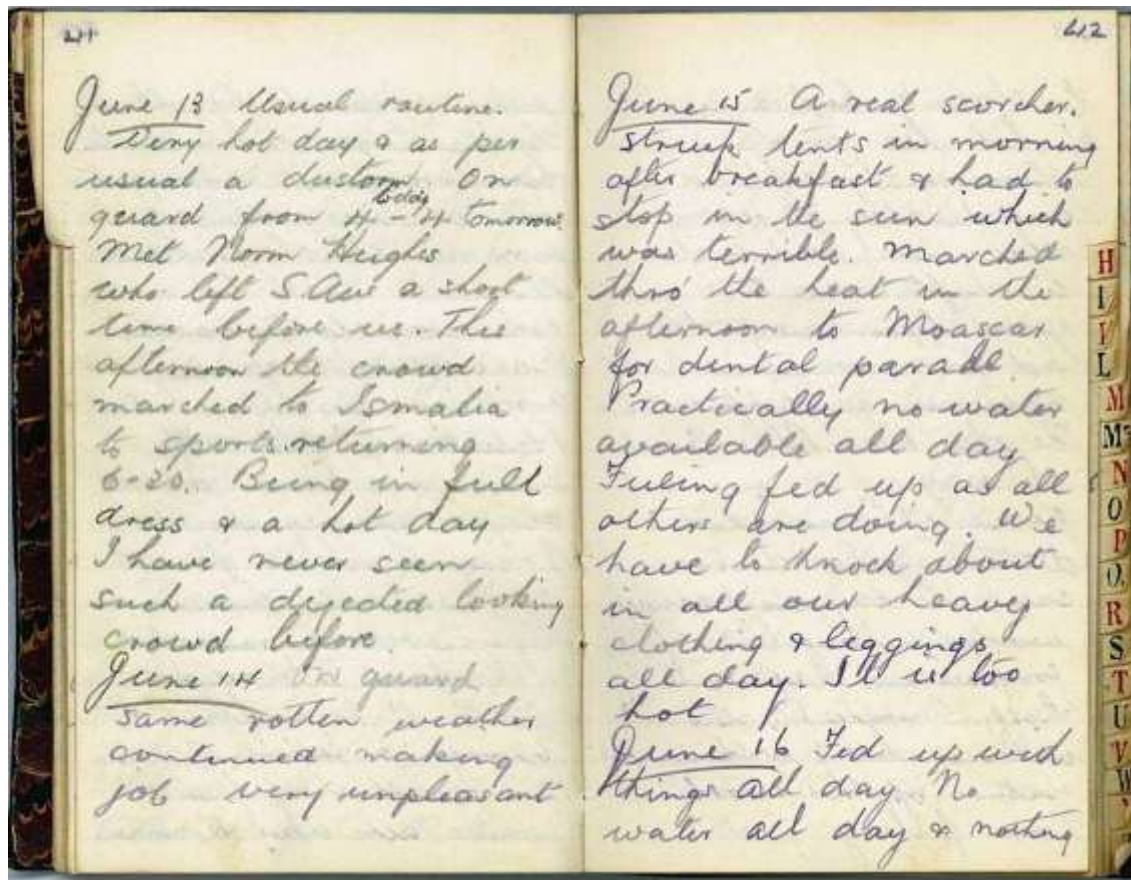




D 8719(L) Diary of Thomas Francis Lester Chappell from 26 April 1918 – 8 February 1919, written during his Term of Service with the A. I. F. in Palestine Supply Corps.

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[The following paragraph has been struck through with three oblique lines]

Dec 10th 1918.

Made Will, Favor Mother
Mother to act as Executrix

Dec 11. Vaccinated & inoculated. Hut Police 5 to 9 am.

Dec 12. Hut Police till 9 am. Light duties General Issue Friday. Leave from 12 to 11 pm Sunday.

Dec 14.



[continuing on same page]

A few notes on Transport Ship "Port Darwin".

This ship which is a first class cargo boat of 8,000 tons was converted into a troopship and this trip as such is her first from Australia. She is one of the Commonwealth and Dominion Line. She On her arrival in Australia she brought out a number of Returned Soldiers. Her outward appearance is almost ridiculous being heavily camouflaged. Besides carrying over 1200 troops on this ship she has on board a cargo worth close on a million. Part of this consists of 32000 frozen carcasses (frozen). She is very well fitted up in regard to cold storage. She have has one large gun in the stern & 2 others close by for dropping H.E. shells. Her average speed is 10 Knots.

See End of Book

[continuing on last few pages of book]

Duties of S.A. A.S.C. while on T. S. "Port Darwin".

Period of trip 30.4.18 – 7.6.18.

5 weeks 3 days

For first 3 weeks spent a couple of hours deck swabbing & loafing the rest of the day. The rest of the trip with the exception of 1 week when I was Mess Orderly I was attached to a deck fatigue. These duties consisting of few jobs on deck such as erecting awnings &c lasted on an average about 2 to 3 hours day. The rest of the day was at our disposal. From above it will be seen that we had much spare time on \our/ hands and owing to the long time taken by the boat to complete the journey it will easily be understood that things were apt to get somewhat monotonous.

A few notes bearing on the condition of affairs under which men have to live on a Troopship.

Breakfast usually consists of unsweetened thick porridge, besprinkled with a little treacle syrup. This is followed by an unholy concoction called stew. A mixture called tea is also provided.

Dinner. Generally soup (this is sometimes good) followed by frozen meat boiled or roasted & can never be called savory. Vegetables are boiled potatoes & beans & dry peas. The latter articles are supplied alternatively every day. Things called Swedes are occasionally on the Menu & except for this change wh we have tried to eat the vegetables mentioned. These articles [...]

[Stamp imprint in the shape of Australia is inserted here, enclosing text as follows]

JULY 27th.

AUSTRALIA DAY
ANNIVERSARY. 1917.
HELP UNTIL THE WAR
IS WON.

[...] do not taste as if properly cooked. At any rate everybody on the boat has complained for weeks about the food in general. The pudding which follows the above does not bear a description. It is indescribable & those who participate in it should not by rights live for 10 minutes. In other words, the food is rotten.



Bedtime. Hammocks are slung. Each man has about 18 inches width & 7 ft length. In this area he is supposed to sling his hammock & sleep. Absolutely crowded out it is almost impossible to move or breathe. There are other items but I do not feel happy enough aboard this boat to attempt to describe them. In other words, life on a troopship is worse than rotten.

[Diary entries beginning from front of book]

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April 26 Left Adelaide Mitcham by 3.45 pm specials. Supposed destination Melbourne. 150 Italians on board bound for Italy. Quiet journey so far. Plenty of good offerings provided by parents & friends. Farewell at Station to parents & Misses Angus & Benda. Felt a bit crook for a start but played cards & cheered up a bit. December Reinforcements all travelled together. Poor old Frank broke up. Wonder when I will see him again? Later Feeling cheerful again.

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April 27th Arrived Melbourne 10 am. Marched from Station to Domain Camp \via Collins Street/. Had Dinner. No leave granted. Considerable comment. Entrained again at 2 pm. for Albury & thence to Sydney. Stopped at Benalla (Vic) for tea. Pleasant travelling, except for slight crowding at first.

April 28th Arrived Liverpool 10 am. On journey had breakfast at Moss Vale. Went to Liverpool Camp. Leave from 12 am – 11 pm. Went to Manly, stayed for Tea, & had enjoyable time. Great place.

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April 28 Ct? This camp was an eyeopener to me as regards size and accommodation. Trip to Manly from Circular Quay was unsurpassed as regards beautiful scenery. Met lady friends who made ~~the trip~~ our stay at Manly very interesting. Feeling well but could do with a good sleep as I have had very little for last 3 nights. Expecting another trip to Sydney (22 miles) tomorrow. Meet Neil Shepley here (1st S. Aus) General Reinforcements). He seemed to be having a good time.

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April 29 Arrived last night after midnight & roused out at 6 am this morning. I expect to get a good sleep sometime. General Review by His Excellency this morning. Leave granted. Saw sights of Sydney & had a good time generally. Attempted to visit Zoo, but got on the wrong boat & arrived at Milson's Pt.

April 30 A day of considerable bustle. Left Liverpool 10 am for Sydney. Participated in a march thro' streets. Great feeling shewn by people. Embarked on

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Port Darwin 12 noon Left wharf shortly after. Anchored in Harbor expecting to sail 5 am tomorrow. Great scenes while leaving Wharf. Crow\ded beyond description down below. Hope to get settled soon.

April June \May/ 1st. Steamed out at 5.30 am. Sea comparatively calm. Seasickness set in. Have been lucky enough to escape so far. Wonder how long it will continue. Considerable comment on splendid food. Settling down at last.

June \May/ 2 Passed a very pleasant night, sea very

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calm. Think we shall have a change in weather. Escorted by Cruiser "Brisbane" which overtook us at 2 pm. presenting a fine sight. Passed several boats during day. Boat & lifebelt drill this afternoon & dental parade. Land in sight going thro' Straits. Beautiful sight. Pleasant trip so far.



May 3rd Passed very calm night. Rumours of submarine being sighted which seem to be quite unfounded. Passed Wilson's Promintory [*Promontory*] 7 pm last night & very close to land for some distance. Best wishes received from

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H.M.A.S. "Brisbane" which left us at 9 am this morning. Started cleaning decks at 8 am this morning which was not very strenuous. There appears to be rough weather ahead & there is swell on now which takes us all our time to keep our balance. Still escaping seasickness.

May 4th Commenced day swabbing decks at 6 am. Kit inspection at 8. Sports in afternoon & concert in evening. Fairly rough day but worse tonight. Just entering Bight, so expect rough

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weather for a while. Exceptionally cold day.

May 5 Commenced day by swabbing decks. Have caught beautiful cold & feeling pretty dopy. Church parade in morning & loafed about in afternoon. Rumours of reaching Albany Tuesday morning & remaining 4 days.

May 6 Usual deck duties in morning & loafed about reading most of afternoon & evening. A wonderfully calm sea. Some interesting boxing contests during dinner hour. Expecting to reach Albany tomorrow. Journey beginning to get somewhat

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monotonous. The O.C. pitched a few yarns about Egypt. Seemed rather tall./

May 7 A more interesting day. During the morning a whale was sighted quite close by & the gun fire crew/ fired a shot which appeared to land very close by. The whale then dissappeared. Much excitement was caused by this incident – I suppose thro' the lack of events the last week. Shortly after dinner the submarine alarm was sounded. We all donned lifebelts & fell in at our boat stations. The affair was carried out in a very calm & effective manner. Shortly after 2 pm land was sighted but this was blotted out by

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rain which fell heavily all the afternoon, but cleared up towards evening. We are now passing thro' what appears to be a series of islands or a very rugged coastline with towering peaks of solid rock. The effect of this against a stormy sky presented a fine sight. The land appears to be very close to use – I should say within a mile. Expecting to reach Albany very shortly. To-night smoking is allowed on deck – the first time since embarking. Up to date, we have been travelling in absolute darkness, i.e. no lights of any description on deck. Weather still bitterly cold/

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May 8 (Later 8 pm.) Have reached Albany & are lying just ~~outside~~ inside/ Harbor.

May 8 Spent last night anchored off Albany. Day dawned promising a fine day thus offering us a fine view of Albany & its surroundings which were very beautiful. The green growth which seemed to mingle with the water worn rocks presented a beautiful color effect. I heard it said that Albany's harbor was second to Sydney Harbor – this I could quite believe.

We ~~eat~~ coaled up during last night & took in water this morning. About 240

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Westralians embarked this morning. No leave was granted much to everybody's dissatisfaction. Our stay was very short, leaving at 1 pm this afternoon bound for Colombo I believe. Stormy conditions have set in this afternoon & one of the crew informed me that we should strike rough seas in the morning. We shall see whether this is correct. It appears to be on that side already. Concert to-night but do intend to attend.



May 9 Passed a very rough night with a strong wind blowing.

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The sea has been choppy all day, at times the spray being driven over the decks. This rough weather was rather unfortunate as much sickness was caused to the W. A. men. Cape Luew Leeuwen was passed at 3 am today & this afternoon Rotnest Island was faintly discernible in the horizon.

May 10 Very boisterous \weather/ throughout the day which to date shows no sign of abating. Much amusement was afforded by the ducking of fellows by waves which were

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driven on the deck. A terrific wind sprung up this afternoon & is still continuing.

May 11 Boisterous weather continued all morning but has calmed down a little this afternoon. Much amusement was caused by men \mess orderlies/ attempting to descend the hatchway ~~ladder~~ \ladder/ at breakfast with dishes of stew. The stew was thrown in all directions. Apart from the rough seas there is little else of importance to record. A. S. C. concert tonight.

May 12 The wind has abated at last, but there is a considerable roll of the sea. We are

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now in the tropic of Capricorn & warm weather may be expected. It was even hot in the sun today. It is now rumoured that we are to be quarantined upon arrival at Colombo on account of 4 cases of mumps which we have at present on board. Attended Holy Communion this morning.

May 13 Nothing of any importance to report. Awnings have been erected on decks over hatchways in anticipation of tropical weather which was

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noticeable today.

May 14 An uneventful day accompanied by somewhat sultry weather conditions. Spent some of the day watching flying fish which besides being very interesting broke the monotony of the day.

May 15 An uneventful day.

May 16 An uneventful day. Intense heat down below.

May 17 Nothing to report — Euchre tournament during evening amid sweltering heat. ~~M~~ Needless to state I did not win.

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May 18 Passed Equator today. This morning it rained heavily making it impossible to see \far/ in front of the boat. Instead of cooling things it made the heat intensively oppressive. This afternoon the usual mock trial was held & a ~~m~~ number of chaps were tried & ducked in the water. This performance is I believe customary. It may be interesting to note that even the heads of the boat were ducked.

May 19 Attended Holy Communion in morning.

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Peculiar rainfall was noticeable this morning. At times it would be raining \heavily/ on one side of the ship & it would be quite dry on the other. It appeared to rain in a number of different parts with dry strips in between. The afternoon was a typical summer afternoon in S. Aus. with a beautifully cool breeze. The sunset tonight ~~was~~ is particularly worthy of mention. Both the sky, which was partly covered with dense clouds, & the sea appeared to be a mass of fire, representing

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a glorious spectacle, a sight which I have never seen the equal & do not expect to see again. Except for the observation of nature there is nothing else worthy of mention.

May 20 A Perfect day. In the afternoon a submarine alarm was given. Paybooks & instructions with respect to same were given this afternoon. The A. S. C. Units won a competition for which a money prize was given, such competition being among the various Units on board for the best kept mess utensils. Expecting to reach

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Colombo tomorrow.

May 21 Expecting to be in sight of Colombo 11 pm tonight. Considerable controversy as to whether we get leave or not is going on. This afternoon we passed thro' a school of porpoises. There appeared to be scores of these fish which jumped a number of feet out of the water.

May 22 Arrived Colombo early this morning. Upon arrival we were surrounded by boats of natives who provided much amusement. Some dived for coins others sold fruit which sounded very cheap

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to us, but later we found that the prices were exorbitantly high. Leave was then granted from 11 am to 5 pm. We were conveyed by ~~lighter~~ barges/ to the wharf ~~where~~ & marched from thence thro' the streets to the Military Barracks where we were dismissed. We then indulged in a couple of beautifully peeled pineapples which were delicious & at a moderate price of 3^d each. We then proceeded thro' streets of Colombo per rickshaw paying about three times too much for fares. These natives are no mugs

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& today was a great day for them. After walking the streets & being besieged by large numbers of natives selling curios we had dinner – the first real feed for 3 weeks – which I thoroughly enjoyed. Bought box of cigars for 3/- which with a little argument could be reduced to about 1/6. Later Gordon Weymouth invested a bob's worth of bananas & received a stalk containing about 10 doz medium sized bananas. After a very interesting day we returned to our boat. One thing we learned was the

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method of the Singalese in taking the soldier down. Not begrudging any money spent – for I had a good time – I will know better next time. Changed one sovereign for 23/- but could have got 25/-. Met Gaynor Owen Smyth on board who greeted me very effusively. The rest of the day I will leave to my memory, but one thing I wish to forget for a while is the climatic conditions. It was the worst day I have ever experienced. Rain in morning & like a 2 or 3 hothouses for the rest

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of the day. Have developed a heat rash all over my body which is giving me a lively time. For all this, I would not have missed the day for "quids". Noticed very few Europeans in the town, the population being chiefly of natives. Troops behaved splendidly.

May 23 Coaled up last night & to-day completing job at about midday. This was done by Coolies who work for about 8^d per day. I do not think they will die of hard work. No leave was granted & we left Port at 5 pm. As soon as

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we got outside the breakwater we struck & very heavy rain which made it impossible to see ahead. The siren was blown intermittently & we passed very close to a ship travelling towards Colombo. We are now looking forward to another long spell on board.



May 24 Except for beautiful weather there is nothing to report.

May 25 Much excitement was caused to-day when 2 shells were fired from the guns. It was interesting to watch the

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flight of the shell & the explosion of same which was timed for 50 below the surface of the water. An immense column of water was thrown up. This type of gun is for the destruction of submarines & can kick up some row. We are now passing a boat the first we have overtaken since leaving Sydney.

May 26 Being Sunday an uneventful day.

May 27 With a high sea & a strong headwind we are making slow progress. Preparations are

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being made for continuance of this weather as this is the time of the year when monsoonal disturbances are encountered.

May 28 Except for very strong headwind & high seas there is nothing to note.

May 29 Continuance of rough weather.

May 30 d°.

May 31 Heavy weather in morning & cold wind. Hot in afternoon & very calm see [sic]. Extraordinary contrast. Passed Cape Guardafui this morning.

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June 1st A scorcher. If today is an example of the weather in Egypt we are in for a hot time. A dead calm prevailed all day. Expecting to sight land tonight or tomorrow.

June 2nd Land seen Lights of Aden seen about midnight last night. At 9 am this morning we sighted land which in the distance had the appearance of a heavy bank of clouds. The country is very rugged with numerous plateaus [sic]. Mecca

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was passed this morning & a fair view of the town was offered. We have now entered the Red Sea. There is no need to write of the climatic conditions. I shall never forget.

June 3rd The only item of interest to report is that today is payday. The weather has improved & a cool breeze is blowing.

June 4th A beautiful day – something different to what we expected to get going thro' this sea. Nothing of any importance to note.

June 5th Another beautiful

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day. Much discussion has been going on as to when we will land & as usual everybody thinks he knows all about it. Land was sighted this evening & according to the Chief Eng^r we should reach our destination tomorrow evening.

June 6th Reaching the end of our journey at last. Land has been visible all day. Land is rugged & towering but as barren as possible & pitted by wind & waves & without a vestige of growth of any description. In some places we appear to pass within a few hundred yards of the

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land. I should think it is about 120° in the shade today & a peculiar purple haze covers the horizon. Large numbers of beautifully colored jelly fish are noticeable. The sea is like a sheet of glass; the smoothest I have ever seen a sea.

Later



A mirage appeared this afternoon making the land or coast appear in midair. We passed some very mountainous country, terrifically high & absolutely devoid of vegetation. Tonight will be a night of considerable stir. We have

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to sleep as best we can as our hammocks have been called in. We must be prepared to disembark at ¼ hour's notice.

June 7th Spent a restless sleep \night/. Packed up last evening & after dressing in uniform attempted to sleep on deck. Slept well till 12 am & then it got bitterly cold & went downstairs & tried to sleep on the seat. We arrived in Port Suez at about 10 am after waiting outside the Port for about 3 hours. Aeroplanes flying over the Port were one of the first interesting things we saw.

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As for the Port itself it appears to be rather pretty. A description of the Port can be obtained in books so will not attempt to describe it. We entrained in cattle trucks & had 6 hours tortuous journey without an opportunity to sit down. The trucks appeared to run on square wheels according to the jolting we had. After arrival at Moas\c/aæ we marched a mile or so to the isolation camp where we expect to stay for 3 weeks or perhaps more. Upon arrival we were issued with a ground sheet & blanket.

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We turned in in darkness in tents about 10 pm & Reveille was given at 4 am \next day/. We slept on the sand of which there is too much for my liking. It gets into the blanket & all over the body. One blanket seemed very little as the night was bitterly cold. Am far from impressed with this place, nothing but glaring sand. Our journey thro' Port Suez was fairly interesting but the place is absolutely filthy. Met the old A. S. C. chaps who left 3 months ago. Also met Cliff Peters from the office.

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June 8th Reveille 4am. On parade at 4.30. Large numbers of aeroplanes hovered round all the morning thus providing much amusement for us newcomers. Grub very scarce. Hot day but not objectionably hot. After breakfast parade at 9 & dismiss at 11. Owing to heat, we have finished for the day at 11 am. Had a chat with the S. A. A. S. C. Oct Rfts [*Reinforcements*] who gave us valuable wrinkles. We have been told that the War will be over by Sep next. This is

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not a manufactured yarn by members of this camp but from information rec^d from inhabitants of P^t Said who will bet any money on the question. This is noted more for amusement \curiosity/ than as a record. With respect to this camp. It is over 8 miles in length & 3 months ago 800,000 men, (Britishers, Australians, Indians, & others[]) were moved out as one batch. The part of the camp we are in like the rest of the camp has a lack of conveniences. One has to fill his water bottle in the morning

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wash & shave & use between meals for the whole day. Sand flies about all day but they say one becomes accustomed to the place in a short time. The evenings are very pleasant. I believe it is on the cold side now. The prices of things are exorbitant at the canteen.



June 9th

Sunday Church Parade 6-30. Beautiful morning. Aeroplane broke down & just missed our tent. Handed in most of issue leaving us about ½ of stuff we brought from Australia. Sand flying about this

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afternoon filling our eyes with sand.

June 10 Parade 4.30. March round before breakfast. Full dress parade after breakfast & owing to heat numbers of chaps fainted. Had afternoon to ourselves.

June 11 Stiff morning's training. A scorcher of a day with plenty of sand & dust in afternoon. Witnessed some interesting aerial operations.

June 12 An awful day. Very hot with a dust storm all day. General sports in camp & after a couple of hours parade before breakfast we

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had the day to ourselves. In the afternoon, a parade was called & we marched to the Bitter Lake \Timsah/ & had a swim, which was very enjoyable. We marched thro' Ismalia & like Suez a filthy place. Passing the ~~June 13~~ Sweet Water canal was awful. Dead mules & donkeys lay on the edge of the Canal. No wonder it is prohibited to bathe in this canal. The growth of vegetables from irrigation from the canal is beautiful & wonderful. Natives

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who appear to be the last stage of humanity hawked fruit at exhorbitant price, which as soon as the chaps know the place will be considerably reduced. I could not fancy anything myself. Returning from the swim we saw some chaps coming down from the line for a rest. Included in them were a number of Indian Sihks who appear to be a fine stamp of man. A number of field guns were on the train.

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June 13 Usual routine. Very hot day & as per usual a dustorm [sic]. On guard from 4 \today/ – 4 tomorrow. Met Norm Hughes who left S. Aus a short time before us. This afternoon the crowd marched to Ismalia to sports returning 6-30. Being in full dress & a hot day I have never seen such a dejected looking crowd before.

June 14 On guard. Same rotten weather continued making job very unpleasant

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June 15 A real scorcher. Struck tents in morning after breakfast & had to stop in the sun which was terrible. Marched thro' the heat in the afternoon to Moascar for dental parade. Practically no water available all day. Feeling fed up as all others are doing. We have to knock about in all our heavy clothing & leggings all day. It is too hot.

June 16 Fed up with things all day. No water all day & nothing

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to drink but a cup of hot tea in the afternoon. Brightened up considerably at 4pm when we had notice to shift over to equitation camp. We had to move some but now in good spirits. The old Dec^r Rfts lead the way.

June 17 Commenced duties in Equitation camp to-day on fatigue work. Cutting bales of compressed hay into chaff. Owing to the intense heat & strenuous nature of the work, I am feeling just

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about knocked out. Feeling fit for anything now that we are out of the isolation altho' food is worse than ever here.

June 18 Spent day cutting chaff. Heat terrific & wind hot enough to blister a brick. No water this evening & no tea. Feeling fit altho' meals are totally inadequate.

June 19 Usual duties. No water again.

June 20 As above.

June 21 As above.

June 22 Reveille 4 am. Worked until 8am.

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Paraded for breakfast & received half pannican of so-called tea. After waiting some time meat was brought along. I received a bit of fat pork about 1 in square. 2 Loaves of bread were put on the table for 12 men making a ration of 2½ oz per man. Besides this there was not a drop of water to be had. The crowd refused to go on parade & called up the Orderly Officer who was surrounded & unable to escape. The S. M. ordered us

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to parade promising to report the matter to our Captain. After counting the Q. Master out we went on parade about 1 hour late. When on parade the Capt. explained things & someone must have got into trouble. No work was done. At dinner time we had a good feed – the best since we landed. I fully expected a riot. The camel Corps went on strike this morning on ^a/_c of no water & the authorities had to give in.

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They appear to be afraid of a riot in this camp which has a name for its short rationing & hard training.

June 23rd Good food still continues. Alterations are being made to the water supply which I hope are for the better.

June 24 Usual duties. Had an inspection in morning for lice, chats &c.

June 25 A day of considerable discomfort. Owing to yesterdays chat parade Hockney's name was taken

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in mistake as have one or more of these insects on his person. The matter could not be rectified & he & his tentmates (self & 5 others) had to pack up our clothing & blankets & lug the lot to Ismailia a distance of about 2½ miles over the loose sand. Being about midday it was hot. Upon arrival our belongings were put into a boiler & steamed & a nice mess they represented after an hour's steaming. In the meantime we

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had to stand about in the sun with only a hat & a pair of boots. We were dipped into a trough containing a strong mixture of sheep dip which, for a while, stung considerably. After the steaming process ~~we~~ we dried our clothes & marched back feeling fed up & tired out.

June 26 ———

June 27 An exceptionally heavy day. At last we have been issued with a pair of "slacks" which are a great

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boon after wearing our heavy riding breeches all day as we have been doing.



June 28 The only item of interest today was the sick parade this morning. About 20 from this school paraded sick. There was a suspicion of malingering so the lot we[re] drilled with horses at the gallop & mounting & dismounting. This is a very strenuous game & I pity any genuine case of sickness. A man has to be almost dead before the doctor will look

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at him. I have never met such a callous & almost brutal set of men before. If one is really sick he is accused of malingering. Rumours have been going around that we are to march out shortly without going thro' equitation. I hope so as this school is very disheartening as one works 14 hours a day & it plays up with the health of a number of the chaps. We work about 10 hours & I am always knocked out

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at the end of the day.

June 29 Marched out of equitation for musketry training after which we expect to march out to details camp.

June 30 Sunday. Church parade in morning rest of day free. First decent rest I have had for some time.

July 1st Started on musketry course. Sensational rumours about an armistice on all fronts pending result of Allied Conference. No troops to be sent up the

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line & until further notice. Official confirmation of this statement is eagerly awaited.

July 2 _____

July 3 Completed technical course of musketry & commence test to-morrow. It is worth noting that this course has only lasted 3 days whereas the usual period is about 2 weeks. Evidently we stand a good chance of being pushed on to Details Camp very shortly. Today has been the worst since we

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arrived. The heat has been intense all day & this afternoon a very strong wind arose. My blankets which were in the tent were practically buried in the sand. After dinner I had a bit of a sleep & when I awoke I was covered in sand which was lying close on 1/4" thick on my face. This is no exaggeration.

July 4 Commenced musketry & did some fair shooting. Chat parade this afternoon but all clear this

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time.

July 5 Completed course of musketry & did some more very fair shooting. Our next move is awaited with eagerness. We went thro' some tests regarding determination of ranges (i.e. rangefinding)

July 6 Saturday. Nothing in particular except pitching of tents in morning. Intend going to pictures this evening. Hot weather still continues without a break.

July 7 Sunday. Picked for guard in morning. Taken off & warned

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for Duty at Q. M.'s Store tomorrow.

July 8 Reported Q. M. S. 5am. Relieved 6.30 & warned to go thro' gas test course 2nd parade. Would not be surprised if this order is not cancelled. Once in the military a man is filled up with different orders from morning till night. Once this gas course is completed we stand a chance of



moving off to Details Camp which will be very satisfactory. Fed up with management of this camp. (Later.)

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Passed an interesting morning on the gas respirators. These articles are none too comfortable. This afternoon much excitement arose over the arrival of part of our first mail. I received one from home & one from V. Benda & am expecting more in the near future,. Never have I appreciated anything so ~~more~~ much as this mail, altho' it almost made me homesick.

July 9 Resumed duties in Q. M. Store. The sweetest job I have

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struck up to date. Manage to get plenty of tinned milk, bread, cigarettes, dates & soap. These articles are very acceptable & hope job will continue for a while.

July 10 A busy day. Working from 4 am till 5 pm without a stop except to eat.

July 11 First parcels of this mail arrived. Simpson the first of the S. A. A. S. C. to draw. Should think heat today must be close on a record. Fairly busy day.

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July 12 An uneventful day. Usual routine.

July 13 Another hot spell, which has prevailed for some days past.

July 14 Rumours of Frank, Hock, Gordon & Bert leaving tomorrow morning for Details. Rather disappointed at being left out but such things are inevitable & it may not be long before we meet again.

July 15 The above-mentioned chaps left this morning. Hope to meet again soon. Busy day

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& very hot. Q/M told me that the chaps at details would go up the line very shortly (within a few days).

July 16 Usual routine. Saw the Details chaps this morning & saw Hock this afternoon & he informed me that they were probably going up the line tomorrow or the day after. Evidently drivers are need[ed] as this is a very ~~of~~ quick despatch. Am preparing for a sleepless night, as about 620 new arrivals are expected

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any time between 11pm & 5am. Shifted our tents to A. Base this afternoon to make room for the new crowd.

July 17 Troops failed to arrive last night altho' we were up all night ready to issue them a ration, blankets, waterproofs &c. They are now expected at 10 tonight so expect another sleepless night. Very busy day. The heat wave still continues.

July 18 A better day altho' fairly busy.

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All the A. S. C. with the exception of Ben Ey & myself went over to Equitation. It is very likely that we shall be moving again very shortly.

July 19 Another busy day under very trying conditions. The heat at times is almost unbearable. Our work has increased owing to the arrival of the new troops. Saw the equitation chaps today & they seem almost fed up. There is now ~~no~~ doubt that it is a hard school.

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July 20 Another mail arrived. Have received nothing yet, but it is still early yet. Managed to obtain a beautifully light tunic from one of the new arrivals. An easier day but the heat still terrific.



July 21 An easier day altho' started the day badly by oversleeping for 1½ hours. This is owing to a week's strenuous work & have been absolutely tired out. Wrote a couple of letters this afternoon.

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July 22 Usual routine. Received unofficial notification that I was marching out to Details tomorrow.

July 23 Carried on as usual. Details orders cancelled until Thursday. Weymouth Hock & the others went up the line today. Unable to see them off.

July 24 Nothing of any importance.

July 25 Usual routine.

July 26 Worst day yet experienced as regards heat. It is almost unendurable. I have now been again unofficially advised

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that I will probably be transferred to details tomorrow. Everything is upside down here owing to rapid courses of equitation, gas, musketry &c.

July 27 Marched out to Details after breakfast. Just prior to marching we were inoculated for Cholera. The heat was terrific & on arrival at Details my shirt was wringing wet. Some took their clothing off & wrung out the sweat.

Owing to the long

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march, the heat & inoculation am feeling a bit thick in the head, but think this will soon pass off. This is a home compared with the other isolation camp, but unfortunately it is unlikely that we will remain here long. For the first time for two months I have managed to get a shower bath & altho' a short one it was the best I have ever had.

July 28 An easy day. Took wagon to dump & then to hospital & off for rest of day.

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Rumours of some of us going up the line Wednesday. Nothing official yet.

July 29 A lazy day. Going to Ismailia tonight.

July 30 Spent very pleasant evening in Ismailia ~~las~~ yesterday. Surprised at large population. Went thro' Arab & native Quarters & thro' bazaar. Very interesting but very dirty & full of rotten smells. Put up A. S. C. colors [sic]. Took 4 horse team to Supply Depot. First attempt & got on very well especially as we have

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had no instruction. Going to Lake Timsah for a swim. More troops from Australia tonight.

July 31 Another spell with the exception of cleaning up a wagon for a funeral. Another duststorm, the worst we have experienced.

August 1 Horse picquet for night. Col. of A. S. C. personally interviewed each man as regards his previous occupations.

August 2 Going from 4 am till 1 pm with 4 horse team.

August 3 Nothing much doing. Crowd of L. H.

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marched out. More new troops expected tonight.

August 4 Spent afternoon & evening in Ismailia. Had pleasant time.

August 5 Took wagon in Ismailia Bazaar & loaded up with melons, grapes & tomatoes & ice for canteens. Very interesting stunt.



August 6 An easy day. Have suffered in feet from mosquito bites which I caught sleeping outside last night. Flies are now becoming very troublesome & the bites from these produce
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large lumps; in my case they affect my arms.

August 7 Nothing of any importance except that about 20 were warned for marching out tomorrow. 3 S.A.s are included.

August 8 ———

August 9 Considerable aerial activity today. It appears that a number of American airmen have arrived with some new machines. At times there were a couple of dozen up at one time. More men to go up the line tomorrow.

August 10 Ben Ey, Fred Corrin & Lincoln went

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up the line this morning.

August 11 Sunday. Nothing much doing.

August 12 Medical exam for front line this morning. Doctor just asked me how I felt & marked me as fit for the line, where we expect to go in two or three days. There are about 30 of us.

August 13 Still awaiting marching orders. Large quantities of war material & troop trains are passing up to the line. One one train were 73 10 ton trucks loaded with wool & tibbin.

August 14 Nothing

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much doing.

August 15 All names for front line have been cancelled for some reason & we shall remain here for a few days.

August 16 Spent afternoon in taking in fruit supplies for Canteens. On return was warned for marching out tomorrow morning.

August 17 Left for front this morning. The first part of the trip from Moascar to Kantara occupied about 2½ hours & was done in open trucks. Upon arrival at Kantara, (which is supposed to be the

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biggest dump in the world) we marched thro' the dump to Kantara East – a distance of 2 miles. Being about midday it was pretty hot. During our first trip from Moascar to Kantara, which runs along the Suez Canal we were able to see barbed wire entanglements & t/r/enches &c used early in the war. At 2pm we moved off in closed-in trucks for our destination. We are very crowd/ed but have made the best of things by spreading our blankets on the floor. Up to dark we have

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been going all the time with the exception of a few stops the chief being El-Arish which is right on the beach & a large hospital chiefly for Indians. But so far the journey has not been very interesting – not so as to be monotonous. Am now turning in for the night in a position which is far from comfortable owing to the crowd. But one must make the best of things.

August 18 Do not remember much of the trip so must have slept. At daylight we are in rich fertile country.

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We reached Ludd at 9 am where we remained 1½ hours. After a very interesting journey we reached Jerusalem at 2pm. We marched to the camp & in evening took a stroll around the new city. There was no time to look at the Holy City.



Aug 19 Up at 3 am & a convoy of motor lorries loaded with grain took us to Jericho. This trip was very long but interesting. We are now camped under the Mount of Temptation, 10 miles from the line. After

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much marching to Headquarters thro' dust about 9 inches deep I was allotted to the 35th Coy where I met Frank, Bert & Gordon & am in the same bivvy [*bivouac*] with them. We are about 5 miles from front line & so far for the exception of the guns roaring there is nothing doing. Jericho (the Town) is about 1½ miles off & to our right lies the Dead Sea (about 7 miles & plainly visible). It is hotter than ever here & the nights are warm. The chief drawback

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of this place are, snakes, scorpions, mosquitoes & dust. We only stay here for a month at a time & one cannot stand it longer & then we have a month's spell. Malaria is the chief complaint with dysentery second. Water supply & food are both good.

Aug 20 Except for the guns had a very fair sleep. Expect to be issued with waggon & 5 mules today. Expecting Jacko planes over any time when there will be something doing.

Anyhow, we

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have our "funk holes" to go to where it is pretty safe. Took over 2 limbers & 4 mules which I took to water, & then I found how stubborn they can be. I have a valuable Gyppo assistant named Mahonet. On return we were greeted with a couple of shells which went off just above us. They made me think a bit. No more since thank goodness.

Aug 21 A day of much excitement. Started off at 5.30 with limber to 3rd Brig returning 11am. During trip

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Jacko planes came over & then the anti-air guns opened up. Talk about a noise. One piece of shell hit our Sergeants horse. This went on for ½ hour. There were two raids during the morning. In the afternoon while I was washing mules he sent a few shrapnel shells over which burst overhead but did no harm. Expect more tonight or tomorrow morning.

Aug 22 With the exception of a few shells we passed a quiet night.

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Up at 3.30 & on limber to 12th Reg. Nothing doing as there were no Jacko planes. These stunts are far from pleasant as the dust which for the whole journey covers one from head to foot so much so that before he is gone 5 minutes he is unrecognisable. At times, it is that thick that I am unable to see my leaders let alone the waggon 4 yards in front. There are no made roads & the dust for the whole distance has an average depth of 9 inches. Whether Jacko's guns have got our range or not we do

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not know but probably we will shift camp tonight. When we will go is not actually known but Ludd is the general opinion. This will mean 4 nights' driving & resting during the day. Went down to outskirts of Jericho for a swim last night. Shifted camp this afternoon & left with convoy of limbers & waggons at 7 pm & reached a dump at midnight. Very thrilling night drive thro' mountainous country pitted with shell holes; evidently an old firing line.

Aug 23 Left for ~~Ednam~~ \Enab/

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Dump at 7.30pm arriving 6 am next morning. Passed thro' Jerusalem at 2 am. For the last 2 nights & one intervening day have had no sleep & am beginning to feel the effects. These night stunts are no good. The place we spent last night & today was Tallatta Dump which is not worthy of description.

Aug 24 vide above. This dump is situated in a very fertile piece of country growing chiefly olives, figs, grapes & apricots. This is the best place I have struck for some time but the flies "take the bin bun".

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Moving out again at 7.30 pm to Latronne & will probably arrive at about 1am. Managed to get a couple of hours sleep this morning but time was about bad as I slept through dinner time & missed the meal. On last night's journey I have \we/ were on some of the steepest roads I have ever seen & as there were no guard rails it was surprising there were no accidents. In many places there was a sheer drop of hundreds of feet. Thank goodness the weather is good.

Aug 25 Arrived Latronne 12.30 am after a practically down hill trip the whole distance. My hands are raw from

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pulling on the reins & will not be sorry when this stunt is over which will probably be over after tonight's journey. We are now in sound of the guns again; evidently we are on our way to the Jaffa front. Latron is situated in a valley & on a plain. Not much to be seen except ruins. The flies are the worst I have ever seen; must have swallowed a few dozen. Have experienced much pain with foot. Something bit me & have been scratching it. The perspiration & dust have prevented it healing. On reporting matter to A. M. C. Corpl. he told me that it was slightly septic & would have to be under treatment tomorrow.

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Moving off again tonight at 8 pm.

Aug 26 Arrived Ludd 1.30 am & passed thro' town of Ramleigh \Ramleh/. Working all day & now just about done up. We are camped in an olive grove to avoid being detected by Jacko plains. We are 9 miles from Jaffa. Large Prison compound here & contains a few hundred Turks who are made to work at the Dump.

Aug 27 Going hard all day. Last night the ground shook with the vibration of the guns; they must be making a bombardment. About midday a couple of Jacko planes came over but

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were driven back by our "antis" the shells of which were bursting all round them.

Aug 28 Fairly quite *[quiet]* day. Passed numbers of A.M.C. Waggon loaded with wounded Turks. Judging from the roar of the guns I should say that there was a stunt on.

Aug 29 A quiet day. Battery of English Artillery arrived today & the general opinion is that we are about to start a big stunt.

Aug 30 Killed 2 large scorpions in my blankets upon getting up this morning. There were numbers of similar cases. Had a bit of a chat with

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a couple of fresh Turkish prisoners. Judging from their appearance & terribly coarse clothing I should think they were just about done up. Their equipment was beyond description.

Aug 31 A busy & long day. It is evident that there is a big stunt about to come off very soon & we are under orders to move off at any time at ½ hours notice. 2 Jacko planes came over this afternoon & our planes attacked them bringing one down. Issued with steel helmet & It looks as if we shall have plenty of use for them. They are now



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very particular about gas helmet drill. Feeling absolutely done up & I have had practically no rest now for 10 days the average day's sleep amounting to about 4 hours.

Sep 1 Preparations still continue Passed numbers of Ghurkas & Sikhs this afternoon going up to the front line also a lot of Tommies. Big blaze this morning. Big truck of petrol caught alight & the whole lot including the truck itself was completely described [*destroyed?*].

Sep 2 Bitten on the forehead by a scorpion last night. The pain which ensued for about 2 hours was terrible

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affecting one side of my face similar to acute neuralgia. My ear ached terribly. This morning I was alright again but am not anxious for a repetition One of my mules smashed a chap up this morning with its heels

Sep 3 Shell fire has ceased today & observation balloons are out. We have just missed a good ~~stunt~~ stunt at our last camp where 800 prisoners were captured yesterday

Sep 4 Still awaiting developments

Sep 5 A busy day. Owing to the influx of prisoners the compound here is

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being enlarged considerably. Already there are about 1500.

Sep 6 Poor old Weymouth & Billing have cracked up. Billing has gone to hospital & Weymouth will follow very shortly I think. Considerable areal [*aerial*] activity today.

Sep 7 Usual routine. General slaughter of scorpions at Reveille. The latest bivvy pets now are the frog & the lizard.

Sep 8 Terrible roar & flashing of guns for a few minutes tonight, but quiet again now.

Sep 9 A busy day. Much gun fire this morning.

Sep 10 Killed snake this morning in

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bivvy. This evening a bombardment commenced. The ground shook & the roar of guns & machine guns was awful.

Sep 11 A fairly quiet day. Last nights gun fire was an attack from Jacko. Results not yet known to us.

Sep 12 Result of above was a counter attack by Jacko which failed. Nothing much doing except aerial activity.

Sep 13 An informal inspection today by a crowd of heads. A busy day.

Sep 14 Big demonstrations by Tommy Batteries

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infantry, L. Horse & transport Corps. This generally means that a stunt will start very shortly. There has been intermittent gun fire all day.

Sep 15 Reconnoitring parties have been sent out from various Coys. Jacko planes were over this morning. Much interest was afforded this afternoon when going to Ludd watering Troughs. Today or tomorrow is Xmas to them & they seemed to be having a gay time at the cemetery. Of course there were groups of wailers who make enough row to raise the dead. There [...]

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Bank Signature



\Entry made before use of this book as a diary./

~~Thomas F. L. Chappell~~

[...] were crudely made swings for the kids. The men all dressed in different gaudy colors & the women in black & white gowns presented a fair spectacle, I had no idea that there were so many inhabitants in Ludd & some of them seem very "big bugs" too.

Sep 16 Sensational news today concerning our future. I have been warned that tomorrow I join a certain Battery which may prove a very dangerous job. Tomorrow night we move out. Special

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care must be paid to rifles & instructions have been given as to shell fire, bombs &c., Stunt may last a couple of months or may be more. So am expecting a rough time.

Sep 17 Joined a Notts Battery together with my assistant. Expect to move out either tonight or tomorrow. An only Australian here, but owing to shortage of men in different batteries ours & other Coy's of the Div. Train has had to find drivers for these turnouts. Am well rationed with five days tucker for self & mules. Now awaiting a move.

Sep 18 An easy day for the first time I joined up the

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Coy I did practically nothing. Did not know what to do with myself. This evening we march out probably for Saronia (11 miles distant) & it is expected that the bombardment will start tonight. From what I hear this will be the biggest affair ever taken place on this front. We are fortunate in having a little moonlight & fine weather for a start. We expect to reach our destination at about 1 am.

Sep 19 Moved off at 7 pm \am/ & till now (9 pm) have been going all the time & it looks if we will move all tonight & tomorrow. We are passing

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thro' enemy territory taken this morning. Dead animals & men lie about & a sickening sight. Over 2,500 prisoners have been taken today including 80 officers & our artillery has advanced to date 13 miles.

Sep 20 Last night was like an awful nightmare. Travelling all night over bad country without even a spell. Had no time to eat anything today. Prisoners are pouring in & saw a number of German prisoners. According to Reports we have taken over 10,000 prisoners & have advanced over 30 miles. Travelled all day & spent last night near

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Nablus & we were thankful for the rest. At last we were able to get a drop of water, So far have only had 2 accidents. lost one limber & team over a pontoon yesterday morning & another smashed up today. The Turks have left little behind except light transport. My team did not have harness off for 24 hours & during that time had one decent drink & a couple of small feeds. Prisoners appear glad to be captured & I think this stunt will be the last & it wont be long before we are in Damascus.

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Sep 21 Had a decent rest last night & feel O.K. again. News we have states that the Turks & Germans on the whole front (50 miles) are completely surrounded. Only 2 trainloads escaped from Nablus. Prisoners are pouring in. What our next move is remains to be seen. Stopping here for night. All night prisoners poured in including about 1000 Germans. Our Div. Train. (35 Coy) brought in about 20. Some of the sights were horrible. They had marched miles without food or water & some were dropping out along the track. This was owing to their being cut off by us. Wounded were brought in in Turkish transports pulled



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by Bedouins & Turks. Thousands of horses & donkeys have been brought in & in the rush to get water a number were bogged & died in the creek. Got some coins from wounded prisoners who are in a dressing station about 20 yards distant. Last night every man here with a rifle had to act as an escort to prisoners so as to enable them to get a drop of water.

Sep 22 Wounded Turks still coming in & are being attended to by Red Cross Germans. We must have completely surrounded the enemy on a 40 mile front. The Turkish band of musicians were captured

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with their instruments & headquarters staff were captured, with numbers of officers. Thousands of head of sheep & goats are coming in with the prisoners so there is no shortage of fresh meat. Tonight about 2000 more prisoners have come in. With the exception of ourselves all have moved out. We are stationed here with a couple of field guns as there are a number of Germans loose & who are causing a bit of trouble. We are under orders to move out at a minute's notice. This evening at dusk while sitting a snake about 4 ft slipped thro' my legs & scared me for a while. The

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reptile escaped. My native was caught selling a captured Turkish donkey to a Bedouin for the sum of 60 pls. So upon joining our Coy again I have to take up the case. Weather still holding good.

Sep 23 Remained here for the night. Right in front portion of Nazareth can be seen on the top of the hills. This was the German H.Q.s before our advance. Left at 1 pm & travelled to Afule just below M^t Tabor. Carting rations till 10 pm & then camped for the night. From the commencement of our journey to the end was a sight I never

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wish to see again. Our planes had played havoc with the enemy's troops & animals & the stench was awful. At Afule the German Staff was captured. All railway material (a number of engines & trucks) were captured intact as they were taken too much by surprise to destroy anything.

Sep 24 Left Afule 6 am this morning & are now halted at Nazareth where we have placed in position four guns. Except for the dust this is quite a decent place with some fine stone buildings & red tiled roofs with the Turkish Crescents painted thereon. So this place must

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have been used as a Hospital Base by the Turks. The inhabitants are a bad lot & for the last couple of days have done nothing but loot the place. The journey which was rough & hard for the teams will well be remembered. All along the road were dead animals & Turks & smashed enemy motor transport. Have just eaten about a dozen eggs which we procured so have had a decent dinner. The heat is intense & the teams are just about knocked out. We arrived here about 12 pm. How long

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we remain remains to be seen. Moved off again at 6 am & travelled all thro' the night.

Sep 26 Halted 7 am this morning. At 11 moved off again & passed thro' Tiberia on the Sea of Galilee & not a bad place. Halted on coast about 8 miles from this place & have to go back now to draw rations. Being 5 now I expect to be carting very late. Am feeling done up already. Have not had a wash for 3 days & have had clothes on for the last 8 days without taking them off once & the heat is terrible.

Sep 27 Spent all night in Tiberia with team waiting for rations & got wet thro'



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by a thunderstorm of some violence. Loaded up at 6 am & moved back to battery where we took off some of the load & then moved off again. Travelled thro' intense head [heat] & over terrible country all day & without water. Came to a small village about dusk where we had to stop on account of a band of Turks who were holding a bridge about a mile on. They soon were dispersed by our guns & L.H. & we moved off again.

Sep 28 Moved off again at 4 am & after travelling over awful \so-called roads/ for 12 miles had a spell & took the mules down to the Jordan for a drink. Moved off again at 2 pm &

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travelled till 3 am next morning. We were bombed once but no damage was done. Heat intense.

Sep 29 Stopped here at 3 this morning. About 9 am Jacko came over & dropped a couple of bombs but without effect. Expect to move off any minute. Am beginning to feel effects of this stunt & feel tired out. Moved off again at 3 pm after waiting with team in harness for 6 hrs. Proceeded about a mile where were held up on the road all night on a/c of German Snipers. A rotten day altogether.

Sep 30 Moved off a [at] day-break travelling all day & night up to 3 am next

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morning – a long monotonous & uncomfortable journey. All thro' the trip was evidences of the German & Jacko flight. Motors, dead animals, men, ammunition lay strewn all over the place.

October 1 Had a couple of hours sleep early this morning. We cannot be far from Damascus now. Feel absolutely done up. Off again early this morning & moved till midday arriving on the outskirts of Damascus. Took our load to Battery in afternoon. So far the town has not fallen & we have to be very careful on a/c of Bedouins & snipers. About 7000 prisoners passed us during the day.

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Oct 2 A decent sleep at last. Slept all night. This morning more prisoners went by about 2000. The Bedouins are giving us a lot of trouble & a number have had to be shot for looting. They are worse than the enemy. When watering this morning a chap & I went into a garden close by & a couple of bullets whizzed past so we "got". Have stopped here all day & this morning took up rations to the Battery which is almost in the Town. Some 15,000 prisoners have been taken here so far but they are starved & cannot stand the march back to our Compound

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& they are dropping out all along the track many dying. Still troubled by Bedouins & shots have been going all day.

Oct 3 Our entry into Damascus which I leave to my memory. 1 Town 2 Electric cars, 3 People, 4 Fruit 5 Sheriff of [Menas?] troops. 6 Battle scenes 7 loosing [losing] our way. Proceeded to Battery & arrived at dark after going all day.

Oct 4 Official news states that nearly 90000 prisoners have been taken during the past 10 days & we advanced 160 miles. Left Battery in morning for rations at Damascus. Rations failed to arrive so returned to camp arriving

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at Dark & to find that the Battery had gone. We then proceeded to a neighboring village & took a load of corn & then proceeded back to the Battery. After a terrible drive which I will never forget we camped with the battery after arriving at 2 am. Still we get no rest.

Oct 5 After a couple of hours' sleep we moved off again & after a few hours travel settled down & for the rest of the day was lucky enough to have spell. Remember Arab & hand grenade affair; too curious & went off inflicting awful wounds.



Oct 6 Off again for rations at 4 am & have been going

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all day without a rest. Now 6 pm have fixed up a shelter for it looks like rain & hope to settle here for the night. For the last 3 nights there have been wonderful lightning effects & twice I thought we were in for a rough time.

Oct 7 Another busy day but had a decent night's rest. Nearest water 2 miles away so do not wash too much.

Oct 8 Going from daylight till 9 pm.

Oct 9 Another busy day. Started off for Battery at dark to a new position. Having no guide & no moon or light I was unfortunate

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enough to get bogged. The animals were unable to stand & after exhausting ourselves for 3 hours we got the animals out & left the limber standing. I will not forget the terrible mess I was in & the discomfort in which I spent the rest of the night as all my gear was back with the Echelon.

Oct 10 After much hard work managed to remove limber & started another day's work eventually finishing up at about 10 pm. Feeling knocked up.

Oct 11-15 On sick list with slight attack of dysentery. May I never go thro' the same period again.

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Oct 16 Still unable to do anything.

Oct 17-24 ditto

Oct 25 Admitted to Field Hosp. for convalescent hosp at Damascus

Oct 26 Arrived hosp. Damascus Billeted on floor & draughty place it is.

Oct 26-30 Stayed at Damascus Owing to tremendous numbers of sick the doctors & orderlies were unable to cope with anything like the number of patients. Sanitary conditions absolutely disgraceful, food (if any) chiefly bread (native) & jam & perhaps a little arrowroot.

Oct 30 Entrained for

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Beirut at 9 am eventually arriving at Moallaka 5 pm (30 miles from Beirut). The journey was awful. We were packed into trucks (captured from Turks) ~~the~~ without food. Just about done up when we finally stopped. The journey was interesting but too many delays in short space of time owing to the engine burning wood instead of coal.

31st Oct Off again packed into motor lorries for Beirut where we arrived at about 6 pm after another terrible journey without food. Upon arrival we were given a tin of

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bully & some army biscuits which in my condition could not tackle.

Nov 1-16 Stationed a [at] Beirut awaiting evacuation by boat. Am sick of writing of the absolute neglect of patients. Of course, sickness was never before experienced like this lot, but there should have been some emergency medical & food stores at the advance dumps.

Nov 17 Embarked Hosp Ship "Wandilla" Adelaide, 7 pm today.

Nov 18 Sailed all night & day & have enjoyed

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the trip very much.

Later

Arrived Alexandria Entrained on Hospital Train to Cairo arriving 31st A.G.H. 10 p.m.

CENTENARY OF ANZAC 2014 - 2018



Remained 31st A.G.H. 2 weeks & was then evacuated to Bulac Convalescence Depot for 2 weeks. After this had 18 days leave in Cairo.

Returned Moascar on 29th Dec^r. Remained in A.A.S.C. Details 3 weeks.

On January 21st Joined Educational School where have remained up to date 7 weeks

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(this is 8.2.19). Very little work & anxiously awaiting news regarding demobilization.