



Under attack . . . this photograph by Mr Eric "Rex" Elliott, a member of the 4th Light Horse Brigad

With sabres drawn and bayonets fi

By TONY STEPHENS

The Battle of Beersheba, distinguished by what has been called the last and greatest cavalry charge in history, has been rejoined after 80 years.

This time, the battle is over one of the most famous photographs in Australia's military history – of the charge itself.

The issue at stake: who took the photograph and when?

Mr Ian Jones, a Melbourne writer-historian, set out a

detailed argument this week in support of Mr Eric "Rex" Elliott, a member of the 4th Light Horse Brigade machine-gun squadron.

And the Australian War Memorial admitted that despite recent claims the photograph was a fake, its authenticity was open to debate.

The Battle of Beersheba on October 31, 1917, culminated in what Ian Jones has called "the last great cavalry charge in

history and probably the greatest". The battle was one of the pivotal actions of World War I, enabling the Light Horse to push on to Jerusalem and into Syria.

The charge was made under extreme difficulty: across the desert, facing the setting sun, entrenched defences and two German aircraft.

Of the 620 who took on nearly 1,000 entrenched Turks and Arabs at Beersheba, with a few thousand more behind, 31

died and 36 were wounded.

Mr Jones's argument comes in response to an article in *Wartime*, the War Memorial's official magazine, in which it is claimed: "The photograph is not an authentic record of the charge at Beersheba, but a carefully prepared image of a re-enactment of the charge, staged for Frank Hurley [an official photographer] on February 7, 1918."

Mr Jones said the re-enactment theory was advanced



The machine-gun squadron, is accepted by many as the authentic depiction of the Charge of Beersheba.

Exposed, historians charge at Beersheba

before 1920 to explain a then anonymous photo of the charge.

In 1967, Mr Elliott provided the War Memorial with a statement of how he took the photo. He had been preparing range charts between the Australian and Turkish lines when the charge crossed a ridge. He had snapped a photo and gone.

Mr Jones, who met Elliott in 1971, said: "He impressed me as a reliable witness, as he had impressed Lieutenant-Colonel

Donovan Joynt, VC, who had persuaded Rex to write his account. I subsequently spoke with 13 men who had ridden in the charge. All accepted Rex's photo as genuine."

Mr Jones visited Beersheba in 1979, taking photos which, he said, matched Elliott's. He wrote an article for the War Memorial's *Journal* in 1983, arguing for the acceptance of Elliott's photo as an authentic record and quoting Brigadier

General William Grant, who had directed the charge.

"Everything appears to be right - the formation and the country over which the charge was made," Mr Jones said. "There was a 'rehearsal' charge made at a later time in the campaign but the country was entirely different to that opposite Beersheba."

Mr Jones said the War Memorial had accepted his case and Elliott had been given

posthumous credit. He said the *Wartime* article contained several errors, ignored key evidence and labelled Elliott as having made false claims, whereas Jones said he was "a modest and honourable man".

Mr Bill Fogarty, head of photographs, sound and film at the War Memorial, said: "We are not saying the photo is a fake. We have an image and there are tantalising questions unanswered."

TRANSCRIPT OF PERSONAL DIARY OF GEORGE THOMAS
HUNT DURING WORLD WAR 1 - 1917 to 1919.

The first part of the diary is written on loose 8vo paper folded in half. Written in ink and indelible pencil. The inscription includes:

Trooper Geo. T. Hunt,
No. 3142
7th A.L.H.
2nd Brigade.
Rifle No. G388
Pay Book No. 227771.
Size in hats 7.3/4
Size in boots 8
Weight 11 st 11 lbs
Height 5 ft 7½ ins
Watch No. Cyma Cwo 154.

The loose papers also contain some notes and addresses:

No. 2857
Sgt. J.L.Pegler
36 Battalion
A. I. F.
On Active Service.

No. 2961
Trooper James Upton
21st Rgt
7th Aust L.H.
A. I. F.
Abroad.

7 L. H.

Ted Williams 973 of 5th Reinf
Yates Hunt 2939 " 21st "
Fred Luddenham

Mr. S. Jeffery
Cecil Street
South Melbourne in Methodist Churchgrounds
W. Kay's step Brother

Hordern's Nut Chocolate 1s/3d 1/2 pound

Miss Annie Pegler

Selsley

Railway Parade

Granville

Marjorie Robinson

10 Bower Street

Manly

Mrs. Gillham

1st Elocution Teacher

"Coo-yong" Cassier St. Dee Why

Ned Kelly "Glenrowan"

Gold Mining Chiltern

Teityens & Teityens

Solicitors Albury

Lieut Robinson, Commanding Officer

N. S. W. Quota

2nd Military District

Gwen Green

"Ashwick"

Elizabeth St

Ashfield

"Elonara"

Wharf Rd.

Watsons Bay

Miss Linda Davis

"Wondella"

56 Alt St. or Mrs Davis

Ashfield

For McKay

H. K. Carpenter Esq

Hillside

Mount Colah

Hornsby

Phone Wharonga 58

Walters Mackay Haywood Hill

Wilson Hunt

Mrs. S. Haywood
"Prospect"
Via Blacktown.

Mrs. O.C, Walters
Kyogle. N.S.W.

R.O. Walters
Bank N.S.W. Mrs Osie
Mosman Phone Brothers

R. McKay Esq
Rollands Plains
Via Wauchope. N. S. W.

Mrs C. Hill
Rouchell Springs
Aberdeen.

Miss M. Wilson
Minneapolis
Jaques Avenue
Bondi.

Trooper Y. Hunt
D Troop
A Squadron
7th A. L. H.
2nd Brigade.

Marcroft W. L. 66 Merlin St N. Sydney.
Cadell A.M. Deepwater N.S.W
Matthews James "Bareena" Narromine
Hathaway Westwood (L.B.) Manly
Ballard Claude Bowraville N.S.W.

Seymour Correspondence:

N. Pegler	28
Mother	11
Hope	4
Nell Wearne	3
Aub	3
Gert	3
Emm	2
Mr. Harris	1
Col	1
Mrs Moxham	1
Geo White	1
Enid	1
Noel	1
Gwen	
Les Pegler	1
D. Emmott	1
Mr. Wedge	1
Spem	
Mr. G. Roughley	1
Beattie	1
Mrs Pegler	2
16th	Mother Aub Gert
17th	-
18th	Mother Mrs Moxham Nell Mr Harris mr Cobb
19th	" " " mr. Peg Mr. Luddenham
20th	Nell Geo White
21st	Les Pegler D. Emmott
22nd	Nell
23rd	Wire to Father
24th	Nell <u>Albury</u> Wire to Father
25th	Nell Father Beattie
26th	Hope Nell Noel Mr. Wedge Mr. Roughley
27th	Nell Walter
28th	Nell (L Card)
29th	Nell Emma
April 10th	Nell Mother

There is a second list of correspondence, possibly written up to Colombo because on the same page there is this note:

Colombo talk. All right. All right
Sixpence 1/- 2/-
Silver Copper no see
Dive bridge 2 bob.

Mother	6
Nell	11
Spen	1
Yates	1
Marjorie (?)	1
Noel	1
Mrs Pegler	4
Hope	1
Majorie Green	1
Gwen Green	1
Geo White	1
Mr. Geo Roughley	1
Nellie Tange	1
Aub	1
Gert	1
Nell Wearne	1
Col	1
Edna	1
HaRRY Roughley	1
Walter Croft	1
T. Best	1
B. Best	1
Mr. Saxton	1
Nell	10
Mother	7

Other notes:

Musky (Egyptian Market)
White Vaseline

Hunt
"Currawong"
Parramatta N.S.W.

Arrived safely all well Love
Hunt.

(copy of cable)

25-2-17
 to
 15-3-17

D I A R Y

Left Sydney Wed. 28th February 1917. Cleared heads 9.45 am. Nell Emma (?) Noel came out on Captain Cook. Weather clear, sea calm, passed Gabo Isl 9 a.m.

1st March Thurs Sea calm. Passed Wilsons Prom^y. Friday morning, early, entered Port Phillip, dropped anchor Port Melb 5.30 p.m.

Friday 2nd landed 9 a.m.

Saturday morning marched to Domain Camp near Barracks St Kilda Rd. Pitched tents. Visited main city afternoon and evening.

On duty Sunday Linesman. Relieved at 4 p.m. Visited St Kilda and sub. further out.

Monday Route march to city baths headed by band. Inspected by State Commandant 2.30p.m. Leave pass from 4 to 11 p.m.

Tuesday Route march to St Kilda. Dismissed from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Had lunch at soldiers' lounge & singing etc. Marched back and had concert at night given by soldiers in camp to various companies who have given concerts from time to time. Sang Old Shako (out of voice)

Wednesday Marched to park and had drill. Back to camp and had lecture given by Serg of 1st L.H.

Thursday struck tents and marched through City to Rail Station and entrained to Seymour Camp 60 miles due North
 Went to Seymour Thursday 8th March.

Friday Drilled and had a general good time. Sang solo at open air time at night. Met old Petersham boy and two Dural boys. Mobbs and a young man who bought Vineys.

Saturday went to Melbourne. Marched to the station, in all 2000 troops headed by a band. Stayed at Misses LLOYD Taylers, 15 Middle Crescent, Brighton, Vic. Had a lovely time and left by 6.25 tram to join up with the troop train. Landed at camp 12 noon. Wrote to Nell Peg. Mother & Nell Wearne.

Tuesday nothing special. Wrote to Nell

Wednesday. Usual parades. Sang solo "Three for Jack" encore "Irish Girl". Wrote Nell, Mother and Hope.

Thursday Mess Orderly. Went for Route march & skirmishing party (the 7th 24th) under Sgt Cadell (25th of 7th) under Sgt Mac & Engineers (Anzac Mounted) under Sgt Dredge all took up the attacking party. The 1st & 6th took up the offensive at bridge about 5 miles from camp. Had dinner at bridge and manouvered all the way back to camp in time to be dismissed

Got letter from Aub and Nell (7th no).

Friday. Paraded in squads till noon. Had dinner and were dismissed to tents to wash them out. We were paid 1/- per day. 16/-

Wrote to Mother to catch 7 o'clock mail. Remainder of camp went to Melbourne for week-end leave. Wrote to Aub Nell Mother Gert.

Saturday Washed clothes. Fitted and fixed tunic (2nd issue) Acted mess orderly. Had singsong and played Bagatelle in evening. Wrote to Mr. Harris and Cobb. Received 3 letters and stamps from home. One from Nin & one from Mrs Moxham. Enjoying splendid health

Sunday Church Parade. Methodist Minister preached helped by Presbyterian. Went to river with Sgt Cadell and Eric McKay. Had tea and dinner on River bank and landed back at 7.30. Had shower and wrote to Nell (no 11) and Mother (No 8) Mrs Moxham.

Monday, 19th March 1917 Paraded 9 o'clock. Rabbit hunted till 11.30. Early dinner, muster parade 1 o'clock & boot inspection. Sent boots to be repaired. Went for swim ALL AFTERNOON. Took charge of right flank guard on marching to river. Received a wallet from Mrs Tuddenham, Uraana N.S.W. Fred's mother. Also received cake and goodies from Mother per Mrs Moxham. Wrote to Nell No 12 Mother No 9 and Enid enclosing cards also Mrs Moxham and Mrs Tuddenham & Mr. & Mrs. Pegler. Writing in Methodist Hall, Seymour.

Tuesday. 20th March Acting Mess Orderly. Had kit inspection also paraded before doctor. Had photo taken of whole of reinforcements (L. Horse & attachments) to appear in Melb paper. Received No 10 letter from Nell. Usual parades & visual training under Serg Cadell (Lieut Waddell, orderly officer).

Wednesday 21st. Usual training visual sighting in distances under Lieut Waddell. Afternoon under Serg Cadell. No midday mail. Tea at Y.M.C.A. O. Walters acting orderly trooper at Head Office. Bob Hayward Mess orderly for the day.

Thursday Extended order drill under Mr. Waddell all day. Route march till noon. Took observation notes on ground covered. Did airship drill etc. & visual training. Letter from Nell.

Friday. Erected tents and divided men into fives per tent. Changed tents, Engineers taking ours. Gave name in to go to Albury to vote. Only five in all. Five o'clock mass parade, given

notice that special train would convey men to vote (free). 150 volunteered.
Letter from Nell.

Saturday. Arose 5.30 a.m. had breakfast and caught 8.30 special to Albury. Arrived Albury 2.10 p.m. Long journey owing to waits on single line for usual trains. Met Mr. Manning, National candidate. Also met Mr. Tietyens who gave Fred Tuddenham, Hill and self dinner at hotel. Left by 3.40 train back to Seymour. Took car out to camp. Arrived there 9.30. Rec letter extra special from Nell. Note Three letters in three days.

Sunday Due for week end in Melbourne, but Albury stunt disallowed our going. Had Church Parade (fine sermon, beautifully delivered) Volunteered for duty and was put on butchers fatigue. Had dinner and washed. Sat in tent all afternoon, wrote to Nell & generally had a quiet time. Went to Church at night and had fine singing. Men used lungs to fullest extent, putting heart and soul into their singing. Wrote to Beattie and home (Father)

Monday Arose 4 a.m. sat at kitchen for 1½ hours and then butcher told us he did not need us so went back to bed and reported at cookhouse 8 a.m.. Washed benches and scrubbed floors and went off till 11 a.m.

Tuesday Ordinary drill

Wednesday Went on 6.30 Inlying Picket. Did 9 to 12 o'clock shift. Rose 6 a.m. did duty all day Thursday until 4 p.m.

Friday Rained all night. No early morning parade. Fell in 9 a.m. and had lecture in mess shed given by O.C. Waddell. Rear and Advance guard action etc. during afternoon. Rain eased off, practically dry towards night. Received letter from Aub & Nell. (Thursday received letters Mother, Emma, Father, Nell Beattie & Hope also pugaree.

Saturday. Half day drill pulling tents down and liming ground etc. Got ready for Melbourne. Recd letter from Nell before leaving. Stayed at Mrs Moxom Cooke's

"Weridgerel"

39 Orong Road,

Elsterwick. April 1st '17

Had a lovely time. She is a descendent of the 2nd wife of Henry VIII. Her husband editor of "The Australian" paper. Went to C of E Church with F. Tuddenham in morning and to Kew cemetary in the afternoon.

Se. 3. 17
to
17. 4. 17

Met Mrs Moxham Les & Allen at the cemetery. Saw Aviator Warson's Funeral and grave also Doctors beautiful monument erected to the memory of his wife, died 12 months after marriage. Had singing in evening. Left with Woolen at 6 a.m. train. Returned to camp noon, Monday April 2nd. Swimming parade also saw horses swum. Rec. mail from Nell, Noel, Gert & Pair sox from Gert. On Q.M.S. fatigue with Bob Haywood. Off to bed to dream of Easter at home.

Tuesday 3rd April On Q.M.S. Fatigue all day. Pay Day drew 4 pounds. Certain of going home Thursday night. HOO ROO.

Wed Usual drill

Thursd Announced that we were not going home till Friday night. Riot in camp but it came to nothing.

Friday Good Friday Did no drill all day. Lecturette in afternoon and left camp for Seymour Station at 5.30 p.m. and had a splendid trip, arriving Sydney 1.15 Saturday. Went out to Dural in motor. Father, Mother, Emm, Enid, Mos (?) and self. Saw all Dural folk. Went to Dee Why Sunday morning & spent day with Nell. Both went to Currawong at night and back to Dee Why Monday morning 8.52 train. Stayed in Manly to see Kimberley. Nell and Noel went on out. Met them again at Dee Why and walked along the sands to meet folks. Returned and had dinner and went to unveiling of Honor Roll. Rain began to fall and spoiled the show completely. Spent quiet time with Nell and had early tea and went to Manly. Visited Doctor re rash. Met Nell and Noel and then had medicine made. All went over together to Sydney and met Sgt Maj Mardroft at Quay. Great crowd at station to see us off. Father and Mother brought fruit & eatables. Nell purchased cake & sandwiches at Manly for me. Had a very good trip over. 7 in carriage. Tpr. Walker & Tpr. Allen Reid others strangers. Reached Seymour 3 p.m. Tuesday & marched to camp in time to be dismissed for tea.

Nothing important happened till Thursday when we started on musketry course. Went to Melbourne on Saturday with G. Wilson & stayed with Misses Lloyd Tayler. Returned Monday & paraded to Seymour Race Meeting.

Tuesday 17th Had grouping on miniature range and scored possible 25. Returned rifles early and were paid 3 pounds 15/-. Had tea at rooms and wrote No 27 to Nell

Lapse of writing diary until May 1st when wrote while sitting in bed.

18.4.17
to
2.5.17

Thursday 18 Had grouping on 100 yards range & scored 20, 4 bulls and 1 high. Qualified as marker & marked all the afternoon for rapid firing

Friday Usual Parades.

Saturday 20th Home on the 2 p.m. train from Seymour. Had a good trip with mates. Reached Granville 7.20 & roused Nell up. Spent till 11 a.m. with Aola folk and caught train to Parramatta. Missed Father with the car but they caught me up at Rawlingson's place. Went for Nell 4 p.m. and took her home again 9 p.m. in car.

Monday 22nd Went to Aola & spent till 3 p.m. there. Went home & had bath & tea and caught 10 to 6 train to Sydney. Met Nell over town and said good-bye at station. Emm went to Sydney with me Nell having gone to Dural to Nellie Hawkin's social prior to her wedding. Had a good trip over to Vic on the 7.20 express with Eric, Hathaway, Wilson. Reached camp 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Wednesday Usual drill

Thursday " "

Friday " "

Saturday On duty orderly Trooper with McKay. Spent week-end in camp and went on duty again Sunday night with sanitary fatigue. On duty all day Monday, had hole burnt in trousers by dustman.

Tuesday Rifle drill preparing for contest.

Wednesday ditto.

Thursday 24th of 7th won contest by 5 points from the Anzacs who gained 60 points. N.S.W. men won tug-of-war against W.A. miners.

Friday Work in orderly room writing out soldiers Wills

Saturday Went to Melbourne & had afternoon tea with Osie walters, Mrs. Walters, Miss Alice Rogers, Eric & Gi Wilson. At night we went to see Marie Tempest in "Penelope" & had a most enjoyable time. Reached Pen-y-bryn about midnight. Spent enjoyable & quiet Sunday and returned to camp Monday. Had a parade full dress and off to bed early for we had to arise at 3.30 a.m. Had breakfast at tuck shop and away to Seymour. Missed the 7.15 train and had to wait for the 9.45 local. Detrained at Spencer Street Station and marched through the streets to Flinders St. where we entrained again to Port Melbourne.

6 5-17
to
22.5-17

We went aboard the "Boorara" about 4 p.m.
& had leave granted till 11.30 p.m.

Wednesday We were drawing equipment for all hands some 1100 men. Wednesday night I was on guard but got off about 8.30 p.m. to go ashore & post a couple of Home letters. Wednesday we distributed plates etc all over the ship and Thursday morning all hands came aboard and we moved off about 12.15 noon. Sailed down Port Phillip & anchored within sight of the heads. Here we stayed till Saturday afternoon when we with about 12 transports moved out with the Encounter leading and the Doris bringing up the rear. Sailed Sat 12th 4 p.m.

Ulysses	14,500 tons	
Ascannius	11,000	
Maratho	9,000	
Shropshire	11,350	
Pakeah	9,000	
Turakina	9,000	
Clan McGillionary	9,000	
Benalla	11,500	
Port Sydney	9,000	
Boorara	6,500	Pfahals Boorara)
Tofua	5,400	

Saturday night beautiful sea. Woke early Sunday morning, sea very rough & almost everybody went down with sea-sickness. I was very ill till Wednesday morning when Heywood & self sat midships on potatoes & felt very well. We had our first meal of meat, pineapple and soda water. Sea much calmer on Wednesday but Thursday we went down again and I went to hospital Thursday night out again Friday morning but went in almost immediately after catching a cold in my back. Came out again Saturday morning but had to take things steady; Sunday we had Church Parade in the morning & song service at night.

Monday morning we came in sight of lighthouse on Rottness Isl. We drew in three at a time till all were safely anchored just outside entrance to Swan River. We drew in Thursday morning 22nd may & berthed immediately behind the cruiser Doris. About 30 Queenslanders broke ashore & passed the guard. Mr. Waddell reinforced his guard and so prevented a second attempt. At 2 p.m. we all landed and had a route march and were back on board at 3.45 leaving some 40 men behind. Corp Peterson & one or two had passes till 6 p.m. but unfortunately they were left behind on leaving Fremantle. The Encounter & Doris went as escort to main body of transports via the Cape

The Port Sydney & Boorara with Japanese cruiser started on route to Colombo. This cruiser is one of the latest. One main aerial mast and two funnels. On Wed night we passed a sailing vessel which we suppose was a pearling vessel. Flashlights from the cruiser soon revealed her identity.

Friday 25th Day broke with big long swell on the sea. Log revealed boat doing 275 knots a day. Weather remaining beautiful. Am on isolation fatigue sterilising blankets etc. Hospital full of sick mainly colds. Menzies in isolation meningitis. Another mumps. Several put off at Fremantle, mumps & measles. Had concert on foredeck Thursday afternoon and sang Jack Briton & Deathless Army for encore. Friday morning Major D'arcy sent for me and I was paraded to his cabin.

He congratulated me and loaned me several songs to practice for forthcoming concerts. Concert was patriotic, it being Empire day. Also boat gave three blasts at 2 p.m. which is submarine alarm. We all stood to rafts and were inspected by O.C. While singing in afternoon alarm was given for crew alone which caused a slight stampede. Allan Reid wanted to know whether he had time to write home?

Saturday Day broke as usual with swell slightly behind us. All's well.

Sunday Swell immediately in rear. Lovely morning. Church service Fore & Aft. Grand singing. Good sermon, "Be a Good Soldier & Play the Man". Had back rubbed in hospital. Writing this 2.50 p.m. Sunday, 27 May.

Monday Saw first flying fish, much like a swallow in appearance. Sea fairly calm. Weather much warmer. Saw 2 birds for 10 minutes

Tuesday Completed dipping third batch of hammocks & blankets. Heavy sky all around horizon. Weather very muggy.

Wednesday Very near equator. Inspection by doctors for measles etc. Letters posted: Mother, Nell, Aub, Gert, Nell, G. White.

Thursday Awoke nasty taste in my mouth. Sea getting rough. Heavy monsoon rain and head gale.

June 1 Friday Sea sick. Lay on deck most of day. Ate very little.

Thursday General Booth & Willow Wilson fought 4 2 minute rounds for 10 stone championship. Wilson won on points.

Saturday Still heavy sea but calming down. Felt better but did no work

Sunday 3rd. Woke after restless night but sat up and had good breakfast of ham & sausages. General service on No 4 deck.

A. G. 17
 To
 S. G. 17

Hospital & No 4 deck awful smell from Bilge Water. Nearing Colombo. Whilst writing, running into another monsoon. Raining in torrents. Ought to reach Colombo tonight. Sea dead against us. Going half speed.

On Friday, 1st June we crossed the line. Had usual dipping in tank rigged upon deck. Father Neptune officiated. Doctor gave pills etc to men who were brought before the Bench and then either shaved moustache off or dipped in tank, all those who were not dipped had hose turned on them. Policeman Broughton dodged the event but was caught early Sat morning and hose turned on him.

Monday 4th June Revally 6 a.m.. Breakfast 7 a.m. Sorted Hospital sheets for laundry at Colombo. Sighted land 10 a.m. Cruiser Brisbane appears on our starboard (2 funnels) Shipping everywhere. Automatic boys extending well out to sea, with light boat on end.

Pearling Bank extending along west coast of Ceylon. Native boats most peculiar.

Outrigger fixed on to stop upsetting. Colombo harbour is built in with a series of breakwaters (concrete). At end of each break is a light. Coolies do all the loading etc and bring coal alongside in lighters in bags. They throw up a series of steps and so pass the coal into the bunkers. Water is also in lighters and pumped from alongside. There are no wharves, boats tie up to buoys fore & stern. One gets a fine view of date palms from the boats. As a rule, bumboats are brought alongside with all sorts of wares and fruits but authorities will not allow them to serve troop ships. Men (Tamils) have peculiar dress.

Some wear shirts. Others just a flimsy cloth thrown around their waist and folded in. They dive for money (silver) & are very clever in the water, holding their skirt high and dry with one hand. The water is quite green north of the line & near the harbour the screw churns up the mud.

One notices in the harbour a waterplane & about 8 cruisers & much other shipping coming and going. Coaling goes on all night. Weather warm but pleasant. Promise of landing on the morrow for a route march.

Tuesday 5th Awoke to find very rough sea outside. Breakwater fine sight. Route march cut out. All officers went ashore. No men allowed off ship. Could not get fruit. Major D'arcy anything but a gentleman in our estimation. Port Sydney sailed 11 a.m. Boorara sailed 2 p.m. course N.N.W. No sign of P. Sydney. No escort. Saw three whales astern spouting.

6 6.17
To
20.6.17

Wednesday 6th Steamer sailing parallel on our starboard side supposed to be P. Sydney. Saw school of porpoises chasing our ship. Raining off & on. Beautiful trade wind blowing (Monsoons)

Thursday Drying hospital sheets all day. Strong N.W. wind, long low swell. Boat parallel on our port. Doctor went to bed with mumps (Dr. Shipway). Dr. Mc Creadie left in charge.

Friday Big day among blankets. Hottest day since leaving Aust. Southern Cross on our port due south. Martin Dyer (Mumps) Eric McKay (Gastritis). Lovely night.

Saturday 9th Another lot of blankets. Concert on 3 p.m. aft deck. Sang "Off to the Rio Grande". Slept on deck.

Sunday 10th Church parade No 4 deck. Slept most of day.

Monday 11th Big sea swept over port deck, drenched all who were on deck sleeping. Sea very rough. Westerly gale.

Tuesday 12th Extra rough. Big seas shipping every few minutes. Sun hot. Not far from Socotra sea calmed down slept on top.

Wed 13th Day broke calm and hot. Did big morning with blankets. Awnings put up. Boxing tournament between Hill & N. Zealander(?) Hill winning & General Booth & Willow Wilson, Wilson winning on 4th round with knockout to jaw right jab

Letters written Thursday 14th. Nell, Mother, Noel, Mrs Cook, H. Cobb, Hope, Mrs Pegler.

Thursday 14th Heavy wind during night. Nice calm day. Passed Aden 12 a.m. Had tug-of-war final won by 7th N.S.W. Eric McKay came out of hospital.

Friday 15th. Passed through Hell's Gate 3 a.m.. Saw Perim lighthouse (British Garrison) 10 a.m. sighted 12 apostles on starboard and 3 brothers on port. Took photo of 3 brothers. Southern end of Red Sea studded with islands.

Saturday 16th Lovely cool weather. Hardly need awnings. Nothing special only plenty of shipping. Wrestling in afternoon, good display.

Sunday 17th Weather continues beautiful. Church parade fine sermon by Red Cross man (C of E) Wonderful mountain views.

Monday Still in Red Sea.

Tuesday Reached Port Suez at 7 p.m. Anchored off harbour till 6 a.m.

Wednesday Revally 4 a.m. and got off boat at 10 a.m. straight into cattle trucks & off to Moascar. Reached Moascar about 1 p.m. & marched through main camp to isolation camp. Met Kingsland. Pitched tents all afternoon.

21 6.87
To
6 7.17

Tea, bully beef & biscuits. Slept on sand.

Thursday 21st Revally 4 a.m. Parade 4.45 to 7.30 Arranged in 2nd training and went into other tents

Friday 22nd Usual parade. Planes flying everywhere. Canteen opened. Rifles issued.

Sat 23rd Morning parade. Rifle exercise. (Lembourg & Jack Robinson cooks) Pulled down marquee & erected same in afternoon. All well.

Sunday Early morning church parade. Loafed in tent all day

Monday Musketry (Elementary)

Tuesday " "

Wednesday " "

Thursday Musketry Elementary. Betting on peace being declared

Friday 29th Examined over musketry & passed 3 points (possible) and 3 points on practical work. Went on with bayonet drill and extended work

Saturday 30th Piled arms on parade ground and struck tents, had parade bayonet drill and after breakfast went for swimming parade to small bitter lakes near "Ishmalia" & slept all afternoon.

Sunday 1st July Church parade. Voluntary swimming parade. Afternoon Communion scervice. Went to Paddies tent, had a chat for a couple of hours. Richard 2nd held his court at Gaza. Children of Israel crossed the Red Sea just above Port Suez which was then under water. Found Topaz.

Monday Usual parades

Tuesday 3rd Started musketry. Gained 20 grouping(possible 25), 18 application (20) 14 rapid. 1st pay in Egypt 300 Piastres

Wed 4th Was paraded to Colonel Arnott on rifle range & had a good yarn

Thursday 5th Finished rifle range firing. Gained 16 400 yards application and 4 hits rapid. Finished up 2 hits in 8 in skirmishing. Came out on top of my regiment 91 points (120 possible)

Friday 5th Started bayonet fighting. (On guard, long point, short point, withdraw, long low, excessive withdrawal, right & left long point)

Saturday 6th Orderly room writing up issue sheets from issue cards. Went for swimming parade to lake. Worked all afternoon. Letter from Nell.

7 7 17
to
30-7-17

Sunday Orderly room till noon. Went to Bible Class in afternoon & C of E Church in evening.

Monday Worked in Q.M. Stores.

Tuesday 10th On parade bayonet fighting.

Wednesday 11th Bayonet fighting. General Chauvel supposed to have been in camp. Pay day 100 piastres.

Thursday Orderly room (Touch Rheu")

Friday Q.M. Stores collecting issues. C. Corp. All well. Lovely day.

Saturday Q.M. stores.

Sunday -

Monday Bayonet fighting and gange marking.

Tuesday 17th Went to aerodrome on guard. Went thro Randgers (hangers?) Had a good look around

Wednesday Bayonet fighting and back into the Q.M. stores with McKay. Inoculated in both arms.

Thursday Holiday, but worked in Q.M. stores.

Friday 20th Big mail in. Rec. letters from Nell 3, Father, Mother, Emm, Noel & Gert.

Wrote to Nell, Mother and sent cards to all family and Peglers. Officers tent burnt down. Everything practically destroyed. Lost flag. Band played at headquarters. Wrote Aub, Gert & Nell.

Sat to Thursday On Q.M. work.

Thursday 26th The first Reg (6th, 7th & 5th) marched out to detail. I stayed to finish Q.M. books with Marcroft.

Friday 27th Marched out at 10.30 a.m. to detail. Eric left for front Thursday. Claude Cadell leaving Sat. Leaving O. Walters & self. Hathaway detailed to A.S.C. earlier in the week.

Saturday & Sunday spent in detail. Sunday night I was warned to get ready to join the regiment

Monday 30th Started 7.30 a.m. to Kantara. Rested there till 9.30 p.m. Boarded train 10 p.m. Reached Tel El Fara for breakfast. Reached Rafa 10.30. Marched to rest camp $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles and stayed overnight. Caught train to main dump 10 a.m. next morning and were met by Regiment with horses. Was allotted to C squad B troop (Eric, Benham & self) Hathaway detailed to A.S.C. earlier in the week.

Aug stunts Outposts, night stunt to railway (Jacko) failed. Beersheba stunt by 1st Brigade. We were supports. 2nd stunt to railway. Corp Moore killed.

Received 2 lots of letters from home. Ret. to hospital 19th Aug. Met Serg. Weiss (Brother Erina). 14th A.G. Hospital (Abbassia). Met Rex Burns and several who came over on Boorara. Carpenter being boarded. Went for Red Cross trip to Pyramids. On the way we visited the zoo and had a good look around. The paths were inlaid with smooth stones & designed in most weird patterns. Animals of a very fine class & the Grotto absolutely magnificent. Saw the boats the Turks crossed the canal in. They are riddled with bullets and one 18 pounder shell hole. Boarded the tram and away to the pyramids. Roadway one long beautiful avenue & very fine surface road for cars. Had tea under the brow of pyramids and then off on donkeys and camels up to the vast structure. Several of us entered the mass but did not go far owing to slippery nature of floor and walls, and steepness. Saw where the Kings & Queens were buried & returned very tired to the opening. Confounded niggers the worry of ones life. Reached the 14th A.G.H. about 9 p.m. and dreamt of mummies & being lost & fighting with Pharoa or some ancient king. Had leave pass granted & visited the city. Had a look at various streets and finally had tea at Y.M.C.A. in park. Watched hockey being played by Tommies on skates. Bought views of Cairo to send home. Visited by Colonel Backhouse and obtained my discharge leaving hospital Thursday 6th to become once again a trooper. Took various snaps while in Cairo sending home to Nell

August 1917
10
Sept 1917

End of diary written on loose sheets.

The following diary covering the period 21 October, 1917 to end of 1918 are written in the back of a 1919 Diary with the following inscription:

21.10.17

T₆

17.11.17

"Copy from old book partly destroyed in Palestine".

21st October 1917 Finished gun class all but stoppages. Poisoned finger with gun oil. Applied for school to finish course was given a pass and sent to Zietoun school (Vicars gun). Boarded train Moascar 21st October. Arrived Zietoun 3 p.m. Tents were allotted, received passes to Cairo & went to Heilopolis, caught electric tram. Fine tram service (Belgian). Saw Heilopolis House & Casino, cost 3/4 million. Train runs to Heilopolis on same tracks as trams (3 line system). Flying Corps occupying Heilopolis House.

Started school morning of 22nd, classes 6 to 7.30, 9 to 12, & 2 to 4p.m. Passes granted to Cairo every Wed. Sat & Sunday afternoons. Visited 14th A.G.H. to see Carpenter & Hill. Went to Matterea with Carpenter. Saw the Virgin's well, the noted church close by and the big statue, also the Virgin's tree. Saw cotton being spun in the village, knocked milk boy down, molested by inhabitants for damages. One horse knocked up. On return journey, saw native wedding being celebrated in main street. Caught tram and had tea in Esbekiah gardens. Purchased small articles to be sent home by Eric. Gave him letters, diary, stones etc.

Good news of stunt, Beersheba & Gaza fallen. Big advance made 60 miles to Jaffa, Ludd Ramleh & then across the hills of Lebanon to Hebron.

Gained good pass on gun 93%. (First class gunner). Returned to Moascar saturday 10th November.

Received parcel from Nell while at Zietown. Cake & lollies. Two parcels awaiting me at Moascar. Opened them on 28th Birthday (11th Nov. '17). Usual routine work in details.

Nov 17th marched out of Moascar for Palestine. Had dinner at Mrs Chism's and boarded train at 7 p.m. Reached Belah on 19th. Went to rest camp 1 mile west of station. No shelter rain falling heavily, 2 sheets between 5, Wardlow, Hodskiss, Simpson, Elton & Hunt.

19 11.17

To

3 12.17

Went to beach and obtained canvas from old Div H.Q. & made cosy dug-out. Had route marches each day to the sea, good surfing. Saw the tanks which took part in the assault on Gaza. Took photos. News of regiment in trenches N.W. of Jaffa.

Left Belah Dec 1st with remounts. Good hack leading heavy artillery horse, brute to lead. Major Chatham 5th L.H. in charge. N.C.O. Don Dennis passed thro Gaza, scene of desolation everywhere. Wardlaw & Simpson both had spills and could not go forward.

Trenches dug immediately in rear of tall cactus hedges. Wonderful system of trenches.

In places cactus was torn out by roots with big shells. Quite understand how previous attempts failed without big concentration of heavy artillery and high explosives.

Holes made by monitor shells 10 ft deep 12ft across. Pieces of shell 4 inches thick. Most houses half down. Umbrella hill wonderful redoubt. Watered up. Replenished horse & men rations at dump on northern side of town. Saw Broughton at dump. Continued journey along our own railway line.

Rode till well after dark. Missed track, halt called, put horse lines down & had tea. Picket told off, was on from 10 to 12 & 4 to 6 a.m.

Taube over at midnight, bombs bursting about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to front right, trying to hit aerodrome. No damage done. Continuous bombing for two hours. One man wounded. Fed up at daybreak, had breakfast and rode in to Julian.

Watered horses with buckets out of one small well. Followed Jacko rail towards junction station. Saw train (ammunition) which was hit by monitor shell, pieces of trucks thrown 100 yds from line. Much ammunition, bombs etc lying about.

Reached junction station 5 p.m. Drew rations at dump, replenished nosebags & returned to camping ground for the night. Had good night. Plenty of water & feed for the horses. Resumed march 7 a.m. towards Ramleh. Passed several small villages on rail. Purchased splendid oranges. Arrived Ramleh 12 noon. Fed up and continued thro Ludd and on to small German settlement midway between Jaffa & Ludd.

Watered & fed up in German orchard. Nine spies caught in house night before. Splendid sample of Oranges, Mandarins, etc.

Met Tuddenham, Rudd & Martin Luther all in the Divisional train. Moved to rear of 6th lines at dusk, & put down horse lines. Heavy bombardment by our guns. Sixth & camel Corps attacked. Major Barton's brother was killed in raid.

4.12.17

tc

19.12.17

Dec 4th 1917 Handed over horses in morning to artillery & 2nd Brigade & joined own Squadron. Men looking very tired & thin. Cadell, McKay Walters all look done up.

Allotted to D troop. Transferred to B troop on going into trenches at night. Slept in posie to rear of trenches Had breakfast down at cactus hedge and returned to trenches to dig ammunition posie. Sergeants & Lieut Findley trying captured machine gun & drew artillery fire "whiz bangs".

Payton, Andy Brown & self in posie. Shell blew side out. Two pellets hit Brown, Payton smothered with dirt, self off scot free, two thro hat! Communication trench blocked. Tree near where I slept previous night blown out & sleeping posie the scene of a bursting shell. Went on listening post at night 300 yds in front of trenches. Don Dennis Corp in charge. Dave King, Payton & self. Raining all night. No sleep, bullets cutting cactus hedge immediately in front of post. Worked shifts, two hours on, two off. Returned to trenches at daybreak, all O.K.

Dec. 6th. Had the whole day off. Were to have been relieved at 5 p.m. by Scots. Had to man the trenches at dark. Scots took over at 10.30 p.m. Jacko opened heavy fire along whole front which lasted couple of hours without a pause. Were sure of an attack as a reprisal, we having captured 140 men and much booty three nights before. Retired to horses 10.30. Rode Florrie, Eric riding Ginger. While waiting to form up in Brigade formation heavy rain fell & soaked us to the skin. Moved off to Wadi ? which we reached at 4 a.m. turned in in wet blankets till dawn.

Remained in this camp till 14th. then moved South down the coast to Esdud. Formed camp on sand, much rain falling, watering place impassible, had to go to wadi near beach to water twice a day.

Tent mates Bruce Brown, Clive Frost, Eric McKay & self. Bridge came often to see us while in camp. Eric obtained position in orderly room, handed Ginger over to me, also pioneer pack and shogger. Three horses to look after. Yates had bad thumb caused by prickly pear thorn, left for field ambulance and went down the line to hospital.

On 19th received 26 letters Xmas mail. Football going strong, good squadron teams.

25-12-17

T₀

13-3-18

Xmas Day Raining cats & Dogs. Bivy standing well. Had concert at night in bell tent. 30 odd, all smoking, etc. Great fun, I don't think! Plenty of comforts funds to hand and extra rations for neddies. Rum & cigars made things happy for most men & very unhappy for non-drinkers.

Nothing of importance happening for first week of New year. Rumours of taking over front line sector from the N.Z.'s.

11th January Had general parade for cinema

12th Struck camp & started back for Wadi Enyne, led shogger, camped practically on old site but on higher ground. Roads in awful state practically impassible for wheeled traffic. Oranges in full swing. Preparing for sports. Football going strong, 6th Regiment leading in competition. 7th runners up. Rain falling every third day. Good camp, soon dried with strong breeze. Eric still camping with me.

Feb 5th Regiment started for Nalin N.W. of Ludd. One man to three horses returned same night to Wadi Enyne. Took over from N.Z.'s. Canterbury Hill. Fair road most of the way. Making new road down big hill into Wadi Nalim. Pitched bivvies where N.Z.'s had theirs. Put out necessary posts and proceeded to make things comfy. Rain held off till tents were erected. No 1 post had fine cave to sleep in, No 2 no cave, listening post down at foot of hill in cave which leaked when heavy rain fell.

15th feb. Had an earth tremour. Hart & self on day observation post No. 2. Main duty was to stop incoming and outgoing Bedouins which gave us plenty to do and plenty of firing.

21st Saw lights from Nalim, extra post put on to watch. Every second day walked 2 miles to work on mountain road. Used guncotton. Had shooting excursions behind the line. Gazelle, partridge, hares etc.

29th. Feb. Hart & self sat for Official Artist in No 1 sangar. Had gun mounted for event. Took a good few snaps around Nalim.

Boys back with the horses sent us up a pack horse with backsheesh goods, much appreciated by all. Hart & self camped together all the time. Comfy bivy. Fireplace inside, plenty of smoke. Cold intense of a night time.

March 8th Returned to Wadi Enyne to prepare for stunt across the Jordan. Great enthusiasm when we were told we would see Jerusalem. Had muster parade, discs inspected and formed up morning of 13th March for Jerusalem. Reached Latrone at dusk. Pitched camp.

Rain falling. Only one blanket, bivy sheet & ground sheet per man

16 3-13

To

20-3-13

Night of 16th washed out of bivy, not a dry soul in camp. Everything soaking wet. Camped on heap of tibbin till daybreak. Camera ruined. Eric stayed at Wadi Enyne (envied him greatly)

Started for Jerusalem morning of 17th St Patrick's Day. Wet, cold, sick, sad & sorry. Fine engineering works along portions of mountainous road. Good grades. Splendid surface. Rained off & on all day. City came in sight 4 p.m. First buildings seen Kaiser's Palace & Russian Tower on Mount of Olives. Much feeling passed thru troops on the wonderful sights ahead of us. "Jerusalem the Golden" and "The Holy City" were both murdered all along the line till we actually entered the streets when the cheering of the populace became predominant. Came to a halt just outside the old City Wall on a vacant patch of terraced ground. Rain fell all night. No bivy sheets back with camels somewhere. Spent awful night.

Morning of 18th broke fine and we managed to dry things pretty well & enjoyed the sunshine immensely.

The 19th we entered the old City by the Damascus gate. Small parties under an officer were allowed in, and we saw most of the interesting places, such as Mosque of Omar, Temple of Holy Sepulchre, Pool of Bethesda, The Upper Room, etc. The streets were filthy and very slippery on cobble stones worn smooth with bare feet of centuries. No sanitary arrangements in existence & everywhere filth reigned supreme. Men managed to get Cognac which drove them raving mad. Through their disorderly conduct we had to do a route march around the Mount of Olives. Obtained good snaps everywhere.

Morning of 20th went to R.C. service Temple of Holy Sepulchre with Mick Logan 7 a.m. Four services being carried on at once in the same building in the same room - Greek, Catholic, Armenian, Mahommedan. 11 a.m. went to combined Protestant Service in C of E Cathedral, Church of St George in New City. Bishop of Jerusalem held service Ash Wednesday. 7 p.m. moved out of camp & headed towards Jericho. Crossed Valley of Jehosiphath and skirted Garden of Gethsemane. Passed thro Bethany and descended long hill to valley Rd. Reached Tebba ta dumm 4 a.m. overlooking Jordan Valley. Saw artillery shelling the river.

Moved out night of 22nd and got Ginger back at stoney camp. Rode to within 5 miles of River. Camped till daylight. Crossed river on pontoon bridge and kept going till the foot-hills were reached. Crossed river about 5 miles from Dead Sea, 1200 ft below sea level. Passed Jericho on our left hand. Fed up and prepared for long weary ride over mountains. Jacko Cavalry appeared near Dead Sea but got away. Rain falling slightly. Moved off at sundown. Road too bad for artillery which had to be left behind. Road narrows down to a mere goat track. Rain falling incessantly and much heavier. Hundreds of Arabs joined our ranks on valley slopes. Their camp very picturesque & everyone astir, men galloping about, swords drawn, and rifles firing everywhere. Passed despatch riders camped for night. Single file walking for most of time. Raining heavens hard. Halt called 3 a.m. Camped where we were till daybreak. Moved on couple of miles and formed camp. Still raining and extremely cold. Camel Corps caught up mid-day. Did short patrol and moved out of camp 2 p.m. headed for Madeba. Night set in very wet, much colder. Passed thru Carcassian Village and halted for three hours to the South. The cold & wind here was awful Caught up to N.Z's at daybreak. Formed camp close by and sent out patrols. Captured 200 prisoners, 28 transport lorries & several cars. Sun shone during morning. Dried clothes. Felt much better. Grazed horses most of day. Did outpost at night. Had good sleep left on post next morning. Reg. moved out, had to catch up later on. Heade to Amman. Packs went back to meet camels for rations. 7th A.L.H. on screen came into action 2 miles west of Amman. Very heavy machine gun fire. No artillery to shift them from dominating position. Only Indian Battery (Mountain battery) 1st Brigade forced Ex Salt Road linked up on north flank. Artillery very slow getting up EX Salt Road owing to awful condition of road. Tried to gain position along wadi but had to gallop out under heavy machine gun fire. Went into action dismounted. Logan & King killed. Major Barton, Lieut Finley, Lieut Suttor wounded, leaving 2nd Lieut Walker in charge of C Squadron. Held on till 5 p.m. Retired to ridge & built sangars. Heavy artillery fire going on. Picked to go on listening post. Corp Macrae, Willow Wilson, Ken Hart & self. Bad night, no sleep, owing to closeness of enemy. Retired to horses for breakfast. Hodson took my place on line. Feeling effects of wet. Very bad back. Aching all over.

22. 3. 18

T₀

27. 3. 18

On first day, galloping into position, B troop rode into ploughed ground, horses sank to bellies, drew artillery fire. Split into 2 and managed to get out with 5 horses hit and two men shell-shock. No-one hit owing to shells burying in mud.

23.3.18
 16
 2.4.18

7th moved to ridge & allowed infantry to take up frontal attack. General forward push at 10 a.m. Hell let loose. Heavy casualties in 6th and camel corps. Infantry did splendid bayonet charge up infantry hill, 3 times driven back by superior numbers. Many wounded had to be left to the mercy of the enemy as it was impossible to get them back under such fire as was sweeping the intervening ground.. Under cover of darkness new line of defence made. Line sadly weakened, everyone feeling more or less sad thro loss of good true mates and soldiers

Sniping and general machine gun & artillery fire all 3rd day. Hodgson hit, and had to take his place on gun in cave. Lay for $\frac{1}{4}$ hour behind one heap of stones, frightened to move. Watched shell burst on machine gun position and then ran for dear life to cave & safety.

Drew back at sundown to main ridge preparatory to evacuating position. Put all gear on horses and again manned the sangars. Midnight went down and got blankets and sheet. Dud Hodson & self on gun. Daylight, infantry moved back under artillery fire. L.H. last to leave covering infantry retreat. Managed to get away without drawing artillery fire. N.Z's on rear guard. Obtained horse feed as Swahleh & returned to old camp to ration up & have tea, rain falling, split blanket & put under coat. Kept fairly warm. Passed back thru Swahleh. Passed captured and destroyed motors and reached Ex Salt about midnight. Camped in rain, moved off at daylight & caught up to hundreds of refugees going down to Jericho.

N.Z's cut up at Ain Sur on rearguard by Sarcassians. Crossing valley morning of 1st April squadron of taubes came over but were beaten off, only few bombs dropped. Crossed River and pitched camp near Jericho. Morning of 2nd april two taubes came over and dropped bombs among transport camels.

Spent day digging funk holes. A squad moved out 3 p.m. and remainder moved out at sundown. Passed thru Jericho & travelled 8 miles to the Aiya Wadi. Camped till daybreak and moved into deep dry wadi. A squad in Aiya attached and doing Jordan patrols for camel corps.

Went as pointer midday of 5th to A Squad. Returned & took C Squad to relieve A. Squad. Carried on with patrols along Wadi Mahalai & old Roman Road. Were relieved by 6th Reg. after 14 days & went out on reconnaissance stunt across the Auja towards Lit. Were heavily shelled on flat and returned to cover in timber. Fell back at night to old position. Sixth doing day patrol, 7th night patrol. Moved up to Truny. Again acted as pointer. Got off track returning. Left swampy ground and wound round the hills. Reached camp 11 o'clock. Took squad up next morning. Were shelled in this camp. Did patrols out in front of Mussel Harbour. Experience with new men under first fire. Rec. mail. No 38 letter from Nell.

15th April Moved across Jordan on Demonstration. Heavily shelled. Attempt on Nabulus failed very formidable fortress. Did outpost and returned to Truny next day.

Carried on patrols etc till night of 31st. Formed up in Brigade formation and moved down to River. C Squadron escort to guns. Crossed River May 1st. and escorted guns to within 2 miles of foothills. Took up position left of guns and waited for daybreak. Single shots were first fired and succeeded in drawing enemy fire mountain batteries. Enemy field guns opened on us from left front Shubert Nimerin shots going over our heads. Own guns trained onto Nimerin. Sixteen guns opened up, awful roar, being under muzzles. Fire kept up for ten minutes. Jacko replied with as many guns. Found ourselves in awkward place. Charlie Turner hit, also 4 horses. Moved out of line of fire. Relieved by Indians at night & moved back to Gorrannah crossing. Camped till midnight & then moved up valley which had been cleared by 3rd & 4th Brigades. Had breakfast at Red Hill. Charlie Turner died early morning in Jericho. Es Salt had fallen same night. Followed 3rd Brigade up hills and reached Es Salt noon. Went out to Swaleh, had tea and put out outposts. Eight o'clock all were called in and moved back into Es Salt. 4th Brigade lost heavily in valley by counter attack. Lost battery of guns and also entrance to the track which we came up thereby cutting us completely off. Regained position and held on. 3rd Brigade holding line of communication. 1st & 2nd in Es Salt also mountain battery Indians Nimerin still held firmly by Jacko. Position very treacherous. Word to withdraw. Field dressings etc brought over by aeroplanes.

Drew out night of 5th. 7th on rearguard. I left with headquarters with spare ammunition pack. Were shelled from Nimerin. Reached Gorrannah crossing mid-day. Had lunch & waited for return of Regiment, moved across to Jericho and camped night of May 5th.

On may 7th we were heavily bombed by Taubes. Aerial torpedo landed in B Squadron killing 9 men & 9 horses and wounding 10 men & 10 horses. Frank Bull amongst the slain. Awful sight. All men buried at cemetery near foot of old road Jericho.

May 10th. Anniversary of sailing from Melb. Was visited by Col Anderson who was camped under Hill of Temptation. Moved camp to where 4th Brigade were. Cook house started. Duties trench digging & wiring at Mussel Harbour and Truny. Made No 2 on gun. Dust feet deep on way to water. Yates had leave for 12 months. Stopped for wearing shorts in valley. Making road past canteen to Div. H. Quarters. Continued it on to Truny

Night of 19th saw Col at 4th Brigade Field Ambulance in the Auja. Did not speak to him as we were in a hurry. Moved camp to Snage Gully behind Div. H. Q. Still making roads & wiring in front of 6th. Was put in cook house with Brigden. King went to Alex. on cooking school. Squadron doing outpost at Truny

June 5th. Relieved by 3rd Brigade & moved out of camp night of 5th for Tellata-Dumm. Camped all day 6th. Rabbits on issue. Made fire trench, cooked same & vegetables. Rotten issue when mobile. Struck camp sundown & travelled all night, Reached Bethany and had to put greatcoats on. Passed through Jerusalem early dawn and reached Solomom's Pools about 9 a.m. Driving fog on the mountains. No wood to boil up. Camp very dreary. Everyone feeling the cold very much after long stay in the valley. Camped about 8 miles past Bethlehem along the Hebron Road. Stayed in cookhouse with Brigden. Main issue rabbits & wet green wood. Eggs 10/- doz. Bought one doz. Carried on till 10th when went down with malaria.

11th June was admitted to field ambulance and temp taken 103°. Caught first ambulance car to Jerusalem and was admitted to clearing station 77th General. Stayed till 13th and went by motor convoy to Ludd which was reached by noon. Put into hospital train 7.30 same night and came right thru to Kantara. Left morning of 16th for Cairo and 31st Gen Hosp.

Had 21 days course of quinine. Spleen enlarged and rheumatic pains. Dr. Mary David in attendance. Mostly English Sisters and V. A. D's, being replaced daily by 'Ausi' Sisters. Food awful, morning porridge and one slice bread & dripping, Dinner (hot meal) generally sour milk pudding, evening tea & bread & dripping. No canteen. Not allowed out of hospital only on Red Cross trips. Enjoyed them immensely. Sent cable home beginning of month.

Discharged on 10th (July) and went to Boulac. Leave every second day (afternoon) to Cairo. Got special Leave & went to Bank to draw remittance money 10 pounds. Visited Mouski and purchased brassware for Nellie & Mother. Sent them direct from shop. Had photo taken with Guy Wilson and Eric McKay. Eric down at H.Q. on duty. Gave book & films to Guy who sent same to Nellie with photos.

July 19th Returned to Moascar. Put in application for leave to Alex. Did duty on Siani plough till leave came through.

Went to Alex August 1st. Caught early train to Cairo. Had dinner at Soldier's Rest House and caught train 3.45 to Alex. Sent telegram, booked room at Windsor. Arrived 6 p.m. & went to room 68 had wash and descended to tea. Had stroll round town & turned in early. Met 4th Brigade signallers and proved good mates during my stay. Visited Catacombs, also Ramleh and all principal sights in and around Alex. Spent good deal of time at Noumea Gardens which are very fine indeed. Took good few snaps, sent some directly to Nell. Beautiful fernery, sleeping plant from India.

Returned to Moascar Aug 7th well satisfied with trip. Went to Port Said with cricket team on Saturday. Lost game by few runs. Had little finger on right hand broken with ball behind the wicket. Ret. to Moascar same night, could have stayed over Sunday.

August 14th left for Regiment & trained right thru to Jerusalem. Went to detail camp and was met by Eric who was on his way to Moascar to take over Orderly Room.

Went into Jerusalem and entered the Old City for the third time. Saw plane come down in camp area. Took snaps of same. Had tea at Mrs Chisms new canteen. Went out to Regiment next morning on motor waggons and got into B troop again. All busy preparing for general inspection by Generals Chater & Chavel.

16 6. 12
Tc
20. 8. 13

24 3 18

T

Serg. Kenny in command of B Troop moved off to valley on evening of 24th. Camped at Bethany for the night and travelled all next day to Telatadum, stayed right there and went to valley next morning. Camped in dummy camp near Jericho and moved into Wadi nearby at night time. B Troop detailed off for duty troop to Div. H.Q. under Lieut Finley. Turned in at 10 p.m. Called up at 5 a.m. and B. Troop moved out under Lieut Finley. Went about 2 miles and were fired on. Retreated to position and sent back word to main forces. Main screen came up. B Troop fell in on right flank, galloped up first hill and captured 40 men, several machine-guns and much ammunition. No-one hit in the charge. Made second ridge. Received heavy infiltrating fire which made us duck & twist. Dismounted for action and tore into retreating enemy. Reached last ridge to Amman and faced the main fortifications. Held up for 4 hours.

Engaged enemy from front and B. Squadron under Lieut Williams went in from flank and captured 140 men, 20 machine guns and much booty. Heavy fire from further hills across from Amman. Did a big flanking movement and surrounded the town by 5 p.m. Went down into town and watered up. Horse hadn't had water for 48 hours. Went round into big wadi and camped. Slept well and all felt very happy over events. 4000 prisoners, eight field guns and many machine guns, animals, etc. Spent two days here and then went up to high ground to camp. Went out with McDowell, found & renovated King's and Logan's graves, returned to find regiment getting ready to move. Moved 1 p.m. & rode 18 miles to Ze Za. Rode twelve miles steady walk. Order came to gallop last six miles. Landed Ze Za just on sundown. Hundreds of Arabs mounted on camels & horses (80-a-20). Broke thru their lines and drove them back to a safe distance. 4000 Turks surrendered and were gathered in from their lines of defence into Ze Za Railway Station. Took up posts all round them for the night. 5th L.H. firing all night long the Jacko guns, also had Jackos doing outpost duty against the Arabs. Started for Amman about 8 a.m. No water and prisoners craving before many miles on their journey. Obtained a little water and rec. a watch for same. Gave one old man a ride and he gave me a ring. Reached Amman 5 o'clock. Prisoners camped at water's edge. Went up to old camp and had one day's rest and then took over prisoners again and started for Jericho. First day marched to Swahleih about 8 miles. Camped and moved off early next morning for Es Salt. Reached Es Salt about 3 p.m. Men rushed the fig trees which broke down under the great pressure of human flesh.

Camped again for the night. Next morning met Frank Jones and had a yarn to him whilst moving along. Started for Shubert Nimerin which was reached just at dark. Distributed bully and biscuits to prisoners and again camped for night. Continued journey early. Camped for two hours at the river. Had a swim, also many Jackos had a much needed dip, and again moved off at 2 p.m. Reached Jericho & handed over to Jewish Battalion and returned to monastery where the brigade had formed up.

?

To

4.10.18

Mail and parcels awaiting us also bucksheesh stuff. Washed horses and men in irrigation water near-by. Everyone enjoying complete rest for a few hours.

Moved out of valley at night to Tell-ta-dumm. Camped the night and moved on next day to Jerusalem. Camped just under Mount of Olives on the Nabulus Road. Passes issued to the Old City Did not go in the first day as I was down with malaria. Felt better towards night and had fair night's sleep. Went into town next day and thro' the Old City with the guide from the Church Army at Church of St Geo.

Visited Mt. Zion for the first time, magnificent Roman Catholic Church, saw the upper room where the last supper was partaken of.

Returned to camp very tired but still interested in the Old City.

All leave cut out thro misconduct of men. Started for Latrone on the 4th day and had a good trip thro to Latrone. Made camp 5 p.m. Plenty of beautiful figs. Struck camp 6 a.m. next morning and continued march to Ludd, had dinner in olive grove and reached WadiEmjne about 4 p.m.. Camped on eastern side of village, good sandy camp, horses relished a soft bed. Played cricket against the Rest and detail Camp Ludd. Feeling very off colour, malaria. Went to Richon at night with Bruce Brown and Drummer Bridge. Had a very pleasant evening, girls played beautifully and enjoyed the singing. Rode the Bull.

Had attacks every morning during the following week Cold shivers, vomiting & very high temperature. On 26th had very bad turn.

Had intermuscular injection and taken to field ambulance. Yates came to see me early next morning. Left 8.30 for Ludd. Stayed there three days with Wardlaw. Gordon Ward very ill. Moved off to Gaza 76th. Stayed here for 4 days and moved off to Moascar. Gordon Ward died in Ludd hospital. Great many passing away with pneumonia & malaria.

Caught pick-up train 8 a.m. from Gaza. Landed Kantara 6.30 p.m. Carried kits to Mrs Chisms. Could not obtain bed so caught 7.15 to Moascar. Gave Eric surprise in orderly room. Passed doctor and recommended for Port Said Rest Camp. Spent 4 days in Moascar & went to P. Said for 10 days.

A. 10.13

To

2. 1. 19

Met Bert Kennedy looking fit and well. Not feeling well myself. Vomiting daily. Reported to A.M.C. & sent across to 14th A.G.H. 12 Nov.

11th November Terrible din in the town. Sirens blowing everywhere, and great joy in the town.

Was admitted into 4 West suffering from influenza & malaria. Clive Frost very ill and not expected to live. Occupying bed 98 ward 3 west. Sister Woods head sister. Having injections 3 times a day in arms. Feeling better after 7 days treatment. Got up 22nd Nov and had a roam around. Brigden in 3 East. Frost passed away. Admitted into convalescent ward. Back very bad. Brigden down again with malaria. Three more needles, making total of 9. Making great arrangements for Christmas. Navy supplies bunting for every ward. Four East 1st & 4 West 2nd Ward 1&2 looked very nice with several novel things such as Xmas Bells, aeroplanes & Zeplins. Marked out to rest camp, leaving Brig ready to sail.

Was in same tent as Jack Phillips. Very quiet time in camp. Kennedy still in camp doing carpentering etc. Having back rubbed every morning. Feeling much better.

Went for sail down the harbour as far as the ship conveying war Brides to Ausi. Reefed sail and went alongside. Phillips grabbed bumb boat & captured a couple of dozen oranges to the great joy of all on board. Also went to Armenian camp which was very interesting. Good few troop ships in harbour. Men going every week for 14th A.G.H. 14th A.G.H. removed to Cairo. Only one ward left (4 WEST).

All ready to move off to Moascar. Taken in motor lorry to station. Reached Moascar 2 p.m. Went to Orderly room and signed in.

January 1919.

Wednesday 1.

Rest Camp Port Said. Reported to medical tent for medicine. Sports on beach by Y.M.C.A. Free buns & tea C of E hut. Wrote home (Nell) after tea. Retired early. Mates on town patrol 5 to 8 p.m.

Thursday 2

Walked along breakwater. Saw mailboat with English Brides on board "Mirandes S.S."

Went sailing afternoon. Visited town during evening..

Friday 3

Very quiet day. Strolled round to various institutions. Writing up old diary in Y.M.C.A. Hundreds of Serbians patronising pictures.

Saturday 4.

Usual routine. Had afternoon tea with Fred Backhouse. Went for stroll along pier. Went to Juvenile concert "The Fairies" 6 p.m. in Y.M.C.A. Splendid performance by little mites. Had supper with Will Best.

Sunday 5

Attended Service Wesleyan hut Port Said 9.30 a.m. Y.M.C.A. 7 p.m. song service.

Monday 6.

Went before Doctor & marked fit to go to Moascar. Had good stroll down town, and prepared for moving next day. Town picket at night. Mounted 5.15 dismissed 9.30.

Tuesday 7.

Handed in goods to Q.M.'s Store. Early dinner 10.30 a.m. Went to train on motor lorry. Caught 12.30 reached Moascar 3 p.m. Spent evening with Eric McKay. Very cold.

Wednesday 8.

Foggy morning. Went before Doctor. Marked fit. Town Picket 4.15 in Ishmalia. Old bag from Raffa turned up. Sent for kit bag to Cairo. Had tea at N.Z. Club. Did hourly shifts. Ret. 10p.m. to camp.

Thursday 9.

Drew gear from Q.M. store. Did not fall in on first parade, having been on town patrol at night. Nothing doing.

Friday 10.

Anzacs played and won from ? 11 to nil football in Ishmalia.

Saturday 11.

1.30 ready to go to Ishmalia with Eric. Very windy, otherwise nice day. Ret. to camp for tea. Went for walk thro town after tea and ret. to pictures & fight. Supper in Orderly Room.

Sunday 12.

Morning Service in Y.M.C.A at 10 a.m. Dinner (Roast). 2nd S. Hospital guard 3 p.m. Corp. of guard. On Q.M. Stores 3 men & Corp. Mail arrived from Australia. Received letters on 13th from Home. Mother 1, Nell 2, Hope 1, Marj 1. (Ans.)

Monday 13.

Came off guard 6 a.m. reported to R.O.R. dismissed men and had breakfast. Spent morning on Eric's bed. Played cricket all the afternoon. Pictures at night.

Tuesday 14.

Morning parade. Clothing Board 9.30 a.m.

Acted Orderly Room Serg. in afternoon.

Eric Mac went to football match in Ishmalia. Spent evening in Orderly room. Supper 8.30 in Mac's room.

Wednesday 15.

Played cricket most of day. Only fell in morning parade. Drew clothing 9.30. Off

3.1.19

To

15.1.19

16-1-19
To
27-1-19

rest of day.

Thursday 16.

Went into town. Had tunic tried on. Went to pictures at night "The Fatal Ruby".

Friday 17.

Heavy rain from midday on. Light showers before dinner. Slept all afternoon. Went on 2nd A.S.H. guard to relieve Corp. of 2nd. Reg. going out to the front.

Saturday 18.

On guard till 4 p.m. Marched down and dismissed at squadron Orderly Room. Went to Pictures & boxing contest at night with Eric. Slept in Corp. Tibbet's bunk.

Sunday 19.

Slept in till breakfast. Had shave & went to service in Y.M.C.A. Attended service again at 7 p.m. Y.M.C.A. Wrote to Sister Nellie.

Monday 20.

Morning parade. Lecture in Y.M.C.A. Dairy Farming. Cricket in afternoon. Put in application for job in Pay Office, Sgt Venn. Had supper with Eric & Sturton.

Tuesday 21.

Morning 2 parades. Major Chering lectured on Dairy Farming. Subject Green crops for silage.

Wednesday 22.

Morning 2 Parades. Played 3rd Brigade Cricket. On Remount pitch. Lost by 4 wickets and 20 odd runs. Subject "Milking Strain" by Major Cherry. (Went to Ishmalia)

Thursday 23.

Usual parades. Morning lecture on irrigation. Usual O.R. Supper at 9.30 p.m.

Friday 24.

Morning Parades and lecture on dairy farming, subject calves & fattening thereof. Col. Mackesy N.Z. spoke in Y.M.C.A. to troops. Warned for Q.M. guard 2nd A.S.H. mounted 4 p.m. Home mail from Mother, Nell, Gert, Noel.

Saturday 25.

Came off guard 6 a.m. Reported to R.O.R. & dismissed. Free for rest of the day. Concert at 7.30 p.m. in Y.M.C.A. Very good. (Mr Gun loaded discharged and report in paper next day.) Saw Martin Luther.

Sunday 26.

Morning Church Parade Padre Backhouse. Met Frank Jones. Went for walk & had cup of tea. Went to see M.L. Dyer after tea in A Details. Rec. C. Endeavour book from Annie Pegler.

Monday 27.

Morning Parade. Lecture by ex prisoner of war in Germany. Lecture very good. Had game of cricket in afternoon. Eric rec. word to go to Cairo 5.30 p.m.

JANUARY 1919.Tuesday 28

Eric McKay transferred to Cairo Records Office. Took his place in Sqdn Orderly Room, acting S.O.R. Sergeant. Shifted bunk into Orderly Room.

28.1.19

To

16.2.19

Wednesday 29

Carried on O.R. work with help of Bob Gardner. Getting on O.K. Nothing special doing in camp.

Friday 31.

Orderly Room work till Friday 7th.

FEBRUARY 1919.Friday 7.

Awful weather. Everything covered with dust. Can't see 100 yards for dust. Transferred to pay office from F Sqdn Orderly room.

Saturday 8.

Very dusty. No morning parade owing to tents being down. Worked all day. Pictures at night. Met Jack Ward.

Sunday 9.

Nice warm day. Very little doing in office. Willow & Ken came down from A details to see me. Went to Ismailia 3 p.m. Obtained trousers. Ret to tea.

Monday 10

Aus. Div. Clerk went to Cairo as Orderly. Word of 6th & 7th marching out in the morning. 1st Brigade 300 left 7.20 for Raffa. Went to pictures and afterwards had fish supper. 7th L.H. from A details on main guard.

Tuesday 11.

Morning parade dismissed to clean up. All ready to march out 13.55. Pulled out with object joining Regiment when they march through to Suez.

Wednesday 12.

Went to Cairo as Orderly. Had good day. Had meals at H.Q. mess. Went to H.Q. saw Eric. Guy away at some other centre. Caught 10.10 a.m. to Cairo then 6.15 back to Moascar. Reached camp 9.30 p.m.

Thursday 13.

Busy with acquittance rolls, remounts & C.T.D. Went to pictures at night, good program.

Friday 14.

Slack day. Officers off the Saramic called at office for pay books. Went up with Brownie to morning tea. Concert at night "Blue Dragoons". Issued with slacks.

Saturday 15.

No morning parade. Very little doing in office work. Brownie gone to Cairo (races). Pictures in evening "Davy Crockett" very fine picture.

Sunday 16.

Went for walk into Ismailia with Foster. Had issue trousers altered 8 P.T. Went to service at 7 p.m. Y.M.C.A. Had supper saw Swannell & retired 10 p.m.

FEBRUARY 1919.Monday 17.

Work fairly brisk all day. Had morning tea with Swannell. Printed odd photos for Bob Cawley. Went to pictures at night. "Nana" serial 3 nights. Very good. Supper in Y.M.C.A. with Swannell.

17-2-19

tc

23-2-19

Tuesday 18.

Pay day in Moascar. Mr. James came up with money on the two train. Went up to Deetails to help Metzler, had tea with Swannell and returned to help Metzler with returnee cards. Supper at Y.M.C.A. then bed.

Wednesday 19.

Went to Kantara with Serg Wallace by 10.10 train. Paid men at Rest Hut. Had lunch there then on to Post Office then to canteens and guard. Returned by 7.10 to Moascar.

Thursday 20.

Went to 2nd. A.S.H. to help Sgt Fairley with embarkation work. Had lunch at hospital and returned to pay office 4.30. Went to see "Nana" at night. Very disappointing.

Friday 21.

Working in own office. Going to Ismailia afternoon. 2.30 went down with malaria. Very bad attack. No tea. Went to bed 6.30.

Saturday 22.

Not feeling too bad. Went on sick parade (M & D) Lay down all morning. Two hangars at aerodrome burnt down. Went to see finish of "Nana" very good.

Sunday 23.

Beautiful morning. No parade. Blew up stormy and dusty during morning. Calmed off about 4 p.m. Got ready & went to town. Returned about 7.30. Went straight to bed. Bought 5 views of Palestine.

Monday 24.

Very windy all day long. Ordinary routine work. Very little doing. Mended music during afternoon. Went to pictures at night.

Tuesday 25.

Still windy. Busy with acquittance rolls. Went for stroll with Sgt. Graham to Y.M.C.A. then to pictures and home.

Wednesday 26

Wind rose as fierce as ever 10 a.m. Word of A Detail and A.F.C. sailing on Port Sydney Sunday, 2nd. Embarking at Kantara. Went to pictures at night.

Thursday 22.

Very (extra) busy getting A.A.M.C. and Remount rolls made up, books checked and acquittance rolls made up. Wrote to O.C. 5th Brigade.

Friday 28.

Beautiful day in Egypt. Better in Australia. Went to concert at night in Y.M.C.A. "Nomads" Decided to go to Cairo "Bookara".

MARCH 1919.Saturday 1.

Caught 6.15 train. Reached Cairo 10.45. Went to H.Q. Did bis. & ret 1 p.m. for books. Had lunch with Mac. Met Guy and spent afternoon together. Caught 6.20 back to Moascar.

Sunday 2.

Paid A.A.M.C. Men waiting embarkation. Fixed cards and went to town with Browne. Met cadet. Had tea together Called in for tunic and ret. to camp. Went straight to bed.

Monday 3.

Lieut James & Serg Graham ret from Cairo with jink. Awful day, dust & wind galore.. Sent Wardlams bag to Regiment.

Tuesday 4.

Pay day in Moascar. Roof blown off y.m.c.a. Met train from Cairo & got books from Pay Serg.

Wednesday 5.

Lieut James, Serg^S Venn & Graham off to Kantara on duty. Going to 2nd. A.S.H. Bookara. Wind still blowing.

Thursday 6.

Spent morning in pay office. Went up to 2nd. A.S.H. and worked on returnee cards. Back to tea.

Friday 7.

Put in for pass to Ismailia. Beautiful day, not extra busy. Went to pictures at night. Record house 19 Pounds taken. 5th L.H. horses in camp.

Saturday 8.

Browne gone to Cairo with Metzler. Busy morning with cash. Had photo taken (H.Q.) by official photographer. Taking door at cinema tonight.

Sunday 9.

Bruce Brown on main guard. Splendid dinner. Went to Ismailia after tea. Helped Joe all the afternoon. Had cup cocoa & home by train. Bed 8.30 p.m. Browne & Metzler ret. 9.30 p.m.

Monday 10.

Lieut James & Seg. Venn received orders to sail on "Euripides S.S." Aus Div out on strike. Riot in Cairo. 4 staff officers killed. Went to pictures at night. "Whiz Bangs" at Y.M.C.A.

Tuesday 11.

Went in to Ismailia with Sgt Wallis. Was fitted at tailors and ret. back to camp by train. "Whiz Bangs" gave concert in Y.M.C.A. Splendid show. 5 Pounds from Eric.

Wednesday 12.

Went to pictures and helped Browne on the door. Had supper at Y.M.C.A. Returned early to bed.

1. 3. 19

To

12. 3. 19

MARCH 1919.Thursday 13.

Went to Details. Saw Caddell & company.
Went to pictures. Very good. Had supper
in Y.M.C.A. Lieut Banner ret. from Kantara
helped sort cash. Aus Div staff here.

Friday 14.

Don't Remember (in other words forgot what
happened).

Saturday 15.

Cairo by 6.20 train. Held up at Caluib by
rioters. Station ruined, rails cut, & signal
wires etc cut & destroyed. Reached Cairo
2.15. Had lunch at mess. Went to H.Q. No
bis. Met Eric & Guy. Went to Esbekiah gardens
Groppis & then mess and up to 6.15 train.

Sunday 16.

Moved up to A. Details to Pay Office with
Metzler. Went to Ismailia after tea and
got my tunic. Paid tailor 80 dizzies for
tunic and Breeches.

Memo: See Eric Lawson re Metzler 1280.

Oropisu Italian Studio 3 doors from Groppi.
See S/sgt Steel re S/sgt Webb.

Monday 17.

Word of continued rioting at NagaMig. Whole
line from Assaun to Tripoli under danger.
Assaun Dam & others threatened by reptiles.
Pictures and supper as usual.

Tuesday 18.

Egyptians still rioting at Zag-a Zig, Benha
& various small villages along the line.
Attack of malaria. Went to bed 7 p.m. feeling
misquice.

Wednesday 19.

Loafed all day long. Slept all night long.
Went to bed and got up again. "Militarism."

Thursday 20.

All books called in, sorted & classified.
Big house at cinema.

Friday 21

Making out returnee cards all day. Met Browne
and had morning tea.

Saturday 22.

Still on Returnee cards. Col Anderson called
to see me. Aus Div called out & Details
camp relieving all guards and picquets in
Canal Zone. Rec. letter from Cairo re expedit-
ing return.

Sunday 23.

Yankee Dr of Divinity lecturing at Y.M.C.A.
J. Gibbs in camp going to U.K.

Monday 24.

Usual work. Word of English party leaving
on 28th for U.K.

Tuesday 25.

Getting U.K. rolls completed. Working till
late at night on approved list. No word
of Ausi leave or boats going.

Wednesday 26.

Egyptian rioting ceased in and around Cairo.
The provinces still restless & position
precarious & delicate (secret wire). 12th
Regt mounted & marched out.

13. 3. 19
TC
16. 3. 19

MARCH 1919.Thursday 27.

Paid U.K. (remainder of party) 6 p.m. finished
7.30 p.m. 21 Pounds refunded out of 1000
Pounds English Money.

Friday 28

U.K. leave party paraded 6 a.m. Handed out
all books on kit inspection. Finished U.K.
& Ausi leave rolls in afternoon.

Saturday 29.

Went to Ismailia & had swim in lake at baths.
Returned to tea and had duty for rest of
evening at Cinema.

Sunday 30.

Campseine (?) Wind blowing. Nasty morning.
Bess of the Sea showing at the Cinema.

Monday 31

Finalising rolls for pay. "Bookra". Things
very quiet in camp. Nothing doing with Gipos
anywhere.

Tuesday April 1.

Paying 9.30 a.m. in mess hut. Metzler A
to M, Myself N to Z. Word of Smallpox in
village near Ismailia. House of Cards at
Cinema.

Wednesday 2.

Continued pay 9.30 a.m. Paid Officers in
their mess. "Whoso taketh a Wife" showing
at the cinema. Small mail to hand, one from
Nell and one from Edna.

Thursday 3.

Finished paying in morning. Completed Rolls
in afternoon. Out 2½ Pt in conversion. Had
a strike at cricket.

Friday 4.

Nothing doing all day as regards work. Rec.
mail from Mother, Noel, Geo White, Marjorie,
Ruth Stephens & Aunt Elsie. Change at Cinema
tonight.

APRIL 1919.Monday 28.

Paid Aus leave party with John Bradbury's
740 Pounds 10 shillings. Kit inspection
& everything finalised during day.

Tuesday 29.

Leave party for "Dorset" 300 odd left for
Kantara by special train. All pay books
in order. 4 men sailed without books.
H.M.A.S. Australia with Billie on board passed
thru canal.

Wednesday 30.

Leave party of 320 odd men left for U.K.
Cadell & Jardine amongst them.

Thursday May 1.

Rolls worked out O.K. H.M.A.S. Sydney passed
thru canal. Very few men in camp. Easy
day finalising rolls. Wrote to Nellie.

THE DIARY ENDS AT THIS POINT.

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1. 5. 19

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME NOTES MADE IN THE
BACK OF THE 1919 DIARY.

Notes on Egyptian customs etc.

Once a year the "Rammadan" prior to the pilgrimage to Mecca. Great honour to have been a pilgrim. Writings placed on walls of house looked up to by fellaheen.

(Holy carpet procession)

Marriage laws. A man may marry a woman whose face he has never seen. Should he be dissappointed he can easily divorce her & naturally she goes back to her family. They in turn have no time for her and she marries into a lower state in life. Should the first instance occur that of marrying without seeing the brides face, at the wedding feast to which no Christian is allowed, the husband unveils his wife's face and exclaims on her beauty or cries "Weep with me for this night I have seen my wife's face."

When inside the harem the veil is usually removed but it is strictly adhered to when in the open. Nasal gear not used by the upper classes, simply a whit silk veil in most cases.

Mission (Christian) Difficulties.

Should a Mahommedan wish to become a Christian, his people claim & take by law all his property, furniture, only leaving him his personal effects. Naturally very few become Christians unless converted very young.

Children.

Here we have the boy v girl. Girls are not wanted in the home and should one be born the mother gets a very bad time from her husband and friends. Should the child be a boy, great feasting and rejoicing takes place.

Mothers pierce the ball of the eye of the man child so as he will escape military training. A tremendous percentage have eye trouble owing to hereditary disease.

Stealing (Clefty).

Should anyone who is employing an Egyptian, see the same gentleman very devotional he may well keep his eye upon him and his goods and chatels for he is preparing for a great coup.

Swearing

Very quick to pick up swearing and revel in it in their own language.

Soldiers.

They make fine parade soldiers but are very little good under fire.

Trading as Leggars.

Many wealthy men have been known to dress daily as beggars and make much money. It is the Mahomedan law to give alms.

Cleanliness.

Uncleanliness is habitual among the fellahs lower classes. The upper classes such as is seen in Esbekieh gardens are most picturesque in both garb and habits.

Police.

Look very fine dressed in dark suit at nights and light suit in daytime. Mounted police ride beautiful grey horses.

Women.

Upper class very fascinating, lower class very much otherwise. Have beautiful carriage owing to carrying heavy weights & everything on their heads.

Worship.

The Muezzin calls from the minarets five times daily to come to prayers, bow to the East, then to the guardian angels, one on either hand. They are very superstitious.

Koran. Mahomedan Bible.

Bombasha. Nigger Driver

Chezireh. Kit stores.

THE FOLLOWING NOTES WERE ENTERED
IN THE BACK OF THE 1919 DIARY:

War notes in Palestine

Capture of Beersheba Oct 31st. (1917)
 " " Gaza Nov 7th.
 Charge of Yeomanry at Huj Nov. 8th.
 Capture of Junction Station Nov. 14th.
 Occupation of Jaffa Nov. 16th.
 Surrender of Jerusalem Dec 9th.
 Official entry 11th Dec.
 Enemy attempt to recapture Jerusalem Dec 26-27.
 Advance into Ephraim Dec 28th.
 Descent into Jordan Valley Feb. 19th.
 Occupation of Jericho Feb 21st.
 Amman Raid March 21st April 2nd.
 Passage of Jordan March 22nd Ap. 2nd.
 Shunet Nimrin & Es Salt March 24th.
 5 a.m. March 26th N. Zs & Ausis met at
 Ain-es-Sir. Ausis moved to Suweileh Cap.
 170 Turks.
 March 28th One brigade of 60th Div arrived
 at Amman from Es Salt.
 March 29th Turkish Reinf. arrived.
 April 11th Enemy attacked Ghoraniyeh Bridge-
 head & El Musallabeh. Captured 3 officers,
 113 other ranks & 500 dead.
 Es Salt raid April 30th May 4th.
 Despatch of troops to France, May.

Strength of opposing Armies:

IVth Army	6000 rifles	2000 sabres	74 guns
VIIth "	7000 "	"	111 "
VIIIth "	10000 "	"	157 "

Ivth - Jordan Valley
 VIIth Front of 20 miles across Jerusalem
 Nablin Rd.

VIIIth From Firkhah to the sea.
 Garrison at Mann 6000 men 30 guns.

Enemy Reserve 3000 men 30 guns

Totals 32000 rifles, 4000 sabres, 400 guns.

Ration strength 104000.

English Strength.

Two Cavalry Divisions

Two Mounted "

Seven Infantry "

One Indian Infantry Brigade

Four unallotted Battalions

One French Brigade.

Totals 12000 sabres, 57000 rifles, 540 guns.

Average number of bags of mail weekly (in)

	Letters	Parcels	Totals
British	2,500	2,350	4,850
Australian	632	1,339	1,971
New Zealand	130	270	400
Indian	20	20	40

Totals mail despatched home weekly:

British	500000
Ausi	42000
N. Z.	8400
Indian	1500

Ration Strength Sept 18.

British	226,900	Mules	39,100
Indians	111,300	Camels	35,000
Egyptians	128,950	Donkeys	11,000
Horses	74,800		

Cost of feeding daily 43,385 Pounds.

July 14th Attacked by Germans & Turks.

381 Germans, 185 Turks captured. 180 dead.
One day's fighting. 2nd Brigade in Wadi Mellahah. 4th Turkish army east of Jordan.

Sept 19th to 29th.

Captured 10,000 prisoners, 55 guns, 169 machine guns, 800 tons ammunition.
Sept 28th 2nd Turkish army retreating along Hejay Railway came into touch at Leban Station 10 miles south Amman.
Sept 25th Amman attacked & captured.

Sources of Origen of Principal Daily Supplies

Frozen Meat	Ausi S.Africa	Argentina	70	tons
Preserved meat	"	America	52	"
Flour	"	India Canada	90	"
Atta	India		230	"
Biscuits	England	Egypt	250	"
Bacon	"	Ausi	24	"
Cheese	Ausi		20	"
Jam	"	Egypt	24	"
Tea	Ceylon		6	"
Milk	England	America	17	"
Sugar	Egypt		25	"
Salt	"		7	"
Rice	Rangoon		31	"
Dried Fruit	Cyprus	Egypt India Basra	8	"
Fuel wood	Egypt & Cyprus		250	"
Sheep & Goats	Sudan & Cyprus		300	"
Potatoes	Egypt & Cyprus		25	"
Lentils & beans	"		16	"
Onions	"		25	"
Matches	Japan		100,800	boxes.
Barley, maize,]	Egypt, India, Sudan		800	tons.
Grain, Millet]				
Tibben	Egypt]		
Bhoosa	India]		
Hay	India]	900	tons
Dries	Egypt]		
Sucrepaille & Greens	Egypt & India]		
Petrol	Sumatra, Red Sea wells			
	Refined at Suez	Av.	8000	gallons
		Tps	15000	"
Kerosene	" " "		5000	"

Trucks (Caterpillar)	612
Motor cycles	1523
Touring cars	617
Motor ambulances	586
Lorries	1579
Vans	670
Tractors	281
Motor Boats	37
	<u>5905</u>

Egyptian Lbor Corps.

<u>1917</u>	<u>1918</u>
74,252	134,971
enlisted on 6 mths contracts.	

General Sir Edmund H.H. Allenby G.C.B G.C.M.G.
 Temp. Maj. Gen. H. W. Hodgson C.V.O. C.B.
 " Brig. Gen. J. R. Royston C.M.G. D.S.O.
 " " " E. C. Wilson C.M.G. 5th L.H.
 " " " J. B. Meredith D.S.O 1st L.H.
 " " " W. Grant D.S.O. 11th S.H.
 " " " G.M.M. Onslow D.S.O. V.D. 7th L.H.
 Temp. Maj Gen. Sir E.W.C. Chaytor K.C.M.G. C.B. A.D.C.
 " Brig. Gen. C.F. Cox C.B. C.M.G. D.S.O 1st S.H..
 " " " G de L Ryrie C.B. C.M.G. 2nd Brig.
 " " " W. Meldrum C.M.G. D.S.O Wellington
 Major General Sir H.G. Chauvel K.C.B. H.C.M.G.



ERIC MCKAY GEORGE HUNT GUY WILSON



TROOPER GEORGE HUNT

They did what they were told...
They didn't know it was impossible.



The Lighthorsemen

An RKO Pictures - FGH Presentation of A PICTURE SHOW Production
THE LIGHTHORSEMEN

JON BLAKE • PETER PHELPS • TONY BONNER
BILL KERR • JOHN WALTON • GARY SWEET • TIM MCKENZIE
SIGRID THORNTON as Anne and ANTHONY ANDREWS as Meinertzhagen

Director of Photography DEAN SEMLER Production Designer BERNARD HIDES Editor ADRIAN CARR
Music Composed by MARIO MILLO Screenplay by IAN JONES Executive Producer ANTHONY I. GINNANE
Produced by IAN JONES & SIMON WINCER Directed by SIMON WINCER

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DOLBY STEREO

The LIGHTHORSEMEN PG

This is a true and epic story about men and horses and water. It climaxes with the last great cavalry charge in history, when 600 Australian Lighthorsemen obey the seemingly impossible order to gallop their horses across three miles of open desert against Turkish troops who are formidably supported by machine guns, artillery, and aircraft.

The story begins early in 1917 when the British campaign in Palestine is stalemated.

We focus on a four-man section of an Australian Light Horse Regiment: Frank the macho leader; the garrulous yarn-spinning Tas; his devoted and not-too-bright mate Chiller; and the quiet, apparently easy-going, but thoroughly formidable Scotty, so-called because he's Irish.

Bored, too eager for action, Frank rides into a Bedouin ambush. He's wounded and evacuated to hospital. To the disapproval of the other three Gallipoli-hardened veterans, a raw, 19 year old recruit called Dave joins the section.

The kid is an excellent shot and fine horseman. But the usually easy-going Tas rides him hard. He's no substitute for Frank.

During the massive strike to blow up a key Turkish railway Dave fails to shoot a fleeing Turk. Tas is immediately down on him. And when word comes that Frank has died in hospital, it's as though Dave is in some way to blame.

Young Dave eventually proves himself spectacularly when he saves the section's four horses from a German air attack. He's accepted at last, and while in hospital being treated for a wound, he meets a young Australian nurse. They fall in love and Dave confides his fears in her. Can he kill?

Feeling as though he's failed his mates, Dave agrees to leave the section and join the Light Horse Field Ambulance as a mounted stretcher bearer.

Throughout the story, Beersheba, an ancient water-rich stronghold of the Turkish desert flank, has cast a long shadow towards our characters. Unwittingly, Dave has involved Anne in the remarkable plan of a mysterious British intelligence officer called Meinertzhagen, to decoy the Turks and Germans from a planned attack on Beersheba, an all-or-nothing move which will be the linch pin for the British strike at Jerusalem.

The horses are given one long, last drink before a merciless and waterless trek to take Beersheba in the flank. But the seige drags on through an exhausting day and the huge attacking force faces disaster.

When the incredible decision is taken to hurl Australian Light Horse in a sunset charge against the formidable Turkish defences, Tas, Chiller, and Scotty are in the front line, as Dave rides with the ambulance wagons.

Everything depends on the 800 young Australian horsemen.

In a heartstopping and unforgettable finale we ride with the charge through trot, canter and gallop, into a hell of shellfire and machine gun crossfire, bombed and strafed from the air. Until the Lighthorsemen at last smash their way through the Turkish defences to win the precious wells of Beersheba and change the history of the Middle East.