

'On patrol nothing doing very hot':

WWI Diaries and Notebooks of
2678 Lance Corporal George Albert Hall,
ANZAC Provost Corps

Transcribed by Jan Hunter



Diary entries and Pass to Cairo of 2678 Lance Corporal G A Hall
 Australian Provost Corps Egypt.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
*Brief history of George Hall and the Anzac Provost Corps Egypt	iv
*Introduction	v
*Diary January 1 st , 1916-January 6 th , 1917	1
*Notebook February 5 th , 1916-June 2 nd , 1916	28
*Notebook June 6 th , 1916-October 1 st , 1916	43
*Notebook October 8 th , 1916-February 21 st , 1917	61
*Notebook January 2 nd , 1917-February 21 st , 1917	71
*Diary and Almanac 1917	76
*Notebook February 23 th , 1917-February 15 th , 1918	90
*Diary January 1 st , 1918-December 31 st , 1918	109
*Notebook February 16 th , 1918-November 17 th , 1918	118
*Notebook November 24 th , 1918-December 31 st , 1918	126
*Diary January 1 st , 1919-May 21 st , 1919	130
*Notebook November 24 th , 1918-August 7 th , 1919	136
*Miscellaneous postcards, passes, etc	147
*Descriptions of Diaries and Notebooks	153

BRIEF HISTORY OF GEORGE HALL AND THE ANZAC PROVOST CORPS IN EGYPT

The Anzac Provost Corps was raised in Egypt in March 1916. It was made up mainly of volunteers from the Australian Light Horse. Month long special instruction courses at Abbassia gave the volunteers training in aspects of military police duties and soldiering to equip them for their duties. The training was rigorous and those who failed to reach the required standard were returned to their units.

By mid-June 1916 a large portion of the Corps had departed for the Western Front leaving behind in Egypt 8 officers and 250 other ranks. The organisation of the Egyptian Detachment as at 3 August 1916 was:

Mounted Section (Heliopolis)	6 officers & 135 other ranks
Infantry Section (Cairo)	2 officers & 115 other ranks

Duties included route reconnaissance, water discipline, field security against spies and saboteurs, guarding stores, town patrols, VIP, hospital and POW escorts, and detention barrack staffing.

A higher proportion of temporary NCO rank was approved for members of the Corps because of the nature of their duties which far exceeded those of ordinary private soldiers.

Temporary Corporal George Hall sailed on the HMAT *Euripides* in November 1915 with the 6th Reinforcements 17th Infantry Battalion. In Egypt he was posted to 5th Training Battalion, relinquished his temporary rank and was almost immediately engaged in duties of a police nature, picquets, town patrols and escort of prisoners. On 11 April 1916 he was selected for provost training and undertook the training course at Abbassia. He was formally taken on strength of the ANZAC Provost Corps on 12 April 1916.

Members of the Provost Corps continued to wear the colour patch of their parent unit and were distinguished as military police by a variety of cap and epaulet badges and coloured bands around the cap or hat, initially a blue band and later a red band. Some were photographed wearing a sleeve brassard bearing the letters 'MP'.

INTRODUCTION

'On patrol nothing doing very hot'

George Albert Hall enlisted in August 1915 giving his address as Daysdale Via Corowa NSW and his occupation as 'labourer'. He arrived in Egypt and entered the Anzac Provost Corps and began yearly diaries and notebooks in 1916. With the exception of some leave in England and France, Hall spent the following years in the vicinity of the sphinx. He was a regular recorder of his often boring duties but nonetheless his accounts show a lesser known side of the war, dealing not with enemy fighting but stealing, being out of bounds, not saluting officers, guarding camps, etc.

The provenance of these diaries is unknown, but they have been held in the 8th/13th Victorian Mounted Rifles Regimental Museum since the 1990s. They were transferred to Bandiana North when the Museum moved from Victoria Street Albury in 2000 and have been stored there ever since. The Museum decided that they would be transcribed in 2018, registered with an ISBN number which puts them into the public domain, and donated to Corowa Federation Museum with a hard copy of the transcription.

As the transcriber, I was fortunate that Hall's writing was not too hard to decipher, and his spelling mistakes were minor. However his general lack of capital letters and full stops meant that sentences needed to be read over carefully to get the sense of his comments.

I have used (sic) to show accurately Hall's spellings, a question mark in brackets (?) when I could not decipher his writing and square brackets with an explanation of acronyms, or the correct place name. By searching under 'WWI Cairo...' and typing in what I thought he had written the internet answered nearly all my queries about places.

Hall wrote and received many letters, mentioned in the early diary then listed at the beginning and end in subsequent diaries and notebooks. I wonder if he passed on his scathing comments that 'some of them are the scum of the earth' to his correspondents or whether the diaries were the only keepers of his personal opinions.

It shocked me there was only one mention that two New Zealanders were to be executed with details of their charges and that Hall was in the most danger after the war had finished, when the Egyptians demonstrated against the British in Cairo.

Reading Peter Stanley's *Bad Characters – Sex, Crime, Mutiny, Murder and the Australian Imperial Force* (2010) and Glenn Wahlert's *The Other Enemy* (1999) set George Albert Hall's diaries in a wider context, illuminating George's service in a vivid way.

Hall's complete war records can be accessed through the National Australian Archives, naa.gov.au using his name and Service Number 2678. His obituary is in *The Corowa Free Press*, 24 August, 1954 available through Trove.

Jan Hunter, djhjr@bigpond.com Albury 2018

DIARY: January 1st, 1916-January 6th, 1917

Personal Memoranda includes

Rifle No 8336/6753

Camera No 10866

Size in boots 8

Size in collars 16

Size in hats 6.7/8

Weight 12st 0 lbs Date 11/12/1915

Height 5ft 8ins Date 11/12/1915

Name G. A. Hall No 2678

Address Daysdale Via Corowa N.S.Wales Via Melbourne/Australia

Memoranda page (1)

	P.T.
J Gamble	17
J Rickitson	16
a Tommy Paid	5
Cpl Corless Paid	1
Cpl Manders Paid	3
Sgt Pollisck Paid	10
? Mc Call	15
Sgt Ferguson	8

No of Men detained in Guardroom 1916

Jan 12 to 31st 1106

Feb 1st " 29th 1014

Mar 1st " 14 820

Total 2940

Cairo Town Piquet

[Memoranda page verso:]

'Six letters one to mother and the rest to

G. Wright, W O'brien(?)

L Hale, T. (?) H Hall, M.M. Hall, A

Keines and E Keines (17/2/1916)

Posted ten letters 22nd ? 1916

Five to the home folk and rest to

S.E.C.G.W.W.O E.L.A. K.and C.R.T.

Posted letters to mother & A.V.P. 28

[under tape]

Posted letter to S.E.C. 29/5/16

Letter mother, Lilly and S.E.C. 23/5/16

Letter to C. R. Taylor 26/8/16

" " M. M. Hall 26/8/16

L. N. N. Hall 30/8/16

Letter to mother G.W. & S.E.C. 26/9/16

" T H & M Hall

10/10/16

" mother 13/19/16

To mother A.P.G.W.S.E.C. 21/10/16

To mother S.E.C. 13/11/6

T. T. H. Hall 21/11/16

Mother 1/12/16

? Mother 4/12/16

Min 4/12/16

S.E.C. 15/12/1

G.W.S.E.C. L & W.J H C.R.T. 1/1/17

Shria Elouei

Ezbekia Gardens

Governorate Eli Mahomid

Bab-el Harfia Zeitoune

Kasr-el-nil-Barracks

Giza No 10 Nubar Pacha
 Tel-el-Kabir
 Kantara Port Said
 Moascar
 Tel-el-Kebir
 Kantara

Saturday, 1st January 1916

On fatigue all day Q.M.S. [Quarter Master Sergeant] should(?) had a good time most of the company on picket(sic) [picquet = patrol] them that was left in camp amused themselves by catching the niggers and (unclear) in a blanket Wrote seventy(?) four posscards(sic) to G,E,C,

Sunday 2nd

Had a good trip to pyramids(sic) and had a good time up it cost six P.T. in part of Zoo(?) evening

Monday 3rd

Parade very sore from climbing all of us in trouble for not marching no parade this afternoon very cold and showery Posted seventy four Poss cards(sic) to G.E.C

Tuesday 4th

Parade early no parade all day inspection of rifles rain all last night football match afternoon rugby name in name name machin(sic) gun section

Wednesday 5th

Half holiday town picket had a good time op(?) is nothing to do only ride in the trams very cold at nights

Thursday 6th

No early parade had baynot(sic) practice with dumys(sic) good sports Very cool in mornings

Friday 7th

On guard having a good time praised up for being clean the rest of the company getting ready to shift to aerodrome camp still very cold

Saturday 8th

Shifted to aerodrom(sic) camp nothing doing went to the Kursal [Kursaal Theatre] at night worth seeing the tumbling was wonderful and the balancing feats the only thing that was not up to much was the mermaid the music was good all Italian

Sunday 9th January

Church parade the chaps crimed [charged] for not attending went to the zoo and had a good look around very interesting a lot of Aus birds and animals there

Monday 10th

March from aerodrom(sic) to the Kasr el Nil Barracks about seven miles felt weary after it on picket duty for fourteen days amongst the Tommies [English soldiers]

Tuesday 11th

having a good time on reserve picket nothing to do all day until half past four in the soldiers home until twelve o'clock in bed at one nothing to do only read some of the picket drunk

Wednesday 12th

Nothing doing only walking about in the barracks tired of doing nothing paid today at the soldiers home on picket had one walk round

[Page is stamped on top right hand corner] 'CAIRO TOWN PIQU' [off end of page.]

Thursday 13th

Parade this morning but nothing els(sic) doing on picket duty in the soldiers home on of our fellows in clinck(sic) [clink=jail] for being drunk on duty he had his belt and badge on when caught posted two letters LM HT (unclear)

Friday 14th

O.C.S. orderly something the same as picket a row at the back three chaps pinched one of them handcuffed our mate got 168 [160?] hours detention for being drunk on duty

Saturday 15th

On orderly duty had nothing to do yet our mate instead of getting 168 hours got 14 days in jail and then week's pay stopped the Aus are getting it hot since their riot at Xmas but no worse than they deserve a mob of four hundred just arrived for picket expect things lively in town to night had a trip to Ahaba A.P.M.O.H.M.S. mate gone to Heliopolis on the same errand a lot of prisoners broke out to night and they formed fours and marched into town as a picquis (picquet[?]?)

Sunday 16th January

Nothing much doing as orderly bringing in plenty of prisoners this morning it is a constance (sic) stream of them a trip to the Governorate and got lost took four hours to find it came back and shopped on like (unclear)

Monday, 17th

Had another trip to Cairo this morning beginning to find my way about still fetching in plenty of prisoners a trip to the Governorate this afternoon brought

in a few prisoners tonight two of them desperate chaps from the front

Tuesday 18th

Had a trip to Zeitoune [Zeitoun] and the Aerodrome this afternoon have great battling with the tram conductors with our badge we get a free ride anywhere and they do not like it they try to bounce us into paying

Wednesday 19th

Had another trip around Cairo this morning still bringing in more prisoners and some of them are pretty rough they just bought in one and he kicked and fought like a mad man

Thursday 20th

Nothing much doing only travelling about a trip to the A.P.M.[Assistant Provost Marshall?] twice and one to Heliopolies(sic) [Heliopolis} just missed being caught in a heavy shower caught six men trying to blow the camp Bugle up

Friday 21st

Nothing doing today at all and have not been out of the barracks all day very cold Paid today extra piques on tonight still catching plenty drunks in some of them still a bit rough

Saturday 22nd

Things a bit lively today have been all over Cairo with letters it is a(sic) alright had to find one place this evening with a letter with the wrong add on and it took some finding was all over Cairo but I had a good time of it all the same it ammusin(sic) asking[asking] the Arabs where a place is as a rule you are worse off after asking them if you can get an Egyptian who can[speak] English at all

they will go out of their way to show you the place

Sunday 23rd January

Very cold today had three trips Bab-el-Hadid and other places am likely to stay on see a lot of Tommies [English soldiers] move out today for the front.

Monday 24th

Mates all gone back to the aerodrome have stopped as orderly had a good time of it again today had a tip to Heliopolies still very cold and showery

Tuesday 25th

Traveling(sic) as usual went to Zeitoune(sic) got lost coming from post office tonight very cold and showery concert on tonight not much

Wednesday 26th

Things very quiet drunks getting scarce had a trip to the Intermediat[e] Base and on to Helliopolies mate was sent to Zeitoun to the Camp orderly room and could not find it came back with the letter

Thursday 27th

Still having showery weather very cold at nights as well things very quiet today brought in a prisoner last night wanted to fight every one of the guard he went into a fit all [to] do with drink.

Friday 28th

Things very quiet today had one trip to the overseas base and a trip to the aerodrome our brigade made into the 1st Aust Reserve Brigade

Saturday 29th

Nothing much doing had two or three trips to Bad-El-Hadid and a trip to the Overseas Base the weather is getting warmer but very cold at night brought in

two three prisoners today drugged(sic) with native drink it seems to have a terrible effect on them they come in here all fight and they struggle with the guards for a while then they go into a fit

Sunday 30th January

A bit of a rising among the natives instead of our men going to church they were under arms about fourteen natives killed a trip to Zeitoun and the A.?S.C.T, foggy this morning

Monday 31st

Very quiet today had a trip to Zeitoun again today been stamping evelops(sic) and passes all the evening some of our chaps to go to Tel E.[el] Kebir tomorrow

Tuesday February 1st 1916

Things very quiet today had a go at typewriting mad(sic) a poor attempt at it had a trip to the overseas Base see a bullock in a lorrie yoked up like a horse it looked (unclear)

Wednesday 2nd

Thing still very quiet had a trip to the aerodrome missed pay seen two nigger boys having a fight they make things willing seen a nig pelted out of a tram

Thursday 3rd

Nothing doing at all today things getting quieter every day been sitting down all day trying to learn the typewriter having nothing else to do

Friday 4th

Had a trip twice to the aerodrom(sic) reported missing two of us our seargants(sic) reported full strength when the men were counted there was

two short that is how we missed(unclear)

Saturday 5th

Things very quiet still been inside all day it has been raining all the evening and flooded our tent out very close and muggy with the rain had about three hundred nigger prisoners here this evening did not see them myself they were only outside the barracks they marched them away again

Sunday 6th February

Had a trip to the aerodrome this evening see a big mob of Turkish prisoners came in to day they look as though they had a hard time of it

Monday 7th

Nothing doing at all things are getting more quiet every day had a trip to the Intermedial [Intermediate] Base been sitting down the rest of the day

Tuesday 8th

Had a case of melingititus [meningitis?] among the cooks heard there was an out break of small pox among the natives at the aerodrome(sic) company ready to move out

Wednesday 9th

Had a fairly good time of it today went to Zeitoun and all round Cairo and also a trip to the [unclear – cannot find similar name for auxiliary hospitals of Heliopolis] hospital this evening likely to be kept here peremant(sic)

Thursday 10th

Things the same old thing went to the aerodrome to get paid the CO told us that our time was not up until twelve o'clock midnight

Friday 11th

Had a trip to the aerodrome and got paid got order to hold ourselves in readiness to move to Tel-el-Kebir and there is very little doing here now.

Saturday 12th

Have been expecting to be called back to the aerodrome all day but we are still waiting there is nothing doing here all I have done today is reading except for a trip to the A.P.M [Anzac Provost Corps] and the screws (?) are keeping me pretty weary getting rid of the toothache have had it for a week now with out a stop posted diary on the 8th Intermediate Base

Sunday 13th February

Went to the All Saints Church in Cairo a good crowd of (unclear) people there very few soldiers been busy all the afternoon taking names of men for piquet [from here on, changes of spelling for this word]

Monday 14th

Nothing doing at all today had couple of short trips been writing passes all the evening drunks getting very scarce(unclear) had a bit of practice at typing today getting on good now

Tuesday 15th

had a quiet time today with nothing to do only inside with passes has been raining all day had a couple of trips to Bab-el-Hadid and Intermediate Base

Wednesday 16th

Had a trip to Zeitoun tonight was fairly busy fixing up the new piquet with badges all the company gone to Tel-el-Kebir

Thursday 17th

Wrote six letters tonight one home and the rest to T H. H le H. G.W. W.O B. and E. K. Thing[s] still very quiet

Friday 18th

Had a quiet day have been off all the afternoon in Cairo and had photo taken having a look at (?) the Kursell 5th P [Kursaal Palace?– cinema taken over by Army]

Saturday 19th

Things still very tame had a trip to aerodrome have been practicing on the typewriter likely to have the job here no more talk of our being sent back to our unit think we are on perement(sic) got a good few drunks in tonight some of them made a row when they came in

Sunday 20th February

Nothing doing at all getting more quiet every day have been typing the most of the day wrote a letter to M & M Hall

Monday 21st

Change of picquet [another change of spelling] had a trip to Zeitoun a great row here between the sergeant major and the sergeant of the guard both under open arrest till(?) tomorrow

Tuesday 22nd

A trip to Heliopolies and the Intermediate Base posted ten letters the man who was taken from here with melingitis(sic) [meningitis] died brought in a desperate character took six men to handcuff him

Wednesday 23rd

The man Shef [Shee?](?) got last night got out of his handcuffs he was taken away today the escort was armed with

five rounds of ammunition and he had two pairs of handcuffs on

Thursday 24th

Missed the typewriting so slow at it nothing doing at all

Friday 25th

Had a trip to Heliopolies was questioned by a red cap for wearing piquet badge. The man they brought in and had such a job with got away again with two pairs of handcuffs on

Saturday 26th

A trip to the A.P.M Zeitoun and Abbassia things getting (unclear) with nothing doing at all am getting back tomorrow to church wrote out about one hundred and fifty passes tonight still getting a few drunks in just brought a sergeant in drunk

Sunday 27th February

Had a ramble round this afternoon went to the Zoo and then went to the pictures to see Charlie Chaplin again as good as ever

Monday 28th

Nothing doing at all feeling weary of the job getting warm during the day wrote letter to A.P.

Tuesday 29th

Had the job of sealing down letters it is no joke to close up two or the[three] hundred of them still catching a few drunks.

Wednesday 1st March 1916 [this day in red ink]

Had the pleasure of having a yarn to J. Obrien of Bull (?) Plain he has the (unclear) up things

Very quiet getting fed up of the place.

Thursday 2nd

Had a curse of a job typing out passes then stamping them with three different stamps and answering the telephone things were a bit lively (?) feel a bit weary after it

Friday 3rd

Getting infernally hot had a trip to Zeitoun and it was beastly going across the desert The Batt [Battery?] is insisting (?) summer clothing will want nothing on by the look of things

Saturday 4th

Had to stop in all day nothing doing at all had a good haul (?) in accounts our sergeant major was placed under open arrest for being out of bounds and in a house of ill fame he was caught the night before in the same sort of a place the charge sheets was put in against him and he made [very light?] of it

Sunday 5th March

Had the day off went to the Zoo and stayed there all the afternoon came back and went to the pictures feeling very seedy

Monday 6th [no entry]

Tuesday 7th

Sergeant Cook in trouble selling arms rations bought camera giving photography a try have mounted orders [vehicle?horse?] to save us long trips

Wednesday 8th

A riot in Cairo today one man shot by an officer he is going to get into trouble over it there has been wires all the evening about it

Thursday 9th

Another set to in town again six men with revolvers in the street using

using(sic) them have heard no particulars yet the man who was shot yesterday doing well

Friday 10th

Have been in the barracks all day was fairly busy with the piquet changing have been writing out passes all the evening things very quiet

Saturday 11th

Still in trouble over the passes heard the O.C. [Officer Commanding] say that I could not write out passes for sour tripe (?) not sorry to lose the job had a walk out today to the overseas-leave area and to the aerodrome things very quiet still except in the orderly room getting blamed for everything that is lost.

Sunday 12th March

Had the day off went to the aerodrome camp met a chap from Daysdale things still the same old things getting warm weather now

Monday 13th

Nothing doing at all today got out of writing out passes at night and am not sorry thing[s] going to be lively tomorrow change of piquet

Tuesday 14th

Had a trip to the aerodrome and to the Overseas Base and the A.P.M. things still very quiet not many troops in camp now all at Tel-el-Kebir

Wednesday 15th

A trip to the A.P.M. Heliopolies and the S Press printing works got a drink of coffee there

Thursday, Friday, Saturday 16th, 17th, 18th [blank]

Sunday 19th March

day off today and put in the time taking many shots of the Zoo and pyramids & round up by going to the pictures.

Monday 20th

Still on the gharry fare(?) papers had a busy day handing out and typing out nominal rolls & still getting a few prisoners.

Tuesday 21st

Had a trip to the oasis camp have about 1200 [? very faint] deserters caught about three hundred of them sending a lot home

Wednesday 22nd

Had a trip to Zeitoun & getting very quiet in town and the cells are full of prisoners as usual and they are cursing and swearing their best

Thursday 23rd

Have been bringing in lot of prisoners all day some of them are perfect outlaws the square is nearly full of gharrys with prisoners waiting to be searched

Friday 24th

Getting some ruffians in now they are the scum of the army and fit for any crime at all there is some hold up (?) being made into a police staff (?)

Saturday 25th

Had a trip to Zeitoun early this morning it was very hot on the desert had a general inspection here did not see it as I emshied(?) out of it had a letter from Sally Cowen today. Am getting fed up with this place the sooner the war is finished the better

Sunday 26th March

Had a look through the museum and found it very interesting went to the

pyramids and took some photos the first I took were no good.

Monday 17th

Great excitement got a wire to say that we all had to pack up and get out of here for france(sic) a lot of organising and betting as to who is going and who is not

Tuesday 28th

A wire this morning to say that only four hundred of us had to go away after we had all packed up ready to go rumor(sic) says we go Monday next

Wednesday 29th

Had a devil of a spill tonight plonked my knee into a stone and made me see stars it is getting very hot lately

Thursday 30th

Still getting hotter we all have to shift out of here in a few days. S.M [Sergeant Major?] is trying to get extra duty pay for us. Knee still very sore

Friday 31st

Shifted from the Barracks today back to the aerodom(sic) and was told that we were deserters we placed on the strength again

Saturday 1st April 1916

on quarter guard and it is a hot job to arrange (?) bit hard after doing nothing for three months

Sunday 2nd April

On guard and things are very quiet there is some talk of shifting again to Tel-el-Kebir

Monday 3rd

Shifted to Tel-el-Kebir packed in to open trucks like a lot of sheep had to

guard a prisoner all the way do not think much of the place

Tuesday 4th

Relieved from guard after 48 hours had two hours spell then we were put on fatigue till six o'clock at night had [to?] load transport waggons(sic) and drag (?) them loaded ourselves. No horses

Wednesday 5th

On fatigue all day one of the piquet O.C. have been picking out men for the Anzac Police Force

Thursday 6th

On guard all day has been extremely hot and the flies are something awful they are here in millions Birdwood house is the name of the place we are guarding.

Friday, Saturday 7th, 8th blank

Sunday 9th April

On fatigue all day making horses out of out ourselves carting bread and wood it is getting unbearably hot and there is millions of flies here

Monday 10th

On the Ganiharr(?) piquet an all right job nothing to do a big mob of troops have just arrived here they will wish they had stopped at home after they have been here awhile

Tuesday 11th

Called up for the Anzac police had a trip from Tel-el-Kebir to Abbassia farms the whole way and they looked well it took us six hours to do the trip of sixty five miles

Wednesday 12th ANZAC

At Abbassia for the police on parade all the morning have been medically inspected

Thursday 13th

A curse of a day a dust storm and blowing a hurricane called off parade through it

Friday 14th

On parade for the first time in three months. We have some hard drill in front of us as we have to be perfect we are to be a crack regiment

Saturday 15th April 1916

Had three and a half hours drill before breakfast we were nearly famished when we had done there was a general inspection by the general we are getting issued new uniforms they will be a bit cooler than the ones we have it is very cold at night and fairly warm in the day things very quiet as no one is granted leave

Sunday 16th April

Laid in bed till seven o'clock on parade at eight church parade for the first time in three months poor preacher

Monday 7th

Usual parade getting roared up a treat had an inspection and we made a mess of it drilling worse than recruits will be here some time if we do not improve

Tuesday 18th

Nothing usual [unusual?] same old routine getting roared up still and likely to have a lecture every morning after breakfast on direction

Wednesday 19th

Afraid(?) everyone of our(?) shift great rush to canteen for tobacco and cigarettes or (?) a slight improvement in our drill [entry very faint]

Thursday 20th

Having a fairly good time of it and got great praise from the O.C. for our company drill today we are all trying our best to be perfect

Good Friday 21st

Duty company today have been orderly had a trip to Cairo very quiet in town the tradesmen complaining about no business(sic) doing

Saturday 22nd

Have an easy time of it today only one parade and an inspection of hair all of us ordered to go to the barbers have been lying(unclear) down and arguing the point ever since a general inspection on Monday by the general so we will have to hop round a bit lively and let him see what we can do.

Easter Sunday 23rd April

Church parade this morning chaplain(sic) a very poor speaker have case of smallpox and a case of measles in the camp feeling a bit like summer

Monday 24th

Parade this morning had General Wilson to inspect us and Harvey Pasha after dismissal had a holiday have a reading and writing room

Tuesday 25th

Parade to commorate(sic) the landing in the Dardenelles was only a short sermon and a few hymns and finished with the last post being sounded

Wednesday 16th

On parade again after the spell?(unclear) have been picked out as a reliable man and attentive to drill it has been fearfully hot today and it is very hot tonight looks like a change

Thursday 27th

Orderly again am lucky so far missing guard and fatigue quite cool today are to be issued with rifles tomorrow

Friday 28th

More trouble in store for us was [to] have been issued with rifles and bandoliers so we will be kept busy keeping them clean still keeping cool

Saturday 29th

On parade with rifles till breakfast then after that we had a general inspection in the lines don't think that anyone was caught put the afternoon in cleaning my buttons and bandolier we will have plenty to do for the future keeping our things clean it is likely to cost us something for boot polish and metal polish. Keeping cool

Sunday 30th April

On cooks fatigue for the first time in months about fifty men to be sent back to Tel-el-Kebir things very quiet here today.

Monday 1st May, 1916

Getting plenty of rifle and bayonet exercise by numbers we seem to be doing fairly well no trouble with the C.Os,

Tuesday 2nd

On quarter guard another case of small pox in the Tommies camp this time he had a rough time of it they set out for the hospital at 11am and got there at 4pm

Wednesday 3rd

Got a bit of a ...ing (working?) from our O.C. [Officer Commanding] this

evening about our drill he said we were like a lot of sheep all over the place.

Thursday 4th

Blank

Friday 5th

Still in trouble over our drill the SM is going on a treat the most of us getting tired of the one thing over and over again

Saturday 6th

Sports this afternoon but they were very tame the two best items was the donkey race and the fancy dress. B coy got first in the Sheffield walking race and tug of war second in the squad drill and first for the most original costume had a concert in the evening it was very good boxing and singing everyone seemed to enjoy themselves

Sunday 7th May

On Q.M. [quarter master] fatigue all day taking Kits to Kasr-el-nil has been extremely hot all day

Monday 8th

On parade got roared up again and got a talking to by the O.C. when he came although he praised our platoon up he gave the others rats(?)

Tuesday 9th

Another small mob moved out for Kasr-el-nil today would have gone myself only some one pinched my tunic will all be shipping from here in a few days

Wednesday 10th

Getting sick and tired of drill it['s] nothing but slope arms by number from the time we go on parade till we come off

Thursday 11th

On quarter guard all the rest of the men have been inoculated and it isol...(?) them (unclear) it is getting unbearably hot

Friday 12th

Shipped to Kasr-el-nil Barracks for duty. We marched out at twelve oclock and had gone a quarter of a mile when the O.C. stopped us and sent us back till it was a bit cooler

Saturday 13th

On patrol in Cairo filled the cells up and some rough men amongst them there was talk of a mob comming(sic) from Tel-el-Kebir to deal it out to us there was a few came in but they soon in the cells there is five N.Zs men to be shot tomorrow for burning a native hut and destroying five of their oxen and two donkeys [New Zealand, but not Australian, troops were subject to capital punishment]

Sunday 14th May

Went to Tel-el-Kebir as escort with one hundred and sixty prisoners and we had to march out without breakfast_the heat is terrible

Monday 15th

Had another trip to Tel-el-Kebir with another mob of prisoners had one that had got away twice before but we landed him safe in clink

Tuesday 16th

Have had a holiday today has been terribly hot there is a (?) mob comming(sic) from Tel-el-Kebir tomorrow to deal it out to us they will get the worst of it if they try

Wednesday 17th

Have been settling down all day as there is a thing doing had to get inoculated again arm feeling a bit sore

Thursday 18th

Had an easy day again today but had to go on patrol at 9.p.m. untill(sic) three in the morning some of them did not get back until 5 oclock

Friday 19th

Had to get up at five oclock after being on fatigue all day and then had to go on patrol until twelve midnight and feel weary on it

Saturday 20th

Paid today and had to pay ten T.P. for washing we never had done it was no good saying anything about we had to pay and then they were asking for subs for the cricket team and the most of us has never seen any of the gear there was a match today and none of us could get leave to go and see it

Sunday 21st May

Church parade this morning had to pay out again it is nothin(sic) but pay out lately had a bit of a march to the gardens

Monday 22nd

Nothing much doing on the patrol and things are very quiet getting a few A.W.L [Absent Without Leave] and deserters

Tuesday 23rd

Still getting a few prisoners in the train raids and a lot get away have got a beaut of a cold feeling very seedy on it

Wednesday 24th

Having a quiet time of it getting rid of the deserters and few A.W.L no one on the train last night so we had nothing to do

Thursday 25th

Making no catches at all Most of the men going away to France we a (sic) booked to go in a fortnight still keeping cool

Friday 26th

Had the Anzac band to take us to our post and nearly all the niggers in Cairo were after us had a good catch off the train

Saturday 27th

Had orders to be lively on our post general Godley was supposed to come and inspect us but he did not got another haul off the train they all had passes but they were using them too early so they had to put in a night in the cells the C.O. told that he would try to get them their leave in the morning getting hot again

Sunday 28th May

Church parade once we were inspected by General Godley all the troops getting away from Egypt by the thousand still getter a few A.W.L. men getting hot again

Monday 29th

Nothing doing getting a spell of the trains for a night or two

Tuesday 30th

Still quiet getting tired of the job nothing to do (?) of the A.P.C. got 18 days detention for being in the wazza [brothel district]

Wednesday 31st

More of the A.P.C copping out for disobeying orders and are doing 11 days detention for it.

Thursday June 1st 1916

Made catch (?) among the German tradesmen all big heads to[too] had to go as guard and escort for them

Friday 2nd

One hundred men picked out for guard of honor(sic) for A McMahon (unclear) and today (?) they are getting nothing at [but?] rifle drill at present

Saturday 3rd

Nothing doing getting more quiet every day and it is getting hotter. The heads are giving the Corp plenty of Kidshakes(?) the hardest is the way they escorted the German prisoners to Alexandria and never lost one a cable came through today saying that the German fleet had had a go at the british and sunk a lot of ships one chap could not (unclear) after he heard the news

Sunday 4th June

Church parade and are being issued with batons some of the cos [companies?] are leaving on Tuesday for England

Monday 5th

General leave granted today and guard of honor(sic) great success they were so good that the Adjutant shouted for them all and the C.O. said that he was proud of them

Tuesday 6th

Tried to arrest a scotchman last night and he gave me a bit of a doing he gave me one in the jaw to start with and made it feel a bit thick

Wednesday 7th

Very sore after the rough and tumble last night had a collection to make a wedding present to C.O. who is getting married tomorrow they got nice bit together.

Thursday 8th

Formed guard of honor(sic) at the C.O's wedding our coy got 16.£.E. at the Collection and gave him a hansom(sic) dressin(sic) case with which he was well pleased

Friday 9th

A great gloom over everyone at the news of Kitcheners death all the officers wearing crape(sic) [probably black crepe armband] another outbreak of smallpox in camp

Saturday 10th

Things still quiet and likely to be by the look of things our W.O.[Warrant Officer] and A.S.M.[Assistant Sergeant Marshall?] have been drunk since the C.Os. wedding the W.O gave us fifty T.P. to have a drink the smallpox has stopped our going away (crossed out) last Friday will not be going now for a week. Still keeping hot

Sunday 11th June

Memorial service before breakfast still very hot nearly all the troop have left for France

Monday 12th

Had a parade this morning on coy drill made a mess of it the N.C.Os [Non-commissioned Officers] no good the C.O. told one to get a box of matches to practice with

Tuesday 13th

? on parade all day till eleven o'clock at night & had a big day all the big heads of Egypt were here at the memor[ial] [Kitcheners'] service the place was crowded

Wednesday 14th

The memorial service was a big thing here all the Gippos in Egypt were there the A.P.C were all on duty and the most of us saw nothing

Thursday 15th

Still collection money from us for sport we have not seen any of them yet concert tomorrow and very few of us will see it

Friday 16th

Nothing doing and the boys arging(sic) over things they know nothing about had rumor(sic) that we are all leaving here on Tuesday

Saturday 17th

Picked us over again to see who would stay behind only a dozen fell out and they had to detail the required number the C.O. and the Adjutant are going with the first lot after all their brag about staying here with us one(?) will be here till the 26th(?) (unclear) only now am getting fed up of the whole thing

Sunday 18th June

Church parade had half day off took some photos things still keeping very quiet and hot

Monday 19th

Had a lecture on obscene language some of them want it bad enough some of them are not like human beings at all

Tuesday 20th

Another case of small pox in the Barracks all getting vacinated(sic) again had a lecture on it this morning another of the A.P.C. in trouble

Wednesday 21st

Has been fearfully hot all day the wind is like a furnace things very quiet in fact there is nothing doing at all

Thursday 22nd

There is a lot of sickness getting here now one of our mates has gone to the hospital there is another case of smallpox

Friday 23rd

Have to go on parade every morning now and do a bit of drill the men are yelping about it

Saturday 24th

Having some hot weather the natives say that this past two days has been the hottest known for thirty years it was one hundred and thirty five in the shade and by parading in full uniform no wonder the men are all sick they have knocked off talking about going away lately

Sunday 25th June

Out on church parade at 7.30 this morning take up a Collection every Sunday thing getting from bad to worse

Monday 26th

Another of the A.P.C. died from smallpox to day one of the officers very bad have not heard what is the matter with him yet

Tuesday 27th

The C.C. [Camp Commandant?] is roaring the N.C.Os and officers up he says that there is none of them know

how to give a word of command things
messed up properly

Wednesday 28th

Had the day off and put in the time
taking photos saw two officers pinched
for being drunk. There is more talk of
our going away on Monday the sooner
the better

Thursday 29th

Things very quiet beginning to settle
down to our parades but our N.C.Os still
mess things up

Friday 30th

Just got the dinkum oil that we are
going to Eng on Monday we are over
strength and the C.O. is picking men out

Saturday 1st July 1916

A lot of men crimed [charged] and sent
back to their units for being late on
parade we are over strength and we
have to be careful or we will be put out
of the corps we were told that anyone
wishing to join their units to make an
application at one[once?] there has been
a lot of talk of leaving now they have a
chance to go they not be so ready to go

Sunday 2nd July

Church parade before breakfast service
rotten the one thing over and over again
our latest is that we are not going till the
12th (11th?)

Monday 3rd

Soon be shipping out of this got another
issue of clothes for winter so now we
shouldn't(?) be long our latest order is
to have our meals with our hats off
quiet(sic) cool today

Tuesday 4th

Got issued with another lot of clothes so
we must soon be going to leave there is
nothing doing on our line(?) at all here
only killing time

Wednesday 5th

Our latest wire is that only five platoon
is going out of B Coy all A Coy and A
squadron the rest of B to be left behind

Thursday 6th

Only one platoon of B Coy and all A
Coy is going away on Saturday things
are that mixed up we know nothing

Friday 7th

Still undecided things getting worse
there is one thing the weather is a bit
cooler this last two or three days

Saturday 8th

Things still very quiet cannot find out
when we are going to leave here it is a
subject of much discussion among the
men the corps is going to the dogs our
officer in charge was drunk on duty he
left his patrol several times to hop into a
pub and quench his thirst

Sunday 9th July

Church parade at eight oclock about a
dozen men in the cells for gambling in
the barracks all c & pte(?) men to(sic)

Monday 10th

The men up for gambling got out of it
five others were sent to join their units
and six more paraded to be sent back to
their units

Tuesday 11th

All B Coy on patrol A Coy supplying
fatigue and reserves. Getting very hot
again

Wednesday 12th

Changed on patrol from night to day shift not much of a game have to stand at ease all the time.

Thursday 13th

Changed on patrol on police duties nothing to do long hours still very hot

Friday 14th

Still nothing doing no more talk of our going away was speaking to the dr this morning he is in a hurry to get out of this

Saturday 15th

More of the A.P.C. leaving the Corps if it lasts much longer there will be none left it is a continual fight among them the cleaning up of the rooms and the mess orderlies is a subject of much wrangling still keeping hot some of them say it has got to one hundred and forty deg [degrees]

Sunday 16th July

Church parade again this morning everyone getting tired of it we are not getting military church service but civil service and it is a weary job listening to it

Monday 17th

Parade at five oclock this morning to get our photos taken a more dopey lot of men never stepped on a parade ground.

Tuesday 18th

No parade this morning everyone pleased farewell concert tonight some of the items were good most of it rotten the Tommies brass band was very good

Wednesday 19th

Had a trip down the river a distance of fifteen miles in a pleasure boat there

was a hundred and seventy of us a lot of them got drunk and spoilt the affair

Thursday 20th

Had to do twelve hour shift mate had to go to the hospital going to leave here next Thursday if we do not miss

Friday 21st

Change over of patrols the men get used to their job then they are taken off again there is nothing doing

Saturday 22nd

B Coy taken over guard they are saying nothing either things are properly messed up again with all the N.C.Os we have their(sic) about one hundred men they can not account for they have no idea where they are or what they are doing they have a tattoo every night then they do not know where they are

Sunday 23rd July

Church parade not such a long sermon this morning it was that good I nearly went to sleep

Monday 24th

More A.P.Cs in trouble one got seven days. C.C.[Confined to Camp]and the other five days the later[latter?] for not washing(?) a (unclear) the former for leaving his port

Tuesday 25th

Things a bit lively with the patrols they are all altered and a man on duty is not allowed to speak to anyone not even his mates

Wednesday 26th

On parade for rifle exercise only about thirty of us still doing our work by numbers we are getting worse instead of better and had a lecture on first aid

Thursday 27th

Things very quiet and hot our latest rumour is that we are going to leave here next Tuesday if we don't miss again as we always do

Friday 28th

Lot of men on sick parade lately with siktie (unclear) mouths had an inspection of the Barracks by General Watson never heard what he thought of them

Saturday 29th

Getting a move on Thursday one hundred of us is staying behind untill (sic) Tel-el-Kebir is cleared out. They say clearly two weeks will finish it a lot of men crimed this morning for not getting out of bed at the proper time they got six days C.C.

Sunday 29th July

Church parade this morning getting sick of the same sermon have volunteered to stay behind three times

Monday 30th

Getting ready to stay here except the men who are staying behind

Tuesday August 1st 1916

Inspection of the men going away by general (unclear) and he gave them an address and said he hoped that they would (unclear by 4)

Wednesday 2nd

The corps busy packing up to shift in the morning on police duty all day, some of the men hoping (?) to change back a lot of girls looking for their men

Thursday 3rd

The mob moved off this morning at three oclock. Five were missing

(unclear) detailed off to go but did not a lot of them were drunk.

Friday 4th

Things in a muddle since the mob left the ones left behind do not seem to know where there they are or what to do

Saturday 5th

The gentlemen of the L.H. ['gentlemen' seems to be a common phrase for the Light Horse regiment] have come to give assistance but they appear to have made things worse our C.O. is a LH man and our R.S.M. on fatigue all the morning pulling down tents we are having some cool weather lately the Nile is in flood and rising fast

Sunday 6th August

Church parade only the Aust were the only ones there there were only about fifty of them the collection must have suffered

Monday 7th

Escort for Turkish prisoners all day to the Bab-el-Lauk (Louk?) rly(railway) station for Macadia(?) a lot of them foot sore and could hardly walk

Tuesday 8th

On escort again had four hundred (unclear) so had to look after the most of us could not see for sweat and the prisoners were in the same plight

Wednesday 9th

On patrol for a spell nothing doing for patrol(?) work as there is very few soldiers here things are still in a muddle

Thursday 10th

On patrol again had a good spell nearly two days had an inspection of rifles the C.O. said the rifles were good but the

bayonets were a disgrace the dinkum oil is that we leave her on the 22nd

Friday 11th

Missed parade fall in and had to toddle (?) was lucky I did not get C.C. made a raid on the bugs with gass(sic) have not seen any dead yet

Saturday 12th

Things fairly quiet seen a Conaughtman (?) [Irish Regiment] and he had just come to Cairo to have a look round and he told me that he had been all over the world and he told me that the slums of Cairo were the dirtiest and filthiest he had ever been in and that the Australians pride themselves in going to those places

Sunday 13th August

Church parade the sermons are getting worse and worse we are compeled (sic) to attend and the chaplin(sic) takes no notice of us except to collect (our cash/dosh?)

Monday 14th

On guard a rather early cop one hour on and five off our latest is that we are to stay here till the end of the war

Tuesday 15th

On patrol nothing doing

Wednesday 16th

On patrol the hour a bit lively with natives the funeral of the Sultan's mother the streets were packed

Thursday 17th

Inoculated for cholera the Turks are bringing it with them from the Canal on patrol still nothing doing only about a dozen soldiers in Cairo

Friday 18th

The men got their 8.1/2(?) a day but there will be some trouble over it before it is all over pulled out of it we have to have our messes separate now

Saturday 19th

having a day of nothing doing things getting more tame every day three A.P.C. in the cooler for refusing to be inoculated they are likely to cop out over it two of them are gentlemen of the L.H and one Inf [Infantry] there is no talk of our shifting yet fancy we are here for good

Sunday 20th August

Missed church parade on early morning patrol reported last night that a Aus soldier snatched a ladys handbag containing twenty five €

Monday 21st

On cooks fatigue not a bad job the two L.H.men got inoculated in preference to being crimed the Inf man out under open arrest.

Tuesday 22nd

On guard the best job of the lot there is some talk of our shifting again five more of the L.H. in the cooler for disobeying an order both for C.M.[Court Martial]

Wednesday 23rd

Two of our sgts got their Commissions one of them that drunk that he could not stand up the other one shouted beer and cigarettes for some of us.

Thursday 24th

On patrol the Devons had some sports here they were very good and they had a good concert a(sic) night

Friday 25th

L.H. took over the guard as they are under orders to move out some of them seemed a bit down at the mouth having to go they had a good home here

Saturday 26th

On patrol there was in issue of gift stuff today but had to go on duty and missed our lot get it tomorrow the L.H. have marched out they have gone to Moascar they will not have such good times there was some rejoicing when the Shek and Cont patrol was cut out but they had to be put on again

Sunday 27th August

Inoculation this morning no church parade on guard nothing doing things very quiet

Monday 28th

Holiday had a walk round had a look at the pictures

Tuesday 29th

On patrol there is some talk of our leaving here for Moascar so if that is so we will not go to the old country

Wednesday 30th

On patrol bandoliers and bayonets cut out have wear batons three more of the A.P.C. doing seven day C.C.B.[? Confined to Barracks?]

Thursday 31st

On patrol with orders to shift everyone out of town at half past nine and ask for passes made no captures

Friday September 1st 1916

On patrol still nothing doing has been very hot lately

Saturday 2nd

On guard it is the best job of the lot there is very little to do. Got a few more prisoners last night tho two men we let go got caught is has been reported the six of the Anzacs got kicked to death in France there was a few of them marked before they left here

Sunday 3rd September

No church parade again this morning got the day off after guard but no money

Monday 4th

On patrol and no catches six of the A.P.C. in the hospital with a h...nile(?) fever we re all likely to get it as the river goes down

Tuesday 5th

Holiday stayed in the barracks all day feeling very seedy. Weather getting cooler and cold at night

Wednesday 6th

On patrol that sick I can hardly stand up. Have not seen the dr yet if it keeps up will parade tomorrow

Thursday 7th

On guard our bugler got seven days C.B. for being A.W.L. [Absent Without Leave] He was the only prisoner we had to guard

Friday 8th

On leave went into Cairo and was that miserable was glad to get out of it went to the gardens

Saturday 9th

On patrol and nearly got into trouble for not asking men for passes one of the O.C.s [Officer Commanding] arrested two men on our beat for not having passes and he said we were not on our beat and one of the other O.C.s gave us

a lecture about it but we got out of it the system is rotten

Sunday 10th September

No church parade on patrol things still very quiet

Monday 11th

On patrol nothing to do only walk about

Tuesday 12th

On guard and only one post (?) now the cool weather is coming on we are allowed to wear shorts

Wednesday 13th

Had the day off but no where to go every place still(?) full up of this place would like a shift but not likely to get one

Thursday 14th

On patrol had to ? three hours at ease for a stretch things very quiet still some talk of bringing the troops back here

Friday 15th

On patrol got a few drunks things getting more ..ale every day not feeling to (sic) well have to see the Dr

Saturday 16th

On patrol things a bit more lively as big mob of soldiers in town two more of the A.P.C. in trouble one A.W.L. and the other for disobeying an order the sgt and the cpl were fined a £ and sent back to their units for being drunk on patrol the patrol sgt and cpl had a row and then the S.M. got into holts(sic) with the sgt there is to(sic) much cut throat business (unclear) to be any good

Sunday 17th September

On guard no church parade the C.O. has got another star and he is letting us know it he has been doing some roaring lately

Monday 18th

Day off but was to(sic) weary to go out see to be getting completely worn out has been cool today one of the APC got 14 days for being A.W.L.

Tuesday 19th

On patrol got a few A.W.L. but had no trouble with them it is getting cold at night now but it is hot enough in the daytime

Wednesday 20th

Day off for some reason or other had a trip to Abbassiah [Abbassia] for a detention man fifteen of the A.T.P.(?) have to go to Helliopolies(sic) for L.H. [Light Horse}training

Thursday 21st

On patrol had an easy time of it there was a good crowd of Indians in to see the ceremony of the holy carpet

Friday 22nd

Escort for hospital patients going home would like to have been among them

Saturday 23rd

On guard things very tame another of the A.P.C. in trouble for being drunk and missing his patrol there has been two or three of them have been lucky in escaping the cooler the S.M. [Sergeant Major] allowed one out on patrol but he had sense enough to walk straight

Sunday 24th September

On leave went out to Helliopolies to have a look at it again it is finished all the shops are closed up

Monday 25th

On patrol a big mob of Schotish(sic) are in town they have just come off the desert

Tuesday 26th

On patrol a raid of(sic) on the Scottish(sic) Horse caught about fifty of them A.W.L.

Wednesday 27th

On patrol things quieter today got a N.Z. who gave himself up after nine months absence

Thursday 28th

On patrol very quiet in town as there is no leave granted until four o'clock the Nile is still rising and the Barracks are getting flooded

Friday 29th

On patrol still plenty of Jocks [Scottish] in town but they are very quiet

Saturday 30th

On patrol nothing doing lot of absentees but are not getting any of them so far had orders to get one dead or alive as though he was a desperat(sic) man but one of the sgts flicked/plucked(?) him and he gave no trouble our S.M wants us to go to church tomorrow don't think any will

Sunday October 1st, 1916

No one went to church to(sic) weary nothing doing

Monday 2nd

On guard as usual got last shift two more APC in trouble A.W.L. one got seven day C.B.

Tuesday 3rd

On leave not up to much seeing the same things over again

Wednesday 4th

On patrol nothing doing getting tired of doing nothing

Thursday 5th

On patrol one of the A.P.C. pinched for being out of bounds a few Tars [sailors] in town today and some of them for the nov(?)

Friday 6th

On patrol still a big mob of soldiers in town but they are a quiet lot

Saturday 7th

On patrol nothing doing only saluting officers and there is plenty of that it is right and left every stride and there is a general inspection by the G.O.C. on the 10th Oct half past eight getting very cold now but is still warm enough in the day

Sunday 8th October

On patrol Kursal [Kursaal – amusement park] (unclear) English Review place packed both times and the street packed with people

Monday 9th

On patrol things a bit lively with the Gippos(sic) c.mas it was impossible to get through the crowd at times

Tuesday 10th

on patrol still lively with Gippoes(sic) Xmas nothing doing among our own men

Wednesday 11th

On leave trams crowded with Gippos(sic) almost impossible to get a ride on one

Thursday 12th

On patrol nothing doing

Friday 13th

On patrol still quiet

Saturday 14th

On patrol great discussion about conscription a lot of men maintain that every man in Aus should be here I say

no because we are here that every one else should do the same let every one please himself

Sunday 15th October

On patrol but there is nothing doing there are very few soldiers here now and the sailors that are here are behaving themselves

Monday 16th

On guard over a lot of empty sacks it is a new guard just formed we are armed with revolvers and bullseys [bullseye?] lanterns

Tuesday 17th

On leave had a run round but nothing to see miserable on leave or duty

Wednesday 18th

On patrol nothing to do only gaze at the movies

Thursday 19th

On guard are making it a welter come home at 12 oclock then on guard next day report that 7 men in hospital pohamine [ptomaine?] poisoning

Friday 20th

On leave another of the A.P.C. in the cooler for being drunk this is the second time he has been up

Saturday 21st

On patrol got a few Devons for being drunk all details leaving tomorrow one of them has broke away from camp he done the same thing when the A.P.C. was leaving here so he ought to cop out when he is caught they were looking everywhere for him last night but have not got him yet.

Sunday 22nd October

on patrol got a few prisoners two more of the A.P.C. in trouble for being drunk and trying to break into a place

Monday 23rd

On exchange guard an easy job nothing to do only sit down and read and watch the lady (?) operators come and go

Tuesday 24th

On leave but nowhere to go or nothing to see

Wednesday 25th

On a double patrol from one oclock till twelve midnight things very quiet

Thursday 26th

On leave but it is no good there is no where to go or nothing to see

Friday 27th

On patrol nothing to do only look at the flags having cool weather fogs in the morning the Nile rising again

Saturday 28th

On patrol but nothing to do only go into the movies and look at the pictures there are very few soldiers in town now and the Tommies are taking over the patrols and were(sic) are getting more guard work to do seems that the Tommies are no good for guard

Sunday 29th October

On exchange guard very quiet nothing to do only read

Monday 30th

On leave but nowhere to go getting sick of Cairo

Tuesday 31st

Waiting for orders to go to Alexandrai [Alexandria] for a week on duty will be a bit of a change

Wednesday 1st November 1916

Having a good time lately have been off duty for three days waiting to go to Alexandra

Thursday 2nd

Had a good trip from Cairo to Alexandrai(sic) and run into a thunder storm - the first I have seen here

Friday 3rd

Having a good time nothing to do at present only ramble round the town and the seaside had a good rain and still inclined to be showery

Saturday 4th

Getting a few birds here we have got five so far and will get a few more a soon as we get the lay of the town it is still showery and it shifted in and out of bed of this morning it is a rough camp after the barracks all sand floors the tucker is rough too and not to(sic) much of it

Sunday 5th

Having a good look round Alex nothing much doing still like rain

Monday 6th

Still knocking round and doing nothing can not get a trace of our missing friends (unclear) they will take some getting by the look of things

Tuesday 7th

Walked all over Alex but no success yet and not likely to some have been missing since last March and dress as Arabs so I think we have a poor chance

Wednesday 8th

Getting sick of looking for absentees walking all day and can get no trace(?) of them.

Thursday 9th

Got order to come back and are not sorry going to make the best of today and do nothing

Friday 10th

Had a good trip home again and was glad to get back half the men did not know that we were away until we came back

Saturday 11th

On escort to Moascar [Isolation camp] with 22 hospital patients had to go down at night as they missed the first train we had a good trip Moascar is not a bad camp and close to the canal we were treated well while we were there it is one hundred and nine miles from Cairo to Moascar

Sunday 12th November

Had a good trip from Moascar to Cairo been having a fair time lately

Monday 13th

A bit of excitement there was an air raid on Cairo it is reported that was about twenty natives killed it is reported that they caught the raider at Mosac...?

Tuesday 14th

On leave after doing all day and half the night and duty after the raid we had a lively time with the natives

Wednesday 15th

On patrol the air raid is (unclear) the chief topic have been issued with permanent passe (sic) and a lot of the A.P.C. A.W.L.

Thursday 16th

On guard and have had it a bit lively escorting prisoners there was seventeen in the clink and one two escorts there was seven of the A.P.C. A.W.L.

Friday 17th

A day off to(sic) weary to move about and stopped in the barracks all day

Saturday 18th

On patrol but nothing doing we had orders to keep a look out for a Zepp that was supposed to come but it did not come and just as well as it only meant extra work for us.

Sunday 19th November

a trip to Moascar with hospital patients and have to wait for the half past eight train to come back

Monday 20th

On patrol but still the same old thing there is a lot of chaplins(sic) and Drs knock around lately giving men good advice

Tuesday 21st

On patrol but very quiet it is getting to be a weary game now

Wednesday 22nd

On patrol the same old game has been hot this last day or two

Thursday 23rd

On guard have a great game now the Barracks doors are shut and any one wanting to get in has to ring the bell which we have to answer it

Friday 24th

On leave and went to the Cossmagraph(?) [Cossmograph Theatre?] they have a notice on the scren(sic) [screen?] telling people what to do in case of a raid while they are there

Saturday 25th

Had a medical inspection but how we got on no one knows we do not know if we are A class or B class men have been

going to parade this last fortnight for a pain over the heart but the Dr did not seem to notice anything wrong with me if he did he did not say

Sunday 26th November

On patrol but nothing doing the cpl(?) of the patrol was drunk for duty and were turned down

Monday 27th

On patrol but still nothing doing plenty of foggy weather

Tuesday 28th

On store guard had an inspection of gear every thing appeared to be all right as there was nothing

Wednesday 29th

On leave but did not go out as the pay is not going to be to (sic) big this pay everyone is to be cut down till they are out of debt that overdrawn and then ten shillings overdrawn

Thursday 30th

On guard one of the men took suddenly bad so have to take his place things quiet so much so that the escort was never there when wanted

Friday December 1 1916

On leave on (one?) of the guard got roared up by a Tommie officer for not saluting him he threatened to report him to the C.O

Saturday 2nd

On patrol put in some good work as usual by letting a couple of chaps off another of the A.P.C. in trouble for being A.W.L. and missing his patrol he got 4 days C.B. for it more of our (?) get leave under three or four days so he is not doing any more than the rest of us

Sunday 3rd December

On patrol but nothing doing – have to go on parade every morning now for the good of our health

Monday 4th

On patrol still nothing to do very cold tonight like frost

Tuesday 5th

On store guard and nearly eat(sic) alive with mosquitoes some more of the A.P.C. doing time for being A.W.L.

Wednesday 6th

On leave but there is no time to go anywhere the days being so short we only get from five till ten about three hours daylight

Thursday 7th

On patrol but nothing to do only walk about there are very few troops in town now

Friday 8th

On patrol still nothing to do

Saturday 9th

On exchange guard for the first time in five weeks it is an easy job nothing to do only watch the girls go to and from and try to pick out all the different nationalities of which there must be a dozen

Sunday 10th December

On leave but was to(sic) weary to go out

Monday 11th

On patrol there was to have been an inspection this morning but like the others it failed to come off there is to be one on Wednesday

Tuesday 12th

On store guard it was a good guard untill(sic) some of the clowns spoilt it

and now the C.O. comes around to see what we are doing

Wednesday 13th

At last we have had an inspection by General Murray after being ready for about a week. We must have done our work well as the C.O. has stopped the early morning parade

Thursday 14th

On patrol did a bit of raiding and got a few A.W.Ls [Absent Without Leaves] but there was no trouble with them some of them treated it as a joke.

Friday 15th

On patrol but nothing doing it is getting to be a weary game

Saturday 16th

On telephone guard but nothing to do only watch the girls go to work the mob I was with were the worst lot I ever saw they seemed to me to be silly

Sunday 27th December

On leave but was too seedy to go out

Monday 18th

On patrol and having a fair time of it doing a bit of raiding but no captures

Tuesday 19th

On patrol but nothing to do things very quiet another of the A.P.C. shipped out for being A.W.L.

Wednesday 20th

On guard great trouble over pay was paid 35.T.P. with £9.14.2 in my pay book so they do not expect us to get drunk for Xmas

Thursday 21st

On leave but only went to the pictures at night the sun was to(sic) light to get any snapshots

Friday 22nd

On patrol made a few captures but it is very quiet the Devons are making great preparations for Xmas

Saturday 23rd

On store guard and put in the time playing crib soldiers are not allowed to go to race meetings now and we are ordered to wear F.S. caps [Field Service] until further notice we are all booked for duty on Xmas day

Sunday 24th December

On leave but nowhere to go it is getting deadly

Monday 25th

Got our Xmas gifts but none of them any good mostly all rubbish and things we did not want.

Tuesday 26th

On patrol but things very quiet for Xmas

Wednesday 27th

On quarter guard and only two of us to do it and when we come off we have to go on patrol

Thursday 28th

On patrol but nothing doing have some cold weather

Friday 29th

On patrol but nothing doing one of the patrols got 24 days No 2 [level of punishment] for being A.W.L.

Saturday 30th

On exchange guard but nothing to do very cold at night things getting hot with having [to]go on patrol after coming off guard it is worse than being in enemy country

Sunday 31st

On patrol but nothing to do being the last day of the year things were very quiet

Monday January 1, 1917.

On patrol last new year was Q.Ms [Quarter Master] fatigue this year A.P.C. which is not much of a game would like a change

Tuesday 2nd

On guard and it has been raining all day and it is bitterly cold the niggers got a great fright with a heavy clap of thunder they though(sic) it was another raid

[Diary has spaces till Jan 6, 1917 but 3-6 are not filled in.]

['Notes for 1917' on next page has been altered to 'Notes for 1916' and the page lists mail received for part of the year. As follows:]

'received three letters 17/6/16 from mother Lillyana [sister?] note difference in name from earlier details.

S.E.C.

Received letter from S.E.C. 24/5/16

Letter from mother 5/6/16

Letter from C. B. Taylor 15/8/16

“ from M. M. Hall 16/8/16

“ from L. M. Hall 29/8/16

“ from mother 25/9/16

“ from G. Wright 25/9/16

“ from S?. E. Cowen 28/9/16

Mother and S. E. Cowen 28/9/16

G. H. Hall, L. M Hall 21/19/16

From A. P. C. S. E. C. 16/10/16

Mother & S. E. C. [G. W. 12/5/16]
2/10/16

L.E.C. 39/7/16 12/11/16

T. H. Hall 15/11/16

Parcel from (unclear ...aters) 23/11/16

Parcel from mother, through the F & S
23/1/16

“ from min 30/12/16

From mother 4/12/16

S.E.C. 15/12/16

Mother, E. R. T. G. M. L. M 29/12/16

Paper & letter from S.E.C. 30/12/16 ‘

Several blank pages then ‘El Ferdan
G...Kanyung

/el [rest unclear] Benha Raffd Ber.’ [In
pale ink]

[On end page in ink] ‘Rifle No
8336/Bayonet 17169’



NOTEBOOK, Feb 5, 1916-June 2, 1916

Inside front cover

No 2678

G.A. Hall 6/17th

5 Training Bat

G.A.Hall stamped three times

Aerodrom(sic) Camp

Egypt

Inside front cover upside down

C/Pl F. L Manders

'Ballard'

Jones Street

Auchenflower

Phone Toowong 475 Brisbane

Stamped Cairo Town Piquet on top of page

February 5th 1916

Saturday 5th

things very quiet still been inside all day has been raining all the evening tents flooded out brought about three hundred Turkish prisoners there today did not see them myself but the typist (?) said he saw them they were all taken away again elsewhere

Sunday 6th

getting very tired of this job doing nothing only sitting down had a bit of a walk around the gardens seen a native funeral they carry the coffin on a beir(?) on their shoulders and all dead mans donkeys and family follow on behind there is also a mob marching in front singing Its very muddy after the rain had a trip to the aerodrome a mob of Turkish prisoners came into Cairo today they looked as though they had had a hard time of it in the trenches

Monday 7th

had a bit of a walk around Cairo things are very quiet getting aches and pains all over me will have to go to the Dr if they do not soon leave me

Tuesday 8th

had a good walk this evening went to the Governorate the Base Post office and the Ordinance(sic) store The reuhmatics(sic) gave me fits had a case of melingitis (sic) [meningitis?] among the cooks heard there was a an outbreak of small pox amongst the natives at aerodrome also heard that our company had been served out two hundred rounds of ammunition and order to move out still getting a few drunks just brought one in dead to the world

Wednesday 9th

Had a trip to Zeitoun [Army Camp] and a good time of [it?] in general finished up by having a trip to the Giza [public] hospital the screws a bit better today

Thursday 10th

Went out to the aerodrome for my pay was to have been paid at five oclock the O.C.[Officer Commanding] told us that our ten (?) days was not up until twelve oclock tonight so that means another trip there tomorrow the company is to move to Tel-E-Kebir next week things has (sic) been very quiet all day have got the devils own toothache had a yarn to one of our old O.C.s. [Officer Commanding] he has just landed here and is on town piquet heard that at the hospital patients have to hold themselves in readiness to be sent back to Australia also that all N.C.O [Non Commissioned Officer] in the hospitals that lost their stripes

Friday 11th

Paid today had a trip to the aerodrome the A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall ?] and No 4 auxillery(sic) hospital got orders to hold ourselves in readiness to move to Tel-E-Kebir things very quiet in the orderly room getting very few drunks lately got two last night one had a snake in his cap and the other was loaded up with ham and sardines

Saturday 12th

Have been waiting all day to be moved to the aerodrome to shift to Tel-el-Kebir things very quiet otherwise getting rid of the toothache have had it a week now the screws given(sic) me (unclear) lately I notice the Tommies [English soldiers] are very fond of their beer they do some yapping after the canteen has been open for about an hour and some of them get very full they(sic) more quieter than the Austs in drink am trying my best to save money enough to get a fiver together and it is [a] job to keep any at all the most of the fellows have nothing two days after they have been paid they are like millionaires when they get a hundred piashers(sic) [piastres] for about two days then they are cadging till next pay got bit myself through lending to them but no more of it for me

Sunday 13th February 'Feb 1916' stamped on top of page

Went to the All Saints church in Cairo there was a fair crowd there mostly towns people the sermon was not a long one but one of the prayers was about three yards long have been busy all the afternoon taken(sic) mens names and their badge numbers and then I typed them all out and then wrote out a lot of passes for the men for tomorrow got a devil of a sore eye tonight got a few drunks in tonight they seem to be happy in the cells they are singing a treat my little grey home in the west

Monday 19

Had a quiet day nothing doing had two trips to the A.P.M. and done a bit of typing and been writing out passes all the evening getting a bit warmer in the day time now

Tuesday 15th

Things still very quiet had a job of sealing letters for Australia had two trips to the A.P.M. raining all day things very sloppy have been writing out passes all the evening great rows over them at times fellows put in for their leave and forget to put their name or number or else the time they want off and the passes are thrown into the W.C.B. and they wonder why they get no leave and they don't forget to kick up a row about them have been on army rations for a week and was issued with two ozs [ounces – imperial measurement of weight] of tobacco or four packets of cigarettes the most of the men that were on the rations have gone back to camp and those that have come in this last few days had the benefit of those that were here on the army rations neither the cigarettes or tobacco are up to much

Wednesday 16th

Had a fair day taking names and piquet numbers there was an escort came here for a prisoner and one of them got put in the clink himself for being drunk had a trip to Zeitoune(sic) tonight and coming home in the tram a tommie was with me the conductor came to collect the fare and did not ask the Tommie for any thinking I had him a prisoner me having the piquet badge on have had bad luck lately some one is getting down on my things first the waterproof sheet then one of the blankets and now my overcoat is gone all the company has gone to Tel-el-Kebir

Thursday 17th

Things has(sic) very quiet today there has been nothing doing at all there was a wire came tonight calling all the 6th Training Batt [Battalion] from the Barracks so will have to shift tomorrow very likely wrote six letters to friends as follows mother. T.H. H.G.W.E.K.W.O.B.L.H and am feeling a bit weary on it had a fire alarm there was a great display for about half a hour it was only a practice alarm but no one knew it at the time they were all looking for the fire

Friday 18th

Had two trips to the Intermediates Base this morning have had a call to go back but there is no one to relieve us yet the Major Westgrath has gone to see about keeping us here for good

Friday 18th [repeated]

Have not been relieved yet had a couple of trips to the Intermediate base and then I got the afternoon opp [operations?] with a mate of mine we had our photos taken together and then we went back and had tea and then we came out again we was(sic) around by the Sultan Palace and it looked alright by night then we walked about until we came to the Eldorado music hall and had a look around there was soldiers drinking and woman singing on the stage to me it was not much of a place to be in to my thinking we came out of that and went into a restaurant and had a feed and then we dodged on to the Kursaal where we are now waiting for the play to start the first act was the Negros in Paris one of them was step(?) dancing and he was real he had to come back three time

the Barometer of Fidelity was fair The Allied Soldiers was worth seeing they represented Italy, Belgium, France Russia Serbia and Japan they looked very pretty in their uniforms the other parts were not much When the Allies came on the stage the applause was deafning(sic)

Saturday 19th

Went out to the aerodrome this morning and came back and have been practicing on the typewriter all the afternoon have to take the job on on Monday as the typist is going away to join his unit things very quiet still

Sunday 20th February

Nothing doing at all today was down the streets this evening and saw two niggers having an argument over a walking stick they went at it hammer and tongs for a while then they got into holts and there was soon a crowd around them I got pushed out of it lively and I did not see the finish some of the soldiers climbed up the tree guards and up the walls to see the niggers were greatly amused at them that they forgot all about the scrap have been on the typewriter the most of the day wrote one letter to M.M.H. and finished up writing out leave passes for the men tomorrow

Monday 21st

Had a trip to Zeitoun nothing doing still except for a change of piquet there was a great row here last between the seargent(sic) major and the seargent(sic) of the guard I though(sic) there was going to be murder over what it was over I do not know they are under open arrest

Tuesday 22nd

Had a trip to Hellopollies(sic) had a job of sealing letters after censure(sic) it is not much of a job had to take them to the intermediate base took a couple of parcels belonging to seargent(sic) and and(sic) a few minutes after I left he came looking for them when he was told I had them he came down the street after me and it was only luck that he got them the parcels office was not open and I was waiting for it to open when he came up the man who was taken from here with melingitis(sic) [meningitis?] died there is some talk of us going to France posted ten letters four to the home folk and the rest to S.E.C.G.W.W.O.C.K and A.K.C.R.T.

Wednesday 23rd

Things very quiet nothing doing at all the man they brought in last [night?] opened the handcuffs last night in the cell by knocking them on the floor he had his hands behind his back he has been twenty nine weeks out of camp and they have been looking for him for a long time they took him away under escort the escort was armed with five rounds of ammo and told to shoot should he attempt to get away he had two pair of handcuffs on him there has been no prisoners tonight so far

Thursday 24th

Things are getting more stale every day have been in all day did not get the typewriting way so slow at it wrote a letter home

Friday 25th

Had a trip to Helliopolies(sic) got pulled up by a red cap inquiring why I was wearing the badge had to explain to him the whys and wherefores this is the second time I have been pulled up for wearing a badge will be getting pinched one of these days The man they caught for being absent twenty nine weeks got away from the escort how he did it no one knows he had two pairs of handcuffs on and the escort was armed with five rounds and told to shoot if he got away. Anyhow they got him again last night there is a serious charge against him up [for?] forging General Machonachies signature and he is a desperate man they got him again the next night coming home in the tram this evening I thought I would have an easy ride when at the last stop a lady got into the compartment and I was very uneasy had I been able to speak French I might have been alright as it was I was like a great big kid

Saturday 26th

Had a trip to the A.P.M Zeitoun and Abbassia things are getting rotten(?) there is nothing doing at all

Sunday 27th February

Had a day off today went to the Zoo and had a look around the monkey house seems to be a great attraction it was crowded all the afternoon had a look at the hippo and the rihssories(sic) [rhinocorus?]

Went to the pictures and seen Charlie Chaplin again he takes as well in Egypt as elsewhere the place was crowded has been very hot all day and it is hot tonight it is looking like rain saw the swing bridge used it was opened to let the sailing boats to through there was about fifty of them the niggers made the devils own row getting their boats out it was worth seeing the way they are like monkeys the boats were laden with wool grain stone and dirt of some description one of the drunks in the cells just got the taste of the baynot(sic) they were making a rush for out when the guard told them to stand back at the same time he thrust the bayonet in the door and caught one of them on the hand it did not hurt him much but it bled a good bit they took him to the Dr and he had three stitches in the wound it quietened them all afterwards

Monday 28th

Has been quiet all day had a trip to the A.P.M. have been writing out passes all the evening bringing in some desperate characters tonight one had his knee cracked by one of the picqet(sic) they brought one in a while ago with a couple of pigeons in his clothes

Tuesday 29th

Things still very quiet business a(sic) usual in the guard room brought one chap in a while ago he was going to go through the lot (?) but they brought him down wollop(sic) on the floor and he spent the rest of the time yelling out Oh my poor head they soon get quietened in the guard room it has been roumed(sic) that one pay is to be cut down

Wednesday 1st March 1916 top of page stamped 1 Mar 1916

Paid tonight had a yarn to Lieut J Obrien of Bull Plain I had seen him every day for a week and to night and found [change to red ink] I found out who he was he is a hard case brought in a bird just now with 18 P.T. The chaps in the guard room were swearing because they had to count it all out things the same old thing getting fed up of this place there is no change in anything

Thursday 2nd [black ink begun again]

Had a trip to Heliopolies and the A.P.M. had a weary time of it tonight have been typing out passes and stamping them up till twelve o'clock it is a curse of a job trying wise the typewriter and about a dozen men talking and a few drunks scraping(sic) in the guard rooms and the telephone ringing every few seconds the game is up to so(to?) public

Friday 3rd

Getting very now(sic) a beast of a day today windy and dusty had a trip to Zeitoun and the sweat poured off me met two L.H.O.C. [Light Horse Officer Cadets?] I did not know they were O.C. until it was to(sic) late to salute then when I had gone about two paces passed them one said to the other another useless sort of a man refering(sic) to the Batt. [Battalion] Had they been privates they would have been in trouble on the dessert(sic) it would only be a L.H.O.C. that would pass a remark like that and stand behind their rank for protection

Saturday 4th

Had a busy morning stamping and cutting out passes for to night nothing much else doing except in the drunks line have been getting a few of them caught our seargent(sic) major again tonight and was placed under open arrest for being out of bounds and in a house of ill fame he was caught last night at the same game and a crime sheet was put in against him and the treated it as a great joke walking around with it in his hand he seemed to think he can just do as he likes he likes to catch any other poor devil and he glories in seeing them pinched how he will get on about this remains to be seen he will be copping out sooner or later

Sunday 5th March

Had the day off went to the zoo and stopped there all the afternoon came back and had a look at the pictures feeling very seedy as though I was catching a heavy cold

Wednesday 8th

Have been busy these last two day or two to(sic) busy to write my diary our seargent(sic) cook got himself into trouble for selling the army rations a serious charge the S.M. who was under open arrest for being out of bounds got out of it they gave him a pass to come and go when he likes have bought a camera and am going to give the photos business a try it seem(sic) the fashion to have one have a mounted orderly on now to save us the long trips we used to have we will have nothing to do at all now getting to(sic) weary to do much

A riot at the soldiers home one officer shot one man it is said that he shot him three times there is going to be some trouble over it the man is not dead so far had a wire that Turkey has laid down her arms the paper will be rushed tomorrow things are very quiet to night there is no drunks to night

Thursday 9th

Things a bit lively again in town a wire came through to say that there was six Aust in the town with revolvers shooting but we have heard no more about it yet – the shooting of yesterday is going to be serious for the O.C. who did it it appears that the man who was shot was an inoffensive man and was just looking on have been writing out passes all the evening as usual drunks getting scarce

Friday 10th

Have been in the Barracks all day and have been fairly busy with the Piquet changing got into a row over the leave passes some of the chaps trying to be clever so I am going to wop it on to some of them things very quiet tonight brought in a man just now who has been in the clink for the fourth time he must be fond of it

Saturday 10th

Had a trip to the aerodrome and coming back had a good joke with one of the natives as soon as the tram started he went to sleep with his head hanging out of the window one of his mates woke him up and he propped(sic) his head up against the side of the car and went to sleep again with his mouth open his mate drew my attention to him and pointed to his mouth I got a peice(sic) of paper and tried to put it in his mouth but missed another chap got a cigarette butt and dropped it into the cavity but the nig still slept on till his mate woke him again he closed his mouth when he woke up but did not know that he had anything in it till he mate told him and when he found it out he spit all the rest of the trip and his mates laughed all the way still in trouble over the passes have lost the job and am not sorry it was no joke writing out about two hundred passes every night

Sunday 12th March

Had the day off went to the aerodrome and put in the afternoon with Jackie Fryburgh and had a good yarn about Daysdale intended to try the camera again but was too busy talking in more trouble over the passes so have given the job up as a failure see how the orderly sergt gets on with them

Monday 13th

Nothing doing at all today got out of writing out the passes at night which is a godsend

Tuesday 14th

Had a trip out to the aerodrom(sic) see the 1st Training Batt going out on a rout(sic) march heard an O.C. giving a pte (?) the which way they have fallen in for Q.M.[Quarter Master?] fatigue the O.C. gave the order rear rank one pace step back march which they did he then called the bugler to fall in between facing the rear rank when he started to sound the call a front rank man started to laugh and the bugler made a mess of the call

the O.C. got wild and he made the man who was laughing laugh the other side of his face went to the Over Seas Base this evening and have four men doing pack drill for punishment they tell me (those who have done pack drill) that it is a curse of a game especially if the O.C. is sitting on a stump and they have to parade around him.

Wednesday 15th

Had sprint out to the A.P.M. Heliopolies see a nigger Kid bailed up by a billy goat near a tree guard the Kid walked around it two or three times and then made a bee line for home with the goat after him did not see the finish being in the tram nothing special doing only the chaps growling because they have not been paid yet they are four days over their time

Sunday 16th March

Have been working day and night on some crime papers as a matter of fact two of us has(sic) been at them for four days and they are not right yet have the day off and put in the time taking snapshots at the Zoo and the pyramids had a good rain on the 18th the place was all under water in the morning it has cooled the air for a while

Tuesday 21st

Had a busy day on the 20th change of piquet still warring (?) with our gakarrys [gharry—horse drawn ‘taxi’] fare papers and they are not done yet am getting wearing of the Job had some films developed but they got destroyed would have liked to have got them as they were the first I have taken the (unclear proper?) gave me a roll in place of the one spoilt had a trip to the Oasis camp heard we had 1200 (?) deserters here they caught about three hundred of them

Wednesday 22nd

Had trip to Zeitoun this evening not many soldiers knocking about they are all getting shipped out of this place now the piquet has been catching a lot this last day or two had one desparate(sic) man in here last night he was handcuffed with his hands behind his back and he tried to kick the escort one of them klonked him in the face (?) and dazed him they put him in the cells and he went out to it and they had to get him out again and send him to the hosp

Thursday 23rd

Brought in a lot of prisoners today some of them deserters who have been absent for about fifteen months and some of them are perfect outlaws have had nothing to do all day only sit down and read

Friday 24th

Still bringing in a lot of prisoners they are nearly all rotters and fit for any crime and they are using fearful language in the cells the Adjutant threatning(sic) to turn the hose on them it was got ready but it was not used as they shut up there is some talk of us being made into police if so things will be lively at times

Saturday 25th

Went to Zeitoun this morning it was infernally hot going across the desert have been anxious to get my photos when I got them there was only one any good the rest was all blanks doing a big biz (?) in the prisoner line

Sunday 26th March

Had a look through the museum there is some wonderful work in stone went to the gardens and the pyramids and finished up by having a look a Charlie Chaplin

Tuesday 28th

Have been in a state of excitement today had a wire to say that we had to pack up and get out of this place after we have got everything ready another wire came to say that only some of us had to go and that we have to go on Monday next it has been very hot today and it is very close to night

Thursday 30th

Things very quiet but extremely hot fell over a tent rope last night and plonked my knee into a stone have been hardly able to walk today there is some talk of our being shifted from here in a few days and the S.M. is trying to get us extra duty pay

Monday 3rd April

Got shifted from the Barracks back to the aerodrome and got the job of guard shifted again today Tel-el-Kebir and still on guard

Tuesday 4th

relieved from guard at last had two hours spell then we were put on fatigue till six oclock at night had to load transport wagons and then draw (?) them ourselves for half a mile 'April' written on bottom of page and top of next page

Sunday 9th April

Still on fatigue work had a muster for the Anzac police passed easy for the job went to the circus it was very fair this is a curse of a place to be in there is one thing about it its cool at night on arms station here been issued with tobacco and cigarettes have been making horses out of ourselves eating bread vegetables and wood(?) infernally hot

Tuesday 11th having a easy time today on sanitary piquet a big mob of troops have just arrived here it is cool and windy can hardly see for dust

Wed 12th

Called up for the Anzac police had a good trip from Tel-el-Kebir to Abbassia it is all farms on both sides of the line for as far as you can see and the crops look well a lot of them is nearly fit for threshing

Thursday 13th

At Abbassia to be trained for the police have been medically inspected for the Job a curse of a dust storm can hardly see

'ANZAC' [at top of page]

Friday 14th

On parade for the first time in three months and they are wopping it in to us we are to be trained till we are perfect and a crack regiment the drill frightened a lot they never even tried it a lot was put out as unfit has been cold this last day or two

Saturday 15th

We are getting nothing at (but?) drill we had three and a half hours before breakfast this morning we had a general inspection and we were on parade from a quarter past ten until one oclock standing to attention

Sunday 16th April

Having an easy time of it today no early parade had to go to church for the first time in three months we had a poor preacher the worst I have heard yet have a bagpipe band a curse of a thing to march to

Monday 17th

the usual parade we are getting roared at a treat had A Coy movement for inspection tomorrow and made a mess of it the N.C.O. are as bad as the privates the drilling is something awful no one seems to know how to do it we are to shift as soon as we get proficient it will be some time before we are there is an outbreak of smallpox in camp and we are all quarantined it has been very hot all day

Thursday 20th

Still getting roared about our drill the N.C.O. as bad as the men the S.M. [Sergeant Major] says he wants to get us perfect and in consequence he is keeping (?) at us as we have to be the smartest corps in Egypt we have all been out of tobacco this last three days there was a great rush to the canteen for tobacco and cigarettes have a lecture after breakfast on discipline our O.C. is very interesting to listen to church parade tomorrow we have a general inspection on Monday so I take it that we will get nothing for the next few days

Saturday 22nd

Having a good time of it but still getting drill and lectures our O.C. gave us great praise for comp (?) and drill the other evening the S.M. says to us you can do it if you like to try why not always march the same it is no[t] easy to come up to the marke(sic) the way they want you my chest has come out three inches the last few days with standing to attention sent a lot back this morning as slackers are getting up a cricket team and tennis club and the lord knows what they intend to make us old fellows like eels

Sunday 23rd April

On church parade this morning are beginning to march a bit decent our S.M. is a hard case in dressing our line of the chaps on the left flank was not standing straight the S.M. said to him "not for my sake but for Christs sake stand up straight and brace your selfe(sic) up has been very hot all day there is one thing about it is cool at night have

two or three cases of measles and a case of smallpox was vaccinated last week do not [know if?] it is going to take

Monday 24th

Had our inspection parade and was standing to attention the most of the time which is hard work Genera[l] Watson and Colonel Harvey Paha (?) inspected us did not say what he thought of us. Have a reading and writing room here now which is very handy and plenty of games had an issue of clothes from the gift store in most of the sox there was a note and an address our O.C. has asked us to answer all the notes and addresses to thank the sender

Tuesday 26th

Had a parade to commorate(sic) the landing at the Dardenells [Dardanelles] there was an early morning parade for those that had been there they had to go to Cairo to the Anzac Hostel where they were treated to a spread we were all told to fall in and go so when we were all lined up the O.C. said all those that have not been at the Dardenells fall out so we had to (unclear) and attend another one at ten oclock it was not much there was a bit of a sermon and a few hymn then the last post sounded and that finished it we have had three days holiday for Easter but we have to hop to the line tomorrow it has been beastly hot today and don't know how we are going to stand the heat in our uniforms our reading room is very handy here the most of us has been in it all day reading or writing

Wednesday 27th

On parade again after the spell have a job of pulling down tents and putting them up again it have been very hot and it is still hot if it gets much warmer I do not know what we will do have been picked out as a man to be relied upon they are still picking men out they want them to be men of their word honest and honourable

Thursday 28th

Orderly today have been buzzing all over the place quite cool today after the heat

Friday 28th

Still at the same old parades have been issued with rifles and bandoliers so there will be a great demand for Griffen [leather dressing] missed our pay again and will not get paid till next week now they seem to glory in putting us in a fix lately it is still nice and cool

Saturday 29th

Having the rifles we are getting nothing at drill and we are likely to have no spare time as we have to clean our boots bandoliers and polish all the buttons besides having to clean our rifles we have to be spotless have a general inspection every Saturday morning still keeping cool

Sunday 31st April

Has been very quiet all day was on cooks fatigue for the first time since we landed here there is about fifty to be sent back to Tel-el-kebir tomorrow for A.W.L. [Absent without leave] and being drunk

MAY 1st 1916

Getting plenty of rifle drill and bayonet exercise by numbers there is some talk of us going to the barrack on duty the sooner the better busy collecting for some sport here on Saturday still keeping cool

Wednesday 3rd 'May' [on bottom of page]

On quarter guard yesterday (unclear) leave this morning and went into Cairo things very quiet no soldiers about at all got rats (?) of on parade this evening from the O.C. he told us that we did not want N.C.Os or officers but we wanted sheep dogs to keep us together he has threatened to wop extra drill hours on us if we do not toe the mark a bit better it is enough to break a man's heart the way some of them drill we have to do a movement a half a dozen times just some of ours will not do it right then the lot gets the blame for what one or two does

Friday 5th

Still getting roared up about our drill and men leaving every day three men paraded before the O.C. to be allowed to go back to their units it appears they were in the Q.M.[Quarter Master] store and saw some truncheons there they at(sic) come to the conclusion that they were to be armed with them so they left the O.C. came on parade and told them what he thought of them I would not have cared to be the men to whom he spoke he said I am sorry that I did not ask these embecils(sic) could we have a band before I got the instruments and don't think that it is going to be a salvation army band and if any of you have that idea in your head get out of the corps as soon as you can for you are not wanted here the O.C. was very much cut up over the affair these is some talk of our being shifted from here shortly

Saturday 6th

Sports this afternoon but they were very tame the donkey race and the fancy dress were the two best items has been to(sic) hot running (?)B Coy to most of the prizes they won the sheffield the tug of war the walking race they were second in the squad drill and they got the first prize for the most original costume had a concert in the evening which was very good

Monday 8th

On QM fatigue all day yesterday and it was infernally(sic) hot have been getting roared up again today although our platoon was drilling well he gave A coy rats (?) he said they were shirkers as soon as the O.C. left them and he said that he did not want anything of that sort he said our platoon was alright we have a good seargent(sic) and we all try our best to please him

Wednesday 10th

More of our coy have gone to Kasr-el-nil leaving only a few in camp I would have been there myself only that some one pinched my tunic water bottle and haversack there are [more?]thieves in this corp than in the army things very quiet here there is not enough of us for a parade so we are killing [time?] we are likely to shift from here any time now

Wednesday 11th

things very quiet our drill is very slack all our seargents (sic) have gone and we have new ones and we do not like them and we can not do our work as well as when our old seargent(sic) was with us they have us sloping arms by numbers and all that sort of thing till we are sick and tired of the sound of form fours and then we get roared up and that makes us worse than ever

Saturday 13th

had a go at quarter guard and then got shifted to Kasr-El-Nil Barracks it was about twelve oclock when they marched us off the hottest part of the day the O.C. met us and turned us back

Sunday 14th May

Was on police duty in Cairo and got to bed at one oclock in the morning and had to be up at four oclock to escort one hundred and sixty prisoners to Tel-El-Kebir it has been terribly hot there is to be two of the N.Z. to be shot tomorrow for burning a native hut and destroying two oxen and two donkeys [under the NZ Army Act the death penalty could apply but not under the Australian Act.] Having some awful hot weather lately there is some talk of our being shifted to England before long the sooner the better there is a mob coming from Tel-el-Kebir tomorrow to deal (?) out (unclear) tomorrow but if they will get the same as the other lot that came down they will all be in clink was escort to a mob yesterday some of them had (?) twice before but there was more of them got away from us there is a lot of sickness at Tel-el-Kebir they are going down to it every day in the heat here is not fit(?) for a nigger to be in let alone a white man the (?) Arabs are having (?) their hardest and they have a curious method of working tryed(sic) to get some photos of them but could not

Thursday 18th

Was sitting down all day got inoculated and it has been stirring (?) me up to day arm very sore have to go on patrol with it tonight so if I get a rough and tumble thing will be a bit willing a cool change on today and it is a bit of alright had the heat lasted much longer it would have stiffened (?) some of us

Friday 19th

Done nothing all day went on patrol at night till three oclock in the morning

Sunday 21th May

On patrol as usual not doing much busy(?) being a special patrol had a church parade and had a march over to Kasr-el-nil bridge had to pay ten of (unclear) for washing we never had done everyone growling about it only a waste of breath they also wanted us to sub towards the sport but we did not to (?) getting find (sic) some of us had to pay ten P.S. [piastres] before we could get our money and we had to part up in church this morning they are wopping it into us lately we never do anything right have had two or three nice cool days nice cool weather after the heat made a raid on the Tel-el-Kebir Train and caught 38 A.W.L. they never got such a surprise in their lives when they got

out at the station and found us waiting for them they abused us the whole way to the Barracks

Wednesday 23rd

Still getting a few A.W.L. the train raids are the best catch there was only one on the train last night have got a beaut of a cold and feeling very seedy have to get inoculated again in a day or two still keeping very cool

Thursday 24th

Nothing doing went to the station but there was no one on the train not in our time have just heard through reliable source the Aust have a worse name than the Germans

Friday 25th

Things very tame time we had a shift most of the troops have gone to France we are booked to go in a fortnight two of B Coy got hauled up last night for not saluting a general properly he made them halt and go back and salute again and told them they were a disgrace to the army they are very hot on us everything being done in regimental style we got a lecture about it this morning they had us on a route march his morning at six oclock after going to bed at one oclock in the morning

Sunday 28th May

Troops getting out of Egypt last making a few captures got a lot of(sic) the train last night had us on church parade this morning and a bit of a route march to keep us warm getting another spell of hot weather again coming home last night we were challanged(sic) by the sentry with halt who goes there the C.O. gave Anzac patrol and kept on marching and he was halted again so we had to stop the sentry called advance and be recognised and the O.C. had to advance he was wild about it to and he had to stop twice before we got into the barracks

Monday 29th

Had no captures last night at all things very quiet concert on tonight in the barracks getting and being on duty we will miss it getting infernally hot again but we have nothing to do in the day time only polish our button and belts

Wednesday 31st

Nothing doing things getting more quiet every day on of the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] got 28 days detention for being caught with women of low repute the O.C. gave us a lecture this morning about it are getting out of this place very soon a lot of Tommies leaving today

Friday 2nd June 1916

things a bit lively we caught a lot of German tradesmen in Cairo for trading with the enemy the officers arrested them and we had to act as guard of honor to them have picked out one man to be guard of honor [unclear name] on Monday more of the A.P.C. in trouble for being drunk had our cheque stopped though it had an issue of tobacco and cigarettes from the comfort fund we got one tin of tobacco and two packets of cigs. Miss

Machonachi (sic) handed them out we all had a letter read to us from the head of the comfort fund telling us how smart we were on duty and the good work we were doing and also that it was a honor to be in the corp now we will wait and hear what Mr (?)McCon has to say on Monday

[End of notebook, inside back cover upside-down is handwritten and 4 stamped]

G.A.HALL

No 2678

G A Hall

5th Training Batt

Aerodrom(sic) Camp

Hellipolies

Egypt



**View of Heliopolis Camp taken by
Cpl Ivor Williams 21st Battalion
(2nd Div) AIF.**

**These photos were taken with a
small Kodak folding camera that
he carried in his pocket during the
war and on occasions processed in
the field.**

**Some of these photos are now on
display in the Berlin Museum,
Germany. Photos repaired and
restored by his son, Hugh
Williams**

NOTEBOOK June 6th 1916-October 1st 1916

Anzac Provost Corp
Kasr-el-nil Barracks
Cairo

Tuesday 6th June 1916

[This first page begins] 'The guard of honor turned out a' [but is too faint to decipher more than individual words]

Wednesday 7th

(line unclear) are quiet having a bit of cool weather had a great go with a scotchman last night I ask him to move on and if he would not then I ask him for a pass and with that he hauled off a welter jab (?) in the jaw and then the fun started I got hold of him and one of my mates came to help me and he kicked him in the leg and put him out of action and I had to take the brunt of it and he gave me nothing. I was useless when I finished my jaw is still sore and my mate is hopping about on one leg he is the first man I tried to arrest and I hope it is the last had a collection to make a wedding present for our C.O. [Commanding Officer]

Thursday 8th

We formed a guard of honour at our C.Os wedding it was only voluntary and there was a good mob of us turned out we made him a present of a handsome(sic) dressing case with which he was well pleased so he will be giving us (unclear x 2) later on there was about fifty cameras on us all the line we formed the arch of steel they gave him a good shower of rice and I think that we the guard got the most of

Saturday 9th

Still having hot weather had orders to be vaccinated today but our dr has gone away with Nil [Nile?] fever had another outbreak of smallpox in the barracks it is likely to keep us here another fortnight we was to have been away by now a great gloom has been cast over everyone at the news Kitchener death the Gipsos {Egyptians} are cut up over it have had another issue of gift clothing since the C.Os. wedding the W.O. [Warrant Officer] and S.M. [Sergeant Major] have been drunk the W.O. gave a cpl [corporal] sixty TP [piastres – Egyptian money] to shout for the patrol got in another mix up last night

Sunday 10th June

Had memorial parade this morning for Lord Kitchener's death and at the finish of the service the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] band played the dead march ['Dead March' from 'Saul'] our W.O. and S.M. are under arrest for being drunk the W.O. is under close arrest and good enough for him he is supposed to have been sent home (unclear line...) and he used to speak to the men as if they were dogs he was that bad that the C.O. threatened to dismiss him if he did not speak a bit more civil to the men

Tuesday 12th

Was on parade yesterday and made a mess of things our N.C.O. could not give an order right the C.O. told one to get a box of matches and practice with them was paraded out this morning and we were asked if we would volunteer to stay behind they did not have a ? of trouble in getting them although we all wanted to get away from here we have to stay here another month the C.O. thanked us for acting as we did and told us we would lose nothing by it our mate who had the smallpox died and is to be buried today at five oclock we have to attend some sort of a parade this afternoon but do not know what it is yet.

Wednesday 14th [discrepancy in date]

Had a memorial service in the barrack fall the APC on duty in the barracks there was a great crowd here all the big heads of Egypt were there some of us saw what it was they had (Aus) on duty from two pm until seven pm and we had to be on parade this morning at five oclock but they knocked that on the head and we were not sorry

Thursday 15th

Still cadgeing(sic) money from us we were paid today and they were soon around with the hat for the sports we have been paying out for the sports and have not seen any of them yet this a concert the last that will be here the mob that was set to go on Friday is not going till next week now

Friday 16th

The latest Latrin wire is that we are all going to England (unclear) we are supposed to go(? do?) the Tel-el-Kebir for five of these days some of the men are dissatisfied the way they are treated they are stopped from going to certain places and they do not like it how they can go to them I do not know I get enough of them on duty without going to them on leave the smell is enough they are getting very slack we had a lecture on it this morning and the O.C. in charge has threatened to stop all leave if they have a good thing on they spoil it we are not doing much work about five hours and it is (unclear) getting down on the whole we have nothing to complain about but some of them the better they are treated the worse they are

Saturday [17th]

Had another call up for men to stop behind only got about a dozen they had to pull them out of the ranks there is about a hundred of us to go in a months time we have a good chance of getting eight days leave when we get there is very little to do here and we are only waiting on the Tel-El-Kebir mob to get out of it still keeping very hot

Monday 19th

there was half a dozen men up at the orderly room this morning for not attending the church parade yesterday they were let off with a caution had a lecture this morning on the frequent use of obscene(sic) language we were half through it when we had to go on parade to hear a letter read to us from the Commd of the Devons telling us what good fellows we were and all that sort of thing we are getting tired of hearing it at the lecture

the O.C. thanked those that stepped out to stay behind and those who were detailed off to make up the number he told them not to be annoyed because they missed going with the first mob they pet and coax us like kids and tell us all sorts of fairy tales am getting fed up with the whole thing there are a lot of rotters among us they drink and go where they are ordered not to go and on the whole we are having a good time and they are not satisfied the least thing and they are crying about something or other and make it bad for other men they are more like a lot of children than policemen

Wednesday 21st

Another case of smallpox among the A.P.C. it is funny that the guards could get it as no one else the other guard is just about coming (sic) back from isolation another of the A.P.C. in trouble for being drunk he got off very light four days C.B. [Confined to Barracks] there is some of them ought to be sent to the front there is a hot wind blowing today it is like a furnace there is a men getting vaccinated today on account of the outbreak of smallpox had a lecture on it this morning things still keeping very quiet

Thursday 22nd

Very hot again today if it lasts much longer there will be a lot of sickness here another of our mates went to hospital this morning but we have not yet heard what is the matter with him we are putting headstone on our mates grave who died of smallpox

Friday 23rd

Had to hop out of bed at five o'clock this morning for exercise this morning the first time since we left Australia there was a lot of growling as usual and after the lecture the C.O. got us on parade again he asked one man what time he got home off patrol and he told him eleven oclock then the C.O. gave them another lecture but I could not hear what he was saying he then ask(sic) one man did he think the hours drill would harm him and he [said?] no he then ask me and I gave him the same answer he then ask the cop if he could give a reasons why they should not go on parade and no one could the C.O. has given us permission to leave the Barracks every day without leave on account of the sickness here as I am writing this a Arab was knocked down and killed by one of our cars with two officers in it they stopped the car and done what they could for him the Gippo ambulance is at him now it is a wonder there is not more knocked down and killed than what there is

Monday 26th

Got nothing on parade this morning officers and men The C.O. was roaring from the time he came on parade till he went off he said that we have to stop here till we know our rifle drill by the way we are speaking we will be here till the end of the war it is that hot that the men have no energy in them and they do not care wether(sic) they drill or not there is a lot say that they will (unclear) their units as soon as they get over the other side have been having some hot weather lately the natives say it is the hottest they have had for thirty years one hundred and thirty five in the shade and a man dressed in winter clothing it is little wonder there is sickness am feeling seedy on it

Tuesday 27th

Another of the A.P.C. died from smallpox one of our officers is very bad he had to be carried on a stretcher what is the matter with him we have not heard the M.O.[Medical Officer] gave us a lecture this morning on how to look after ourselves he was a good speaker and worth listening to what he talked about was all true as what I know from what I have seen since I have been in the army he said that every man here that has not been vaccinated since he joined this corps must get done at once if they do not it is their own risk and he as good as said he would not trouble much about them if they did catch the disease

Thursday 29th

had the day off yesterday and put the time taking photos our C.O. is doing some roaring lately he is giving the officers nothing he was not on parade this morning and the S.M. had charge of us and we done our work well we all like him and we will do more for him than any other man in the corp the town was full of officers(sic) yesterday it was nothing but salute from one end of the street to the other two of them got pinched for being drunk it looked alright to see them all the natives were looking through the window at them as though they were some new animal

Friday 30th

there was about thirty men paraded to the orderly room for being late for parade and I think they have been sent back to their unit I am told that there is about ninety to(sic) many so those that want to stop in the corp will have to be careful of themselves we will soon be shifting out of this most of the men are tired of the job the officers are too strict for their liking have bought two lottery tickets the winner worth one hundred pounds I wonder if my luck is in

Saturday July 1st 1916

Got the dinkum oil this morning that we are leaving here Monday or Tuesday there was a mob sent back to their units yesterday for being late on parade we are over strength and have to be (unclear) we were told on parade this morning [3 or 4 lines too faint to decipher]...a lot of talk of leaving this corp [more lines too faint] another one of the A.P.C. got himself into trouble last night he was put in charge of a prisoner and he went into a pub to have a drink (a thing we are not allowed to do) and when one of his mates told him of the risk (unclear line) he abused him for all his worth

Have not heard how he got on (unclear) but our latest order is that we have to have a bath every day any man not doing so will be crimed [charged] we are wondering what we will have to do next

Sunday 2nd July

Church parade this morning at eight oclock and breakfast at nine it is a misery(?) to go the preacher gives us the one thing over and over again until we are sick of it then he has the cheek to send round the plates I don't think he got ten T.P. out of the lot of us he

seemed to have his hair off over it. It is a bit hard on us we are all the time handing out for some thing thing(sic) or other besides having to pay for washing and different polishes we have not much money left there is another mob leaving the corp this morning we will not be over strength long at the rate they are going the Anzac sergeants gave the Devons a smoke social our serg is still asleep so they must have had a good time of it

Tuesday 4th

Got issued with another rig out so we will soon be moving out of this our latest order is we are not allowed to have our meals with our hats on would like to know what the next order will be we had a nigger boy to wash up our canteens and we paid him one T.P. each per week now that we are within three days of leaving they have ordered him out of it he has been with us since we came here there appears to be too many giving orders and they are cutting one anothers throats to see who will be first we had a band here but they broke it up and now they want some to start another all the good players have gone to their units between the lot of them things are rotten and I am afraid the 1st (?) corp will be broke up there is a lot say they will join their units as soon as they get to the other side it is only the thought of Tel-el-Kebir that is keeping a lot of them here having a good time of it on patrol sometimes I go out on duty for an hour and sometimes I do nothing there is little (?) anyone to do we are supposed to leave here on Thursday but there was a rumor(sic) this morning that we are not going till September I notice that we have some (unclear) among us they are that brave that they will flog a poor nigger who can not help himself we have a lot of those sort of men with us there is some of them brave enough to strike a prisoner when two men are holding his arms

Thursday 6

Things in a muddle we do not know whats what yet one minute we are all going on Satur(sic) and the next we hear that only one section of B Coy is going and all A. We have just heard that one of the A.P.C. got topped off in France if it is true I am not surprised at it there are some of them are trying to make themselves look big there was no beating(?) them nineteen of them went to the hospital yesterday we have not heard what is the matter with them

Sunday 9th July

Things a bit lively all the A.C.Os got lectured and about a dozen men got put in the cells for gambling in the barracks the R.S.M. [Regimental Sergeant Major] and one of the officers have to march out for being drunk three or four of the A.P.C. arrested last night for being A.W.L. things are getting rotten there will not be many left soon if they keep on going the way they are the most of the men are sick of the whole thing

Tuesday 11th

Things still any how men still getting put out of the corps and others trying to get out to their units had a lecture this morning on the dissatisfaction among the men and complaints that prevalent in the corps there is some of the men here the least thing that

happen they lay a complaint and the worst of it is that it amounts to nothing when it comes to be threshed out so they are going to put a stop to it and time to the O.C. told us that our drill has improved a great deal this last two days and he wants us to keep it up the drilling we have had we all ought to be perfect any one of us should be able to take command of a platoon

Wednesday 12th

Change of patrol on day shift at Shepards have to stand at ease all the time and come to attention every time an officer passes and that is about once every three minutes in addition to that we have come to attention if any nurses pass us all officers(sic) are supposed to salute us when we stand to attention the NZ officers(sic) take no notice of us some of the others salute with their pipes in their mouths then they wonder why the men are so slack am getting fed up with the whole thing

Saturday 15th

Have been taking off the patrol and put on police work it is an easy job but the hours are long six hours a day without relief has been no talk of our going away lately some of the men are going on Monday to get a whiff of sea air on Monday they are only taking sixteen at a time they have to take their gear and one hundred and twenty rounds with them they are roaring about it to(sic)

Sunday 16th July

Church parade it is a weary job listening to the service instead of giving us a military service we get a civil one and it is torture to be there and there is a collection every Sunday this a great place for wrangling between cleaning the rooms and mess orderlies it is a continual fight there was a few landed in the orderly rooms this morning for not attending church parade it is beastly hot again the natives say that it is the hottest season they have had for forty years

Monday 17th

On parade at five oclock this morning and a more dopey lot never stepped on a parade some of them did not wash themselves and they looked half asleep we had our photos taken they ought to be worth seeing we got roared out at our drill movements I heard the S.M. roar out at a rear platoon man you'll be taking some mans eye out with that rifle yet then he yelled at another one for Christ sake pinch yourself and see if you are awake we have to fall in for a lecture from the C.O. at ten oclock. There was some more trouble about dressing up [forming a straight line] they would not do it right and the S.M. yelled out take that man in your arms seargent(sic) and put him in his place then then(sic) the N.C.O said ask them to please dress up and they might do it it was all rotten the most of the men had been on patrol till twelve oclock and getting up so early as they did they did not care wether(sic) they were right or wrong it would not have (unclear) much more to have counted the officeirs(sic) out

Wednesday 19th

No early morning parade yesterday morning or today everyone pleased had a farewell concert last night some of the items were very good but the most of them were rotten the Tommies brass band was very good they were encored both times the times they played there was a large crowd at it there must have been at least fifty nurses there

Thursday 20th

Had a trip down the Nile last night we could see nothing it was that dark there was plenty of music on board the Tommies pipe band and a stringed quartet which kept things going we had our own band and bagpipes there was (unclear) plenty of singing till a lot of them got drunk and that finished it the S.M. was drunk and making a fool of himself it seems that men cannot enjoy themselves without drink they had to pay seven P.T. a bottle for the beer which they said was to(sic) dear but they got it all the same some of them would have it if it was 20 P.T. a bottle and this is a corps of picked men to set an example to other men some of them are as low as it is possible for men to be

Sunday 23nd July

Church parade this morning nearly went to sleep over the sermon things in a muddle again with all our N.C.Os there is one hundred men here they cannot account for they have a tattoo(sic?) [roll call?] every night then they cannot find them there was a change over of patrols and B. Coy has to take guard they are growling some over it there will be a bust up soon by the look of things the most of the men are ready to pack up and join their units if they could I beleive(sic) that anyone applying for a transfer from here to their units is crimed for it we have had a spell off early morning parades this last week as the OCs thought that the men were getting to(sic) much to do I believe that they are going to start the parades again as they reckon the men are getting slack in their movements but if they do I think they will make matters worse the men do not care wether(sic) they do their work right or wrong and they would not stop here five minutes if they could get away the corps has not turned out as was expected it is a hard job to know what we wether(sic) we are police or soldiers I think we are a xbreed corps neither one thing or the other there is still a lot of sickness here there is men going to the hospital every day and a lot of them are being boarded for Austia(sic) [Australia?] there was another arab killed with a motor car tonight on the bridge they were French this time the native police took charge of affairs and he tried to get two natives to lift the dead man into the car but they would not touch him he got hold of them and dragged(sic) them up to the corps(sic) [corpse] and they broke away from him he snatched a stick out of one of our mens hand and broke it over his head which brought him to his senses shortly afterwards a gippo turnout ran into the lamppost and the horse laid down there was two or three girls in the trap but they seemed to enjoy the joke they took their time in getting our there was a great lot of jabbering in getting the horse up they seemed to me to all talk at once

Monday 24th

More trouble for the A.P.C. our visiting the gardens is stopped for some reason or other there will be some trouble before long if we do not get a move on there was five or six crimed for various offences one of them for five days. C.B. for not washing a dixie and another seven days for leaving his post the C.O. says that he is going to wop it on to any he catches for breach of disciplin(sic) and he says that have only two ways of getting out of their corp that is medically unfit and undesirable(sic) there is plenty here if they could be kicked out

Tuesday 25th

Hooray our W.O. got into trouble last night with one of the officers(sic) he reported the patrol all correct without saluting the officers(sic) and the C.O. said to him is that the way to report to an officer the W.O. said I saluted(?) you twice the C.O. said to him salute(?) and report again the lads were in great glee over the affair as the W.O. had been giving them nothing then when the officers(sic) got down to their station (?) they had a row between the (unclear) as to which was their patrol the men are still growling they on patrol is rotten they have to keep on the move all the time and they are not allowed to speak to their mates or any one else and they have to be five yards apart they say that when they get to their post the N.C.Os. do not know what their duties are no one seems to know what they have to do they are that messed up Saturday is the day we are leaving or supposed to

Thursday 27th

Had a route march this morning which brought the sweat out of us things are looking bad with the corp from what I hear the men are ready for (...ting?) they tell us that there (unclear) red? shift on Tuesday I heard the S/Major say this morning that the men who went to the old country are wishing they were back in Egypt there is one thing they have no niggers to kick around so I suppose that is why they would like to be back here again

Saturday 29th

Our latest order for the Saturday morning inspection is that we have to stand by our beds in full dress and everything clean there was a lot of men got six days C.B. for not getting out of bed this morning and there was N. C.Os among them the A.P.C. made a good catch last night they got about thirty prisoners it is the biggest haul they have had for some time

Sunday 30th July

Church parade as usual getting used to the parson and his ways called out on parade after break and the C.O. gave us a little lecture on leave being stopped and going away next Thursday have volunteered(sic) to stay behind the times now we are to be about three weeks behind the mob if we do not miss the chance to wait till Tel-el-Kebir to clear there is nothing doing here now (unclear) police job is a good cop

Tuesday 1st August 1916

There was an inspection this morning of the men going away (..unclear two lines...)the finish of it he gave the men a short address on their appearance and told them that he hoped that they would do the same as they did in the Dardenelles it was a knock back to the most of them as they thought that they would be a provo corps in Eng as they were here but to go into the ...ing (?) line was swift (?) as they reckon some at their ...[page very faded, almost illegible]...went up to one man in the ranks and said to him you are the worst on parade get into (?) rear rank if he gets to the firing(sic) he will get a rough time of it as some of the Batts [Batteries] that are there have him marked

Thursday 3rd

The mob away at last there was a lot of them drunk as normal and some of them missed going was called up at three o'clock this morning to take one of their places but could not get my things together quick though had put in ten hours duty and with the row could get no sleep there was a lot tried to back out of going but they had to go we are to go in a fortnight if not sooner

Sunday 6th August

The church parade this morning was very poor there was only about fifty there there was none of the Devons in attendance they are expecting about two thousand Turkish prisoners and they are busy preparing for them things are in a proper muddle since the mob left there appears to be no one that know where he is or what to do some of the gentlemen [a word used to refer to the Light Horse] of the L.H. [Light Horse] came to our assistance but they appear to have made things worse our C.O. is a L.H. man and so is our R.S.M. we were told that we would get a good time of it while we are there but there does not seem to be any hope of even getting some cool weather lately the Nile is in flood and rising fast they say that some years it comes over the wall and floods the barracks would like to see it put in the afternoon escorting Turkish prisoners there was two thousand five hundred of them they were a ragged lot and a lot of them had no boots and their clothing was very dirty but they seem to have plenty to eat we have to wait on another lot tomorrow

Monday 7th

Escorting Turkish prisoners to the Bak(?) -el-Souk railway station for Macadia (?) and it was very hot it brought the juice out of us the prisoners were no trouble they seemed to be pleased with them selves some of them were very foot sore and could hardly walk

Tuesday 8th

Escort work again had four hundred and eighty prisoners and we had to march from the Cairo rly [railway] station to the citadill(sic) [Citadelle] with them they would not have much chance of getting away if they had tryed (sic) to the streets were lined with people from one end to the other but they were to(sic) weary to think of escaping and they were glad when they came to the end of the march and so were we they were making them strip off and have a bath and get into clean clothes when left marching through the

streets of Cairo is a hot job as there is no wind blows through only a certain places if we go half a mile our cloths(sic) are ringing(sic) [wet?] and we can hardly see

Thursday 10th

On patrol yesterday for a change and a holiday today for a change there is nothing doing in patrol work now but things are in as big a muddle as ever got into trouble yester(sic) for not coming up for my money the C.O. did go to market when I went in to him he said where have you been at the canteen sir and why did you not come and get paid I said that I did not know that we were getting paid then he said where were you last night at the canteen sir what were you doing there I was at the dry canteen I told him(C.O) you must live over there we used to be ordered out of the rooms on account of the sickness and now if we go away from them we get into trouble two of the L.H. men got into trouble the other day one for breaking out of the Barracks for which he got fourteen days C.B. and pack drill and granted no leave for a month after the other got four days C.B. for saying that they observed (?) him at Helliopolis

Sunday 13th August

Church parade this morning it was torture this morning to listen to if I get back home no more C.E. for me made a gass(sic) raid on the bugs yester(sic) have not seen any dead ones yet it killed a sparrow but I think the bugs escaped there was an Irishman in Cairo yester(sic) having a look round the town and he told me that he had been all over the world and had seen the worst places but he said the slums of Cairo beat all he had ever seen or thought of and yet the Australian prides himself in going there [at?] any of the Wazza [brothel] house you can get the photo of the Aust, there was a raid last night and the photo of one of the A.P.C. was found and he seemed(?) to glory in it he said I do nothing of am ashamed of so I come to the conclusion that there is no shame in any of them

Tuesday 13th

On quarter guard yester(sic) a rather lazy cop only one hour on and five off have been lucky for guard have only been [on?] the job eight times since I enlisted our latest wire is that we are to stay here for the duration of the war now one of our officers is going to leave through it and there will be a lot to follow him

Thursday 17th

On patrol there was big funeral [of] the Sultana mother there must have been millions of natives there it was impossible [to] walk in the streets sent in a petition to the orderly room for better food some of the ranks were not satisfied with what they were getting they wanted their eighteen half penny a day but I think they have made a mess of things we had to parade to the C.O. over it he took things very kindly had it been the Major he would have roared us up it was a dangerous thing to do I will take good a(sic) care that I don't sign any more papers we could have all copped out over it inoculated for cholera have to get another dose in ten days time

Friday 18th

The men got their 8 1/2 A day and I think that they have made a mess of things those who were not in favour of it have to have a seperate(sic) mess and we had to all shift to one room I do not think it is going to pan out too well I pulled out of it they were starting to talk about putting in so much a week and that finished me anyhow we all have to suffer for it we have to go on parade now every morning the S.M. said that was the matter was that the men were not getting enough work so they are going to give us something to think about got one man this morning as a deserter he came over with the first lot and has been about Cairo ever since he was our band master and he made a boast that he could not be caught as he could speak Arabic and French but they got him just the same some of the men unfit going home gave him away so they just brought him in

Saturday 18th

A day off today things very stale (?) three of the A.P.C. has just been put in the cooler for refusing to be inoculated they are not tried (?) of it but they are likely to cop out it is a serious offence to disobey an order and they stand a chance of being sent home as undesirables beside doing twenty eight days detention the inoculation took no effect on those that were done none of us knew it was done not like the typhus inoculation our arms would be sore for a week after

Sunday 20th August

Missed church parade on early morning patrol not much of a job have to stand in front of the hotel and come to attention when an officier(sic) passes you it was reported last night that soldiers stole a ladys handbag containing twenty five pounds it was one of the brave Australians there is some of them as bad as the Germans if not worse rape murder and theft is nothing to them it is something to be amused(?) at with them would give anything to be out of it

Monday 21st

An early cop today on cooks fatigue peeling taters and onions the two A.P.C.(?) men got inoculated in preference to being crimed the Inf [infantry] man would not get done and is out on open arrest then has to chase the bugle every hour for the little trouble it is to be done it is not worth while to have a crime marked in your pay book got another issue of boots with great big hobnails in them it was time that we got some as our (?) the ones we had had no soles or heels on and if we want them repaired we have to pay for them ourselves

Wednesday 23rd

Had another turn at guard it is the best job of the lot some of my mates took me down for 200P.T. Hope it will do them good never thought that there was so many thieves in Australia there is some more talk of our going away soon two of our sgts got their commissions confirmed yester (sic) and one of them got that drunk that he could not stand up and the other shouted beer and cigarettes for some of us but he did not get

drunk. two more of the L.H. got put in the cooler for refusing to go on parade they have to go up for a C.M. [Court Martial] The Nile still rising the Kafers [Kaffirs?] say that it has not been so high since 1876 and they are afraid that it will break some of the dams they have put on one thousand(?) natives to watch it in Cairo by the way it is running past the barracks it would cause some damage if anything was to break things are still very quiet it is getting cold at night but still not in the day time

Friday 25th

On patrol get plenty of changes never on the same job twice the Devons had some sports yester(sic) see part of them they were very good they had concert at night which was good the handing out of the prizes was amusing especially with the officers(sic) two of our officers(?) got two firsts in the donkey race and the riding they done they ought to have got about 500 P.T. one got a pair of step ladder sock for a kid and the other got a bead purse worth about two P.T. The Devon officers (sic) got some flash sort of handkerchief for which they had to climb up the steps of the Staidium (?) amid roars of laughter the whole turn out was the best I have seen here the L.H. are under orders to join their units they have to go to the Canal there is some trouble for some in this corps it appears that the mob that went away never paid for anything and now our new C.O. is getting bills for the same trip on the Nile was not paid for the concert or the repairs to the pipe band in last (?) nothing is paid for the A.T?.F? is making inquiries about it there was a sub taken up to put two head stones on the graves of the two men who died in the corp there was sixteen £E collected for them there was thirty £E collected for the C.O. wedding there was half of it spent on the articals(sic) bought it is little wonder they could get drunk. The major himself did not even pay for the (unclear) he used and we have to try to make the name of the Austs good by being honest and honourable and here we are something like £E600 in debt so there is going to be some trouble over it would like to have the W.O. here now

Monday 28th

No church parade yester(sic) on guard have been all inoculated again it is not as bad as the typhoid and typhus inoculation got some more gift stuff a tin of tobacco and fifty cigarettes a pair of sox and a shirt the cigarettes and tobacco was given by the A.V.R.C. [Australian Victorian Red Cross?] have had none from N.S.W. yet

Tuesday 29th

On patrol there is some talk of our being shifted from here to Moasar after all the nice tales we were told about going to England and getting us to drill our best to show that the Aus could be disciplnece(sic) it was just time wasted they have taken the names of the A. and B. Class of men so there must be something in it they say that the Tommies are going to take over the police duties it was only the other day that we were allowed to wear our batons

September 1st 1916

Have not heard any more of our going from here I saw one of the L.H. last night from Moascar and he said it was a curse of a place he said the heat was terrible and the sand flies at night were awful he was A.W.L but let him go he said that he was not going back until the corps was ready to move that is if the A.P.C. do not find him was on Patrol at the Casino it is out of bounds for all soldiers under the rank of a Lieut there was two Austs officers(sic) in there drunk and insulting the Tommies officers(sic) our C.O. took their names and they were placed under arrest they looked more like tramps off the track(?) than officers(sic) there were a capt [Captain] of the Headquarters staff rode a donkey into the place had it been a private he would have been arrested at once and got 18 days first F.P.[Field Punishment] the (unclear) are stopped and bussed (?) everywhere and the officers(sic) can do just what they like the camel corp are to(?) coming to Cairo to day to deal it out to us they might [?] the mob that came from Tel-el-Kebir all get put in the cooler there is some more of the A.P.C. chasing the bugle for seven days they must like that sort of thing and the most of the trouble starts over nothing they refuse to do a thing and are crimed and get seven days C.B. and have to do the job into the bargain

Sunday 3rd September

Just come off guard got half a dozen prisoners in the cells the two we let go got caught it is reported that six of the Anzacs got kicked to death in France there was some of them marked men before they left here there was some of them wanted taking down a bit we have to stop here as long as there is troops in Egypt so we are here for some time yet it as the winter is coming on it will not be so bad if we get away before next summer the camel corps did not pay us a visit as they promised they probably though(sic) better of it and there was a strong patrol was (?) waiting for them

Tuesday 5th

Six of the A.P.C went to the Hospital yester(sic) with Nile fever we are all likely to get it as the river goes down. Our latest order is that we have to take the name and address of any man we catch not saluting an officier(sic) there will be some of the officers(sic) have their name taken as well as the privates. The H.Q.S. are the worst of the lot and if I get half a chance with them up they go they will not return a com... and if you do not salute them you are reported and the same is likely to be stopped we are booked to stay here while there are any troops in Egypt and after they go we are to go to Salonica if we do not go some where else

Thursday 7th

Have been very sick this last two days was on patrol yester(sic) but had to come off it was that bad it is the first time I have been sick since I enlisted I notice the L.H. man who missed going away with the mob and got 28 days is one of the big men in the orderly room he knocks about with the C.S.M. and is having a hand in everything it appears to me that if a man plays the same game here he is not noticed and the more

often you are in trouble the better you get on this sort of thing does not encourage man to keep straight when we joined the corps we were told that we would get strips [stripes] on our merits but it must have meant the more a man was crimed the better chance he stood of promotion it has been cold this last night or two though fairly warm in the day there is a bit of a rumpus over prisoner being knocked about in the cells it happened some time ago and the man is still spitting up blood through the handling he got there is some men here in this corp can deal it out to a man who cannot help himself and if he were sober and turned on them they would drop dead with fright

Saturday 9th

Had leave yester(sic) and went into Cairo and walked about for a while looking at the same things I have seen hundreds of times got sick of it and got on a train and went to the gardens for a change

The word Cairo is as rotten now as the word German and the worst of it is that we have to stay here for some time yet another A.P.C. got seven days C.B. for being A.W.L. there is nothing doing in the police line but if what they say is true about handling more troops here we will be kept busy

Nearly got into trouble for not asking men for their passes one of the officers(sic) arrested two men on our beat A.W.L. and though we were going to get into (unclear) trouble over it but we did not there is two of us put on a post one is on duty for an hour at a time the other is on the street taking men for passes then when his time is up he relieves his mate who comes out on the street for passes so its a case of knock off work and carry bricks our seargant(sic) is inside and watches the play instead of helping us all he thinks about is trying to get up a muscle like some of the strong men in the play

Tuesday 12th

On guard things very quiet now that the cool weather has set in it has come out in orders that we are allowed wear shorts and it is cold enough at night for blankets our band master who was so clever was tried by C.M. and sentenced to death he got a reprieve and sentenced to seven years they cut it down a second time and gave him two years he had been married four times here he used to get all the money he could out of the women he married and leave her and marry another one. There is a sgt and cpl of the corp to be tried today but for what I do not know the A.P.C. have been behaving themselves Lately there is very few of them getting pulled up having a great go with the prickly heat have had it over a week now and by the feel of it I am likely to have it for another week

Saturday 16th

Two more of the A.P.C. in trouble one for being A.W.L. and the other for disobeying an order one of them is one of the men who got 28 days for missing the mob when they went away and after he had done this time they gave him a job of searching prisoners and in his spare time he done of bit of pimping the Sgt and the Cpl got fined a £ each

and sent back to their units they were drunk on patrol and they were the men who would send a man up for having a drink on leave

Sunday 17th September

Things a bit more lively on patrol last night there was a good crowd of soldiers in town and a few of them got pinched there was a row with the patrol Sgt and the Cpl. the Sgt was going to put the Cpl up for disobeying an order when the patrol got down below the Sgt ordered the Cpl to retire to the left flank which he did not the SM came out and ordered the Sgt to the left flank and then there was another set to but the Sgt had to go he wanted the S.M. to parade him before the orderly officier(sic) and the S.M. said I will parade you when I am ready you do as you are told we are told to obey orders without question and yet the N.C.Os will argue the point with their seniors. No church parade again this morning it seems to have died out there was a few of the A.P.C. sent to the hospital this morning did [not know] what it was for

Sunday 18th (sic) September

On guard a very tame job but the best of the lot have been getting some prisoners Lately the C.O. has been roaring about our slackness any of the officers(sic) can get out and get a man any time they like but we can never find one he was going to give us a lecture about it but he did not they say that the mob is breaking the A.P.C. up over the other side and the camel corp is give us a turn (?) here so we will be in for a lively time and it might as well not to catch to(sic) many A.W.L there is a lot of them want catching when they come to Cairo they are not satisfied with a fair thing they go to extremes and land themselves in trouble then they blame us for it the most of the trouble comes from not being punished severly(sic) enough they mostly get seven day C.B. and then they are ready for another go in the A.T.F (?) is not half strict enough if they were anything like the Imperial some of our fellows would cop out of [if?] they was a Tommie the other day was arrested for being A.W.L. he struck the Sgt of the guard and broke out of barracks he got a term of 18 months for it and has to do pack drill every day of it for the same crime our fellows would get about 28 days first F.P. a mate of ours has been lucky enough to get a couple of parcels from home filled with cakes and other things he shared with us and it was like Christmas and made us wish we were home again we are on the edge of winter now the nights are quite cool but the day is hot enough at times today has been quite cool

Wednesday 20th

Having the day off for some reason or other got a few A.W.L. last night but there was no trouble with them fifteen of the A.P.C. have to go to Helliopotes (?) [Heliopolis?] to the L.H. camp for a spell so the C.O. tells them they have to stay there a month they say the corps is over strength so they may be going for good and do not know it there was a polo match here this evening among the Devons Officers(sic) they had donkeys and its funny at times to see them trying to get the donks near the ball and some of them would stand in the one place and go round in a ring

Saturday 23rd

On guard have had a good time of it this week three days spell and three days duty fifteen of the lads went to the L.H. camp this morning for a month's spell they say that we all have to go if there is any saddle work I am out of it the L.H. that came to relieve our men are a miserable looking lot things are still very quiet there was a big crowd of Indians in town yester(sic) to the ceremony of the holy carpet the Nile is still rising if it gets much higher it will flood the barracks out the soakage (?) has stopped one of the archways from being used there was a heavy fog this morning

Tuesday 26th

On patrol there was a few soldiers in town but we did not capture any had lecture this morning on the duties of the provos there is some of them could do with a lecture every day there was a big mail there yester(?) was lucky enough to get four letters still having cool weather the mosquitoes are getting bad at night the chaps that left here for the L.H. camp seem to like the change one of them telling me they were having a good time there was another of the *A.P.C. got put in the cooler for being drunk and missing his patrol I fancy he will get a free trip to Moascar they say the corps is over strength had a look at Helliopolis and got a bit of a shock all the shops were closed and very few people in it it used to be a lively place and better than Cairo they have Luna Park going again I did go in to see it

*he got 168 hours F.P.N. (?)

Friday 29th

Have been making some captures lately got over fifty one night they were all Scottish(sic) Horse and they had just come from the canal for a spell and got thirsty it was a bit hard on them after being on the desert so long and get pinched by our fellows for being A.W.L. there is a lot of us have never seen the front and not likely to and they are always in a hurry to run some one in we are getting lecture now every day about our slackness in not asking for passes it is a job that I do not care about if a man is behaving himself A.W.L. or not it is doing no harm and if they get run in for being without a pass it makes them bitter against the A.P.C. but there is some rotters among us there was an N.C.O. the other [day?] put a note on a ptes (?) bed saying that if he did not report himself to the Dr some[one] else would anyhow he had to report himself next day and now he is in the A.L.L (?) and good enough for the [word missing] I hope he stops there the river is still rising and there is a strip of water across one {missing word} of the Barracks square we will be flooded before long. We got another issue of gifts they were handed out to us by Miss Machonachie she seems to glory in handing out gifts we all got a pkt of cgts a tin of tobacco a tin of condensed milk and a tin of carrots there was pipes(?) also given out what with letters and gifts we have had a happy time this week

October 1st 1916

Having a fairly good time lately on patrol and not pinching anyone there is a lot of Jocks [Scottish] in town but they are a very quiet lot there is a lot of absentees about but it is only a fluke if we get them we have orders to get one dead or alive and we all thought that he was a desperate man and expected him to be armed to the teeth but one of the sgts fluked(sic) him and he gave no trouble when caught there is three football teams form(sic) here and there is likely to be some trouble over them the C.O. tells them that they have the time off to play their matches and those that do not play will have to pay up and see no matches and do double patrols the cricket was the same it was only the players that ever went to a match but we all had to pay for them our S.M. asked us to go to church this morning but I do not think any did if it was a military service I would not mind going but a civil one it is a misery to go

Tuesday 3rd

On guard things very quiet still two more of the A.P.C. in trouble for leaving the Barracks without permission one a pvte and the other a Cpl. the pvte got seven days C.B. have not heard what the Cpl got here we are to catch absentees and the police are arresting men for being A.W.L. and they themselves do it it is a disgrace on the corp I think they only get seven days C.B. and they laugh at that and a man who has overstayed his leave for half an hour will get 14 days det [detention] after being on the desert six or eight months and we are supposed to show them right from wrong

Friday 6th

On patrol another of the A.P.C. in trouble for being drunk and out of bounds there is some talk of our going into the firing(sic) line fifteen at a time for a month under the pretext that no one can call is/in cold looked (?) but I fancy there is something else in the wind they are going around this morning collecting for the football so if we go away some one else will get the benefit(sic) of it not going to have anything to do with it had cricket club had a yarn to one of the camel corp men and he told me that they would like to have a piece of us and I told him we were ready any time they liked but they are affraid(sic) of the badges they would as likely as not be affraid(sic) of something else before they have finished I notice lately that the A.P.C. are breaking their necks over the women of low repute there is one N.C.O. thinks that much of one that he sent her photo home to his mother and the women(sic) has sent his mother some presents how a man can carry on with a women(sic) like that I do not know either his mother is no good or he has no respect for her he will look alright if his mother shows the photo to some of his friends who know her if his mother is a decent women(sic) I would not care to be him what I see of the most of them the more filthy the women(sic) the better they like her the Tommies are just the same married and single all alike boys and old men there is no decent girl will speak to us through it and I do not blame them. Had a bit of a lecture this morning about going to the firing(sic) line it is all horsemen that is wanted and one that could not ride need not try to get away as it would take to(sic) long to learn riding

NOTEBOOK October 8th 1916-February 21st 1917

Anzac Provo

8/10/16

Sunday 8th October 1916

On patrol but nothing doing except salute officers there is still a lot of troops in town but they are a quiet lot there is a general inspection on the 10th by the G.O.C. [General Officer Commanding] so we will have to get busy the Devons had a singing competition last night and it was amusing(?) there was none of them could sing and two or three got howled off the stage there was some step dancing without music after it was all over the officer took notes for the best performance and gave the winners their prizes (the first prize was worth 50T.P. he (the C.O.) told them take some singing lessons for the next time they had a competition 'October' [written at bottom of page]

Monday 9th

At patrol at the Kursal [Kursaal Theatre?] there is a new English play and it is crowded every night all the movies must have been full by the crowd that was in the street have been busy all day cleaning up the barracks for the inspection tomorrow we even had to polish the heel plate of our rifles we also had a parade this morning for rifle exercise we did two movement then we got the order 'tion' dismiss and no one knew hardly what to do the dismiss was that sudden we had expected it [to?] last half an hours practice or we may have done the movements correct but I hardly think so

Tuesday 10th

Inspection this morning by general Atham (?) and he inspected us proply(sic) he made inquiries if we had packs or had been inoculated(sic) lately so I suppose that we will have to go through it all again there was a great crowd of arabs about last night being their Xmas they were dressed (?) and the native police were kept busy running them in.

Thursday 12th

On guard things very quiet had leave the other day and it was impossible to get on a tram they were that crowded with Gippos the streets are still full of them there is nothing much for the A.P.C [Anzac Provost Corps] now to do they have cut out two patrols and they have to go on guard at the Cairo railway station over some kit store they are to be armed with revolvers there is going to be some trouble over our tunics the ones we had issued are to(sic) small for us that they [do] not seem to be able to get any more so they are talking of issuing us with imperial tunics so we will be Tommies [English] there is some talk that the A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall] does not require our services any longer but General Watson wants to keep us still here so we do not know how things are going to go

Saturday 14th

There is some debating over the conscription there is a lot going to vote for it as they maintain because they are here everyone else should be I am going to vote against it as I believe let everyone please themselves there will be a lot of arguments over it our C.O.

[Commanding Officer] came around this morning with the copies of the gazette and the premiers(?) speech and told us to read them carefully we started to read it but the start of it was enough we have had any amount of that sort of stuff since we joined this corps there is a lot here that you can tell them nothing they know everything am afraid that some of them will get a rude awaking(sic) when the(sic) get back. There is some talk that the L.H. [Light Horse] that was to go to the fireing(sic) line has fell(sic) through it appears that they wanted to send them down as a sqdn [squadron] and the men objected to it saying that if they went as a sqdrn they would get the dirty work to do but if they were mixed up with other sqdrns they would go and that they would get a fair deal so now I believe it has fell through we have just got orders to wear our Aus tunic and put brass buttons on them there is a kick up about that some of the men object to put the buttons on as they say that they cannot be compelled to do so and if they get pulled up over it they want a C.M. [Court Martial] I'll bet that if they were told not to put the buttons [on] they would do it fast enough

Tuesday 17th

We are having a quiet time still it is that quiet that we have two more guards to do the Tel exchange and the sack(pack?) store we are armed with revolvers and lantern the store guard is alright we do nothing when we are there we have just had orders to wear our felt hats which is a relief the winter is stirring us up a bit as this last day or two has been hot we all recorded our vote conscription or no yester(sic)[yesterday] the way the most of men talked they were against it a lot of them maintained because they were here they had no right to drag others into the same mess but some of them say that as they are here everyone else should be I suppose we will know in a few days what the result on leave this afternoon but there is nothing fresh to see the only thing is a spell out of the barracks for two or three hours it is getting to be torture to be here now

Wednesday 18th

Escort for prisoner for C.M. he is a kid of about eighteen years of age and is supposed to have stolen 300£ from the pay office safe he had been working there five months he has to go up for a sentence in a few days

Friday 20th

On guard they are making a bit of a welter lately on escort duty in the morning then on patrol till twelve oclock at night and then on guard next day this is what we are getting for not being able to play football the last match that was played (rugby) one of the officers got his collar bone broke it was reported last night that seven of the late patrol were sent to the hospital suffering from potamine (sic) [ptomaine?] poisoning it believed that some of them were very bad but I can get no particulars yet the A.P.C. man who was drunk and missed his patrol go three days C.B. [Confined to Barracks] it is disgusting to think that men who are supposed set an example to other men should get off so light at the least he should have got 28 days T.P.M.(?) [those sort of men are the first to run in a man who has come off the dessert(sic) A.W.L. [Absent without leave]

and he only gets three days C.B. while the other would get fourteen and perhaps had not been in town for two or three months

Sunday 22nd October

Got a few of the Devons last night drunk but there was no trouble with any of them all the details are leaving Egypt tomorrow one of the A.P.C. was taken down yester(sic) to go with them but he got away they were looking for him but have not got him yet when the A.P.C. left here for England he got drunk and missed going he got 28 days for that so if they get him this time he will get something to think about the A.I.F [Australian Infantry Forces] is finished here and now we have to get our orders from the Anzac mounted division so there is no chance of our leaving here till the war has finished how the Inf men are going to get on will be hard to say if they make all mounted patrols when we get guard work.

Tuesday 24th

On the exchange guard an easy job nothing to do only read or watch the lady operators come and go three more of the A.P.C. in trouble one of them got two days for slanging(?) on N.C.O. [Non-commissioned officer] and speaking to men while on duty he got off very light the other were up for being drunk and trying to get into a house they are going for a D.C.M [District Court Martial] it is a pity that those sort of men were not kicked out of the corp and give decent men a chance

Thursday 26th

Things a big mixed up had to do a double patrol no men available so they said the A.P.? trying to get us put off police work to put the Tommies [English] on. They are graduly(sic) getting us off the patrols and putting on guards they are better than patrol work

Monday 29th

On the exchange guard we are getting all guard work now they say that the Tommies are no good at the work for if they have an easy guard they get drunk and are not there when they are wanted we have to supply a guard for the A.O.C. [Australian Ordnance Corps] why the Devons cannot do [it] no one knows as we have nothing whatever to do with it we are having one of the rooms set aside for a mens room instead of each room having a mess of its own we have to all go together I wonder how long it will last it will be something like the football it has nearly fell through the Devons are to(sic) hot for the Anzacs and they seem to think they are only wasting their time and money playing

November 1st 1916

Getting worse and worse here every day nothing to do and nothing to(sic) fresh to see three of us are awaiting orders to go to Alexandria(sic) [Alexandria] to do police duty for a week. It will be a bit of a change it will be the first time I have been out of Cairo for some time things are still a bit mixed here our orderly seargent(sic) is off his dot (?) I

was called up at four o'clock this morning to go on guard and had not been warned for duty ? the sergeant(sic) and he knew nothing about it so I did not go on duty

Thursday 2nd

Had a grand trip from Cairo to Alexandrai(sic) there was water all the way from the Nile flood and in some places where the ground was dry the natives were busy ploughing and in places there were spring crops just above the ground it was a splendid sight to see after being shut up in Cairo so long it is only about three hours run before we got to the end of our journey(sic) we ran into thunder storms and the lightning looked splendid it is the first storm I have seen since leaving Aust. and I enjoyed it we are here on special duty not being hampered in any way to try to catch some crooks one who jumped [out?] of the boat as it was leaving for Aust there is supposed to be about thirty of them altogether to get so we have a free chance we are on a sort of leave so we ought to have a fair time

Sunday 5th November 1916

We are having a fair time here although the camp is rough after the barracks we are sleeping on a sand floor and the tucker is rough we have got five prisoners so far but we are not used to the town yet there is one thing about the job we are our bosses we are still having showery weather it shifted us out of bed yester(sic) morning do not think much of Alex it is all bustle and you have to look out for yourself there is nothing much to see here not as much as Cairo but there is better building and cleaner streets here

Tuesday 7th

Still look. for deserters and likely to by the look of it things but we are having a fair time here and we have not much to do

The Tommies M.Ps [Military Police?] have a rather (?) time here and they dare not say a word they had a kit inspection this morning and some of them had more clothing than they were supposed to have and they hid it in our blankets there was some had a pair of socks and the leg (?) was nearly cut off at the foot the Q.M. [Quarter Master] ask him why he did not mend them and he told him he had no wool to do it with if our fellows were treated like that they would dump the Q.M. in the river there is some of officers here the Q.M. and the LH included would get a rough time if [they?] were here for any length of time they talk about the Aus. not having any discipline but Imperial officers can beat them they are as ignorant as pigs and if we were stationed here they would think the world was coming to an end

Friday 10th

Back in the Barracks again and we are not sorry we had a good trip home having daylight all the way we are all as thin as twine for breakfast this morning we had burgoo [porridge] and bread and jam the way M.P.s live there is a disgrace to the army

Monday 13th

Back in the barracks again and are not sorry had a trip to Moascar with hospital patients we had to go by the eleven o'clock train the patient landed on the platform as the train

pulled out and we had to go back again when we landed we were put on patrol and there was an issue of gifts tobacco and cigs after dinner we were warned (?) for escort for five oclock to Moascar we got there at nine and had to stop all night and come back the next day we had a fair time there went to the Cosmagraph at night the place was crowded there was not standing room the place is always crowded as a rule when a new film is on but last night was a record the seven million dollars seem to have the crowd and the war pictures the French cheer every one it is more like going to a play than pictures the manager was telling me that the place holds two thousand and they are going to enlarge it to hold four thousand

13(sic) November 1916

There was an air raid here today and it caused some excitement among the natives there was about twenty killed one woman was killed as she was getting into a gharrey [gharry - type of horse-drawn vehicle] the driver and both horses. One of our men had a close call having the collar of his tunic blown off one of the R.E.s was killed there was no damage done no more than breaking a lot of glass the bombs used were small it is reported that the raider was caught at Moascar it gave us a lot of extra work we were on duty from two oclock till eleven at night all the traffic being stopped where the bombs dropped and it was hard work keeping the natives off the streets were crowded with them

Thursday 17th

On guard have been issued with permanent(sic) passes but they did not last long there is seven of the A.P.C. in the clink over them and the passes are all called in some of the men have been away two days there was two N.C.Os. among them so those that look after themselves have to suffer with them that are always in trouble so a man gets no benefit(sic) for playing the game they have also altered our pay day instead of being paid every ten days we are to be paid every fortnight after the air raid they mounted guns on the barracks and are on the watch after the trouble is over it is little wonder that they are a long time winning the war it is now reported that the raider escaped and that the British raided the enemy aerodrome and by all accounts smashed everything up there is a lot of people are afraid that a Zepp [Zeppelin – airship] will come here next time there is a raid on it has been very hot this last few days more like summer than winter and it has been hot at night

17/11/16

The A.W.Ls. of the A.P.C. were tried this morning two of them got four days C/No 2 the Cpl got 14 days and to be sent back to his unit and one was let off one got four days No 2 and held over for a week

Monday 20th

Things still very quiet the people have now got over the raid yet there was 22 killed and 28 wounded in it had a trip to Mosaacar(sic) yester(sic) with hospital patients we got there at two oclock just as the Cairo train came in we had to hand our men over and then

wait till half past eight for the next train we put in the time walking about the town but there was nothing to see the only thing noticeable was the absence of natives

Tuesday 21st

Trouble among the corps it appears that three of them went into one of the movies as police on duty there were not satisfied with taken(sic) a back seat but they went into the reserved seats and refused to give them up to the men who had paid for them they and to call in the M.P.s to have them shifted so all the badges(?) are called in so it seems that no matter what the officers do for them they will abuse it and then the lot has to suffer we have a new order now we have not [got?] to ask the M.Ps for passes and some of the provos are kicking up about it the M.Ps have a pass till midnight we had one till ten o'clock but they could not keep them more than a week

Thursday 23rd

On guard. But nothing to guard as there is no prisoners so we have nothing to do only answer the bell it is a new gage (?) they have here the doors of the Barracks are closed and any one wishing to enter has to ring the bell for the sentry so far it dose(sic) not seem to work to(sic) well we have also a new R.P.M. [Regimental Sergeant Major] the old one is going to Moascar for a while there was great rivalry among the Sgts for the job and the ones who expected to get it did not [word missing] the new man is making himself very busy and will be getting himself disliked if he is not careful have been calling for volunteers(sic) to go to Port Said to the rest camp have have(sic) my name down for it will be a change if I am lucky had a parcel sent to me through the F& S. It is the first I have had it was a good parcel but there was no tobacco or cigs in it still very hot at night

Saturday 25th

Had a medical inspection of all hands but he did not tell us if we were fit or not I have been going to go on sick parade this last fortnight with a pain over the heart but the Dr said nothing about it we are to have a general inspection on Tuesday and we have to get Aus buttons and hand the Tommies buttons in the two A.P.C. who got nine days AWL are back again and they have been telling us how they got treated they seem to think that blaging(?) [playing?] the game is the best policy after all

Monday 27th

Three of the A.P.C. were drunk for patrol last night and Liga?? that is the new R.S.M. made them side step out of the ranks and said he did not want the reputation of the Inf [Infantry] spoiled by them (they were No 2.L.H. [Light Horse]) as if the Inf have not done it themselves there was a few pinched last night it is mostly their own fault if they get the offer to go away they will hang around till they are run in and then they do not like it

Wednesday 29th

Have had two inspections this last two days and there is another tomorrow the guard have to parade to the O.R. [Orderly Room] for passing remarks about us while on

parade there is some talk of cutting some of the pay down as some of the men are over drawn some have over drawn as much as ? 40£ so they will have something to make up it will stop some of them from flying about so much. It is very foggy of a morning lately and it is cool with it our mail seems to have stopped no one is getting any mail lately

Thursday 30th

On guard was on patrol but one of the guard was sick so had to take his place had our pay books audited and the pay was very light this pay I was cut down to 35T.P. and I had over drawn 10/- they seem to work things here to suit themselves they used to ask the men if they wanted extra money which they always did and now they have to get paid (unclear) till they are out of debt

December 2nd 1916

Soon to be winding up the old year and it seems that we will be hear(sic) another year yet it is out in orders that we have to parade every morning at seven oclock for rifle drill through the interference of our new R.S.M. he says that he does not want to be popular with the men only the C.Os if he gets to the firing(sic) he will be sorry for it I'm think one of the men on guard got roared at by one of the Tommie officers for not saluting him he threatened to report him to the C.O. as its happened he was one of the flash gentleman [Gentlemen seems to have been a term used for Light Horse soldiers] we have in the corps and has done 28 days for desertion

Monday ?

On parade at seven oclock this morning the guard and early patrols were exempt so when remainder lined up there was not a decent guard it was the same old thing sloping arms by numbers

By the way the N.C.Os went about their work it will not last long another of the unfortunate A.P.C. got four day C.B. for not being on the spot when he was wanted for duty the Aus have a lot to be thanked for if they were in the Imperial army they would wonder what happened to them and instead of getting four days C.B. for missing his patrol he would have got 28 days of bassick(sic?) No 2 F.P. [No 2 Field Punishment]

Thursday 6th

Things are still quiet so quiet that some of the men have nothing to do only get themselves into trouble there is one in clink and another got seven days C.B. so he will soon be putting the strips[stripes?] up it seems that a man has to be crimed before he can be an N.C.O. there was four given strips(sic) today and one of them has done time in detention the other night he came off patrol he was that drunk he could not stand

6/12/16

There was no parade today as there was to be a general inspection of the barracks but the general did not turn up

Friday 8th

Things still very quiet they can only muster ten men for parade of a morning now do not think it will last long there is some queer things done in this corps there was two Italians arrested and tried by C.M for desertion they were sentenced to two years and now they are on probation one of them is a sgt and is in charge of the escort to Luntara (Kantara?) today there is no doubt that the more crime a man commits the better he gets on. This sgt said that he was out with the C.O. the other night and was shouting him champagne(sic) and ther(sic) is plenty of men in the corp who would commit any offence they pass unnoticed(sic) it seems as that the officers are affraid(sic) of a man one [once?] he starts to play up they give him a few days C.B. or No2 FP and then give a stripe but to think a man getting two years – then he is let off with a caution then afterwards put in charge of men with clean sheets

Sunday 10 December

On exchange guard for a change there is nothing to do there the only thing is that we are out of the way of the head and have a nice quiet time of it the Devon pipe and drum band is giving us a fine tune this morning (unclear) it is the first time they have played in our square we have to get ready for a general inspection tomorrow the chances are ten to one that when we get everything ready there will be no inspection the same as the last time

Tuesday 12th

The inspection did not come off after getting ready it is to be on Wednesday now we had a dress rehearsal this morning and as usual was a mix up got a hole in my hand(?) in the unfix (?) the C.O. told us we not to had (unclear phrase) except our haversacks buckles were not clean so we have to clean them up for tomorrow

Wednesday 13th

At last we have been inspected by General Murray after being ready every morning for a week everything must have been O.K. as the old chap said nothing and our C.O. has cut out the early morning parades for which we are not sorry so we are able to sleep in of a morning again

Friday 15th

We had our inspection at last and everyone was glad to have it over. Everything was O.K. it came out on the notice board this morning that the G.O.C.[General Officer Commanding] L?D and L of C [Line of Communication] was very pleased with the way the Anzacs turned out on parade and the way the [they] handled their arms and the cleanliness of their quarters and the C.O. hopes that the high standered(sic) of the corps [15/16 (at top of page)] has will be continued but it seems they all say the same thing the corps is so good that there is a lot trying to get out of it and some do get out and leave us short of men so that those left have to do double work the quarter guard was six men strong and now it is cut down to half and yester(sic) there was only two on it

Monday 18th

There was another of the provos taken to Abbassia to do 28th days No2 he was a N.Z. [New Zealand] Cpl he had only just came back from Kantara [El Qantara?] and the night he lands here he got drunk and played up a bit the Italian who got two years reprieved(?) is now going about the barracks in plain clothes and doing just as he likes. there is a notice up this morning to the members of the A.I.F to spend their surplus cash in bonds for the war loan but I do not think they will get much here there are [some?] of the men affraid(sic) that they are going make them take the bonds wether(sic)they like it or not the G.S.[Government Savings?] bank is good enough for me

Wednesday 20th

On quarter guard and having a fair time there being no prisoners to look after we got paid today and the most of the men being overdrawn have their pay cut down some of them got 10T.P. and a lot 95TP I got 35 and I made my book up and found it owing £1.14.3 it would not be so bad if you got what was coming to you if you are in debt you get nothing and if the book owes you anything you do not get it and they had the cheek to some asking for the subs for the sports and cooks some of the men can not pay for their washing another of the A.P.C. got into trouble and got kicked out of the corp he was sent to Moascar the Devons have been busy this last week hauling in red cross stuff belonging to the A.I.F. some of the niggers are wearing it and I expect the soldiers are going without it is a long time since we got an issue of tobacco but you can buy it in the streets so some one is making money there is sports here on boxing day but I do not suppose that we will see them they have a good program would like to get some snapshots of it

Friday 21st

The A.P.M [Assistant Provost Marshall] has been stirring our C.O. up lately he says that if we do not perform duties better than we are he is going to [put?] Cairo out of bounds to all Australian he says that we are pinching all the Tommies and letting our own men go so yester(sic) all our officers and Sgts patrolled the streets looking for men who passed officers without saluting them they caught a lot of the [22/16 (on top of page)] A.P.C and a few Tommies and one officer or two all the (they?) found is with the officers if a private in passing them gives them the salute they will not take any notice of him and H.Q. are the worse of the lot so they will have to look out for themselves in future as the A.P.C. will be only to(sic) pleased to take their names and address. Our own are very lax they do not take any notice of us if we come to attention when they pass us and now they are having other officers up for what they do themselves the motto here seems to be make others do what you do not do yourself the total number of men for Nove [November] was 1721 including Imperial men

Sunday 23rd December

the Devons are making great prep. for Xmas ours will not be much as we have to be on duty the G.O.C. has stopped soldiers going to race meeting

Monday 25th

Had a parade this morning for our Xmas gifts they were rotten this year compared last a Mrs Wills(?) Allen handed them out they were made up of a lot of stuff we did not want and could have done without what we really(sic) need is things we never get it is all Queensland gifts we do not seem to get anything from our own state the Xmas [meal?] was as good as it could possibly be in fact we could not get better at home we had turkey and ham and vegetables and pudding as much as we could eat there was plenty of lemonade and beer and there is a lot staggering about now the officers dined with us the Devons are enjoying themselves by the row they are making some of them have the staggers as they did not have as good a turn out as we had although they had their (unclear) well decorated [25/12/16 (on top of page)] There was a(sic) four prisoners in the cells they were let out and they had dinner with us we had a good time on patrol as we had orders to arrest no one unless we could not help it they were all quiet more than any other time the soldiers home gave a free supper to all comers the two ladies in the home seemed to enjoy themselves handing it out you had to have something whether(sic) you wanted it or not there was a drop of rain here today the first since I have seen since last March (here)

Wednesday 27th

On guard nothing to do only answer the bell there is a lot of our men going to the desert and if they do not get some more to replace them we will get nothing we have another guard to do now. There was a few of the A.P.C. copped last night for being out of bounds they were tried this morning and let off it was [27/12/16 (on top of page)] only some of the N.C.Os trying to make themselves smart but they want to be careful themselves whe(sic) they start that game and they will be well watched in future if they make a slip they are gonners we are having some showery weather since Xmas a bit of a change

Thursday 28th December 1916

Things a bit of a mix up with the men going away all the men coming off guard have to go on patrol which is a bit hard on us there was one man and one horse went to the hospital yester(sic) it is the first time that a horse has been mentioned in going to the vet and it seems queer to be on the notice board

From last NOTEBOOK of 1916 January 2, 1917- February 21. 1917

[2/1/17 (at top of page)]

On guard a year gone and still in Cairo I think we are here for the rest of our lives new years day this year was very different to last year there was nothing on at all only patrol work The Italian who deserted from this unit has been in the Barracks waiting to be sent home to N.Z for discharge when the time came to go he was missing but turned up later on and is now in the clink those that get a chance to go home break away to stop here and those that would go home and glad to get there get no chance we are having some cold and showery weather lately it is showery today about [January 1917 (on top of page)] an hour ago the natives got the fright of their lives with a clap of thunder it was raining lightly and everything quiet when without warning there came a flash of lightning followed immediately by a heavy clap of thunder the natives though[t] there was another air raid on and they dropped(sic) everything they had there and then and went for their lives to the nearest shelter some of the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] have [2/1/1917 (on top of page)] been on the matt(sic) for being out of bounds one was absent off his post and when he came home he broke out of barracks for which he got 2 days C.B. [Confined to Barracks] the other was let off with a caution two more men have put up the strips [stripes?] and both of them have been crimed [charged] it seems if a man wants to get strips(sic) here he must get crimed a few times and be in the cells he is a cert for a stripe Captain Jordan has gone to Moascar for a month but Grigson has taken his place so we will get nothing for a while I just took the Italian over to the NZ HQ to be tried he was fined seven days pay he is to go to France tonight or tomorrow it has turned bitterly cold this last hour or two and the wind is blowing a hurricane with sleet rain

Thursday 4th

Still raining and bitterly cold the winter seems to have set in properly now it is cold and more wet than this time last year

Sunday 7th January

It is like spring weather after the rain but we can not get out in it through our having to do double work had a few captures last night both in the Imperial and Aust some of them were a bit lively and some of them helpless

Tuesday 9th

It is very cold at night after the rain especially on guard and it was that cold that the mosquitoes were affraid(sic) to come out and give us a time there was another set to over the rations yester(sic) [yesterday] some of the men never seem satisfied they wanted more jam when they were getting plenty of jam they wanted something else we are getting splendid food here and no man has any room for complaint we get three

different dishes a day no two meals being alike some of them ought to be in the trenches for a while on bully beef and biscuits

Saturday 13th

Two more of the A.P.C. in trouble for leaving their post while on duty one from the store guard and one from the Telephone exchange the A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall] caught them himself they are not tried yet it is to be hoped that they cop out for it as it makes it bad for the rest of us and both guards was an easy cop the man who has been missing from the 14.A.G.H.[Australian/Army? General Hospital?] since the 26/12/16 was found drowned at Benha we have had no particulars as to how or why he was there there is a rumor(sic) going about that the letters that are sent to the orderly room to be censored are read by every one in the room and they have great fun over them there is no doubt there are some ignorant fools alive and especially in the wonderful A.P.C. they seem to me to be the scum of the earth the heads are trying to get us to subscribe to the war loan. They even want the officers to give us a lecture on it, they are not likely to get anything here if they lecture for a month as no one seems to fancy it

Monday 15th

On store guard it is reported that there are one hundred and seventy bags missing and here the other day they burnt hundreds of bags that had never been used and now they are making a complaint about one hundred old bags patched up that way you hardly know the original from the patches one of the Devons we arrested the other night has laid a complaint against the A.P.C. for robbing him of three hundred T.P. [? Piastre] the two men who left their post got off light one got 168 hours F.P. No.2 [Field Punishment] and the other 96. Still having cold foggy weather

Thursday 18th

The patrol made a few catches last night and two of the A.P.C. are in the clink for being drunk one of the A.P.C. copped out down at Moascar for disobeying an order from his C.O. he was a sgt to(sic) he got 1 year hard labour

Friday 19th

Made a few captures last night the C.O. is back from Moascar and they tried to get as many prisoners as they could to let him see they were doing their work all the N.C.Os [Non Commissioned Officers] seem to be frightened of their lives of him they told us about a dozen times to be very careful while on patrol and examine all passes carefully as Mjr [Major] Jordan was about my mate and me never ask for a pass all the night and as luck would have it we were talking to two Imperial men when the O.C. passed so he passed on thinking we were up to our eyes in business(sic) we have a plsam(sic)[psalm] singer here who will be getting his head knocked off one of these days if he sees a man doing anything wrong he arrests him straight away and gives him no chance then he'll preach help your fallen brother rise they are stuffing the bully beef into us lately we have been getting it for a week now without a break

Sunday 21 January 1917

On guard yester(sic) and had a lively time of it there was only two of us on and we had six prisoners to look after and we had to look after the gate we never stopped going from the time we went on till we came off we had to go on escort this morning at half past six but we were dismissed when we came back there being no prisoners in the cells we have to go on patrol at six tonight and it seems as if they intend to give us no spell two of the A.P.C. were marched out yester(sic) to Moascar to do time in the compound then after doing their time they have to go to details and sent to their units in France.

Tuesday 22nd

We had an inspection by the C.O. and it came out in orders that he was well pleased the way we turned out he is now an A.P.M. it is talked that we are leaving here soon for where no one seems to know the Devons are all going to Malta

Thursday 25th

Had an issue of gifts stuff after a spell of about two months the issue consisted of 1 pk of cig 1 tin of tobacco on(sic) of milk one tin of raisons(sic) one tin of pineapple between two men this is the only place where we do not get an issue every week

Tuesday 30th

Have been very sick this last four days went on sick parade and after waiting an hour for the Dr he told me there was nothing the matter with me and I hardly know where I am or what I am doing unless a man is nearly dead they take no notice of him

Friday 2nd February 1917

On army rations the 8.1/2d being cut out from this date so we ought to get an issue of tobacco every week things are very quiet and we are getting very few prisoners we got three or four last night [February (on bottom of page)] It has come out in orders that every one has to wear F.S [Field Service] caps a lot of men buy officers caps and take the wire out of them it gives us extra work as we have to take the names of the men we see not wearing the F.S. caps the taking of names for not saluting officers is cut out there was to(sic) many sent up over it that many it seems they could not deal with them so we have to caution them instead

Monday 5th there was to have been an inspection by the Q.M.G [Quartermaster General] and as usual after cleaning all our gear up a wire came to say that he was not coming there is a funeral today one of the A.P.C. died through injuries received from a fall off a horse he belonged to the Heliopolis detachment have not heard any more about the promotion (?) yet

Wednesday 7th

The funeral of Cpl Matthews was a general mess up fourteen of volunteers(sic) to go as a firing(sic) party and we had half an hour drill to get some idea of the movements and at three o'clock we fell in and was served with three rounds each and were ready to march off when we got word to say that the Devons were supplying the firing(sic)

party so we had to put our rifles away and we went to the cemetery without [them] we were there an hour before the hearse came and no firing(sic) party they then had to send to the barracks for our rifles which was another half hour when they fired the volley they were one behind the other and the bugler was that nervous that he could hardly blow the trumpet it was seven o'clock when we got back and then we had to go on patrol the inspection came off yester(sic) and as usual was a great success I was not in it being on exchange guard it is the only one I have missed since being in the army three more of the A.P.C. in trouble two for disobeying orders and one being drunk on duty they were sentenced to four days and to be sent to details at Moascar but they [were?] recalled and fined £1 each and to stop in the corps

Saturday 10th

It has just come out in orders for men to hand in their names for various trades but there will not be many in the corp that has a trade there is likely to be some trouble with one of the sgts it appears that he bought some whiskey for the prisoners and did not give them their change and they have reported him he is now under open arrest and the sentry is in the cells

Monday 15th

We had a heavy thunder storm last night with a heavy wind which flattened a lot of the trees in the street it also blew down a big tree in the barracks it fell on two men tents and flattened them both one of the tents belonged to the A.P.C. and to the other the Devon A.S.C.

Friday 16th

The Sgt who gave the prisoners drink has had a hearing and is to be tried by C.M. the sentry got out of it there is going to [be?] special men picked for the Kursaal and Cassino patrols the[they?] have to be well dressed one of our special men is going to get a rough time when the mob get hold of him he put about two hundred men up for not saluting and he got made cpl so when the mob get hold of him they are going to knock the stripes off him still having a drop of rain

Tuesday 20th

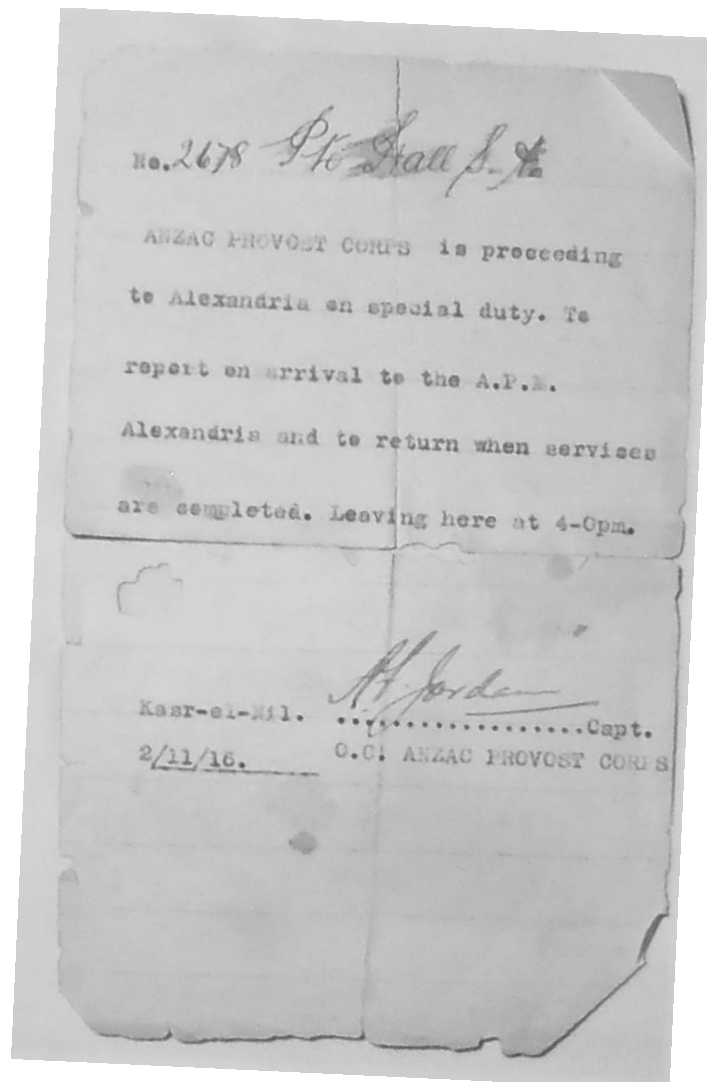
Has been very cold this last few days almost freezing all the old Devons marched out from here and a new Batt [Battalion] has marched in we have had a quiet time on patrol lately there was seven drunken French N.C.Os in the street last night making things lively for a while and at one time it looked as if they were going to run amok

Wednesday 21st February 1917

The new garrison are very strict on guard our O.C. coming(sic) home last night was challenged but did not stop the sentry fired a shot at him the patrol in coming(sic) home had to advance one by one a thing that has never happened to us since we have been on police work

SOLDIERS DAY [on last page]

5.30 am – Reveille : Christians awake
 7.45 am – Roll call : Art Thou Weary Art Thou Languid
 8.00 am – Breakfast : Meekly wait and murmur not
 9.00 am – Manoeuvres(sic) : Fight the good fight
 11.15 am – Swedish drill : Here we suffer grief and pain
 1.0 on – Dinner : Come ye thankful people come
 2.15 pm – Lecture by officer : Tell me the old old storey(sic)
 4.30 pm – Dismiss : Praise God from whom all blessings flow
 5.30 pm – Tea : What means this eager anxious throng
 6.50 – out of bounds : Oh how happy we shall be
 10.0pm – Last post : all are safely gathered in
 10.15pm – Lights out : Peace perfect peace
 2.30 pm – Friday (Pay day) : count your blessings one by one



1917 DAIRY and ALMANAC

[Frontispiece]

No 2678

G A Hall

6/17 Batt

(Anzac Provo Corp)

Kasr-el-Nil

Barracks

[Pages of Almanac information]

[1 page of] 'Letters To'

G.M.G.E.C.L.H.W.L.H. 1/1/17

C R T 1/19/17

S.E.C. 16/1/17

Mother 22/1/17

S.E.C. 3/1/17

B.R. L.M.H. 16/2/17

A Payne 5/3/17

Rgd pcl A.P. 8/3/17

L.M. Hall 27/3/17

M M. Hall 6/4/17

L.M.Hall C.R. Taylor 14/4/17

L.M.Hall C.R. Taylor 14/4/17

W.J.? L.M. Hall 26/4/17

M.M.Hall 29/4/17

G.W & J Adams 8/5/17

L.M.Hall A.G. 8/5/17

L.M. Hall AP 5/6/17

C.R.T.LM W.J.H. 21/7/17

W.J.Hall 4/8/17

L.M.Hall G C.C. 15/8/17

I.L.L.M.I.EC. 27/8/17

W.J.Hall 8/9/17

T.H.Hall 24/9/17

T.M.Hall (unclear) 27/9/17

Bert Robinson 7/10/17

G.Leighton 8/10/17

(Unclear) 17/10/17

S.E.C.? Leighton 29/19/17

LM & M.M.Hall 17/11/17

Lorna(?) Hall 29/11/17

E.R.T.S.E.C. 13/12/17

426 Pte(?) W J Hall

ACoy 9th Batt

5 Brigade

Ghyll fort (?)

Grassmere

Westmoreland

England

No 1209 D Coy 37 Batt

10th Brdg (unclear) 3rd Division

Monday January 1st 1917

On patrol but nothing doing having some showery weather and cold

Tuesday 2nd

On guard and a miserable day bitterly cold and we had a few prisoners to look after

Wednesday 3rd

On patrol after comming(sic) off guard paid today and started the new year out of debt and new pay book.

Thursday 4th

On patrol has been raining all day and is bitterly cold

Friday 5th

Store guard the best guard of the lot no one to trouble you only the mosquitoes are very bad

Saturday 6th

On patrol and was kept busy got more captures than we bargained for both Imperial and Aus.

Sunday 7th January

On patrol but very cold quiet saw the Tango danced for the first time at the Casino De Paris

Monday 8th

On exchange guard did a freeze proper to(sic) cold for the mosquitoes another 20(10?) in over the rations they do not know when they are well off

Tuesday 9th

On patrol had a few captures rain all the afternoon very cold

Wednesday 10th

On patrol but no biz(?) the man who dissapeared(sic) from the A.G.H. [Australian General Hospital] on the 26/12/16 has been found drowned at Benha (knox)

Thursday 11th

On guard only three prisoners to look after the Italian is still in the cells waiting for his boat to sail

Friday 12th on leave but no where to go being one of the unlucky ones I do not know anyone in Egypt yet after being in Cairo twelve months

Saturday 13th

On patrol two more of the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] doing time for leaving their post they were on the exchange and store guards one got 96 hours F.P. No 2 [Field Punishment No 2] the other got 16 hours FP2.

Sunday 14th January

On store guard very quiet about one hundred and seventy bags missing one of the Devons has accused the A.P.C. of robbing him of 200 T.P. [?Piastres]

Monday 16th

On patrol and never had a capture all day

Tuesday 16th

On patrol very quiet no soldiers in town this last two days

Wednesday 17th

On exchange guard quiet more of the A.P.C. in the clink for being drunk

Thursday 18th

On patrol made a good few captures the C.O. [Commanding Officer] is back from Moascar and they tried to pinch as many as they could

Friday 19th

On patrol and got a few prisoners one of the patrol in trouble for not arresting a man likely to get out of it

Saturday 20th

On guard only two of us on and five prisoners to look after eight men leaving here for the desert

Sunday 21 January

On patrol very quiet getting roared up for not pinching men told we would be sent where we would do our duty

Monday 22nd

On patrol very cold and raining made no arrests had an inspection by the C.O. said he was very pleased the way we turned out

Tuesday 23rd

On store guard one of our Sgts [Sergeants] leaves for the camel corps he is supposed to be getting a star

Wednesday 24th

On leave after twelve days duty then the orderly sgt said it was a mistake I should not have had it

Thursday 25th

On patrol run a four of the Devons in for drunk and A.W.L. [absent without leave] very few soldiers in town twenty four men on patrol

Friday 26th

On patrol and feeling very seedy and sore will have to see the M.O. [Medical Officer] if don't improve

Saturday 27th

On exchange guard still seedy eat nothing all day can hardly stand up

Sunday 28th January

On patrol still feeling a bit queer

Monday 29th

To(sic) sick for duty went on sick parade after waiting an hour for the Dr he told me there was nothing the matter

Tuesday 30th

On patrol still feeling seedy very quiet in town

Wednesday 31st

On guard had a good day no prisoners so we have nothing to do only attend to the bell

Thursday 1st February 1917

On patrol made a few captures on[e] used rather choice language to us for not given(sic) him a chance

Friday 2nd

On patrol made a few prisoners it is in orders that there is some promotions to be made irrespective of a mans status

Saturday 2nd

On store guard nothing to do only fight mosquitoes getting issued with tobacco at last

Sunday 4th February

On patrol nothing doing an inspection by the G.M.O [General Medical Officer] tomorrow one of the A.P.C. died today fall from a horse

Monday 5th

On patrol but nothing doing the funeral of Cpl Matthews was a messed up affair when we got to the cem[etery] nothing was ready

Tuesday 6th

On exchange guard very quiet the Cpl [Corporal] in charge was missing from his post when the O.C. [Officer Commanding] called on us

Wednesday 7th

On patrol made a few arrests both in Imperial men and Aust three of the APC in trouble one sent to det [detention?] the other fined £1

Thursday 8

Had a quiet time on patrol the hospital patients are the worst to deal with there seem to be only one street in Cairo where they can go

Friday 9th

On guard three prisoners to look after kept busy on the gate

Saturday 10

On Kursaal patrol very quiet the place full of officers raining all the evening

Sunday 11th February

On patrol had a few captures there was a heavy (?) storm of wind today it blew down a tree and flattened the Sgts mess

Monday 12th

On store guard very quiet

Tuesday 13th

On patrol nothing doing the M.M.P. [Mounted Military Police ?] got four of

our men collection for wreaths and headstone for Mathews

Wednesday 14th

On quarter guard a few prisoners in the cells. Kept busy on the gate

Thursday 15th

On patrol a good few Aus in town but fairly quiet two or three got pinched

Friday 16th

On patrol had a lively time with a scotch man

Saturday 17th

On exchange guard very quiet

Sunday 18th February

On patrol had one arrest very cold tonight

Monday 19th

On patrol nothing doing among our own there was seven French N.C.Os [Non-commissioned officers] in the street drunk making things lively

Tuesday 20th

On store guard nothing doing the new garrison are very strict they fired a shot at one of our officers last night

Wednesday 21st

On patrol one man sent home drunk the sgt [Sergeant] for giving prisoners drink in the cells reduced to Cpl and leaving for camel corps

Thursday 22nd

On patrol nothing doing

Friday 23rd

On quarter guard quiet our friend got fourteen days F.P. No 2 [Field Punishment No 2] Moascar

Saturday 24th

On patrol quiet it has come out in orders that all men having good conduct sheets can put up con(sic) strips [stripes?] after

12 months abroad [overseas service chevrons]

Sunday 25th February

Escort to Moascar with hospital patients not a bad trip in daylight but coming back it is all night traveling (sic)

Monday 26th

On exchange guard very quiet

Tuesday 27th

On patrol nothing doing only raining

Wednesday 28th

On patrol the M.M.Ps are making themselves busy arresting the Aus.

Thursday March 1, 1917

On quarter guard had a busy time eleven prisoners to look after the tommies [English military police] pinched the lot Friday 2nd

On patrol a bit lively about a dozen men arrested

Saturday 3rd

On patrol a big crowd of camel corps there was a good few of them pinched

Sunday 4th March

On exchange guard very quiet

Monday 5th

On patrol still making arrests the streets are full of troops at night lately

Tuesday 6th

On patrol very quiet the N.Fs [Northumberland Fusiliers] are roaring over being pulled up for their passes

Wednesday 7th

On store guard nothing to do only fight mosquito(sic)

Thursday 8th

On patrol made a good few arrests

Friday 9th

On exchange guard quiet there is some talk of cutting out all guards except the quarter

Saturday 10th

On patrol a big mob of soldiers in town but quiet very few arrests made

Sunday 11th March

On patrol quiet only made three arrests

Monday 12th

On quarter guard only four prisoners to look after one of the A.P.C. from Moascar was put in the clink

Tuesday 13th

On patrol very quiet only two arrests

Wednesday 14th

On patrol but nothing doing one of our officers is to be married shortly and is leaving us for Heliopolis

Thursday 15th

On store guard

Friday 16th

On patrol made an arrest getting some hot weather lately

Saturday 17th

On patrol made one arrest very quiet lately

Sunday 18th March

On quarter guard no prisoners to look after

Monday 19th

On patrol no arrests very quiet

Tuesday 20th

On patrol no arrests

Wednesday 21st

On exchange guard nothing doing

Thursday 22nd

On patrol quiet it is rumored(sic) that we have to put up the A.P.C. numerals

Friday 23rd

On patrol through some silly clown we have another patrol on the Cossangraphe (unclear)

Saturday 24th

On store guard

Sunday 24th March

on patrol still quiet no arrests the town full of N.F. (see Tuesday 6th)

Monday 26th

On patrol nothing doing getting very hot Tuesday 27th

On quarter guard one prisoner to look after

Wednesday 28th

On patrol made a few arrests some of the patrol drunk

Thursday 29th

On patrol things a bit mixed at times

Friday 30th

On exchange guard very quiet and hot

Saturday 31st

On the Pont Lemoun patrol nothing to do only sit down very cool after the heat wave

Sunday 1st April 1917

On store guard still plenty of mosquitoes

Monday 2nd

On Pont Lemoun patrol nothing doing very cold and like rain

Tuesday 3rd

On patrol no arrests

Wednesday 4th

On quarter guard two prisoners to look after

Thursday 5th

On patrol our O.C. [Officer Commanding] sneaking round corners

to see what we are doing got part of our summer issue at last

Friday 6th Good Friday

On patrol one arrest

Saturday 7th

On exchange guard very quiet

Sunday 8th April Easter Sunday

On patrol nothing doing

Monday 9th

On patrol nothing doing only about ten soldiers in town

Tuesday 10th

On quarter guard have to parade with the rifle

Wednesday 11th

On Pont Lemoun patrol quiet the cpl [responsible?] for letting the transport waggon(sic) get broke up had to pay 290T.P.

Thursday 12th

On patrol captured about a dozen A.W.L.[Absent Without Leave]

Friday 13th

On store guard same as usual

Saturday 14th

On patrol made a few arrests

Sunday 15th April

On patrol quiet

Monday 16th

Exchange guard nothing doing

Tuesday 17th

On patrol had a few arrests the Sgt and the (unclear) who were up for being out of bounds were fined £20

Wednesday 18th

On patrol nothing doing very few soldiers in town in orders no helmets to be worn by the Aus Troops this summer

Thursday 19th

On quarter guard only three prisoners to look after have to parade with rifle since the prisoner escaped

Friday 20th

On patrol made a few arrests half the patrol drunk the civil police arrested an Aus for assaulting a wallad(?)

Saturday 21st

On patrol very quiet

Sunday 22nd April

On exchange guard quiet having a spell of cool weather

Monday 23rd

On patrol nothing doing

Tuesday 24th

On patrol only about a dozen soldiers in town very hot

Wednesday 25th

On quarter guard no prisoners horribly hot double pay this pay all pay books called in to be issued with new ones

Thursday 26th

On patrol on[e] of the Cpls up for being absent from his post of (unclear) nothing doing

Friday 27th

On patrol made two arrests had a rough up with one the Cpl got his case dismissed for being absent

Saturday 28th

On exchange guard quiet having a cool change after the heat

Sunday 29th April

on Pont Lemoun nothing doing very cool and fresh

Monday 30th

On store guard more fleas than ever

Tuesday May 1st 1917

On patrol nothing doing still keeping cool had a win in a Loterie(sic) fres(?)

Wednesday 2nd

On patrol nothing doing

Thursday 3rd

On patrol nothing doing

Friday 4th

On quarter guard only one prisoner the man who escaped from the barracks was caught at Alexandria

Saturday 5th

On patrol had two arrests otherwise nothing doing

Sunday 6th May

on patrol nothing doing all the Imp [Imperial] men we pinched we have to take them straight to Bel-el-Kadid [Hadid?]

Monday 7th

On patrol quiet still keeping cool two of the exchange guards in clink for being off their post

Tuesday 8th

On exchange guard quiet still nice and cool had another win in the Loterie T.P.100

Wednesday 9th

On patrol nothing doing

Thursday 10th

On patrol very quiet and about a dozen soldiers in town

Friday 11th

On quarter guard have to work shifts all night and then go on patrol till twelve oclock next night

Saturday 12th

on patrol made one arrest the town was full of soldiers very few drunk

Sunday 13th May

On Pont Lemoun patrol made one arrest

Monday 14th

On store guard same as usual

Tuesday 15th

On Pont Lemoun patrol nothing doing

Wednesday 16th

On patrol quiet

Thursday 17th

On quarter guard only one prisoner (unclear) more men taken on strength

Friday 18th

On patrol quiet and very hot

Saturday 19th

On patrol nothing doing a fearful dust storm could hardly see

Sunday 20th May

On exchange guard nice and cool after storm

Monday 21st

On patrol one arrest very hot and the CO is making it hotter

Tuesday 22nd

Moascar but did not get there but have the day off the first for four months

Wednesday 23rd

On patrol nothing doing have an inspection had to parade with rifle for having a bit of dust on it

Thursday 24th

On quarter guard only two prisoners

Friday 25th

On patrol on[one?] arrest having fairly cool weather still doing rifle drill

Saturday 26th

On patrol nothing doing

Sunday 27th May

On store guard same as usual

Monday 28th

On patrol nothing doing

Tuesday 29th

On patrol nothing doing getting colder weather every day and it is giving us all colds

Wednesday 30th

On exchange guard nothing doing

Thursday 31st

No duty having a bad back had to go on sick parade waited four hours for the Dr and had to come away with (unclear)

Friday June 1, 1917

Back still bad saw the Dr said it was (unclear) had the day off

Saturday 2nd

Still on the sick list got two days off

Sunday 3rd June

Still on sick list

Monday 4th

Still on the sick list but am ordered for duty

Tuesday 5th

On patrol nothing doing

Wednesday 6th

On patrol a good Troop on leave from the desert quiet so far no arrests

Thursday 7th

On quarter guard about a dozen prisoners to look after

Friday 8th

On patrol nothing doing

Saturday 9th

On patrol big crowd in town but quiet had an inspection by Brig General Sir Murray Andess? K.C.M. [probably Brigadier General Sir Robert Murray Anderson K.C.M.G. sent to Egypt Dec.1915]

Sunday 10th June

On exchange guard had to stop on duty all night

Monday 11th

On Pont Lemoun patrol nothing doing

Tuesday 12th

On patrol very quiet

Wednesday 13th

On store guard nothing to do a(sic) usual

Thursday 14th

On patrol nothing doing

Friday 15th

On patrol nothing doing getting very hot

Saturday 16th

On quarter guard five prisoners to look after a terrible hot day and night 114 in the shade

Sunday 17th June

On patrol two arrests two of the patrol drunk a bit cooler

Monday 18th June

On patrol very quiet

Tuesday 19th

On patrol a bit lively at times

Wednesday 20th

On patrol nothing doing

Thursday 21st

On patrol one arrest a lot of men in from the desert a bit lively some of them

Friday 22nd

On store guard quiet

Saturday 23rd

On patrol a good few arrests had a close shave with motor car the man behind me got shocked but not hurt

Sunday 24th June

On patrol one arrest fairly quiet

Monday 25th

On quarter guard 10 prisoners to look after

Tuesday 26th

On patrol nothing doing very hot

Wednesday 27th

On patrol three of the Kursaal patrol in the clink for being drunk

Thursday 26th, Friday 29th (written across days)

A trip to Gaza on a court martial

Saturday 30th – **Thursday 5th June 1917**

[written across days]

At Gaza in the front line having a good time of it much cooler there than here

Friday 6th

Back in the Barracks feel a bit weary no sleep all night

Saturday 7th

On store guard very hot and plenty of mosquitoes

Sunday 8th July

On Pont Lemoun nothing doing

Monday 9th

On patrol nothing doing

Tuesday 10th

On quarter guard ten prisoners to look after

Wednesday 11th

On patrol nothing doing

Thursday 12th

On patrol on arrest very quiet

Friday 13th

On patrol a few hours among the Gippes

Saturday 14th

On exchange guard (unclear) as usual

Sunday 15 July

On patrol a big crowd in Larissa(?) but quiet

Monday 16th

On patrol very quiet the more men we get here the more we seem to have to do

Tuesday 17th

On store guard still plenty of fleas and mosquitoes

Wednesday 18th

On patrol nothing doing had an inspection by Major General Chuaval [Chauvel]

Thursday 19th

on patrol nothing doing

Friday 20th

On quarter guard ten prisoners to look after

Saturday 21st on patrol arrested one of the new arrivals and he gave a power of cheek

Sunday 22nd July

On Pont Lemoun very quiet

Monday 23rd

On patrol nothing doing very hot

Tuesday 24th

On exchange guard quiet and hot

Wednesday 25th

On patrol one of the new men in the clink for leaving his post he was on with me I tried to save but he took no notice of me

Thursday 26th

On patrol nothing doing

Friday 27th

On store guard

Saturday 28th

Had trip from Cairo to Port Said for duty in the rest camp

Sunday 29th July

On fatigue putting up tents very hot had to go on police duty in the camp chasing niggers out

Monday 30th

On patrol around the rest camp nothing to do

Tuesday 31st

Very hot but cool at night have to do duty all night but it is not hard work

Wednesday August 1st 1917.

Having a good time so far finished fatigue the police duty is easy to date

Thursday 2nd

Still having an easy time very hot

Friday 3rd

The mob so far keeping quiet but we have a bit of a job with the niggers

Saturday 4th

Still having a fair time a big mob back to the desert for being out of bounds

Sunday 5th August

One of the A.P.C. up for being out of bounds only one from the desert for orderly room this morning

Monday 6th

The A.P.C. man who was up before the beak got sent back to Cairo

Tuesday 7th

Just came off duty and had to turn out and help to put [up?] a Y.M.C.A. tent

Wednesday 8th, Thursday 9th written across two days

Nothing much doing still very hot

Friday 10th

The first lot of troops marched out of the rest camp they were quietest lot of men I have seen

Saturday 11th- Monday 13th [written across 3 days]

Still keep. very hot and although we go on duty without a tunic we are wet with sweat all the time another of the A.P.C.

in trouble there is another mob of seven hundred coming tomorrow

Tuesday 14th

Nothing doing had concert in the Y.M.C.A. was very good

Wednesday 15th

A few up for orderly room the colonel talks to them like a father

Thursday 16th

A few still getting sent back for being out of bounds

Friday 17th

Still very hot it seems to be getting worse

Saturday 18th-**Sunday 19th August** [written across two days]

Things very quiet and hot a mob marched out last night some of them were pale(?)

Monday 20th

There was another mob came in today NZ Aust and Imp men

Tuesday 21st

Still keeping hot some of the old hands say that they have not felt it so hot for years

Wednesday 22nd

Very few up for orderly room lately must have taken a tumble to themselves

Thursday 23rd

Two of the mob got into a boat and got on a French transport and started to knock the officers about

Friday 24th-Saturday 25th [written across two days]

The A.P.C. are making a name for their(sic) selves since this camp started four of them has been up for drunk on duty and out of bounds

Sunday 26th August-Tuesday 28th

We have a spell of cool weather lately very quiet in camp nothing much to do having all the wallads (?) bluffed

Wednesday 27th –Friday 31st [written across three days]

The French Algerians are making things lively the town police have to carry rifles for them

Saturday 1st September 1917-Monday 3rd September [written across three days]

There was no less than 36 up today for orderly room the Comm(sic) [commandant] could not try them all at once so there is a mob to come up this afternoon at 4 o'clock

Tuesday 4th-Thursday 6th [across three days]

The mob moved out today the officers had two good nights before they left last night offcs (unclear) had women in the mess till one o'clock in the morning

Friday 7th-**Sunday 9th September** [across three days]

Still very hot although it is cool at times this last mob that came in seem to be very quiet there has been only one up for orderly room in three days

Monday 10th

Had a concert in the Y.M.C.A. which was very good

Tuesday 11th-Wednesday 12th [across two days]

There has been orderly room with this mob and they go away tomorrow

Thursday 13th-Saturday 15th [across three days]

All the mob have gone there will be another lot in tomorrow still very hot

Sunday 16th September-Tuesday 18th [across three days]

Still keeping fairly cool had a concert in the Y.M.C.A. by some of the talent from the desert they were very good

Saturday 22nd-Monday 24th [across three days]

The mob all marched out and there is a small mob coming today still keeping hot

Tuesday 25th-Wednesday 26th [across two days]. Thursday 27th [blank]

More of the A.P.C. marched into the barracks for duty the new mob are so far sober and quiet

Friday 28th- Saturday 29th [across two days]

Had a concert last night in the Y.M.C.A. which was very good but some of the mob did not like it

Sunday 30th September

Caught a 260 horse power cold feeling very seedy on it has been very cold this last night or two

Monday 1st October 1917

Detailed to arrest a bint [native girl] but was lucky enough not to pinch her did not care about the job

Tuesday 2nd- Wednesday 3rd [written across two pages]

Still having quiet time getting cooler by degrees

Thursday 4th-Friday 5th [written across two days] Saturday [blank].

Have a bit of trouble on the beach at times the Tommies will insist on dressing and undressing on the beach

Sunday 7th October- Tuesday 9
[written across three days]

Having fairly cool weather lately and things in camp are much the same

Wednesday 10th-Friday 12th written across 3 days

There are three sgts and a W.O. up for a court martial most of the last mob that came down all were drunk

Saturday 13th

One of the A.P.C. in trouble for insolence to the colonel

Sunday 14th October-Monday 15th

The new mob is quiet so far although a lot of them got top heavy

Tuesday 16-Wednesday 17th across two days

We have a good joke(?) in the mess. We were all issued with tickets to go in with Thursday 18th

After a bit of fatherly advice the colonel let the the(sic) APC man off and told him he was not fit to be a policeman

Friday 19th-**Sunday 21st October**
[across three days]

Getting a bit cooler lately and mist and cold at night

Monday 22nd-Tuesday 23rd [across two days]

All the troops had left the rest camp and there is not more coming for about ten days

Wednesday 24th

[Blank]

Thursday 25-Saturday 27th [across three days]

Very hot today after the dust storm feels much like a thunder storm still very quiet there is about 100 convalescents(sic) coming tomorrow

Sunday 28th October-Tuesday 30th
[across three days]

Things are still very quiet there are no more troops coming in only convalescents the camp is to be made into a hospital

Wednesday 31st-**Thursday 1st November 1917**

A nice change in the weather it is quiet(sic) cool have been on duty all day Friday 2nd

Blank

Saturday 4th-**Sunday 5th November**
[across two days]

Having some close muggy weather this last two days there was just a sprinkle of rain

Monday 5th

Still having miserable weather some of the unfits(?) are still making it a welter Tuesday 6th-Wednesday 7th [across two days]

One of the staff got Y?4 NI (?) for running around the town with a loaded revolver in his pocket

Thursday 8th

Another of the bearded [most likely a sailor] men in the cooler for altering his pay book to get more money

Friday 9th-**Sunday 11th November**
[across 3 days]

The men boarded for home got away at last as the train moved out the band played and sang hymn

Monday 12th-Wednesday 14th [across three days]

Up for classification again the Dr was so tired he just ask us what class we were marked before and he marked us the same

Thursday 15th-Saturday 17th [across three days]

Still cloudy and like for rain but very warm

Sunday 18th November-Tuesday 20th [across three days]

It is raining at last and it is cold with it

Wednesday 21st-Friday 23rd [across three days]

Having splendid weather after the rain and it is nice and cool at night

Saturday 24th-Monday 26th [across three days]

Nothing much doing in camp now and there are no fresh troops coming(sic) in it is looking very much like rain again

Tuesday 27th-Thursday 29th [across three days]

Still very quiet and still having good weather there is such a spread on the camp now that they have to have more police

Friday 30th - **Saturday December 1st 1917** [across two days]

The A.P.M. has gone to BerSheeba(unclear) and no one is sorry. The men seem to be alright

Monday 3rd-Wednesday 5th [across three days]

Call up all the fit men in the camp this last few days the NZs went first

Thursday 6th-Saturday 8th [across 3 days]

Having some showery weather and very cold

Sunday 9th December-Tuesday 11th [across 3 days]

Very quiet have had no escort work for over a month it is a job to keep warm now it is that cold

Wednesday 12th-Friday 14th

Having some very cold nights lately like spring in the day

Saturday 15th

Voting day here today the most of the men are voting no [conscriptio]

Sunday 16th December -Monday 17th [across two days]

Still having nice weather there has been a few up for orderly room lately

Tuesday 18th

Raining but very warm with it the Y.M.C.A. flooded out

Wednesday 19th

A cold thin(?) wind blowing can hardly keep warm

Thursday 20th

[Blank]

Friday 21st-**Sunday 23rd December** [across three days]

Having some very cold weather lately there is a great improvement in the mess with the food we are now getting plenty of everything and good at that

Monday 24th

It is blowing a gale there is a lot of tents down ours fell on top of us as we were getting out of bed

Tuesday 25th

Had a fair spread for Xmas but we got no gifts it is raining like blazes

Wednesday 26th

[Blank]

Thursday 27th

Have had to lay up for a week with a bad knee

Friday 28th-Saturday 29th [across two days]

Having a rather miserable time with the peg [leg] can't go anywhere

Sunday 30th December 1917

Monday 31st [across two days]

Having some squally weather peg on the mend

[Next two pages headed]

Letters From

S.E.C. 29.11/16 – 11/1/17

S.E.C. 17/12/16 - 26/1/17

L.M. Hall 29/12/16 – 13/2/17

A Payne 3/3/17

L.M. Hall 26/3/17

M. M. Hall 5/4/17

L.M. Hall E.R.T. 19/4/17

W. J. Hall 21/4/17

L.M. Hall 25/4/17

L.M. Hall 8/5/

A.P. Sm 4/6/17

C.R.T. L.M. 29/7/17

W(?) J Hall 3/8/17

L.M. Hall 10/57 (?) 14/8/17

S.E.G.L.M.S. L(unclear) 26/8/17

W.J. Hall 8/9/17

W.J.Hall 19/9/17

[New page]

L.H.Hall 20/9/17

B.Robertson (?) 5/10/17

E.L. (unclear) ?/10/17

W.J.Hall S.Somas (?) 13/19/17

L.M.M.M. Hall 27/10/17

P.E. Cowen 29/19/17

C.M. L. M.M. Hall 15/11/17

S. Somas 27/11/17

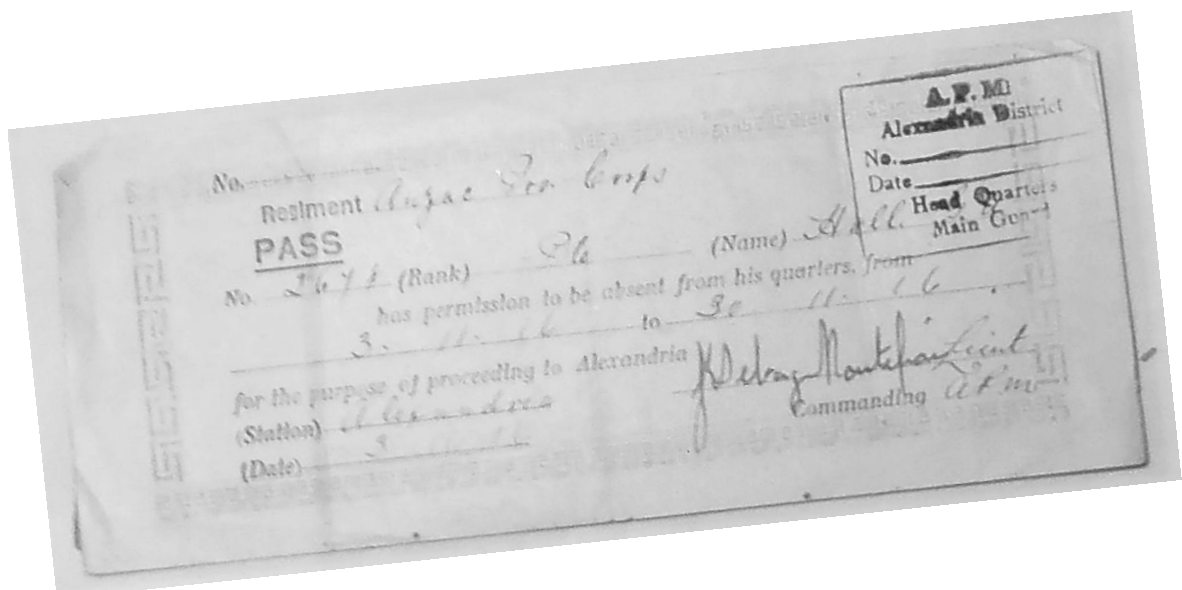
Parcel M Hall 27/11/17

C.R.T.S.E.C. 13/12/17

[On new page in green ink]

Karen Elizbeth (sic)

Born 10/7/1958



NOTEBOOK – February 23, 1917-February 15, 1918

[Notebook is written from the back.]

[Inside cover stamped] 'M.Avatis/(unclear) P.T.S./(unclear) [in top left-hand corner upside down]

2678

4th Div

Kasr-el nil

Barracks

Cairo

Egypt

2678 G A Hall

Port Said

[upside down] set of 1 10 figures added up on top edge, total 6.0

Anzac Provost Corps

Feb 29//2/17

Friday 23rd

Some of our N.C.Os [Non-commissioned officer] are that clever that they sent some crime sheets away unsigned with the result that we have to attend a practice daily another of the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] has got himself in the clink [jail] for being drunk on duty he has to do 14 days in the Moascar compound the sentry nearly got himself into trouble for allowing a sgt [sergeant] to speak to the prisoner we have to be careful now

February [written on lower edge of page]

On guard since the drink was given to the prisoners by the sgt the R.S.M.[Regimental Sergeant Major] has warned all the guard so if he sees a man speaking to a prisoner up the sentry goes

Tuesday 27th

It has come out in orders that all men having clean sheets can put up conduct strips [stripes?] after being aboard(sic) twelve months the new Tommies [English] are making things hot on guard one of them fired a shot [at?] our C.O. [commanding officer] the other night there is to be an inquiry about it if the patrol is coming up to the sentry he will challenge and make them advance one by one the barracks are full of M.M.Ps [Mounted Military Police?] and they have a Gippo [Egyptian] Jhon(sic) on the ordinance(sic) while the old Devons [Devonshire Regiment, British infantry] was here it was a go as you please style and they did more good than the new men we got another issue of gift stuff today we only get it when Miss Machonichie has time to hand it out which is not often

Thursday 2nd March 1917

M.M.Ps have been making themselves busy this last two days they have pinched about seventy Aus in two days so we will be getting a lecture about it before long

Saturday 3rd (sic)

All the N.C.Os had a lecture yester(sic) morning for not doing their duty and some of them were a bit sore about it so they made up for lost time by pinching every one they saw the least bit full they arrested them they got about a dozen of them and only for an inquiry over a case of theft there would have been a lot more

MARCH [written at bottom of page]

Tuesday 6th

Things are fairly lively lately it is nothing to get a dozen A.W.Ls [Absent Without Leave] of a night and the cells are nearly full of prisoners we had a taste of summer the other day with a hot wind and dust storm and today it is quite cold

Thursday 8th

Still making plenty arrests they are all camel corps men A.W.L. it seems to(sic) much trouble for them to ask for a pass and come into town without and when they get pinched for being A.W.L. they call us anything but gentlemen we are getting now on an average ten per day and the cells are never empty there are only three men on guard to look after them and escort them to the latrines a distance of about 150 yards from the cells then there is the gate to look after which has to be opened every time any one wants to come in or go out the N.Ps [N.Zs?] put a sentry on it and it was left open for a while but our R.S.M. [Regimental Sergeant Major] wrote to the commandant of the Barracks wanting to know on whose authority did he put the sentry there so the result was that the sentry was taken off and we have to look after it ourselves

Saturday 10th

There is some talk of cutting out all the guards except the quarter guard for which no one will be sorry got roared up for reading on the exchange guard the C.O. [Commanding Officer] only wanted something to talk about the exchange is not a guard we are only there in case of any trouble we do not know anyone who comes or goes out of the place we have to depend on the natives for our information

Sunday 11th March

Having some very windy weather this last week and dust storms could hardly see yester(sic) for dust there was a bolt in the barracks this morning there was a mob trying to entice a couple of horses to gee up in a transport wagon one of the horses threw itself down and one of our Cpls [Corporal] said that he could drive horses and got on the seat while the horse was down as soon as it got on its feet again they went for the lick of their lives to the oppisits(sic) squaer(?) our horsman(sic) as soon as they started to go threw himself off the seat and let them go they hit the next archway and smashed the wagon to pieces there was pieces of it all over the square our man has gone to the

hospital with a fractured ankle and the driver of the transport has to go for a C.M. [Court Martial] for allowing another man to take the reins

Tuesday 13th

More of the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] on the mat one of them was put in the clink for being A.W.L and seems he escorted a prisoner from Moascar to the Citadelle (?) and then he had a good time and was escorted back himself

Wednesday 14th

One of our C.Os is going to be married on the 29th and the R.S.M. wants to make a collection to make a present to his wife but I think the most of us have had quite enough of officers weddings since Capt ONeils turnout and they also want a sub for cricket had a visit from the G.O.C. [General Officer Commanding?] this morning but he did not inspect our lot and we are not sorry

Friday 16th

Had a meeting to form a cricket club but it was very tame(?) all members to pay ten P.T. [Piastres] for the season had a bit of a mishap on store guard yester some nigger kids was giving me some cheek and I made to run after them when my foot slipped on the kerbing and twisted my ankle and it has been tuning(?) me up every since

Monday 19th

The N.F.s[Northumberland Fusiliers] have been issued their summer clothing and we have to wait about a month yet for ours the Feb list of arrests has just come out and it shows that nearly two thousand men have been arrested for the month

Friday 23rd

Having a quiet time of it lately as there are very few troops in town now it is rumoured that we have to put up the A.P.C. numeral [perhaps number on epaulet] which will be a subject for more complaining there is some talk of the Inf [Infantry] from Mascar [Moascar?] coming here to do duty if they do it will make it better for us

Sunday 25th March

We have another patrol to do through some silly fool not doing his work right it seems a drunk went into the Commagraph(?) and as usual went where he was not wanted some of the A.P.C. were called in to shift him and instead of putting him out of the place they went one better and put him in the stalls so now we have to do extra work there has been a lot of soldiers lately scaling the Heliopolies [Heliopolis] tram and getting into the compartment reserved for the ladies and it means another patrol at Pont Lemoun station we are have some queer weather lately one day hot and the next cold there was a heavy fog this morning

Wednesday 28th

getting into the summer now but we have not yet been issued with our summer clothing yet the Cpl [corporal] who let the Transport waggon(sic) get smashed up has to pay for it so he will have something to think of in the hosp.

Thursday 29th

The canteen at the sgts mess is now open to the corp and some of the men have taken advantage of it one of the men came on patrol drunk and was send out to arrest others who were drunk the way things are carried on here is a disgrace to the army we are supposed to set an example to men from the desert and the men in the corp are doing the same thing they are arresting men for every day the hospital patients are making themselves known to the guard room Lately we have had three up for drunk in two patrols one we got last night was in a fit and it took seven men to hold him down [19/3/17 on top of page]

Saturday 31st

Two of the quarter guard in clink for allowing a prisoner to escape while waiting for sentence it appears that they had him out of the cell for exercise the sentry left him to go to the canteen for a drink of beer and when he came back the bird had gone so now the cpl of the guard and the sentry are in the cells on of our officers is getting tied [married?] up today and there is a mob just out to do guard of honor(sic) to him the present that we bought was really good and useful and worth £E3.57. the officer is leaving us for Heliopolies and the officer from Heliopolies is coming here

April 2nd, 1917

Still keeping hot but cool at night on store guard yester and it was pay day with the natives and the way they are robbed is a shame the bags are all mended by contract the contractor(sic) getting 1.1/2 mallums per bag the women do all the work and are supposed to get 5 TP per day if they mend 50 sacks per day some of them do about 100 for which they are paid 3 T.P. per day their wages amount to about 10 T.P per week while the contractor(sic) is making £E12 per day he also deducts 1 T.P. per day off their wages for some reason I have not found out the other day the women all went on strike for 5 T.P.

Tuesday 3rd

For letting a prisoner escape while waiting for sentence the Cpl of the guard was reduced to the ranks while sentry is up for a C.M. [Court Martial]

Monday 9th

the sentry is still in the cells awaiting C.M. all our pay books are call in to be issued with new ones of a different pattern(?)

Wednesday 11th

the sentry got his case dismissed and the C.O. got roared up for not framing the charge right when he came back to the barracks he roared every one else up and ordered the sentry to carry his rifle one of the sentrys(sic) had a set to with one of the corp for talking to a prisoner he struck the sentry and there was a general mix up the man was put in the guard room and his crime sheet made out but the sentry would not press the charge as he got out of it the R.S.M. told him if the sentry had done his duty he would

have pinned him to the wall with the bayonet(sic) if we had let the sentry have his way after he had been relieved there would have been a funeral

VI/3/11 [at bottom of page]

11/4/17 VI/E/11 [at top of next page]

Thursday 12th

Have not yet caught the escaped prisoner yet although he has been seen several times he was seen this morning at seven o'clock once two men went after him the Cpl that let the horses bolt with the transport waggon had to pay 290PT it appears to be more of a fine than anything else as the 290PT would not pay for one of the wheels

Saturday 14th

One of our sgts has been away at Port Said for some time and he came back yester and got himself into trouble the M.M.Ps [Mounted? Military police] got hold of him last night and took his name and add [address?] they had three charges against him 1 for being absent 11 out of bounds 111 for insolence to the police it is to be hoped that he will cop out as no one in the corps likes him

Tuesday 17th

The Sgt and the (unclear) were each fined S20 for being out of bounds. Had a kit inspection yester and the S.M. made a few captures (?) in clothing getting some hot weather have not yet had orders to wear our summer issues

Friday 20th

Having another go at lectures (at least they call them so) it is done for the purpose of giving evidence(sic) in a C.M. it is a lot of rot and no sense in it the O.C. called me up to give evidence in a dummy case but I could not see myself giving evidence on a case that I could not imagine the O.C. said I would be no good at a CM OC has cut out all passes till after 12 o'clock so that the men have to attend these lectures as he calls them and all men coming(sic) off guard have to attend them there has been great trouble at the A.I.F.HQ [Australian Imperial Force Head Quarters] about our wearing helmets or hats but one of our heads (?) beat them and we have to wear our felt hats as he said we were issued with hats and we should wear them the Q.M. is making himself busy lately by taking cloths [clothes] from us and wanting to know what we are short of he was around this morning to find out who had waterproof sheets and who had not the way they are shaping it look(sic) as though we were going to shift to the desert somewhere

Saturday 21st 21/4/17 [on top of page]

Half the patrol drunk and trying to arrest other drunken men the way some of the men carry is a disgrace to the army and more so to the corps

The most of them are complaining about the M.M.Ps about the way they do their duty and they are trying their best to report them for the least thing that goes wrong as they say that the M.M.Ps are trying to get them shifted and the way the A.P.C. are carrying on they will get shifted right enough the civil police arrested an Aus last [night] for assaulting a walad he had nothing to say to them but when 7 fellows had to escort him to

Kasr-el-nil he had plenty to talk about had a general inspection of the Barracks yester(sic) by a general and we have to have one this morning by our own C.O. he is going to see if our summer tunic fit us if so I expect that we will get orders to wear them There has been a lot of trouble with hospital patients and convalescents. Lately the G.O.C. has give it out in orders that if the abuse of the privilege they have does not cease they will be placed on the same footing as the Imperial men there has been a lot of cases of drunk and absent from the hospital lately and if it was stopped it would be a good thing for us as they give us more trouble than all the rest of the troop put together they all go up for C.M. it is reported that a lot of them go to hospital drunk and they abuse the nurses and in their ward they break up medicine bottles and throw chairs all over the place

Thursday 26th

This last two days has been terrible(sic) hot and we are still wearing our winter clothing and last pay was a double pay and we are not going to get any pay for a month all the old pay book(sic) are called in and we are to be issued with new one(sic) of a different pattern Anzac day passed over very quiet all absentees had a day to themselves one of the A.P.C. got 28 days Moascar CB for passing remarks about of the A.P.Cs swipes [stripes?]

Monday 29th

Having a cool change after the hot weather it is cold at night as soon as the change came we got orders to wear our summer tunics and now at night it is nearly to(sic) cold for them our R.S.M. has lost his job and has to go on as Staff Sgt and the Staff Sgt has to go to Moascar Cpt Jordan has been up from the desert this last few days and I hear he is going to stop here he has I believe sent Lieut Marten(?) down to the desert so we will be getting into hot water as nothing we do now will be right

Wednesday May 1st 1917

Still having cool weather had a streak of luck today by wining T.P.71 in a loterie(sic) and am just about T.P.10 in pocket it is about the only win I every had have 10 more tickets for tomorrow(?)

Thursday 2nd MAY [on lower edge of page]

had an inspection this morning but the C.O. had nothing to say so everything must have been O.K. there is some

Talk of the Imp section going to England in two months time but the C O said nothing about it this morning we all recorde[d?] our vote yester(sic) but some of them did not know who to vote for or where the(they?) belonged to some of them did not vote at all

Saturday 5th (4th?) 5/5/17 [at top of page]

The[re] has been some talk of our going to the desert lately there was eighteen of us [unclear] supposed to go down but it was only talk the C.O. says that if we are not more agreeable to the M.M.Ps he will send us all to the desert he is trying to get a tennis club

so as we can mix up with the M.F.(?)P's a bit more but he only want men that can play but will want us all to subscribe they got the man who escaped from the barracks at Alexandria and the way the men went on one would have though[t] that the war had been ended there has been some trouble through asking W.Os [Warrant Officer] for their passes we had a small lecture about it this morning and have orders not to molest them in any way unless they are improperly dressed the C.O. also spoke about the animosity between the A.P.C. and the M.F.Ps (but it is only two or three men on both sides that is causing all the trouble the most of the men in both corps are friendly enough) so the C.O. is trying to get us to play together will having cool weather (5/5/17 on top of page

Hearly(?) escaped again from the Imperial guard and four Greeks with him so it is soothing to our feelings to know that he could get away from the Imp guard as well as us he was sentenced to three years when he got away from us we got a new order last night not to bring any Imp men to the Soldiers home we have to take any we arrest to Bab-el-hadid and carry (?) a charge forme(sic) with us it is done to stop so many Tommies being pinched so there will be very few now it is not so long ago that we got orders from one of the officers to pinch as many Tommies as we could

Wednesday 9th

some of the A.P.C. made a good capture yester(sic) they got a deserter who had been away 500 days two of the A.P.C. were in the clink for leaving their post but they got out of [missing word?] this morning when brought up before the C.O. had another win in the Loterie of T.P.100 may manage to fluke the first prize yet our patrol sgt gave some of the patrol a bit of a shock when we off the tram there was a lot of them trying to dodge the first shift and they all tried to fall in the rear of the column when we got to our H.Q. the sgt gave left turn first four files first relief and dismiss they stood there like dummies as if they had not heard the order aright so it might stop some of the pointers(?) and there is a good few of them here

9/5/17 [on top of page]

Saturday 12th

Things are getting rotten here now was on quarter guard had to duty all night after we dismissed had to go down a[nd] scrub out the mens room and have to go on the velock(?) patrol till twelve tonight had and(sic) inspection this morning

Tuesday 15th

Things are a regular mix up in the corps the C.O. has been shifting some of the orderly room men and some of them have got him beat they are all masons and the officers are affraid(sic) of the N.C.Os and the N.C.O are affraid(sic) of the men R.S.M. wrote a letter home in which he gave an explanation of the Gaza fights but it did not pass the censor it was reported to H.Q. and the R.S.M. was hauled up over it the R.S.M. was reduced to Staff Sgt but the case is not finished yet the C.O. is affraid(sic) to press the charge as the R.S.M. can put him up and get him sent back to Aus had to parade to the Q.M. with our rifles and bayonets so that he could get the numbers after having them

twelve months had stiff luck in a Loterie was one number off L.E.100[0?] and one number off T.P.100

Monday 21st

Have been having some hot weather lately had a very bad dust storm on Saturday which lasted all day everything was filled with dust and it was very hot with it it blew a lot of the street trees down which is what it does every time there is a wind it has cooled the air for a time but it will soon be as hot as ever there is four of the corp under arrest this morning one for speaking to a prisoner in the cells and the other (the sentry) for allowing him to do so the one in the clink for missing his patrol two Sgts are up for what I have not yet heard

Tuesday 22nd

things are a big mixed lately the C.O. is roaring every one up we had a parade in this morning and it has to continue till further notice the man who was up for missing his patrol got four days No 2 [No 2 Field Punishment] two of the Sgts are up for C.M. for gambling two ptes got seven and fourteen days C.M. for allowing them to gamble in the Sgts Mess all the orderly room staff copped out this morning over something did not hear what it was we have been ordered to march to duty now it is getting hot (in the winter we went by tram) and we have to parade for our passes now and wait till the orderly officer thinks fit to sign them and if it goes on much longer there will be some trouble here it is said that one man on the desert waited for the C.O. with a loaded rifle but he did not turn up to his tent. Just brought in the man who escaped from the barracks after a spell of three months the M.F.(?)Ps got him in Alexandria they are not going to keep him here and are sending him to the Citadelle tomorrow 22/5/17 on top of page

Wednesday 23rd

Had an inspection of arms this morning had to parade to the R.S.M. with rifles the O.C. was quiet(sic) civil for a wonder. The C.O. is allowing us to ride on the trams again having another cool change

Friday 25th

Had an issue of gifts Miss Machonachie must have woke up to the fact that we were still in the Barracks the quarter guarding a hot job now have to be on duty all night and go on O/duty from 6 pm to 12.20 the same night we come off the guard

Sunday 28th May

Still having cool weather and like for rain

Monday 29th

Three of the A.P.C. hauled up for not saluting an officer on store guard they got out of it. it is rumoured that we have to put blue bands round our hats and A.P.C. on our shoulders so we can be easily picked out

Friday June 1st 1917

Having some changeable weather and it is stirring us up. The most of us have colds and sore throats I had to parade sick with a bad back the Dr said it was lumbago it is keying (?) me up whatever it is it is fifteen years since I had anything like it at last we have to put up the blue bands on our hats and caps and they can be seen a mile away it is said that we have put up the APC [Australian Provost Corps] badge

June [at bottom of page]

Saturday 2nd

Still having a lively time with my back the Dr said it was Lumbago and then giving me two days off duty the two Sgts up for C.M. got reduced but was reinstated one to be Sgt and the other Cpl

Wednesday 6th

Have had four days off duty with Lumbago when I went to the Dr the last time he told me I was malingering(sic) and threatened to write to the O.C. about it if he had done so I would have got paraded before the barrack Com [Commandant?] he said that we did not get enough exercise I have not been off duty for six months

Friday 8th

Things have become lively lately the C.O. is criming [charging] every man he can get hold of the way he is carrying on he will be getting knocked(?) if he ever goes on the desert two more of the corp have been promoted but for what no one knows one of them goes on duty drunk and when marching down sings out to the officers in the street and passes remarks about the Tommies when he passes them it is very likely for that reason that he got his strips(stripes?) there is to be an inspection tomorrow by some K.C.G. [a decoration] and all the fit men are to be picked out and sent to the desert

Monday 11th two more of the A.P.C. doing time one on sentry duty and the other on patrol the sentry got 21 days No2 and the other got 14 days No 2 Medical inspection this morning nearly all of us A class so I expect we will be sent to the I.C.C. [Imperial Camel Corp] before long

Thursday 14th

At last we have got our A.P.C. badges they are of common brass and hard to polish

Sunday 17th June 17/6/17 [on top of page]

Having some hot weather it was 114 in the shade yester(sic) it is a bit cooler today but not much the C.O. gave orders that we have to wear the leaf of our hats up on leave and one side of our faces is getting burnt up the C.P. orders are that the leaf of the hat will be turned down between the hours of 8am and 4pm after that the leaf will be turned up or wear service caps at the medical inspection there was some queer classes marked there is three or four marked P.B. they can play football or cricket with any A. class man and some that were marked A. class could not play a game for fear of crippling themselves for life our two new A/cpls [acting corporal] had a good time of it yester they were both

drunk on patrol and drunk this morning there are some men can do just as they like and another man hardly dare wink for fear of getting 14 days No2

Wednesday 20th

Two more of the A.P.C. in trouble for being drunk one got 28 days No 2 and the other was fined 28 days pay and sent to Moascar having a cool change

Saturday 23rd

Have been waiting all the morning for inspection but it never came off we seem to be the dopes here the N.Ps [possibly NF Northumberland Fusiliers] all went about their business while we were standing by our beds from ten till twelve oclock

Thursday 28th

Three more of the corps in trouble for being drunk on duty on the Kursaal

July 7th 1917

Had a weeks spell near the firing line and had a good time of it we were(?) with the 5th Div R.S.? there is plenty of sand and dust but a different place to Cairo there is plenty of couch grass and hog weed on the hills and orchards in fact after you leave the canal it seems to be another world we had a fair amount of gun fire while we were there and anti air craft shooting the only drawback there is the water six of us have to use the same basin of water to wash in the food is better than what we get in the barracks there has been a bit of a change in the corps while we were away two or three have been made sgts two are doing 28 days No 2 one sgt has been sent on the desert and there is another of the corps in the clink awaiting C.M. for forging a Cpl signature

Monday 16th

having fairly cool weather lately but it is not as cool here as at Gaza we have got some Ren(Rein? Reinforcements) for the corps but it is making no difference to the work things has got a bit slack since the C.O. went to the desert it is to be hoped he stops there the latest gag on now is they have pasted our names and noumber(sic) at the head of our beds (like hospital patients) so as the R.S.M. when he comes round at night can see who is absent he is seldom in the barracks himself at night it is fairly quiet in town latly(sic) the lads off the desert are very little trouble or they know if they play up to(sic) up to(sic) much all leave will be stopped

Wednesday 18th

Have an inspection by Sir Henery(sic)Chuval(sic) [Sir Henry Chauvel] he said a few words to us and told us he was very pleased with the work we had done and he hoped we would carry on the same it took us six hours to get ready for it he was to inspect us 11.45 but he did not get on the job till twelve oclock we were on parade two hours and a half

Saturday 21st

One of the corps got 51 days No 2 for obtaining goods under false pretences we have got orders to hand our caps in to the Q.M. and we are not sorry we are having some very

hot weather now it is to(sic) hot to do anything we are all to be rounded up on Monday for inoculations

Wednesday 26th

Have a lot of men for the corps it is nearly double the usual strength but it is makeing(sic) no difference to our duty

The R.S.M. is working himself to a great pitch today he put all the passes in his pocket so that no one would get them a minuete(sic) before time he is riding for a big fall before long Major Phillips (com of the civil police) caught him one night in a brothel and reported him but we never heard any more about it he (the Major) told him he was a disgrace to the corps another of the corps in the clink for being drunk and two have just been released after doing time at Abbassia

Monday 30th

On duty at the Port Said rest camp busy putting up tents very stiff and sore after doing nothing for 12(?) months seems rather a nice place but very hot but not as bad as Cairo there are no troops here yet so we have no police duty yet no more than looking after the niggers at night time

Port Said [written at bottom of page]

August 2nd 1917

It is very hot but not so bad as Cairo it is very cool at night it is more quiet here the nigger do not follow you about as in Cairo the(sic) is very little Gippo money used here it is nearly all English or French and it is hard to make up after the P.T. have not been much in town yet the first batch of troops for the rest camp come in today

August [written at bottom of page]

Saturday 4th

There was a big mob for the orderly room this morning they all are going back to their regiments before their time is expired there was one tommy among them so their rest will not be much good to them there is one thing we have nothing to do with them so far all we have to do is chase niggers

Monday 6th

Still having a fair time here it is still fairly warm one of the A.P.C. was up before the Colonel this morning for being out of bounds the C.O. did not crim him but sent him back to Cairo the lads are keeping very quiet so far. In the town one hardly knows they are here only by the crowd they have leave from 9a.m. till 12 midnight the Y.M.C.A is kept fairly busy it is not yet in full swing and it will take a day or two yet before it is there are three English women catering for the mob and they are kept busy

Saturday 11th

Had a busy day yester keeping the niggers away from the camp they are worse than flies to look after we will have a lively time this afternoon when the fresh mob come in if this

mob are as good as the first lot was we will have a good time one of the A.P.C. got sent back to Moascar for giving the N.C.O. in charge some cheek

Tuesday 14th

There is another mob of seven hundred coming here tomorrow so there will be about 1400 in the camp at once things are fairly quiet and some of the boys are walking about with big heads this morning they put most of their time in the water and drinking beer

Wednesday 16th

There was a mob for the orderly room this morning when they went before the colonel he read out the charges against them and ask them how they pleaded they all pleaded guilty the colonel said I suppose what this means yes they know he them(?) bid them good morning and the C.S.M. marched them all out they have to go back to the desert and only half their holiday gone

Monday 20th

Have been kept fairly busy with the troops comming(sic) and going this last two days has been the limit for heat and Y.M.C.A. has a lively time when a new mob come in

Wednesday 22nd

Still having a quiet time the nigger chasing has nearly died out they very seldom come near the camp there is a hard case of a French kid comes into the camp and pinches jam and anything he can get hold of and takes no notice of anyone he is only about four year old

Friday 24th

Two of the men from the rest camp took a boat and rowed across to a French transport they went on board and started to knock the officers about the frenchies handcuffed him and rang up for the police when the police was taking them to the station of them started to play up and he fell overboard with the handcuffs on when they got him out of the water the handcuffs were missing

Tuesday 28th

Nothing doing has been a bit cooler lately just met a chap in the 6th N.Z.M.R. [New Zealand Mounted Rifles] who had knocked about Mahonga [Mahonga Station in Riverina near Hall's area] a lot he seemed to know everyone about there his name is C Barlow half the mob is going back tonight and the other half tomorrow

Saturday 1st September 1917

The French Algerians have been making things willing lately it is nothing now to hear revolver shots in town at night the Algerians have already shot several of the natives

Saturday 8th September [at bottom of page]

A mob marched out yester[day] at twelve o'clock instead of six in the evening the lots that went before at six o'clock put in the most of their time getting as full as they could and some of them gave the colonel some cheek so the six o'clock is cut out and Colonel roared some N.Z. up from the R.T [rest?] home they were passing his car and they blew

the horn the Colonel was watching them and he yelled out to them that is none of them little pricks (?) that is how I call my driver they took no notice of him he called on them a second time at last he got wild and went across to them and roared the tripe out of them

Tuesday 11th

There has been only one up for orderly room in three days from the last lot that marched in which is a record with the other mobs that came there was anything from ten to fifteen up every morning there is a concert at the Y.M.C.A. every night now and some of them are very good there is some sports on today on the beach but as a rule are very tame and it is only the competitors that are interested it is still very hot although it is cool at times

Sunday 16th September

There was some sports at the 31st G.H. but they were very tame and it was a hard job to get a look at anything the civilians took the most of the space up and the soldiers could only get a glimpse now and again still keeping hot there is another mob coming in today if they are as good as the last lot was it will be OK.

Thursday 20th

Still having a quiet time our C.O. is down today to have a look at us saw him at a distance and disappeared into the Y.M.C.A. until he had gone the town police was telling me that the A.P.M.[Assistant Provost Marshall] reads their letters and then gives them a lecture on their spelling and he tells the rest what one man writes about he also tells them that they might get books so as they can improve their communication(?) and be as ignorant as he is himself he tells them that if they do they might hold a position the same as himself but none of them seem to want it

Saturday 29th

Things are still the same and nothing fresh it is still keeping hot although last night was very cold had the Zingaris last night again they are very good and would be hard to beat nine more of the A.P.C. came here for duty in the town to Cairo must be getting quiet now sports on today but they are very quiet as a rule

October 1st 1917

Having some cold nights lately and have caught a lovely cold have been sneezing for two days without a break was detailed off today to arrest a bint [prostitute?] but was lucky enough not to find her

Friday 5

Had an extra (unclear) on the beach this morning but there was nothing doing the Tommies are the worst they will insist on dressing and undressing on the beach which is against camp orders

Sunday 7th October [October on lower edge of page]

Had a busy day (unclear) keeping the troops in camp till three o'clock General Cheval [Chauvel] paid us a visit and some of the (unclear) were not up to the mark so the lot had to stop in camp till three o'clock the colonel saw a sergeant staggering about and had him placed under open arrest the old chap went clean mad for a while

Saturday 13th

One of the police got himself into trouble with the colonel he was on escort duty and when the colonel ask(sic) him if he was a policeman he said suppose I am. He was placed under close arrest and taken to the barracks where he has to do 48 hours before he gets a hearing

Wednesday 17

The new mob that came in are a quiet lot when the "Zingaris" were here it was possible to hear a pin drop have a good joke on in the mess we have all been issued with (unclear) noumbers(sic) on like bread pickets

Friday 19

Have the N.Z. band here now the way they landed here was amusing the band master lost the bandsmen and the band men lost their instruments but they all finished up alright in the finish

Tuesday 23rd

All the troops have left the rest camp and there is no more coming in for about ten days and it makes the camp quiet but it makes no difference to our work we have to carry on the same

November 1st 1917

It is very cool today and it looks very much like rain there are no more troops coming here as it is going to be a convalescent and hospital camp

November at bottom of page

There is some rotters going home by the next boat there has been two or three up before the S.O. one of them was fined 21 days pay and confined to camp till the boat goes there was one up today for taking snapshots of boats (unclear) out but the case is not yet finished so it is impossible to see how it will go

Sunday 4th November

It has been very close and muggy this last two days and it looked as though we were going to have some rain there was just a sprinkle and then it cleared off met one of the Kushert boys going home unfit

Wednesday 8th

There is another of the men that was boarded in the clink it appears he had no money so he thought that he would make a few alterations in his pay book which landed him in the cooler the way some of them carry on is a shame and they appear to me instead of being men they are vermin and the sooner they get away from here the better for everyone

Sunday 11th November

The soldier that forged his pay book got off light he was (word missing?) 28 days pay and 28 days CB? [confined to barracks] they have all got away at last and I don't think any of us are sorry as the train moved out the band played auld lang syne which seemed strange to us having been escort to several of them for breach of discipline

Tuesday 13th

It is very quiet now that the hospital have(sic) gone but it is making no difference to our work there is a few troops come in occasionally that is five or six at a time it is now fairly cool but at night it is very close and muggy

Thursday 15th

We were up this morning for classification the M.O.[medical officer] did not examine us he first asked us what the other Drs had classed us and he classed us the same

Tuesday 20th

Rain at last which is a change from the long spell of dry weather

Friday 23rd

Having nice weather after the rain it is quiet(sic) cold at night for altering his pay book one of the staff got 28 days No 2 Moascar it is still very quiet and there are very few men here at present there is a shortage of rations here this morning we had tomatoes and onions for break and lately we are fareing (sic) well for bully beef stews

Thursday 27th

Still having nice weather and it looks like more rain it is very quiet in camp as there are no fresh troops coming in the Q.M. has gone to Port Suez (?) to build another camp there

December 1st 1917 December [across bottom of page]

The A.P.M. has gone to Beer Sheba and no one is likely to miss him they (?) new [word missing?] seems to be alright there is such a spread on in the camp that they had to get more police not that there is anything to do but just to make things easy it is the last time (words and next line unclear) came here there is a concert on at the Casino Pallace(sic) and they had taken all our forms and now we have to stand up to our meals they want them for four days the prices are 5/- (unclear) and the place is out of bound for all N.C.Os and men (?) and now they have put it in bounds for the concert and after it is over and they get the troops money it will be out of bounds again

Thursday 6th

this last few days has been busy (unclear) the M.O. inspection and drafting out the fit men for the front it is hacking (?) some of them that feel had good jobs there is quiet(sic) a cool wind blowing here(?)

Tuesday 4th

Has been very cold and showery lately and we are instead of looking for the black spots we are looking for the sun all the fresh meat rations has run out and we have had a week

of bully beef stew and there is more wasted than eaten things are very quiet in camp and we have no escort work to do we had our C.O. down to see us the other day but he had nothing to say we though[t] that he was going to send some of us to Port Suez to the camp there but he did not there was eleven of the others went

Saturday 15th

There has been a few up for orderly room slated(?) for being out of bounds we all recorded our vote today the most of the men voting no they seem to have a set on W M Hughes

Wednesday 17th

Rained yester(sic) all the afternoon but it was not cold the Y.M.C.A. was flooded and there was a lot of English children practicing the maypole for Xmas and they had to stop it is very cold today

Sunday 23rd December

Things have improved in the mess lately we are now getting plenty of everything and we are also getting an issue of tobacco and cigs again there is a very strong cold wind blowing today and the sand as usual is into everything

Tuesday 25th

we are having some rough weather lately there is a gale blowing and very cold and showers most of the tents were blown down yester morning our tent fell down on top of us as we were getting out of bed our Xmas spread was not bad but not as good as last year as we got no gifts it is raining as hard as it can and there is a bitter cold wind with it

Thursday 27th

Had to go on sick parade with my knee and got a week off duty and will think myself lucky if I miss the hospital with it

Monday 31st

The last day of 17 is here and so are we and likely to [missing word?] by the look of things there are some sports for the 1st but by the look of the weather it will be raining it has been trying very hard all the morning things are still very quiet and the cons/cows? are coming and going all the time the knee is still very dicky on it and will not stand any walking on and it is (unclear) being cooped up in the sand

January 1918

Saturday 5th Still having a miserable time with my knee it is yet to(sic) painful to walk about on much had a to fill in will forms to day there has been a mob coming from the front here for a spell they are to be here next Thursday

Monday 7th

In the second(?) stationary Moascar with my knee it is a cold place it was raining all yester afternoon

Tuesday 8th

Got my hip put in a splint which is anything but pleasant(sic)

January [on lower edge of page]

The Dr seems a decent sort and the orderlys are OK

Wednesday 9th

Had a rough night last night with my knee it gave me jip by the look of it this morning I am likely to be here some time

Friday 11th 2nd Stationary hospital Moascar [on lower edge of page]

leg getting on alright the scotch dressing seems to be the thing it is tireing(sic) being in bed all the time but I see no chance of getting out for a while there is some hard cases in this ward and a lot of them don't

seem to have much the matter with them the way they play about in the ward

Saturday 12th [in pencil from now on]

Leg feeling good but still have to stay in bed which is very tireing(sic) the Dr has not moved the bandages yet they have been on for three days

Sunday 13th January

Leg still in bandages the Dr says he will take it off tomorrow the knee feels alright and I could walk about a bit if I was allowed to am getting fed up with being in bed so long

Monday 14th had bandage taken off and the most of the swelling has gone down but the leg is still very bad it seems to be going into my ankle and it is getting useless got inoculated for cholera tonight there is a serious [missing word outbreak?] of it over the canal

Tuesday 15th

Got an issue of Xmas gifts they were the best that has come here yet they were put up in good boxes and it was all first class stuff they contained they (?) seems to be getting worse instead of better

Wednesday 16th

The leg is still no better and the other seems as if it would keep it company there is another scotch bandage going on as soon as they have time by the look of things the orderlys(sic) have changed and the new ones are rotten there is a hard case in the ward and he had us all laugh fit to burst ourselves this evening with this antics till he cracked his knee on the floor and that quietened him

Thursday 17th

Got the scotch bandage on again and hope it fixes it up this time it is worse than a hard days work to lie in bed the Dr makes light of it and says that I look too comfortable here (I would like to change places with him) he says if I like I can get the orderlys to carry me out in the sun bed and all if he knew that I hop about on crutches when he is not looking he would go mad I must try and get a pack of cards and play patience with myself

Tuesday 22nd

Have a new Dr in the ward and he seems an easy going sort of a joker he has not been near me for three days it seems to be a hospital (?) cure(?) as none of them bothered

with it much it has improved a bit since the dressing was taken off and it felt good this morning and I tried it to see if it would carry any weight but it is useless they all seem to think that it means Aus but I do not think so myself

Friday 25th

The Dr has not yet had a look at my knee though it seems to be doing alright(sic) there are very few in the ward and those that are here are all the time up to some mad prank. I have not had any pay since I came here and it is only a few minutes walk from the A.P.C. orderly room the staff S.M. must be afraid(sic) to come here he is supposed to be an agitator for the I.W.W.[International Workers of the World]

Saturday 26th

Our old doctor has come back this morning and he had a look at my knee and ordered another dressing it is getting better slowly but it a long way from being right yet

Sunday 27th January

Got the scotch dressing on at last the [knee] is not feeling too(sic) bad there is a gale blowing and can hardly see for dust

Monday 28th

There was a heavy rain last night after the dust storm the knee is still improving the sooner it is right the better I will like it I am fed up with the hospital

Thursday 31st

There is some talk going about that there are two raiders at Sarge/large(?) on the coast and that Port Said is in danger of being shelled would like to be there when it happens all the transport have left Port Said so there must be something in it the knee does not seem to be getting any better and is still useless

February [written at top of page – in ink from here]

Friday 1st February 1918

The Dr told me last night that he would let me out of here in a few days time which will be a relief I am getting that tired of being in bed that my hips are aching and it makes me feel weary he also said that he hoped that I would be out of it before he comes back from the school which means another three weeks here yet

Monday 4th February(sic) [on lower page]

There is a strong bitter cold wind blowing today it was raining this morning the Dr says that I will be getting out of bed in few [days?] for which I will not be sorry as I am fed up with lying down all the time

Wednesday 6th

The Dr has ordered no more treatment for my knee only to be bandaged up but the orderly has not been near me for 24 hour so I am trying to do it myself the Dr said I could get up in another two days there was a heavy shower last night it is fine and very windy today

Friday 8th

Our ward is isolated for about 12 days through a case of meningitis we have to get a nose and throat drench twice a day it is anything but pleasant(sic) but so long as it is a preventative of the disease the unpleasantness can be put up with it took the Dr some time to find out what was the matter with him and it was only after he had that they found out he was in the ward about 20 hours and unconscious all the time

Monday 11th

Having a miserable time in bed got a heavy cold on me and I am that tired that I can't lie down or sit up have 34 days in bed now do not know how much longer I will have to stop in the knee seems to be at a stand still and it is a long way from being right yet

Tuesday 12th

Feeling A.1 today getting rid of the cold the Dr has not had a look at my knee this last five days it does not seem to be getting any better in a way it is worse as it seems to be in the bone and gets very sore at times in the shin and kneecap it looks as though we were going to have a spell of fine weather it is like spring today there is a rumour that all A. class men in the A.P.C. have to get out for the front it will sting some of them that had good jobs if I have to go it won't worry me as it will be a change

Wednesday 13th

The Dr ordered me out of bed this morning to walk about without crutches he said there was nothing the matter with the knee all the Gynovitis(sic) [Synovitis] had gone and there was not de(?) in the bone but I think he is making a mistake it feels rotten when I try to walk on it and the knee joint is painful and the calf of the leg is all swelled up it maybe alright so long as it doesn't get a sudden twist or jar if either happens it will be worse than ever so if in obeying orders anything happens it will be the Drs fault

Thursday 14th

39 days [written on bottom of page]

Walking about on the knee seem to make it worse was standing still with a bit of weight on it and I lost control of it and it shot back and caused me a few minutes agony the Dr has ordered a massage for it but the way it feels it is settled it is getting a hard job lately to get the E.M. and it has gone up in price it ½ P.T. then it rose to 1 P.T. and now it is one and a half and the niggers are not bringing it around so we do not know how things are going it is still like spring although it is cloudy today

Friday 15th

had the massage but it seems to make the leg worse it is now ¾ of an inch smaller than the other leg it is getting very bad in the foot

DAIRY, January 1 – December 31 1918

[Inside frontispiece] 2/-

No 2109 D Corp(?)

37 Batt

10th Brigade 3rd Div

426 A.Cops(sic)19 Batt

5 Brigade

G Wight Lynd Hurst

Bulgandra

Mrs John Jelbart

Sth(?) Buryens

Alectown

Parkes

'Membership Card' [Page]

Regimental No. 2678 Rank L/Cpl

Name G A Hall

Home address Daysdale Via Corowa N S Wales

Corps Anzac Provost Date Jan 1st 1918

[Three pages titled] 'Memoranda' [are headed] 'Letters to' [with initials, dates]

S.E.C 22/1/18

S.Lomas 30/1/18

E.Leighton 4/2/18

S.E.Cowen 7/2/18

S.E.C. 28/2/18

S Lomas 17/3/18

E.Leighton 17/3/18

S.E.C. 17/3/18

M.M.Hall 19/3/18

W.J.T.H.Hall 8/4/18

R.T.& S.E.C. unclear

S. Lomas “

S Lomas T.H. Hall “

A V Jayne “

S.E.C. 30/5/18 - two more pages last entry of 'Letters to' 22/12/18

Port Said

Tuesday 1st January 1918

Sports on today tried to go down to them but the leg would not early on very squally

Wednesday 2nd

There was a riot in town new years night among the French sailors the APC [Anzac Provost Corp] are in strong force there tonight

Thursday 3rd

Still having a lively time with my leg have to see the Dr every morning

Friday 4th

The Dr has ordered a massage for my knee so it should be alright soon

Saturday 5th

There is a mob coming here from the front they have been coming this last month but are not here yet

Sunday 6th January

Sent to A.S.H.

Monday 7th

In the 2nd Australian/Army? Stationary Hospital with Genie Vitus(sic) [Synovitis] in the knee

Tuesday 8th

Got my leg in splints and it is rather uncomfortable the Dr seems a decent sort

Wednesday 9th

Have a rough night last night the pain was awful it is better today but by the look of it I am here for more time

Thursday 10th

Knee very bad swelled up to bursting point the Dr is going to put a scotch bandage on it whatever that is

Friday 11th

Leg good this morning but still have to stick to the bed

Saturday 12th

Leg feeling good but not allowed [to] get up yet

Sunday 13th January

Still in bed

Monday 14th

Got the scotch bandage [off?] at last but still have to stay in bed Inoculated for cholera

Tuesday 15th

Got an issue of Xmas gifts they were very good the best that has come here yet the leg seems to be worse

Wednesday 16th

Leg still bad the other seems as if it was going the same getting another scotch bandage on

Thursday 17th

Leg no better got the scotch bandage on again no hope of getting out of bed for a month

Friday 18th

Leg giving me gyp has been going since yester [yesterday]

Saturday 19th

Leg still giving me rats it seems to be getting worse than ever

Sunday 20th January

Leg getting worse

Monday 21st

Since the dressing was taken of the leg seems to have improved a bit

Tuesday 22nd

The relieving Dr has been here three days and he has only seen me once the leg feels better but is still useless

Wednesday 23rd

Still nothing done to my knee but it does not feel to(sic) bad as it is not painful

Thursday 24th

The Dr has not had a look at my leg it is feeling a bit better

Friday 25th

After a week the Dr had a look at my knee he ordered another scotch dressing

Saturday 26th

Our old Dr is back again he had a look at my knee and ordered another dressing

Sunday 27th January

Monday 28th

There was a very heavy rain last night it is fine today knee improving

Tuesday 29th

The Dr had a look at my knee and says the dressing has to stay on another three days

Wednesday 30th

The dressing taken off but the knee seems to be swelled as much as ever

Thursday 31st

There is some talk that there is two raiders on the coast and that Port Said is in danger of being shelled

Friday February 1st 1918

The knee seems to be at a standstill no worse or no better the Dr says he hopes that I am out of before he comes back from the school in three weeks time

Saturday February 2nd

The knee is still going down slowly it is feeling the same [as?] it did three weeks before I went to the Dr with it

Sunday 3rd February

[blank]

Monday 4th

the Dr says I will be up in a few days the sooner the better

Tuesday 5th

Have a new Dr and he is a hard case he says I will have two more days in bed

Wednesday 6th

There was a shower of rain last night it is fine and windy today the knee seems to be at a standstill the Dr ordered no more treatment

Thursday 7th

Still having cold squally weather the Dr is going to put a blister on my knee if it don't (sic) soon get right

Friday 8th

Still raining and cold all in isolation through a case of melingitis(sic)

[meningitis] in the ward

Saturday 9th

Dr put figure of 8 bandage on my knee and told me I could play football with it the calf of the leg is swelling up

Sunday 10th February

Monday 11th

Still in bed and have a bad cold my back feels as if it will break

Tuesday 12th

Getting rid of the cold the knee does not seem to get any better the Dr has not seen it this past few days

Wednesday 13th

Ordered out of bed at last the leg feels rotten been trying to walk on it

Thursday 14th

Knee feels worse have no command over the joint Dr has ordered a massage

Friday 15th

The massage does not seem to have done any good the leg is more painful than ever

Saturday 16th

Leg improving by the way it feels will be fit to go out by the time we are out of isolation

Sunday 17th February

Monday 18th

Knee is about the same only one more day in isolation

Tuesday 19th

Discharged from hospital knee no bother

Wednesday 20th

Convalescent the knee seems to be getting worse

Thursday 21st

Still having a miserable time with my knee

Friday 22nd

Very windy and showers knee seems a little better

Saturday 23rd

Saw the M.O. [medical officer] with my knee had it painted with iodine and bandaged

Sunday 24th February

Monday 25th

The Y.M.C.A. Rec(?) [Young Men's Christian Association Recreation] rooms were open today by Col Elgood still having cold showery weather

Tuesday 26th

The knee is slowly improving I will report for duty in a day or two

Wednesday 27th

Has been nice and fine this last two days and very quiet in camp

Thursday 28th

Booked for duty knee Is not to(sic) good yet, kept me awake half the night

Friday March 1st 1918

It is quiet(sic) hot today things very quiet

Saturday 2nd

Having a weary time on duty the leg gets very tired and makes me feel weary still very quiet there was a concert in the Y.M.C.A. which was good

Sunday 3rd March

Monday 4th

Nothing doing still keeping fine

Tuesday 5th

Very windy and dusty the knee is about the same and inclined to swell up

Wednesday 6th

Have missed pay now since Boxing day have to wait now till it's the 20th

Thursday 7th, 8th, 9th across the page

Getting some hot weather lately things the same as usual our C.O. Cpt Jordan is up for a C.M. [Court Martial] he is going to England for it he will about(sic) get sent home

Sunday 10th March

Had a win in Lotteries

Monday 11th

Very quiet in camp 300 just came in from the front for rest fairly quiet so far

Tuesday 12th

The A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall?] has laid a complaint about the last mob on leave men making a row in the town

Wednesday 13th

Had one chap off his dot(sic) and was trying to find the sea the Dr gave him a drug and put him to sleep

Thursday 14th

Very windy and dusty can hardly see for sand flying about

Friday 15th

Very squally thunder storms and had wind and cold had another Lotrie(sic) win T.P. [piastre]100

Saturday 16th

A big mob up for orderly room for being out of bounds still showery and cold

Sunday 24th March

Monday 25th

Still plenty men for the orderly room

Tuesday 26th

One of the C.Ps. was sent to the hospital with typhoid

Wednesday 27th

Getting some warm weather lately and in camp the orderly room has slackened off a bit

Thursday 28th

Had the Yanks concert party and the[y] kept the crowd in continuous laughter

Friday 29th

A curse of a day dust and wind can hardly see for it

Saturday 30th

Having a lively time with diarrhea(sic) have eat nothing for two days feel a bit shaky on it

Sunday 31st March Easter Day

[blank]

April 1st 1918

Have orders to go back to Kasr- el-nil

Tuesday 2nd

In the barracks again for duty

Wednesday 3rd

On duty again in Cairo not much to do no night leave

Thursday 4th

Very quiet in town

Friday 5th, 6th [across days]

Things very quiet and very little doing

Sunday 7th April

Monday 8th

On guard for the first time in nine months

Tuesday 9th

At the Printania on duty the Barnstormes(?) was(sic) on but they were not much

Wednesday 10th

On Pont Lemoun patrol nothing to do very hot tonight

Thursday 11th, 12th, 13th [across page]

One of the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] in trouble have not heard what it was

Sunday 14th April

Monday 15th

Made another start at rifle drill again the marching made my knee very sore

Tuesday 16th, 17th across days

Having a cool change the alarm was sounded last night and put the wind up the civies(sic) in Cairo

Thursday 18th

The Egyptian Police blew their whistles and had(sic) the wind up the ord

[Orderly] Sgt

Friday 19th

Very quiet in town there is(sic) very few soldiers about just now

Saturday 20th

Very hot and close a lot of the police are getting sick

Sunday 21st April

Monday 22nd

Having a cool change still very quiet in town

Tuesday 23rd

It was reported that 10th Div [10th (Irish) Division] from the Lologon [Polygon] Camp are going to stoush us tonight they (unclear) to officer(?)

Wednesday 24th

Quiet in the (unclear) town with us the natives were fairly busy

Thursday 25th

On guard only a few prisoners still keeping cool

Friday 26th

Nothing doing still cool

Saturday 27th

There is some talk about being sent to details they are keeping no info in the corps

Sunday 28th April

Monday 29th

Things very quiet in town all the 10th going in a few days

May 1st 1918

Thursday 2nd, 3rd, 4th [across page]

Still having cold weather things are very quiet in town there has been a big mob gone to England there was about 1800 soldiers in the barracks last night

Monday 6th

Has been very cold the last day or two

Thursday 9th, 10th, 11th [across page]

Things seem to be getting bad in the camp as regards (unclear) our Police(?) today was 1.2 per man the food is light

Sunday 12th May, 13, 14, 15 [across

page]

Still keeping cool things fairly quiet in town

Thursday 16th, 17th, 18th [across page]

Things still keeping quiet in town

Sunday 19th May- Saturday 25th [two pages empty except for squiggles]

Sunday 26th May, 27th, 28th, 29th [across page]

Things fairly quiet in town still fairly cool

Thursday 30th, 31st

June 1st 1918 [no entries till]

Thursday 13th

Inoculated for cholera

Friday 14th

Inoculation tuning us up

Monday 17th

Having some very hot weather lately

[No entries till]

Thursday 27th

Have to do duty with the M.T.P's

[Mounted Troop Police/Pioneers?]

Friday 28th, Saturday 29th

Some of the chap(sic) do not care about it as it stops them talking to their woman

Sunday 30th June to July 6th [across page]

On pioneer duty for a while in place of the chap who [is?] under the Dr for a few weeks the job is tuning my knee up and it is likely that I will be in the hospital before long has been very hot

lately at night and the bugs has(sic)
been on parade there must have been
two or three hundred division by the
feel of them one so could [not?] get any
sleep for them

[Two pages blank]

Sunday 14th July – Saturday 20th

[across page]

Having some very hot weather day and
night have to our duty with the M.T.Ps
and five and six hours at a time things
very tame(?) still keeping hot have a lot
of sick(?) men on still of(sic) the
pioneer job

Sunday 21st July – Saturday 27th

[across page]

The pioneer work is stirring my back up
can hardly walk about at times got the
pioneer job on permanent not much of a
cop

Sunday 28th July, 30th, 31st, across page
Getting more new men in the corp

Sunday 4th, 6th, 7th August [across
page]

A mob going to Palestine for duty all
old hands

Thursday 8th, 9th

For failing to recognize two prisoners at
a C.M. [Court Martial?] members of the
corp were sent to details for overseas
Friday 10th – Wednesday 21st [no
entries]

Thursday 22nd, 23rd, 24th [across page]

There is some talk of all the Inf
[Infantry] being sent over seas but I
think it to(sic) good to be true
[Blank pages]

Sunday 1st September 1918

Monday 2nd

Had an infantry parade this morning
was going to put in for a transfer but
thought better of it

Tuesday 3rd

Had to escort a prisoner patient to the
Citadelle [Citadel Hospital] and he
broke arrest we were lucky enough to
capture him again or we would have
done for ourselves

Sunday 8th September [across page in
pencil from now on]

Two of the A.P.C. were up for neglect
of duty but they both got out of it the
mob that put in for overseas is not likely
to get away as the(sic) don't want them
to leave the camp

Sunday 22nd September

Monday 23rd

Had T.A.B. inoculation the first in two
years

Thursday 26th-28th [across the page]

Still keeping very hot the 1914 men
going home very quiet in town

Tuesday October 1st 1918

Wednesday 2nd

Caught two absentees of six months and
the men who caught them are going
mad with excitement

Thursday 3rd, 4th, 5th [across page]

There is a lot of rivalry to see who has
the honor for the capture of Biddell(?)
and Ingary(?) the mob is running round
pens and paper making out statements
[Blank pages]

Thursday 24th [in ink]

Thunder and storm with light rain

Friday 25th

Heavy rain this morning

Saturday 26th

Close and muggy after the rain

[Blank pages]

Sunday 10th November 1918 in pencil

A wire came in this morning to say that the men from Polygon [name of a camp] are coming(sic) into town with bomb waiting with machine guns for them all leave stopped and have to be ready for duty at a moment's notice a mob from Polygon breaking up shops and looting the police cleared the streets after the damage was done

Thursday 14th, 15th

Things quiet in town after the trouble there are about two hundred men on piquet staning(sic) [standing] to all day there is a rumour that the Polygon mob are coming(sic) in to get some of their own back on the police

Sunday 17th November -10th [across the page]

Have had orders when on leave to take our blue bands off our hats

Thursday 28th-30th [across page]

Very quiet in town the troops are behaving fairly well so far there are thousand of them here now still have the piquet on

Sunday 1st December 1918

Monday 2nd

Very quiet in town there was hardly any soldiers in town yester(yes)

Thursday 5th-6th [across page]

Getting some very cold weather this last few days troops still very quiet

Saturday 7th

Had a shower of rain it is very cold with it

Sunday 8th December

[Blank pages]

Tuesday 17th

Thanksgiven(sic) day at Gezerich only (unclear) and civvies invited

Wednesday 18th

[entry crossed out and words unclear]

Thursday 19th

Review of the 10th Div at Gezerich

Friday 20th

March past of the 52nd Div

Saturday 21st

The streets were full of troops and civvies it was impossible at times to get [through?] the crowd the troops still quiet

Tuesday 24th

Raining and very cold

Wednesday 25th

Had a good spread only two got drunk

Thursday 26th

Had a dust up with some of the 10th Div two of the M.T.Ps [Mounted Troop Police(?)] slightly injured

Sunday 29th December-31st [across page]

Had a prostitute parade Mon and Tues they picked out of the police one of them is in the Peter and the other open arrest

[Blank pages of] 'Cash Account'

[One page in ink]

'from 2/11/1918 to 11/12/18

Allotment £164.5

Differed 57.4'

Page headed 'Memo of Things Lent'
'Rifle No 1826 6' [along side of page]

Page headed 'Memoranda'
3 pages of 'Letters from'
Listed from 14/1/18 to 20.11.18
List mainly initials and dates received

No. 2678 *Pt Hall S. J.*
ALZAC PROVOST CORPS is proceeding
to Alexandria on special duty. To
report on arrival to the A.P.M.
Alexandria and to return when services
are completed. Leaving here at 4-0pm.

NOTEBOOK February 16th – November 17th 1918

Inside front cover

18

L/Cpl Hall G.A.

Anzac Provost Corps

Port Said

First page

No 2678 Anzac Provost Corps

2nd Stationary Hospital

Moascar

Saturday 16th Febuary (sic)

The massage is doing the leg good will be fit by the time we are out of isolation there was a fight in the ward today it is a wonder to me that there is not more the way they carry on it is very warm and feel[s] a bit like summer

Sunday 17th February

Have to get a swab taken of our throats to see if we had any mellingitis[meningitis] germs one man has been isolated as a germ carrier the knee is still very weak and sore do not know what to make of it

[Febuary(sic)1918 [on bottom of page]

[17/2/1938 [on top of next page]

Monday 18th

We have only another day in isolation and the mob will be going to Port Said there will be only three left in the ward it is cloudy and like for rain and inclined to be cold the knee is about the same no better or worse

Wednesday 20th

Discharged from the hospital the knee is as bad as ever have a week off duty and I think before it is up will be in the hospital again

Friday 22nd

having a miserable time with my knee although it does not feel to(sic) bad today think I will see the M.O.[medical officer] tomorrow with it very cold and showery

Tuesday 24th

It has been bitterly cold this last week have never felt so cold since I came to Egypt the knee does not seem to get any better and the cold is not doing it any good the new Y.M.C.A. [Young Men's Christian Association] tea rooms was opened by Col Elgood yester[yesterday] there was a good crowd of soldiers and civilians there there has been a lot of the police kicked out of the corps lately and are waiting for a boat to the old

country they are affraid(sic) to go to detail and are doing duty as police till the boat goes they are calling for fifty more new men but they do not seem to be able to get them

March 1st 1918

Having some warm weather this last few days have been booked for duty again the knee is not to(sic) good yet and might go bung any time

[March on bottom of page]

Things are very tame there was some competition in the Y.M. last night but they could not get any entries for them

Tuesday 5th

Things very quiet in camp still having fine warm weather it is very windy and dusty today my knee does not seem to get any better it was slightly swelled when I came of(sic) duty this morning it feels as if it will be as bad as ever before long

Saturday 9th

Our C.O. [Commanding Officer] Cpt Jordan is up for a C.M.[Court Martial] for running two brothels and also having two pay books. He is going to England to be tried the (unclear, just squiggles?) Defence Department is waking up at last they have now put up poster in all drinking bars railway carriages and trams in fact every (unclear) warning soldiers against spies they have them on the screen at the end of some of their pictures it is beginning to get hot again we will be sinnying(sic) out for cold weather in a week or two

Tuesday 12th

The rest camp has started again and men are coming in from the front for rest they are fairly quiet but are very fond of their beer. There is an outbreak of typhus in the arab quarters there is a mob of blue jackets and natives down with it had a small win in one of the lottries(sic) worth 16/8d the knee is feeling none to good yet

Wednesday 13th

The A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall] made a complaint about the way the new mob on leave carried on in town some of them seem to go mad and think they are at home and when the police say anything to them there is more trouble we had one that was clean off his head he was trying to find the sea (he was only 100 yards off it we took him to the M.O. [Medical Officer] and he gave him a sleeping draught and put him to bed

Friday 14th

The A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall] made a raid last night and a lot of the staff were up for orderly room this morning they had one of the cooks one policeman the pay sgt and the orderly set did not hear how they got on but it would cost them a few days pay it might keep some of them in their place for a while they have had a fair innings so they should not complain about it last night was very windy and when we woke up this morning the beds was(sic) was covered in sand and a lot of tents blown down it is

raining at present and looks as if it will keep on for the rest of the day capt(sic) jordan(sic) is going to Aus and leaving today instead of going to England

Saturday 16th

There was a mob up for orderly room this morning for being out of bounds still showery and windy had another win in the Lottreys(sic) win one £ one of the police go[got] stoushed up last night but it appears to have been his own fault

Sunday 17th March

The outbreak of typhus is getting serious the natives are dying wholesale there was an order today that no soldiers were allowed to ride in the gharrys [horse drawn cart used as taxi service] and all sailors have to be on their boats at 8 o'clock there has been a lot of men before the orderly room lately for being out of bounds in the arab quarters where the fever is so it will mean more work for the police word has just come down the line that there was two of the police were kicked to death by a mob it seems that one of the police tried to ride over the mob and they got to him and the others that went to help him copped out as well

Tuesday 19th

The orderly room is still having a good run and (?) some of the knowalls will persist in going down to arab town where the fever is how any one can go down there beats me as you can smell the place a mile away and especially at night time yet some men can practically live there and when they get pinched they say they don't get a fair go the C.O. is toweling(sic?) some of them up the sailors have to be arrested at night and they are isolated 16 days and then they get 60 days without the option

Thursday 21st

The Typhus is very severe in the arab quarters 100 deaths were reported yesterday there is a rumour that there was a Zepellin(sic) over Alexandrai(sic) last night and it has the wind up some of them it is also said that the machine was built on the desert there was three guns fired at sea this morning and there was some excitement in the camp they came out of their tents like rabbits there is still a few for the orderly room of a morning yet all the leave party is going out today

Tuesday 26th

The orderly room is doing good trade since the fever broke out the C.O. is giving them 28 days and sent back to their units the civilian population here Is greatly excited over the offensive on the Western front it was impossible to get near the cables yester we have had some very cold showery weather this last few days but it is shaping for fine warm weather now have had a few good concert parties here lately particularly the "Yanks" which would be hard to beat

Wenesday(sic) 27th [27/3/18 on top of page]

One of the C.Ps was sent to the hospital with typhoid and the rest of his tent are in isolation the Y.M. kicked the red cross out of the camp because they were giving to(sic) much tea to the convalesants(sic) for nothing and the Y.M. was losing that much money

the red cross has been here this last 8 months and I think the Q.M [quartermaster] would have let them stop the Y.M.C.A. is making a good thing out of the soldiers and their prices are very high they say they are for the benefit(sic) of troops but they seem to me to be benefiting(sic) themselves the most and if the [war] was to end soon it would hurt none of them very much they are busy building a cinema and it is likely they will charge for it

Friday 29th

It is a curse of a day dust and wind can hardly see for sand had the Yanks concert party last [night?] and they kept the crowd laughing from start to finish one civilian remarked that they could not get a better show in London

Saturday 30th

One of the A.P.C. in trouble for having hahish(sic) in his possession he had between 2 and 300£E worth on him and he had obtained leave for 48 hours to go to Cairo and was on the platform to leave when he was arrested it is supposed that one of the civilians in the swim put him away

April 3rd 1918

Recalled to the barracks for duty there is no leave granted to the police after 6 o'clock(sic) on account of the supposed comming(sic) air raid they have the wind up them properly here the hostil(?) machine is only observing for the submarines and no intention of raiding the work is about the same only the guard carries revolvers instead of rifles

April [at bottom of page]

Friday 5th

The A.P.C. who was up for having hahish in his possession got two years it appears that he has been trying to catch some natives with it and got caught himself things are very quiet here it is as bad as Port Said there is no night leave granted here but should be soon likely the native press is complaining about the darkness of the streets as they say it gives thieves a good chance to cary(sic) on their work which is done in broad daylight

Tuesday 9th

Things very quiet although there is a big mob of soldiers in town both Irish and Scotch some of the Irish are a bit rough at times they are all booked for England and when they go we will have little to do

Thursday 11th

Getting some very hot weather lately it is very hot at night

Saturday 13th

Had an inspection for indentifiacion [identification] by of the Wazza women [prostitute women] two of the A.P.C. was picked out by her and was paraded before the C.O. have not heard how he got on

Tuesday 16th

Made another start at rifle drill again and we have one N.C.O. [non-commissioned officer] that can give a decent command and the LH [Light Horse] are no good at rifle drill and it makes it bad for us inf [infantry]

Friday 19th

The raid alarm was blown the other night and scared the life out of the civvies some of the soldiers thought it was dinkum as well the Egyptain(sic) police blew the alarm on their whistles last night and have the wind up the orderly sgt he was quiet(sic) excited about it and we in the town knew nothing about it it is very quiet in town at present having cool change

Monday 29th

Having some changeable weather one day hot and the next cold a lot of the police are going to the hospital the S.M. [Sergeant Major] is beginning to get weary of the drill we were on parade this morning and was(sic) doing it anyhow and we were not even checked don't think it will be long before it is cut out some of the 10th Div [10th (Irish) Division] are rough ups at time the police had to draw their batons last night while arresting one

Wednesday 24th

Some of the 10th Div from Pollygon(sic) camp were coming to stoush us up last night but they failed to appear and the town was a quiet as usual it has been cool the last few days and there is a lot of sickness about the drill is a ragtime turnout this morning the men were explaining to one another how it should be done

Friday 26th

there was a parade on Anzac Day but I missed being on guard there was a few drunks brought in last night the most that has come in for some time

Sunday 28th April

There is some talk of our being sent to details as they are keeping any inf [infantry] in the corps it will do me if they send us to England as there is a class of men in the corp that are not worth being in company with there is an identification parade every week from some of the brothel women so we will be better out of it the Camel Corp lately has been very good they will follow us up if they think that we are going to pinch a 10th Divis(sic) [10th (Irish) Division] man and even help us if things get to(sic) hot it seems that they are always in holts with one another in camp on Anzac day the C.C. [Camp Commandant?] hoisted the Aus flag and the 10th were going to pull it down till the C.C. put on a guard and the 10th failed to appear

May 7th 1918

It have(sic) been very cold this last day or two things are very quiet in town and the natives made up for the soldiers there was hardly a sober one to be found it being a public holiday there is still some talk of the Inf comming(sic) back here it will be a bit

lively if they do as they are still calling for more police but they do not seem to get them so they are detailing off about 360 for the job there has a lot of the old hands gone out of the corp which makes us short

Sunday 12th May

Things seem to be getting in a bad way the food ration is cut down and today we got an issue of 1 oz of tobacco per man instead of two a prisoner told me at the kit store that they fight over the last crust of bread as if they were starving two of the A.P.C.s are up on serious charges one for threatning(sic) a comrade with a bayonet and the other for causing an injury to a comrade and we are short handed they sent a man out on duty last night that was not fit to walk about let alone do duty it has been some(sic) hot lately but it is cool today

Sunday 19th May

Things are fairly quiet and there has not been many arrests made lately five of the corps went on escort to Port Suez with three prisoners for Aus two are in for life and the other 5 years and A.P.C. who was up for threatning(sic) a comrade got twelve months

June 4th 1918 June [at bottom of page.]

The A.P.M came into the Kirsaal [Kursaal Theatre?] the other night and took our W.Os [Warrant Officer] name for not having paid to go in the next morning he wanted to squash the case but the W.Os is going to carry it on and he is likely to get pulled over the coals over it things are very quiet in town at present as there is(sic) not many soldiers in town it has been cool this last two days

Saturday 8th

Things have been only middling in the corps lately the C.M.S. is up for C.M. for knocking a civie about another sgt has been sent down from the front lines for C.M. for taking medals off the turk one of the L/Cpls [Lance Corporal] got himself in the cooler for altering his pay book and there is one up for CM today for giving fake evedence(sic) but he is likely to get out of it the A.P.M. has cut out the Kursaal [Kursaal Theatre] patrol as the manager says he can manage the soldiers on his own it is to be hoped he can it has come out in orders that the A.P.C. have to pay to go to all shows except on duty there is some of them have made it a welter there has been as many as 23 in one show

Monday 10th

There is still another of the A.P.C. in the cooler for inciting an Aus prisoner to resist arrest when in custody of the M.T. Ps [Mounted Troop Police] he makes the sixth for C.M. in a month it has been a bit lively in town this last two days there being a fresh mob on leave from the front

Sunday 23rd May

The R.S.M. [Regimental Sergeant Major?] got reduced to cpl knocking a civie about over a woman of low character it seems that as soon as a man gets up in their ranks he

starts to play up or thinks he can do as he thinks fit have had some very hot weather lately

Sunday 7th July 1918 July [on bottom of page]

There is a new order out now to the effect that no N.C.Os or men are allowed to travel 1st class on the electric Railway the military has tried to get the company to stop the men riding 1st class but they refused on the ground that if a man paid the fare he could ride where he pleased so now if we see any men in the 1st class they have to be crimed [charged] for it it is believed to be done for a few officers and the cars go from Cairo with a few officers in which the 2nd class is packed up with all sorts ragged dirty arab women of all nationalities all packed in like sardins(sic) for the sake of a few officers and some of them worse than the privates or natives [July on bottom of page]

August 4th 1918 August [on bottom of page.]

church parade this morning garrison church there was a fair crowd there the A.P.C. have to do duty with the M.T. Ps it is easier on our own have been doing pioneer work this last month

There is a lot of men here for duty here at present there is some talk of a detachment going to Alexandria(sic) there has been a lot of the A.P.C. gone to the hospital lately with the fever and they have a long spell away

October 25th 1918

the corps is going to the days (unclear) lately there is a shortage of men and there are no new hands joining up there is a lot in the hospital with fever some have been bearded(?) for home

Some of them get up on the mat and get sent out there is one Sgt now up for a G.F.C. [?] for alleged blackmail of a prostitute and that is the class of men the corp is composed of
October 1918 [at end of page]

November 14th 1918

There has been a bit trouble in the town Sq(?) the troops from the Polygon camp (unclear) looted one street from end to end and the PC(?) Police stood and watched them being under orders from the A.P.M. they were only and(sic) handful all told and if we had been working on our own there wouldn't have [been?] nothing happened the M.T.Ps were affraid(sic) of them so much that they discarded their armlets(?) batons and numerals the estimate of the damage done is about one hundred thousand there was 57(37?) of the looters arrested now that it is all over they have the town filled with machine guns and about 300 piquet besides the police.

Sunday 17th November

The two regmts [regiments] that done the looting were Seaforth and the Royal Irish and they have been given to understand that they have to pay for it the estimate is now 18,000£E it is very quiet now and the piquet is going off today



NOTEBOOK November 24, 1918- December 31 1918

[Inside front cover is faded blue figure of '6/- PT' in top left hand corner]

No 2678 G A.Hall L/Cpl
Australian Provost Corps
Kasr-el-nil
Barracks-
Cairo Egypt

[Inside back cover is]

No 2678 G A Hall L/Cpl
Australian Provost Corps
Kasr-el Nil
Barracks
Cairo Egypt

[Last page of notebook - (half page torn out)]

Sam Randall
A Walker
Inglenenk
Jingellic
Upper Murray

[Pinned through front cover, newspaper cutting of Memorium Notice]

'HALL- in loving memory of my Father, George Albert Hall, 1st A.I.F., who passed away August 21, 1954.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his daughter Evelyn, grandchildren Don and Ian, son-in-law Laurie.'

November 1918 [at top of page]

Sunday 24th

Things are rotten in the corps now it is nothing but duty and no spell and the food could not be worse and the men are completely worn out as a rule one man has to do two mens work. It is a bit lively with the troops today in town there is a mob from every unit to meet General Allenby he is making his entry into Cairo to day as a Field Marshel(sic)

November 29/11/18 [at top of page]

The pioneer job is no good now as I have to do patrol duty as well it used to run two men and a native to do the same work and no duty

December [at top of page]

Sunday 1st December 1918

Leave is again stopped for two days as they are affraid(sic) of a native riseing(sic) to troops are still keeping quiet there was a church parade this morning it seems as if they intend to work the police to a standstill as lately they are doing continuous duty in the peter[jail] for being drunk on duty having nice weather lately very fresh at night

Wednesday 4th

The troops still quiet there are not a great many knock about town there is likely to be a dust up over the 1914 men in the corp it seems that H.Qs. [Head Quarters] had no idea that there are any in the corp as they had no record of them the C.O. [Commanding Officer] is trying to keep them in the corp to the last and he has not sent in a nominbral(sic)[nominal] roll so he stands a good chance of hearing about it before long

December 1918 [on top of page]

Sunday 8th December

There is some great crowds of troops come into town of a night the place was full of drunken Irishmen last night but there was no trouble to speak of the 11 oclock train from Pont Lemoun was overcrowd(sic) they were packed in like sardines the P.(?)T.O. was drunk and wanted us to turn two women out of the Ladies compartment so that he could get a seat which would meant trouble for him and us he was cunning enough not to give us a direct (order) to do so having some cold weather lately but there has [been?] very little rain there are a few more men here but it is making no difference to the to the duties and if there were a hundred it would be the same.

Tuesday 10th

Two of the Cees (?) got themselves into trouble the other night by going into a brothel and demanding drink they went so far as to show their passes which they were only supposed to show them to the Commandant of the City police or the A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall] one of them refused their home leave a few days ago they were shifted to Moscar [Moascar] there is likely to be some trouble between the A.P.C.[Anzac Provost Corps] and the M.F.Ps the way some of them are taking(sic) [talking?] there are some of the A.P.C have an idea they are the only being in the world and the rest are dirt under their feet there are likely to be some reports going in to the A.P.M.[Assistant Provost Marshall] before long and there will be a dust up for sure I have done a lot of work with the M.F.Ps and have never had any trouble with them or ever had a cause to complain

Friday 13th

One of the officers of the A.P.C. is making a complaint that there is to(sic) much slackness amongst the troops and that the police are not pulling enough men up for their

passes it seems as if when the men are quiet the oheads(unclear) will not leave them alone and trying all the time to stir up trouble and if any shated(unclear) none of them would be found. The N.Zs [new Zealanders] are playing up in Ismalia [Ismailia?] they have smashed up several shops lately the Aus are keeping themselves quiet so far the natives are getting very cheeky lately and they are knocking some of the soldiers about those that they catch by themselves the police force is nearly doubled but it is making no difference to the duties

Sunday 15th December

The town was crowded last night with troops but they were quiet was on Pont Lemoun station last night and two of the trains were overcrowded with troops on leave from Zeitoun and there was very few drunks but we were kept busy keeping the soldiers out of the 1st class carriage

Immallia(sic)[Ismailia?] has been placed out of bounds to all troops since the smash up so there is likely to be a dust up there the 10th Div is taking over Kasr-el-nil Barracks this next week

Thursday 19th

Has been lively in town this past few days on the 17th there was a big day at Gezaich(sic) [Gezicht, area in Cairo] but no pvts [privates?] were allowed at it until late in the day it was all civies(sic) and they paid 10.P.T. per head on the 18th there was a big spread Lemiramus(?) Hotel but no one saw that except the Knuts the town has been full of troops but they are very quiet and no trouble so far have had some very cold weather lately

Sunday 22nd December

It is still quiet in town although the place is full of troops the 10th Divs threaten to tear Cairo to pieces if they are not shifted out before Christmas so things are likely to be lively the Inf[Infantry] in the corps have been ordered to wear leggins(sic) and spurs but there is no spurs on issue so how they are going to get on I don't know

Friday 27th

Xmas went off fairly quiet although the town was full of troops and the most of them drunk there was no trouble had a set to with some of the 10th yester(sic) and were very lucky to get out of it as light as we did one of the M.F.Ps had his head split with a bottle and my mate had his knee hurt through getting tripped up I though[t] that I would have stopped a bottle while he was down but he was on his feet before they come up to us it is reported that they played up in their own camp and killed some of R.Ps[Regimental Police] they marched their C.O.[Commanding Officer] round the camp but did not hurt him they are shifting them as fast as they can and the sooner they get out of it the better as some of them are the scum of the earth

Monday 30th

Have had a prostitutes parade this last two mornings yester there was only one this morning there are three had my name taken by the R.H.O last night but for what have not yet heard

Tuesday 31st December 1918

The prostitutes picked out two of the police they are now charged with being out of bounds breaking barracks and obtaining money from prostitutes by bribe they are likely to go along



DIARY, January 1 – 21 May 1919

Personal Memoranda includes Weight: 12st.9ps, Date: 29/?/19; Height: not filled in,
Name and Address: G A Hall Daysdale Via Corowa N.S.W. ‘Memoranda page
inscribed ‘letters to’ and list of initials and dates from 19/1/19 – 22/4/19.

January 1919

New Years Day passed off very quiet
there was(sic) only four soldiers in town
in the afternoon

Kasr-el-nil Barracks

Thursday 2nd

On Port Lemoun quiet had a set to with
a (unclear) and a Sgt would have landed
them in the peter only the train moved
out

Friday 3rd

One of the police up for insubordination
14 days C.B. [Confined to Barracks]
and sent to Moascar

Saturday 4th

Rain made it miserable for duty still
keeping quiet No 1 Patrol

Monday 6th

On Pont Lemoun Rly[Railway] Station
plenty of work but fairly quiet one arrest

Tuesday 7th

On the Guiltanian(sic)[Guillotine?]
Opera House had to get the soldiers out
otherwise quiet

Wednesday 8th

On No 1 patrol in the black(?) Wassa
[Wazza/Wassa]nothing doing

Thursday 9th

On electric Rly stop nothing to do only
freeze

Friday 10th

On main station quiet and very cold

Saturday 11th

On No 2 fairly quiet had a call up
(unclear) Italian Wazza to a brawl but
there was only a native throwing chairs
down stairs supposed to be knocking a
tommy [English soldier] about

Sunday 12th January

Monday 13th

Sharia(unclear) nothing doing on N3(?)
patrol made one arrest otherwise quiet
have a bad cold

Tuesday 14th

On N3 patrol Wassa Bazzar(sic)

Wednesday 15th

On main station nothing doing

Thursday 16th

On No 2 patrol Emad-el- Din [street in
Cairo] very quiet raining

Friday 17th

On No 1 Sharia Manak(?) very heavy
rain flooded the streets did very little
duty was in caffe(sic) most of the time

Saturday 18th

On No 2 Patrol No2 beat nothing doing
it is reported that two hundred natives
are missing through the heavy rain it
seems the weight of water brought the
houses down and buried them
underneath

Sunday 19th January

Main Station

Monday 20th

On tram stop nothing doing

Tuesday 21st

On No 1 Wagh-el-Berka(?). [Wagh-El-Bukh] nothing doing

Wednesday 22nd

On No 2 patrol No 1 Wagh-el-Berka

Nothing doing

Thursday 23rd

On Pont Lemoun a bit lively keeping the troops out of the first class carriage but quit(sic) orderly

Friday 24th

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din nothing doing

Saturday 23rd

On No 1 Patrol Italian Wassa(sic) nothing doing

Sunday 26th January

On No 2 Patrol Wagh-el-Berka nothing doing

Monday 27th

On main station nothing doing

Tuesday 28th

On No 2 Patrol Italian nothing doing

Wednesday 29th

On No 2 Patrol 4 & 5 beat nothing doing

Thursday 30th

On main street nothing doing

Friday 31st

On Pont Lemoun very quiet

Saturday 1st February 1919

On No 2 Patrol Wagh-el-Berka inclined to be lively one of the A.P.C.[Anzac Provost Corps] had a rough up with some Am [American?] the 10th Div [10th (Irish) Division] was inclined to be nasty

Sunday 2nd February

No 1 Patrol No 3 beat quiet

Monday 3rd

Had the night off the first in two months

Tuesday 4

On main station nothing doing

Wednesday 5th

On No 2 patrol No 1 beat a lot of drunks about no trouble a collision between a military car and a private car no one hurt

Thursday 6th

On No 1 Patrol No 1 beat nothing doing

Friday 7th

On Pont Lemoun nothing doing rain

Saturday 8th

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din a great many soldiers in train but quiet

Sunday 9th February

Main station

Monday 10th

On No 3 Patrol Emad-el-Din nothing doing

Tuesday 11th

On No 1 No 1 & 1 beat nothing doing

Wednesday 12th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh nothing doing

Thursday 13th

On Pont Lemoun very quiet

Friday 14th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh nothing doing

Saturday 15th

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din

Sunday 16th February

Escort to Moascar

Monday 17th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh and E.G.R.(?) sports ground nothing doing

Tuesday 18th

On main station nothing doing

Wednesday 19th

On No 1 Patrol Gharid

Marrak(?)[Sharia Manakh?] had a case of soldier being (stab? Unclear) on a civie kicked in privates

Thursday 20th

On No 2 Patrol No 1 beat nothing doing

Friday 21st

Main station very cold nothing doing

Saturday 22nd

On No 2 Patrol Sharia Manakh nothing doing

Sunday 23rd February

No 1 Patrol No 3 beat nothing doing

Monday 24th

On Pont Lemoun Station nothing doing

Tuesday 25th

No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din one arrest otherwise quiet

Wednesday 26th

On main station nothing doing

Thursday 27th

On No 1 Patrol No? beat nothing doing

Friday 28th

On No 2? Patrol No 2 beat nothing doing

March 1 1919

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din nothing doing

Sunday 2nd March

On No 1 Patrol No 2 beat

Monday 3rd

On Main Station a bit of excitement on the arrival of Admiral Jellico

Tuesday 4th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh nothing doing very cold

Wednesday 5th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh nothing doing a street walad had his head(?) cut off by with a tram [or train?]

Thursday 6th

On No 2 Patrol No 1 beat nothing doing

Friday 7th

On main station nothing doing

Saturday 8th

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din one arrest was inclined to be lively but no trouble had several calls

Sunday 9th March

No 1 Patrol No 8 beat

Monday 10th

On Pont Lemoun nothing doing going to the Shantia(?) [Sharia?] with the natives

Tuesday 11th

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din nothing to do only keep the soldiers out of the street

Wednesday 12th

On No 2 Patrol No 1 & 2 beat nothing doing

Thursday 13th

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din very quiet

Friday 14th

On main station nothing doing

Saturday 15th

On No 2 Patrol main street with armed piquet had nothing ourselves very quiet

Sunday 16th March

On Pont Lemoun

Monday 17th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh a bit lively with the Gyppos demonstrating one was shot by a civvie

Tuesday 18th

On No 2 Patrol at the Mousky Karahoul
[Mousky- a market?] with revolvers but
nothing doing

Wednesday 19th

On No 1 Patrol 4 & 5 beat nothing
doing

Thursday 20th

On main street nothing doing

Friday 21st

On main street nothing doing

Saturday 22nd

on Pont Lemoun no duty had the night
off

Sunday 23rd March

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh

Monday 24th

On No 2 Patrol on main street nothing
doing

Tuesday 25th

On No 2 Patrol 4 & 5 beat nothing
doing

Wednesday 26th

On Pont Lemoun no duty

Thursday 27th

On No 1 Patrol No 1 & 2 beat one arrest
Aust

Friday 28th

On No 2 Patrol but nearly mad with
toothache

Saturday 29th

On No 2 patrol no duty through
toothache

Sunday 30th March

On No 2 Patrol No 1 beat one arrest

Monday 31st

On No 1 Patrol No 2 beat a bit lively at
6 oclock a bit lively with Gippos

Tuesday 1st April 1919

On main station nothing doing some of
(unclear) officials(sic) were affraid(sic)
to go home having been warned not to
go to work on Wednesday so slept on
station

Wednesday 2nd

On No 2 Patrol Emad-el-Din nothing
do[ing?] the (unclear) have put off their
day till Saturday

Thursday 3rd

On No 2 Patrol No 2 beat nothing doing
Friday 4th

On No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh nothing
doing

Saturday 5th

On No 2 Patrol No 2 beat nothing doing

Sunday 6th April

Main Station

Monday 7th

On No 2 Patrol, No 2 beat a bit lively
with revolver shots

Tuesday 8th

No 1 Patrol Sharia Manakh still a bit
lively there were some Gippos and one
Tommie killed

Wednesday 9th

On No 2 Patrol had to stand to in the
soldiers home all the time there was
nothing doing

Thursday 10th

On No 1 Patrol had to come in off duty
with my arm

Friday 11th

Off duty with vaccinated arm getting a
rough spin with it

Saturday 12th

Vaccination still tuning(sic) me up can
hardly move about

Sunday 13th April

Still off duty

Monday 14th

Arm on the mend but no duty yet

Tuesday 15th

On duty again arm still very sore

Wednesday 16th

Arm on the mend

Thursday 17th

On patrol but did no duty

Friday 18th

Taken off street for time being

Saturday 19th

Nothing to do only pioneer(sic) don't know how long it will last some talk of our (unclear two lines)

Sunday 20th April Easter Day

No 2 Patrol

Monday 21st

No 2 Patrol had nothing to do only stand to was home at 10.30

Tuesday 22nd

Off street duty and on pounce(sic) (pioneer?) work for time being

Wednesday 23rd

Still on street duty went to pictures

Thursday 24th

Nothing doing

Friday 25th

Nothing doing

Saturday 26th

Nothing doing

Sunday 27th April— Wednesday 30th across page

Still on street duty and having a fair decent time for a while all the native troubles seem to be settled now as all the trams are running up to time(?)

May 1, 1919

Recaptured Flynn after a lapse of six month has to wait here for C.M. in the Citadel [Military Hospital Cairo]

Friday 2nd-3rd Saturday across page

There is some talk of the natives causing some trouble on the sixth

Sunday 4th May

Monday 5th

Under orders to march out to A details for Blighty [England]

Tuesday 6th

In details have a busy day getting ready

Wednesday 7th

Marched out of details and boarded the boat for Port Said

Thursday 8th

Knee feeling very bad swollen up a good deal

Friday 9th

Sea sick but not too(sic) bad

Saturday 10th

Feeling a bit (unclear) on it keeping on boat deck playing house (housie?) [card game]) all day

Sunday 11th May

Rain all day

Monday 12th

Got to Marseilles(sic) [Marseille] 9 o'clock this morning and marched in(sic) rest camp

Tuesday 13th

Had trip into town which was an eye opener after Egypt

Wednesday 14th

Did not go from here as expected going tomorrow had leave to Marseilles very warm

Thursday 15th

Still in the rest camp going tomorrow
for sure

Friday 16th

Left Marseilles at 7 oclock pm some
splendid scenery

Saturday 17th

Still on the train which travels very slow
it is a splendid trip for scenery after

Egypt

Sunday 18th May

Monday 19th

In rest camp at Abbeville likely to move
out at 8 o'pm(sic)

Tuesday 20th

In camp at La Havre [this is 'Harfleur'
in the accompanying note book] in
quarantine have to be disinfected
tomorrow quiet(sic) possibly we will
move out tomorrow

Wednesday 21st May 1919

Still in rest camp move out tomorrow at
two oclock

[End of War entries]

[At end of diary on page titled 'memo of things lent' is]

'Addresses'

No 2109 D Cop

3rd Batt 10 Brigade

3rd Div

426 A Coy 19 Batt 5 Brigade

G Wright

Lyndhurst Bulgandra

Mrs John Jelbart 31 Buryens

Alectown Parkes

[On next page]

Automatic pistol No 44429

Bought on 15/5/19 at rest camp Marseilles £2

[On next page]

'Mail from'

[Follows list of initials from 6/1/19-12/4/19]

[Name in full] S Lomas

[After ending of war entries there are several pages in pencil dated 1943 relating to farm
work eg 'cleaning up wool shed'.]

NOTEBOOK November 24th, 1918- August 7th, 1919

Inside front cover is faded blue figure of 6/- PT in top lh corner

No 2678 G A.Hall L/Cpl

Australian Provost Corps

Kasr-el-nil

Barracks-

Cairo Egypt

Inside back cover is

No 2678 G A Hall L/Cpl

Australian Provost Corps

Kasr-el Nil

Barracks

Cairo Egypt

Last page of notebook - (half page torn out)

Sam Randall

A Walker

Inglenenk

Jingellic

Upper Murray

Pinned through front cover, newspaper cutting of Memorium Notice

‘HALL- in loving memory of my Father, George Albert Hall, 1st A.I.F., who passed away August 21, 1954.

Ever remembered.

-Inserted by his daughter Evelyn, grandchildren Don and Ian, son-in-law Laurie.

[November 1918 at top of page]

Sunday 24th November

Things are rotten in the corps now it is nothing but duty and no spell and the food could not be worse and the men are completely worn out as a rule one man has to do two mens work. It is a bit lively with the troops today in town there is a mob from every unit to meet General Allenby he is making his entry into Cairo to day as a Field Marshal(sic)

[November 29/11/18 at top of page]

The pioneer job is no good now as I have to do patrol duty as well it used to run two men and a native to do the same work and no duty

[December at top of page]

Sunday 1st December

Leave is again stopped for two days as they are affraid(sic) of a native riseing(sic) to troops are still keeping quiet there was a church parade this morning it seems as if they intend to work the police to a standstill as lately they are doing continuous duty in the peter[jail] for being drunk on duty having nice weather lately very fresh at night

Wednesday 4th

The troops still quiet there are not a great many knock about town there is likely to be a dust up over the 1914 men in the corp it seems that H.Qs. [Head Quarters] had no idea that there are any in the corp as they had no record of them the C.O. [Commanding Officer] is trying to keep them in the corp to the last and he has not sent in a nominbral(sic)[nominal] roll so he stands a good chance of hearing about it before long

[December 1918 on top of page]

Sunday 8th December

There is some great crowds of troops come into town of a night the place was full of drunken Irishmen last night but there was no trouble to speak of the 11 oclock train from Pont Lemoun was overcrowd(sic) they were packed in like sardines the P.(?)T.O. [Provost Training Officer?] was drunk and wanted us to turn two women out of the Ladies compartment so that he could get a seat which would meant trouble for him and us he was cunning enough not to give us a direct (order) to do so having some cold weather lately but there has [been?] very little rain there are a few more men here but it is making no difference to the to the duties and if there were a hundred it would be the same.

Tuesday 19th

Two of the Cees (?) got themselves into trouble the other night by going into a brothel and demanding drink they went so far as to show their passes which they were only supposed to show them to the Commandant of the City police or the A.P.M. [Assistant Provost Marshall] one of them refused their home leave a few days ago they were shifted to Moscar [Moascar] there is likely to be some trouble between the A.P.C.[Anzac Provost Corps] and the M.F.Ps[Military Foot Police?] the way some of

them are taking(sic) [talking?] there are some of the A.P.C have an idea they are the only being in the world and the rest are dirt under their feet there are likely to be some reports going in to the A.P.M.[Assistant Provost Marshall] before long and there will be a dust up for sure I have done a lot of work with the M.F.Ps and have never had any trouble with them or ever had a cause to complain

Friday 13th

One of the officers of the A.P.C. is making a complaint that there is to(sic) much slackness amongst the troops and that the police are not pulling enough men up for their passes it seems as if when the men are quiet the oheads(unclear) will not leave them alone and trying all the time to stir up trouble and if any shated(unclear) none of them would be found. The N.Zs [new Zealanders] are playing up in Ismalia [Ismailia?] they have smashed up several shops lately the Aus are keeping themselves quiet so far the natives are getting very cheeky lately and they are knocking some of the soldiers about those that they catch by themselves the police force is nearly doubled but it is making no difference to the duties

Sunday 15th December

The town was crowded last night with troops but they were quiet was on Pont Lemoun station last night and two of the trains were overcrowded with troops on leave from Zeitoun and there was very few drunks but we were kept busy keeping the soldiers out of the 1st class carriage

Immallia(sic)[Ismailia?] has been placed out of bounds to all troops since the smash up so there is likely to be a dust up there the 10th Div is taking over Kasr-el-nil Barracks this next week

Thursday 19th

Has been lively in town this past few days on the 17th there was a big day at Gezaich(sic) [Gezicht, area in Cairo] but no pvts [privates?] were allowed at it until late in the day it was all civies(sic) and they paid 10.P.T. per head on the 18th there was a big spread Lemiramus(?) Hotel but no one saw that except the Knuts the town has been full of troops but they are very quiet and no trouble so far have had some very cold weather lately

Sunday 22nd December

It is still quiet in town although the place is full of troops the 10th Divs threaten to tear Cairo to pieces if they are not shifted out before Christmas so things are likely to be lively the Inf[Infantry] in the corps have been ordered to wear leggins(sic) and spurs but there is no spurs on issue so how they are going to get on I don't know

Friday 27th

Xmas went off fairly quiet although the town was full of troops and the most of them drunk there was no trouble had a set to with some of the 10th yester(sic) and were very lucky to get out of it as light as we did one of the M.F.Ps had his head split with a bottle and my mate had his knee hurt through getting tripped up I though[t] that I would have

stopped a bottle while he was down but he was on his feet before they come up to us it is reported that they played up in their own camp and killed some of R.Ps[Regimental Police] they marched their C.O.[Commanding Officer] round the camp but did not hurt him they are shifting them as fast as they can and the sooner they get out of it the better as some of them are the scum of the earth

Monday 30th

Have had a prostitutes parade this last two mornings yester there was only one this morning there are three had my name taken by the R.H.O last night but for what have not yet heard

Tuesday 31st

The prostitutes picked out two of the police they are now charged with being out of bounds breaking barracks and obtaining money from prostitutes by bribe they are likely to go along

January 1919

Thursday 2nd

New Years day passed off very quiet there was a few jocks(?) [Scotsmen] drunk new years eve but new years day there was nothing doing

Monday 6th

Still quiet in town and there are still plenty of troops knocking round the three police on Emad-el-Din drunk. I was the only one sober my mate had a set to with the piquet officer they were both in [the?]wrong the officer took the M.T.Ps [Mounted Troop Police?] name but how they are going to get on over it the Lord only knows

Friday 9th

Still keeping quiet in town and there is no trouble with the 10th the M.F.Ps had their day off as promised them for overwork during Xmas and New Year we have been promised the same but have a poor chance of getting it, it will be something like seven days leave to Alex only one of our lot got it while the M.F.Ps all got theirs. It seems as if our heads are afraid(sic) to miss a day for fear that the M.F.Ps get ahead of them and sling them out it was talked about a good deal twelve months ago of getting rid of the provo corps and the heads have had the wind up them every since

Thursday 15th

The flue(sic) is here in strong force nearly everyone has it natives and all a sgt told me last night that there had been forty deaths at the Demobilisation Camp (Kanthara) he said that they were sleeping in the open and they are living on bread and jam one of the A.P.C. was fined 10 days pay for striking a native another last night caused a brawl in the canteen and one of the Essex got his rifle to shoot him (a pity he did not) but some of the others took it off him the Tommy [English] was arrested but the case is settled as they do not wish for any ill feeling on either side

Sunday 19th January

There was a very heavy rain on Friday the heaviest on record it flooded all the streets and we could not do duty (for which we were not sorry) it stopped the Tram service and all motors were held up part of the electric railway was washed away and there is no service for ten days a native village was flooded and collapsed and it is report that 200 natives were buried in it the A.S.C. Bakery was washed away and we have to tackle(?) biscuits for a fortnight (the building was 100 years old the Nile has rose and the water is white

19/1/19 on top of page

It looks as though there is more rain hanging around I four(?) of the police to[ok] two prisoners to meet a boat at Suez and the mob got to them one of them got knocked about a good deal they are bringing the ring leader back here so he will get a rough spin when he does come and will miss his trip home into the bargain.

[February on top of page]

Thursday 20th

Has been very quiet lately although there is a bit of trouble with the troops and natives at times the troops knock the natives about and the natives have a go at the soldiers when they get a chance I had a case last night where a soldier had been stabbed in the arm he kicked an Italian in the privates and it will go hard with him as he was in a state of collapse from loss of blood the Tommies are very handy with their boots and never make any attempt to use their hands at all bottles are their favourite weapons they are mostly to blame for all the trouble with the natives and when a native knocks one of them he is only getting his own back none of us police can never(?) see anything of the like happen and so we do not know who is to blame the most we filled in our demobilisation forms in the other day and some of the men wanted an early return home they had to parade before the C.O. and he wanted to know why they wanted to return home after three and a half years' service one of the Sgts Is going and the O.C. wanted to know why he wanted to take his wife with him

March 1919

Monday 3rd

The troops have been quiet lately although there is still plenty of work for us to do two of the police got run in (unclear) for being drunk on duty I tried several times to get them to pull themselves together but they took no notice of me they will both get a C.M.[Court Martial] have applied for leave to Blighty [England] but do not know how it will get on

[March at the bottom of page]

The O.C. has passed it on to H.Q.[Head Quarters] for a wonder but I expect it will be turned down

Sunday 9th March

Things has(sic) been very quiet lately and very few arrests made although there are some soldiers ought to be shot on sight the way they carry on and knock the natives about it is little wonder they are affraid(sic) of a rising among them It is likely that we will get our Blighty leave as 17 put in for it and 25 are wanted it is reported that we are to get 8/- per diem [per day] extra from the 10th Feb. there are 26 intiteled(sic) to it so they say but it is not official yet

Monday 10th

There is some excitement today with the natives they are going about in a strong body and breaking shop winders(sic) and trams there are about 30,000 of them the Citadal fired on them and also the 54th they are only armed with sticks and they give the soldiers a rough time and any they get by themselves they killed a staff officer this morning and they are expected at the barracks this afternoon there is two machine guns waiting for them at the bridge all places of military value are guarded with fixed bayonets and the men have twenty four hours rations with them so they are expecting something

Wednesday 12th

The natives are still going around the town in big mobs it is reported that they killed another officer and a Sister and an Aus got a brick in the side of the ear the troops fired three shots into them yester(sic) morning and shifted them there is some trouble down the line the armoured train went out last night to Lanta[Lanha?] where the garrison is supposed to be surrounded with Bediouns(sic) and the place on fire there is reported trouble at Fayum[Tayam?] Upper Egypt and the trains have stopped running the aeroplane went out that way yester it is also that the railway employees are coming out on strike so things seem to be a bit mixed up the trams have all stopped running except a few outside the town and the coy [company] are claiming £E1000 per day from the Egyptian Government

Sunday 16th March 1919

The natives are still going strong they have wrecked Besha(unclear) Station they also rushed the train at Calele and two soldiers got badly knocked about one has since died some officers fired on the mob killing some of them and an aeroplane came along at the time it happened and put about 100 out of action there is no trouble here to speak of they had a go at the armoured car the other day with revolvers and several of the men got hurt they opened fire with the machine guns killing 15 and wounding about thirty all the picquets are armed and the police have to do duty with batons I was on with a picquet last night and had no orders what to do in case of trouble and had no sgt [sergeant] to visit us any other time it would [be] impossible to move for them all leave is stopped and we have to stand to all the time

Tuesday 18th

There was a big demonstration in town yester(sic) by the Gippos they were shouting for independence but they were quiet(sic) orderly there was one shot by civie and it cleared

the street although for a while it seemed as if there was going to be some trouble over it after we still do duty among them unarmed the patrols fired on them this morning and killed a few it is reported that there was 80 killed at Zagazig the Aus are patrolling the line there is also a mob going to Asnan

Wednesday 19th

Things were very quiet last night except for a mob of soldiers who broke up a café and looted it we were on duty at the Mousky Karakael(?) with revolvers and there was also an armed guard there as there was a rumor(sic) that the soldiers were going to burn the Mousky down the mob came at 8 o'clock but they were quiet and it was just as well they were as the officer in charge of the guard had a machine gun trained on them to shoot at the first sign of breaking up shops or looting the natives were quiet enough and they seemed to be carrying on as usual

Saturday 22nd

Has been very quiet in town this last few days although they have been rough in the provinces at Luxor they killed seven officers and the Sisters on leave have to come down the Nile by boat they also caught a guard just outside Cairo tied them up and knocked them about till they were unconscious then they took away their rifles and ammunition(sic) there were several shots fired in that direction late last night all traffic is stopped and there is only about two trains a day running all the R.Es (?) are in charge of the engines(sic) and they say they are having a good time of it one lot of patrol brought in a car load of arms taken from the natives there was anything from a 22.pistol to a gatling gun and dozens of shot guns one the APC has been placed under arrest for discharging accidentally his revolver while on duty the bullet went through two tents and just missed one of the sgts(?) who was sitting in the tent the guard now have to carry rifles the revolvers being tucked(?) away

Tuesday 25th

The trouble with the natives seems to have come to a finish as the trams are nearly all running they still have an armed guard on them we have been issued with revolvers now that they are not wanted and it will be a wonder if someone is not accidentally shot with them the way they are handled we had a lecture on them yester and the officer said the next man that discharged his revolver would go for a C.M.

Monday 31st

Things have been fairly quiet till today when there was a lively few minutes the military and civil police raided several cafes for the black hand gangs that have been murdering some of the europeans after the places were surrounded by soldiers and machine guns mounted there was gharry [horse drawn vehicles]drivers and walads(?) flying in all direction there was several hundred Egyptians caught and they were all searched for papers and revolvers (for which there is a fine of £E200 and imprisonment it is reported that they have booked their rising for to morrow the G.O.C. has told them that if they do rise he will level their villages to the ground

Sunday 6th April 1919

The troubles with the natives has not yet come to a head they are always putting off the day till some other time General Allenby has given them till the 5th to settle their disputes if they do not he is going to finish it for them they have lately killed several soldiers and civilians one of the E.P.C. had to empty his revolver into a crowd to get away

[April on bottom of page.]

Wednesday 9th

It is getting a bit lively with the Gippos the last two days there has been several soldiers and Gippos killed yesterday they killed one of the Essex and two of the police has been sent to the hospital one was shot and the other was hit with a piece of iron but an eye witness says it was their own fault interfering where they had no bussiness(sic) the garrison has had to turn out at the double a few minutes ago as a message came to the effect that the Egyptian soldiers had turned out and barracaded(sic) the streets around Abain Pallace(sic) [Ablain Palace?]

Thursday 10

It was very quiet last night in town we did no duty in the streets but had to stand to in the soldiers home [Soldiers' Home] there was a mob of fifteen Aus marched into the town armed with rifles bent on mischief and we had to shift them out as soon as they saw us they bolted there were two Gurhas(sic) [Gurkhas] killed at Abbassia and an English colonel was roughly handled at the Continental hotel the Helnan(?) train had to be escorted in by armed troops things are very bad and there is likely to be a smash up anytime the civilians are asking for military protection the Egyptains(sic) trying to wipe out the Armenians there are a number of them in the barracks

Sunday 13th April

Things have quietened down there was a report came in the other day that four out of six of the guard had been shot an armed party went out and put out of action about 200 natives there is a rumour going around that Allenby is going to get the Aus out of Egypt as soon as possible as they are taking too much upon themselves in the matter of dealing with the natives have been getting a rough spin lately with a vaccinated arm it is the first time it has taken out of five times being done

Friday 18th

Things still seem to be improving with the Gippos as there has been no trouble to speak of lately Although some of the patrol complained that they had bottles thrown at them from some of the windows the streets are in an awful mess with rubbish and they have had some of the native prisoners cleaning it up under an Imperial guard there is some talk of our going to details for Blighty next week the sooner the better

Monday 21st

All leave is stopped today on account of an Egyptain(sic) feast they are keeping quiet yet although there is likely to be some trouble later on

Thursday 24th

The trouble with the natives seems to be over as they have all returned to work the Tanzun(?) will have some work cleaning up the streets they are in a terrible state with rubbish had to parade to HQs today for medical exams for demob got passed A class got back at half past twelve and had to fall in again the O.C. wanted the men who escorted Nelson Shee(?) while in custody as he is now in hospital with V.D.[Venereal Disease] and wants to make out that he got it while in the barracks off street duty at last for awhile and nothing doing only pioneer(?) work

Friday 25th

Feeling rather lost having no street duty to do there is more here now than ever there was so we should soon be off to Blighty two of the police went to Kuntara for duty but returned their services not being required the Students are still trying to cause trouble by intimidating the Government officials they now have military protection two of the police are to be demobilized on 5th of next month both are married if we do not soon get shifted out of this they will all be married only the other day another got tied up we are getting some hot weather now and we still have to go about in our winter tunics and every one else is in drill

Sunday 27th April

Had an identification parade yester but Shee(?) failed to identify the escort who took him to the brothel one of the women were comming(sic) today for the same purpose but for some reason or other the parade did not take place

Tuesday 29th

Shee could not make anything out of his complaint and he is likely to be on the mat for not reporting that he had V.D. one of the police is up for neglect of duty in allowing an unauthorized person to have access to a prisoner and writing an appeal against his scentence(sic) for him the natives seem to have finished their strikes so they have nearly all returned to their work there is a nice mob here now on (unclear) detachment they are drunk every day and there is one who has not done any work being drunk all the time he has been put on the blackfellows list and the canteen is out of bounds to him[April+May] on top of page

Thursday 1st May 1919

All the trams are now running and the street cleaners are going their hardest the town is livelier now than it has been for this last two months there was a bit of excitement this morning in the recapture of Flynn he broke out of the compound the night before he was to be taken to the Citidalle (sic) [Citadel Hospital] and has been away about six months it was reported once that he had got out of the country they took 17 of the police to get him and his woman some (saw?) them just to take(?) he was brought here and taken to the Citidalle(sic) his woman is also in the peter on the charge of harbouring a deserter [May at top of page]

Monday 5th

Have just received orders to march out to depart for Blighty

Tuesday 6th

Nearly missed the train through the cooks not getting up and getting our breakfast ready but we got here and have been going all day having papers by the dozen to sign has to pass a medical board and get paid and had two parades we have to be up at four in the morning on the

[Next page detached with edges creased and unclear writing

Unclear line at top of page]

? p.m

Wednesday 7th

At last we are on the water in the the HS Maluna [Malura?] it has been raining the most of the time there is a big crowd on board Tommies NZs and Aus

Friday 9th

sick as usual but not to(sic) bad my knee is getting bad again and will be lucky if I do not have to go to the hospital as soon as I land

Blighty Leave

Monday 12

Arrived at Marseilles 9 oclock this morning had a miserable day yester as it rained all day and we had to keep below

Tuesday 13th

In rest camp Marseilles it is a very pretty camp being on the side of a Hill had trip to the town which is an eye opener after Egypt we are leaving here tomorrow by train for Harvre(sic) which they say is a 48 hour trip it is warm here in the middle of the day but very cold at night

Monday 19th

Just finished a three day train trip from Marseilles to Abbeville in the rest camp for the day likely to leave here at 8.30 pm for Harvre(sic) the mob keeping fairly quiet although some of them are a bit top heavy this evening

Wednesday 21st

Had another medical inspection three has to stay behind W.C. moving out tomorrow at one oclock it is not a bad camp there is a lot of the Imp[Imperial} here and they are all anxious to learn something of Egypt a lot of them has been [there?] in the early days

25th June 1919

Back in camp at Warmister Sutton Veny after a months leave and had the time of my life reported back a day late and had ten minutes in the cooler

Sunday 29th June

Tried to get 10 days embak.(sic) [embarkation] leave but could not so got on a boat roll the 50th quota to sail on the 4th of July had a go at picquet (unclear in brackets) yester it

was a ragtime turn out had three miles to walk we stopped there an hour and then came back church parade today and out of the crowd the padre could get no one to play the piano so they had to sing without things are very quiet here but there is plenty of gambling going on but no one seems to take any notice of it it is very cold here and like for rain the farmers are up to their eyes with haymaking

Wednesday 3rd July 1919

Still showery and bitterly cold all fixed up ready for the boat move out on Saturday morning

Friday 4th

Not leaving till the 7th am likely to get a rough time being the only provo on board there is one of the L.H. [Light Horse] named Smith the only one that knows what I belong to he is affraid(sic) to take me on his own but is trying to get some of the crowd on to me most of the chap[s] in the hut take no notice of him but there are some who would this morning when the A.P.C. [Anzac Provost Corps] were called out everyone was looking to see who it was but they did not as no name was called

Monday 7th

Tried to get struck off the boat roll (as some of the mob knew me and according to their talk I will never reach Aus) but the embark officer would not have of it so I should now know what is going to happen I feel anything but comfortable and a good dose of sea sickness would come in handy we had a good trip from Warminster to Lenoport(?) at Exter(sic) and had tea served out to us which was very welcome it is lovely country and the fields look splendid it is still keeping showery and it rains very heavy at times
30th

arrived in Capetown after 21 days sail was sick all the way we stopped there two days but was too sick to get off those that did played up as usual and the pubs was all closed [SS Chernitz(last letters unclear) across corner of page]

August 7th 1919

On the sixth

Arrived at Durban in time for the peace celebrations things were lively but did not go on shore we are to here till about the 11th as there is a shortage of coal there is a lot of boats in waiting for coal and by the look of things they are likely to wait some time

Sunday 10th August 1919

Still in dock likely to move out tomorrow it seems now that is the pumps that are out of order there if yet two hundred ton of coal to put on board the sooner we get out the better there is a lot of thieving going on on board among the troops a lot of them are taking great coats and selling them ashore for drink it has been very hot this last day or two and this afternoon it broke with a thunder storm

MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS

Belonging to 2678 Pte George Albert Hall
Anzac Provost Corp

PASS – condition, some tearing on crease, edges worn.

Regiment Anzac Provost Corp

Pte Hall 'has permission to be absent from his quarters, from 10.00 28.6.16 to 22. 00
18.6.16

For the purpose of proceeding to Cairo.

Station Kasr-el-nil

Twenty Eighth June 1916

Signed C. O. Bradshawk

O/Commanding B.Coy'

Reverse covered in pencil numbers

Typewritten (carbon) square of exercise book paper, very fragile edges tearing, insect hole.

'Kasr-el-nil A F Jordan (handwritten) Capt.

O.C. Anzac Provost Corps

2/11/16

Reverse with multiple ink figures, staining

Typewritten (carbon) square of exercise book paper, fragile edges crease tearing

No 2678 Pte Hall S(sic) A

ANZAC PROVOST CORPS is preceeding to Alexandria on special duty. To report on arrival to the A.P.M. Alexandria and to return when services are completed. Leaving here at 4.0pm

Reverse stained

PASS – condition

creased, some discolouration, writing fading

Stamped in top rh corner

'A.P.M.

Alexandria District

No. none

Date none

Head Quarters

Main Guard

Regiment Anzac Prov.Corps Stamped in RH corner A.P.M. Alexandria District

No Date Head Quarters Main Guard.

2678 Pte Hall G A

'has permission to be absent from his quarters, from 3.11.16 to 30.11.16

for the purpose of proceeding to Alexandria

Signed J K Sebray Montefair Lieut Commanding A.P.M. Station Alexandria 3.11.16

PASS Very poor condition. Heavily repaired on reverse with tape, some tearing and piece missing.

Suez Canal Zone

Regiment Staff

NO 2678 Rank l/Cpl/Name Hall G A

Has permission to be absent from his quarters from 0900 to 2400 daily from (unclear date) 2/12/17 for the purpose of proceeding to Port Said

Unclear 'station' stamp

1/11/17 Signed L(?) Atkinson(?) Capt Adj Desert Mounted Corp Rest Camp

PASS tape on reverse holding creases together, edges repairs wearing

Egyptian Expeditionary Force

Regiment Australia Red Cross Society

No 2678 L/C Hall G. A has permission to be absent from his quarters from 0.900to2400 daily from ?8Feb to 12 noon 31 Mar 1918 for the purpose of proceeding to Port Said

Station [stamp unclear] 28th Feb 1918 Signed E Lamb Commanding stamped Desert Mounted Corps Rest Camp

PASS) Paper fragile, creased and edges beginning to tear. Pencil figures on reverse

Permanent Monthly Pass (Army Form B 295

Regiment Australian Provost Corps

2678 L Cpl Hall G A has permission to be absent from his quarters from Completion of duty to twelve P.M daily November for the purpose of proceeding to Cairo

Station Kasr-el-Nil Signed J Martin Lieut Commanding

November 1918

Blue cover stapled SOLDIER'S PAY BOOK for the use of ACTIVE SERVICE

Faded ink 'Hall, G A 2678' on front cover. Stamped 'Cancelled' on several pages, inscriptions

Anzac Provost Corp

17th Battn

2678 Private

George Albert Hall

Date of Attestation 19th August 1915

Age of Enlistment 35. [unclear]

Page stamped Cancelled and Reconciled

Page 4 stamped 'Military Pay Department Sydney' 'Cancelled' and "Liverpool Oct 27 1915

Particulars of Father

NOK George Hall

Daysdale Via Corowa NSW

Person to whom Allotment or compulsory Stoppage is payable Mrs Sarah Hall Daysdale Via Corowa N.S.W.

Blue cover stapled SOLDIER'S PAY BOOK for the use of ACTIVE SERVICE

Faded Ink 2678 'Pte Hall, G A 17 Battn Anzac Provost (unclear)' on front cover.

Stamped 'Reconciled'

Inside 'Continuation' handwritten in ink'

Next page

233690

17 Battn

No 2678

Hall George Albert

Date of attestation 19.8.15 and Age of Enlistment 35 yrs 4 mns

Handwritten and stamped 'Reconciled'

Page of Rates of Pay with details and signatures

Date and Station Cairo 26/12/16

Particulars of Father

NOK George Hall

Daysdale Via Corowa NSW

Person to whom Allotment or compulsory Stoppage is payable Mrs Sarah Hall Daysdale Via Corowa N.S.W.

Allotment details changed in red ink

'Cancelled' across Mrs Hall and underneath

'Allotment payable to Father George Hall

Daysdale

Via Corowa N.S.Wales

Unclear signatures and stamp Anzac Provost Corps

Black faux leather WALLET two fold one button, embossed "YMCA over triangle over map of Australia. Reverse stamped 'Talk Clean/Live Clean/Fight Clean/Play the Game' Condition poor

POSTCARDS all Black and White. Most have pin holes as if they have been pinned up on a wall or board.

Damaged post card No 31. Reverse 'From official photographs by special permission of the Department of Defence . PROCEEDS TO THE "AUSTRALIAN COMFORTS FUN" /'Our Boys at the Front' No 31 New Zealanders passing through a town on their way to a rest camp after the battle of Passchendaele

Postcard, fair condition, 'Australian Troops March Through London' Photo by Central News 165E Beagles Postcards

Postcard of troops in slouch hats on deck of ship. Boarding or embarking. Reverse 'Post Card Kodak Australia'

Postcard with blank reverse. Front shows two soldiers in uniform looking at the cross in the sky with Jesus as ethereal being behind them. Text below picture 'Jesus said: Lo I am with you always, ' etc. and a verse '...only believe and thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee'

Postcard with seven men in uniform titled 'Group of Yeoman Warders Undress Uniform, Tower of London.' Reverse 1397 'Printed in England by Gale and Polden Ltd., London, Aldershot and Portsmouth.

Postcard with blank reverse with 'Post Card' Kodak Australia of a naval officer in uniform and army officer (Retd British Officer) in jodhpurs. Standing together on deck of ship. [officers from the retired list were sometimes in charge of troops on ships.]

Postcard with blank reverse 'Post Card etc'
Un-named ship at anchor, in oval 'frame'

Damaged post card (no pin holes) No 4 'The Man and the Donkey. (Near the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne Victoria) showing stature. Blank reverse 'Printed by Authority of The Shrine of Remembrance Trustees' [Melbourne]

Postcard 'E.D. 52 Boulogne-Sur-Mer- Sur ies Quais/le Triage du poisson' [lower edge printing unclear]. Reverse 'Carte Postale' blank

Postcard of Grasmere, Rothay Hotel showing horses and cart and cars in front of hotel. Condition edges worn some creasing Postmarked 'Field Post Office (rest unclear) dated +2 OC 18' and 'Field Office (rest unclear) B 1 (unclear) OC 18'

Reverse

One penny red stamp stamped Grasmere date unclear

Addressed in black ink, Pte G. A. Hall 2678 Australian Provost Corps Egypt

In red 'Try Cairo aft(?) 2/10/18

'Communication' section written upside down

Grasmere 2.18

Dear Coz

I heard from Will the other day he is alright but have heard nothing of Tom yet. Hoping you are A.1. as this leaves us. Will had heard from Australia. They were all well still having rotten weather Love from all From Cousin Sarah

Postcard of S.S. *Hororata*

Torn, creased, poor condition

Reverse in pencil or faded ink

'On Board the *Hororata*

Monday morning 19/10/14

Dear Mother

I have had no opportunity to write before as I could not get any envelopes & stamps before now. We embarked yesterday morning & have been lying out in the bay. It seems probable that we will sail from here today bound for Albany. I here(sic) most likely the troop ships will sail off together with the convoy. It is far more comfortable on this boat than at Camp. The meals so far have been very good. The food is better cooked here than at Camp. I hope you will not receive this P.C. for two or three days as I think officials are delaying letters sent from here. I will post you a long letter when I get to Albany and give you all particulars of the voyage, etc.

I hope you are all still well at home,

Give my love to all,

from your loving son Carl P. S. We are pulling up [unclear] for Albany now

Postcard, photo of ship. Creased.

Stamped on reverse U.C.S.S. "[name crossed out in black pen]", Twin Screw; Speed 12 knots: Tonnage 6,767. Written in pencil

Saturday 10/4/15

Dear Mother

As all our correspondence is now most strictly censored, I may not write anything

as to where we are going or where we are at present, etc. However I am in the best of health still, and hope you are all the same. Last Tuesday I received Father's letter dated 8th March. I was glad to hear that Rita had received her birthday present, but sorry to hear you had not yet had any rain.

Tell Gordon that Sergeant White, alias Richard Jackson, the capitalist who bought(?) Draffin's land disappeared about three or four weeks ago. It was found at once that he had stolen, or rather obtained from the military, under false pretences a certain sum of money. For some time he had been our Company Quarter Master Sergeant, that is the person who arranges for food stuffs, clothing, equipment etc. Being in this position he had opportunities to obtain money by for[unclear remainder of word] means and made the best of his time. Ever since he had been Q.M.S. (?) I felt uneasy, but did not like to say anything, although I did tell some of my mates that Quarter Master Sergeant was the last position that a man like him should occupy. The police detectives are after him, and, considering his size and the fact that no one can leave Egypt without a passport he ought to be captured soon.

Well, goodbye, give my love to all. From your loving son [unsigned]

Piece paper, ink formal writing

'Justin Blampain- Hufson

Carojsier(?)

Presles Chatilineau Belgique

PHOTO, small, faded, pasted onto red cardboard with two flaps top and bottom with which to pin photo to board or well.

Shows group of men standing and crouching near railway line, building in background.

Descriptions of diaries and notebooks

No 2678, Private George Albert Hall,

Anzac Provost Corp 17th Battalion

Next of Kin (NOK) Father: George Hall Daysdale Via Corowa NSW

Mother: Sarah Hall, Daysdale Via Corowa NSW

Diary, January 1st, 1916-January 6th 1917

Black cover, marbled endpaper and fly leaf. Verso fly leaf has details in ink. 'No 2678/G A Hall/Daysdale/Via Corowa/N.S.Wales/Via Melbourne/Australia

Charles Petts's 'Improved Pocket Diary 1916'. Attached to title page is leaflet folded sheet from General Accident Fire & Life Assurance Corporation Ltd. Perth Scotland.

Front pages are title, Condensed Almanac 1916, Calendar for 1917, SUN 1916, Personal Memoranda*, Train Service, Memoranda 'Daily Wants' Dictionary. Last pages are headed 'Notes' and 'Cash Accounts' (see end of diary account). Diary in ink throughout.

Poor condition. Front cover detached, has been mended with sticky tape. Page edges worn.

Size - 90mmx150mmwidex10mm.

Notebook, February 16-June 2, 1916

Black faux leather notebook

Inside front and back covers stamped 'G A Hall' several times, repeated on various pages throughout. 'Cairo Town Piquet' stamped on top first page.

Handwritten in ink throughout.

Poor condition – Size 750mmx110mmx10mm.

Notebook 8/10/1916-21.2.1917

2678 on inside front cover

Black faux leather cover, written in ink.

Poor condition.

Size - 75mmx115mmx10mm

Notebook – 29.2.1917-15.2.1918

Red cover, sewn binding. Written in ink throughout with the exception of a few pencil pages in early 1918 when he is in hospital.

Poor condition with red cover very worn and tearing on spine

Size - 104mmx60mmx10mm

Diary and Almanac 1917

Black leather with flap to close. Written in ink throughout.

Poor condition with tearing between cover and frontispiece.

Size - 100mm x130 at widest point x 10mm

Diary, January 1 – December 31st 1918.

‘The Soldiers Own Diary’ covered in brown waxed cloth with silver printing and circular motif of soldier with trumpet. Cover is extended over spine with one row of stitching from top to bottom. Inside front cover and frontispiece is a map titled ‘The Great European War Western Area’ followed by ‘Membership Card’ page, two pages of ‘Military Definitions’, two pages of ‘Distinguishing Flags and Lamps’, three pages of ‘Headings for Reports’, one page ‘Field Kitchen’, one page of ‘Penetration of Rifle Bullet’, three pages of ‘Rifle Definitions’, half page of ‘Rifles used by Fighting Powers’, half page ‘Calendar for Five Years’, followed by ‘Some Useful Knots’ and other medical, dictionary, terms, semaphore etc. information. Throughout the diary is miscellaneous information and also sketches on diary pages. At end of diary are pages for monetary matters, memoranda, etc.

Size – 105mmx85mmx6mm

Notebook 16th February – November 17th 1918

Stapled, plain, lined notebook. All entries in ink. Very poor condition with green covers with brown lining both detached; has been taped, edges very worn; paper very fragile.

Size - 70mmx105mmx5mm

Notebook 24th November 1918- December 1918

Fawn oilskin cover with ‘2678’ on front cover. All written in ink, writing suggests that entries are done on a table.

Poor condition with pages sewn together with cotton and tearing from cover.

Size - 74mmx110mmx10mm