
Diary of Robert A. Cummings, Australian Olympic Crew, Paris 1924
Transcribed by Michael Talbot. 2004

PRG 1602/1

- 1 Notes
&
Diary kept by
R.A. Cummings Australian Olympic
Crew
1924
per
RMS Ormonde
Orient Line to
London
per
R.M.S. Mooltan
for Australia

- 2 Australian
Olympic Team
journey to Paris
to compete in games by the R.M.S.
Ormonde
8/5/24

Murray Bridge Crew
representing Australia
left Outer Harbor
May 8th per R.M.S.
Ormonde, with the
other Australian Athletes. Great send off at the
Outer Harbor, leaving at 3p
Ship sailed beautiful
weather. RMS Ormonde
Orient Liner of 15,000
Tons, carrying passengers First & third also the
Royal Mails to London

- 3 During Thursday afternoon
time was taken up fixing
up our cabins etc.
Mr Merritt fine gentleman
Manager of Olympic Team
Mr West second command.
Friday May 9th beautiful
weather thro' the Aus Bight.
All sorts of games indulged
in on board. Dancing in
the evening, also card playing
with plenty of music.

The Ormonde is a beautiful boat, something like a first class Hotel on water, everything to one's comfort
Saturday May 10th. Our lads did little exercise skipping & running. The other athletes did likewise to try &

- 4 keep themselves fit while on the voyage over. Moving pictures were taken of our lads at practice, also the various athletes, they are a fine lot of men & good sports, jolly & pleasant. Sunday church service was indulged in & a quiet day was spent. Sea became squally & Sunday night was very rough. Boat Drill was brought into practice on previous day.

We arrive at Fremantle **Monday May 12th** 8a after a pleasant journey from Adelaide.

- 5 Disembarked at 9.30a. The crew had wonderful reception at Fremantle & Perth words speak to high of their hospitality shown to us by the people of W.A. The crew had a row on the Swan in the morning while the other athletes did their various exercises on shore.

There was a great crowd to see us off at Fremantle & it was a beautiful sight leaving the harbour just after dusk, long will be remembered of our

-
- stay at Perth &
Fremantle.
- 6 **Tuesday [13 May]** setting well
ahead for Colombo
which we arrive in
9 days time. Weather
very squally & sea
with great swells.
Lads preparing home
trainer for practice.
Pianist gave concert
in lounge very good
classic music was
heard.
- Wednesday May 14th**
all up early fit &
well, sea still very
swelly, ship rolling
great deal. All
folks indulged in
games during the
morning. Two lads
down with sickness.
- 7 Afternoon crew were
practising in home
trainer & good work
was the order. All
other athletes were at
practice, also the
swimming boys were
in the tank & the
notable "Boy Charlton"
did some good work.
I noticed also when
going to dress for
dinner. Miss Cecil Bradley
"Actress" had a class
of dancers at practice.
A programme of sports
has been arranged
to begin tomorrow
in conjunction with
all the different
games on board.
- 8 The climate is gradually
getting warmer as we

proceed to Colombo.
Soon hot weather
will be with us

Thursday May 15th.

Weather still very
muggy & great
swell on the ocean.
Scores of flying
fish were seen to
fly out of the
water as the ship
goes along. These
are small & very
pretty, blue color.
Only one whale
has been seen
since we left
Adelaide & that
was out from

- 9 Albany one morning
we saw it spurt
water many feet
into the air, disappear
& then reappear in a
different place doing
the same thing.
Tournament games
were the order of the
day & will be continued
tomorrow. Pictures
were on last night &
were delightful in
the fresh open air.
Everybody are donning
summer attire, and I
guess still less as we
journey tomorrow
towards Colombo.

Friday May 16th
nearing the equator.

- 10 Still muggy weather
real tropical weather.
We are very near
to Cocos Island
which is about half
way to Colombo. All
the Olympic team

are still indulging
at practice & keeping
fit for the Games.
It was a week yesterday
since we felt the ship
move out from the
Outer Harbor. The library
on board is well
patronised which passes
away the time very
quickly. Prices of
Liquors & tobacco are
all reduced since we
left Aussies shores

- 11 **Saturday May 17th.**
Very hot, muggy; all
clothes off but
shirt & pants. Three days
from Colombo. Playing
Tennis in tournament
this morning, & was
beaten 6 - 2. Poor
old man in the
third class died
yesterday & was
buried at sea at 6 am
this morning. All
the athletes are still
in practice. Dancing
is the order of the
nights, but will be
rather on the warm
side. Flying fish are
still to be seen as

we go along.

- 12 **Sunday May 18th.** Still
very warm. Great swarms
of flying fish are
still to be seen.
It is too warm to
resume training operations
heat too intense. Church
service was indulged
in. Singing by the
general people in the the
3rd class Sunday
evening was very nice

Hymns.

Monday

May 19th. My 25th
Birthday was celebrated
by the Olympic lads.
weather still very
warm & tropical
rains are at hand.
Dancing (fancy) was
held in the evening

- 13 but was rather on the
warm. Cool drinks &
ice cream are very
acceptable on board by
all especially the lemons.

Tuesday May 20th.

Still tropical weather
everyone in whites. All
persons looking forward
to get ashore at Colombo
tomorrow. Epidemic
of sore throats going
around over 60 passrs
down in first class
saloon. A great deal
of card playing is done
on board, to pass
away the time more
quickly. Letter writing is
the order today Mail
closes 10p tonight.

- 14 **Wednesday May 21st.**
9am arrived at Colombo.
Raining in bucket loads
a real monsoon on
entering the harbour.
Scores of negro sailing
boats built of a
peculiar type were to
be seen just outside
the breakwater. A
slight accident occured
entering the Harbour.
The Ormonde when
trying to turn hit
a ship broadside

- & damaged her a little, an Italian ship she was I think with coal. Now the rain was simply teeming down.
- 15 Everyone was disappointed all passengers had to have passports checked & stamped by police officer before leaving the boat. Eventually we left the ship about 11am in the rain on a small tug boat. All the team, whom were together went for a motor trip around Colombo. Rickshaw runners were very numerous, & very pressing for you to take a ride. Dozens of natives were engaged in helping load the Ormonde with fuel & cargo, all the time they work they are
- 16 singing laughing & jabbering out their most peculiar language one has to smile the way the talk with their actions. We visited "Buddist Temple" in Colombo, very nice inside. They made us take off our boots to enter their sacred Temple. We then motored thro' streets & villages, past beautiful rich dwelling houses with beautiful gardens generally owned by Singalese merchants & in between them very low degraded houses in which the natives were housed.

-
- 17 There are very few white people in Colombo, very noticeable. Saw race course & beautiful colleges lovely lawns & gardens. Went around to see the museum, but only saw the outer side as time did not permit. We were then motored out to a place called Mt Levinia 7 1/2 miles from Colombo, on the Ceylon island. There are houses all the way out there. The street traffic is governed by native police & are good men at their their jobs, are the native police.
- 18 We eventually arrived at Mt Levinia on a big hill on the sea coast railway line right around the coast, the most fascinating & lovely scenery I have witnessed to date. Coconut palms in hundreds & natives were induced to climb these very tall trees & procure some for us. It was still raining & natives would chase you with umbrellas & shelter you & then ask you for "rupee, master" great beggars are the natives too much so, pester one as to saw.
- 19 If it had been a fine day, lovely snaps would be obtainable, but was too wet, altho' I tried to get some. We had lunch at the Mt Levinia Hotel run by natives, and was a first

- class lunch for about 2 rupees. There were scores of native fishing boats at the beach. It was a beautiful beach right in the bay & the breakers were something lovely. One could keep on writing of this, but explaining would be much better of course, with photographs
- 20 We left Mt Levinia about 4p came thro' some very picturesque scenery indeed. We eventually arrived at the YMCA did some shopping at the native shops, but they new we were Foreigners & put the price on until we could beat them down a bit. Some of our boxers gave exhibition bouts at the YMCA amidst a large crowd & made a great showing. It was too wet for the tennis players & the rowing crew rained all day
- 21 After the boxing was over, I had a most curious adventure. Several lads & myself hired rickshaws to take us down to the Oriental Hotel for dinner & telling the native runner who had my rickshaw the address, natural got in it ready to depart. Just at that time the monsoonal rain broke

-
- forth again & it **did**
rain. All this time
I was being carried
along only in the
wrong direction, my
native man didn't
evidently understand
- 22 my order & I was
landed up at the
top end of Colombo
in the pouring rain
at a strange Hotel
called the Metropole.
This made me very
angry & of course
growled at the
native & couldn't
make him understand
where I wanted to
go, therefore I was
properly lost. No
white people in sight
plenty of dirty natives
& not a policeman
I was a bit embarrassed
& certainly wild with
the rickshaw man
at last I made
- 23 him understand that
I had to catch a
steamer that night.
This was about 8.30p
& had to be aboard at
11.30p & I didn't want
to miss the boat, by
this time I was nearly
wet thro' & hot as the
the very devil. Anyway
we got going again.
Down thro' dirty
small streets still
pouring rain & wasn't
too cheerful anyway
I eventually arrived at
the jetty & getting
there couldn't see any
of the lads about
the rickshaw wanted

-
- 2 rupees for the ride
- 24 but he didn't get it
one rupee was enough
after the inconvenience
I was put to. Missed
dinner the bargain.
The native grumbled
at this but soon
frightened him when
I mentioned the native
policeman to him.
I eventually, 9.30p
caught a tug out
to the "Ormonde".
The sight at night
was beautiful all
the lights of the
boats & war boats
& the shore lights
was very spectacular
from the Ormonde.
The natives were
- 25 still very busy
loading tea & etc &
unloading flour in
small barges that
were along side. The
natives have some
funny & peculiar
carrying on during
their work. One
was very tired after
the long day & the
climate conditions
were very severe. If
fine weather had been
about some lovely
snaps would have
been available but
such was not the
case. I turned in
at 12.30a leaving
the natives still
- 26 working hard & awoke
next morning well
out to sea. Thinking
of the day we spent

at Colombo, know
doubt it was a
wonderful experience.

May 22nd. One spent
most of the day
talking of the trip
over Colombo & many
funny tales were
told. The weather
is cool & sunny the
breeze being the
benefit under the
tropical conditions

27 **May 23rd Friday.**
Fortnight yesterday
since we left our
shores at Adelaide
Very hot & tropical
rains & thunder storms
making things a little
unpleasant. We are
three days from
Cape Gardafui, at the
NW coast of
Africa & thence on
we enter the Red Sea.

28 **Saturday May 24th.**
Man overboard. A
tragic thing happened
yesterday. A young
jumped overboard
but he was able to
swim & about an
hour was lost getting
him more the worse
for the adventure.
Poor man is under
the care of the
doctor now. Women
were fainting & was
unpleasant atmosphere
for the time, but things
soon were normal
when he was again
on board. We are
passing steamers
daily now on the

horizon. We are about two day's sail from Cape Gardafui on the N.W. coast Africa & getting very warm but there is a acceptable cool breeze at times.

Sunday May 25th

29 Sunday service as usual will be held in the music room
Weather still very warm. Another catastrophe happened this morning. One of the turbine engines has broken down & we stopped in the early hours.

Monday 26th May

30 still going along on one engine about 9 knots & will have to continue so until we reach "Aden" on Thursday morning where they will effect repairs probably be there a day perhaps more. We had a great fancy dress ball tonight, it was a great success & some of the costumes were very excellent. Two of the Olympic team secured first prizes. The illumination on the boat deck were a real picture in its self, & worth seeing. They danced until midnight. There was a gorgeous supper provided.

Tuesday May 27th.

31 Passed Sokotra
Island this morning
& now making direct
for Aden. Boat still
working on one
turbine & progress slow
Sokotra is a barron
looking island.
The sea now is very
calm almost like a
hugh lake. The weather
is still very warm.

Wednesday May 28th

32 Still working on one
engine. Sports were held
today boat deck. It
was great fun. I
ran in sack race
& potato race which
I won the first heat
& qualified for the
final. All sorts of
sports were held &
the day past well.
We the Jazz went
down to the third
class & played for
a dance. Two of the
Stewards came down
with us drummer &
fiddler & also banjo
player & was good o
& didn't the passengers
enjoy it. There about
900 passengers there
but it was rather
warm for dancing.
They had a concert
here first saloon also.

Thursday May 29th

Arrived Aden about
8am. Aden is a
barron looking place
great hills in
which the Signal
stations & garrison
are housed. British
port. Orient line

33 steamers do not call
there but owing to
our engine trouble
we were forced to
go in. Boats loads
of Arabs with
goods to sell flocked
around the boat &
there was some great
fun with Arabs
Turks & all sorts
of nationalities.

We were allowed on
shore after one p.m.
We went ashore in
tugs & hot it was
hot, they call
Aden "Hell's gates".
But in Aden it
was Hell itself in
the street. The

34 hugh mountains all
around it. The real
city was further
but didn't go around.
Hugh salt works
could be seen. The
streets are much the
same as Colombo,
only better buildings.
Some of the lads
went to see the wells.
It only rains once
in seven years.
Camels were seen
everywhere carrying
& also mules with
arabs. No rickshaws
Boarded the boat
before tea & was
glad to get back
It was still hot

May 30th. Friday
first thing the Arabs
were out again selling
in the morning. No
passengers were
allowed on shore.
So put in the time

watching the people try & bargain with these natives. The Turks were a vicious crowd & got very excited at times if some one beat them for a 1/-. We left Aden 2.30p & was very pleased to get going. We are three days late passing here but we anticipate making up time.

36 **Saturday May 31st.**

Boat going along better but not quite at full speed. Talking of our exploits at Aden which will be well remembered by all. We passed Island Perim about 11p last night. Slept up on deck last night too hot in cabins. We are now well in the Red Sea. We pass ships every hour almost lot of traffic thro' here. We have passed several groups of Islands today.

37 **June 1st Sunday**

Still in the Red Sea quite calm & weather getting little cooler Plenty of Dolfins about. Boat getting along nicely doing about 14 knots now. Passing lots of steamers now. The Largs passed us today bound for London.

June 2nd Monday.

All anxiously waiting to get to Suez. All sorts of games were indulged in today. The boys are on the Rowing Machine now its cooler.

Tuesday June 3rd.

Arrived at Suez about 2pm. Caught the Largs Bay there. The natives (gippos) were around the steamer again seller their goods & good fun with them we had. We weren't allowed of at Suez so we didn't see it. We entered the canal at 9pm so we didn't see anything of the canal until early next morning.

Wednesday June 4th.

39 The canal was very interesting passed several boats, had record run getting to Port Said 9.30am. We went on shore at 10a & stayed until 3.30pm. Had a good look around. Very interesting. Nice buildings & good clean shops. The Largs Bay was there & also a British Battleship "Iron Duke" The Harbour was quite busy. Thoroughly enjoyed the day on shore. We left Port Said 5pm. leaving the Bay behind passed the Ormuz sister ship just

40 outside. It was a beautiful sight leaving Port Said. I saw several remains outside the canal, of ships that were sunk during the war. Played cards till late & was tired after walking around all day so hopped into bed.

June 5th. Quiet day was spent telling the stories of Port Said incidents. Weather getting very near our Aussie spring very nice. Dance tonight.

41 **June 6th.** Mediterranean Sea. Should have been at Toulon today but we are still 4 days late. All boys are well. Passed Island of Crete this morning passed Sicily tomorrow & should arrive Naples 6a Sunday morning. Fancy Ball tonight

42 **June 7th Saturday.** the most beautiful sight to date was seen coming along coast Italy towards the Straits of Messina. Towns all along, vineyards & railway right along coast. Town of Messina on Island of Sicily & Regina on the mainland. It was very narrow in the Straits & the sight was very pretty we passed thro' about 3p. in the afternoon. Having wonderful weather.

Saw two hugh porporsus in
the straights. Towards
six oclock you could
see Mt Etna, that
is a volcanic
mountain on the Island
of Sicily in eruption
& was a pretty sight
at about the same
time with the straights
some distance back
The Island of Stromboli
another volcano in
eruption. This was a
glorious sight. Hugh
clouds of smoke
coming away. There was
a little village at each end
43 in the evening you could
see the glare of the flames
of Stromboli at intervals
some distance off. A
sight one will remember.
Developing films until
late turned out well.

Sunday June 8th.
Another pretty sight
entering Naples at 6 am
Mt Vesuvius in prominence
with its hugh dense
clouds of smoke coming
away. We all left for
shore about 9a. Hired
cars & run out to
the buried city "Pompei"
The roads in Naples
very rough. Very noticeable
the number of police
& soldiers about.
44 Streets are narrow dirty
no traffic system
whatever. Railway
under military guard.
Arrived at Pompei
after 11/2 hrs rough ride.
Went all over the
ruins & was very very
interesting, relating
historic events away

back B.C. and AD. Had
lunch at Hotel at
Pompei & spaghetti was
the order which was
new to us. Didn't have
time to go up to
Vesuvius on train. All
shops open on Sunday
Saw the R.C. Church
the most beautiful
church in the world
45 that is inside & there
is no doubt it is very
beautiful. Then motored
to a very high point
of Naples & the view
overlooking Naples &
the Harbour was
simply gorgeous, the
best to date & we
had a beautiful
drive back towards
the city. Military
forces were parading
the streets. Went to a
arcade very nice.
Thence we motored to
an old Castle built
about 700 years ago.
Went down the dungeon
where prisoners were
kept & saw the
46 remains of many poor
victims that had their
heads cut off. One
could write a book
on Naples, one day
you get a glimpse a
week would be better.
Journeyed back to
the boat about 5p
tired after the travel
all day. A beautiful
sight was just before
sailing. A squadron
of 3 seaplanes &
7 aeroplanes circling
over & around the
boat & pretty sight
We left the Harbor

of Naples at 6p
passing several Island
in the dusk.

Monday June 9th.

Packing up for
Toulon landing tomorrow.
Glad of the change
but after a most
interesting voyage.
Passed Island of "Elba"
where Napoleon was
exiled & escaped &
about 2p passed
"Corsica" where he was
born, a rather large
Island. "Sardinia" island
is lower down. Passing
lots of other small
islands. Lovely weather.
Went down the
engine room & had
a look round, some
wonderful machine
& thoroughly interesting.

48 **Tuesday June 10th**

Arrived Toulon 6a
beautiful harbour full
French war boats &
submarines. No photos
are allowed to be taken
French naval port. Had
fine send off on tug
from people on board the
boat. Customs held up
luggage. Had a look
around the french city
interesting & Toulon is a
city. Had lunch & left
per train Marseilles at
3p. Beautiful trip by
train around coast
magnificent scenery. Two
very long tunnels. Warm
travelling. Arrived at
Marseilles at 5p

49 Had a good look
around Marseilles,
that also is a big

city much the same as
Toulon at 7p we
boarded the train
again & then dinner
on train at 9.30p. Awoke
next morning 6a &
still going thro' wonderful
country. Arrived Paris
8.30 met by Cooks Ltd
agent, (this is a wonderful
organisation coy) Some
place Paris a real eye
opener. Arrived at Hotel
Normandy right in
heart of Paris. The
French language has
still got us tricked
seems strange to us all.
50 Spent all day squaring
things up a bit, & rather
tired after travelling
all night turned in.

Wednesday 11th. Was
met by French Olympic
Council. Had a look
around generally. The
traffic is an eye opener
to one, wonder there is
not someone killed
every hour of the day.
It is quite light 10p
& at 4 am long days
& climate rather cold.

Thursday June 12th.
Visited Olympic Stadium
very nice but not completed
rained hammer & tongs
coming back & had a very
amusing trip in the wet
51 went to a theatre in the
night but wanted 30 F to
go in thought too much
so came out & walked
the block got lost &
took a taxi home. One
could see the hugh
stone wall they had built around Paris
during the war, which

they are now pulling down
The Parks & gardens are
beautiful, there is no
doubt it is a wonderful
city. shops good & clean.

Friday June 13th. Left
per underground railway
for "River Marne" to
find Rowing shed
arrived eventually after
long chase. Beautiful
spot right on River
Marne. Had lunch
& then borrowed 8 oar
boat had good row
up river. Beautiful
stream but very much
crooked course but very
pretty. Making arrangements
to get crew accommodated
there on the spot.
Everything at our finger
tips, boat, river,
board & lodging altho'
a little rougher than
this Hotel. It is about
12 miles out & is too
far to be in & out
twice a day. Canadian
sculler is also there on
the spot. Ideal place for
training crew.

Saturday June 14th.
training again at
Nogent had good
spin. Had cable
from home good
news.

Sunday June 15th.
Left early, had good
row at Nogent, big
crowd saying
Vivi-la-Australie,
river full of pleasure
& rowing boats.
Went out to Argenteuil
To see champion (8) oar

- 54 race of France rowed on the Seine, same course as the Olympic 4 crews, good race winner represents France. time 6.1 sec They gave us a warm welcome at Argenteuil referring to the R.S.A men who fought for them in the great war. We anticipate going to Argenteuil to train on course in two weeks time. Nice day a little warmer.

Monday

- June 16th.** Shifting camp (all crew) to quarters at Nogent. All arrived baggage. All sleeping in a cafe not in use & having meals next door. Quite comfy. All satisfied in this lovely spot. Received mail from Aussie today.
- 55 **June 17th Tuesday.** Doing two rows a day crew gradually getting into form & getting used of the strange boat. Our own boat not yet to hand. They French folks are treating us just lovely couldn't be better. Often see aeroplanes overhead. The big Bridge that is along side is a tremendous affair all stone & about 60 ft high. The train traffic never ceases day or night. We have a Canadian sculler here with us he is a fair hard case talks just like an American.

56 Our Jazz band
played for a French
wedding party last
night & they thought
it was grand.

Wednesday. June 18th.

Weather still very nice
all writing letters
today. The crew getting
into form. This is
quiet after the noise in
Paris but just lovely.
My word a tremendous
storm broke overhead
last night. The thunder
was terrific & the
lightning was very severe
the worst I've seen for
a long time & didn't it
rain, it had us all out
of bed shifting beds on
account of it beating thro' on us

Thursday June 19th.

Frank received a letter
from cousin Alice in
England today. Wrote
several letters today. Went
for a swim yesterday &
it was a bit chilly in
this part. There is a
fairly strong stream
running here. Rowing
improving.

Friday June 20th.

Boats arrived in Paris
this day. Our washing
we put in the laundry
when we first arrived
has not yet arrived
only a few articles, they
have been dyed yellow
I pity my clothes
when they return.

58 Still delightful weather
& may it continue.
Crew improving slowly,
& I think fit in three

weeks hence when
we race. Canadian sculler
going to Henley on Thames
to scull on Monday

Saturday June 21st.

doing plenty long
walking & running
with six sweaters on
& swimming to reduce weight.
I weigh 187
stript now.

Sunday

June 22nd. Early row
morning. Big crowd
assembles here on river in
boats, week end resort.
Our boat & sculls arrived
here in good order Saturday
night. Had a row in her
Sunday quite strange for
first row. The lads went
for a trip down river
in canoe & had a lovely
trip 1.30p to 6p. Beautiful
scenery. I went for a
long walk with some others
round the hills & was
very pretty. Big dance held
Here Sunday night. Lovely
Jazz Band. They dance
all Sunday afternoon & night.

59

Monday June 23rd.

Had good row in our boat
getting nearer the old form
now. Did some washing
today. Had a reception
by the club members where
we are staying yesterday.
They are a decent lot of
French Sportsmen over there

Tuesday June 24th, 1924.

All well, still doing hard
training. Doing plenty
swimming. Meals are
excellent here.

Wednesday

June 25th, 1924. Went to Paris this morning & the Aus Olympic Team placed a wreath on the "Unknown French Soldiers Grave". It was a beautiful wreath. There were quite a number of beautiful wreaths there, took some snaps of it. The soldier was buried under the Arch-de-Triump, which is well known in the history of the war. The big hotel across the Street on the right is where the "Kaiser" had his lunch ordered in the early part of the great war

Thursday. June 26th 1924.

We are going out rowing after tea now about 8.30 practising starts & it is lovely on the river then. Aussie mail out today. No mail received from home yet.

27 **Friday June 27th** Crew still training hard also June 28th Saturday, & Sunday 29th. River too busy Sunday afternoon went out in evening doing starts all well.

Monday.

June 30th did course on Marne in 6.2, 3.5 secs good row. Crew going well. Sunday all the swimmers were swimming here.

Tuesday

July 1st.

Shifted camp to Argenteuil didn't like leaving at all.

62 Crew rowed boat through Paris from Nogent to Argenteuil distance about 25 miles, left Nogent

at 10a arrived
Argenteuil at 4p had
to pass 3 lochs, &
had lunch on the way.
The run thro' Paris was
very interesting & pretty
& quite a number of
incidents occurred. Boat
housed on private property
bad landing place, but
we are on the course. It
is a fair course to look
The Americans are here
training. We are living
in " Gun Alley" quarters
very rough part of the
suburb. Our ranch is
an old nobilitys place
63 very clean & lofty plenty
of fresh air but rather
far to walk twice a
day to train, no where
near as good as Nogent
but we are on the course.
Received lots of mail
from Aussie Saturday
28th June and one today
from Rene thro' America.

July 2nd. Wednesday. Did
five rows on the course one
bad row; raining, nearly
all day. Things not satisfactory
at all for training facilities
here. The place of living is
not too bad. They still
put salt in the rice in
place of sugar. Went to
bed early nowhere else
to go here in these parts
Thomas my room mate.

64 **Thursday 3rd July.**
Raining like the devil. Had
fair row. Had fast motor boat
out today. Went to Colombes
for rehearsal but too wet
had to return home. Saw
most of the athletes of all
nations at practising there.

The Games start on Saturday official opening the day also the grand march past. Two men in crew crook Sladden & Thomas.

Friday July 4th.

Wet all day. Had one row Jarvis & Sladden out. Thomas home with cold. No crews out in afternoon; Marks there to see us, but slipped.

Information. 14 crews in 8 oar race. 4 heats Monday

July 14th 2 semi-finals

Tuesday & final Thursday.

65 They count the first & second crew in each heat. Two heats with 4 crews & 2 with 3 crews, the both semi-finals will have four & the final will have four crews. So I think we have a chance, all being well. We haven't been over the course yet, but hope to on Sunday or Monday. Games open tomorrow hope for better weather, all go to bed early in Argenteuil nothing else to do no interest to walk the dirty streets here. We are only 8 oar crew here yet. West in London to see the Henley-on-Thames.

Saturday July 5th Fine

day for once. Had fair row in morning. Thomas went to Dr. still out of boat, Tucker in.

Early dinner, all dressed in blazers to proceed to

66 opening of the Games at Colombes Stadium. The Aus Olympic Team looked well in cream pants & boots green & gold caps & blazers & Aussie flag. It was a wonderful sight. The procession was headed by South Africa Argentine and then Aussie followed by 47 other nations: almost every nation of the world

67 was represented. England, France & America had great numbers especially America numbered somewhere near 350. All nations, had different flags & wore different uniforms & was a grand sight. There must have been 40,000, to 50,000 people there to see the march & we got a rousing reception. Aeroplanes overhead & salutes by guns cameras in dozens & two big Bands. There were about 2,500 athletes paraded. The games start in earnest tomorrow. It was a sight one shall never forget.

July 6th (Sunday).

Games began today. Crew still doing two rows. Bill Sladden & Thomas ill putting crew out of trim. Weather still unsettled.

July 7th

68 **(Monday)** Slipp Carr wins heats at the Games the only Aussie to do any good up to date. Bill better but Thomas still nasty cold. The French people are just beginning to know how to cook our food, they think we eat a funny way. Crew still under difficulties with sickness went over to the Stadium & saw some events after the afternoon practising. Saw some fine running. Saw Carr win heat in 200 meters. Stadium only 20 rains walk from Argenteuil.

July 8th

(Tuesday.) weather fining a little. Thomas improving Scott is now ill, having a bad run. Did course

with Tucker in, in 6.15 3/5
best time to date but good
conditions. West advises
may go home aboard
"Mooltan" P.O. Liner 20,000
tons. Mr Binney returned
from London today. All
in bed early here no
where else to go. Play
cards & yarn till ten
& then hop in.

- 69 **July 9th. Wednesday.** Crew
all well again, & hard
at it hope we continue so.
Saw the Canadian crew
yesterday, rowing fair. The
Dutch crew do not appear
to impress me much. The
Belgiums are also fair
& the Argentine crew are
very fair. This will be a hard
race to select the winner, but
England, France, & Americans
are bound to be hard, & we
hope to have a good go to.
July 10th Thursday. Did
the course today 6.18 sec and
slightly head wind did fair
row doing 32. The motor
boat is OK again now.
weather very nice now.
Aeroplanes pass over
here all day long.
- 70 You ought to see our
conveyance we go backwards
& forwards to River & back
2 horse drag & a slap old
driver, causes quite a lot of
fun but anything does the
cods. All men pretty fit
now. Steady row tomorrow
cool off Sunday ready
for the race Monday.
- July 11th Friday.** Just
saw a huge airship
go over, very close down
the first I have seen.
Plenty of observation balloons

about. Weather good hope
continues till after race
Hoping for Aussie mail
today.

Saturday 12th. No
mail yet. Did our last
course rest day good
work obtained.

71 Aussie athlete Winter
won Hop step & jump
worlds record Aus has made
a start.

Sunday July 13th

Rowing started today. pairs
& fours. "Charlton" won
heat swimming worlds record
1500 meters "Borg" beat this
soon after in his heat.
Beauparie also won his heat.
Good old Aussie, & this
afternoon Bailey & Willard
(Tennis) both won their
singles, hope they continue.
Bull (sculler) sculls. France
& Poland in heat tomorrow
14th. We were over at stadium
Colombes this aft, saw several
fine final events, very close
goes between U.S.A. & England.
Wonderful "fin" runner
Nurmi is a wonder.

72 just came back from the
Street witnessing the finish
of the Marathon race this
was won by "fin" Italy (2)
& America (3) Fin (4) & England (5)
they were very tired when they
passed us up the street
nearly 26 miles they ran.
This is the close of the
Athletes. Swimming, Tennis
and Rowing is on now & we
have a chance in all.

Sunday July 13th.

Bull (sculler) won heat
by few after France, second
Charlton qualified 1500 meters

73 beating Borg & Dick Eve
qualified diving. Very
warm. Crew had row in
morning, last row
before race on Tuesday
Thomas still unwell
Monday July 14th. Warm
to hot. Rowing continued
crew spelling. Went to Paris
in evening went to Follies
Be-Gere, the most wonderful
theatre & play I have ever
seen & ever to be seen.

Tuesday 15th. Had Turkish
bath Paris, best baths
I have been in, took off
few pounds, weight 151 kilos.
still hot. Great Britain
win first heat, Belgium 2.
America win second, Canada
2, record time of 5.51. Italy
third, Aussie 2. 6.6.
France was disqualified
fouled Argentine in first
heat.

74 We row Canada, Belgium
in a semi-final tomorrow
We shall have to row
better than we did in the
heat to win, if we lose we
are out of the contest, if we
win we row in the final.
America will win, but
it will be hard to place
the rest. Our crew did
not row to form yesterday
but hope to do better today

Wednesday July 16th.
Rowed in Semi Final today
Argentine, Belgium, Canada
we were beaten by a length
Canada. No form yet.

Thursday. July 17th.
Saw finals today. Bull
outed 4th. America
wins from Canada &

Italy & England wonderful
race. Rowing finished.
Had hard luck did
our best.

Friday July 18th. Went to
Paris. Went "Effie! Tower"
1,000 ft high wonderful.
Went to see the wonderful
painting "war picture".
Pantheon De La Guerre
the most wonderful
painting ever painted. Real
absolute real. All allies.
Went to see Charlton
swim 400 meters in aft
at Stade Des Tourefles.
Charlton beaten by touch
wonderful race worlds
record. Weismuller wonderful
The three worlds best, is
Charlton, Borg, Weismuller.
In evening. Folies-Bergere.
Wonderful show Theatre
beautiful all night
for 5 F. wonderful
costume & scenery.

Saturday 19th. July.
All day trip to Versailles. Saw
Hall Mirrors where
Peace Treaty was signed
1919 & table it was signed
on wonderful castle.
Learnt all about Napoleons
place & old French
Kings before the Republic
very historic & Interesting
buildings, carriages & relics.

Sunday 20th July.
"Renes Birthday yesterday"
Started out to Battlefields
today writing this up at
"Albert" the heart of the
Big War." Saw illeg Nelsons
grave at Dernacourt.
Saw lots of cemetrys
& the country is still
war scarred around

here Albert, Amiens, Poziers.

Monday July 21st.

78 Motoring around Battle fronts two days Monday & Tuesday. Thro Amiens to Albert stayed there the night. Aussie graves are kept most wonderfully Could not get to Storchs grave situated up at Bruay near Bethune north of France. Went to Bapaume cemetry wonderfully kept. Poziers lots of Aussies buried at these. Warlencourt all in wonderful order. Motored thro Corbie saw cemetry there. Then Deville Wood, Sth African memorial. 8,500 buried here, heavy fighting done here. Then went down to Villiers Breteaneaux cemetry. Took snaps of Dearloves & Lovicks grave these are wonderfully kept all Aussies 4,900. Saw one German cemetry on our travel. Arrived back via Amiens 8p Monday. Wonderful trip. Went to "Hamel" & the trenches & dug outs & one place German Head quarters under ground just as it was in the war time. Rifles & helmets lying every where rusted wonderfully interesting & brings back memories of the terrible war that was fought between the nations. It is a credit to the British Legion the way the graves are kept.

Tuesday 22nd July.

Packed up. Lunch in Paris, left for aerodrome

Paris 2p. Waited at
aerodrome till 5p for plane.
Big Plane carried 14
with luggage. Had wonderful
trip over. 5,000 ft high
at times & 100 miles an
hour. Was in air 2 1/2 hrs.
Coming over channel was
wonderful boats (large)
looked like toys. Arrived
Croydon Aerodrome England
about 7.30p, lovely trip.
was taken by buss to
Hotel Anderson's Fleet St.
right on the Strand.
Glad to leave France &
get to England.

Wednesday 23rd. Looking
around London
80 went to Exhibition, wonderful
show. Have been to Operas
wonderful shows.

Thursday

July 24th still looking
around London. Wonderful
city no doubt.

Friday

July 25th. Had Lunch
Sir J Cook Australia
House wonderful Building
Went to see Gladys Cooper
in Diplomacy great
show.

Saturday. July 26th

Went to Westminster Abbey
Unknown soldiers grave
wonderful. went thro'
Parliament House, Houses
Lords & Commons.
Trunk luggage not yet
to hand from France
several lots missing
from party, customs
big nuisance.

81 Sunday 27th July. party of
Monday 28th " the team
Tuesday. 29th " } sailed for

Wednesday 30th. " home via
Thursday 31st " America.

20th Aug

Been to Theatres all
good. Went thro' Tower
London. Been Hyde Park
Sunday heard Band.
Met English friends.
Been raining heavily.
Saw "Merry Widow" & "Tour".
Luggage turned up OK
but trunk in very bad
state lock all broken etc
Customs. Received Aus mail.

August 1st off for Ireland

Had wonderful trip
through England & Wales
to Holy head on way
to Ireland very pretty
82 London & Midland & Scot - Express.
arrived Holy head 3p. Boarded
Boat sailed. Blew & rough.
as — 937 pasgrs on board
standing room & 2 thirds
were sick, myself nearly
not quite. Very rough trip
arriving in Kingstown Ireland
near Dublin **illeg.** Irish
Games Committee met with
car. Staying St Pats College
Drumcordia. Beautiful living
like Lords treating us good o.
Saturday Aug 2. Opening
Irish Games. Great display
Aussie led the athletes
America next. Great show
equal to Colombes. Bands
plenty. 20,000 people. Irish
v scotch "shinny" good game.

Aug 3r, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th 9th, 10th.

83 Having glorious time.
Training on the liffy at
Neptune shed. good. 4s and 8s
race on 16th. Have been
several shows all fair.
College great. Strike over.

Can see results of
great war, ruins in
street. Several tours
were O.K. have been
several. **illeg** Capt
O'Toole at the lake.

Aug 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th

Still having good time
in Ireland. We were beaten
in racing 4s by 1/2 length
Derry from North & were
beaten again in the 8s by 1 1/2 lengths. Had
a great
dinner one night after
racing was over.

84 **Aug 17th** we packed up
for home.

Aug 18th left

Dublin. Some of our
chaps had a nasty motor
accident, capsized hurt
one or two; in our taxi
we ran over a dog, all
going to the station. The
crew left for Belfast.
Had a day's look around
Here nice big place.
Left for Glasgow at 9p
per boat had good
trip over arrived at
Ardrossan early next
morning, trained to
Glasgow. Then Left for
the lakes. Spent all
day looking over lakes
Loch Lomond, Loch
Katyre Trossachs all
very beautiful.

85 Left for home per train
from Glenfoyle I think
for Glasgow went thro'
Stirling where Battle
of Stirling Bridge was
fought & Bannoch Burn
Crossed "Forth Bridge."
very wonderful. Trip
By train to Edinburgh

was great arrived at 9.30p

Aug 19th Spent all day looking at Edinburgh Castle & looking around generally very wet weather spoilt the tour. Edinburgh was lovely. Next day we left for London via Carlisle & crew had great trip down all very interesting country great.

- 86 **Aug 20th to 29th** Spent in London. Went to Wembley & lots of theatres & did a lot of shopping before leaving for home. Heard the "Aussie Band" at the Palladium theatre & was a treat. Rained a great deal in London. I met some fine people there gave me a great time & the night before we left they gave a party great fun they were sorry I left I took the phonograph down & we danced till 2am, fine people old chap is sailor in navy.

On Friday 29th Aug sailed for home per R.M.S. Mooltan left Tilbury Docks at 12.30p quite at home again on board boat, used of sea travelling. Cabin in Channel called in at Dover sea getting rough now

Sunday 30th. having quite time all well entered the Bay Biscay

- Monday 31st** very swelly seas & inclined to be rough later calmed off a bit had good trip to date good sailor. Monday we sailed down Portugese coast arrived at Gibraltar Tuesday at about 9a. Spent several hours there. Went ashore had a look over the big guns on fort huge rocks wonderful how the guns were taken to the top of these rocks. Very warm here. Left Gibraltar at 1p good weather Great sight going thro' the Straits. Two days at sea & we arrived at Marseilles This is a wonderful shipping port, scores of ships in port coming & going all day
- 88
- 89 We had almost two days at Marseilles. first day we had a look around the town shopping etc, just a typical French sea city much like Toulon. Next day we went on all day excursion to sea side resort "Bandol" about 30 miles from Marseilles & was great motor drive going over huge rocky hills all along the coast had lunch at Bandol then most of the chaps went bathing in the sea. Arrived home tea time. Had

the phonograph up
on deck at night &

- 90 Watched them loading
mails in thousands &
thousands till midnight
& they were still loading
Mails when I went to
bed until 5a we left
for Port Said at 5.30.
Games have started on
board & music in
galore. we passed
Corsica & Sardinia
islands at 9p last
night.

Sunday 7th Sept

Stromboli today
sometime & then
the Straits of Messina
getting warmer now as
we proceed to Port
Said expect to arrive
there Wednesday sometime.
church Service today

Sept 8th Monday.

Met two folks on
board one Miss Hurley
used to work with
her at Stirling exchange
years ago thought I
recognised her when
we left London altho'
was not sure. Strange
all these miles, world is
not so big after all.
Dancing is the popular
routine again on board
ship altho this is not
compared with the
"Ormonde" & especially
the Band. Thomas & etc
played last night & they
liked it immensely
danced to it to on the
Lower deck **illeg**
want as to plan.
The "Mooltan" is 21,000

tons the largest one
of mail ships that go
to Australia & is a fine
boat to travel on.
We passed her sister
Ship "Maloja" at Marseilles
two fine ships. They
do about 15 knots
carrying 1st & 2nd passengers
travelling later & is
equal to 1st on Orient
line. Stewards are all
colored race lascars
majority, but do
things in good style.
All chaps well.
Three bicycle riders
& wrestler of the
team travelling with
us home.

93 **Sept 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th**

arrived Port Said OK at 6a
loaded up and left again
at 8.30a few passengers
went off, too short a stay
All day thro' Suez Canal
very warm 102 on deck
135 down below, very
interesting thro' canal in
daylight passed lots of ships
& trains on way.
Arrived at Suez at 11p
did not stay came
straight thro' then we
had four hot days in
the Red Sea passing
P & O liner which
came close over to us.
games on board have
started but rather warm.
We played for two or

94 three dances now they
seem to like our music
as well. Arrived thro'
Perim midnight
Saturday night. Journey
so far has been real
good but now starts

the heat & long days
travelling with out any
interest Arrived at
"Aden" (nice place don't
think) early Sunday
morning transhipped
mails for India
& passengers to Bombay
& the persian gulf. 46
in all passengers. Was
hot. Several people
went ashore, but
didn't stay long, too
hot & not interesting

- 95 Left Aden at 2.30p Sunday
& was glad to leave,
supposed to arrive Colombo
Saturday. Have swimming
tank on board some of
the chaps make use of
it, but rather small in size
Have had boat drill twice
since we left. About 97
passengers alight at Colombo.
Putting on clocks every
night now. Plenty of
sharks seen & "dolphins".
peculiar at Aden we
weren't troubled with
natives selling there
goods because of Sunday
perhaps. Reading books
from Ship's library is
in full swing & drinking
plenty of iced swash [squash?]
cool drinks.

- 96 **Sept 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th 20th.**
Leaving Aden for
Colombo. Did not see
Cape Gardafui or
Sokotra after leaving
Aden. Weather very
warm. Deck games
competitions have
commenced.
Tuesday we run into
tail end of Monsoon
cool change, & inclined

to be choppy, boat
rolling good deal
several people down
to it. Not much
traffic out these
parts in the Arabian
Sea. Still dancing
etc concert Thursday
night, cricket has
been played several times

- 97 **20th Sept Saturday.**
Arrive Colombo
8a & depart for
Fremantle at 10a on
Sunday 21st Boat
did record run between
Aden & Colombo 400
miles two days following
& then 404 miles next
day, goes along nicely.
Ashore at 9.30a &
7 cars of tourists left
for trip to "Kandy"
72 miles inland from
Colombo. Motored through
Streets of Colombo, but
soon after starting
the rain came &
didn't it rain, came
right thro' the hood
of our car & wet us
almost thro'.
- 98 Arrived "Kandy" 1 p
passing on the way
some very wonderful
scenery, perhaps on a
fine day the prettiest
one could wish to see.
Tea plantations,
coconut plantations
Banana, & cocoa
plantations but
most of all the
rice fields they
are very wonderful.
Natives were working
in the rice fields
with their wild

-
- buffaloes. Tea factories
are numerous &
we passed also a
zoo it was to
wet to take
snapshots;
- 99 There are wonderful
high hills & waterfalls
& thick green growth
Saw two elephants
working on roads &
another coming up
a river with a
huge log it in its trunk
Nearly had couple
of accidents going
to Kandy arrived
there 1p had an
excellent lunch
best since left
London. Meals on
board not too
good. Had a lot
around Kandy for
couple hours but
rain also spoilt
this venture.
doing some shopping.
- 100 Streets cleaner &
healthier than Colombo
in appearance.
We left Kandy at
4p for Colombo
still raining. Passing
lots of small villages
rain & clouds spoilt
views from the high
hills. Passed hundred
of natives carts
with two small
oxen at laden with
goods; all the way
to Colombo & at
one place was
held up for half
hour for them to
pass & just missed
a nasty accident

-
- by "hairs" breath
between them.
- 101 halfway home
it grew perilously
dark & could not
see a foot in front
but the native driver
seem to see all right
we were almost
tired of travelling
by this time & were
looking for the
lights of Colombo
which we reached
at 7.30p, 31/2 hours
to get home that
was 7 hours in car
too much, & the
trip was spoilt
by Rain, but there
is no doubt
Kandy tour is
a very pretty
one in good weather.
- 102 Arrived at the Jetty
7.35p & boarded the
lighter for the Mooltan
was tired & wet so
turned in early.
Sunday still
anchored. Lot of
people went ashore
but I seen enough
of shopping at
Colombo so stayed
on board it was
fine for once. About
five ships came
in the morning
the harbour was
busy with shipping
about eleven ships
in all. Colombo
is a pretty harbour
We Colombo at 12p
for Fremantle.
- 103 **Sept 21st to 30th.**

- Colombo to Fremantle.
Rain, wind like the
devil first two days
monsoonal weather
conditions, crossed
line 22nd at 11.30p.
Games still on
deck. Had concert
on deck 2nd class
other night. Played
in Jazz & cornet
solo, very good
Concert. Card games
have begun. Fancy
dress ball on friday
night Cricket matches
on boat deck today
gramophone still
doing good work
in the evenings on
deck after dinner
- 104 Won pillow fight on deck
in the competitions
concert tonight **29th Sept**
presentations prizes &
dance. Old-time dance
tomorrow after we leave
Fremantle, great trip
to date. Rather
rough today. Passed
Cocos Island some
way off day could
see nice beach &
plenty of growth.
Plenty of amusement
now, & nice ideal
condition for weather
is good enough. Arrive
Fremantle **Tuesday**
30th Sept. 6a all
passengers examined
by Doctor clean ship.
- 105 Landed about 10a.
Motored to Perth
beautiful drive nice
scenery. Did shopping
in Perth met Lalors
had lunch there like

old times to be there
& there is no place like
Australia after all.
Received letters & wire.
Went to Kings Park
again lovely views
took some snaps.
boarded boat at 6p
but did not leave
till midnight, had
tea at Fremantle
Cafe & was decent
after the ships
food tasty & quite
a treat. Had great
fun there.

END