck billiards, throwing coits etc. Still feel stiff after last three days exercise. Bit of a quiff with Major Samson again over his officiousness. Lecture at 5.30 by some bird on sanitation or something. Could not hear more than a few words together. Sighted African coast at midday. Ship keeping to a swerving course. Can turn "some" too. Very smooth sea and she went at some 20 knots all day. Started on the Lewis machine gun. Very fine little affair it seems.

22nd Tuesday Woke up and found that the clock had been put on an hour thus doing us out of an hour's sleep. Fixed up difference between Samson & myself by taking same to Col Dean. Samson must have got to his ears first. At any rate he is no sport - no sport in him as far as I can see - that I hate but I hate friction & wish to avoid it. Physical training in a.m. Men enjoyed it. Sports in p.m. I was in our officers team for the tug of war. Like fools we pulled with boots off and we lost by a matter of a few pounds. Spent most of time on deck. Passed a good many ships on our way and one or two war vessels. Splendid bath in p.m. Concert after dinner but did not go. Letter to Dorothy.

23rd Wednesday Up late after again being done out of an hour's sleep. Was walking on boat deck after breakfast when our aft gun fired a shot. (Bow gun also fired a few shots). Saw where it [this was the last line on the page, but below it was written: Position of sub 18.50E) 8.50 a.m. at 900 yards app 36.34N) The entry continued on the next page lobbed about 800 yards but saw nothing. A submarine had been sighted, had fired a torpedo at us, had come to the surface to see what she had done and was shot at. Alarm sounded and troops were a little slow at getting out. A great number of officers would have been caught down below had the torpedo struck us. All in a day's journey and helps to make life interesting. We were lucky that's all. Had most of morning off & sports in p.m. Very fine tug of war between Maoris and Auckland teams & former won but not easily. Had good go at sports afterwards & lost my headiness. Brought another pipe & more tobacco - a smoker now sure. Played cards in evening but did not know till afterwards it was for money. Lost about 9/-. Packed up box. To bed late.

24th Thursday Up after 8 a.m. again. Not a soldier's hour quite! Saw Lemnos in the distance in the early morning, entered the harbour at about 10 and anchored in the inner

harbour. Carried on with drill. Fair bit of shipping in the harbour both naval & transport. Still some encampments on the island. Nothing much doing in p.m. Handed in lifebelts and got ready generally to leave. Steward gave me a coffee cup & saucer belonging to the *Olympic*. Paid him 5/- for tips & the mess steward 5/-. Received order to be ready to move in a.m. To bed late.

25th Friday Reveille at 6 and breakfast at 6.30. Left boat in barges at about 8.30 and went aboard the *Ivernia*. Fairly comfortable quarters for men but dog boxes for us compared to the other ship. About 1500 troops on board and all mixed units. The other ship was like a palace and as hard to find your way about. This ship is more like a ship. Fairly old and stale. Not a very nice crew to get on with. She does about 14½ & can do 16 at a push. Food so far pretty badly cooked. Col Weir made me assistant adjutant to Casey. Penned in the p.m. getting out orders etc. Things mixed up a fair bit. Ship changed her position in evening & all thought she was off without the purser & a colonel. Turkish prisoners came aboard late. To bed at about 12 after a pretty tiring day of it.

26th Saturday Up at about 8. Parades as usual on decks. Saw Turkish prisoners and went into their quarters. Fairly foul. They seem happy and in good nick on it. Were let out for exercise later on & a Turkish officer was allowed to speak to them. Nothing unusual happened all day. Doing about 13 knots. Practice alarm parade at 2 p.m. Would not give much for many persons in the event of a real alarm. Snap of "Cauy" [?] in p.m. Had to chew off the captain of the day for slackness - Jackson, a bad doer and from whom one can stand no rot. Some drunkenness among the men & believed that the stewards are to blame. Men's food bad. CO spoke to quartermaster about it - or rather the chief steward - and rubbed it in. Shall be glad to be off this boat. No feeling of satisfaction anywhere and fair number seem down in the dumps.

27th Sunday No padre on board [therefore] parades as usual. I buzzed round and had an easy day of it. Jackson gave no more trouble. Took a few snaps in p.m. and one of the Turkish officer whom we have on board. Poor beggar has been fighting since boyhood & hates the Germans. Someone thought he saw a submarine on the port side today, but report was not verified in any way. Boat very steady all day. Passed the critical period - this afternoon safely and we ought to get in safely now. Letter to Mother. Packed box & off to bed.

28th Monday Up about 7 and found ourselves entering Alexandria harbour safely. A safe journey after all! Morning spent in parades for handing in lifeboats etc. Anchored out in harbour & stayed there till about 4 p.m. when we moved into the wharf. Great number of hospital boats in harbour, no less than ten, which is a good sign in a way. Fair amount of other shipping too. saw the old bumboats once again, the water police etc. Beastly old Egypt once again. Good meal in evening for once. Strolls on deck - beautiful clear night & lights permitted once again. Had yarn to Pender & went off to bed. Took few snaps during day.

29th Tuesday Buzzed round most of a.m. A bite at somewhere near 12 and left boat at 12. Entrained at 12.45 & left by the western railway. Egypt once again. Same old scenes in the fields the green crops, the ploughing, the loafers, the workers, the mud villages & their inhabitants all seemed to pass like a pageant and it seemed just as interesting the second time of seeing it as the first. Tasted the beautiful oranges once again and the Australian once again showed his superiority in the bartering line. The venders did not venture too near them for tong. Passed one big camp on the way for about 7000 a skeleton division.

Arblaster Diary

Arrived Cairo at about 7.30. Detrained and marched to Ghaycreh [?] where we were glad to sit down to tea. Met Bos Coombs who is adjutant to the camp which contains about 3,500 men and about 70 officers. Got our tents and were not long in getting to bed There were some very funny scenes on the wharf at Alexandria during the morning - squabbles and fights over bits of food, clothing etc. A dirty rabble frequents that place.

DIARY .OF MONTH OF MARCH-1916-

[Discovered his promotion to captain on Gallipoli had been cancelled when he was wounded; unable to get posting back in 8th LH; felt very poorly treated; transferred to 53rd Infantry Battalion as company commander with rank of captain.]

1st Wednesday Ground seemed rather hard during night and spent rather a restless night of it. Fairly cold too and one blanket seemed rather chilly. Up at about 7. Had breakfast of a rather poor type, saw Smith about going to Heliopolis, buzzed into Cairo to see about our baggage, went to pay office to have my promotion verified and to draw pay.

To my disappointment found that my promotion had been cancelled from the day I left the peninsula. Rather a dirty point has been shown me and it seems that DTs all round have been shown dirty points. Took my third star down at once on hearing this. But I was pleasantly surprised to find that I still had a balance.

Buzzed round to try to get a valise but no luck at "Gippie" stores or elsewhere. Lunch at Shepherd's Hotel. Buzzed round with Sanderson to Ghayeh, got our coats, got a valise - took Major J.B. Scott's, and later sent a money order

for £3 to his wife for it.

Gave films to be developed & gave parcel to Cook to be despatched to Heliopolis. At about 6.30[?] set out by tram for Heliopolis. How different from the leave taking of a few months ago? How cruel the whole affair now seems! Awful. The same old bird who catered for our regiment at Mena & here waited on me for my evening meal. But enough! Saw Hore & was fixed up with a tent.

Heard some news favourable to me from Urquhart but I believe nothing. If the brigade wants me, they can ask, and if not I can go elsewhere. If being adjutant to one of their

regts, being M.G.O. to their brigade, being second in command & taking a general interest in the welfare of the regt does not deserve some little consideration, it is time I looked elsewhere and I shall call myself a fool for hurrying back from England. Unpacked boxes & repacked getting ready as far as possible for service.

2nd Thursday Buzzed round like a lost sheep all day, nothing much to do anywhere. Saw Major Charlie & got day off. Took boots to bootmaker and had dinner at Heliopolis house. Met General Hughes who looked well. Into Cairo. Saw Cooks re luggage, bought few books & came out again. Changed tents and am now in with Pender. Had good yarn after tea and coffee afterwards had coffee with Mrs Renell wife of Col Renell of the 9th who was killed at Hill 60. Very nice little woman & pretty too. Men enjoy that rooms.

Letter to Percy. Yarn with Pender & Nelson afterwards before going to bed; the old subject - morality.

3rd Friday Did not go on parade all day except for a short time in the morning. General slackness everywhere as usual with our reinforcements. Letter to Beatrice. Went over my correspondence in the p.m. Saw about my service boots and they fit A1 now. Went into Cairo with Pender and met Wilson & Mack there - who had been out at the camp in the morning and had told me I was to be B.M.G.O to our brigade. Shall believe it when it comes. Had hair cut and went along to afternoon tea for which I was the fool to pay. Young Mack seems to have little honour in him.

Pen & I then went along to see about some light clothing. I got some Gabardine stuff and paid 690 PT for tunic, breeches and trousers. Bit solid but beautiful material.

Went along to Shepherds and had dinner 50 PT. Very enjoyable – naturally. Came out almost at once and went to bed. Home by about 11.

4th Saturday Did not go on parade again. Pender and I went into Cairo to do some shopping. I went to draw some pay and met Mortimer and Bridgeford, former a captain bless you! Pleased to see them. Had a bit of fun finding our way to various shops from which we wished to get things. Shepherds for lunch 57 PT each! Game billiards and met Capt Davis (now Major). Glad to see him.

Then we went on our quest for chaffcutters which are wanted down at the camp. went to three shops and finally succeeded in getting them from Allan Aldessons. I fear that our French was a little bit rusty. At one time we were offered a pair of pliers and at another a crane or winch. Collected our parcels and went out. Had tea and paid a visit to Jim Sproat in Heliopolis hospital. Saw Capt Beamish also & he looks well. Had coffee at Mrs Renell's rooms and went off to bed.

5th Sunday The first Sunday for some time that has seemed like Sunday. Church parade of a sort at 8.30 and rest of day a holiday. Spent most of time putting my name on my valise and writing letters. Beamish and Sproat came to see me in the afternoon and we had a good chat. Letters to Sister Gowing, Bob, Mother & Mrs Scott JB. Had quiet time all day and enjoyed it.

6th Monday Went on to the range with the 8th Regiment Details. Had fairly tiring day of it. The other officers knew very little about the work in hand but got going after a bit. Glare of the sand very trying. My tenderfoot skin is soon changing. Came home, had drink & lovely bath - one blessing of this place and the other is oranges. Capt Wrick [?] back. Went for walk with Pender, had good cigar & coffee & off to bed after starting letter to Dorothy.

7th Tuesday Did not go to musketry with the rest as there were enough going that way. Saw some of the old 8th who had come back by this last draft, three sgts among them. Pender & I went for a ride toward Zeitoun and places about there. Saw much to interest & amuse. Stopped at the Virgin's Well where Joseph & Mary were supposed to have stopped and the tree under which they rested. Back early for lunch. Wrote letters in p.m. and took film to Heliopolis to be developed. Letters to Dorothy & Mr Goble. All had supper at Mrs Renell's tea rooms where two young ladies were present and we buzzed off to bed after a long slander talk on our present brigadier on whom opinion all tended one way - to his damnation.

8th Wednesday Went on to physical training in a.m. Discipline pretty off. After breakfast, went into Cairo to see about prints & film. Not done, So came out again. Was called to Bde HQrs a little after and informed that my job here would be training Machine Gunners!

While there the brigadier of the 3rd LH Bde came in and I spoke to him for some time. No definite answer as to why my captaincy was not confirmed. I am to be “one of the first to go down” and for a start to be “regtl signalling officer”! How much I feel obliged to him. His undercurrent of thought was apparent when he was speaking to us all who had been sent to England - we had gone for a good time. Penalised for being wounded when he was in a funk on the peninsula!

He explained the position on the canal & the LH are to relieve the infantry who are going to France - second fiddle again! He is trying to get all these reinforcements down there

& his reason is- apparent one huge fatigue party he would have for his brigade. Men's lives and work are to him as that of animals. My work here is to be musketry according to him. The whole show is disgusting and tomorrow I intend going to have a shot at getting into infantry. Went for a ride in p.m. to bath [?] & had yarn there. Came back and drew some pay. Got permission to go to Tel-el-Kebir.

Wieck left this morning for the brigade and he may be able to get things on the move for me. I feel inernpossibly [sic] humiliated by the whole thing and my intention of quitting the army is more pronounced. Went into Cairo after tea and got my films & prints some of which were good. Coffee at the Rhodendron tea rooms & went off to bed feeling "dumpy". Met Major MacIntosh an old Wandsworth friend in Heliopolis.

9th Thursday Sanderson & I went out to Tel-el-Kebir by the 11 a.m. from Cairo. Dinner on train & reached destination at 1.15. Found the 8th Brigade after a bit and found Major Davis who is brigade major to same. Saw Mortimer, Bridgeford, Chapman, Gregor & [name uncertain] during day. spoke to Major Davis re transfer into infantry. Could not promise me much in the 8th but would let me know what was doing in other units. Went & had yarn with Gregor & watched sports for a time.

Major -Davis called me over and told me to report to Col Norris of 53rd where I would probably get a coy or 2nd in command of same. Went along & saw him & said he would be delighted to have me after such a recommendation as I had received from Major Davis. Could not promise me a coy for certain but my main job was to get to him quickly. Gave me a note of application and off I went.

Had mess with Gregor, went to pictures & buzzed off. Caught the 9.45 Tel-el-Kebir and arrived back in camp at about 12.30. Quite a satisfactory day. Horrible changing over but it had to be done in my own interest & in pure justice to me. Saw George Wotten also, who is now a major.

10th Friday Up late. Saw Major Charlie about my transfer. He could not grant it so that I buzzed into Gen Selheim G.O.C. Details, Cairo. Brought back a note which made things clear to him and showed him that Antill had nothing to do with us as regards transfers. Put in my application for transfer and leave. In p.m. Major Charlie himself went into Cairo to see about things.

Meanwhile Pen & I took photos, had bath & exercise & practised semaphore. After tea was informed that my course was clear & I could go tomorrow. Pen & I went for walk. Sent vases to Alex, sent wire to Col Norris, went to see Capt Beamish & could not see him, went for photos, went to have coffee & found it closed ie the house. Both felt rather dejected & we turned in.

Hore came along to me & told me that he was going by the 11.45 in a.m. Knew I was going by the 11. During day he was most inquisitive & tried to worm a good deal about things out of me. The miserable hound would cut me out of my job if he could, but let him try! Started to pack & went to bed. Poor old Pen is fairly down in the dumps & I shall be sorry to leave him for he is a thorough gentleman in my opinion.

Ho! Ho! Won't the Bull snort when he knows that I have gone to infantry. Gen Antill will find that he is not the only pebble on the beach & I hope that my case forms a precedent to work on. Saw Gen Hughes during day & told him that I was going to inf. Advised me not to but I take little count of his advice.

11th Saturday Up at reveille & felt unrested somehow. Packed up and got ready to go. Enquired again about photos but they are not to be found. Nuisance! Left camp by the HQrs car and reached town in time for the 11 a.m. Received some news about the Bull & money matters. Will surprise me if he is not soon in the soup properly & may he be

found out at once. Just fancy! Robbing a widow of her mite! Travelled down with that conceited old beggar Col Dean.

Got my baggage carried to camp from station & reported to Col Norris. Put into harness straightaway and in command of "D" coy. Just buzzed round in p.m. getting the hang of things in general. Went down & saw Gregor in evening. Do not think much of my fellow officers so far. No tone about things yet. Plenty of work to be done. { BO 27" Ptt:-4" 71/3/LG taken on strength as OC D coy)

12th Sunday Church parade at 9.30. No padre. An officer read the sermon and Gen Irving led in the singing. Giving infantry orders seemed very queer after the light horse. Went down and saw Major Davis in p.m. and was pleased to see him. Had p.m. tea and went for a walk to see his grenadier schools which were jolly decent and the best I have seen yet. Saw Corney & Tulbarton and had a good yarn to Ward our old Duntroon padre. Felt much better after seeing so many old friends. Back in time for tea. To bed early to be ready for the morrow's work. Saw where the battle of Tel-el-Kebir was fought.

13th Monday "Up with the larks" and roused people out. Physical training from 7 to 7.30. Morning drill from 9 to 12 & rather boring having to work to a timetable. Put blankets out to air on the desert. Afternoon parades from 3 to 5. Men worked well and I think that we shall have a decent company out of them shortly. Put in my list of recommendations for NCOs in evening & hope that they are for the best but I have had little time in which to choose them.

14th Tuesday Artillery formation and a route march in the morning. Fairly tiring work and men soft, two fainted on way back, one pretty bad too. Tickled my foot up a little. All on fatigue in p.m. Spent p.m. in censoring letters and writing same. Letters to Pender and Mother. Got tea issued to men as that is practically the only form in which water here can be drunk. Sent wires to McKenzie & Huchinson to come and see CO 53rd re jobs. Great number of men leaving for artillery from my company. Confound them I say.

15th Wednesday Weak company for drill in a.m. but was able to carry out some interesting work with the men. Volunteers called for artillery in p.m. & the majority of my coy stepped out - men who are stale and want an easy time of it. They will find out their error I fancy. Saw Steele & Caldwell-Smith. Letter to Sister Walsh & badges. CO spoke to me about McKenzie & Huchinson & told me that I might go down and see them tomorrow. Jolly decent of him. Had talk with the adjutant till about 11. CO asked me about Elliot.

16th Thursday Left by 9 train for Serapeum. Arrived Iswalia at 10.30 and had to wait till 2.15 for a train to Serapeum. Put in time at a club there and walking round the place. Met a Capt Anderson, an Irishman who was taken prisoner on the first Neuve Chapelle and who had been in Germany for 8 months. For the first few months the stories of German treatment were true he said.

Met Fulton on train & Billy H[name uncertain] on Serapeum station & went along to the 7th LH. Got horses and rode out to the 3rd LH Bde at the railhead. Saw Huchinson about coming & joining us at Tel-el-Kebir. Saw great number of old 8th officers & it seemed like home. They thought I had come to stay.

Rode back to the canal with Huchie in the moonlight & were stuck up a fair number of times by the outposts. Crossed canal by the punt as pontoon was open. Back to camp at about 9 & turned into bed in Fullo's tent. Sand very deep about there & heavy going for horses. Canal looked rather nice.

17th Friday Slept beautifully. Up at 7, had breakfast, saw Barton & caught 9 train. Saw Billy on platform & Andy Cunningham - bit of a weed. Arrived Tel-el-Kebir at about 11.30. Did nothing all day to speak of. Had rather a queer case for orderly room and came into touch with a few bad eggs. Made rather a bloomer over a case of "absent without leave". Took inlying piquet in evening. Had yarn to Capt Higgins & rather like him. Hope he can get Elliott in this battalion. My memory is getting a little better by degrees.

18th Saturday Had to be up at 5.45 and on parade by 6 reveille to dismiss inlying piquet. Went of parade at 9 a.m. parade & had fairly good morning. Windy & looking like rain. Had bit of a windstorm in p.m. & a comparatively heavy rain shower. Letter to ~~Garfield~~ Percy. Went for walk in evening down to 8th Bde. Gregor out & most of the other [word uncertain, possibly 'Dr's' meaning Duntrooners]. Fulton had gone back to his regt as result of a wire. Had yarn to Capt Higgins of the 7th LH. Troop train passed through towards Alexandria in the night.

19th Sunday Slept in a little for once. Church parade & no padre again. Letters to Garfield & Alex. Went down and looked for Tom Elliott & Gregor in p.m. Saw Tom & Fullo before lunch. Did not find either. Gregor came down and we had a walk to his tent. Brought Tom back with me to see Capt Higgins. Should like to see Tom in with us. In evening Gregor & I went & saw the "Tadst" [?] (Dr Robinson) in evening. Got back at about 10.30. More troop trains passed through.

20th Monday Fairly interesting day, getting to know the coy better and am feeling in better hopes of making something decent out of it. Feeling better now that I can remember things better. Started signallers going & scouts. Saw Tom Elliott in evening. He may be GSO 3 shortly & that will be decent experience for him. Capt Higgins to be temporally in charge of "C" coy. Hope that bird Rowland does not get 2nd in command of this show.

21st Tuesday Route march starting at 9 a.m. Marched out along the canal for a few miles. Country on west of same heavily cultivated and rathering [sic] interesting with its villages, workers etc, but country east of same barren & gravelly.

The hour for lunch rather interesting. Crowd of human flies in form of babies, little girls, older girls, women & a few boys gathered on opposite bank calling for "mungaree" or food. Men threw over bully beef, bread etc. That which lobbed short caused amusement as the girls dashed in after them and went as far as they dared. Boy finally came to the rescue & dog paddled for same. Youngsters seem to have a code of honour. Fairly won, fairly held & no one tries to rob the other of his or her gain. Little steamers caused great wash along canal. The sailing barges glided along very pleasantly & like everything eastern with little visible effect. Looked queer. One huge sail, tubby barge & long rudder. Some pace with the wind they went.

Got back at about 2.45. My foot felt it a little - officers carried the pack as well as the men. My captaincy came out at last & I shall be sure of "D" coy now. Note from Huchinson & I wired him to come. Prince of Wales expected tomorrow & all energy was turned into cleaning camp. Saw Geo Wotten. Letter to Gladys. Lovely sunset scene. Foot quite sore.

22nd Wednesday Up early and cleaning camp for Prince-of Wales' inspection or visit. Carried out a.m. parade as usual till about 10 when we formed up on hearing that H.R.H was approaching. Inspected by battn and we gave him 3 cheers as he went off on his horse. He looked just like a quiet little boy in Lieut's uniform & tabs. Had practically no private escort but had a big escort of representatives of Divns and Bdes.

Saw him at lunch time as he was going away but do not know how my snap will turn out. Rather funny seeing a group of eager officers taking snaps instead of saluting. Gen Birdwood was amused too. Inoculated in p.m. No parade for p.m. just - when we are off of course! Saw Major Ross. Went to picture show in evening. Bad films. Head pretty bad.

Promoted Capt to date from 14/3/16 BO 37 22/3/16

23rd Thursday Slept in in a.m. and did not feel too well when I got up. Felt off most of the day and went off my food for a wonder. Letters to Mother & Dorothy. Bowman returned from Zagazig and one new officer joined the battalion. Queer sort of cove too. Had yarn to Noble in evening rather like him. Saw Morty and heard from him that the 8th Bde was moving out this evening. Started the Coy Order book going.

24th Friday Route march in full marching order. Very hot day and numbers of men dropped out. My men who had been inoculated two days (or rather 36 hrs) previously felt it a great deal and a few fell out. I carried the full pack all the way & felt it mostly in that left foot as usual.

Saw the "Fadst" in the evening and arranged about a horse for tomorrow or next day. Went to the pictures in after mess but did not care much for one of the officers who & hope he does not stay with this battalion long. Heard that the Bull had put the kybosh on Huchie's transfer. Sending orderly down to him tomorrow. Received some of my film back and they were just about spoilt by overdevelopment. charged enough too.

25th Saturday Had a spell in a.m. as the men did not seem too well at physical training. Kit & foot inspection & got ready for a route march in p.m. After lunch went for a 5 mile march in full marching order, ammn & rations. I carried the lot just to see what it was like & stood it alright.

Got my photos from the fellow here. Ruined some & some were lucky enough to come out well with him. Charged enough too. To bed fairly late feeling inclined for sleep too.

26th Sunday Had a good sleep in. church parade as usual. Had a padre for once but not much of a sermon for one of the very few we have. Orders out for our move to ferry's Post tomorrow. Got things fairly under way. Got black kit bags away and fixed up a board of enquiry on a deserter. Went across to the "Tadst" [?] in p.m. & got a horse fr[om] him & went for a ride to the old trenches and back across the canal towards some old villages. Not very much of a fresh nature to be seen. Women seem to be very shy of all men folk nowadays. Back for tea. Orders came out in dribs & drabs. Men to wear khaki and carry ammn. To move off at 6.30. Made up my carry pack. Packed trunk & valise & turned in to bed like a wise soldier.

27th Monday Up at 5. Bit of a scramble for breakfast & getting off. Dirty lines etc, etc, but we got on parade at about 6.30. Heavy fog & marched off to our rendezvous in it. Could see only a short distance ahead of us and I was made responsible for our direction - due East. Mist cleared off after a little but luckily the cloud remained and we had a fairly comfortable march. Lunch on the desert at midday and reached Masana at about 4 p.m. Terrible lot of straggling. March discipline and the timing of the marches were bad.

Men pretty done at the end of the day but a drink & a meal soon fixed them up. The march certainly was solid for I carried my full pack and could judge fairly well. Men straggled in during the evening & by bedtime we had most of them in. Went to bed early and slept beautifully.

28th Tuesday Up at 5 a.m. Moved off at about 8.30 too late really - and kept on a bearing 60E. I was again made responsible for the direction. Splendid ground for marching on up to lunch time at about 11.30 and for a short time after it but after that Lord! Had to cross a belt of sand on a bearing about 42E and it was cruel. Sand ankle deep and more in parts for miles. Came to a salt oasis. Sight of water caused a bit of illusionary pleasure on the men's parts but when they found it was salt - Hm! They dropped out there like flies.

The view on looking back was something like a family of ants migrating. Most of the men could and would not move- Then they started moving in twos & threes (I had reached a hill about a mile ahead of them & could see everything) & finally a few small columns. After that it was nothing but a rabble on the march and a few small columns kept together. Numbers lost heart, others dropped out from exhaustion. No breeze no cloud to help us at all.

The camp at Moascar appeared in the distance and the stream diverted towards it, the steady goer & determined leading on.

Just near Moascar a halt was called to collect as many as possible. The 53rd did not do too badly at all compared to the others of course. About 30 of our company arrived at Moascar camp.

The first cry was "water". From this on assistance was lent by the New Zealanders & ambulances & our men in bringing in those who had fallen out. Most of them turned up by the morning. I had sympathy for the poor beggars of men & thought a deal of those who stuck it.

Our march was over about 19 miles as compared to yesterday's 16. There is no doubt that the march was heavy & in very heavy ground, the sun was awful and our marches were too long, but the sight of that rabble was awful. Shall never forget that march & that in it I carried my full pack & got in with the first. Had good feed of oranges on arriving & some long drinks of water. Settled down, had tea & off to bed. Those NZers are splendid men.

29th Wednesday Up at 5 - bed seemed very inviting indeed. Prince of Wales came passed out camp & men congregated usual Australian fashion to cheer him. Gen Irving ordered them back. Men cheered the PofW & hooted the former. Rotten thing to do & it is a pity that the general has made such a bad [word uncertain possibly 'hit'] for a start off. Got snap of the PofW - fairly good one too.

Set off at 8.30. Marched passed staff & PofW & went along a good hard road through Ismalia and on towards Ferry's Post. Men dropped out again & I fear that I swore about the length of marches the general gave - too hard altogether. Our company came in well. Got to camp at about 11. Turned in to our tents & rested. Went for swim in p.m. - splendid.

Oh! we are glad that that march is over! Feel relieved for the men's sake. Had no fears for myself for my PT training is standing me in good stead now. My orderly looks after me well. Had good dinner. Up till late getting in returns etc. & got to bed at 10.15.

30th Thursday Went for a swim again in the a.m. Swimming parade for the men at 06.15. Lovely in the water. Rest of a.m. taken up in being bucketed about pitching tents. heavy dust storm passed over while we were pitching the tents. Fixed up our own lines in the afternoon. Very difficult to get things going & tiring work trying to do it. Fixed up finally. Men short of water most of day & seem to be taking things in a grumbling way. swim in evening again.

Don't quite know what to think of the CO lately somehow or other. I do but don't like to hang to the idea. No cohesion in the battn yet & little sign of it coming.

Arblaster Diary

31st Friday Swimming parade. Company on fatigue & straightening lines. Another swim in p.m. Fine too. Drew pay. Paid batman 50PT. Poor little beggar's father has died. Drew

1000PT.

CO asked me about officers I could recommend. I seemed to catch a good deal of work in one way & another. Letter to Mother & Olive & photos. Saw ship passing through canal. Looked fine. Cannot satisfy my hunger lately somehow. Water for men a little short. Hours of drawing are awkward too.

DIARY OF MONTH OF APRIL 1916

[Training at Moscar; served on court martial; carbuncle on ear; outpost duty; dust storm; visits to 8th LH; chief instructor at Brigade School]

1st Saturday Did not go for the morning's swim. Kit inspection & fatigue work most of a.m. Swim in p.m. Canal looked fine with its flotilla of feluccas sailing with the wind. Saw the "Tadst" down swimming. Saw Babe Hoppie in a.m. Men of my company are pretty slack & it will take a bit to get them up to scratch I fancy.

2nd Sunday Slept in a little. Coy all on fatigues & therefore no church parade. Spent most of the day on courts & boards of enquiry. Am detailed for a court martial tomorrow & CO gave me a few good tips in the evening. Good of him to do it. Pow-wow of officers at 7.30 a good idea too. Saw Major Roberts the president of tomorrow's court martial - and also [Sorrenson?] our old QMS at Duntroon. Paid mess bill 178PT. Fairly hot going I reckon.

3rd Monday Very enjoyable swim. Doing the men a world of good. Attended court martial as senior member of a Field General Court Martial at 10 a.m. Three cases tried - two short and one long one. Finished up at about 5.30. feeling pretty tired of it. Bit of a pow-wow in evening. Letter to Dorothy. To bed late feeling tired.

4th Tuesday Did not go for swim. Sent Moate off to Cairo to see if he could find out anything about Fred & to do a few other things for me. Route march till 12. Men marched well. Some of my men up for Bn Ord Room in p.m. Two 10 days detention & one for court martial. I have the job of taking the summary of evidence & arranging things generally just for experience & I would rather do it for my own benefit. Had good swim in p.m. Fixing up the CM most of time. Off to bed at 10.30.

5th Wednesday Shifting camp all day. Took much longer than we should have but it meant a rest for the men. Swim in p.m. as usual. I went down on horseback just like old times. Censored letters most of the evening.

6th Thursday Moate came back from Cairo. Could not find out anything about Fred [name uncertain] arrived but he found out that there was a Walter Arblaster in some reinf to Light Horse. Felt sick in a.m. but went for a swim. Went to go on the morning parade but had to come off on a/c of feeling sick. Went to Doctor for something & lay down in my tent for rest of day. Felt better in p.m. & went for a swim. Swimming improving gradually. Letter to Lizzie.

7th Friday New syllabus of working came into force. Reveille 5.30 Work 6.30 - 11 & from 3.30 - 5.30. Pretty solid going now that the weather is getting so hot. Route march in a.m. Attack work in p.m. Had to put one man under arrest on the field. Shortage of water again. CO away. Letter to Mary.

8th Saturday Went out on coy manoeuvres in a.m. Advd gd & inf in attack - not a bad morning at all. An hour's work in p.m. and then a swim. Pretty crook working of a Saturday afternoon. Letters to Ruth & Bob. Wish to goodness I could get some letters from Australia & the wee girl.

9th Sunday Letter to Mother & posted same. Did not go to church parade tho' I got ready for it. Had early morning swim & enjoyed it. Did a little more towards the board proceedings. Inspection of lines by Gen McCay after church parade. He spoke mainly to the men. Warned for outpost coy in p.m. Got ready & went out at 5.30. Took up line about half a mile out of camp. Did not sleep extra much but a fair amount considering that I had to buzz round one or two times.

10th Monday Came in at 6 a.m. Had the day off & wasted it in fooling over that bally board. Did not get my sleep in. Went for swim in p.m. & enjoyed it well. Outposts again in evening. I was in charge this evening. Had to go round during night. Slept well.

11th [Tuesday] Buzzed around all day & did not get any extra sleep. Went into Ismalia on horseback in p.m. to get a drill tunic. Quest successful & came back just in time for tea. Went on outposts again. Capt Cowie in charge & I had a real good sleep not having to visit the whole of the outpost line myself. Cowie a decent chap.

12th Wednesday Nothing doing all day. Swim in p.m.. Outposts in evening again. Few letters from home & Australia & England. Capt Gibbons OC 55th coy. Letter to Mrs Campbell.

13th Thursday Had a lot of dust during the night & it was a case of "smother in" under blankets etc. My head giving me trouble. Doctor finally pronounced it a carbuncle and I had a bread poultice put on. The jolly thing was just in front of the ear & pressure was being brought on to the ear drum & gland below the ear was sore & swollen. Terrific dust storm in the afternoon & it seemed as though it would never stop. CO forbade me to go out on outposts & the coy went out under Noble in the dust. Hate being away from the coy at all. Made use of the opportunity to test the outposts. Tried to get through but could not. Came back & went to bed in pyjamas for the first time in five nights & it felt strange. Letters to Miss Acland, Sister Walsh.

14th Friday Calmed down night to a beautiful night. Had a sleep in. Rain during the day and it made the air refreshing as well as settling the sand. Another coy for outposts from this on. The carbuncle considerably relieved now with changing of poultice and squeezing. Had long talk during day & evening with coy officers. My opinion of CO has sunk thru his treatment of an unabsorbed officer & may he live to regret it. To bed fairly late.

15th Saturday Walked over to the firing range in a.m. to see how things stood. Saw 8th Bde march in & they looked well. Camped opposite us. Saw Gregor, Major Davis, George Wotten & a few other friends. Swim in p.m. - very enjoyable. Crsooa passed thro' the canal with a few sisters on board. After tea went out for a walk with Adams in the beautiful moonlight. Letters to Mother & Olive & photos. News of a small Light Horse action out from Serapeum. Quite successful affair - good luck to'em I say.

16th Sunday Had splendid sleep in. Church parade a bit of a farce - absolute lack of soul & life in it and what one would call stony feed. Went for bit of a stroll with Noble in a.m. in order to get a photo of the camp but did not get it. Got a horse and went for a ride out to the 8th LH in p.m. Met a number of the 8th officers & Huchie - just like

entering home. Major McLaurin does not look too well at all. Saw my own little horse and arranged for a swop when I get my horse in the battn. Saw the "Tadst" & had p.m. tea with him. Had tea with the 8th, had a yarn & came home by moonlight which was very enjoyable. Heard further details of the little scrap by the L.Horse. Letter to Dorothy.

17th Monday Musketry for those who were not on fatigue. Had no officers or NCOs to assist in the instruction. Major Crowshaw came out & stirred things a little. Field firing very poor but "grouping" good. Inoculation in p.m. Tadst had dinner with us but did not stop for tea & felt sorry at not pressing him to do so. Saw the Prince of Wales on a camel & got a snap of him which may be fairly decent. Bit of a lecture in the evening & a farce. Received letters from Gladys, Dave, Nina & Byrne, very welcome. Felt disgusted with things in general in our battn and felt really down in the dumps - really down in the dumps. No faith in anybody. Rotten! Rotten!! Started letter to Gladys.

18th Tuesday Had the day off on account of the inoculation. Letters to Nina & Garfield. Read a little also but not much.

In p.m. read up the morrow's work a little and wrote a little more to Gladys' letter. Letters from Fred & Olive. Hope to get one from Dorothy soon. Had a good swim in p.m. came back & Andy Crawford came to see me soon afterwards. Had tea with us & I had a good yarn with him over various things. Heard that Teddy Wilson had died. Nasty shock to hear such a thing. Felt terribly drowsy all day somehow.

19th Wednesday JD in a.m. & medical inspection, Two put into class C & one into class B. Inspection of marching order kit in p.m. & that took all the time up. Paid in evening. Sent in list for promotions in NCOs. Letter from Sister Walsh.

20th Thursday Route march. Got our reinforcements and our company is now up to strength. Jolly fine now that we have something on which to work. Spent part of our half holiday fixing them up. Went for swim in p.m. & rode there on my horse which can do with a lot of education. Guest night at our mess. Some of our officers are not too brilliant as far as ordinary manners go and yet are too formal on occasions. Finished [two words uncertain]. To bed late.

21st Friday Reveille 6.30. Church service at 0900 & not much of a show. Letter to Gladys. Went for a ride & a swim with Gregor in p.m. Enjoyed both. Little nedly rather skittish I fear. Fooled about in evening doing various things in connection with the company & getting ready for the morrow's work. Murray to be posted to B Coy & Lt Moffitt to be adjutant. Hope he improves on the last one.

22nd Saturday Musketry all day. Men enjoyed it immensely. Lecture by Major Crowshaw in evening and he spoke in a manly way about things in general.

23rd Sunday Service in a.m. as usual. Men don't seem to sing up at all & the service is dead. Kit inspection after parade & a board on losses. Could not get down to bed rock & it will "fizzle out" again. Swim in p.m. & very nice too. Received word late at night that I was to take on chief instructor at a brigade school. Buzzed down to brigade & found that I had to start tomorrow. Letter to Mother.

24th Monday Went out at 9 a.m to our rendezvous. All parties did not turn up & after a bit of fooling round came back. Drew up syllabus for the p.m. & went out again. Did a little work & got hold of the squads to a certain extent.

25th Tuesday Anzac Day - Church parade in a.m. Big muster but not much of a service to speak about. Those who were at the landing wore a red ribbon & those who were at Gallipoli at all a blue one. After church parade went down to BHQ & had yarn to Bate & the General. Got out syllabus & finished it in p.m. Passed them round & went for ride on my nag which was very figetty & foolish. Had job to get him down to water at all. Late for mess. To bed late - working on syllabus. 50PT to M.

26th Wednesday Went on with our school. Started at 7 a.m. Gen Godley & his train came round & inspected. Very hot day. Finished at about 10.15. Started work at 4.30 p.m. instead of 3.30 on account of the heat. NCOs doing fairly well.

Went to BHQ in evening but did not see Bates or General [uncertain]. Our battn is in a bad way at present. General dissatisfaction with our CO over his ways & methods of treatment of officers. One or two officers are very much disliked also. These are not the things which will make us fight well at all.

27th Thursday Brigade School all day. Gave lecture on discipline in evening & it seemed to have the desired effect. Felt a little less down in the dumps after it. Pratt a lieut & Mudge a lieut for our company. Decent chap he seems. To bed late.

28th Friday School as usual. Some progress being made I fancy. One instructor unsuitable - an ofr too. Saw Byrne & Campbell at midday. Poor old Byrne. Reminded me of old old times. Lecture in evening on "Map Reading" by Adams. Visited mess of the 54th. Like Goldstein very well indeed. To bed late again. Feeling very off in mind lately. Col Wagstaff visited school during day.

29th Saturday School again. Had to vacate our ground for the time for artillery practice which did not take place. Gen Irving came round & gave me a map to check. Great sport he seems. Knocked off early in p.m. on account of an inspection being held on our ground by the "red bandoliers".

30th Sunday Went out doing some topography instead of church parade. Quite successful. Went down and saw brigade after that. Letter to Mother. Went for ride out to 8th LH across the desert. Had tea & went out to where B squadron was. Missed out on getting my little nag & came home at about 10 p.m.

DIARY FOR MONTH OF MAY 1916

[Brigade training school; duty company; swapped horse for the one he had brought from Australia; moved to occupy outpost position at Hog's Back, returned to Ferry Post; rumoured date set for movement to France.]

1st Monday Ready to shift to ferry post on the canal. Packed up & buzzed off to the school as usual. Saw Brigadier and he is going away from our bde. Decent chap too. Pope is coming instead. Long walk from school to our camp. Late in p.m. After school got ready for the march to take place tomorrow night. Went on a ride with A.M.A [?] before tea to test ourselves and were very successful. Back ready for tea! To bed late as usual of late.

2nd Tuesday School as usual. Fairly good day at it. Rode there & back on horseback each time & found it much better than shank's pony. Lecture on the Lewis MG in evening. Some new officers came in & I got one. Adams transferred to A coy. Dirty work somewhere I reckon & I think less & less of the CO & this battn in particular. Felt wild with everything & could kick everyone.

3rd Wednesday Went to the school but found that all the Battns had gone on the Bde day "stunt". No work for me that day & loafed round. Went with Noble to prepare for our night march. Lay out the line as far as possible with our present map. Saw a fine big boat *Royal George* go through with troops on board. Took snap of her in the lake. Swims are lovely. Started out on our march at about 7.30. Marched & marched. Must have passed to the left of our objective. Halted after a bit. I came back on my own & on way looked for our objective. The others waited for me to come back & did not reach camp till about 12.45. A very funny experience for them. The navy had her searchlights on to them before long. Bed was welcome that night.

4th Thursday School for the half day. Rode out to the point we should have reached last night & found that we were about five degrees out to the left at the very least. Half holiday in p.m. Rode into Ismalia along with McGrath. Had p.m. tea & game of billiards. Very pretty little place indeed. Did not go to bed as early as required even after last night.

5th Friday School all day. Took some other people for bayt fighting & convinced me that our NCOs have really improved because they were beginners once. Very hot at midday & walked back. Walked in p.m. also. Had lovely swim on coming back. [Name uncertain] joined our company at last. Was paid at last. To bed at about 11.

6th Saturday No school. Adams & I went out to put road etc. in on map. Rode out, did the job and came back in time for lunch. Horse played up very badly coming back. Drew rifles in p.m. Went for swim & enjoyed it. Had yarn with Cooke on photography & went to bed late.

7th Sunday Church parade as usual & followed by a lecture by Major Crawford [?] on 'chain of command etc'. Then five of us Paulin, Noble, Coams, Mudge & I went for a row, on the canal, open boat, niggers pulling. Caught no fish but had a fine time, eat plenty & had plenty of fine swimming. Back for tea feeling well. Letters to Mother., Dorothy & Olive. To move tomorrow to our old camp.

8th Monday Got ready to shift camp. Took panorama of Lake Timsah & think it will come out well. Moved back to our old battn lines and settled down. At last I have an opportunity of getting coy under way without interference. Meeting of OCs with the

staff in p.m. Talk on night marches. orders for tomorrow's work out & got men ready. Promotion of NCOs came out at last. 50PT to Higgins.

9th Tuesday Up at 0400 & set out on Bde manoeuvres. Finished up at about 0930 after achieving very little. Men marched well. Gen McKay had pow-wow afterwards. Had coy parade in p.m. & duly installed NCOs. Went for swim & came back feeling nicely tired & sleepy. CO's meeting in evening. Very little actually said or learned really. Tried to write letters in evening but too sleepy. Saw Bate [or Babe?].

10th Wednesday Company day. General training & men enjoyed it. Very hot weather & really too hot for training. Trg & swim in p.m. Men marched back well. I was Bde field officer of the day. Letter from Mother & Hilda. Fred on the *Euripedes* which I saw go thro' the canal when we were camped there. Must try & see him. Higgins leaving for a trg battn & Roberts. Hm ???

11th Thursday D Coy for duty today and no men on parade. Went round as Bde Field of[ficer] of the day. Letters to Sister Deacon & Beatrice. Had swim. Got our orders for tomorrow. Half holiday in p.m. Rode out to reconnoitre ground for tomorrow. Higgins & Roberts to leave for the Trg Battn. Queer work somewhere I fancy. To bed later than wise.

12th Friday Reveille at 12 & moved out at about 0045 on our night stunt. Marched to position of assembly 2½ miles out. Had words with King over some march discipline. Moved from position of assembly at 1300 & reached our correct position for deployment, Waited till about 0430, had pow-wow and went home. Swimming parade in p.m.

13th Saturday Did not go on parade all day. Company all used on fatigues. Very hot day & about the limit. Letters to Mary Sampson, Edie, Ruth. Went into Ismalia in p.m. late & came out again in time for tea. Walked to Pioneer Battn & back & went to bed. Higgins, Roberts, Wilson & Cooke left us for the trg battn; Part relief; part [1os?]. Paid Ashenden 50PT. Good

little chap he is.

14th Sunday Went out to 8th LH & changed my inf horse for my own little horse that I brought away from Australia. Had dinner with the 8th & came away. Very hot day. Wind like breath of a furnace. Got back & heard of the shift tomorrow. Had tea & packed up. To bed at about 11. Moffitt a lieut. 50PT to Moat. Got ready for company messes & purchased some

preliminary eatables. secured a good cook. Batmen working very well indeed. CO seems indisposed? Saw Will A-- in evening but no time to speak to him.

15th Monday Up at 4. Left camp at 6 in p.m. I rode my little nag all the way. Men marched pretty well except towards the last when a few fell out. Road very dusty & weather sultry. Reached roadhead at about 8.30 & went into huts for the time. Thank heavens there were huts there. Warm at 8.30. Hot at 9. Very hot at 9.30 & getting hotter. At 10 it was "1". Rode round position. No definite instrns - settle down where you can. Took our camel train over and found our camp. Terribly hot.

Noble & I had yarn to ofr from whom I was taking over and had a very welcome meal and drink. Rode back. Found B.H.Q. pretty well done up & all with a great thirst. Thompson and a few others showed a rotten spirit over drinks and mess material. Fixed up about stores for our mess from Gippie canteen.

Marched off with my coy and two plns of "C" at 1700. Heat terrible even then. Had to rest men often. put one man's pack on horse on condition that he played a tune. Had good affect. Put 3 plns in trenches, relieved other people & settled down as far as possible. Water arrived & cheerfulness reigned supreme. Sultry all evening. Earth would not cool down it seemed. Glad to stretch out and get to bed.

16th Tuesday Reveille at 3.30 & work practically started from that time. Hot morning and day once again. wind like breath off a furnace. Just let men sit and swelter in tents and trenches. Poor little C.O. came over in a.m. on foot & nearly dead with thirst. Gave him some tea & he spilt it over himself . Pleased to get that tea.

Doc came over for sick parade and gave us the news about H.Qrs how at about midnight they received the order to shift from their comfortable quarters into the Wellns[?]. Things were only middling but very funny to us. D coy has the best of things so far so they all say. Sat round all day. In evening Noble & I walked over to canteen to get our stores. Brought 'em back on a camel and we were very glad to get to bed. Very sultry.

17th Wednesday Nothing doing in a.m. Little cooler. Sand bags arrived at midday. Doc came over again and we had a great bit of fun. He described the major & his dog as left after the heat. Screamingly funny. Our place has a great name. Started revetting in evening. Very slow work but we went ahead. Secured one more tank and buried it. Got our water supply in hand straight away. Much better when the men have something to do. Supports slept in tents again. Cool night.

18th Thursday Got to work on revetting again. Morning quite decent & work was al-most a pleasure. Fine day all day & affairs at Batt H.Q seemed to be much better. Did some firing from trenches. More work in evening. Men doing well. Food very good & plenty of water. Q.M.S doing very good work indeed. Got two more tanks. Got nice batch of letters.

19th Friday Market day. No shooting. More revetting & ordinary work. Sent Ashenden in to see about my pack which has gone astray but it could not be traced. All my papers in it too.

20th Saturday Inspection of the line by a few generals amongst whom was General (our col) Gwynne. C.O. came over and waited for them at our camp. Had tea with him & he had a lot

to say about many things. Funny little beggar in every way. Went round with the "knobs". Gen Gwynne came & had a little bit of a talk to men & asked questions. C.O. seemed to think I should go right round but I buzzed off at "C" coy. Trench routine for rest of day.

21st Sunday Had to do some work in a.m. but did not do much. Ordered no work for p.m. Rode over to Bn H.Q. & back. Arranged for little concert in evening. In evening, supports & half those in firing line gathered round the cook's fire whereon water was heating for cocoa.

Concert went off very well indeed & I let the men do their own leading. Our sanitary man Harman & Angels were the star artists. The fire lighting up the circles of fully equipped men made rather picture - enjoyment & grim readiness. Cheers were given & cocoa was served and men went off to their usual work. Very satisfying it was.

22nd Monday Took one half coy for musketry to targets on right flank about two miles away. Did not seem to be much sense in marching all that way when all the ground is

open to us at the front. Saw C.O. about it but it was no use. Fired a few rounds and came back again. Bad shooting. Went into rail-head in evening on little nag to see about pack & order stores for mess. Neddy went well. Could scarcely get on or off on account of a cold throughout the body.

23rd Tuesday Marched out with the other half to targets. Not a bad day. Almost too stiff to get into saddle. Came back at about 11. 1100 - 1300 seems to be the natural time for a snooze each day. Saw a fine little chameleon from off the desert. Had kick of football in evening & went round trenches. C.O. came over & was pleased as usual with things. 10th June may see us away. Had some bird on pack drill. Will do good where heavier punishment would not. Tried to write up my diary for the week.

24th Wednesday Set out for Ferry Post & called at BOR on way. Reached F.P. made enquiries about pack & finally found it with the 59th. Left glasses & haversack with Gregor, saw Major Davis & G. Wooten & went into Ismalia, calling at ordnance on the way., and had a pretty good meal at the French Club. Bought a few stores, had a hair cut etc & came out again.

Saw Tadst at F.P., gave him films & rode out along with LH waggons. Reached home tired about 7. Letters from Aust & Dorothy. Had tea, buzzed around & went to bed. Glad to so too. Saw Byrne & Campbell. Had feed of biscuits & went off to bed.

25th Thursday Did not feel nearly as stiff as I had expected. Fired a shot or two with Mark VII. Every man had a wash in his W-P sheet as we had accumulated sufficient water to allow us to do so. Ordinary work after.

Had to go & see C.O. in p.m. He had intended blowing me up about fantassia[sic] but I took the sting out of his mouth & he found himself pleased at the end. Changed over in trenches. Major Crawford came to see us & had a cigar. Stan Evers to leave us tomorrow. Bad luck in a way but Noble may come into his rights at last & only fair too. Slept well & truly. Letter from Dorothy. Makes things much better.

26th Friday Muster parade in a.m. C.O. very unreasonable re rations. Parade itself went off well & we went on with our ordinary work. Stan left us. Took snaps of him & of Billy in p.m. Letters to Dorothy & Olive. Had bath. C.O. came over in evening again. Had yarn to Padre & Doc two jolly fine fellows indeed, Bed at nine.

27th Saturday Started out at 6.30 for Ismalia. Saw C.O. & buzzed off. Good ride in. Struck 2, 8th LH & went in with them. Reached Ismalia at about 9.30. Handed horse over to nigger stables & caught 10.10 to Tel-el-Kebir. Found Fred in 6th Trg Battn & had yarn. Had rough & ready church at YMCA. Not quite the thing for an officer but what odds! Walked to station. Next train 7. Went to our Trg Battn 14th & Cooke looked after me very well indeed. Saw Higgins but not to speak. caught 7.9 train & reached Ismalia 8.20. Tried to get meal at Belgian cafe. Had a course or two but they were so long with the rest that I buzzed off without paying. Got home at 20 to one.

28th Sunday Church parade in a.m. Not bad for a coy but men shy. C.O. came & gave us instns re moving to Ferry Post. Moysey came to dinner & stayed till evening. Took photos in mess. Tried to have restful day but no go. Firing after service pretty fair. Rode to B.H.Q. & on to A coy in evening. Lovely ride back & felt very restful. sent away some of our stores.

29th Monday Sent away all possible stores & set to work to clean camp. Did that. C.O. & relieving C.O. came round in a.m. & I handed over information to Capt Dick who is to take over my position. Relieving party came over at about 6.30 & bivouacked in rear of our trenches. While process of handing over going on, rode over to B.H.Q. & to A

coy. Saw Moysey & some tommy officers. Not bad sorts. To bed at about ten. Slept in my clothes as I stood. No blankets.

30th Tuesday Handed over between 3 & 4 and marched out at 4. Arrived at our rendezvous at 4.30 to the minute of the time laid down. Had slight breakfast & moved off at 5.30. Good march [or marching] and arrived at Ferry Post at 8.30. Men in great spirits. Walked into 8th Bde camping ground. Had breakfast & settled down. Our coy mess orderlies worked very well and gave us really good meals. Our mess in general doing very well now. Swim in a.m. Lovely. Swimming parade in p.m. & I went in again. Can easily tell that I have been smoking a lot lately.

Saw Huchie in evening. Fixed up my new saddle & rode over to see Huch. Got photos left for me by Tadst. Not well done at all. Rode to Ferry Post to enquire about ferry. Buzzed off feeling verra verra sleepy. New officer arrived today, Lieut Nelson. Letter to Mother.

31st Wednesday Seemed funny going to bed in pyjamas & not standing to arms at 0330. Reveille at 5 instead. Kit inspection all day and we were issued with the greater part of our shortages, Numerous returns during day & meetings by C.O. who seems to be carrying out all the jobs for whom special officers have been detailed - Q.M. Adjut, Coy Comds etc. Inspection of feet in p.m. Chipped some "conspirators" who put in a signed petition to me. Gave two footballs to coy. Food in our mess jolly fine today as well as other days. Great credit to cook. Stan Evers & I went into Ismalia after tea & met Padre at the French Club. Had fine tea, saw some "bints" & came home in a H.Q. mota. To bed at 11.

DIARY FRO MONTH OF JUNE 1916

[Brigade sports; embarked for France; disembarked at Marsailles, then by train across France; billeted near Hazebrouck.]

1st Thursday Inspection of battn in a.m, complete with all stores etc. Fairly slow affair but it ended as all things do. Received small bundle of letters. Went for swim. Had parade in p.m. & had inspection in evening by representative of DADOS [Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Service]. Got permission for all D Coy officers to go into Ismalia to dinner at French Club. Got off at about 7, had dinner rather decent - game of billiards, yarn & came out to bed at about 11.

Saw Capt Liddelow, Lt Mack, Byrne during day. Gave latter a photo. Evers to go to A Coy & am to get Vinehall above all people in the battn. Feel rotten about it. Spoilt my evening. C.O. seems to be a bit of a twister & all have no faith in him.

2nd Friday Brigade inspection all a.m. D Coy marched splendidly. C.O. did not give us a fair chance on the inspection itself presented without bayts, grounded arms instead of piling etc. Clearing of extra kit [uncertain] out in p.m. Each man seemed to have very little but it amounted up to a good pile at the end.

Rode down to DHQ & drew £10 & made inquiries re money matters. Had kick at football after tea & enjoyed it very much. Letter from Gladys dated 2nd May. Our food is very good at our mess. Vinehall came into our coy.

3rd Saturday Very few men for parades & these did musketry. I spent the time sorting out my box & got well on towards the end by midday. Major tried to rouse on me over party of markers. Makes me feel very casual that's all. Swim in morning and p.m. Very decent. Took two snaps.

Had padre to dinner & it went off very well indeed. Food good. Received couple of old letters from Australia. Stan & I went into Ismalia for a ride & enjoyed it very well indeed. Back by about 10.30. Very bad arrangements at the punt. Tommies pretty useless as workers. To bed by 11.

4th Sunday Slept in a few nice hours. Did not go on church but tried to write letters. Sat on Board on Messes etc. Wonderfully prepared meals today. Parcel - writing material from someone in Melb - Lizzie I fancy. More talk about the C.O. & dissatisfaction. Paid mess bill. Went for swim in p.m. the only way to get out of awful dust of today.

Handed in kitbags at 6 prior to getting off. Rode into Ismalia with Stan. Saw Dick on way. C.O. is summed up at HQrs for sure. Had drink procured photos what were rottenly done & got back. Brigade field officer of the day. Turned out guard & got to bed at about 10.45. Great news re naval battle. [Battle of Jutland 31 May 1916.]

5th Monday Battn drill in a.m. Spent an hour or so over two movements & that was our limit apparently. Close order drill by companies after that. I took company for a swim after holding platoon competitions in various things. Swim went well. Came back & tested them again & marched in. Worked splendidly. Went for another swim. My

swimming and diving are improving very much indeed lately but I have a long way to go before I can pass.

Swimming parade again in p.m. but I did not go. Went round brigade on my tour of duty. Had tea, a game of football, a drink, a yarn & went off to bed after fixing one or two photos. Letter to Olive & photos.

6th Tuesday Had a demonstration of field firing by the Bde Major. Very interesting & instructive. The men of the battn went for a route march along with our band. The drum was the only thing wrong with it. Had a rehearsal of the marking for the next day's field firing. Came back & went for a swim. Rode into Divl H.Qrs Moascar on a bicycle at a great bat & got in just up to time for a Divl sports meeting to be held next Friday. Did not get back till late & went along to B.H.Q. after my meal. Came back & buzzed off to bed tired and almost too much so to sleep at once.

7th Wednesday Took our companies for field firing. Men fairly well interested in it. Marched back & had breakfast. Met Battn representatives at B.H.Q at 1100 & decided what we want for sports. Went for swim in p.m. & then rode into D.H.Q by 1700. Fairly long discussion and did not get away till late. Drink at Club and home but not till after 2000. Met representatives & gave them the programme. Had yarn to Collier, ate tin of fruit & went off to bed. C.O. a rotten sport. Very little interest in the battn sports.

8th Thursday Looked about for a ground in a.m. & decided on our old camp ground opposite. Rode into D.H.Q. by 0900 & held our final meeting to decide programme etc. Finished at about 11. Inspected baggage guard, had dinner at French Club & came out by about 1400. Saw about ground. Had to change it at last moment. Had to do a great deal of scraping away of loose sand. C.O. absolutely "off" & awful re sports. Fell none too good in

p.m. Had concert but it did not go off too well at all. Late to bed. Great Russian scrap & victory. [The 'Brusilov' offensive, 5 June, against the Austro-Hungarians on the Eastern Front.]

9th Friday Set about making a new ground east of 56th. Had our Battn sports in a.m. at 6.30. Marched there, marched back. Be sleeping by numbers next! Actual items went off fairly well & we ought to do something tomorrow. Poor old Collier has never received much support from C.O. in these sports. Rotten thing I reckon. Decided on our sports ground (as above) at 1400, laid out ground. At 1500 got men to work scraping sand from 440 & 100 tracks. Saw work well under way and rode into Ismalia at about 1700.

Saw B'dier re sports before I left. Inspected guard at Moascar. Got measured for a tunic, tried to get some green cloth & came out in time for our committee meeting at 2000 at B.H.Q. Gave judges their jobs. Worked on order of events. Got to bed at about 2200.

10th Saturday Got small parties to work on the course & finished up fairly well by midday. Had to build most of the wall for the obstacle course myself. Sports started at about 1600 late on a/c of a funeral in 58th Battn. Everything went smoothly except at

the high jump when one man had to be waited for for the obstacle race. B'dier was pleased at the way in which things went.

Concert in p.m. 53rd let me down once again over the concert arrangements. However concert went off fairly well considering. Ended at 10 p.m. Was going to bed when I heard commotion in our lines & found an ofr putting a man in the guard tent!! Saw him strike him also! Man worked up to a frenzy. I ordered rope to be removed from him, talked to him & he went off to bed. I also went off. Saw Reg & Porter Helmore after the sports.

11th Sunday Did not go to church parade & after it took company for swimming & washing clothes parade. Had good swim myself. Sgt Robertson has his commission now. Went for another swim in p.m. Saw Gregor. Had kick of football after tea. Reg & Porter Helmore came to see me & we had a really good yarn. Fine fellows, both of them.

12th Monday On parade as usual once again. Artillery formations etc. Very hot. Had instructive parade & came in early before anybody else. Worth the risk because it is C.S. Had company swimming sports in afternoon & they went off very well indeed. Men took great interest in the events. Coy officers put in a pound each toward prizes. Came back early. Buzzed over to B.H.Q., got lists of competitions ready & went into D.H.Q. with Billy Noble. From there we went & had dinner at the French Club in honour of Stan's 21st birthday. Home very late. Had drinks of madeira with Col Wagstaff & champagne at the dinner. Madeira not at all bad. Stan to learn a tremendous lot yet.

13th Tuesday Same work on parade as yesterday & weather little hotter if anything. Took company for a swim. Swam my little horse & he took it very well indeed. Arranged about competitors etc in p.m. and got them away at 1700. Then went into Ismalia. Met Goldstein at French Club and had dinner with him. Very nice too. Letter to Mother & photos. Got car home to Ferry. Very nice too. Home at 10.45. Cut off my moustache again. 50PT to Ashenden.

14th Wednesday Up at 4 & cycled into Moascar at 5. Arrived there in time for sports at 0600. Pretty fair attendance. Sports went off fairly well on the whole. 14th Bde well bottom. A shame that our fellows were not allowed to march in to barrack for us. 15th Bde champion bde. Saw Tadst, Robie, Dye, Major Davis & many other friends. Got tunic, film, had drink and came out in time for lunch. Swim in p.m. Keen on diving now. All sorts of arrangements being made for tomorrow's inspection at 0700. Fooled about till late & went to bed. Letter from Mrs Campbell.

15th Thursday Divisional inspection in a.m. Usual bustling round & loss of coolness on part of Battn H.Q. Tiff wit C.O. Hour's drill of sorts after that. Swim in p.m. Saw Brig re sports money. Committee meeting in p.m. Packed up and got baggage away by midday. Got ready to down tents & all came down by 0830. Bare looking camp. Finished packing by moonlight & turned in late after a characteristic D coy suppa [sic] on cakes & beer & fruit.

16th Friday Reveille at 0330. Packed up & had breakfast. Marched out at about 0500 and after one halt reached Moascar at about 0710 a distance of about 5 miles. Very hot

pace and march. Men's tunics wringing wet with perspiration. Let them rest for remainder of day. Fixed up about sports money. Worked at my own coy book in evening & made headway with it. Was asked into tea at club but could not go.

17th Saturday Slack morning. Worked at coy history book and got it well underway. Tom Elliot (Major) dropped in in p.m. & we had a bit of a yarn together. Jolly glad to see him once again. He is to get 2nd in command to a battn shortly. I should have gone to 15th Bde instead of this hole of a brigade. Had throw of cricket ball & kick of footie in evening. (In early p.m. Mudge & I went across to see 59th embark but did not see anything to enlighten us. Had drink of beer on way back.)

Got definite news of when we were to embark. Leave Moascar 1900 tomorrow & get aboard the *Royal George*. Other battns have not yet got their marching orders. Little "neddy" left along with the transport. Groom could not go with him worse luck. Cookers etc left & all transport.

18th Sunday Anniversary of Waterloo. Early church parade. Padre took sick in the middle of it and we got off early. Got our baggage away at 0930 & met C.O. He seemed to get rather narked at a few common sense suggestions made by me among others. Early dinner. Fell in at 1500 & moved out to stables along road where we held explosive inspection & muster parade.

54th invited our officers to tea and did us very well indeed. Very nice of them to do such a thing for us & we may be able to repay them later. They also provided tea for the men & offered their own dixies for the purpose. Moved to station at 1700 and left a half hour or so later. Officers a& men alike in open low trucks. Men 28 in each. Slept well in despite the jolting. Woke up at odd times & had watermelons, food etc. Arrived Alexandria at somewhere about 0400 in a.m. – never can remember times for a train journey.

19th Monday Disembarked at place opposite our ship & messed around in a typical 53rd manner. Collected Gippie money from men for exchange – quite rich to what I thought they were! Had breakfast on wharf & came on board the *Royal George* a passenger boat used as a troop ship but with none of the usual alterations effected. Very stuffy for men down below & they sweltered away. They were allowed up & then we went to breakfast at 0800. Very nice too.

My room is a fairly decent one part of a suite of two. Boat stations in a.m. & again at 1800 in p.m. The two wireless operators seem to be very decent fellows. Moved out into the harbour & anchored. To bed early after a little supper in my room.

20th Tuesday Reveille at 6. Had fairly slack day of it on the whole. Great number of men on fatigues & duties so that we had plenty of deck space. Inspection of ships. Terribly hot in the lowest mess deck. Short parade in p.m. Game of deck billiards after that. Had our usual supper & got to bed late.

21st Wednesday Captain of the day. Fairly busy day of it with attending meals, inspecting guards etc. Had fair number of games of deck billiards at which Billy Noble and I make a hot combination. Had an argument with that despicable piss ant of a C.O. 1000 men under his care & keeping. He is now worn to a wrinkled skeleton with worrying over nothing & trying to do everything himself. Had yarn with Major Croshaw in evening. Very nice chap. Had short concert in after well deck but it was not much good. Supper again.

22nd Thursday General exodus of boats from the harbour. We left at 10.30 and during all the day we were passing through two lines of sweepers at fairly long intervals. Water a

beautiful Prussian blue in colour. Boat very steady & doing a fair knottage. Passed a few boats en route for Alex. Played a good deal at deck billiards. Captain of the day & fairly tired at the end of that day. Supper & had a chat to poor little Moysey & off to bed. No lights at night.

23rd Friday Sea still smooth & weather fairly favourable to submarines except in p.m. when it became choppy. Passed quite a fair number of ships going & coming. Little destroyer escorted us all the day but scooted away during the night. Saw Crete toward midday & had it in sight all day. Had a gas helmet parade in p.m. & 'pon my soul it was the funniest thing imaginable. Deck billiards again & fairly hot at them now. Had supper again & Major Croshaw came in in time for the last sandwich as usual. Had yarn to Moysey.

24th Saturday Had our platoon tug of war competition 15 won fairly easily. Lecture by Doctor in p.m. on first aid. Rather useful to the men a thing like that. No supper for once.

25th Sunday Had good old sleep in. Church parade at 0930. The general on board took the service and left out very few prayers from the prayer book. Very sultry. Had a very easy day of it. Capt of the day. Passed south of Malta & Pantaleria where the Italians have a penal settlement. The *Ivernia* which had been keeping up with us all day put back into Malta & we went ahead escorted by a fine little T.P.D. 69 the "Minstrel". (Had fog in a.m. & we had to go slow & blow the horn at frequent intervals. Any old submarine could have picked us up by that sound & many feared it would.) Supper as usual & Moysey.

26th Monday Most of morning spent in inspections of various kinds. Sport in p.m. Went off only fairly well. Men did not turn up to their own events. Some events created amusement. Major Croshaw gave 30/- for prizes. Rather unfair that he should be the only one bled. Were passing Sardinia on starboard side all p.m. Had long talk to Moysey & buzzed off to bed. Rumours of submarine about.

27th Fairly choppy in a.m. Little TPD had a fairly rough passage of it but we were steady. Passed near Toulon & came up to Marsailles at about 3 p.m.

Finish diary for the time !

[This is the final entry in this book. It begins again in a new book.]

28th Wednesday Had a kind of breakfast at 0330 and disembarked. Men did not have time for a decent breakfast but they were hounded off and all were off by 0500. Waited in the shed for a long time (out of rain) and marched off to station. Had decent carriages but "D" coy officers came off only second best in theirs. Moved off at 0800. Country we passed through just simply beautiful. Did not get tired of it all day. Halted at Avignon and at Orange for our midday meal & drawing rations. We had a meal at a hotel in the town but had to gulp it all down. That was our only meal for that day.

Whole journey very interesting. Everything absolutely everything looking beautifully green. Saw some "bosches" at work on buildings. Mostly old men & women working on the fields & a few soldiers on "harvest leave". Great number of old men wearing the uniform & forming patrols on the railways thus relieving younger men for the front. Would do Australia good to see these people! People were much excited as we passed through. All wanted "souvenirs! souvenirs"! As the Gippies called for "backsheesh" so these people wanted small souvenirs of us. Did not waste much time sleeping.

29th Thursday Arrived Macon at 0051 and got out for breakfast. The supply of hot water at the station ran out & D coy got scarcely any. The train was halted so that it was very awkward for our coy to embark or disembark. The train moved off almost as soon as the bugle sounded and 70 of our men were left behind. Reported it next day & CO lost his breath for a time. His own fault at any rate. Had a meal at Muit [?]-sous-Raviere where we left a note for CSM Green who had been left behind. Heard that they were being sent on. Had another meal at Montereau and arrived Juirsy at about 1930 where we hoped the 70 would pick us up but we had no luck and we had to go off and leave Mudge behind to take care of them when they arrived.

Samson acted in a high handed manner and put Noble under open arrest because he refused to disobey an order. 'Well up' he is. The country we passed through was the same beautiful green and well cared for. Plenty of people out to see us go by. Keen on Australian pennies and bully beef (above all things!) They gave us some beautiful flowers. Jove the garden flowers as we passed through looked & smelt beautiful. The whole country was artistic. The French man has something worth fighting for and no wonder that they are all out to win.

30th Friday Was wakened up by the major well after daylight. We were on the northern line. Passed through St Omer & Amiens. Halted once for issue of rations & tea but had no time for latter. Pushed off right to the end of the journey. Country we passed through showed great lack of attention. Very much fewer people out to see us and in fact there seemed to be very few women & children about. Saw the sea on our left. Saw the Australian camp. Disembarked at a station about 7 miles from Hazebrouck & marched to our billets where we arrived at about five o'clock.

Got men settled down into barns which were nice & warm. The people in the houses were very hospitable and it was great to see the little kiddies & speak to them. It is a new experience to the men this billeting and they enjoy it immensely. The people like them too. Cycled to Barbecque about 4 miles away to find out about our 70 but nothing doing. To bed in the hotel at about eleven. Daylight saving still is in force here & if one does not watch oneself, one loses a lot of sleep. Funny having to go to bed in daylight.

DIARY FOR PERIOD 1st to 16th JULY 1916.

[Rejoined by men who missed train; some trouble with drunkenness in the company; moved up to Estaires then to reserve trenches at Fleurbaix; reconnaissance for attack.]

1st Saturday Up early after a fairly good night's sleep. Got men on to cleaning their billets, cleaning amm'n & rifles. Rode to Steenbarque & inquired about our 70. Saw Caldwell-Smith who is RTO for the remdr of the divn. Nothing can be done till 6 tomorrow morning when they are expected to arrive along with other troops. Had a route march of a few miles in p.m. & men were rather tired at the end of it. I was also. Confounded CO roused on me over men being beyond the Battn area & brought up the subject of the train journey. He was altogether in the wrong & I shall do my best to leave this ragtime show. Shall try bde & then divn if necessary. I feel just like foaming at the mouth.

Gave Rosa & Maithe some chocolate. Have done a lot of cycling today & feel pretty tired. Saw a bit of an aerial bombardment towards evening. Looked rather decent the shrapnel bursting in the air round the little planes (British or German we knew not) Rumble of a heavy bombardment in evening. We are 25 miles in rear of the line and yet the force of the explosion is great enough to rattle a window in our house. Feel properly down in the chops & like a volcano which has no vent. Must get out of this show. Letters from Fred & Beatrice.

2nd Sunday Had nice sleep in I don't think! Up at 5 and down to the station to meet a troop train but our 70 did not come. Mudge came but had not seen the men. Flew up & down between the station a few times but no reward for my pains. Strolled into the town and made a few purchases. Billy & I went for a stroll in p.m. to the station in Thunnes[?] but no luck. Nice stroll back. Saw another aerial bombardment & heard shelling. Spoke to Major Charters about a change of iob from this battalion & am to see him in another three days time. Purgatory to remain here longer. Great procession in the town, religious. To sleep late.

3rd Monday Did not wake in time for physical. Very few on parade at 0900 parade & left the company training in a.m. under the care of Vinehall. I wandered to the station Steenbecque to try to hear more of the lost ones. No luck. Had cup of coffee with Mudge at the Café de la Gare. Waited a little longer and came back to dinner. Sent company for a route march under Mudge in p.m. Vinehall has to go and act as major at Estaires temporarily. He is coming out of his shell lately & I think that he is really a good man.

Noble & I went to station Thiennes[?]. Heard good news that they were coming & met them on their way to Steenbecque under Lt Wrathall of 60th. Queer bird & not much savié. Took over at Thienes. Bde sent ofr back & all our troubles are over for the time. Thank goodness. CO would be very nice but not as for me. Went along & saw Moysey. Had yarns to various people on way back & got to bed late too late.

4th Tuesday Up in time at last. 1 hour to Pln parades & then went for a route march & simple exercise near the canal. Gas helmet parade in p.m. Had words with the CO & he almost made me boil once again. Brought himself up with a bit of a jerk at last. My

horse arrived in a.m. & did not look too fat on it. Very sleepy the poor little beggar was too. Had gas helmets on for two hours so when it came on to rain heavily we had to scoot for shelter. Lasted for long time too.

Started my intelligence squad going & they are doing very well indeed at it. They will keep it up too I fancy. Saw Moysey in p.m. & he will have to go to hospital tomorrow with his leg. Came back & had yarn to the little mademoiselle. Had talk to the major re battn affairs & he says to hang on for a little while. To bed late & heard sound of guns once again. Big explosions. Name of people Rolan.

5th Wednesday Three hours at gas helmets. Men much more used to them now but it is bad for so many to mouth the valves without sterilisation. Went for a route march in p.m. for three hours in direction of Picquer. Competition between 13 & 14 and 15 & 16 plns, the latter being mopped up in an ambush. Great discussion about it amongst men & officers. Back in nice time. Short issue of rations & no pay. Men in bad mood for most part. We officers went into Thienies & bought bread & oatmeal & baking powder & the QM dished it out to the men much to their satisfaction.

6th Thursday Physical training & gas practice in a.m. Formed up in the old man's yard next door in order to get whole coy together. He did not like it at all. Went for a march with a band in p.m. Noble took coy & I went out to reconnoitre for a bit of a stunt tomorrow. Came back same time as company. Pay had arrived but short of what we had applied for. Paid out straight away. Men did not have time to change or spend it but there were a few who made hogs of themselves. May they be shot. Confounded drink is poor class & men do not seem to be able to control themselves.

7th Friday Some men absent from parade drunk & in clink. Went out for our scheme a few miles out and it came on to rain in the middle of it but we kept on. 15 & 16 got most of their own back on 13 but 14 got in on 16 again. A number of lessons were to be learnt from it and much to be gained. Little horse went well throughout. CO went out to where we are to go but not to the firing line I fancy.

Gas in p.m. & various lectures. Paid Madame her bill. Very avarices woman she is it seems to be. Meeting of OCs & CO re going to our front line. Nothing definite. Went for a ride (reconnaissance) in evening & saw Bde Major on way. Decided to stay with company for time. Got back at about 10. Place reeks with drink & swill of it!

8th Saturday Marched to Morbecque for a gas demonstration. Marching very hard on men & foolishly superintended or guided. On arrival had a bit of a pow wow & marched through a gas cloud that was let off at us. Nobody suffered as we all had helmets on. After that we felt the effect of lachrymatory [tear gas] shells. Had lunch and marched back.

I went off to Steenbecque to get a glass for my watch & had a much longer march than the other people. Got back at about 6 after having got what I wanted of the inquisitive watch-maker. Instrns at 8.30 re the move tomorrow at 0900. Got ready for it & off to bed well after 11. Few more hogs drunk again. Men fell out badly on the march today for some reason or other. 20Fr to Moate & Ashender.

9th Sunday Reveille at 5 the usual hassle & men moved off from our billets at about 8.20 to pass starting point at 0900. Order of march not A B C D for a wonder but D B C A! Bit of a change too. Fairly hard marching on the hard road & men's feet knocked up badly. Halted for lunch at about 1330 & moved off at 1400. Reached our billets at Estaires at about 1500 & settled down to fairly comfortable quarters - the officers very comfortable quarters.

My little pony cast a shoe yesterday & I had to walk today as he was not shod in time for use. Felt it pretty badly in my feet but mostly in my left. Went round to BHQ & got general orders. Watched some aeroplane bombardments & one duel in evening. Men not so apt to drink this evening. Four men still absent from company. Wrote little more to Dorothy's letter. Paper from her today. To bed by about 11[?] CpI Wallace & two or three other swine deserted.

10th Monday Up late feeling fairly stiff & tired but fit all the same. Parade at 0900 for checking & inspecting feet. Fair number whose feet are in a very bad condition. Dismissed them to cleaning up the billets as the previous people had been very hoggish in the way in which they had left things. Held orderly room for those who had been drunk for first time but not on old hands. Wrote a little more of my letter to Dorothy.

Rested all of the afternoon & wrote more of my letter. Vinehall came & got his cash & had a yarn to us. Went into Estaires in p.m. & purchased few things including identity discs. Came home & found some men out. Had yarn to mademoiselle, had coffee & eggs & went off to bed. Started letter to Mother.

11th Tuesday Had our orderly room in a.m. Fair number up from all companies. Went into see Vinehall twice & caught him the second time. Made a few purchases in at Estaires. Mademoiselle made a very nice meal for us at midday. Were there for tea also. Squared up with Mademoiselle (2½ per egg! high prices [uncertain] mention at kit taxes must be high & peasant folk are avarices).

Gave 5 Fr to Mademoiselle Jnr[?]. Left at 2000 plns at thirty paces distance. Took wrong road for a start & had to about turn. Roads very hard & marches were rather long. Passed SaiIly, Bac St Mur & went on wrong road near Fleurbaix. CO a treat! Saw flares & flashes & heard the firing as we approached. Had to advance in small parties in single file along one side of the road. At one time some shells that were being fired at a gun in our vicinity lobbed near us & caused some excitement. Reached out billets at about 0100. Took over from no less than Capt Fulton! Mutual recognition by the aid of electric torches. To bed at about 0300. Letter to Dorothy.

12th Wednesday Up at about 0845 & went to see the C.O. at 0900. Went round the position with Mudge in a.m. We are simply reserve in Fleurbaix in the houses that are not broken down by shell. Town presents a pitiable aspect certainly but there are still some people living there & some in our quarter. Walked to front line trenches in p.m. & saw our alarm post & our trenches at the two convent walls. Saw Thompson & A coy at Croix Merechal[?] & had p.m. tea with him. Came back had tea. Ashenden came for horse & we had to go & look for it. Found him well up the road & sent him away to transport lines. HQrs in a bad state now.

13th Thursday Fooled about at sketching in a.m. with my intelligence man. We are on lookout for a "suspect" nearby. Went out to trenches in p.m. with Mr Noble & my cpl. Trenches very simple breastwork trenches & no network [?]. People on right flank getting some "hurry up". Had look at our prospective position & came back.

Couple of shells had been lobbed into our village but nobody hurt. Went nosing round with Mudge in p.m. Visited the cafe at the crucifix had coffee & conversation with the fair damsel there. May be a spy - that to be found out. Gas alert in evening from 10 11. 15. Heavy shelling in direction of La Bassée. Very heavy guns being used. Howitzer near us spoke up today. Two deserters came back at about 10.30 - Hindley & Lawson. Saw Tom Elliott today.

14th Friday Had to go out to trenches at 0900. Took Mudge & Bowman with me. Met C.O. on way & he went crook over not being up to time. Spent some time with Pinkstow[?] in command D coy 55th & got all the information we required to answer the questions. Called in at estaminet on way back & had coffee. Very nice she was again.

Meeting of OCs in p.m. & after it Mudge & I did a little more spotting on our suspect. Big shell lobbed just opposite one of our billets & made a mess of things. Nobody killed or injured. They got on to some of our batteries very accurately & our suspect seemed to be very busy. Stopped later on. Mudge & [?]ussingham did some waiting [uncertain] for the old beggar of a spy but nothing ensued.

15th Saturday Instrns on moving out & getting ready for a stunt in a.m. Had to go over & reconnoitre the ground in p.m. Went over with Noble & saw the trenches from which we are to charge. None too sweet but that's a mere detail. Held up that spy but he must have seen us & got rid of his pigeons for he beat us. Got ready to move in p.m. & after some delay marched out at about 0100. Some shelling just before we left & some lost their head. No billets for officers. Bac St Mur.

16th Sunday Sunday our usual day for shifts finds us about to move once again. Woke at about 0700 & had breakfast in Madame's house. Buzzed about looking for things & after orders but none available. Letter to Mother. Down to Bn orderly room at 0845 & got our preliminary orders to shift. Had tea & passed on orders & got ready.

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[This is the last entry in Charles Arblaster's diary. The 53rd Battalion along with other battalions of the 5th Australian Infantry Division and the 61st British Division moved into the frontline on the morning of 17 July to launch an attack on the German line near the village of Fromelles. The attack was delayed nearly 36 hours during which time the waiting troops were heavily shelled.

The attack was launched at 6.00 p.m. on 19 July with fluctuating success. The 53rd Bn reached its objective and held it for more than 12 hours. Arblaster was seriously wounded early on 20 July. When the battalion was finally forced to withdraw, he was taken prisoner and died in a German Military Hospital at Douai, northern France, on 24 July 1916.]