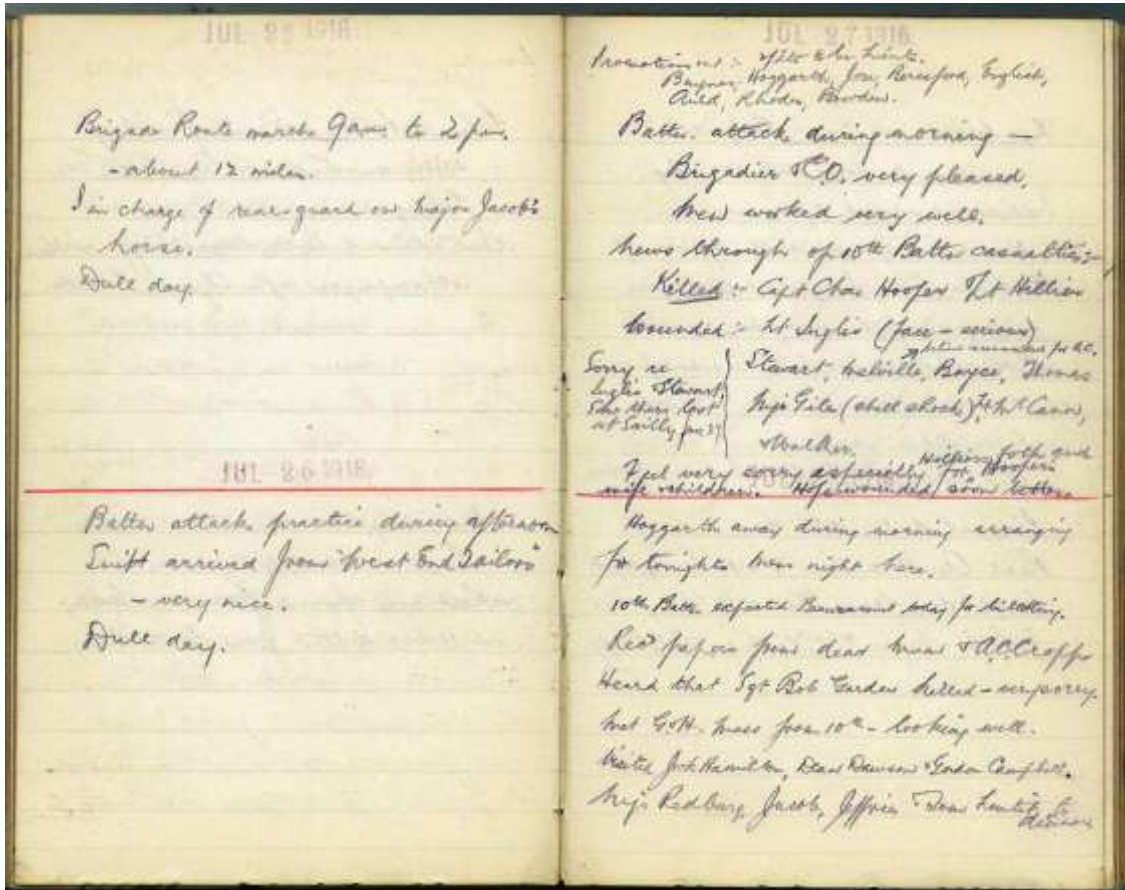




PRG 1159/1/1 Diary of James Churchill-Smith 26 August 1915 to 23 November 1916  
Transcribed by Ernest Roe, Volunteer at the State Library of South Australia, 2013



Front cover and sample pages from the diary for 25 to 28 July 1916





*Transcriber's note: The diary includes many place-names, some of which are probably too small to be well known, and they may be spelled up to three different ways.*

Two introductory pages are as follows:

1. Note

In case of death, please be so kind as to forward this book and contents to

J.Churchill Smith Esq,  
c/o Messrs Bagot, Shakes & Lewis Ltd,  
8 King William Street,  
Adelaide,  
South Australia.

It is for my Mother or Kate or Dad.

It will be valued by the above.

2. Promoted to Lieut. Div. List No 26 dated 20/2/16  
Promoted to Capt. Div. Routine Order No 29, List No 5. dated 1/4/16

Capt. J Churchill Smith,  
30<sup>th</sup> Australian Infantry Batt,  
Australian Imperial Force

Awarded Military Cross Vide Div. Routine Order No 175 ( Battn \Routine/ Order No 52 dated 10/10/16 )

Awarded Bar to Military Cross (see Octr 19) 1916.

*The two following pages list those with whom the diarist communicated and the dates of those communications, as follows: [ Entries in purple pencil and black ink ]*

Mother:— Aug 30, Sep, 3, 30; Oct 6, 10, 17, 23, 27; Nov 4, Nov 11,13, 24,\27,/ 30, Dec 3,12,19,28; Jan 6, 10, 12, 16, 17,22, 30; Feby 2, 9, 15, 18, 22; March 5, 9, 16, 17, 23, 27; April 7, 13, 16, 22, 23, 28, \30,/ May 7, 11, 16, May 20, 21, 26; June 16, 24, 26; July 1, 8, 15, 16, 20, 21\P.C./, 30, Aug 3,3,11, 22,30, Sep 11,15,26,27,\photo/ 30,\photo/ Octr 1,3,11,18, 21 (2), 28, Nov 9,10,

Father:— Aug 30; Sep 3, Oct 10, Nov 4, 13,27, Dec 3 ~~Dec 30~~ 31, \Cable/ Jan 6,10,16,22, Feby 16, 28,\Cable/ March 5,16,23,29, Apl 8,16,20,22,23,30, May 11,21; June 24,29 July 7,15,20,30, Aug 3,3,30, Sept \Cable/ 6,11,15,26,30 \photo/ Oct 10,Oct 19,\Cable/, 21,28, Nov 9,

Sid:— Aug 30; Octr 5; Nov 4, 14, Jan 17, Feby 2, March 22, April 7,23. May 20, June 23; July 21, Aug 30, Sep 26, 27, \photo/ 30,\photo/ Oct 3, 44, 21,

Kate :— Aug 30; Sep 3;30; Oct 6,10,17,23,27;Nov 4,11,13,14,27, Dec 3,13,19,28; Jan 6, 7, 40,12,16,22,30, Feby 2,9,15,18,22; March 5,9,16,17,23,27, April 8,10, 13, 16, 22,\23/ 28,30, May 7,13,16,20,24, May 26, June 16, 21, 24,25, July 1,5,15,21 30, Aug 3,3,11,22,30, Sep 10,12,15,24,27\photo/,30 \photo/ Oct 3,11,18,21,28, Nov 9,



Bondies:— Oct 10,17, Nov 4,27, Jany 6, Feby 3, March 22, Apl 22, June 17, Sep 11 (2), 30  
\photo/, Oct 21,  
Emy Johnston:— Aug 30; Oct 5,10, Nov 27, Dec 3 Jany 6,22,30, Feby 9,18 March 17, Apl  
13,23,28, May 21, June 17,24, July 15, Aug 3,3,22,30, Sep 27, Oct 1 \photo/ 21,  
Geo.W.Bayly:— Aug 30; Oct 17,23, Nov 27, Jany 22, April 8, Aug 3, Oct 3;  
A.C.Crapp:— Aug 20; Oct 17,23; Nov 11;27, Jany 10, July 30, Aug 3,30, Novr 10,  
W.L.Ware:— Sep3; Oct 17, Nov 27, Jany 22; March 22,26, Apl 23. Oct 10  
Vera:— Jany 12, March 16, Apl 16, June 23, July 30,  
F.Gill:— Sep 3; Oct 5,17, Nov 4,27, Jany 10, Feby 5 (2), March 23, Apl 20, May 20, July 21, Aug  
3,30, Sep 12, Oct 3,10,21, Nov 9,  
Nell Forster:— Sep 3; Dec 2; Mch 16,  
Rene & Cyril/ Hamilton:— Sep 3; Oct 17, Nov 27, June 24, Aug 3,  
Eric Richmond:— Sep 3; Oct 17; Nov 11; 27, Dec 3,  
Joyce Johnston:— Oct 5, Jany 6,22, Apl 13, Aug 3,22, Oct 11,21,  
Myrtle & Iris/ Galliford:— Oct 6; Nov 11; 14. Jany 10,46, Feby 18, 23, March 26, Apl 23,30, Aug  
2, Oct 3,  
Roy Warner:— Oct 6,  
Maud Forster:— Oct 17, Jany 10  
Lily M<sup>c</sup>Manus:— May 13,  
Howsons:— Jany 10, Apl 16, Sep 11, Oct 3,  
Bert Lovegrove:— Jany 10,  
C/S Turner:— Dec 2, Jany 30, Apl 16, May 7, Aug 3,23,  
Pat M<sup>c</sup> :- Novr 11, Dec 7, Jan 22, Sep 27,  
T.J.Loutit :- Oct 30,  
Aunt Nellie :- Oct 27, Nov 27, Jany 7, 40, 17, Mar 17, Apl 22, July 16, Sep 30 (photo), Nov 10,  
E A Farquhar :- Oct 27,  
M<sup>rs</sup>.Hancock :- Oct 23, March 22,  
D<sup>r</sup> Coleman :- Oct 17,  
Ern Stanton :- Oct 17,  
Claude Gosling :- Oct 17, Jan 12, Apl 23, Aug 3,  
Jean Loutit :- Oct 19,23, Jany 10, Feby 5, March 17, April 8, May 7, Aug 3,30, Sep 11, Oct  
3,11,  
Aunt Ada & Girlie :- Oct 17, Nov 4,27; Dec 3, Jany 6,16, Feby 16, March 26, Apl 16, May 13,  
July 15, Sep 30 (photo), Oct 18, 21,  
M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston (Kensington) :- Nov 4, Feby 5, Apl 22,  
Paul Guillemine :- July 15, Aug 3,30, Oct 3,18,  
E Hall :- July 16,  
L.Larsson :- July 21,  
Mary Beguian :- Apl 13, May 7,  
Maryem Off :- Apl 13,  
Miss Derrington :- June 24,  
M<sup>rs</sup> Gurney :- March 27, Apl 16,  
W.Tothill: Apl 22, July 1, 30,



26 August 1915

Left Mitcham Camp at about 11.30 am Said Good-bye to dear Father at Bagots Lunch at Arcadia Met Mum & dear Kate on Railway Station also Mattie & M<sup>rs</sup> Bond & proceeded to Outer Harbour Boat ( R.M.S."Morea") left about 7.20 pm. Streamers out to Mum, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Mattie & Dear Kate; M<sup>rs</sup> Bond's broke 1<sup>st</sup>, Kate's 2<sup>nd</sup>, Mattie 3<sup>rd</sup> & Mum 4<sup>th</sup>, (Mums was last streamer to break from boat) God bless them all especially Dad Mum & dear Kate and may I be spared to return safely to them.

Had good sleep. No breakfast nor dinner. Slept from about 10 am to 3 pm. On deck for about ½ an hour. Boat rocking terribly, sea is extra rough. Big waves, Victor Harbour not in it. Majority of men ill, very unpleasant in their quarters. Had to put watch back ½ an hour. Not sick yet feeling fair. Bed early Left teeth out all day

28 August 1915

Feeling pretty right, beggining to get used to things. Met Col. O'Loughlin at 8.30 am, he mentioned Higgins. Very decent fellow, sure to get on well with him.

Men much better, only a few ill. Allotted them all to their messes.

Find 1 man short, strength 2 Officers 149 men. Wish this was my honeymoon trip with Kate, miss her very much. Hope she is alright. God bless her. Will make her happy if I return.

Wearing false teeth again Put watch back another half hour.

Wrote to Mum, Kate, M<sup>r</sup> Forster, A.C.Crapp , G.W.Bayly.

Very high sea at night, water coming over deck. Had a good meal at dinner. Feeling A.1.

Miss Kate very much, hope she is well.

Men singing on well deck, seem very happy. Going about 15 Knots

29 August 1915

Orderly Officer today.

Passed one funnel steamer on our starboard side going East at 8.30 am Will be glad to see some land again; wish this sea trip was over.

Inspection with Col. O Loughlin at 11 am. Watches back another ½ hour.

Men now very lively. Down at mens quarters for about 2 hours this morning; very stuffy owing to Port-hole having to be kept closed: makes one feel crook. Met Nurse \Edna/ Nicholls on board.

Church parade 2.30 p.m. Rain little at 1.30 pm; sea getting rough. I first saw land at 3.10 p.m; passed a ship at 3.35 pm Sea very choppy; spray coming all over the deck; reminds me of time with Kate at Victor Harbour. I wonder if I shall ever be there with her again, I hope so. Raining on & off all afternoon

30 August 1915

In sight of land all the morning \ I funnelled / Steamer travelling in same direction on our starboard side at 12.30 pm. Sick of sea trip; Boat going very slowly. Supposed to be 1 day late. Miss my girlie. 8 p.m Arrived off Fremantle ; laying out all night, will birth first thing in morning. Wrote letters home ; up to 1.30 am. Beautiful sight showing all lights burning at the Harbour. Will be glad to get ashore tomorrow. Wrote Mum, Dad, Sid, dear Kate, Emmie, Johnston, Bayly, A.C.Crapp, Chinner M<sup>rs</sup> Forster, Aunt Mary. Played poker, won about 17/- Wires from Ware & C<sup>o</sup>, Mum & Dad, Johnston, Aunt Mary \ (also letter ) /





31 August 1915

Birthered at Fremantle at 7 am, fairly big place.

I was only Officer allowed ashore; sent wires to Mum & Kate, also plenty for men, and letters.

No leave granted from Boat. Guard of W.A. boys to stop men from \sneaking off /

Left 1.20 pm. Whistle from trains and other steamers blowing as we left.

Good-bye dear Australia, hope to see you again some day.

Boat rocking terribly from side to side but am now used to sea and enjoy it.

Fiddles (panels) around all tables at dining room. Some men drunk on board.

1 September 1915

First day off duty. Big swell on sea; large waves far ~~apart~~ \apart/, waves not breaking, but water smooth. Ship rolling side to side about 22<sup>o</sup>. Nice day, getting dull at night. Sister Mann sowed button on my greatcoat. Ships run to 12 noon 328 miles Feeling A1. Lieut W H Stevenson 8/3

L H. took ill – influenza Got games up out of hold for men; much appreciated.

Stowaway (14 yrs old) found on board yesterday (from Fremantle); wants me to take him to the war with the 10<sup>th</sup>, Will see the Colonel about it. Put watch back 17 minutes

2 September 1915

Nice day; sea calm. O.C.Guard. Fire & Boat drill at 10.30 am; men behaved very well

Davies & Horsell 96 hrs detention forfeit 4 days pay attempting breaking ship 31<sup>st</sup>

Cricket 4 pm to 6 pm – enjoyed it. One week since left home; seems like a month; hope I shall soon be back. Getting hot at night. Have cold in head. Miss Mum, Dad, Kate. “Inky” still in bed. Ships run to 12 noon 377 miles

3 September 1915

Getting hot during day. Wrote Mum, Dad, Ware, Gill, Rene Hamilton Nell Forster, Eric Richmond, and dear Kate. Dance on Port side ~~Hurricane~~ \promenade/ Deck at night; fairly successful considering first dance. Cricket afternoon; did not play. Sea nice and smooth Feeling A 1, except for cold (nostril sore) “Inky” Stevenson still in bed.

Ships run to 12 noon – 382 miles.

4 September 1915

Inky out of bed – better. Tug of War between 27<sup>th</sup> Infy & Light Horse – 27<sup>th</sup> won 2 out of 2.

Concert by men on Well deck – success. Cricket in afternoon – very hot. One of cricketers said he saw a pigeon flying – where from ? right out here – suspicious. Later – not a pigeon.

Prisoners allowed out of Cell – too hot, Passed Cocos Island 70 miles off about 7 p.m.

Ships run to 12 noon – 388 miles

5 September 1915

Fairly hot day; reminds me of an Australian summer's day. Plenty of flying fish about. Willie Willshire not feeling too good. Church Parade 9.45 am. on Well deck. Sea very calm. Nice on boat. Added little to Mum's, Dad's, Rich's, & dear Kate's letters. Lying in cabin with underpants, singlet, identification disc on with electric fan going strongly. Ships run to 12 noon 380 miles



September 6 1915

Very hot day, sea calm; nice travelling. Wore Whites first time – very cool. Feeling A 1. Played cricket in afternoon. Rained a little at night. Ships run to 12 noon ~~380~~ 368 miles

September 7 1915

Passed equator about 3 p.m. Nice day, fairly cool, sea calm, Men celebrated crossing line by ducking each other in a tub of water. Concert by 2<sup>nd</sup> Class passengers – successful. Light Showers about 9.30 p.m. Dull at night. Cricket in afternoon – 22 retired. Ships Run to 12 noon ~~358~~ 343/ miles

September 8 1915

333 miles from 12 noon 7<sup>th</sup> to 12 noon 8<sup>th</sup>. Not feeling too well; caught a chill. Lying in bed during morning. Bed 7.15 p.m. – cold & feverish head; expect to be much better in morning, hope so. Sister Edna Nicholls came in to cabin and gave motherly advice; thank goodness I know her otherwise nobody would have come to me unless I advertised that I was unwell Arrived Colombo about 7.30 pm

September 9 1915

In bed all day; cold & headache; out on deck for about ½ an hour during afternoon. Can't eat, only drink. 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, & 16<sup>th</sup> out for a route march ; 21 of 10<sup>th</sup> missing, but all returned later Colombo nice place from what I have seen of it; plenty of niggers coaling our Boat; niggers all yabbering together; awful noise. Very few passengers on board, all having a look around. Sick early in morning. Very heavy rain during early evening. Lots of nice things would like to have bought and sent home to Mum & Kate but unable to owing to being in bed ill.

September 10 1915

D<sup>r</sup> Horwood attending me; says touch of sun; gave me some pills. (5) Calimal [?]. Very violent pains in stomach, can't imagine what they were like. 27<sup>th</sup>, 3/9 LH & 8/3 LH. on route march today. Sick twice. Very hot day. Heavy rain about 5.40 pm Niggers dive for coins; chase after you and beg for money. Ask "5/- or what'll you give" for article; can always beat them down to half at least. Got Light Suit £2 – & helmet 12/6. Moore HB put off boat at Colombo – crushed [?] foot – in hospital/

September 11 1915

Left Colombo 1.30 a.m. Feeling better. Had good night's rest Hot bath in morning. Felt weak after. Heavy monsoonal shower at about 12.20 pm Still got a cold. Had some "Apple Pie Tart & Custard" for Luncheon; but not as good as one gets at home.

Passed a Big Yacht on Port side at about at about 5.30 p.m. Strolled once round deck with Sister Nicholls, felt very weak after. More severe pains in stomach, think D<sup>r</sup> gave me an over-dose. Bed 7 p.m. Lost 13 lbs since I've been ill. Was 11.12: now 10.13. Heavy rain about 9.15 a.m.

~~423~~ 134/ miles (Ships run) to 12 noon



September 12 1915

Feeling much better, but cold still bad, Raining on and off all day. 322 miles (Ship's Run) to 12 noon. On deck during afternoon; feeling strong.

September 13 1915

Nice day. Up after breakfast. Ship's run to 12 noon 323 miles. Passed 1 funnelled steamer Port side 10 mins to 6 \ seemed / about ½ mile off \ but really was 3 or 4 miles/ Feeling much better & stronger. Went down to Dinner for first time since illness.

September 14 1915

Ship's run to 12 noon 341 miles. Nice day; calm sea. Feeling much better, but still feel weak. Up after breakfast.

September 15 1915

Nice day; sea choppy. Ships Run to 12 noon 327 miles Paid men today. Feeling better but legs still weak.

September 16 1915

Sea very calm. Nice day but very hot. Ship's Run to 12 noon 337 miles. Played cricket in afternoon, very warm.

Fancy Dress Dance 2<sup>nd</sup> Saloon.

September 17 1915

# see back for description of Aden. Page 1.

Sea nice and calm. Sighted land 7.30 a.m. Arrived Aden at 9.30 a.m., left 6 p.m.

Two Auxiliary \converted/ Cruisers in Port (Empress of Russia & Empress of Asia) also 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Cruiser "Philomel", and Converted Cruiser "Norwood", P.O.Boat arrived from Bombay with passengers & Mail for 'Morea', Went ashore; very dirty place, very hot day Nice & cool evening. Niggers very Funny; always begging; & fond of money.

September 18 1915

Fairly hot day. Sea very calm. Passed 12 Apostles \ or 7 Sisters/ (Islands) in morning.

Now travelling in Red Sea. Passed about 15 Boats during day and night; some very close in.

Dr Wickens smashed bottle Champagne Concert by men on Well deck; collection for Seamen's Charities & a Soldiers Widow. Slept out on deck at night; nice and cool. Lot Indian Officers on Board, came on at Aden. Some very decent fellows; one snob causing trouble with men and lascars and Ship's staff. Ships Run 265 miles

September 19 1915

Fairly hot day. Attended Church on well deck. Now very busy getting ready for disembarkation on Tuesday next. Ship's Run to 12 noon 369 miles. Sea not so calm

Passed 3 steamers today, one very close in (about 500 yds Starboard side). sighted a sailing vessel. Next to last night on Board, Packed up ready for disembarkation. Had fortune told by Sister Sutherland with cards; some remarkable things were told me.



September 20 1915

Ships Run to 12 noon 374 miles Passed "Two Brothers" at 3 p.m (two flat islands in Red Sea, one with Light House & few small buildings.) Issued out 12 biscuits & 1 tin Beef to every man of unit. Passed 3 Steamers on Port side at 4.30, one going our way & one going other way. Sighted land morning, more distinct about 6 pm. (Africa) Vaccinated 3 left. Celebrated last night on Boat; had very nice time. Dr Coleman smashed 1 bottle Champagne

September 21 1915

# see Pages 2 and 3 at back

Ship's Run to Suez 302 miles Arrived Suez about 8 a.m. Stood \ Anchored / about 2 miles out. Very high hills on African \ both/ sides; are in close to African side. Few small warships in Port, and many trading steamers. Left Morea 12 noon amid much cheering &c Landed on Wharf at 12.30 pm from Lighter Suez not a very clean place; but some big buildings. [illegible] Left Suez by train at 2 pm, route along Canal, few warships in Canal, Very dry sandy place few palms Stopped at "Nefiche"; dirty place Islam \ Islamic / Arrived Zogazig 6 pm left 6.10 pm Arrived [illegible] \Zeitoun/ 8.15 pm; marched straight to Camp.

September 22 1915

First day at Zeitoun Camp My unit attached to B Coy 1<sup>st</sup> Trng Battalion. not very hot day. Drill in desert; all sand and dust; now shaping well. ~~Drove to~~ Went to Cairo at 12 noon (Shepherd's Hotel) and walk around, returned 3.30 pm; lunch Shepherd's. Went to Cairo 8 pm.; met Inky Stevenson & Kep Wendt at Shepherds; drove around Wassa (dirtiest, slumiest part of Cairo) place awful, but worth seeing Went to Casino, arrived about 11 p.m., back at Camp 1.15 pm Thoroughly enjoyed myself

September 23 1915

Up at 5.30 a.m for parade at 6 am. Paraded 6 to 9; 10.30 to 12 noon; 4.30 to 6 pm. It is not very hot, in fact, after the sun sets it is just lovely. Plenty of "vultures" flying around; they look awful. Very tiresome for a start working on sand; makes one tired. Guest night at Mess; opening of Mess. Men issued with helmets today

September 24 1915

Not very hot. \Officers &/ Men issued with short kaki trousers & light shirts; very cool. Detailed as O.C.Guard for V.D's going back to Australia; attended Intermediate Headquarters for instructions. Met dear old Noel Loutit there, so pleased to see him. Went to 'Palace' Hospital with him, then to Dinner at Zeitoun, then back to Cairo.

September 25 1915

Fell in with 2 N.C.O.'s & 20 men at 8 a.m. at Battalion Headquarters. Left Helmich Stn. for Cairo by 8.19 train. Left Cairo Main Stn. after having rest 137 V.D's by train for Suez at 11 am. Three or four men had to be carried to the train; they couldn't possibly walk. -others had to walk slowly. Arrived Port Suez at 5.10 p.m. and put men on board a Lighter - also Lt Col Bailey, 2/Lt Street going back to Australia.. Street ill. Left Port Suez by 5.25 pm train arriving back at Zeitoun Camp at 12 midnight. Vaccination itching, getting stiff under arm. Wrote Dad, Mum, & dear Kate on





train – letters to be posted in Adelaide or delivered to Dad by a 2/Lt from 27<sup>th</sup> Bat returning ill. Sullivan. Indian put on train unconscious on way down, either fell off horse or fell off train. (?)

September 26 1915

Got up about 11 am – had bath – & vacc dressed. Met Noel at Hospital about 3 pm. and went to Citadel Mosque at Cairo. Told fellow who built it (since 1811) took 35 years to complete job, then Abdul Hamid (?) took both his eyes out so that he couldn't build another one like it, and gave him plenty of cash. Very nice & pretty inside; watched Indians at prayer service. Had photo taken near mosque by Noel Loutit. Returned to Camp 6 p.m. Met trainload reinforcements (8/7<sup>th</sup>) at 7.15 pm and another lot (8/11<sup>th</sup>) at 9.15 pm. Bed 12 midnight.

Rumoured that 200 wounded Indians arrived at Heliopolis; evidently fight near Suez or Aden.

September 27 1915

Packed up valise & left for ranges at 7 a.m. Arrived at Abassia rested during morning. Started work on Ranges at 3 p.m and knocked off at 6 p.m. – fairly good shooting. Evening meal by candle light; lying on our beds with one Officer reading latest paper. Good news re Germans driven back and Constantinople in riot (or nearly); evidently war is nearing the end. Hope I shall be there before finish. Bed early.

September 28 1915

Up at 5.15 am. Commenced work on range at 6 a.m. & left off for breakfast at 10 a.m. Range 2 to 6 p.m. Bed early. Vac. itching. & arm stiff. Went to Canadian Hospital and got vaccination washed & dressed – much easier.

September 29 1915

Up at 5.30 a.m. Range 6 to 10 a.m. 2 to 6 pm. ~~Went to Canadian Hospital and got~~ Cairo midday with Lt. Hubbe. Bed early. Evans, E.R. (my batman) good man.

September 30 1915

Left Abassia (ranges) at 8.15 am. and arrived at Zeitona 10 a.m. Rumoured 'Morea' sunk – nobody saved. also Dardanelles ~~sunk~~ \forced/. No drill in afternoon. Wrote Mum & Kate Lieuts Willshire & Mellor (Tom) over after tea. Got first "patience" out ¼ to 11 p.m.

Perhaps if "Morea" torpedoed \after Marseilles/ majority of passengers I was acquainted with were not on her – hope they were not.

October 1 1915

Winter Parade now 6.30 to 8.30 am 10 am to 12.30 pm 3 pm to 6 pm also Route March 1<sup>st</sup> Training Battalion 4 pm. to 7pm. Out with Colin at night Wassa Casino. Rumoured several British Boats through Dardanelles, 4 Sunk & 2 French sunk. Evans not too well.

October 2 1915

Nice warm day. Kit inspection in morning. Board of Enquiry re Arms &c 11 a.m Ride \on/ horse \with Tom Mellor/ 4.30 pm to 7 p.m. – very enjoyable. Home at night with Evans playing "patience". Bought few things Heliopolis Evans much better.



October 3 1915

Very foggy in morning. Church parade 7 a.m. Motored with other Officers to see demonstration of how bombs are fired. Left Camp 3 pm with Lt Hubbe; met Lucmoore & Stanton of LH on train and all went to Zoo. Very nice place, large – saw hippo & rhino, also mother & 2 young cub lions. Enjoyed myself very much all day. Bryan Berry came over about 2.45 p.m. been wounded and ill – much better. Evans very good boy.

October 4 1915

Very foggy up to 7 am. Received first letter from Mum & Kate – \very pleased/ also letter from Myrtle Galliford Practiced charging trenches with bombs &c. Paid men with Capt Andrews. Dabster at "Patience".

October 5 1915

Foggy in morning. Touch \of diarrhoea/ ~~dysentery~~; up during early morning Inoculated against Cholera. Vaccination doing well. Wrote letters to Sid, Frank Gill, Emma Johnston, Joyce Johnston. In pyjamas all day. Heard that Noel is still at Heliopolis, sent messenger over with a note.

October 6 1915

Got up about 9.45 am. feeling better. Evans taken away to Hospital with "Acute Diarrhoea". Got into pyjamas after evening dinner, and wrote letters to dear Kate, Myrtle Galliford, Mum, Ray Warner. Tom Mellor & friend in during evening.

October 7 1915

Orderly Officer of Battalion. Attended Board of Enquiry 10 am re shortage 8/10<sup>th</sup> Equipment & Arms. Am wondering if trouble in connection with 8/10<sup>th</sup> clothing & equipment will ever cease; evidently I was foolish to come over with 8<sup>th</sup>, because although I ~~didn't~~ \refused to/ take over I seem to have to stand all the worry &c. Bryan Berry over during afternoon. Most 8/10<sup>th</sup> men on guard from 6 pm Met young Mattie back from front.

October 8 1915

Left for Ranges 6.45 am – Fired competition teams [?]. 300 more men arrived in Camp. Colin got diarrhoea. Bed early

October 9 1915

Received Letters from Mum, Kate, Dad, Em Johnston & M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, also Sea Shirt from Mum – very pleased to get letters. Kit inspection in morning. Went to Pyramids with Lts Hubbe, Owen & Walker, had a look at Sphynx & also where mummy's were (all been taken away); had photo taken. Only went inside opening of big pyramid, but had a good time especially on the donkey I rode around on. National Hotel to dinner, around Wazza at night & home about 11.30 p.m. Two other Officers (White & Ashford) in our hut very decent fellows



October 10 1915

Resting in bed all the morning. Up to Dinner. Went out with Tom Mellor in afternoon to remains of old Napoleon's Forts; they command the country on all sides for miles. Saw remains of old viaduct used by Romans to cart water to Mosques. Had very enjoyable time especially on the donkeys. Woite Mum, Kate, Father, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Emmy Johnston Met Lieut Blackman at St James pleased. Saw Miss Sutherland for few minutes at St James Restaurant, where Tom & I dined.

October 11 1915

Met Charlie Bagot in morning; he's looking well, unfortunately couldn't stay owing to parade. C.O. told us we will soon be leaving for the front. – hurrah. Short Lecture to NCO.'s at night. Decided give Y.M.C.A all the 8/10<sup>th</sup> games &c. Pyramid's photo not arrived.

October 12 1915

Attack formation in morning. Route march 4 to 8 pm . Met Noel Loutit; he's going to Alexandria on his way back on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>; hope we are going then. Evans out of Hospital – better. Sent postcards to dear Kate \ 3 packets to / & Father \ 4 packets to / No photos from Pyramids yet; give him up.

October 13 1915

First parade 7.30 a.m. on account of route march last night. Had light suit washed & pressed and wore same. Met 10/10 ( Lts Battye & Gordon Campbell) and 10/12 ( Lt King) at Zeitoun siding at 10.45 pm 5/27<sup>th</sup> also arrived ( Lts R.H. Brown & Ward ) Bed 2.30 am 14<sup>th</sup>

October 14 1915

Received "World News" from Kate – dear \thoughtful girl./ Vaccination now finishing – took well. Lt. Col. (Senator) O'Loughlin & Major Lorenzo called at Camp. Mjr Lorenzo going back to Dardanelles Sunday; he had a talk to 8/10<sup>th</sup> & 10/10<sup>th</sup>; very decent fellow, Guest night at Mess. O.C. Inlying [?] Picquet from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. 15<sup>th</sup>

October 15 1915

21 years of age today; don't feel much older, but wish I was in Adelaide so that Kate, Mum & few friends could celebrate. Wonder where I shall be on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1916 ? No celebrations here; only one or two friendly drinks. Went to Cairo with Lt Hubbe & Pte English in afternoon (Egyptian Bazaar). Night operations 6 to 10 p.m.; \instructed to/ take up a certain position but were very surprised to when nearing position as we were fired on; didn't know there was an enemy. Bet Mum & Kate are thinking of me today May God bless & keep them.– now a man, I expect, but still a boy to them.

October 16 1915

Left Camp with Lts Hubbe, CMSmith, Gordon Campbell, Battye & King for Shepheard's Hotel. Met Major Lorenzo – good chap, also Col. O'Loughlin & Capt M<sup>rs</sup>Lean. A# Met Noel & went to pyramids, Shepheard's dinner; Wazza and Casino at night. Egypt (Cairo) is "rotten".



October 17 1915

Went to Zoo with Lts. Campbell & Somerville. Home to tea. Wrote letters to Mum, Dad, Kate, W.L.Ware, Geo.W.Bayly, T.Gill, Maude, Girlie, Jean Loutit, Mattie Bond, Eric Richmond, Albert Crapp, Claude Gosling, & Ern Stanton. & Doc. Coleman. Detailed to leave for front on Tuesday morning next, very pleased, but don't expect I shall get to front before Brigade comes out to rest. Noel Loutit expects to go forward with me so shall be kept happy. Feeling A.1. & very fit. \ Sent Mum post-card of Pyramid photo./ Evans upset, can't go with me, but he will follow me very soon. He's a very good, decent & nice boy – he's the world to me. No familiarity about him & does his work well. No men going with me.

October 18 1915

Getting ready to leave tomorrow morning. Man from 9/8<sup>th</sup> ( A Coy 1<sup>st</sup> In<sup>y</sup> Batt<sup>n</sup> ) cut his throat with a razor last night; found out in desert this morning. Heavy fog about 7.45 am. Noel arrived & reported at Camp and we both packed. Charlie Bagot also here. 3 of us Cairo in late afternoon. Dinner at Saults. 9/10 & 9/12 arrived 2/Lts Harriman, Coffey & Peters.

October 19 1915

Noel up at 4.30 & left Camp at about 6.30 am. I got up at about 5.15 & left Camp about 7 a.m. Train for Alexandria left Helmish siding at 9.30 am. Evans at Station to see me off. Gen. Spence on Station. Glad to leave Egypt, but sorry my men aren't with me, especially Evans, my batman, – good boy. Arrived Alexandria about 2.45 pm and embarked on "Franconia". Met Noel, who left by earlier train from Helmish, and got valises aboard into cabin. "Franconia" very big & nice boat; laying in alongside the Wharf. At night very pretty sight to see lights all around especially the blueish-green lights, all round the Hospital ship with big white light showing Red Cross. Noel & I lay in cabin talking of old times; how strange we are together again; hope we both return safely to Australia again. \ Taken to pipe. /

October 20 1915

Slept well. Went ashore \ with Noel / during morning to draw pay. Left Alexandria at 10 mins to 10 a.m.; many ships in Harbour. "Franconia" very large boat and very pleasant. Roll call 5.30 p.m.; and marched men to position \& boats/ they would occupy in case of alarm, Looking out for submarines. All lights dulled at night. Have one gun on board; perhaps may be useful. Nice bright moonlight night; sea calm. Noel & I in pyjamas, Noel reading, I playing "patience". Lts Stevenson & Lucmoore on board. Bed early. Feeling A.1.

October 21 1915

Steward reported that we passed three (3) boat loads of people about 7.30 pm. 20<sup>th</sup>; says evidently a boat sunk somewhere, may be a yarn, but don't know. Naval man on duty at 6 in gun at rear of boat says he saw 2 \small/ boats last night about 7.15 p.m.; one floating upside down and the other one had what seemed to be people in it; both about 100 yards away from us; so evidently submarines are about. Passed 3 or 4 steamers; one has been running parallel to us since last night and is still keeping up with us. We take any courses during day, but are going \almost/ straight ahead at night. Have a naval 6 inch gun on board with naval men continually on the look out. Good chance of being torpedoed tonight as we are getting into the





dangerous area. Wrote Mum, Kate, & M<sup>rs</sup> Bayly. Dinner made us think of meals at home – Apple Pie &c.

October 22 1915

7.30 a.m. Ordered to dress and put on life-belts evidently warned of presence of submarine. Other steamer still keeping up with us. Now near Grecian Archipelago; small and large islands on all sides. Destroyers & Trawlers cruising around.

2 p.m. Steamer above referred to is Transport “Meniopolis” [?]. Was on our Port side and suddenly turned around and made back at a fair speed. Can see a “Destroyer” in distance. A shoal of porpoises on our starboard side have caused some excitement – submarine &c. Sea very blue and very calm. Very exciting trip.

6 p.m. Met 2 destroyers & 2 torpedo boat destroyers evidently on patrol duty. See Pages 4 & 5/ at back.

October 23 1915 # see Pages 6 & 7 at back.

Arrived Lemnos 7 a.m. and anchored well out from land. at entrance to Harbour. Very cold here, and dull. Left anchorage and went further inshore at 12 noon. Beautiful big Harbour, well protected; place full of Transports, Hospital Ships, Warships, Destroyers, submarines &c, in fact everything. Place very hilly. Wrote Jean Loutit, A.C. Crapp, Mrs Hancock, & finished letters to dear Mum, Kate and Geo.W.Bayly. Learn that 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 4<sup>th</sup> Brigades are at Lemnos resting and that 3<sup>rd</sup>, to which I belong, has not rested yet. Orders are that we re-embark for Anzac tomorrow so will probably land at the Dardanelles tomorrow night; if 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade comes out on 26<sup>th</sup>, we shall only have a day in the trenches.

Concert in Lounge at night by the Officers.

October 24 1915

Up at 7 am. and after breakfast issued out rations to men. Got kit &c on board & left for the Dardanelles by S.S. Osmanish ( of London ) at 1.15 pm. Left boat on barge at 8 p.m and landed on jetty at 8.20 pm. Proceeded to Shrapnel Gully Reinforcement Camp and stayed there for night. Very little fighting tonight things very quiet

October 25 1915

Reported to 10<sup>th</sup> Battn. headquarters about 7.30 am Mjr Beevor in charge of Battn. Went into firing line shown round by Lt Armitage; met Major Giles. Saw dead Turk. Met Roy Fordham (Pte) Aeroplane flew over Turks position about 10.30 a.m; Turks had \about/ 10 shots at it but missed. Lovely view of sea & destroyer from 10<sup>th</sup> Hdqrs. Met Lts Fowler, Wilton, Clarke & others. Visited Hdqrs 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade with Noel after dinner; met Reg Norman (Capt), and went round with General Holmes & Reg. to visit trenches; saw looked through a loop hole and a Turkish Sniper had a shot at me, but he was too late and fired badly. Turk Bomb burst near Hospital where we had just passed. Shown round our trenches by Lt Wilton at night, One man wounded in cheek A Coy.



October 26 1915

Up at 7.30 a.m. Big bombardment on right by warship firing broadsides. Beachy Bill opened up (4 guns) but warship stopped him. Nearly all Garrison work here \in a sense/; our position is advance of right flanks. Turks have strong trenches both at firing line and supports. On duty in firing line from 11 pm to 2 am 27<sup>th</sup>; things very quiet; a little sniping going on occasionally.

Heavy bombardment about 5 p.m. by warships at Helles.

Jack Sinclair here as Sergeant; very strange this meeting together of old school pals – Reg Norman, Noel, Jack Sinclair, Roy Fordham.

October 27 1915

Off duty from 2 a.m. Slept to "Stand To" ( 5 am – 6am ), breakfast 8 a.m; slept 8.30 a.m to 12 noon. Heavy bombardment by Beachy Bill about 11.45 a.m. for ½ hr, of Beach, Artillery Road, Gullia [?] &c. Wrote dear Mother & Kate, also E.A. Farquhar & Aunt Nellie. Censored my Platoons' (A Coy, No 2 Platoon) letters. On duty 8 pm to 11 pm, – things very quiet except for occasional snipers' crack and a burst from a machine gun. Feeling A.1. and don't think I shall ever get hurt here.

10.45 pm. Turk doing work outside his trench lit a match and two of our observers immediately fired on him – silly fellow, I expect he's been told not to do such things

October 28 1915

Reported \that through/ Beachy Bill's bombardment yesterday we shall only get ½ water ration & food ration for a few days – damn "Beachy Bill" Wrote Kate again sent her £1 as Xmas present, wrote also to Pat, Post cards to Messrs W.L. Ware, Eric Richmond, A.C. Crapp, F. Gill and my dear Father, also Mattie Bond, & Joyce Johnston. Nice day, but very quiet.

Slight bombardment by both Turk & our gunners at about 5 p.m. – on to Olive Grove (Beachy Bill), & Turks on to our trenches on the right – held by 12<sup>th</sup>.

B Coy out barb-wiring tonight. Things still quiet. ~~Dug-out~~ Fleas & lice in all dug-outs, trenches &c – caught lice on my clothes tonight, been biting me all \over arms./ Star shells being used by 12<sup>th</sup> Batt.

October 29 1915

Destroyers do good work by lighting up Turks trenches by search light on dark nights – doing so last night Reported to "C" Coy at 5 am. temporarily. Attended "Stand To" at 5 am. On watch 6 a.m to ~~40 am~~ 11.15 am. 10<sup>th</sup> Battn. relieved during morning by 11<sup>th</sup> Battn. Big bombardment down South about 10 & 11 am. Turks trenches in front seem deserted during day, Slept all afternoon. Things still quiet. Bed early.

October 30 1915

Resting all day. Nice warm, Aus/n day, Hydroplane (ours) flying all over the \place./ Being temp. transferred to "C" Coy, report tomorrow morning – sorry to be leaving Noel, although I shall be close to him. Things very quiet. Slept in pyjamas, but very restless owing to presence of fleas & lice. Wrote M<sup>r</sup> Loutit.



October 31 1915

Reported & shifted quarters to "C" Coy; posted to No 12 Platoon. 10<sup>th</sup> replaced by 11<sup>th</sup> in firing line &c. Went with Lt Christopher to 4<sup>th</sup> Field Amb, to see Pat Auld, but found they are at Lemnos. Then went to 3<sup>rd</sup> LH, but Lts Stevenson, Wendt, James, & Osborne were out. Left note for Stevo. Met Lieut Ted Derrington and also Charles Bagot. Saw Corp. Fry, late of Prospect. Very tired & hot when arrived at dug-out, New dug-out very comfortable, share it with Lieut Inglis. Turkish Officer expected to surrender tonight; hope I'm on duty when he comes in. Destroyer had 12 shots at Turk positions between 8 p.m. & 8.15 p.m.

November 1 1915

On duty 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. Destroyer bombarding again about 3.15 a.m. Things very quiet. Thermos flask broken. Slept all morning. Book & Paper Post in, but none for me; expect they've been sent to Zeitoun. Few starshells up at night On duty 10 p.m. to 2 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> hour. Can see about 15 yds. of Turks trenches, not barb-wired; evidently something \doing./ Sorry read Gill's mother's death

2 November 1915

On duty till 2 a.m. Wrote letter of sympathy to Gill. – feel \sorry for him./ and letter of sympathy to M<sup>r</sup> Richmond. Reading Adelaide papers – very interesting. Back aching & hurting again; evidently old complaint come back again. Bombardments at 11 a.m. and 3 pm. by our Navy & Artillery. & Turks Artillery. 3 pm. Back much better, after long sleep this morning. Tinned poultry for dinner – very nice. Reports to hand that they are tearing up pieces of white calico on beach, if true evidently an attack somewhere. Starshells from 12<sup>th</sup> with heavy firing during night.

November 3 1915

Rested during morning. 10<sup>th</sup> Battn given smaller frontage of trenches to man; had to shift out of "dug-out" near Lady Galway Road to another "dug-out" further to left so that we are with our men. 2 of us in one "dug-out" – Lt Harry Armitage, Inglis, & self; Inglis opposite. On duty 6 pm to 10 p.m. – most enjoyable watch I've ever done, time went too quickly. In trench once when Turks had 2 shots, each of which went very close – rather exciting, but good sport. Think Turks have deserted their front trench, except for a few snipers during day & night; evidently first is well mined – we must be careful if we attack at all. Turks bombing as usual tonight, but sniping rather vigorous. Think they are getting a bit cheeky.

November 4 1915

Wrote letters yesterday, posted today to dear Mother, Kate, Father, Sid, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Aunt Ada, M<sup>rs</sup> Johnston, Frank Gill (2), Adjutant No 1 Trng Battn. Hear heavy bombardment in distance during early morning. Looked over top of parapet in Support Trenches and a "Jacko" had a pop at me – but missed – he was too slow. On duty 2 pm. to 6 pm – things very quiet. Much cooler today – we trying to rain all day. Some Officers have received an Australian mail ; none for me so far, suppose mine gone to Zeitoun.. 5 pm Received large parcel of chocs. & cigarettes from dear mother – feel as happy as a kid with a new toy. Find it is my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday presents from dear Mum, Dad & Kate. Light Horse, I understand, opened up new trenches on our right,



with the result that a fair amount of fire took place between Turks & ourselves, seemed to extend up long way other side of Lonesome Pine – my christening or baptism of fire, abt. 8.45 to 10 pm. Our casualties – 3 wounded ( 1 seriously, piece of bomb in stomach.)

November 5 1915

Informed that \ last night / Turks attacked the new trenches of the Light Horse on our right, but were driven back – losses unknown. Light Horse casualties – 4 killed 15 wounded. On duty 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – things very quiet. Lieuts Wendt & Osborne of 3<sup>rd</sup> LH. over to see us.

Expecting more attacks tonight.

Nothing doing, but Turkish Sniping brisker than usual. Turks built a barcade near L.H.trench on right.

November 6 1915

On duty 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. – things very quiet. Changed into kaki short trousers & long stockings in afternoon, so as to give the fleas & lice a chance. Slight touch of rheumatics on right upper arm \ near shoulder./ An enemy aeroplane followed a number of our mules along the beach, and when they got into an open space, dropped a bomb, but it went about ¼ mile from its intended target and lobbed very near the back of “A” Coys trenches – big explosion, no damage done. Reported communication trench of Turks where you can see enemy walking backwards & forwards – saw ½ dozen enemy myself

November 7 1915

On duty 2 am. to 6 a.m. Turkish Sniping brisker than usual. Expecting Light Horse on our right to attack. Major Lorenzo reported to be at Lemnos with about 160 men ( evidently 8/10<sup>th</sup> Infy ) preparing a Camp; looks as if 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade are going to be relieved very soon. Destroyer firing at about 2.15 am. Light Horse expected to attack tonight at 5.30 p.m. – but did not do so.

November 7 1915 Continued.

Heavy Artillery bombardments on and off during the day. Received box of chocs. from dear Kate \ – God bless her / No Letter yet, evidently at Zeitoun. On duty 10 p.m. to 2 am 8<sup>th</sup>. Light Horse on right advanced \ about 30 yards / and took a Turkish trench without opposition at about 8.30 p.m. – expecting a counter attack in the morning. Turks sniping & bombing exceedingly brisk at times. ~~Major Lorenzo back.~~

November 8 1915

Relieved from duty 2 a.m. by Lieut James “D” Coy. Slept all morning. Tidied up “dug-out” during afternoon. Pay-day for men today; I did not draw any. Heavy artillery bombardment in afternoon on to Turks trenches. very nice “Australian” Day. “Patience” at night. Major Lorenzo back.

Tuesday, November 9 1915

Very nice day – sea very calm. Submarine scare about Lunch time. Cut finger opening tinned ham – but ham very nice eating, quite a change. On duty 6 pm to 10 pm. Mjr Lorenzo now 2<sup>nd</sup> in command 10<sup>th</sup>. Things very quiet , except for occasional bomb.





Novr. 10, 1915

Light rain during the morning. On duty 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Dull day

November 11 1915

Wrote and posted letters to dear Mum, Kate, A.C.Crapp, Eric Richmond, Pat Mac, & Myrtle Galliford On duty 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Things still very quiet Volunteered to go out with one man as a patrol to search for suitable spot to conceal 6 men to grap[h] [?] Turks patrols; only got # about 15 yds. out. (see Page 10) and had to return owing to flares & machine guns fire. Light & heavy rain during late night and early morn (12<sup>th</sup>)

Noel made Temporary Captain.

November 12 1915

On duty 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. Things very quiet. Dull day with light rain. Earl Kitchener reported to be at Sulva Bay during morning and at Anzac from about 12 noon to 2 p.m.

November 13 1915 See [Page 12](#)

On duty 2 a.m. to 6 p.m. Went out \ at 1.25 am. / with Corp. Cole as a Patrol to find place to conceal 6 men to catch Turks Patrols (as per Nov 11<sup>th</sup>); had safe trip out, passed dead Turk on the way out and coming back picked up one stick and one jam-tin bomb neither of which had exploded; brought both in with me. Returned 2.15 a.m.

Kitchener here today; men on Beach fatigue gave him a hearty welcome. He made a speech. \ (see Page 12.) /

Wrote dear Mum, Kate & Dad. On duty 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. 14<sup>th</sup>. Turkish bombing more than usual, otherwise everything quiet.

November 14 1915

Relieved from duty at 2 a.m. – felt very tired when relieved. Received letters from dear Kate, Sid & Myrtle Gall. ~~answ~~ Wrote Kate, Sid & Myrtle Galliford Visited by Lieuts Friedrichs, Thomas Willshire of 27<sup>th</sup> Infy. Battn. – they stayed to lunch and Lts Armitage & I went back & visited them during afternoon. Met Lts. Julge, & Clyde, & Capt Malpas.

Packed during early evening to go away.

November 15 1915

Owing to rough weather unable to embark troops, so going away has been postponed for a few days. Big bombardment by warships on Actic Barba \ abt 3 – 4 / Had first shot with a Machine Gun. On duty 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Very rough night at times; came up moonlight, then cloudy & windy, with heavy rain lasting about 5 min.

November 16 1915

Slept all morning. On duty 2 p.m. to 6 pm Met Paul Rundle (Pte) in firing line; he's attached to "D" Company; been here about 6 mos. Looks well. Had a little sniping about sundown. Miss my old batman, Evans, but will have him again when we arrive at Lemnos.

9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Battns. left last night for Lemnos.



November 17 1915

Fairly windy day; 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade arrived to relieve us at 2 p.m. Brigade (10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Bns) bivouaced at rear old 9<sup>th</sup> Bn. line. Very windy day, most horrible sand blowing all over the place. Heavy rain at 7.30 p.m.; majority of Officers & men got washed out of their dug-outs. I got washed out so slept in our old line – had fairly good rest, but cold.

November 18 1915

Cold Day with sun shining Beachy Bill opened up during early morning, but to right left of where we were. Artillery firing on & off all day. Turkish aeroplane up about 3.30, our Howitzer opened up & got very close – made aeroplane turn about. Dropped few darts.

Bed early; slept fairly well considering. Div. Headquarters say can't get away for at least 2 or 3 days; hope they soon change their mind.

Owing to rough weather a couple of the beach Piers have been damaged.

November 19 1915

Reported our Xmas mails to Australia gone down. Rumoured that delay in getting away is through a Strike on board on "Ismanish" [?], boat we are going to Lemnos on.

Beachy Bill very busy all last night and during today; ~~very many~~ \ few / men killed and wounded on beach. Our Artillery replying to Turks; very furious artillery bombardment all the time. – like Hell let loose. Only top of a shell case fell anywhere near our Camp.

Lovely day, sea calm. Orders to be ready to move off at 4 pm – hope we get away tonight – sooner be in the trenches than bivouacing on the side of a hill.

November 20 1915

Still here – drill this morning 9.30 to 11.30; men & self fairly knocked up New trawler came in too close this morning to beach so "Beachy Bill" opened up and went very close, splashed sides, Trawler off fast 2 Officers 60 men digging party "Ammunition Reserve" place on beach – Lt James & self. 1.30 to 5 p.m. Aeroplane up during morning over enemy's position Turks Artillery had about 30 or more shots at it, but missed every time; aeroplane directing fire of Warship firing salvos. Few shots from Olive Grove during night; one gun fired 3 or 4 last night & none exploded and about 5 tonight with one explosion.

November 21 1915

Cold morning; word through that we leave here for Lemnos tonight. Reported submarine surrendered at Lemnos the other day – had no fuel, oil, nor food. Aeroplane yesterday (Turks) made out to sea towards Lemnos [?] reported damaged propeller by our artillery. Warships with searchlights shining at night either after submarines or aeroplane.

Cold wintry day; land wind. Leaving bivouac at 8 p.m. for embarkation. Reported to be sever Artillery bombardment on to "Olive Grove" tomorrow Left Bivouac 7.45 pm – arrived beach 9 p.m. see 22<sup>nd</sup>



November 22 1915

See 21<sup>st</sup>

Left by barge for Steamer taking us to Lemnos at 3.15 am – arrived at Steamer at 4.15 am – 1 mile out. Cruised around because other barge alongside Left Anzac about 6 a.m. Sea very rough. Arrived Lemnos 12.15 p.m. Not off boat (“Princess Ena”) until tomorrow morning 6 a.m. Hot hot meal ( soup & currie) boat ) \ biscuits & tea / on Board “Princess Ena” at 8.30 pm \ Spent a very rotten time on beach between 9 pm 21<sup>st</sup> & time we got on “Princess Ena”. Cold night with light rain – shall never forget it. /

November 23 1915

Left “Princess Ena” at about 8 a.m. and proceeded to disembark (9.30 a.m.) Arrived at Camp about 12 noon met Lts C.M. Smith, Harriman, Campbell, Coffee, Huile, Peters. Met lot old 8/10<sup>th</sup> Infy, including my old batman Evans, not looking too well. Made up bed in tent with Inglis & Harwood Slept well, in pyjamas. Capt Redbay back

November 24 1915

Inspection of men, clothing &c in morning. Exercise (route march) in afternoon. Gordon & Evans have fixed me up with a comfortable stretcher (camp made ). Camping near beach; small Greek villages round about. Lemnos Harbour most beautiful & full of Transports &c. 2, four–funnel steamers in Harbour; one “Olympic” & other “Aquitania” turned into a Hospital ship. Very big ships.

Received 2 letters from dear Mum. ~~Wrote Mum.~~ Find that 8/10<sup>th</sup> men heard I had been drowned being in a steamer that was torpedoed just after I left Alexandria.

November 25 1915

Drill 9 to 10.30 a.m. Physical Exercises. Organised Coys took in all Reinf. (8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>); have got Evans, Gordon, Hewish, Hudson, Sharland Lucas \ in my platoon. / Very cold day. Walked into one of nearest villages with Colin Smith; small places but fairly clean; funny never see any young Greek girls of ages between about 16 & 22 about, am told they are locked away.

November 26 1915

Major Lorenzo arrived today, also 12<sup>th</sup> Battn. Very windy nasty day, with light rain at intervals. Wind calmed down between about 8 & 11 pm.

November 27 1915

Dull day. Battn. formed up at 9 a.m. Introduced to Brigadier Col. Johnston. Posted letters to dear Mum, Kate, Father, Gill. Send Xmas cards to Mum, Kate, Dad, Gill, Rose Hamilton, Mattie, Emy Johnston, Eric Rich, A.C.Crapp, W.L. Ware, Geo.W.Bayly, Aunt Nell, Girlie,

November 28 1915

Very cold windy, wintry day; fingers & feet numb. Church Parade during morning. Light snow falling at intervals. \ (my first experience of snow. ) / Made out Roll book of my platoon, also four section roll books. Get very violent pains in stomach at times – evidently caused through the severe cold. ~~Am~~ \ A couple of / A Coy man has diphtheria – 2 tents isolated



November 29 1915

Very cold morning & day. Wind has dropped slightly. Light snow falling at times. Ice (thick) on water in morning. Relieved Lt Campbell at 5 pm. as Btn Ord. Off. Light cold wind blowing during night. Lights from boats in Harbour look very nice – like big City.

November 30 1915

Just reported “Orange Prince” sunk 1 hour out of Lemnos with 577 bags of Ausn. mail on board – farewell to some letters from home to me. Wrote Mum enclosing cutting from “Bulletin” 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 1915 re finding of good “wolfram” in Northern Territory – hope it’s Sids. Cold Day, but sun shining all day. Thinking very much of home & Kate – hope I get back at end of war to Mum, Dad, Sid & Kate safely. God Bless them all. Arranging for Sports Committee for Btn & Coys –

December 1 1915

Very nice day, sun shining, but still a little cold. Received Post Card from Nell Forster and a letter from C.S.M. Turner of Enfield – very pleased indeed, but sorry ~~known~~ \ none / from Mum or Kate. Camp (3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade) in isolation against dyptheria – expect only for a few days. Colin Smith taken to hospital – influenza ? I think.

December 2 1915

Received “Register” & “Advertiser” from Dad. See Flo Forster (Shepherd) \ has / baby boy. Pleased rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Dad & Kate, \ & Girlie / Wrote C/Sgt Turner & Nell Forster. Taken on strength of Battn. to date today.

December 3 1915

Received letter from Emy Johnston. Nice day but dull. Hear Colin Smith has “enteric fever” – will very likely be returned to Australia. In afternoon 10<sup>th</sup> Battn played 11<sup>th</sup> Battn. football; good clean game. Final Scores 10<sup>th</sup> – 8 goals 6 pts; 11<sup>th</sup> – 1 pt. Watson of Ports played excellent game. Wrote Eric Rich, Father, dear Mum & Kate, Emy Johnston, & Girlie Bagot

December 4 1915

Bert Havish gone to Hospital. Very nice sunny day – real Australian. Revolver practice ( 6<sup>d</sup> sweep, 12 Officers ) during afternoon – very good shooting indeed. Won by Major Jacob. Capt. Herbert reported to Battn. in afternoon, after having been out in the Harbour in a steamer for about 20 days. \ Rec<sup>d</sup> and / Answered letter from D.P.M. Keswick ( No 52/9/184 of 14<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1915) re Pay of Pte H.D.M.Lyne £1.5.– not having been acquitted on Pay Sheet to 15<sup>th</sup> August.

December 5 1915

Church Parade ( all 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade ) at 10 a.m Col M<sup>c</sup>Phee ( Chaplain ) gave severe talk re filthy language. Officers had leave in afternoon, so I went with 5 others for a row round the Harbour – went very close to few Warships, Destroyers &c, and enjoyed myself thoroughly. Very nice day.

December 6 1915

Nice Sunny Australian Day. Kit inspection during evening. Football Match during afternoon, between 12<sup>th</sup> Battn & 10<sup>th</sup> Battn. Very good, fast even game. Scores.





1<sup>st</sup> Qr 10<sup>th</sup> 1 g. 1 b. – 12<sup>th</sup> 1 g. 3 b. Final. 10<sup>th</sup> Battn. 8 goals 7 behinds  
2<sup>nd</sup> Qr “ 4 g. 3 b. – 12<sup>th</sup> 4 g. 5 b. 12<sup>th</sup> “ 7 “ 6 “  
3<sup>rd</sup> Qr “ 6 g. 5 b. – 12<sup>th</sup> 7 g. 6 b.  
D<sup>r</sup> treated me for pains in stomach &c

December 7 1915

Dull day. D<sup>r</sup>'s treatment acted well and now feeling very much better, but still slight pains at times. Wrote Pat Mac.

[ *This and the previous page appear to have had flowers pressed between them but only faint traces remain. The first is headed "Buttercup from our Billet at Hazelbrouek 16/6/16" and the second (much larger) is headed "Poppy from our Camp at Marseilles 13/6/16" ]*

December 8 1915

Dull day. Distributed lot of gift parcels &c to men – from Walkerville & Hindmarsh. Went for walk into village in afternoon (Officers given leave) and managed to scrape a few foreign coins together. Bought 3 10<sup>d</sup> Chocs at one store & called in at another for some like them, but they had half ones for 6<sup>d</sup> – I pointed out I could buy big ones for 10<sup>d</sup> and old Greek wouldn't believe me, so after some arguing I sold him the 3 for 11<sup>d</sup> each. First time I've got the better of a deal since I landed in Egypt.  
Lecture 7.15 p.m. Mjr Lorenzo. \ "Guard &c & Orderly duties" /

December 9 1915

Fine Day; rather hot sun during midday. Village in afternoon with Harriman. Football – 10<sup>th</sup> Battn (A & B Coys) – goals behinds  
A.A.M.C. – “ “  
2 Sisters to Mess at night. Bed early.

December 10 1915

Fine Day. Drill 10 to 12 noon. as usual. Resting during afternoon. Received box of chocs from Aunt Ada. – very good of her.

December 11 1915

Dull Day. Went over to another village (2 away) with Lt. Harriman in afternoon – not much of a place. Orderly Officer from 5 pm.

December 12 1915

Fine day. Church Parade in morning. Officers granted leave in afternoon. Had bath in afternoon. Relieved from Orderly Officer duty at ~~5 pm.~~ \ 1700./ 5 Sisters to tea – had good time. Initiation of new members into mess by climbing tent pole – your truly duly initiated. Wrote Mum.

December 13 1915

Light rain during morning. Parade 9 to 12 noon – Coy. drill. Men working very well. Yachting during afternoon with Lt Coffey \ & Blackburn / – very enjoyable. Wrote Kate.



December 14 1915

Very thick fog during morning, lifted at about 11 a.m. Brigadier round during morning parade. Officer of Cordon, Quarter & Isolation on Guard, mounted at 5 p.m.

December 15 1915

Cold Day; heavy rain at intervals during the early morning. Officers & N.C.O.'s to parade every day at 9 am. for instruction until about 10 a.m. Relieved from Guard duty at 1700. Case Meningitis 10<sup>th</sup> Bttn. today. 4 Sisters to Mess at night. Dreamt last night I had returned home and been away 27 weeks.

December 16 1915

Deamt again last night that I was home – must be getting home–sick. Fine day. Understand evacuation of Anzac taking place.

December 17 1915

Very fine day. 10<sup>th</sup> played 9<sup>th</sup> Battn. Soccer. Scores: 10<sup>th</sup> 7 goals, 9<sup>th</sup> 1 goal. Got a cold, hope it soon leaves me. Lovely moonlight night.

December 18 1915

Nice, fine day. Cold not too good, so went to bed about 1230 and stayed in all day. Brigade now have a Brass Band – very nice too.

December 19 1915

Cold much easier. Dull day. In bed all morning. Up after lunch, and out for a row in harbor during afternoon. Shown over "H.M.S. Agamemnon", and how her guns are worked. Very enjoyable time indeed. Time wouldn't allow of us going all over her. Wrote dear Mum & Kate.

December 20 1915

Fine Day Cold feeling little better. Lot Ausn troops landing here from Anzac. Rumoured place evacuated with only about 6 casualties. Understand 1 M.O. & 60 Stretcher Bearers left behind to pick up stragglers.

December 21 1915

Very windy, dusty, unpleasant day. No parade on account of Battn. Sports. Very heavy rain during morning, so Sports had to be postponed. Majority of Officers got wet, and changed into all sorts of uniforms – shorts, long–uns &c Night – little wind but moonlight. Learn that no mails are to come in or go from here for a month on account of vacuation

December 22 1915

Dull day. Cabled Father : Xmas Greetings Kate and all. Well. Love. Orderly Officer from 1700. (5 p.m.) Nice moonlight night. \ money returned, unable to forward cable. /



December 23 1915

Dull day. Had a look inside Greek mill – saw flour &c. Felt ill early morning – sick once: evidently caused through taking pills at 6 a.m. to stop my coughing. Felt A.1. after being sick. All leave stopped and orders are to be ready to move at any time. Light Horse embarked this morning for Egypt. Bert Hewish returned from Hospital.

December 24 1915

Held Sports during afternoon. – \very successful/ Dull during morning. Billies given out to men, Had a most enjoyable Xmas Eve, but thought very much of Mum, Dad, & dear Kate, also Sid. Wouldn't mind being home packing to leave for Victor with Kate. 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Bttns. ordered to be ready to move off at 9 a.m. tomorrow morning, so Evans & I packed my things ready to move off.

December 25 1915

\ Didn't leave today – "Aragon" reported no troops to embark today. Hope folk at home having Merry Xmas./ Xmas Day. Thinking of dear ones at home also Kate. Church Service (Brigade) at 10 a.m. German or Turkish aeroplane over the Harbor this morning and dropped a few bombs – no damage done. 6 Sisters to tea. \ ( Pattie King amongst them. Wrote to Miss Derrington re her, Noel, Fowler & self ) / Strolled over to 2<sup>nd</sup> village in afternoon and went through a Greek Church. Marched past Brigadier after Church Parade. Fell in again and marched past General Chauvel (Com.1<sup>st</sup> Div) after he had made a short speech.

December 26 1915

Up early and packed up ready to leave here this morning. Beautiful (pretty) sunrise this morning. Left Camp 9 a.m; embarked on "Waterwitch" and put on "Seeang-Bee" Anchored near entrance to Harbor and layed there all night. Very pretty sunset. Suppose if I was still in South Aus. Kate & I would be leaving for Victor Harbor today.

December 27 1915

Left Lemnos Harbour at about 4 am with all lights alight. Nice day, sun shining brightly. Had nice warm bath before breakfast. Parade 9.30 a.m. – boat station drill, everybody with lifebelts, Officers with revolvers. Boat going very slowly Passed lot small islands during morning also \ ( see Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>) / during afternoon. (Grecian Archipelago) Passed cruiser about sundown. Had night with Chief Wireless Operator (Day) and Purser (Sutherland); Harriman & Campbell.

December 28 1915

Nice fine day but little cold, hotter during midday. Allotted to a raft with 30 men in case of submarine attack, On Submarine Guard from 4.30 p.m. Passed near Asia Minor coast during morning. Skipper says a small gunboat followed us a little way last night & shone up 3 brightlights – he says it was not one of ours – seems strange. Wrote dear Mum & Kate.

December 29 1915

Up at ¼ to 6 a.m. – very nice morning. Nice fine day. 1 funnelled steamer going same direction on our Port side during early morning (Ascanius) Arrived safely at Alexandria and



anchored in the Harbour at 10.30 am. Submarine Guard dismantled at 10 a.m. "Ascanius" behind us 2 hrs yesterday, passed us during night & arrived before us. Hope my next sea trip is to Australia at end of war. Played \auction/ bridge in afternoon. (Noel & I – Harriman McCann) \won by 1359./ Left Alexandria by train for "Tel el Kebir" at about 11.45 p.m.

December 30 1915

Arrived at Tel el Kebir at 6.30 am. and marched to Camping ground Believe 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Div. (Aus.) will all soon be here. Met Major Ross, also General M<sup>c</sup>Laghan, No tents up yet, so slept outside. Very hot day. A & B Coys arrived about 12 noon, had breakdown delayed 2 hrs.

December 31 1915

Sun rose very red. Heavy dew during night. Met Capt Rumble. No tents yet, still bivouacing. Heavy dew during night. Played bridge (auction) with Lts Hooper, Henwood, and Harriman during night – very enjoyable game. Very quiet night – bed about 10 p.m. Gave Lt Moule a Cable to send to Dad : "Well, Love Kate all " James.

January 1 1916

New Years Day No drill – Sports morning & afternoon. About 40 men brought back by picquet for being absent without leave. C.O. spoke strongly to Battn. re breaking Camp. Capts Shaw, Giles, Lts Moule & M<sup>c</sup>Cann returned at night from Cairo on leave.

January 2 1916

222 Bags of mail arrived for Bttn. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Kate, Dad, Len \ & Joyce / Johnston, Emy, Girlie, Iris Galliford, also Card from Kate. 2 Parcels from Mum, 1 from Kate. Nice day. Went for short horse-ride in afternoon. Lot men in Guard Tent calling out insults to C.O. during night – disgraceful.

January 3 1916

Letter from Dick Ferris. On Guard from 8 am, but Guard (Cordon) withdrawn at 12 noon. Brigadier said few words to our prisoners, who had broken leave. Heavy rain during afternoon – never thought I would see any rain here. Few tents arrived in afternoon and were put up for the men. Mjr Hurcombe & Lieut Rowe back from London.

January 4 1916

Mail still going strong. Received letters from dear Kate, M<sup>rs</sup> Hawson, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, & Mattie; also papers from Kate. Heavy rain during last night. 9<sup>th</sup> Bttn arrived last night. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Dad, Jean Loutit, and another from Kate, also big parcel from Kate. Out for an hours ride during afternoon on a very restless horse. ( Trans. Sgt. )

January 5 1916

Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, Girlie, Mattie & M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Iris Galliford, Emy, Len & Joyce Johnston Windy day. Rain during night. Received my box from Cooks – brought back by Charlie Hooper. No Key. Left by 3 pm. train with Lieuts Henwood and Campbell on 24 hrs leave. Henwood went to Alexandra, and Gordon and I to Cairo, stopping at the Eden Palace Hotel. Went to American Kursarl at night 9.30 p.m. to 12 midnight. Bed 1.30 a.m. 6<sup>th</sup>



January 6 1916

\Other Batts of Bdge here./ Up at 8 a.m. cold bath. Shopping during morning – took Aratah [?], Allan Palmer (Lt 9<sup>th</sup> L.H.) to lunch with us; then 3 of us motored round all afternoon – Zeitoun, Abassieh, No 2 A.G.H. Gizirah and other places. Most enjoyable time. Bought V.P.Kodak Camera in afternoon and took few snaps Caught 6.15 p.m. express to Tel el Kebir. Met Sisters Love at No 2 A.G.H. Back at Camp at 9 p.m.

January 7 1916

Wrote Aunt Nell & dear Kate. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Kate & Myrtle Galliford, also parcel from Aunt Nell. Ride on horse during afternoon. “C” Coy team won tug-of-war from “A” Coy – best team of Battn. ~~“C” Coy won Tug of War from “A” Coy.~~

January 8 1916

Dull day; half holiday for all. Paid men with Capt. Hamilton during afternoon.

January 9 1916

Church Parade at 0945 – last sermon by Rev. Col M<sup>c</sup>Phee – he’s leaving shortly for Australia – real good fellow. Took few snaps during morning with Charlie Hooper –also out during afternoon. Nice fine hot day. Found have lost out of box – 1 suit, 2 prs trousers, fountain pen, cap, & cigarette case.

January 10 1916

Warm, fine day. Parade during morning. Reported at Divisional Hdqrs. at 14 00 for Grenadier instruction. – 3 days course. Lecture at 1930 by Rec<sup>d</sup> paper from Fay [?] Johnston. Wrote dear Mum & Kate, & Dad, Aunt Nelly, M<sup>rs</sup> Hawson, Jean, Myrtle Galliford, Albert Crapp, Bert Lovegrove, Maud, & T Gill.

January 11 1916

Nice fine day. Grenadier class in afternoon. Reg Boorn <sup>\27<sup>th</sup>/</sup> & Steele <sup>\25<sup>th</sup>/</sup> down during evening, also Major Slane & Capt Davies. (27<sup>th</sup>.)

January 12 1916

Wrote Miss M. Simpson, also M<sup>rs</sup> Andrew Scott. Wrote to dear Mum & Kate, Vera Hooper, and Claude Gosling. Lieut Haig returned tonight.

January 13 1916

Acting as O.C. “C” Coy all day. Noel Loutit appointed Brigade Grenadier Officer. 3<sup>rd</sup> Bdge. Guest night at Mess. Rev. Col M<sup>c</sup>Phee left for Australia. Sorry to hear of poor Chas. Bagot’s death at Gallipoli in Novr. A good life gone.

January 14 1916

~~Left for Range at~~ 1<sup>st</sup> Ausn Division paraded out in desert and marched past the G.O.C. \Gen Smythe./ – very good marching. Very nice moonlight night. Lieut Hancock returned. Re<sup>cd</sup> letter from dear Kate & Iris Galliford





January 15 1916

Believe dear Fathers birthday – God bless him, and may Dad have \a/ longer & more prosperous life yet. Wrong in July ~~Mar~~ 1<sup>st</sup> Ausn. Division marched past (Review) General \Sir/ Archibald Murray, G.Off Commanding Egyptian Forces. Very successful. Hot day.

January 16 1916

Church Service in morning – new Rev. Fatigue Party at railway siding during afternoon. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Dad, Iris Galliford and Aunt Ada. Nice moonlight night.

January 17 1916

Received letter from Mum & Aunt Nell. Wrote Aunt Nell, Sid, & Mum. Heavy rain during early morning. Wrote Lieut Stevenson re Chas. Bagot. Received letters from W.L.Ware, GWBayly, Emy & Joyce Johnston. All Officers \& others/ being sent from Cairo.

January 18 1916

Dull day with light rain at intervals. Received papers from Kate. (dear kid.) New Seniority list out, I'm now Senior 2/Lt in Battalion.

January 19 1916

Nice fine day. Half holiday during afternoon. Lts Frederick, Boorn, Clyde down during night (27<sup>th</sup>); spent enjoyable evening.

January 20 1916

Nice warm day. Heavy rain about 9.30 pm.

January 21 1916

At Rifle Ranges all day – very good shooting. 2/Lieut Max Gore arrived, also Lieut Charles Bates. Received letter from dear Mum & Father, also Pat M<sup>c</sup>Manus.

January 22 1916

Wrote dear Mum & Dad, Kate, W.L.Ware, Geo.W.Bayly, Emy & Joyce Johnston, Pattie McManus. Sent my box back to Cooks. Night marching 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. Received nice parcel from dear Mum.

January 23 1916

Church Parade in morning. Preparing to move off from here. Noel went buster off horse; He's now with Brigade as Brigade Grenadier Officers. Rec<sup>d</sup> Observers (2) from W.L.Ware.

January 24 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Emy, & C/Sgt Turner Bed late. Sent box to Base Kits Store giving ~~them~~ Cooks an order to get it from there and store it at their place.



January 25 1916

Battalion struck Camp at 8.30 a.m. "C" left by train (2.30 pm) for Serapoum [?], marched through very heavy sand with packs & all on to side of Canal (5.30 pm) Marched about 1½ miles to Camp and bivouaced for night. Fortunately valice [?] came up early so although a cold night I slept well and warm.

January 26 1916

Tents pitched during morning, and everybody accomodated. I with Capt Hamilton Lieut Armitage in one Bell tent. All desert here & flat country. Well prepared to meet Turks, but don't think a big fight will result. Took couple of photos of Canal during afternoon. Bed early.

January 27 1916

Rain at intervals. A & ½B Coys Outposts at night. Orderly Officer from 2 p.m

January 28 1916

Packed up & moved off from Camp at about 9~~am~~ \11 30 a.m./ and arrived at destination \ (Habietta) / at about ¼ to 4 p.m. very heavy marching, long way, Bert Hewish & I marched together and stuck it through. Father's "Thirst Quencher" tabloids came in very handy. [ *In the margin beside the last sentence are three vertical lines.*]

January 29 1916

Lieut Higginbottom attached to Brigade as Engineer Officer. Camped just behind hill in tents – very comfortable. Had a good look at surrounding country with Higginbottom – went a couple of miles forward & formed a good idea of what our position will be like when completed. Orderly Officer from 4 p.m.

January 30 1916

Lovely warm day – Australian summer. C & D Coys started work about 9.30 a.m. Church Parade at about 10 a.m., only about 30 present. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Emy Johnston, & C/S Turner. Bridge with Lory, Hooper & Blackburn at night – made some mistakes and was cursed, but enjoyed it very much.

January 31 1916

Digging during morning, Nos 10 & 12 Platoons 8.30 a.m to 10 30 am.; Nos 9 & 11 from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 am; then 10 & 12, & 9 & 11 again. Nice warm day. One of our aeroplanes flew continually overhead whilst we were digging, evidently couldn't make us out. O.C. Outposts from 4 p.m.

### Rough Notes.

Talk about travelling. Firstly from Adelaide to Suez, via Fremantle, Colombo & Aden; then by rail to Zeitoun, near Cairo; then Zeitoun to Alexandria by rail; Alexandria to Lemnos by boat, Lemnos to Anzac by boat, Anzac to Lemnos by boat, Lemnos to Alexandria by boat, Alexandria to Tel el Kebir by rail, ( Tel el Kebir to Cairo & return on leave \by/ rail) Tel el Kebir to Serapena



by rail, cross the Canal to a camp about 2 miles inland on foot, then to a position about 8 miles further out on foot. (Habieta)

All this since August 26<sup>th</sup> 1915. Some travelling, eh!

Back from Habieta to Serapena on foot. \ ( except rail head to Canal by rail)/ Serapena to Tel-el-Kebir by rail. Tel-el-Kebir to Cairo (3 times) by rail. Tel-el-Kebir to Serapena \ & return / (3 days) on foot. Serapena to Rail-head on foot. Rail-head to Habieta on foot. Habieta to extreme right of Canal defences on foot. Right Canal position to rail-head on foot. Rail-head to Canal & back on foot. Rail-head to Serapena on foot. Serapena to Alexandria by rail. Alexandria to Marseilles by boat. Marseilles to Caestre by rail. Caestre to Saily on foot. Saily to Rouge de Bon on foot. Rouge de Bon to Wisque per motor & train. Wisque to Rouge de Bon per motor \except [...] to Rouge on a horse/ Rouge de Bon to Estaire on foot. [ *A line has been drawn indicating that the last entry should be moved to precede "Saily to...foot" above* ] Estaire to Caestre on foot. Caistre to Bailleue on foot. Bailleue to Candas by train. Candas to Pernois on foot. Pernois to Herissart on horseback. Herissart to Vadencourt on foot. Continued end March

February 1 1916

Up early and withdrew Outposts at daybreak and posted day Observation Posts. Changed into Short trousers during day & wore the long stockings Mum gave me, Very nice.

February 2 1916

Nice warm day. A & B Coys arrived during late afternoon, & B & D Coys took up for camp at back of their positions. Received letters from dear Kate, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, & Jean Loutit, Wrote to dear Mum, Kate & Sid.

February 3 1916

Wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Bond. Nice warm day, digging as usual – feeling fit. Bridge with C.O., Lory & M<sup>c</sup>Cann at night – lost, but enjoyed myself very much.

February 4 1916

Very warm day. Still on trenches. Capt. Herbert informs me I have been Gazetted a Lieutenant in Australia. Inlying Piquet from 5 30 p.m. Lieut.Col. Beevor's appointment confirmed.

February 5 1916

Up at 5 a.m. "Stand To", with Inlying Piquet as Supports to Outposts. Strong wind during morning with sand blowing in all directions – rotten. Tried to rain about 1 p.m. but nearly unsuccessful. Nice cool afternoon – very pleasant. Orderly Officer from 5 pm. Carial (No 9 Ptn) shot top of his \left/ thumb off. – carelessness. Rain during night.

February 6 1916

Wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Johnstone, T.Gill (2), & Jean Loutit. Turks only 30 miles away from Canal. Read letter from M<sup>r</sup> Loutit. Stirred up by C.O. re Orderly Officer. Bridge afternoon & evening – won. Nice day.



February 7 1916

Nice warm day. Still entrenching. Bed early.

February 8 1916

Nice day. Up at 6.15 am. for work. Starting to lessen size of dumps by carting sand to rear. One of 11<sup>th</sup> Btn patrols fired on by "dinks."

February 9 1916

Windy morning, rainy afternoon, dull night. Still shifting dump. Wrote Emy Johnston, dear Mum & Kate.

February 10 1916

On Court-Martial (Pte Dodd) as evidence. Nice day. Outposts at 4.30 p.m. Nice bright, moonlight night.

February 11 1916

Returned from Outposts at 7 am. Nice day. Entrenching stopped – no reason given Court of Enquiry during day re absentees Rumoured Turks abandoning Egyptian attack on account of Germany not fulfilling her obligations in not sending troops & money to Turkey.

February 12 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Dad & Girlie. Sorry to hear of poor Grandpa's death, but I have no doubt that it is best both for his & others sake. Orderly Officer from 5 p.m.

February 13 1916

Sunday – Church Parade 10 a.m. Nice warm day. Major Lorenzo returned from G.C.M. [?] Bridge at night – Col, Lory, Fowler & self. Nice moonlight night.

February 14 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letters (2) from Kate, ~~one each~~ and one/ from Mum, also paper cuttings from Father. Court of Enquiry morning & afternoon. Outposts (¼ hr. warning) at night. Read Mum's & Kate's letters on outposts.

February 15 1916

Believe dear Mother's birthday – God bless her; hope she is well & not worrying. Slept during morning. Court of Enquiry afternoon. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, & Girlie Bagot. Bridge with Lory & C.O. at night.

February 16 1916

Received letters from Kate, Emy, Iris, Digby, & Hill & Kodak. Nice warm day Court of Enquiry at 2.00 pm. Q.M.S. Rice left for Base Alexandria. Hanen temp. in his place. Feeling disappointed a little:– News of 10,000 British surrounded and and surrendered at Mesopotamia, also of new divisions being formed, which means that I shall be sent somewhere from some of my men, Bert Hewish, Hudson, Evans & the rest of my Platoon. Anyhow I shall see how things turn out.



February 17 1916

Regret to hear of M<sup>r</sup> Moss's death – they all have my deepest sympathy. Started digging on new firing line. Noel over to dinner with us. Splitting up of Company is rather disappointing – men rather upset, ~~own~~ so am I.

February 18 1916

Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Emy & Dig Johnston, and Iris Galliford. & Kodak. Waiting patiently to see where I am to be sent. French aeroplane passed over camp very low down at about 11 00 a.m. Advised 300 Turks reconnoitring our front.

February 19 1916

Outposts 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 am. 20<sup>th</sup>. Nice moonlight night. Turks patrols reported very close. Received nice big parcel from Mum.

February 20 1916

Church Parade 10 a.m. Dull day with unpleasant wind. Believe I'm going to new Battn. – hope so. Rain during early evening, dull night,

February 21 1916

Nice day. Turks \Scouts/ reported approaching during night. Aeroplane reconnoitred late at night. Bridge \at/ night C.O., Lory, & Fowler.

February 22 1916

Dull during sundown, but rather hot during day. Received letters from C/S Turner, & Myrtle Galliford. Word through that change over takes place on Sunday next. Wrote to dear Mum & Kate.

February 23 1916

Very hot day, cooler during afternoon. Wrote C/Sgt Turner & Myrtle Galliford. Up at 4.30 am. this morning & visited Outposts with Major Lorenzo; "Stand To" with Inlying Picquet from 4.45 to 6.15 a.m.

February 24 1916

Nice warm day. Capts Shaw, Giles, Lts Moule & Sawyer returned to Battn. Promoted to Lieut today's Battn. Orders. List No 26 to date 20/2/16.

February 25 1916

"Strafed" by C.O. during morning re Outposts. Digging as usual; last day with my dear men of No 12 Platoon – regret very much having to leave them but have no doubt that it is for the best. Have got a sort of affection for each & every man; they are all good fellows. Hope to meet them again some day.





February 26 1916

Very. warm day. Left wing (50<sup>th</sup> Bttn) of 10<sup>th</sup> Bttn formed up at 10 00 a.m. whilst Brigadier Gen. McLaughan, (Brigadier 3<sup>rd</sup> Infy Bdge) gave \said/ a few farewell remarks. He very much upset. Left Camp about ¼ to 11, for rail head. Col. Beevor & Capt Hamilton rode out and during spell said a few words. Jock upset.

February 27 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Kate, Mum & Dad. Left Rail head by electric train at ¼ to 11, arrived Canal. \ Rested & bathed in Canal with Anny, Fowler, Duran [?], Hewish/ Left Serapena by train for Tel el Kebir at 3.15 p.m. Arrived Tel el Kebir about 6.30 p.m. Slept well.

February 28 1916

Visited 32<sup>nd</sup> Bttn. for lunch. Met Col Coghill & all S.A. Officers. Acting as Mess Secy; village during morning & afternoon purchasing. Received photos from Kodaks – very good. Sent Cable home re change of address.

February 29 1916

Nice day. Took party to "Details" Camp and brought back a lot of forms, tables &c. Wrote Kodak. 11<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> Reinf. joined up. Carberry & Oscar Baring among them. 2/Lts Battye, J.A. Smith, Thompson.

March 1 1916

Mess started in hut – not too bad. Bert Hewish now my batman, Evans resigned. Been a good kid. Orderly Officer till 5.30 p.m. Lt Max Gore reported today.

March 2 1916

Warm morning; dull afternoon. Half holiday for Battalion.

March 3 1916

Dull day, but hot.

March 4 1916

Very hot day. Drilling all day.

March 5 1916

Fine day. Wrote dear Mum, Kate & Dad. Feeling A.1. Bert Heath (Sgt 11<sup>th</sup> L.H.) visited us.

March 6 1916

Received nice parcel from Mum. Warm day.

March 7 1916

Nothing doing except training.



March 8 1916

Noel's Birthday. Had fairly good night.

March 9 1916

Left by 7.25 am train for Cairo. Doing mess business all day Place duller than usual. Stopped at National Hotel. Met 2/Lt Arthur Waite, late of Norwood School. Wrote Mum & Kate.

March 10 1916

Zoo during afternoon with ~~Capt Seager, & Herbert~~ 2/Lt Didan. Capts Seager, Herbert & 2/Lt Didan arrived – staying at National.

March 11 1916

Badge Barrage during morning with Capts Seager & Herbert, also 2/Lt Didan – took many photos – lovely place. Caught 7.15 pm. train back to Tel-el-Kebir; arrived at about 9.15 pm.

March 12 1916

Village during morning a/c Mess.

March 13 1916

Orderly Officer up to 5.30 pm. Warm day. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Mum dated 27<sup>th</sup> Decr

March 14 1916

Recd letter from Nell Forster. Men's Blankets out airing all day.

March 15 1916

Orderly Officer till 5.30 pm Inoculated against Typhoid & Para-typhoid. – arm a bit stiff. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from dear Mum & Father.

March 16 1916

Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, \Nell Forster,/ & Vera. Arm a bit sore, The D<sup>r</sup> very ill through inoculation.

March 17 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from dear Mum, Kate, & Emy Johnston. Wrote Mum, Kate, Emy Johnston, Aunt Nell, & Kep Wendt. Sore throat, arm still crook, bad head during morning, but better in afternoon.

March 18 1916

~~Fine~~ Dusty morning, but heavy rain during afternoon Nice moonlight night. 50<sup>th</sup> Bttn. inspected by Gen. Cox – I was introduced to him & shook hands. Arm aching. Bed early. Rec<sup>d</sup> nice parcel from my dear Kate.

March 19 1916

Fine day. Church Parade morning Walk with Capt. Herbert & Lt Armitage during afternoon. All Officers proceeded to 52<sup>nd</sup> mess for a drink at invitation of Lt. Col. Beevor



March 20 1916

Warm day. Heard Capt \Major/ Shaw left as Advanced Party to 3<sup>rd</sup> Bgde to France.

March 21 1916

Warm day. Rec<sup>d</sup> photos from Kodaks. Commissions through for Pat Auld, Tom English, Beresford, Hogarth, Jose, & Rhodes.

March 22 1916

Village during morning a/c Mess. Prince of Wales & Gen Birdwood & Staff arrived by special train at about 10 a.m. Inspecting during morning. Rode passed our lines at 10 mins. to 1 o'clock, took 2 photos; men gave him rousing cheers. Wrote M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, W.L.Ware, M<sup>rs</sup> Hancock & Sid. Lieut Inglis arrived on duty.

March 23 1916

Nice warm day Wrote dear Mum, Kate & Father, also F. Gill – Sent 47 photos to Mum and 46 to Father.

March 24 1916

Nice Warm day. Lt Inglis left this morning Orderly Officer during day. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Kate, Father, & Iris G. also dear Mum & Girlie Bagot. Promotions out :- Mjr Harcombe \Lorenzo/ & Ross to be Lt Cols. Tempy Promotions Capt Herbert to be Major, Lieut Moule, Armitage & Rome [?] to be Cpts. Celebrated the event quietly. Inoculated again (2<sup>nd</sup>) against Typhoid. Initiated 2/Lts Gore, Dridan, Thompson, Auld, English, Hogarth & Beresford into 50<sup>th</sup> Mess.

March 25 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> papers from dear Mum. Walk with Mjr Herbert & Capt Armitage during afternoon. Met Major Finlay & Capt Hartley 48<sup>th</sup>. 2/Lt Baynes now at Mess. Circus during night.

March 26 1916

Got into Major Jacob's Private clothes for about a 1/2 an hour – very nice too. 2/Lts Rhodes & Jose arrived from School. Very warm day. Church parade at 9.15 a.m. Rec<sup>d</sup> Observer & letter from W.L.Ware. Wrote W.L.Ware, Girlie Bagot & Iris Galliford, also sent few post-cards to dear Kate.

March 27 1916

Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father & Dolly Carpenter (M<sup>rs</sup> Gurney) Nice night at mess.

March 28 1916

Marching during morning. Nice night at 51<sup>st</sup> mess.

March 29 1916

Long Route March with full marching order on, about 10 miles. Started at 7.30 a.m. & finished at 11.45 a.m. Very hot day – scorching. I finished up not feeling too good, likewise many others.



March 30 1916

Very severe duststorm at about 10 00 a.m. Cleared up and sun shone out very hot. Packing up to move ~~next~~ tomorrow morning,

March 31 1916

Reveille 4.30 a.m.– up soon after. Left Camp at 6.20 a.m. and set off on route march for first stage. Nice cool morning – nice marching. Arrived Mahsamah at 11.30 pm. & bivouaced.

[*The following has “See April 1<sup>st</sup> “ written across it ]* Left Mahsamah at 6.10 am. a little hotter than yesterday, but I’m feeling fit. Arrived Moascar at 3 00’ pm.

Continued from end of January. [ i.e. *from two pages of material headed “Rough Notes” ]*

Travels:–

1916

Aug 5. Vadencourt to Albert on foot.

13. Albert to trenches near Moque Farm on foot.

15. Trenches to Wire Gully on foot.

16. Wire Gully to Albert on horseback.

17. Albert to Walloy on horseback.

19. Walloy to Youtencourt on horseback.

20. Youtencourt to \Tieffe near/ Montrelot on horseback.

26. Teiffe to Rubempre on horseback.

Sept 28. Rubempre to Vadencourt on horseback.

29. Vadencourt to Albert “ “  
Trenches & back on foot.

Sept 6. Albert to Warloy “ “

7. Warloy to Amplier “ “

8. Amplier to Authicule on foot.

8. Authicule to Godewaersvelde by train.

7/8/ Godewaersvelde to Steenvoorde on horseback.

17. Steenvoorde to Tatinghem by Motor buses.

Oct 8. Tatinghem to S<sup>t</sup> Momelin on foot.

S<sup>t</sup> Momelin to Poperingney by train.

Poperingney to Dickybusch on foot.

Oct. 23. Dickybusch to Reninghelst on horseback.

25. Reninghelst to Hopontre “ “

26. Hopontre to Station “ “

26/27. Station to Saint Rigner in train

S<sup>t</sup>. Rigner “ village on foot.

S<sup>t</sup>. Rigner village to Bussus on horseback.

Novr 2. Bussus to Brucamps on horseback

3. Brucamps to Vignecourt “ “

7. Vignecourt to Buire in motor buses.

11. Buire to Fricourt on horseback.



April 1 1916

Reveille 4 a.m. Left Mahsamah at 6.15 a.m. A little hotter than yesterday. I'm feeling fit Arrived Moascar at 3 pm Heavy sand during afternoon.

April 2 1916

Left Moascar at 6 am. Reveille 4 a.m. Arrived at Camp other side of Canal at about ¼ to 2 p.m. Very rough trip, mostly through sand. Swim in Canal about 2.30 pm. Took in \10<sup>th</sup> details and/ new reinfo of 27<sup>th</sup> Infy. \9<sup>th</sup> Reinfo/ Bed early.

April 3 1916

French Aeroplane landed near our Camp at 3.15 p.m. Lt Haig & I waited for it to rise, unfortunately it didn't do so. We had a good look at it. Met Walter Williams, "A" Coy, 50<sup>th</sup> Btn.

April 4 1916

Aeroplane rose at about 6.30 a.m. Parades during day :- 6 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. 9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Three big steamers passed through Canal during afternoon \One "Atlantique"/ Swim during late afternoon.

April 5 1916

Rather cool day. Mjr Herbert in bed - \Slight/ ~~Diarrhea~~ Diarrhea. \*Thought a good deal \today/ of folk at home and dear Kate - wouldn't mind if war ended tomorrow so that I would soon be back with them all again.

April 6 1916

Hot day. Half holiday. Swim during afternoon. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Jean & Dick.

April 7 1916

Wrote dear Mum & Sid from Camp, ~~also dear Kate & M<sup>r</sup> Bayly from National.~~ Warm day - very hot afternoon. Left with L/Cpl Hudson & Pte Griffiths for Cairo on a/c Mess &c; arrived at National Hotel about midnight after a very long train journey. Wish Kate was with me during journey as she would have enjoyed it such a lot.

April 8 1916

Wrote dear Kate & M<sup>r</sup> Bayly from National at 1 o'clock a.m. Wrote Jean Loutit & Dick Ferris. Shopping in afternoon. Saw relief posted at Sultan's Palace. Wrote dear Father. Kursaal at night. Gave order to Orostiback's.[?] Major Herbert gone to Hospital

April 9 1916

Dear Sid's birthday - hope he is well. God bless & look after him. At Arostiback's in morning, but find Railway not take loading during Sunday - call tomorrow. Garry ride round Nile Bank during morning. Aquarium during afternoon. Light Luncheon at Gropis.

April 10 1916

My dear sweetheart's (Kate) Birthday -20 yrs old. ~~Wish I was~~ God bless my dear girlie - I do love her so much. Hope she is well & not worrying. Would like very much to be with her.





Arostiback's during morning – sent bar [?] away – great trouble. Out on Nile with Pongo & 3 friends during afternoon – Pongo fell in love with a little French girl. Pictures, (Pongo & I,) during night. Wrote dear Kate a birthday letter.

April 11 1916

Caught 11 a.m. train & arrived back at Camp at about 4.30 pm. (Hæd)

April 12 1916

Up at 5 a.m. Unloading truck all day, some cases been broken into. – finished at about 5.30 p.m. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from dear Mum, F.Gill (14 pages – good), Emy & Joyce J. & Vera Hooper  
Very nasty dusty night – horrible.

April 13 1916

Very objectionable dusty day. Afternoon parade cancelled. Wrote, dear Kate, Mum; Emy, Joyce, Digby & Lex Johnston; Maryean & Mary.

Promotions out :- Lts Hancock & Fowler to be Tempy Lieuts \Capts/  
2/Lts Dridan, Gore, J.A.Smith to be Lieuts.

April 14 1916

Attack & Defence in morning. Midday meal carried. Capt Armitage left for Cairo on 3 days leave. ~~Capt Armitage left on leave to Cairo.~~

April 15 1916

Ranges during afternoon. Oscar in tent writing at night whilst I'm having a bath. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Father, Edith Hawson and Aunt Ada. News of a good raid by Squadron 9<sup>th</sup> LH. on Turkish wells about 60 miles out, about 33 prisoners taken including an Austrian Lieutenant –Cpl Monachan killed, our only casualty.

April 16 1916

Church Parade in morning; Battn. marched past Gen. Cox. Out riding with Major Jacob, Capts Seager & Hancock during afternoon. Nice moonlight night. 2/Lieut R.G.Baynes took Turkish prisoners above referred to to Ismailia. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, Edith Hawson, Vera, Aunt Ada & W. T. Turner.

April 17 1916

Rather warm day. Battn. doing Divisional Duties, plenty of fatigue parties. Saw American & a ~~French~~ \Dutch/ Boat go through Canal. Arranging for Anzac Dinner on 25<sup>th</sup>

April 18 1916

Left Camp 7.30 am, back about 2.30 p.m. Outposts &c, Swim during afternoon



April 19 1916

Left for Ismailia by 9 o'clock train. Arrived Ismailia, met Mjr Herbert (on 2 days leave to Alexandria from Hospital). Arranged with Belgian Club to supply for our Anzac Dinner on 25<sup>th</sup>. Left for Cairo by 2.15 pm. train and arrived at 5.15 pm. Stayed at National Hotel & went around to Orosdi-back's to order beer, &c. Bed early

April 20 1916

\Sent away parcel (fly-swisher) to Father. Wrote him. /

Up at 9.30 am shopping during morning. Saw Sultans Guard Changed. Orosdi-backs at 3.30 p.m. then to Railway Station. Trucked beer &c away to Serapena, Canal Siding; finished at about 6 o'clock pm. Back to hotel, straight to bed owing to a severe headache.

April 21 1916

Up at 9.30 p.m. Hot bath, breakfast in bed. Caught 11 o'clock am. train to Serapena – arrived safely at Camp about 4.15 o'clock pm. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from Emy Johnston, dear Kate, Aunt Nell, Walter Tohill, M<sup>rs</sup> Johnstone.

April 22 1916

Unsealed truck during morning and commenced unloading. Finished at about 10 pm. – last waggon held up at Pontoon Bridge for about 4 hours Bed 11.30 pm. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, Aunt Nell, M<sup>rs</sup> Johnstone, W. Tohill, Mattie Bond Capt Todd here for a few days.

April 23 1916

Captaincy through today. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Kate, Emy Johnston, Iris Galliford & Sid W.L.Ware, T Gill & C Gosling / Wrote W.L.Ware, Emy, Sid, F.Gill, Kate, Mum, Father, & Iris G., C Gosling

Promoted Captain. Div. Routine Order No 29 List No 5 to date 1<sup>st</sup> April 1916.

April 24 1916

Lagoon during morning; returned about 2 o'clock p.m. Extremely hot day; one man got touch of sun. Aeroplanes reported to be about. Lively night.

April 25 1916

Anzac Day.

Bgde Sports on Canal during morning; Div. Sports during afternoon. 2 Hostile Aeroplanes reported to be about – one said to have dropped bombs on Port Said. Very hot day.

April 26 1916

Extremely hot day. Dusty as usual during afternoon. Swim in Canal in afternoon. Lively night. Resigned as Secy. of Mess. – Jose to take over.

April 27 1916

~~Bad~~ Pains in/ stomach during day – in bed all day. Hot & dusty as usual Rec<sup>d</sup> nice letter from dear Kate. Much better at night.



April 28 1916

Up at 4.30 a.m. Divisional stunt during morning, Attack on Rail-head. Nice cool morning, but dusty during midday. Wrote Emy Johnston & darling Kate.

April 29 1916

Rifle ranges morning and afternoon. Dusty afternoon as usual. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Myrtle Galliford.

April 30 1916

Church Parade at 7.30 o'clock a.m. Wrote dear Mum, & Kate (sending P.Cards), Myrtle Galliford, & Father.

30/4/16

Serapena – situated alongside Suez Canal. Been camped here for some time now, and can't say I like the place. The sun at present is scorching, and has been for weeks; dust flies around at intervals and regularly every afternoon, & makes things very unpleasant. The nights are fair. I'm by now nearly sick of the War; I admit I haven't done very much, perhaps that is why I'm sick of it. A few aeroplane raids over Pt Said during the month also a scrap between our Light Horse, & Imp. Yeomanry against some Austro-Germans, resulting in a victory for us. Wish we would soon move. (home.)

May 1 1916

Received 2 letters from dear Kate, and one from Jean Loutit. Lieut Todd reported for duty today. Night operations at night.

May 2 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Mary Begnian. Parcel from dear Mum. Inspection afternoon by Gen. Godlee. Dusty afternoon. Hot day. 2/Lt Loudon reported for duty – No 12 Platoon.

May 3 1916

Up early. Parade at 7 am. Advanced Guard & Rear Guard action. – very good. X My promotion out in Battalion Orders, but Clarke's name put before mine. Spoke to Adjutant (Capt Loutit) about it – he informed me that it is alright, I am senior to Clarke, & that Clarke understands. Expecting to move soon.

May 4 1916

Fairly nice day. Swim in Canal during afternoon. Informed that a steamer from Australia went through Canal about 4 o'clock p.m. and a lady from deck called out "Any South Australians there?" The whole crowd of 50<sup>th</sup> called out in answer. Wish I was home & the War over.

May 5 1916

Fairly hot day. Orders received for 49<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> Battns. to proceed to Rail-Head on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> – evidently means something doing. Thinking of Home folk & Kate very much lately; hope I shall soon see them all again,



May 6 1916

Warm day. Long night, but I went to bed early. News of our moving to rail-head in a few days.

May 7 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from C/Sgt Turner Mary Begnian. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, C/Sgt Turner Mary B, Jean Loutit Extremely hot day. Tents struck at 5 a.m. & railed to Rail-head. Packing up during the day. Bgde Field Officer from 6 p.m. \Major Jacob straffing all afternoon & especially at Mess to Coy Cmdrs./ Lieut J.L. Haig rec<sup>d</sup> orders that he was being returned to Australia & to report at Tel-el-Kabir at 9 tomorrow. Haig upset.

May 8 1916

Up at 5 a.m. Good nights rest. B 49<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> Bttns, M.G.Coy & Bgde HdQrs left for Rail-head at 0730, route march per road – arrived at new Camp at about 1000. Very nice Camp. Capt Seager & 2/Lt T. Smith have orders to report late on at Training Battn – Seager upset. Relieved by Armitage of Bgde Field Officer at Retreat.

May 9 1916

Left Camp \at 9 a.m./ & route marched towards front trenches. Got out about 3 or 4 miles & returned arriving back at about 11.30 am. Extremely hot, running with perspiration myself. No afternoon parade. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from dear Mum, Kate, Father, & Girlie Bagot. Took Summary of Evidence case of Cpl Wills absent without leave.

May 10 1916

Reveille 4 o'clock am. Breakfast 4.30 am. Left Camp for No 3 Post Habiete (48<sup>th</sup> Battn) at 5.30 a.m. & arrived back at about 10.15 a.m. Warm midday.

May 11 1916

12 Months today since I went into Camp. Parade 5.30 to 9.30 a.m. – very nice. \French/ Aeroplane flew \very low/ over us during parade and I waved my white fly swish at him & he waved back. French friendship for Australians. News of Germany offering Peace. Wrote dear Mum & Father.

May 12 1916

Parade 5.30 to 9.30 a.m. Capt Seager & 2/Lt T. Smith left with few N.C.O.'s for No.13 Trng. Battn – Seager very upset. Slept during afternoon. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Lil McManus. Rough, at sand-blowing night – steadier during morning.

May 13 1916

“Mobile Column” stunt cancelled. Sky cloudy – (how about some rain) but it's still hot. Reg Williams gone back to 52<sup>nd</sup> (was to be in charge of Transport of Mob. Col.) Rec<sup>d</sup> photos from dear Kate of herself – my word they are lovely – she's a fine girl – do me, God bless her. Wrote dear Kate, & Girlie, & Lily McManus.



May 14 1916

Extremely hot day; heat terrible. Church in morning – I read the Service \Lesson./  
O.C.Outposts at night. Called down Coy lines at about 10.15 pm. to watch \suspicious/  
movements of a Private – put man in Guard tent.  
Kate's photo beautiful.

May 15 1916

Breakfast in bed. Heat something awful – everybody cursing. News out that we move on  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>. Relieved T.Hancock as Bgde Field Officer owing to him having fluid on knee.  
Nice & cool at night. Lieut J.A. Smith temperature 103.4.

May 16 1916

Breakfast in bed. Field Officer today. Extremely hot as usual. Wrote dear Mum & Kate – mail  
closes 5 pm. 52<sup>nd</sup> Bttn. arrived Rail Head; leaving for front line tomorrow morning.

May 17 1916

52<sup>nd</sup> Battn. left about 5.30 a.m. for front line. Heat – terrible. Wind – rotten. An awful day; wind  
& sand blowing hard; tent fell down  
F.G.C.M. on Sgt Bootmaker of 49<sup>th</sup> Battn. Mjr Herbert President. Capt Gray (49<sup>th</sup>) Junior  
member. Capt Moule out to evening meal.

May 24 1916

Nice warm day. Target practice during afternoon. Orders out for move, but no date.

May 25 1916

Paid Nos 10 & 11 Platoons during morning. 49<sup>th</sup> Battn. leaving in a few days for Rail Head; 50<sup>th</sup>  
to extend their line to the right. Rode out with Armitage to new positions of "C" Coy during  
afternoon – to extreme right. Up late packing, also fixing pay.

May 26 1916

Up at about 3 o'clock a.m. Breakfast 3.30 a.m. Left Camp 4.15 & arrived at destination (extreme  
right of defences) at about 7 o'clock a.m. Nice cool morning, so march easy. Took over from Capt  
Gray (A Coy, 49<sup>th</sup> Battn). 50<sup>th</sup> Battn now holds line 8 to 9 miles long. Wrote short line to dear  
Mum & Kate. 49<sup>th</sup> (A Coy) left about 4.30 pm.  
Settling down comfortably – wouldn't mind stopping here for a few months.

May 27 1916

Spent morning cleaning up camp. Capt Armitage over during morning. Telephone  
communication established with right-half Battn. Hdqrs & "C" Coy Hdqrs. Capt Jeffries here to  
tea & sleep. Light Horse Colonel \Col Grant/ & Mjr Jacob here inspecting – believe we shall  
be relieved in a few days by the Light Horse. Slept in Camp.





May 28 1916

Capt. Jeffries left about 4.45 a.m. Sgt. Riggs promotion through to 2/Lieut – to report to “D” Coy. Sgt Cheney to come to No 10 Platoon. Very busy at night. Bed 10 pm.

May 29 1916

Fairly hot day. \ 11<sup>th</sup> L.H. water arrived, but taken over by us./ Padre Walden out to dinner & tea – held Church Service during afternoon. Orders to pack up & move this morning, but cancelled ½ hour after given. All blankets except 1 per man to be rolled in bundles of ten & sent away, but camels did not turn up. Lying outside up to 10 a.m. listening to experience of a few old hands – very funny.

May 30 1916

Recd letter from Emy Johnston. Nice cool day, but slight sand blowing at intervals. Climbed on top of rear sandhills with Thompson during morning. Expect to be relieved tomorrow. Bed 9.30 pm. earlier than usual. Orders through nobody to deal off of Orosdi-backs – am surprised.

May 31 1916

Major Jacob & Capt (D) Jeffries here at 6 am. for sick parade. Informed left half Battn. being relieved tomorrow morning & that the [ *deleted illegible* ] \ “8<sup>th</sup> Hampshires” / (English Regt) will relieve us. 8<sup>th</sup> Hamps \ (Capt Kingdom in charge) arrived during morning & took over during afternoon. Baggage sent away during afternoon. Bivouac in lines during night.

June 1 1916

Reveille 0230. Breakfast 0250. “Fell in” & moved off at 0330. Waited on “Dead Camel Ridge” for Nos 11 & 12 Platoons, & marched to Camp at Rail Head arriving at 0645. Pitched tents & settled down, Issued clothing &c to men during afternoon – very busy.

June 2 1916

Reveille 02 30. No breakfast – orderlies slack. ( I had 2 pieces bread & marmalade, 2 pieces bread, milk & sugar, & managed to get a cup of tea from Coy Cooks.) Battn. left Camp at 0400 for Serapena Mens Kits steamed (deverminised), in meantime men walking around in Great-coats. Men swimming & after lunch fell in ( at 1430 & marched back to rail-head Camp – tough going, feel very tired.

June 3 1916

No parades, so rested. Very dusty, unpleasant day. Nice cool night.

June 4 1916

Bgde. Church Parade 0630, then marched past Brigadier. Master parade 10 00. Dusty day. Left Camp with Mjr Ridley, Capts Moule & Walden by Motor Car for Railway Stn at 15.00 (3pm.) Caught train \ (49<sup>th</sup> Battn)/ (slept some of voyage) which left Serapena sideing at 5 p.m. ( Col Lorenzo, Mjr Slane in same truck.)



June 5 1916

Arrived boat (H.M.T. "Arcadian") about 2.00 o'clock a.m. Acting as Adjutant, 50<sup>th</sup> Battn. \Noel Ship's Adj./ 49<sup>th</sup> Bttm immediately embarked.

50<sup>th</sup> Bttm arrived:— 3 Off 170 Other ranks 445 \0545/  
26 " 821 " " 0900

11 men over strength sent to Camp A. Embarkation fair. Changed all mens Egyptian money for English. Left wharf 1720 (20 past 5 p.m.) & anchored in Harbor. Bed about 11 p.m.

June 6 1916

Left Alexandria at 0800 escorted by Destroyer. "Japanese Prince" just ahead of us. Nice day. Boat Station drill 11 00 o'clock a.m. Going fair pace ~~at night~~ at sundown. Bed late.

June 7 1916

Nice day, sea calm. Feeling A.1. Passed several ships during day. In view of Isle of Crete from midday onwards – a very big island. Two destroyers picked us up about 10 00 o'clock am, one escorted us all day; also escorted at night. This is a beautiful trip & I like it very much Boat Station drill 1630 (4.30 p.m.) A dove settled on the Bridge in afternoon, then flew away & came back again: Is this "Good luck" 50<sup>th</sup> Battn using bath during afternoon. Lovely moonlight night. Bed early.

June 8 1916

Lovely day. Passed several steamers during day. Not being escorted, am told this area is quite safe. Lovely moonlight night, and beautiful on deck. Nice breeze. Mum or Kate would enjoy this trip very much. Feeling very well.

June 9 1916

Nice warm bright day. Passed Malta about 10 o'clock a.m., reminds one of Anzac, Helles & Suvla by coast line. All men got their Kit Bags up from Hold and changed into their Ausn. uniforms, & returned Kit Bags to Hold. Very severe fog during night & early morning; watching from deck. We're going pretty fast with no lights, siren blowing at intervals. Heard another steamer hooting, Passed through minefield about 10.30 pm.

June 10 1916

Dull day \morning/, but brighter in afternoon. Passed "Sardinia" about 10 a.m. Choppy sea, with strong wind blowing. Oscar Baring in Hospital – dysentery. News through of Memorial Service \at Paris/ for Lord Kitchener & others of "Hampshire". Very rough at sundown, boat rocking terribly, but it's A.1.

June 11 1916

Rough day. Asleep all morning few Officers & men sick. Oscar Baring sea-sick in Hospital. Sighted land about midday. Arrived Marseilles about 3 pm Very nice place from ship, looks exceptionally pretty, big hills from ~~bea~~ seashore. Went ashore at night, had a look at Marseilles.



June 12 1916

Disembarked at about 8.30 a.m. Battn marched to Camp (Fournier) about 2 miles from docks, but \almost/ alongside beach. Left leather box with others on wharf. All men except ½ D Coy on leave all afternoon Capt Hancock & I walked alongside sea-wall for long way – very nice. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from M<sup>rs</sup> Bond & paper from W.L.W. Camped in somebody's front garden – very nice.

June 13 1916

See page 17 at back of book. [ *Additional notes re Marseilles.*]

Lovely day. Left Camp about 9.15 am. for train. Left by train at 12.45. A few short halts during the voyage, but stopped at "Orange" for tea from 6.15 to 7.15 p.m. – not too much time. The country we have been through is most beautiful; everything is nice & green. It is the prettiest country I have ever seen The roads are all good & mostly lined with Plane trees, adding to the country's picturesqueness. The people cheer us all along our route.

June 14 1916

Dull day, with rain & sunshine at intervals. Transferred to "D" Coy as 2<sup>nd</sup> in Comm.: Todd to "C". Going through same beautiful country, and journey does not get monotonous. Passed through one long tunnel, 6 mins to go through. Young lad named " P. Guillemin" gave me piece of paper with his address & short note on. All clocks put on 1 hr at midnight.

June 15 1916

Dull day with occasional sunshine Still going through beautiful country, with plenty of trees – everything is nice & green. Stopped at Etaples for a short time – soon after could see English Channel. Got slight cold.. Cold day. Arrived at ~~Hazelbrook~~ \Caestre/ at about on 16<sup>th</sup>.

June 16 1916

Arrived at ~~Hazelbrook~~ \Caestre/ at about 10 mins to 1 o'clock a.m. and marched about 2 to 3 miles to Billet at a farm. Men (13 & 15 Ptns) in a Barn & Officers \ (self, Didan] & Jose)/ have a room in the house. Real country affair, cows, pigs, fowls &c all over the place. Bed about 3.30 a.m. & up at about 10.30 a.m. Plainly hear artillery fire at a distance. Wrote dear Mum & Kate. Went for a walk with Lt. Didan round estate ( 2/Lt Jose here also). Artillery very severe about 11 pm

June 17 1916

Wrote Emy Johnston & M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, also M<sup>elle</sup> Marie Nichel & M<sup>e</sup> I.Guillemin. Heavy artillery bombardment in distance during early morning. Route march 10.30 to 11.30 a.m. Aeroplanes in plenty flying all over the front line; observation balloons up too. Dull day with occasional sunshine. C.O., Mjr Jacob & D<sup>r</sup> Jeffries over during afternoon. Oscar Baring over for a chat.

June 18 1916

Battn. Church Parade at 0900 at "B" Coys Bivouac, then marched past C.O.( Lt.Col Hurcombe ) Capt of Day from 1800 (6 o'clock pm ) Had an enjoyable night at a house in the village with Capts Hancock, Todd, Fowler, (D<sup>r</sup>.) Jeffries, & Walden (Padre).



June 19 1916

Dull day. Packed up & left billet at 1000 (10 o'clock am) & marched to new billet at "Sailly" after a very strenuous march of about 14 miles. Men very tired at night & in bed early. Met C.Q.M.S. Harries of "C" Coy 10<sup>th</sup> Infy. Saw Capt Henwood on march. Sent \ ( Mail-C) / short note to Lieut Inglis, by Harries. Am told this village shelled & gassed at times. Oscar blistered foot after march – on light duty.

June 20 1916

Saw Capt Bates' & Lieut Shaw's graves at cemetery during morning. Battn. marched to Div. Bombing School during afternoon and had gas &c explained to them, & then walked through a trench filled with poisonous gas with helmets on, then through another trench filled with "Teek (or tique)" gas, not poisonous, but makes eyes watery. Pictures at night with Jose.

June 21 1916

Fairly busy night in trenches from sound of guns & \light of/ starshells &c. Capt T.Hancock out at trenches during day. Sent note per 2/Lt Evans to Lt Hubbe. ( Pioneers 3<sup>d</sup> Bgde). Lieut Gore to be Grenadier Officer J.A.Smith to be Scout & Intelligence Officer 2/Lt English to be Transport Officer Believe Capt Clark to be Bgde Intell. Officer, Feeling A.1. except for slight cold.

☞ Doesn't get dark here until about 10.30 p.m. Sent two post-cards to dear Kate.

June 22 1916

Busy night in trenches. Out to billet, during morning, which we are to occupy next move. Seems very nice. Went on to where "C" Coy are going (now occupied by 51<sup>st</sup>, "A" Coy), and was there during \a/ bombardment of billet close by. Some \shrapnel/ shells fell on our roof – first shelling I've been in since November. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Kate, Sid (2), Emy Johnston, Miss Derrington, Cyril Hamilton & W.L.Ware.

June 23 1916

Can hear guns &c very clearly from here. Dull morning. General Birdwood inspected men of Coy at about 12 noon & had a chat with them. Was introduced to him – very nice fellow. Lieut Thomson reported for duty. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from dear Father. Heavy thunderstorm for about ½ an hr during afternoon. Had nice hot bath at Military baths. Wrote dear Sid & W.L.Ware. "A" Coy moved out to Supports at night

June 24 1916

Dull morning. Route march to Estaire. Find that Pte. named Brady is in "D" Coy; been up Oodnadatta way for 20 yrs, knows Sid, Bagots & Marsh. Bert Rowe & friend down for few mins. at night Aeroplanes busy over German lines at about 8 p.m. – German Artillery helpless. Wrote Miss Derrington, Emy Johnston, & Cyril Hamilton. Sent card to Mum, Kate & Dad & handkerchiefs to Mum & Kate. \ B Coy moved out tonight /

June 25 1916

Church Parade 9 a.m. ( C & D Coys ) Wrote to dear Mum, Kate & Father. Pongo Clark to tea.



Fell in at 10 past 8 ( Lts Thomson, Jose to London also ) with 150 men & proceeded to “Two Tree Farm” where men laid down a cable. Very heavy Artillery bombardment on during time we were there. German guns all concentrated on to one part of line and kept going on that part for 10 mins.

June 26 1916

\ Heavy rain early morning & late at night./ [ *written in margin* ]

Finished work at about 3.15 a.m. and sent men back in small parties – I arrived back at about 20 past 4 feeling fairly tired, Up at 12 noon after very enjoyable sleep. Capt Clark to tea. Censoring all night with T.Hancock; “C” Coy moved out to new billet. Heavy bombardment during night.

June 27 1916

Dull day with occasional sunshine. “D” Coy hot bath during afternoon. Met Major Redbury, Capts. M<sup>c</sup>Ginnis, D Dawson. Lieuts. Blackburn & Gordon Campbell of 10<sup>th</sup>. Received letter from Walter Tothill. Late night at billet owing to leaving tomorrow. Lieuts Inglis & Stewart visited me today – they look well.

June 28 1916

Up at 12 noon. Raining during morning. Packed up during afternoon ready to move off – Wish I was packing up to go home & War over. Very sorry to be leaving this billet; they have treated us all very well indeed. Coy left billet at 9 p.m. and arrived at new billet at about 11 p.m. Bed 12 midnight.

June 29 1916

Enemy's Artillery opened up on our Billet at about ¼ to 2 am and everybody cleared out. Back 2.30 am No casualties. Our artillery very busy ~~about~~ between 5 & 7 pm Quiet night.

June 30 1916

Gas Alarm about ¼ to 2 am

Heavy Artillery \fire/ &c on right at 3 am. Bed 4.15 a.m. & up at 11 a.m. Dull day with uncertain wind blowing during afternoon. Our aeroplanes busy about 8 pm – 19 up at one time. Paid men. Exceptionally quiet night. Bed midnight.

July 1 1916

Nice warm day. Instructions received that I am to go to a Senior Officers School commencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> July at Wisques; packed up ready to leave here tonight. Wrote dear Mum, Kate & W. Tothill. Left Billet about 10 pm. & arrived at Bac-Saint-Mour (Charlie Moule's billet) Slept there night.

July 2 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> two letters from dear Kate and one from Father. Left by Motor Bus & caught train at Station \at/ 8 am. arriving at S<sup>t</sup> Omer at about 10 am. Walked around City & took cab to Wisques (about 3 miles out); reported at school, then left for Wisques again. Back about 10 pm.





News through of great Allied offensive.

July 3 1916

Recd news of great British advance – hope it continues. First parade 9 30 am, few words by Mjr Stewart. Afternoon parade 2.15 pm to 4 p.m. Mess 7.30 p.m.

July 4 1916

Dull day. Rifle exercises. Lecture “Morale, Esprit de Corps. & Discipline” by Major Gen Harrington, who also told us a good deal about our Armies & how they have advanced lately. \”in one week 60,000 tons of metal were sent over to German lines.” by Mjr Gen Harrington. / Excellent lecture. Recitation by M<sup>r</sup> Watson in Y.M.C.A.. at 8.30 pm. – very good. Cold bath 11 pm.

July 5 1916

Dull day. Lecture on “wiring” at 10 a.m. followed by a demonstration by Royal Engineers, \ ( 50 yds 30 mins)/ then by 2 parties of Officers. (I among one party). \ 25 yds in 22 mins./ Wrote dear Mum & Kate. Strained my right testicle at Bayonet fighting during afternoon. Guest night Mess; band playing. Bed early.

July 6 1916

Felt rather unwell on early morning parade owing to the strain of marching. Saw M.O. who has put me “exempt from marches”.

“ M.O. at 7 p.m. – exempt from tomorrows bayonet fighting.

Cinema on at Y.M.C.A. at 8.30 p.m.– saw one by Charlie Chapman (very funny); thought how Kate would have enjoyed it. Informed that offensive should have taken place a month ago, but delayed owing to having to supply Italy with guns.

July 7 1916

Dull day. Feeling much better in morning, but must still be careful. Wrote dear Father, also Noel Loutit. All 6<sup>th</sup> Div. (English) Officers recalled to their units today. Capts Harlington & Herbit \ had to/ goæ – good fellows. Complaint still a little troublesome.

July 8 1916

Left School by motor–bus at 2.30 pm for S<sup>t</sup> Omer. [ *deleted illegible* ] Purchased some clothing from Ordnance ( 15/11). Slept at S<sup>t</sup> Omer Orders for 1<sup>st</sup> A & N.Z. Corps \ Officers & N.C.O.s/ to be ready to return to their Battns. 6<sup>th</sup> Div Eng Officers returned.

July 9 1916

Arrived back at School at 10 am, and left again for Battn \ ( & leave Bag) / at 10.30 am. per motor Lorry. Sorry to leave the school Arrived Bac St Mair at about 4.30 pm & rode straight to Coy, reporting at Bgde on way. Saw Cliff Saunders but not to speak. Saw M.O. re complaint. O.C. relieving Coy here looking around at night. Received letters from dear Mum (2), Emy, Girlie, P. Gullemin & Marie Nichol.



July 10 1916

Bed at about 3 a.m. Up at 12 noon – quiet night. Relieving Coy Officers here during day. I Left Billet at 2.30 pm. with a few sick for Estaire & arrived at about 5 pm Waited up until 1.30 am 11<sup>th</sup> inst.

July 11 1916

Up at 10 o'clock am Resting all day. Feeling fair.

July 12 1916

Left Estaires at 9 00 am & route marched to Rouge Croix arriving at about 1.15 p.m.

July 13 1916

Up at 7 am. Back bad (old complaint, I think); floor was wet but had \slept in/ my valise, so can't understand it. Dull day Battn. muster parade at "B" Coy's billet at 9 a.m. Left billet at 5 p.m. for Bailleul, entrained there at 9.20 p.m.

July 14 1916

Arrived Candès about 4 am and route marched to Billet \ at Pernois/ arriving at ¼ past 9 a.m. – very tired. Slept during afternoon after a sponge bath and a clean change. Good sleep at night – nice bed. Word through that Indian Lancers got through German lines.

July 15 1916

Fathers Birthday. I wish him very many Happy Returns of the Day Up at 8 a.m feeling very well. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, Emy, Girlie & Paul Guillemain Lovely day. Rec<sup>d</sup> papers from W.L.Ware & dear Mum. Back better again.

July 16 1916

Received letters from dear Mum, Aunt Nell, W.L.Ware, Estelle Hall, & Dolly Gurner, Lettie Lasson – all addressed "Captain" except Dollys, which was addressed "Private." Route march during afternoon. Wrote dear Mum, Aunt Nell, E Hall, & D Gurner.

July 17 1916

Dull day. Long route march during morning. Sponge bath during afternoon, then to bed in pyjamas. Up for tea.

July 18 1916

Route march during morning. Dull day. Paid men in afternoon. "Padre" Walden around after tea.

July 19 1916

Fine day. Route march during afternoon. Sent balance of cash for suit (128 francs) to "West End Tailors" per Registered letter. Pte T.Osborn informs me that Kate told E.Lawrence that I am to return in October – expect Kate told her that for something for E. Lawrence to talk about. Wrote "Pridham's" wife re his health.



July 20 1916

Route march during morning. Passed Gen. Cox & Brigadier on the road; Gen. Cox inspected all billets during morning. Battn. muster parade at 4 o'clock p.m. Wrote dear Mum & Father & sent parcel & flowers to Father. Jose ill with bad eye.

July 21 1916

Route march 9 a.m to 11.45 a.m. Very nice day. Wrote dear Kate, F.Gill, Let Larsson, Sid, Capt Kingswell ( & parcel ) & P.C. to Mum. Washing day for men.

July 22 1916

Route march 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Slept all afternoon. Visiting A 7 B Coys with Mjr Jacob and Capt Hancock at night – also at Battn. Hdqrs.

July 23 1916

Church Parade 10 a.m. finishing with march past Gen Cox & Gen. Glasgow. Entertained Battn. Hdqrs. Staff with champagne after Church Parade.

July 24 1916

Dull day. Route march 9 to 12 noon. Rec<sup>d</sup> nice parcel from dear Mum, also letter from W. Tothill.

July 25 1916

Brigade Route march 9 a.m. to 2 pm. – about 12 miles. I in charge of rear-guard on Major Jacob's horse. Dull day.

July 26 1916

Battn attack practice during afternoon Suit arrived from "West End Tailors" – very nice. Dull day.

July 27 1916

Promotions out:– 2/Lts to be Lieuts.

Baynes, Hoggarth, Jose, Beresford, English, Auld, Rhodes, Bowden.

Battn. attack during morning – Brigadier & C.O. very pleased. Men worked very well.

News through of 10<sup>th</sup> Battn casualties:–

Killed:– Capt Chas Hooper Lt Hillier

Wounded:– Lt Inglis ( face – serious ) Stewart, Melville \\*believe recommended for V.C. /, Boyce, Thomas Mjr Giles (shell shock), Lt M<sup>c</sup>Cann, & Walker.\ Sorry re Inglis & Stewart, saw them last at Sailly June 27./ Feel very sorry especially for \ Hillier's folk and/ Hooper's wife & children. Hope wounded soon better.

July 28 1916

Hoggarth away during morning arranging for tonight's Mess night here. 10<sup>th</sup> Battn. expected Beauracourt today for billeting. Rec<sup>d</sup> papers from dear Mum & A.C.Crapp. Heard that Sgt Bob Garden killed – very sorry. Met G.O.H. Moss from 10<sup>th</sup> – looking well. Visited Jock



Hamilton, Dean Dawson & Gordon Campbell. Mjr Redbury, Jacob, Jeffries & Tom Loutit to dinner.

July 29 1916

Left Pernois at 9 am & Brigade marched to Herissart arriving there at about 4 p.m. Had midday meal with Officers of the Royal Flying Corps at their Mess – very nice fellows indeed. Rather hot day, a fair number fell out of march. Piquet Officer at night. Bed early. Tom English & I in one room.

July 30 1916

Picquet duty all day. Real Australian day – fairly hot. Wrote dear Mum, Kate & Father, also W.L.Ware, & W.Tothill, & A.C.Crapp.

July 31 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> lovely parcel from darling Kate. Rather hot day. Route march in morning – Company Parade in the afternoon. Sorry no letter from dear Kate yet, mail is evidently held up somewhere – hope I receive a letter from her before we move. Oscar round during night for a chat.

August 1 1916

Warm day. Route march during morning. Packed up valise – put some clothes &c in Tom English's leather box. Battn. left Herissart at 3.30 p.m. arrived at Vadencourt at about 5.30 p.m. Very hot marching.

August 2 1916

Fairly hot day. No parade during afternoon, so went to Divisional Baths with Hoggarth. Rec<sup>d</sup> two more papers from A.C.Crapp, and letters from dear Kate (3), Father, Emy Johnston, Jean Loutit, F.Gill, Claude Gosling, Rene Hamilton, W.T.Turner, Myrtle Galliford – a good mail Heavy bombardment during night. Handball after tea amongst Officers. Sent valise away to store.

August 3 1916

Very cold night. Short route march. during the morning in the wood. The wood is practically composed of Oak trees & ~~shrubs~~ suckers and is a very nice place indeed – very cool.

Wrote to dear Mum, Kate, Father, Emy J, Jean Loutit, Miss G.Rowe, Myrtle Galliford, F.Gill, W.T.Turner, Rene Hamilton, & C.Gosling, & Paul Guillemin.

5 p.m. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum (2), Kate, Father, A.C.Crapp, Geo.W.Bayly, Emy, Joyce & Lex Johnston. Exceptionally heavy bombardment commenced 10 p.m.& kept going for a couple of hours.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, A.C.Crapp, Geo.W.Bayly, Emy, Joyce & Lex Johnston.

August 4 1916

Battalion attack during afternoon – fairly successful. Wrote Jim Graham, "B" Coy, 43<sup>rd</sup> Battn. Headache all afternoon. Rec<sup>d</sup> typed copies of 2<sup>nd</sup> Army School Lectures. Heavy bombardment during night.



August 5 1916

\Feby 13/ \ Write Dad for new diary. Hope though, it will not be necessary, war being finished./  
Bombardment still going \on/ all the morning; 25 of our balloons up observing. Battalion left  
Billets at 9 p.m. and arrived at Albert at about 1 p.m. 6<sup>th</sup> inst. Slept with Lieut Harry Thomson  
owing to it being so cold & having one blanket each. Did not undress.

August 6 1916 [ See Page 20 at back ] [*The diarist has given details of the damage done  
by bombardment to Albert, another township and local villages*]

Up at 9 a.m. Church Parade 10 a.m. Can see the Church at Albert which has been shelled;  
there is a statue of the Virgin Mary with Jesus Christ in her arms on the top of the Church  
Tower; this was shelled and is now hanging at right angles to its original position. It is still in  
good condition. Visited 27<sup>th</sup> Battn. with Capt Armitage – saw Fredericks, Willshire, Mjr Slane,  
Col. Dollsane [?], Capt Lawson, Lieut Julge MC. Sorry hear Reg Boorn & Norm Selth killed.  
Slept with Noel. Big bombardment at night.

August 7 1916

Dull ~~day~~ morning, hot afternoon, cold night. Capt D<sup>r</sup> Douglas around to see me during morning.  
Physical exercises & bayonet fighting during the morning. Hot bath at Albert during afternoon.  
Heavy bombardment on right of Albert during night. Germans blew up one of our Ammunition  
[ *deleted illegible* ] waggons/ on main road. Slept with Neil.  
27<sup>th</sup> Battn arrived next to our bivouac. Capt Todd left to take charge of German Prisoners  
Guard at Albert.

August 8 1916

Rode on bike to Achense (5 ½ miles away) to buy a watch. Hot day. “B” Coy left for fatigue  
work. 4<sup>th</sup> Divisional stunt commenced at 9.20 p.m. by 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Brigades.  
General Cox spoke to Battn. during afternoon. 27<sup>th</sup> Battn left for Walley [?]. Slept with Noel.

August 9 1916

Nice morning. Lieuts J.A. Smith & Hoggarth left to inspect trenches at 8.45 a.m. – to act as  
guides to the Battalion when they go up. Hot day. Mjr Jeffries birthday – rough night  
Informed ~~Sussex Regt~~ \ “Suffolk’s”/ did not support our 4<sup>th</sup> Bgde in their stunt \last night/.; not too  
successful. 16<sup>th</sup> Btn. attacked over same ground again tonight.

August 10 1916

Wet day, raining during morning \& afternoon/ and all men without greatcoats.  
Major Herbert up during morning telling us all his Coy. are doing in their salvage work at old  
German front line. “B” Coy returned during afternoon. Hear 16<sup>th</sup> stunt a great success.

August 11 1916

Nice day; light rain during last night. Wrote dear Mum & Kate, also Base Depot re my leather  
trunk. Visited Capt Todd with Capt Dick Wilton during afternoon: Toddy in charge of guard over  
German prisoners. Big German counter-attack against 16<sup>th</sup> repulsed.





August 12 1916

Battalion left bivouac at 6 a.m. moving nearer the firing line. The following Officers were left behind owing to an order that only 16 go in :- Major Jacob (at Gordon's Dump), Capt Churchill Smith, Todd (in charge of German prisoners' guard), Wilton, Moule (Quarter Master), Lieuts Auld, English (Transport), Goodman, Loudon & McLean. Very sorry to be left behind but Orders are Orders. Battn gone into firing line – wish I was with them. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Kate & Father, papers A.C.Crapp & W.L.Ware.

[ *The following written at the foot of the previous page (10<sup>th</sup>)* ]

12<sup>th</sup> One of our Balloons got away, don't know if observer got out or not. German aeroplane brought down during afternoon. Hot bath today.

August 13 1916

Dull morning. Wrote dear Mum, Dad & Kate; also sent P.C's to Mum & Kate & spoon [?] to dear Kate. Hear 50<sup>th</sup> stunt last night very successful. Left for Battn. at 9.30 am. – glad to be going to the Battn. Called up as F. Hancock wounded. 2/Lt T.Smith with 70 reinf's arrived. Went up communication trenches with "A" Coy fatigue ration party – shelled all the way up. Ran from old firing line to new line owing to there being no comm. trenches. Stopped in new line after working my way down to end of line. At dusk went out into "No Mans Land" looking for remainder of "D" Coy (saw 1 Platoon with "B" Coy) and nearly walked ~~thre~~ into German lines. Later on (about 9.30 p.m.) found Sgt Mills with about 20 men of Coy & 20 Tommies ( Terr. Oxfords & Bucks) and found he was holding Strong Point 81. Took charge of position.

August 14 1916

14<sup>th</sup>. During early morning Germans attacked on left of my position forcing the Tommies to retire, thus leaving me with about 30 men after casualties. Germans bombed down trench towards me killing \a/ few of my men, but fortunately they stopped about 20 yds higher up than where I was. Had very anxious time especially as casualties were so heavy. Wrote several notes, few to Hdqrs but no reply, so wrote to Major Herbert and arranged to fall back on to his left flank at 9.30 p.m. At about 9.15 pm. when ready to vacate position received despatch from Hdqrs that they had received my morning note & that a stunt would take place at 10.30 p.m. when Battn. would move to my right flank & connect up & another Tommy crowd would counter-attack trenches on my left & join up with me. Attack took place, several casualties in Battn. during operation. Lieut Gore with bombers came along & bombed down my left flank trench, and joined up with Buffs, then Gloucester Rgt came in between ~~me~~ Buffs & my position. Heavy casualties in Battn. Mjr Herbert joined me up during attack with about 20 men, also Lieut Dridan, who got badly wounded coming over having been hit by a German shell shattering his right arm from body to hand – very serious.

August 15 1916

15<sup>th</sup> Very heavy shelling all day and had a very anxious time – word rec<sup>d</sup> later that we would be relieved. Relieved at about 9.30 p.m. I left with Major Herbert after all our men had gone. Lost our way but picked up communication trenches & returned very weary to Wire Gully where Battn. was to rest during night. Mjr Jacob, Jeffries & Tom Loutit arrived later & five of us slept



together. Slept badly. Sgt Mills, James ( Mehn Gun Sec ) [?] ) & L/Corp Hanley did exceptionally good work & I intend to recommend all of them.

August 16 1916

16<sup>th</sup> Left Wire Gully after Battn had left with Major Herbert & arrived at Transport Lines where we were to bivouac at about 10.30 a.m. Had wash, shave, but couldn't sleep  
10<sup>th</sup> Battn passed & bivouaced close by to/ us. 10<sup>th</sup> Battn Officers over at night, including D<sup>r</sup> Harwood their Medical Officer. L/Cpl Hanley acted as guide for a S/Bearers of 52<sup>nd</sup> Battn. to go back & get wounded left by me. Informed of death of Lieut V.G.Dridan in Hospital – am very sorry and can only say a brave boy has died for his country.

August 17 1916

L/Cpl Hanley returned at about 7 am. Battn left bivouac at 8 a.m. and arrived at billets at Warlois at about 11.30 a.m. Saw Col Harcombe & Lt Thomson; ~~say~~ Col. going to England, Thomson returning Total Casualties late fight "D" Coy 2 Off. 114 men, 17 men killed. Had hot bath with Capt Dick Wilton at Div Baths. Not feeling too good, so have secured a few days off duty. ~~Lieut Thomson~~ Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Kate, Joyce, Digby, W/ T.Turner, ACCrapp, Jim Graham & Paul Guillemin

August 18 1916

Up at about 11.30 p.m. after pleasant sleep & felt much better. Went for short ride during afternoon – very enjoyable. Wrote up the account of the battle at back of this diary ( pages 22 to 21 to 28 ).

August 19 1916

Left Wallois at 8 a.m. with Brigade Major for Tontencourt to witness several experiments by the Royal Engineers – very successful. Met Reg Norman, he's looking well. Left Tontencourt with Brigadier & Brigade Major & met Battn. just outside Herricat [?]. Major Salisbury joined up Battn. as C.O. Battn. arrived at Le Vicogne at about 4.30 p.m. M<sup>c</sup>Lean left for Lewis Gun School. Feeling stronger, but still weak in legs.

August 20 1916

Battn. left ~~St Ledger~~ \ Le Vicogne/ 9 a.m and arrived at Montrelet at about 4.30 p.m. Billets fairly good. Signed recommendations for following for distinctive service:– Lt Gore, Sgts.Mills, James, L/Cpl Hanley, Pte Kerr. Tom English taken on Secy. of Coy. Mess. Feeling much better – more like myself again.

August 21 1916

2/Lt T.Smith & L/Cpl Wills gone to Bgde. Bayonet fighting school. Organising Coy & emptying casualties kits all day. Ride with Tom English in afternoon. Short lecture by S.M.Green to Officers on Lewis Guns at night. Got a sore throat.



August 22 1916

On Court of Enquiry with Major Jacob & 2/Lt Louden re loss equipment &c in action on 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> Aug. Paid men during afternoon. Received letters from dear Mum, Kate & W I. Hoggarth. Wrote dear Mum (enclosing despatches), Kate, Emy & Joyce Johnston, M<sup>rs</sup> A.Hisgrove, Miss P.Westcare [?], Lieut Hoggarth, Miss Matthews, & M<sup>rs</sup> T Rogers.

August 23 1916

Route march (4 miles) at 9.15 a.m. Brigade muster parade at 5 p.m. when Gen. Cox gave out cards of conveying his/ congratulations to those recommended for honors in latest stunt. I rec<sup>d</sup> one from him for "great bravery and devotion to duty".

Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Emy Johnston. Wrote W.T.Turner. Sore throat much better.

August 24 1916

50<sup>th</sup> & 52<sup>nd</sup> Battns. did practice stunt during morning.

Sitting on Court Martial all afternoon.

" " " of Enquiry at 8 o'clock p.m.

Old lady of house pulled me out of bed then tucked me in again. Sore throat developed into a slight cold \nearly/ taking my voice away.

August 25 1916

Wrote to M<sup>rs</sup> E.NLee re Pte Lee. Brigade practice attack in afternoon; contact plane flew over & flares were sent up. General Cox & Staff present. Raining \late/ afternoon & night.

Court of Enquiry with Mjr Jacob & 2/Lt Louden re Pte M<sup>s</sup> Ord R. at 8 p.m.

"Madame" went out especially at 10.30 p.m. & milked a cow so as to give me hot milk & rum for my throat, which is today very sore.

August 26 1916

1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of my leaving \South/ Australia, \and dear Adelaide/ and I'm still moving; today we left Fieffes near Montrelet at 9.30 a.m. and arrived at Rubempre at about 3.30 p.m. Very heavy shower of rain at about 12 midday during march. Messed with Mjr Herbert ("B" Coy) to celebrate Anniversary of our leaving S.Aus. May God protect me in the coming year as he has in the past, also bless all at home & dear Kate & may I see return safe & sound to them all very soon.

August 27 1916

Very wet day, streets very muddy. Following 2/Lts made:- Sgt Long (to "D" Coy), Sgt Mjr Green (Mehn Gun [?]), Sgt Mills & C.Q.M.S.Jones (to "B" Coy), C.S.M.Smith (to "A" Coy) & R.S.M. Cheney (to "C" Coy). Court Martial (Member) during afternoon.

2/Lt T. Smith gone with fatigue Party to Chalk Pit.

August 28 1916

Battn. left Rubempre at 9.30 a.m. and arrived at Vadencourt at about 12 midday. Camped in same place in wood as we were in on 1<sup>st</sup> August. Recd letters from dear Mum, Kate, Sid, and Emy Johnston, Father & F.Gill.



August 29 1916

Battn. left wood at Vadencourt at 8 00 a.m. and arrived at Brickfields, Albert at 11.15 a.m. Place same as before – plenty of our observation balloons up also Fritz. Gen. Birdwood gave out ribbons for Military Medals during afternoon: 50<sup>th</sup> Cpl Hanley, L/Cpl Johannson, & Pte Kerr. Battn. left at about 4 pm. & took up billets in Albert. Wet night – heavy rain.

August 30 1916

Very wet day. Canadians arrived at Albert – believe they take over from us. Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Sid, Father, F.Gill, Paul Guillemin, Pte Scott,J., Emy Johnston, A.C.Crapp & Jean Loutit. Believe attack on Mouquet Farm last night a failure owing to exceptionally heavy rain &c.

August 31 1916

Had hot bath this morning. – very nice. Find Vic Elston's brother in my Company. Went with C.O., Mjr Herbert & Capt Loutit to look over communication trenches up to front line, but only got as far as Divisional Headquarters. C.O.'s meeting at 7.30 p.m.

September 1 1916

Went up with Mjr Herbert, Capts Armitage & Todd & 2 N.C.O.'s per Coy to reconnoitre Toms Cut trench & others. Place exceptionally muddy. Got bad attack of back-ache (Kidney trouble – the same old thing), felt very bad up to night time. M.O. gave me some medicine.

September 2 1916

Left with Lieut J.A.Smith & few scouts for Kay dump – reconnoitred trenches. After sundown went with J.A.Smith & couple of men & commenced to peg & tape out Park Lane from Kay trench; heavily shelled when done about 100 yds. so retired & went around to right of Park Lane via Toms Cut, & Box Lane & commenced to peg & tape out from there. Shelled some of the time but at last joined up the two tapes – thank goodness the job is finished. Waited for arrival of A, B & C, Coys & Hdqrs at Kay Dump, "D" Coy on fatigue at Chalk Pit.

September 3 1916

11 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Battn. arrived safely & took tools & went to Park Lane. Took ½ "B" Coy to main road for tools. Germans used "Tier" & other Gas Shells. Had exceptionally bad headache. Did not go up with the Coys to Park Lane to dig in, but slept with J.A.Smith & Max Gore at Heavy Trench Mortar at Kay dump. Stunt started at 5.10 a.m. 51<sup>st</sup> Battn took Mouquet farm, 52<sup>nd</sup> on their left & 49<sup>th</sup> further on left, 50<sup>th</sup> reserve in Park Lane Later. "H" Coy sent to right of 49<sup>th</sup>, "B" Coy to Quarry, "C" Coy & Hdqrs withdrawn from Park Lane, I with C.O. & Adj. (2/Lt Jones, "B" Coy, killed.)

September 4 1916

Left with C.O. & Adj. at 6.15 a.m.; "B" Coy relieved about 5 a.m., "C" Coy & Hdqrs left about ~~the~~ same time. All relieved by Canadians. Had breakfast with 51<sup>st</sup> at Wire trench – feel fairly weak but not as bad as last time. Hot bath in afternoon. – feel very nice. "D" Coys casualties 4 killed 4 wounded. Rum issue at night – men happy. Heavy bombardment at night.



September 5 1916

Orders out to move, but all cancelled. Capts Todd & Wilton & 2/Lt Goodman returned with remnants of "A" Coy at about 10.45 a.m. – all were very muddy. Dull day with light rain at intervals. 2/Lt Morris around with others at night – had been celebrating. 52<sup>nd</sup> Officers casualties 9 killed 2 wounded Heavy bombardment at night

September 6 1916

Battn. left Albert at 9.15 a.m. and marched to Warley arriving at about 12 noon. Very nice warm day. Sent cable through the Base, London, to Dad :- "Well. Love Kate all".

September 7 1916

Left Warley at 7.5 a.m. and arrived at Amplier at about 2 p.m.; nice warm day & fine for marching. Men given leave to Township; 3 Officers per Coy to Doullens. Noel, Capt Todd & I went together to Doullens – had nice time. Rec<sup>d</sup> nice letter & parcel from Miss Mathews, – Weymouth.

September 8 1916

Up 6 a.m. & sent blankets & valises away early for entraining. Battn. left Amplier at 8.45 a.m., and arrived at Anthienle [?] and entrained leaving there at about 11.10 a.m. Arrived Godewaersvelde about 5 p.m. and route marched to billets 6 miles away.

September 9 1916

Up at 9 a.m. – breakfast 10 a.m. Reorganised Coy, during morning. In afternoon went for a ride with Major Herbert to Steenvoorde. Oscar Baring & Simpson over at night for a chat.

September 10 1916

Disinfection parade for men at 8.30 a.m. – then Church Parade. Went for ride with Mjr Herbert & Capt Armitage to Cassels in afternoon – very nice place. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Kate, Father, F.Gill, M<sup>rs</sup> Hawson, & Jean Loutit, and a paper from dear Mum. Wrote dear Kate also Jean Loutit & Kodaks

Sent \2/ parcels to Kate (3 spoons & 1 spoon & book)

“ 2 “ “ Father (2 books.).

September 11 1916

Bgde. parade in morning cancelled, so 50<sup>th</sup> had a route march. Rec<sup>d</sup> parcel from dear Mum also papers. Opened one of T.Hancock's parcels. Wrote dear Mum & Dad, also M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Mattie, Miss S.Mathews (,England, M<sup>rs</sup> Hawson, T.Hancock, & L/Cpl Jose

September 12 1916

Nice day. Went for ride with Tom English in afternoon to Steenvoorde returning for dinner. Wrote Bill Hoggarth, F.Gill, A.S.Blackburn, & dear Kate (P.C.) sending also 5 packets of Post Cards. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum & Kate.





September 13 1916

Dull day with very heavy rain at night. Went with Tom English in afternoon to Steenvoorde & had a hot bath, then proceeded on horseback to Hazebrouck – had a most enjoyable time. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Pat M<sup>o</sup>Manus.

September 14 1916

Dull day with occasional sunshine & heavy showers. Parades as usual.

September 15 1916

Attended Lecture & demonstration of new Gas Helmet at Brigade Headquarters. – met Brigadier on road home and had a chat. Nice fine day. Dined at Major Herbert's – his 29<sup>th</sup> birthday – had an enjoyable time. Light rain falling at night. Wrote dear Mum, Kate & Dad & sent two parcels (spoons) to dear Kate & 1 parcel to Father for Mum.

September 16 1916

Route march (about 7 miles) in morning. Afternoon – Inspection & Washing Parade. Nice day.

September 17 1916

\Capts Armitage & Moule & C.Q.M.S. Oliver & others left for leave to England – lucky devils./ Lt Thomson left with 23 men as Adv.Guard to Wisques [?]. Brigade Church Parade in morning, then General Birdwood gave out a few Military Medal ribbons to men of Bgde. (50<sup>th</sup> – Osborn, Dickson & Smith runners, also a few others, – 51<sup>st</sup>, 3, 52<sup>nd</sup> about 6, & 49 as usual about 20), and then made a speech on general situation. Marched past Gen. Birdwood after. Coy left billet at 3.15 p.m. – Battn. left Steenvoorde by motor buses at about 5 p.m. and arrived at Wisques \Zettinghem/ via S<sup>t</sup> Omer at about 9 p.m. All comfortably settled down.

September 18 1916

Wet day & plenty of rain. Everybody comfortably settled down. Major Herbert appointed Area Commandant. Lecture at 7.30 p.m. by C.O. on "Officers duties in the firing line". Music & songs followed.

September 19 1916

Went for a ride to Wisques School with Capt Wilton in morning – saw Gordon Campbell. Good news recd today in yesterdays papers re Armoured Cars & capture of Courcellette – everybody very happy and contented here.

September 20 1916

Lecture at 7.30 p.m. at Hdqrs by Capt Wilton – tactical use of Machine Gun. – very good. Wet night & very dull.

September 21 1916

Nice day. Paid men. Spent night in S<sup>t</sup> Omer with few Officers Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Kate, Father, Sid & Emy Johnston.



September 22 1916

Nice fine day. Rec<sup>d</sup> papers from dear Mum. Lecture at night at Hdqrs by Lt Gore on "Grenades". Bed early. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Jim Graham.

September 23 1916

To S<sup>t</sup> Omer in afternoon with Capt Loutit, Todd, Wilton & Gordon Campbell. – had photo taken. (laughed just as much as when I had photo taken with dear old Sid & Ned.) Rec<sup>d</sup> nice big useful parcel from dear Kate.

September 24 1916

Nice day. Church Parade 10 a.m., then inspection by the C.O. Went for a ride with Lts Tom English and Pat Auld in afternoon to Saint Omer. Listened to band. Wrote dear Kate & sent her 3 spoons & 6 packets of Post Cards. Bed late. Noel left for England on leave.

September 25 1916

Nice day. Rumor of Zeppelins over S<sup>t</sup> Omer last night, also in papers that 2 Zepps brought down – hurrah. Hot bath at Y.M.C.A. S<sup>t</sup> Omer in afternoon. Lecture by Lt Gore at Hdqrs at 7.30 p.m. Gordon Campbell, W Jeffries, Todd, Wilton & self at "C" Coys billet after lecture.

September 26 1916

Battn. left for Wisques school at 8 a.m. and did a practice stunt under school Officers. Wrote dear Mum, Dad & Sid. Dined with Capt Gordon Campbell & No.2 Syndicate Officers of Wisques School at 7.30 pm – a splendid night.

September 27 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> photos from S<sup>t</sup> Omer in afternoon. Lecture 7.30 p.m. by Lt Gore at Hdqrs on "Bombs." Wrote dear Kate Sid, also Pat M<sup>c</sup>, & Emy Johnston. Sent photos to dear Mum, Kate & Sid.

September 28 1916

Proceeded to Rifle Range at 8.15 a.m. to act as O.C. Range for Battn. Finished at 4.45 p.m. Concert at 7 p.m. by "Dominos" – men from S<sup>t</sup> Omer garrison – very good indeed & much appreciated.

September 29 1916

Coy \ & part "C" Coy/ proceeded to S<sup>t</sup> Omer for a bath at 8.30 a.m. under Capt Wilton. Pte Pulford (Transport) 40 days No 2 F.P. for drunkenness. Football in afternoon :- "C" Coy V "D" Coy. Scores "D" Coy 4 goals 7 behinds. "C" Coy 1 goal 2 behinds. Very good game.

September 30 1916

Wrote dear Mum, Kate, Father, & Sid, also Aunt Nell, Mattie Bond, Girlie Bagot, Jim Graham (enclosed photo to all). Spent night in S<sup>t</sup> Omer with Todd, (Tom English, Pat Auld, Jim Loudon, Beresford (some of time), Goodman, Mills, Riggs & M<sup>c</sup>Lean – very enjoyable.



October 1 1916

Clock back 1 hour today. Church Parade 10 a.m. – received congratulatory card from Gen Cox (through C.O.) on “gallant conduct in reconnaissance” near Mouquet Farm on Sep. 3–4. Pegging \& taping/ out Park Lane.(see Sep 2<sup>nd</sup>) Wrote dear Mum (enclosed Gen Cox’s card) also sent photo to Emy Johnston.

October 2 1916

Part Battn put through Gas & fitted with new Box respirators by Div. Gas Officer. Wet day. Lecture 7.45 p.m. by 2/Lt Green on “Lewis Guns” – very good.

October 3 1916

Received Personal letter from Gen.Birdwood congratulating me upon being awarded a Military Cross.

Football afternoon :- “A” Coy 5 goals 7 behinds “D” Coy. 3 goals 9 behinds

Wrote dear Mum & Kate also Edith Hawson, Paul Guellemin, Iris Galliford, Geo.W.Bayly, Jeanne Loutit & F.Gill (sent each a photo), & P.C. to Sid. Rec<sup>d</sup> letter from Iris Galliford & Paul Guellemin.

October 4 1916

Wet day. Lecture 7.45 p.m. Lt J.A.Smith on Prismatic Compass.

October 5 1916

Busy day. Lt M<sup>c</sup>Lean left with C.Q.M.S.& one N.C.O. as Coy Advanced Party to the trenches. Concert at night by 2<sup>nd</sup> Army School given to Battn.

October 6 1916

Ranges from 9 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. Dull day. School Sports during afternoon.

October 7 1916

Dull windy day. Noel back from London. Rec<sup>d</sup> very big & nice parcel from dear Mum & letters from Father, W.L.Ware & F.Gill. All arrangements made for leaving tomorrow – very sorry to go; best time I’ve had since I’ve been in France. 2/Lt Long transferred to Trench Mortar Battery – very sorry to lose him.

October 8 1916

Coy. fell in at 9 a.m. & marched off at 9.20 a.m. Battn. left Tatinghem at 9.30 a.m. & entrained at S<sup>t</sup> Mamelin on 3 trains about 2 p.m. arriving at Poperingay at about 5.25 p.m. Route marched from Poperingay :- C & D Coys to Dickybusch (about 6 miles out) & A & B Coys 2 miles further on. Feet tired. No blankets but slept well in great-coat.

October 9 1916

Wrote Gen. Birdwood & Cox, also sent a photo to Gordon Campbell. Coy. on defence fatigue all day & some at night. Our artillery opened up at 4.30 p.m. and bombarded enemy lines until 5.15 p.m. – but Germans did not reply. A nice lake quite close to our billets with plenty of



ducks about, unfortunately "Duck shooting is prohibited". Rec<sup>d</sup> nice \congratulatory/ letter from Gen.Cox.

October 10 1916

Following decorations out in orders :- D.S.O. Mjr Jeffries – M.C. Self & Lt Rhodes.  
D.C.M. Sgt Mills.

Promotions out :- To be Lieuts 2/Lts M<sup>c</sup>Lean, T.Smith, R.G.Goodman, J.L.B.Loudon,  
S.C.Morris, & H.Riggs List No 91 dated 16/9/16. B.O.67 10/10/16.

Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum \2/, Kate (2), Jeanne Loutit, Joyce Johnston & Arnold Morcombe,  
also papers. Wrote dear Father, F.Gill & W.L.Ware.

October 11 1916

The following promotions through :- To be 2/Lts – Sgts J.H.Rogers & J.G.Edwards. Edwards  
posted to "D" Coy. Wrote C.S.M. Osborn – am very sorry he has lost his leg, hope they can  
fix him up with an artificial one, Wrote dear Mum & Kate, also Jeanne Loutit, Joyce Johnston,  
Capt Hancock, & Pte Arnold Morcombe.

October 12 1916

Dull day. 49<sup>th</sup> Btn raided German lines at 6.30 p.m. Mjr Herbert returned from Tatinghem.  
Rec<sup>d</sup> post-card from "Marth." Took Summary of Evidence five cases of drunkenness. Wrote  
Paul Guillemin & Clairette Leroy.

October 13 1916

Coy. Foot inspection in afternoon. Dull day.

October 14 1916

C.Q.M.S. Ware to be 2/Lt & posted to "D" Coy. Court-martials (prosecutor) in morning.  
Lt Harry Thomson returned from Paris. Bridge at night with Thomson & Edwards.  
3 men wounded "D" Coy whilst on fatigue.

October 15 1916

"I'm 22 today", but unfortunately cannot celebrate owing to being unable to purchase anything.  
Went up to A.& B Coys with Capt Dick Wilton. Mjr Herbert & Tom Loutit to dinner; Capts Todd  
& Wilton came around later. – Had fairly decent night. Very nice bright moonlight night; our  
aeroplanes up from 9 p.m.

October 16 1916

Up at 12 noon. Dull cold day. It is now beginning to get wintry here & we Australians feel the  
cold very much. I'm not feeling too good, a touch of influenza I think. Played bridge with  
Thomson, Edwards & Waine at night.



October 17 1916

Went with Dick Wilton & Thomson to 51<sup>st</sup> Battn Hdqrs, thence to their front line. Saw Bert Rowe & Owen, also Col. Ross. Brigadier inspecting line with Col. Ross. Nice fine day – things fairly quiet. Lunched with “B” Coy but owing to feeling unwell only had cup of tea & bread & butter. Lt Baynes returned from Hospital – posted to B Coy. Hot bath & pills at night. Dick W. around.

October 18 1916

Spent the day in bed owing to head no feeling too good. Oscar Baring in for a short chat about 5 p.m. Rec<sup>d</sup> nice letter from Paul Guillemin & a pair of sox from Girlie Bagot. Wrote dear Mum & Kate, also Girlie & Paul Guillemin.

October 19 1916

Rec<sup>d</sup> nice letter from Gen Birdwood congratulating me upon being awarded a Bar to my Military Cross. Cabled Father :- “Awarded Military Cross August, now “awarded Bar to same. Well. Love.” \Capt Clark,/ Lieut Auld & 2/Lt Cheney awarded Military Crosses. Head much better at night. Sgt (now 2/Lt) Edwards awarded Military Medal.

October 20 1916

Cold day. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from dear Mum, Kate, Dad & Sid, also Jack Turner, Emy & Joyce Johnston, F.Gill, Girlie Bagot, & M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Heavy shelling by our A.A. gunners at an enemy aeroplane during morning, Heavy artillery shelling by our gunners at nightfall.

October 21 1916

Fine day but fairly cold. An aeroplane fight in morning, Fritz got away safely, also two Fritz planes up & heavily fired at by our AA gunners – no result. \Men issued with warm gloves./ West Kent Officers out to inspect previous to taking over. Wrote dear Mum (2, one enclosing Gen. B’s letter), Kate, Father, Sid, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Girlie, Emy & Joyce J, Jack Turner & FGill, also Gen Birdwood.

October 22 1916

Fine day but still cold. Went with Tom Loutit to Reninghelst – Paymaster & Alberta Camp – on horseback during afternoon. D<sup>r</sup> Jeffries came as far as 4<sup>th</sup> Div. F.A. with us.

October 23 1916

O.C. “D” Coy, \Royal/ ~~North~~ West Kents arrived & took over Coy. billets also 11700 rounds of ammunition. Coy. left for Alberta Camp Reninghelst at 12.30 p.m. also “C” Coy & Hdqrs. A & B Coys came down later. Coy arrived Alberta Camp about 3 p.m.; I arrived about 5 p.m. Men camped in huts.

October 24 1916

Foot & rifle inspection in morning, then Battn. all had hot bath. Wet day & very muddy. Called on Col. Ross with Tom Loutit in afternoon, after a hot bath. Bed early





October 25 1916

Battn. left Reninghelst at 9 a.m. and arrived at new billets \at Hopoutre/ at about 10 a.m.  
Wet day & place very muddy.

October 26 1916

All Blankets &c sent away during morning. Coy fell in & left Hopoutre at 3 p.m. and entrained at that Station at 4.30 p.m. leaving at 5 p.m. Few men drunk. Gave batman (Johns) the "sack", also the Coy. Mess Cook.

October 27 1916

Arrived Saint Rigner at about 4.30 a.m. & detrained \at 5.30 a.m./ & marched to billets near village square arriving at about 6.30 a.m. Had short sleep – dinner 12 noon. Left S<sup>t</sup> Rigner at 2 p.m. and arrived at Bussus (Picardy district) at about 4 p.m. Billets very good. Myself very comfortable.

October 28 1916

Wet day. Parades 9 to 12 and 2 to 4. Mjr Herbert, Lieut Beresford & 2/Lt Green with a few N.C.O.'s left for 13<sup>th</sup> Training Battn – Mjr Herbert to take charge. Mjr Herbert & Beresford seemed very sorry to go, but Green didn't seem to mind. Capt Wilton O.C. "B" Coy. Wrote dear Mum, Kate & Father.

October 29 1916

Church Parade 11 a.m. Wet & dull day. Went to Abbeville with Capts. Todd & Wilton during afternoon & returned at midnight. Abbeville fairly big place and very busy. Rec<sup>d</sup> nice congratulatory letters from Gen. Cox & Gordon Scott.

October 30 1916

Dull day. Gen. Cox inspected Brigade during morning – 50<sup>th</sup> Battn at 10 a.m. He personally congratulated me upon my honors. Capts Hancock & Wilton to dinner. O.C.'s meeting at 8.30 p.m. Capt Hancock, O.C."B" Coy; Wilton O.C. Hdqrs. Coy. Wet night.

October 31 1916

Coy. practice attack during morning, and Battn. attack during afternoon. Brigadier Glasgow present. Capt Clark to dinner at night. Hot bath before bed. Am getting a bad cold.

November 1 1916

Up late on account of cold, & felt much better. Went for 1 hrs. ride after afternoon parade – horse clipped and looks well. Brigadier inspected Mchn. Gun Coy & Transport in afternoon on account of their bad turn-out at G.O.C.'s inspection. Packed valise at night.

November 2 1916

Battn left Bussus at 9 a.m. and arrived at Brucamps at 11 am. Wet morning but nice afternoon & lovely moonlight night.



November 3 1916

Battn. left Brucamps at 8.30 a.m. and arrived at Vignecourt at about 1 p.m. Very nice billets. Dull day & place very muddy. Am staying with a very homely family – Mother, Father & daughter.

November 4 1916

Battn parade at 9 a.m. on a nice parade ground. “D” Coy at Baths 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. ; other Coys. followed. Paid men during afternoon. Dull day.

November 5 1916

Church Parade at 10 a.m. – 50<sup>th</sup> & 51<sup>st</sup> Battns, M.G.Coy, (~~Bde~~) Engineers & 2 A.D.C<sup>'s</sup> to Gen Cox. Capt W.M. Fowler returned and taken on strength. Rec<sup>d</sup> letters from A. Consyn, Clairette, W.P.Haggarth & Base re cablegram. Replied to A. Consyn & sent 12 francs for repairs to watch. Men shortened coats for trenches.

November 6 1916

Brigade stunt at 11 a.m. Battn fell in at 8 a.m. & marched to ground; returned to Billets at about 1 p.m. Coy inspections during afternoon. Mjr Burrows left with my horse as billeting Officer.

November 7 1916

Battn. left Billets & marched to end of Vignecourt town & embarked in Motor Busses at 9 a.m. arriving at Buire at about 2 p.m. French people arranging all Motor Transport – had a very decent ride. Cold very bad. Men of Coy in tents, also Officers. I'm in a stable.

November 8 1916

Coy parade in morning but very wet. Men miserable owing to so much rain & mud. I proceeded to Belle Vue Farm at 11 a.m. to get 24 details for the Brigade – returned 3 p.m. Rec<sup>d</sup> birthday parcel from dear Kate also nice one from Bondies. Rec<sup>d</sup> nice parcel with Thermos Flask from dear Mum, also letters from dear Mum, Kate (2), Father, Aunt Nell, ACCrapp, L.Larsson & F Gill

November 9 1916

About 4 or 5 of Fritz' aeroplanes over during early morning (about 9.30 a.m.); believe one brought down.

Sent Xmas Cards to dear Mum, Kate, Father & Sid also Pat M<sup>c</sup> Manus, W.T.Turner, T Hawson, Iris Galliford, Girlie Bagot, Aunt Ada, Aunt Nell, Paul Guillemin, Miss Hilson, M<sup>rs</sup> Bond, Mattie, Aunt Bren, Emy & Joyce Johnston, Claude Gosling, A.C.Crapp, Rene Hamilton, Jeanne Loutit, W.Tothill, L. Larsson, E. Hall, F.Gill, W.L.Ware, G.W.Bayly, and Lily M<sup>c</sup>Manus.

Nice fine day. 2/Lt Bidstrup reported to Battn, and posted to “D” Coy.

Wrote dear Mum, Father, Kate, & F.Gill, & sent spoons to dear Kate.

November 10 1916

Nice fine day; heavy bombardments about 5 a.m. & 7 p.m. ~~Shoet~~ “Jerkins” issued to all men today. Wrote Mum (enclosing Gen Cox's letter), M<sup>rs</sup> E.V.Lee, A.C.Crapp, & Aunt Nell.



Heavy bombardment at night. Enemy plane over dropping bombs late at night. – believed killed few at Hospital.

[ *From this point onwards the actual sequence of events is difficult, even impossible to determine. Some pages of the diary have two different dates, some even three. The page following the November 10 entry above begins with November 13 (altered from 12) and halfway down the page is an entry headed “11<sup>th</sup> Novr.” On the following page originally headed November 13 is written “Our second stunt – Sept 3-4” ]*

November 11 1916

Brigade practice stunt during morning, 49<sup>th</sup> & 50<sup>th</sup> Battns. Dull morning. Left with C.O. & O.”C” Coys at 4 p.m. for Fricourt; Battn. to follow tomorrow morning. Heavy bombardment all day. Mud around Fricourt & further on very deep; often sink knee-deep in it.

[ *The next several pages of the diary seem to follow from the “Sept 3-4” heading ]*

Brigade took up a line extending from Mouquet Farm to the left \right/ as follows : –  
2/Lt Cheney & 30 men with Lewis Guns at Post 77 on left of Mouquet Farm.

51<sup>st</sup> Battn at Farm.& to the left, then 52<sup>nd</sup> Battn, then 49<sup>th</sup> Battn, 50<sup>th</sup> Battn. in Reserve in Park Lane. A,B & C Coys only went into line with Battn, “D” Coy doing ammunition &c carrying fatigue from Chalk Pit to front line.

November 14 1916 [ *overwritten with September 3 & 4 entries ]*

I was detailed with Lt. J.A.Smith to go up to ~~fræ~~ line on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept and peg and tape out Park Lane trench which had been blown to pieces by the German artillery, and which our Battn was to dig & occupy as a reserve to the rest of the Brigade. I commenced work with

[ *new page of the diary begins here, headed “Nov 15 1916” which has “?” over it ]*

Lt J.A.Smith \ & 2 scouts/ just after sundown on night of 2<sup>nd</sup> ~~fræm~~ starting from Kay trench end; after doing about 100 yards the enemy opened up their artillery on to us and after about 6 or 8 shells had burst close by us, we retired. Straightaway we made for the other end of the trench via Kay trench, Tom’s Cut & Box Lane, and started to peg & tape the trench out again joining up with the other end after being shelled for a [*deleted illegible*] little while.

A,B & C Corps & Hdqrs. arrived at about 11 p.m. and occupied Park Lane & dug in during the night making it into a real good trench. [ *A “Nov 16 1916” heading is here but the diary continues through it. ]* The Brigade stunt took place at 5.10 a.m. & all Battns. arrived \at/ & consolidated their positions. Heavy enemy shelling took place all ~~næxt~~ day (3<sup>rd</sup>) and owing to heavy Officers casualties two Corps. of 52<sup>nd</sup> retired, and owing to the Germans coming in to the 52<sup>nd</sup> vacated position, the 51<sup>st</sup> were compelled to retire from Mouquet Farm.

Reinforcements were called for all along the line so the 50<sup>th</sup> sent “A” Coy to the right of 49<sup>th</sup>, & “B” Coy to the position the 52<sup>nd</sup> had vacated, but finding nobody there they moved over to the Quarry and got into touch with the 51<sup>st</sup>. The 49<sup>th</sup> held their two objectives.

Owing to Park Lane having been practically blown to pieces, “C” Coy & Hdqrs. details were



[ The above diary entry ends here, apparently unfinished. From here on it is quite chaotic. The original dates are ignored. Most pages have 2 numbers, one set in the middle of the top, another set in the top corners. There are 7 pages which seem to be connected or sequential, and which amplify the diary entries for August 12 to 16. They are numbered (in the corners) 22, 21, 24, 23, 26, 25, 28, 27 and will be transcribed here in that order. ]

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The 50<sup>th</sup> Battns. first battle.

Our dear old Battalion left Albert on 12<sup>th</sup> August 1916 at 6 o'clock a.m. for Wire Gully near Pozieres; when they arrived there they were called up to the trenches the last lot arriving there at about 7 o'clock p.m. An advance of about 400 to 500 yds. was made that night, the boys having not having to take any German trench, except that of Strong Point 81, but had to dig in in "No Man's Land" thus bringing them nearer to the German trenches. The following Officers went with the Battn. into action :-

<u>Hdqrs.</u>	Lt.Col. Harcombe	C.O.
	Major R.B.Jacob.	Sen <sup>l</sup> Major
	" N.W.Jeffries.	M.O.
	Capt N.M.Loutit	Adjutant

"A" Coy

Capt W.M.Fowler	O.C.
2/Lieut W.H.Bowden	
" Riggs	

"B" Coy

Major M.J.Herbert	O.C.
Lieut V.G.Dridan	
" R.L.Rhodes	

"C" Coy

Capt H.E.S.Armitage	O.C.
Lieut Beresford	
" Rule	

"D" Coy

Capt F.H.Hancock	O.C.
Lieut H Thomson	
" W.P.Haggarth.	

Attached Hdqrs. Lieut M.Gore. Grenadier Officer  
 " J.A.Smith Scout & Intell. Officer  
 Capt Walden. Chaplain to Dressing Stn.

Those left behind included:-

<u>Hdqrs.</u>	Capt Moule	Quarter Master
<u>"A" Coy</u>	2/Lt Goodman,	Capt Wilton.
<u>"B" Coy</u>	Lieut Auld	
<u>"C" Coy</u>	2/Lt Louden, Capt Todd	(in charge German prisoners Guard )



"D" Coy            Capt J. Churchill Smith – later called to the line  
                      Lieut T.W.English – Transport Officer  
                      2/Lt M<sup>c</sup>Lean  
                      (T. Smith ill)

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The stunt was very successful, A,B & C Coys digging in well, but "D" Coy got mixed up with them; part of 13 Platoon taking Post 81 & afterwards being assisted by Lieut Gore & his Grenadiers & Hdqrs Machine Gunners. From Post 81 to the left flank of "B" Coy (on right of Post 81) no trenches were dug at all thus not connecting up the Battn. frontage (about 300 yds was the distance).

Capt. Hancock having been wounded near the first, I was sent for, & left Albert at 9.30 a.m. on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup>; left the Cookers in Wire Gully with a ration fatigue of "A" Coys at about 10.30 a.m. and was shelled all the way to the trenches. I arrived at the old front line safely & as there were no communication trenches dug to the new front line of the Battn. I was compelled to run the gauntlet across "No Man's Land" to the new line. I got across safely & jumped into "C" Coys trench & straightaway made my way to the left passing through "C" Coy & "B" Coy. I stopped with Capt Armitage OC "C" Coy until darkness. After leaving the left of "B" Coys line I made my way to try & find "D" Coy being told it was on the left. I walked through a Quarry which I believe was occupied by Germans and then passed on to a top of a hill. Had hardly got there when a flare went up and I at once saw I was nearly into the German lines so turned back & called out "50<sup>th</sup> Battn, Australians, where are you" & heard a reply "Here we are, come on," so at once made for the direction of the voices & got into a trench (Strong Point 81) which I found was held by Sgt.Mills & about 20 men & about 20 "Derby recruits" of Oxfords & Buffs Regt. & 4 Lewis & 1 Vickers Machine Gun. I at once took command of the place & all were pleased I had arrived.

At about 10.30 p.m. the Germans attacked the Oxford & Bucks on my left & forced them to retire thus leaving me absolutely isolated. The Germans then bombed down the trench towards my position & killed 3 or 4 and wounded a couple of my men.

24 [Nov 23 1916 crossed out]

Fortunately the Germans stopped bombing when about 20 yds. from my position and so we were all saved because there is little doubt but that they could have settled the small number I had with me, as I had very few bombs & only 5 red flares and one or two white ones. We were on the look-out all night & next morning for another attack but ~~known~~ none/ came.

Next day (14<sup>th</sup> Aug) the Germans shelled my position very heavily, and our guns also had a few shots at it causing many casualties. Our position was enfiladed by the enemy's fire.

At about 9 a.m. in the morning I sent a despatch to Battalion Hdqrs. telling them how I was situated and asking for instructions, but no reply having been received by 5.30 p.m., and owing to heavy casualties, having no flares, nor food nor water, I sent a despatch to Major Herbert, and we agreed to fall back on his left flank as soon as it became dark. Everything was prepared to leave the position, when I received a reply to my note to Hdqrs. saying a stunt would take place. ~~de~~ at 10 p.m. so that "B" Coy could join up with me And a Tommy Regt would connect up on my left. This note greatly relieved me, and we at once got ready to take our part





during the artillery barrage. At about 10.15 p.m. Major Herbert arrived at my post 81 with about 20 men who helped to man my

23 [ *Nov 27 1916 crossed out* ]

post. At 10.30 p.m. Max Gore with his team of Grenadiers came and bombed down trench to my left, and later reported that he had connected up with a bombing party of the Bucks Regt. further down the trench. At about 11 p.m. a Company of the Gloucesters occupied the trench on my left without opposition. Enemy shelling continued during the night and next morning. The Gloucester Company gave me a lot of flares, also some bombs, and a trench mortar which I used on my right flank.

Lieut V.G.Dridan came over to my post about 10 mins. after Major Herbert with a few men, but I am very sorry to say a part of a shell hit him on the right arm on his way over stripping the arm of a lot of flesh from about 3 inches from his shoulder to his hand. He lost a lot of blood but bore the pain very bravely without a murmur. Owing to there being no stretchers nor A.M.C. men anywhere near the Post, we were compelled to keep him until about 4 p.m. on the next day 15<sup>th</sup>, when we got him away across "No Man's Land" towards our Support trenches. I am told that on the way across a shell killed one of the bearers (Cpl. Hisgrove) and that Vic Dridan jumped off the stretcher and ran for cover. He was put on

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the stretcher again & taken to the dressing station & from there I believe to the hospital at Walloy where he died on the 18<sup>th</sup> and was buried there. A brave little Officer died fighting for his country; may God comfort his dear parents & his young lady in their very sad bereavement.

Next morning, 15<sup>th</sup>, an aeroplane came overhead, and called for us to show our position which we did by sending up a green flare, but I am afraid the enemy saw where it came from as immediately after they opened up a tremendous artillery to enfilade fire which they kept going all day causing many casualties. During the afternoon about 3 p.m. the Gloucester company evacuated their portion of the trench owing to the heavy shelling, but they did not inform me. This made me isolated once more. Later in the afternoon I received a private note from Major Jacob & one from Capt. Loutit congratulating me on holding on – these both completely upset me. Word was also received that we were going to be relieved that night and "B" Coy, 4<sup>th</sup> Ausn. Battn. arrived at about 10.30 p.m. and

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took over. The men I had left were sent away under a guide to make their way back to Wire Gully where the Battalion was to rest that night. Major Herbert & I left the position (Post 81) at about 11 o'clock p.m. after arranging with the relieving Company Stretcher Bearers to take back our wounded. We travelled across country for a long way shells from enemy guns falling close to us, and later we found an old trench which we followed, and then, moved across country again until we struck another good trench in which we passed a couple of Companies of Tommies, some Royal Engineers, and some Stretcher Bearers, who were all making their way up to the front line.



We both arrived safely back at Wire Gully completely exhausted at about 2 a.m., 16<sup>th</sup>, & later Major Jacob, Mjr Jeffries & Capt Loutit arrived, and the five of us slept together in an old German dug-out until about 7 a.m. At 8 a.m. the Battn. left for bivouac at Albert & upon arrival all endeavored to rest sleep. In my case it was an impossibility, my nerves having gone a little. A very unfortunate thing was

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the fact that the men suffered badly from the absence of food and water, and also the wounded were unable to be taken to the rear, owing to no stretchers being available, as all were being used elsewhere. Only one A.M.C. man came to my post, Pte.Kerr, & he arrived in daylight and attended to all the wounded.

The following did exceptionally good work at the Post and their work is deserving of the highest praise :-

Sgt Mills – attending wounded, devotion to duty

Sgt James – in charge of 3 Lewis Guns, devotion to duty

L/Cpl Hanley – devotion to duty, carrying despatches, water, rations and a stretcher under fire all the time.

Cpl. Hisgrove – devotion to duty. (killed.)

The following casualties occurred in the Officers:-

Lt.Col. Hurcombe – shell shock.

Capt Fowler – wounded.

2/Lieut Bowden – “

Lieut Dridan – “ (since died of wounds)

“ Rhodes – “

“ Hoggarth – “

Capt Hancock – “

Lieut Thomson – shell shock.

“ Beresford – “ “

At “D” Coys roll call at Albert only about 60 answered to their names; the casualties of the Coy. were 3 Off. 114 men

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Thus ended absolutely the three hottest days I have ever experienced. I wonder how I managed to get through it all, but I believe God heard my prayers for protection and helped me. The escapes I had were:-

On morning of 13<sup>th</sup> when working my way through “C” Coys trench towards “D” Coy I stopped to rest, and a nose-cap hit the parapet about a foot above my head and fell down between my feet.

On morning of the 14<sup>th</sup> a piece of shell hit me on the inside of the right leg near the ankle, fortunately only making a bruise.

On night of the 14<sup>th</sup> a piece of shell or dirt hit me very hard on the back near right shoulder.

What upset me most was seeing the Tommy companies on my left retire; I knew when they left their trench that I was absolutely isolated, but thank God I was able to hold on. I had about 12



“Derbies” with me and I’m sorry to say I had to threaten them with my revolver for trying to retreat. “No Retreat” is the Australians Motto – we kept it.

The newspaper cuttings herewith show what little the papers know of the “Derbies”, and their fighting capabilities.

*[ Thus ends Capt. Churchill Smith’s account of “The 50<sup>th</sup> Battns, first battle.” The remaining pages of this volume of the diary contain a variety of material amplifying earlier entries. They are not in chronological order but are transcribed in the order they occur in the diary ]*

20

Results of War 7/8/16

Rode through Albert with Capt Armitage yesterday; the place is knocked about considerably. Houses have been knocked to pieces and the Church badly damaged; on top of the Church Tower is a figure of the Virgin Mary holding Jesus Christ as a little child in her hands. This has toppled over undamaged and is now laying at right angles to its original position. What is holding it up nobody seems to know; it seems a mystery.

Further on there is a township (La Boisselle) which has been absolutely shelled down and there is now only the foundations left. A wood is close by and is now composed of a few trees with dry branches

There are plenty of our observation balloons up, but we are unable to see many of the Germans. Our aeroplanes are up all day and we seem to have the superiority of the air. No doubt as I go further forward now, I shall see worse damage than heretofore.

Later.

As one goes more forward to front line you pass villages which have been absolutely demolished only foundations of some places remaining. The ground for miles is one mass of shell holes. There are two enormous craters near La Boisselle village, one is 70 ft deep and about 100 wide – an enormous thing.

*[ Two pages, one marked 3 in the middle and 19 in the top right hand corner, the other 18 in the top left hand corner and 2 in the middle, describe a journey through the Rhone Valley area ]*

Marseilles – 12<sup>th</sup> June 1916

A big harbour & very pretty indeed. The wharfs are plentiful & similar to those in Egypt. There are plenty of factories in the port. \Hills run practically from seashore./ Marseilles (proper) is about 3 miles away & is a very nice place with plenty of big buildings. I was there between about 12 midnight and 4.30 a.m. the morning we left Got back to the boat, had about 1 hours sleep & up again to disembark. (with Capts Loutit, Hancock, Todd, Wilton & (4<sup>th</sup> Officer & Asst. Purser of “Arcadian”) – had a glorious time. The people are nice & evidently think a lot of us by the way they smile and wave. They all ask for “souvenirs” but that is much better than the Egyptian “backsheesh”.

13<sup>th</sup>. Entrained alright & left up to time. This is a most beautiful train ride. The people come out of their homes and knock off work to wave to us – they are a happy-go-lucky lot –



18 [2]

The country is most beautiful, and everything at present is lovely and green. It all makes a perfect picture, and is very interesting to watch as we go along. The roads are all good, and mostly lined with “plane” trees (like our Frome Road) which adds to its picturesqueness. The females (young girls &c) are exceptionally pretty and well developed, very few being what may be termed “bad looking”; they all look so healthy & cheery. At Pierrelatte (4 or 5 stations from Orange) a young girl was holding out cards and I managed to get hold of one, and it had two addresses on (as per back of book); I shall write to these girls. Words really cannot explain all this pretty country, and I have never seen anything to equal it anywhere. The railway carriages are very cosy & comfortable, and the trains go at a great pace especially the expresses. We stayed at Orange for an hour for tea, but the time was hardly long enough, still we all had something to eat, although it was hasty. The place is not very big but really I didn’t have any time to

19 [3]

look around. The hotel was very nice and clean (Hotel de Louvre at Terminus) and the meal good, but hasty. The country round about the River Rhone was exceptionally pretty. Bridges are very big & well built, in fact everything is “beautiful”.

15<sup>th</sup> Still we are travelling, and still through beautiful, fertile country. One thing noticeable as we go along now is that some faces look sadder, but when we come along you can notice how they endeavor to smile and wave to us. Today we must be passing through the cattle country as I’ve noticed more cattle here than ever before. One thing very noticeable all the way is the very few men in the field, but the number of women (old & young) and girls is fairly large; and they do work too; yes ! work hard, you can see them as we approach the fields. Here’s a lesson for our womenfolk – do good hard garden—work both for good health and for something to occupy their minds with.

At “Abbeville” we passed a hospital train of English wounded; one fellow had 2 legs blown off and one arm, yet he was whistling & smoking, evidently quite happy. Plenty of goods trains pass us every day. Our route has been:— Marseilles, Orange, Macon, Les Laumes, Montreau, Juvisy, Epluche, Abbeville, Staples, Boulogne, Calais, S<sup>t</sup>Omer & Hazelbroek

Suez. Canal Defences    Post 62    Habeita, May 27, 1916

Here I’ve been since 26<sup>th</sup> Jany, and practically on Canal Defences all the time, with the exception of a few weeks with 50<sup>th</sup> Battn. at Tel-el-Kebir when we were forming.

Everything is ready for “Jackos” attack, but somehow or other he’s never come our way so far.

At our present positions we have a most beautiful view of the Lake & the Canal, and can plainly see boats continually going backwards & forwards. At night the Warships shine out their very powerful searchlights and search the country. It is very nice to watch them.

Everybody seems satisfied here, and personally I wouldn’t mind staying here for a month or two, but I expect we shall be moved again in a few days. I’m afraid when I return folk will call us me a “Cook’s tourist” seeing I am continually shifting about. Still I expect we shall do something more serious in France later on.

At the rear of our position there is a very high sandhill with a peak or two, and sand is continually blowing off this peak making it look like smoke coming out of a chimney.



Favorite lines

While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When my eyelids close in death,  
When I soar through tracks unknown,  
See thee on Thy Judgment Throne,  
Rock of Ages cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee

While your voice is calling me,  
Calling, enthralling me;  
Your dear eyes beholding me,  
Your strong arms enfolding me;  
Your lips caressing mine,  
Pressing, possessing mine;  
Burning with bliss,  
This must be loves own kiss.

Just a little love, a little kiss,  
I would give you all my life for this,  
As I hold you fast and bend above you,  
And I hear you whispering, "I love you."  
Young ladies I've met.

June 19, 1916. M<sup>elle</sup> Clementine Leignel, 14 yrs old; staying with her Auntie (of same name) at our billet at Sailly. Pretty little kid, speaks little English.

Others too numerous to mention. ???

Novr 13, 1916

Earl Kitchener here inspecting today; men on Beach Fatigue and others gave him a hearty welcome. Inspected some of the lines. He made a speech to some of the men, as follows:— "I've seen what you have done. "You've done all I expected, and more." This, from such a high Military authority, is worth more than all the newspaper column speeches of any of our most noted Members of Parliament &c. It is supposed to let the good old Australians know that what they have done is ~~wh~~ "more than was expected", and is appreciated by our great Minister for War. It is our duty to keep our names up and if possible better it; I'm sure we shall do it.

Novr 11; 1915      My first patrol duty.

A note was received by O.C. "C" Coy to detail 1 Officer and 1 selected private to go out in front of our position and select a natural fold in the ground or some suitable place where 6 men could lie in wait for any Turkish Patrols coming along Gully in our front. (Coo-ee Gully).

I volunteered to go out, although I wasn't sure of the country in front, with Private Budgeon of my Platoon (No 12). Left by Montgomery's bomb-tunnel at 20 20 (8.20 p.m.) and crawled out





about 5 yds. when Turks opened up a Machine Gun over our way. We decided to make for an old Turkish trench (Hancock's) which had been filled in by our men, but found that the Turks machine gun was playing up this trench, so we decided to turn back and follow another like trench, but after crawling about 10 to 15 yds down this, we found that the Turks machine-gun was playing around about where we were; we therefore decided a third way and were just on the point of moving when firing started again, and a Turkish bomb was thrown at and exploded about 5 yds. away from us. Our case was now hopeless we evidently having been seen by the Turks, and it was getting very near our coming-in time 21 30,(9.30 p.m.), so we retraced our steps, rather crawly, and safely got into our own lines through Montgomery's Bomb tunnel at 2130 (9.30 p.m.) During the time we were out flares were being sent up on our right & bombs from our lines were exploding about us, each showing us up very plainly to the enemy. Evidently we were seen getting out of the Bomb tunnel as the moon was just behind us. Picked up on the way two empty Turkish cartridge shells. Sorry my first attempt was a failure.

[ *Small sketch map here* ] way we crawled marked .....

Went out 1 a.m. 13<sup>th</sup>/11/15 found suitable spot and returned at 2.15 a.m.

[ *The diary page opposite the above entry is another list of letters received (from "Mum", "Father" and "Kate"). The relationship to the 2-page list at the beginning of the diary is unclear.*]

#### Letters from

Some previous to this not recorded.

Mum: – Sept 14 23 Oct 8 19 30 Nov 13 29 Dec 12 13 22 27 Jan 8 24 26 Feb 9 22 March 7 7 21 Apr 3 18 May 4 15 16 30 June 7 12 24 July 2 8 24 Aug 8 22 Sep 3 18

Father:– Nov 2 10 16 23 30 Dec 14 22 Jan 11 24 26 Feb 8 22 March 7 22 April 4 10 & 17 May 2 16 30 June 13 26 July 7 24 Aug 7 22 Sept 4 18.

Kate :- Sept 7 22 28 Oct 19 Nov 3 17 22 Dec 1 12 19 Jan 6 10 17 24 26 Feb 7 20 March 12 3 18 22 23 28 April 4 16 May 1 7 16 20 31 June 7 13 20 26 July 2. 11 15 28. Aug 8 16 22 Sept 5 7 12 19

[*Written in ink*]

Rough Notes re Australians & their work at the Dardanelles 3/11/15

The first thing one is struck with is the amount of work (digging &c) that has been done by our men. Firstly, they have built small jetties so that troops and ~~men~~ foodstuffs/ can be easily got ashore. Rails have been laid all over the place near embarking place and numerous trucks are constantly running backwards & forwards with goods &c. There are large stacks of ammunition and foodstuffs at on the beach, and unfortunately the Turks artillery from Olive Grove ("Beachy Bill") can reach some of the stacks at times and do damage. Saps have been dug all over the place to ensure safety to troops or anybody moving from one place to the other. There are now some tents just off from the beach used by Headquarters and others.



A large hill shows itself up in near landing place with a big piece out of it, this piece, I am told, was taken out by "Big Lizzie" from the Queen Elizabeth. [*written in pencil*] (I find this is untrue.) The 10<sup>th</sup> Infy. Hdqrs. are on Artillery road and from there to our front line of trenches is a wide track dug out by our men. It is known as "Lady Galway Road" and runs right through a large hill – it is a good piece of work. Small cemeteries are seen every now and then, and one often sees the name of some old friend on one of the crosses, who has fallen whilst doing duty on the peninsula for his country.

Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lemnos

Arrived safely at Lemnos early morning; most beautiful harbour filled with all kinds of ships :- Warships, Destroyers, submarines, Transports and Hospital ships. We are anchored well in the harbour; on our Port side there are two very fine destroyers anchored, they only came in this morning, further out nearer land is a Hospital ship painted white with a wide green band right round it; at present (9 p.m.) it is lit up with bluish-green lights all round and a Red Cross at the side lit up with red lights – it is indeed a most beautiful sight and well worth seeing. More ahead of us on the Port side is a Transport with a large hole in her starboard side near the stern; she has evidently been hit by a shell or has been torpedoed, it is evidently above water level as she seems alright where she is anchored. On our starboard side there are a few cruisers & transports; signal lamps are working from some of the cruisers.

At About 9 a.m. a submarine came in from patrol duty; all the members of the crew seemed quite happy and all are doing their duty for the cause of freedom. What an awful job patrolling the seas and keeping the trade routes open, especially at present when it is so cold.

A Russian 5 funnel cruiser is in Port. The Harbour looks pretty tonight with so many port-hole lights shining from these war-boats; transports &c do not show any lights.

From this boat Lemnos Island looks very pretty, it looks one mass of hills and seems to be a first class training place for soldiers. Camps are all over the place, and there are one or two small townships a little inland. The entrance to the Harbour is very securely guarded and I pity any enemy submarines that dare attempt to enter; their life would be very short. It is at this place that one really realizes that there is a War in progress. There is no doubt these little destroyers are doing a lot for the Allies \by/ keeping trade routes open. Reported that a steamer, passing over same place as we had just passed over last night, was chased by a submarine last night, evidently we were not seen by this enemy craft. The "Miniopolis" arrived safely in Harbour this morning, evidently caught up to us during the night.

Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>. – on board Transport "Franconia" bound for Lemnos.

Today has been one of great experience to me, in fact this trip from Alexandria has. We continually meet destroyers and torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers all doing their special duty – patrolling. Here we are an 18,150 ton boat with troops aboard, with only a 6 inch naval gun to protect us against submarines &c. What would our plight be only for these small British & Allies' War-boats ?; we are about 3 times as long as they are and we are practically helpless, yet submarines are afraid of them and keep out of their way. These small boats are all over the place, and because they are there, dozens of transports and trading steamers go safely through this Mediterranean Sea each week, and yet, at the present time it is reported that



we know of at least 14 \German or Austrian/ submarines round about here. One can judge for himself how efficient our Navy is and how well it is worked.

Then think also of the hundreds of traders going safely to and from London each week, with German submarines in abundance in the English Channel and the North Sea, and yet there are hardly any of these traders sunk, at least only a very small percentage.

I always thought a great deal of our British Navy, but ~~it~~ today I think more of it, and I expect as I pass further on each day I shall begin to appreciate the Navy more than I ever have.

What these naval men on these small destroyers suffer we do not know, nor can we guess.

Think of them patrolling the seas in both calm and rough weather. Look at the size of them and think what they must go through during rough weather, and all this because they all desire to see England and her Allies win this War and secure Freedom.

I cannot tonight express my thoughts in words, but if I am spared to return to Australia, when I hear folk talk of what the soldiers on land have done, I shan't forget to draw their attention to the wonderful work of "Our Navy".

The Grecian Archipelago islands are very pretty; today they show on both sides of us, some look as if they are inhabited, and others look as if they have observation posts built on them. Sometimes we are close to them and sometimes afar off, but the continual sight of these very large & small islands standing well out of the water makes one realise what Nature is. The sight is beautiful. I have never seen the sea looking so blue as I have today; it is very pretty indeed. The transport "Miniopolis" turning round so quickly and getting back has completely puzzled me – some of the ship's Officers think she saw the porpoises and mistook them for a submarine. She has not shown up since.

Suez. (see Sept 21<sup>st</sup>)

Arrived at about 8 am. and ~~a~~ anchored about 2 miles out. A few warships were in Port and many trading steamers. The hills on the African side were very pretty but very barren. Left the "Morea" by Lighter amidst much singing & cheering by both the men and the passengers.

Landed at the wharf at about 12.30 p.m. and entrained in special train. Men's kits were put on board & train left Station at about 2 p.m.; our route being for a long time along the Suez Canal. From the train one could see a few warships in the Canal evidently looking for trouble, and we also passed a couple of Indian Camps and saw many Indian Outposts & patrols. For a good part of the journey ~~one~~ the country was very dry and sandy, but now and again ~~one~~ we passed some irrigated land with plenty of crops growing. alongside the railway line for a very long distance there is a narrow fresh water channel. There is no doubt the Egyptian folk are very unprogressive; they have the same old ways we read about in the Bible; the ploughs are the same and there is no doubt their customs are likewise. One is struck with the number of young children about right along the line and at every station. We stopped at Ismailia on the way; plenty of niggers awaiting our arrival and ready to sell fruit and drinks, but being very cautious I did not buy. The place to my mind was very dirty, but one cannot expect anything else from these people. Our next stop was at Bagazis a fairly big place populated very thickly with these Egyptians & children. We arrived at about 6pm and left at about 6.10 pm. We arrived at our destination (Zeitoun) at about 8.15 pm (back)



[ continued on previous page ] and after detraining we marched direct to the Camp. We issued out the embarkation blankets and kit bags and the men settled down for the night. What strikes one when going along this train route is the enormous amount of irrigation; there is no doubt if these folk would only take on more up-to-date methods they would do very well.

Aden. (See Sept 17<sup>th</sup>)

From what one can see of the place, it is composed mostly of hills; very high. There are some Forts, well garrisoned; with look-out posts on highest peaks. Place is very dry; rains about once in 7 years. Water is obtained from wells, about 6 miles out. From sea the place looks very nice, but on land it looks dirty and neglected. Part of Turkish Army is encamped about 16 miles out, strength about 3000, but up to now only very few fights of no importance have taken place. Patrols of our Indian (Aden) Troops meet patrols of Turkish troops 2 or 3 times a week.

Losses up to now of our troops against this Turkish Army have been very slight. (2 Officers and a few men.) Salesmen are very keen and can always be beaten down in their price. Will tell you they've got an article you require and when you get inside their shop they find they haven't the article and will then show you something else. \Nearly/Everyone of the inhabitants desires money & begs for it very hard from strangers. Lt Willshire was offered a box of cigarettes for 3/- but he only offered 1/6 which was very readily accepted by the tradesman; when box was opened, found cigarettes absolutely unfit for smoking.

I went ashore with D<sup>r</sup> Capt Cullen & Lt Willshire. Got into Government Boat when left ship by mistake; lot of niggers around steps with boats taking passengers ashore; wouldn't get out of our way when we wanted to leave, so Government Official (white man) gave full steam ahead, which was readily obeyed and we went slap bang into a couple of these small boats at same time knocking two niggers in water; said it was the only way to shift them. Left Aden after sundown; very nice cool night.

Addresses

Father :-	C/o Bagot, Shakes & Lewis Ltd,
Mother,	18 King Wm. Street,
& Sid	Adelaide, South Aus.
Kate :	Miss K.A.Forster,
	Irish Harp Road'
	Enfield, South Aus.
Mattie	Miss Mattie Bond
M <sup>rs</sup> Miss Hilson	"Hazelmere"
M <sup>r</sup> Johnson	Park Road,
	Kensington Park.
<hr/>	
Emmie	M <sup>rs</sup> A.C.Johnson,
Brem Joyce Alex	M <sup>c</sup> Laren Vale.



Lily McManus

Sister Lillian McManus,  
31<sup>st</sup> General Hospital,  
Port Said.

W.L.Ware – Ware Chbrs, 112 King Wm St.

Geo.W.Bayly – “ “ “ “ “ “

Frank Gill – “ “ “ “ “ “

Ern Stanton – Main North Road, Enfield

Cyril & Rene Hamilton – Irish Harp Road, Enfield

Nell Forster –

Archie Milton –

A.C.Crapp – Main North R<sup>d</sup>, Enfield.

Eric Richmond – “ “ “ “

Roy Warner – “ “ “ “

Lieut. A.H.Coleman RAMC Bank NSW London

M<sup>rs</sup>.E.R.Campbell – Moore, Westralia.

M<sup>rs</sup> J.Hancock – 179 Halifax St, Adelaide

Girlie Bagot – 30 Marlborough S<sup>t</sup>, S<sup>t</sup> Peters.

W.Tothill (Ausn Munitions Worker) C/o Vickers Ltd. London.

(50 Chapel Street, Dalton in Furness, Lancashire, England.)

M<sup>r</sup>.Edgarell, 38 Stampit, Christchurch, Hampshire (Shelton's brother-in-law)

M<sup>lle</sup> Maryean Off, 13 Chareh Yahmy, near Bab el louk, Cairo

Miss Mary Beguian, Poste Restante, Yaggalah, Cairo.

Marie Nichel & Suzanne Prat, Avenue de Marseille, Piceroylatte [?], (France)

Lines to Kate

All else in life may be forgot,

But, dearest, I'll forget thee not.

P.Guillemin, 8 Rue Maizieres, Beaune, Cote D'Or

Miss S Matthews, Ivy Dene, Franchise Street, Weymouth, England.

22/8/16 6000 Francs £215 –

7/9/16 6200 “ £222.3.4.