**The Diary Of Lt. Hedley Cullen**

**Tuesday Feb 23rd. 1915**At 3:00pm the train left Morphettville for Port Melbourne. Goodbye was said to all friends and familiar places. Owing to it being my ﬁrst trip to Melbourne I was greatly interested in scenery and seemed no time to the journey's end.

**Wednesday Feb 24th 1916**After travelling all night we arrived at Melbourne at 9:15 AM. Our interests were directed to new places. The views of Melbourne were very nice. Much amusement was caused by the Cable Cars which lookedcomical against the Electric Cars. The engines are much larger than ours, but the Suburban Carriages are very disappointing against the Adelaide carriages. The train pulled right on to the wharf and afterreporting to the officer in charge of embarkation we disentrained and went aboard. Took the men straight to their troop deck & found our own cabin. I have a cabin to myself No 28.

**Thursday Feb 25th.**All the other troops came on board, and was interesting to watch. I went into Melbourne before dinner & had a look round the main streets, and places of general interest. Returned in time for lunch and I left the wharf at about 4-30 p.m. 'A great crowd assembled on the wharf to bid farewell to us using long paper streamers which had a very nice affect. We anchored about two miles out from the jetty all the night

.**Friday 26th.**We sailed about 5:0 A.M. on our journey and was interesting all the way. We past Melbourne Heads at 9:15 A.M. watching the Forts and camps. The coast line is very pretty and was in sight all the way.

**Saturday Feb 27th**Looseing the Land we are now sailing with nothing but sea in sight. The sea is fairly smooth, and we are sailing right opposite South Australia, our time has been altered which brings us back to S. Aust. time. .

**Sunday Feb 28th 1915**The ﬁrst service at Sea is a novel one. Communion at 6:30. General parade 10:15 AM. We congregated forward and found it difﬁcult to hear as the weather is rougher today than it has been, every now and then a big wave would come and drench us rather out of the ordinary. We say “Oh God our help in Ages Past”, “Almighty Father strong to save”, “God save our King”. We are passing through the Bight so it is pretty rough I am standing it alright, as I have not been sick yet. Our meals are good and I have enjoyed everyone of them I have found a good appetite.

 The Routine on the ship is :Reveille 6:00AM Rations 6:30AM Fall in 6:30 to 7:00Mens Mess 7:00 Sgts Mess 7:30Ofﬁc. Mess 8:00Guards Mess 8:00Parade Mess 10:00 to 11:45Inspection of Stp 11:00Mens Mess 12:00Sgts 12:30Ofﬁc. 12:30Fall in 2:00 to 3:30PM Mens Mess 5:00Ofﬁc & Sgts Mess 6:00Put up Hammocks 7:00pm Lights out 10:30pm

**Monday March 1st 1915**Routine is just the same, the sea is very rough. The men gave Mr. Cornish and myself a lovely Dressing lease appreciation of our services.

**Tuesday March 2nd.**Orderly officer today, and the weather is much ﬁner. Official Dinner

**Wednesday March 3rd.**Land sighted, arrived in Albany Harbour at 9:00am. Took about 500 men ashore including our own for a route march. Albany is a very pretty place, the scenery is very beautiful. The course from the open sea to the harbour is very pretty. I went ashore on the evening and met Mr. Sims and family who keep the London Hotel. They took me for a motor drive and came back and spent a pleasant evening got on board at 11:30pm.

**Thursday March 4th.**I stayed on the ship while the rest of the men went on the route march. I went on shore in the afternoon and spent the afternoon and evening with the Sims family. I went a motor drive to King River and the Scenery was great. Came back to dinner and went to the pictures in the evening arriving at the ship at 12:00.mid-night.

**Friday March 5th.**Stayed on ship and made preparations for sailing. We had a boat race with the “Star of Victoria” A16 officers who were the challengers. .We won our race. I was one of the rowers. Our men's crew also won.

**Saturday March 6th.**We said goodbye to Albany at 1l:0OA.M. when we set sail on our journey. The sea is rather rough but am enjoying it.

**Sunday March 7th.**Past Cape Leuwin at 6:00A.M. it is warming up. The weather is beautiful. Church service this morning & spent a quiet afternoon and evening.

**Monday March 8th. 1915**Duties and routines not altered, in the evening a Concert was held and was very ﬁne. The talent is good.

**Tuesday March 9th**The day is getting hotter, tonight we get into the tropics. Boxing Tournament commenced tonight.

**Wednesday March 10th.**The weather is hot but we dress accordingly, the sunset was a very ﬁne sight.

**Thursday March 11th.**Routine the same.Contest in the evening, we witnessed a good evenings sport. The clocks have gone back on the average 12 minutes a day.

**Friday March 12th 1915**Orderly officer today. The weather very hot but a Cooler evening. More boxing and wrestling.Clock back another 12 minutes.

**Saturday March 13th**Finished O. Off duties at 9:00 AM. Easy day today. We had a ﬁne entertainment this evening. Clocks back 12 minutes.

**Sunday March 14th.**

 A Church service very good. Weather was better for it. Very few other duties. Voluntary Church Service this evening, can see the Great Bear tonight, also. Clock to go back 12 minutes.

**Monday March 15th 1915**Weather is very hot. Work cut out for the afternoon in future. We had an entertainment in the evening. Received summons for the visit of Father Neptune. Clocks back 12 minutes. '

**Tuesday March 16th**Father Neptune. Nothing eventful happened. Routine just the same. Weather hot. Concert in the evening.

 .**Wednesday March 17th**Similar to Tuesday. Weather a little hotter. Boxing contest at night.

**Thursday March 18th**5:30AM I woke and sighted land - Point de Galle - with the lighthouse on it. Hundreds Catamaranswere seen in the water. These are native boats. Several steamers sighted. Natives diving for money. Colombo very pretty from ship. We received a salute. Arrived. Anchorage inside Harbour at 8:l5A.M. Went ashore at1:30PM in Native boats called Sampans. Got in rickshaws went to principal places. Bought Helmet 4/6 & white suit 10/- made to measure. Went to Galle Face Hotel had afternoon tea. Journeyed all through the native quarters, went through fruit market and lace shops. Bought post cards. Saw Hindu Temple. Went through the Budda Temple, very interesting. Rickshaws took us back to city and we payed them off 2 Ruppies 2/8 for four hours. Get l5 Ruppies to the pound. The natives are a lot of roughs, they would do you for anything. Fish Market, we did not go in. Hired Motor went to Mount Lavinia Grand Hotel, 7 miles out of the town. Beautiful drive. European houses are lovely. They have a tropical rain storm every evening here. Thunder, Lightning, rain very severe. Police very strict and all natives run by white Military ofﬁcers. Got back to Landing Stage.7 :30PM Took native boat back to ship. Had good supper. Went to bed.

**Friday March 19th**6:00AM Got up. Sailing today. We had trouble. Men wanted leave. We had a hard ﬁght. Some got away, but returned after having some trouble. We had all on board and sailed at 10:30PM.

**Saturday March 20th.** -Sea calm. Weather hot. Sighted land at 4:30 the Southern portion of India. Lot of peculiar lights were seen after dark. It looked so much like a village right up on the side of the mountain. The country was very mountainous. The evening was lovely

.**Sunday. March 21st.**A ﬁne day. Church service. Very good sermon, my thoughts were of home. We spent a quiet day.Sighted land in the afternoon on the western coasts of India. Evening ﬁne.

**Monday March 22nd.**Hot day. Orderly Officer today. Left land during the night going into the open sea. Nothing exciting occurred. Mr. Strack fell and hurt his back. He is in bed. Boxing contest tonight.

**Tuesday March 23rd. 1915**Rose early. Lovely morning. Not so hot today. Work as usual. Saw a large school of porpoises about 300 of them. It was a good sight. Final Boxing Contest tonight. South Aust. carried off two Championships. Theevening was a good one.

**Wednesday March 24th.**Rose early a fresh morning. A little warmer today. A good days work. The porpoises are very thick around here. Played the Gramophone to Mr. Strach on the bridge deck to cheer him a little.

**Thursday March 25th 1915**6:00AM up. Grand day. The sea is like a piece of glass. Almost, not a ripple on it. Slowed down to let the other ship come up with us, we are about two weeks behind time on account of her, she has had a fair bit of trouble. Spent a busy afternoon. Concert in the evening and the issue of trophies was made to those who won them. The night is a beautiful one. Stars are so interesting to watch.

**Friday March 26th. 1915**Rose 6:00AM. Gloriously fresh morning. Weather very hot today. Had my photo taken. Day past of uneventful.

**Sunday March 28th**Got up 6:00AM. Fairly warm turning in a hot day. Sighted land at 8:00AM. Anchored in Aden Harbour at l2 noon. We had the usual church service. Aden is a fortress town. It is second to Gibraltar. The garrisoned parts are many. The only way to defeat them would be by starvation, otherwise too strongly fortiﬁed. The highest point is about 1500 feet. On top of these points are signal stations. Aden properis about 3 miles from the ports. There is a large salt works at Aden. An Auxiliary Cruiser came into port. “Empress of Asia”. She looked very nice. Also a mail boat. Aden is a big coaling place. They can stow a ﬂeet in the harbour. We left at 6:15PM for open sea.Monday March 29th3:30am. I woke to see the Perue Island at the mouth of the Red Sea. It is a fortiﬁed Island now War is on it. Command of the Red Sea passed through Hells Gates. We have passed many Islands today also a smallship this morning.4:00pm We sighted a Cruiser who came & had a look at us. Six other ships passed us before dark. Passed the “Twelve Apostles” about 6:00p.m. the largest of which is St. Paul.The evening is very ﬁne tonight. I lectured on French Army.

**Tuesday March 30th**6:00A.M. Up good morning. Took my moustache off. Ocean Steamer passed this morning. Rather a cool day. Elected Vice President of the Mess. Started a French class. Company concert tonight and good programme. I sang Sing me to Sleep. Much applause. Grand night.

**Wednesday March 31st.**6:00AM up. The weather is exceptionally cool. A good breeze blowing.The Red Sea is generally hot. A cricket. ' .

**The Month of April.**Arrived in Egypt.Train from Suez to Abbassia Camp. Stayed fortnight in Abbassia and then shifted to Zeitoun Camp. ’Egypt is very fertile, where water, country watered by walls and canals from the Nile. Flowers are very nice. Good variety. Saw Pyramids & Sphynx. Went inside pyramids and had fortune told in Kings Chamber.Cairo is a very gay city which does not start until midnight to get lively. Citadel is turned into a Military Store, one may get anything needed for Military purposes.The Walls of the Citidal are about 8 feet through. Cannon balls are still to be seen in the big gates that were shot there when Napoleon fought here over 100 years ago. .The trenches can still be seen of the battles fought then, Napoleon left his mark on Egypt in a great number of ways.

**May 1st Saturday**1:00AM Left Zuitown entrain for Alexandria. Disentrained at 4:00AM and embarked on board the Osmaniah. Stores were taken on board. Alexandria is a very wonderful Harbour. Three Hospital Ships came in while we were waiting to sail. There were a lot of troopships in the harbour. We sailed at l0:00p.m.

**Sunday May 2nd**Grand trip, very ﬁne boat. Sea very still. No land in sight.Routine on ship changeable. Preparation for submarine attack (in case of emergency). Very little work to do.

**Monday May 3rd**Routine & day similar to Sunday. We are sailing through the Islands. The scenery is very ﬁne, especially the sunset. We travel with lights out.

**Tuesday May 4th**Arrived at the Island of Lemnos at 5:30A.M. anchored inside the Harbour. The Harbour is full of transports & Warships, Torpedo boats and submarines are always patrolling the seaoutside the Harbour.

**Wednesday May 5th**Stayed in Harbour all day expecting to go out.

**Thursday May 6th**Left Lemnos 6:30A.M. Sea very rough. Numerous transports and warships near mouth of Dardenalls. First experience of shell ﬁre. Watch a naval and Military duel, arrived at landing. Landed on Torpedo boats.Landed safely. Shrapnel bursting very near. Reported to my regiment which I found cut up pretty badly. Good to meet so many friends.Appointed to A. Coy. 10th Inf. Found it very cold in the trenches at night. The line was fairly lively during the night. Had to stand to arms at 3:30A.M. until sunrise.**Friday May 7th**Rose early had breakfast, Went into the ﬁring line. First experience in the ﬁring line. Watched an artillery duel. Dinner consisted of tea, and a stew made of Biscuits, bully beef and potatoes and very nice too, I did enjoy it. One cannot get a wash in this place. Water is very scarce. About 2:00A.M. a shell burst about 50 yds from us. It blew the trench up & threw a riﬂe up about 30 yds in the air. The trenches are pretty quiet. I worked two hours on and two off all night.

**Saturday May 8th**Stand to 3:30 to 4:45AM went into support of F.L. at 9:00 AM One has a rest in a support.

**Sunday May 9th 1915**As for ﬁghting today has been very quiet. The weather has been beautiful, one has been able to think a little of something else but War. Although everything around has the appearance of War. Very little shrapnel has been falling around today. We are in the trenches today and on duty tonight. Saw Leut. Farrier shot through the head today. It has cast a gloom over us. The sunset is a good one today.

**Monday May 10th 1915**We got shrapnel for breakfast, dinner and tea. It is very amusing to think that they should start just at meal times. Come into supports today so am having a rest. I went down on the beach this afternoon & saw Karl Gault and Tom Pollock. I am very pleased to meet these friends and have a talk of old times.We had a good shower of shrapnel at tea time but we are quite used to it now.

**Tuesday May 11th 1915**Stand to every morning at 3:30AM. Shrapnel has been falling very freely this morning, 11ot many casualties, weather getting hotter, more like summer in Australia.

**Wednesday May 12th**Shrapnel as usual and pretty sudden at times. Infantry is very quiet, but preparing for further work. Trenches being deepened and a new Fore trench being made.

**Thursday May 13th 1915**Fine day. Musketry very quiet today. Grand sunset. Took a patrol out in front of our lines at 10:00AM and returned at 11:30PM. Information very small. Was ﬁred on by Enemy, but returned safely.

**Friday May 14th**Changed to C. Coy. The shrapnel is falling pretty thick. Killed one, wounded ﬁve.Sunset glorious and nights fairly cold.

**Saturday May 15th 1915**Posted another mail. Shrapnel again very bad. I went right through to the left of our trenches and viewed the whole situation on the left. Many dead lying about but cannot be collected. Met several friends.

**Sunday May 16th**Shrapnel too bad to hold church parade.George Cullen was killed, shot through the head. We buried him on the side of the hill at the back of our lines. A sad day

**Monday May 17th**The day is good but warm. Riﬂe ﬁre. Very quiet but shrapnel as thick as ever. Two men killed today. More men landing on the beach. Italy declares war on Germany.

**Tuesday May 18th.**A day similar to Monday but shrapnel not so severe. News of a new division of Turks landed so will soon be on us. 64 shells dropped in 4 1/2 minutes

.**Wednesday May 19th 1915**At 3:30.AM Turks made an attack on our whole front but were repulsed with heavy losses and few to ourselves. A Turkish charge is a very half hearted one. They mass and on the bugles sounding a very weird noise, they charge. Shouting “Allah allah”. Our ﬁre simply mowed them down in hundreds. A very amusing thing happened just after day light. The Turks tried to bring ammunition up to their ﬁreing line on mules They had to come over a ridge in front of us 450x and as soon as our boys saw them they opened ﬁre and simply laid the mules out, so thus ended the ammunition train. We were kept awake all day by the Turks who were receiving reinforcements & concentrating in the gully 350 yds to our front. The artillery got on to them & started to mow them down. During the evening we had several brushes with them. 8500 casualties on the Turk side and some hundreds only on our side.

**Thursday May 20th 1915**The enemy tried to force us again at 3:00AM but was again repulsed by a terriﬁce ﬁre from riﬂes and machine guns. I was detailed to take a counter charge but was not needed. They could not stand our riﬂe leave alone the bayonet. ' Instead of bringing up reinforcements, this time they retired over the farridge in great haste with our Riﬂe and artillery chasing them up. We thought to have a hot ﬁre from their artillery but strange to say not a shot was ﬁred at us so We had an easy day, we prepared the trenches where they were broken down and rested. The navy simply tore the new troops Turkey sent along.Enemy launched an attack just before dusk but met with the same results but they kept us busy all night on and off.Our Aeroplanes are doing us good work. They report about 1000 more Turks landed and coming towards us. The artillery and Navy simply plowed up the valleys in our immediate front or just where the attack was expected from. Its pitiful to hear the groans of the wounded and dying in front of us. They will neither bury the dead or attend to their wounded and will not allow us to.The evening went off with nothing startling happening but we could hear them preparing. 500 prisoners taken.

**Friday May 21st 1915**Had another brush with the Turks about l2:30A.M. but nothing serious. I was on duty the whole night. It's too anxious a time to sleep. We were again attacked at 2:45 A.M. but we poured a hot ﬁre in and spilling death everywhere that they went for their lives. The morning was very quiet. At about noon the enemy showed a white ﬂag on the point..

**Saturday May 22nd 1915**Rather quiet day. Party under white ﬂag returned at l2 noon undecided what it is for. Nothing doing in ﬁring line.

**Sunday May 23rd**Weather is beautiful. Church parade at 9:00 A.M. The ﬁrst since I have been in the trenches.It brought my mind back to home. I also wished I could be there.Mail arrived.

**Monday May 24th 15**An armistice has been arranged for 7 :30 AM to 4:00 pm today. Burial parties went out under the Red Cross ﬂag & Crescent Flag. It caused quite a sensation to see Turks and our men talking together,some exchanged souveniers and expressed themselves as being tired of the war. They are sorry they went in with Germany at all. Sunset is very good tonight.

**Tuesday May 25th 1915**Fair amount of artillery this morning. Riﬂe ﬁre quiet. About l:00pm I saw the Triumph struck by a Torpedo, a Submarine has been at large for several days, she just missed the\_\_\_\_\_ by about 2 feet. When the torpedo struck the Triumph it sent the spray right up above the masts, and tore a large hole in her. She started to ﬁll and gradually sunk. They tried to beach her, but couldn’t owing to being rather far out. It was a grand but awful sight, one which will not be forgotten for some time to come. She sank very slowly for a time, but as soon as she ﬁlled she turned right over & went out of sight. She stayed bottom upwards for some time andthen sank altogether, thus ended the life of the grand ship. Only about 40 lives were lost. It is reported the sinking of the submarine which sank her.A German airship sored over us tonight and dropped a bomb close to us. It a peculiar noise it makes coming through the air.

**Wednesday May 26th 1915**Reported sinking of three Turkish Troopships & two Gun boats by our submarines in the Dardinells.The day is very quiet, but very wet. Trenches are very sticky in wet weather. Our aeroplane circled over the Turkish position this evening and dropped an immense bomb on to it. One could see it coming through the air, when it landed it did make a terriﬁc noise. He simply circled round unconcernedly and watched it ﬁom his own machine.

**Thursday May 27th 1915**Turks don’t like our Trench mortars. Reported, Majestic, torpedoed but was able to beach her. Forthreinforcements arrived. - Plenty of shrapnel today.

**Friday May 28th**Left the trenches for a rest on the hill side. Spent a very quiet day. Went on the beach for a walk at night and enjoyed a good sea bath returned about 10:30 p.m. Mail arrived.

**Saturday May 29th 1915**Rose 9:00 A.M. Breakfast in bed and read letters. Shrapnel has beengoing over very thick today. Wrote some letters & censored others Had a lazy day today. The onlyinteresting thing was the frequent visit of our aeroplanes. One dropped several messages down on the Turks. It was fun to watch them shooting shrapnel at our planes but without success.

**Sunday May 30th 1915**Everything towards the sea very peaceful. Church parade much enjoyed. Nothing of an eventful nature happened. Day passed quitely.

**Monday May 31st**Few occasional shots came over. Turks told to consider their ammunition, owing to their shortage.Turkey running short of coal & cannot get supplies in. Beautiful sunset and evening.

**Tuesday June 1st 1915**Six months ago since I put the uniform on to prepare for the front. A little shrapnel has been ﬂying about. Riﬂe ﬁre practically nil.

**Wednesday June 2nd**

Our Plane was over early this morning. Nothing doing in the way of ﬁghting at all.

**Thursday June 3rd**Similar day to Wednesday. No excitement at all. “Doris” bombarded. Grand evening.

**Friday June 4th**Several cruisers were seen steaming up to the point at about 11 A.M. A terriﬁc bombardment started and continued untill late in the afternoon. Interesting to watch. A ﬂight of vulchers (300 or 400) passed over our lines. The men started to shoot at them. O what sport. An attack was made by the 9th & 12th on aposition on our right commencing at 9 p.m. A Destroyer shelled the position for half an hour & search lights before the charge was made at 11:00 pm the N.Z. & Aust. attacked Quinns post on our left. Heavyﬁreing took place but the post was won. Results not known. Flares, trench mortars, artillery bomb, & rife & bayonet’s were used. l0th never ﬁre a shot. I was on duty 10pm to l.A.M.

**Saturday June 5th 1916**Nothing doing on front of us. Turks on left are trying to reclaim trenches taken from them during the night.Turkey short of coal. Germans leaving “Constant” in trains, two Turks sent to chop wood in hope of allowing them to escape.

**Sunday June 6th 1915**Attended church this morning. The weather is delightful. Turks very quiet. A few shrapnel, but in the evening. Quiet night.

**Monday June 7th**Prepared to leave trenches. 9:0A.M. leﬁ trenches to go on rest for three days. Had a swim which was much enjoyed. Had a visit from Leut Mills L.H. Bed Early. No stand too.

**Tuesday June 8th 1915** ,Visit from Jack Lewis. He is well. Spent quiet day. No news. Waiting patiently for a mail. Enjoyed rest.

**Wednesday June 9th**Visit from Frank Sanders. He is well. We had a long talk. He gave me his photo. Weather is a bit dusty today. Slept most of the day.

**Thursday June 10th**9:0A.M. Went back into the Trenches, again. My platoon is in supports, & is duty platoon. I am resting all day. Received appointment to Mule Corps.

.**Friday June 11th 1915**Rose early. Breakfast in C. Coy and said Farewell to 10th. Reported to Capt. Alexander at 9:0 A.M. and took over duties as 2nd in command. Got a general insight into the working of things and was shown over thedifferent commands. By what I can see it will be very interesting work. We have a large Indian personal so I am setting to work to learn their language which I think I shall pick up fairly rapidly. I am going to take every opportunity to get on.Things are more comfortable here, one is not cramped up such as we were in the trenches. I have a very cosy dug-out and an Indian Servant to wait on me.By all appearances our horses are very ﬁne animals. Our work is done at night mostly owing to it being so dangerous with shrapnel and snipers. Slept on a camp stretcher for the ﬁrst time sin I leftSouth Aust. Things are very luxurious compared with the trenches.**Saturday June 12th**Tea & biscuits in bed. Had a stroll round the lines. Breakfast (Bacon & Eggs). Had a lesson onSaddlery and got the Indostana (?sp) for it. Received a shelling from Turks (ana Varta). Dinner (Omelet). After dinner I layed down and learned some words and rested. We had tea on the Lawn. Ah which is quite a change from the trenches. I went to Aust Depot & saw the working of the mules there & also thedifficulties which arise. Arrived home 12:15 p.m.

**Sunday June 13th 1915**Tea & Biscuits in bed. Attended to by native orderly. Learned Industana. We were shelled at lunch hour and received six casualties in mules. We had to shift some of the lines. I went over to the 10th lines in theafternoon and received my mail which is rather late than usual. I received 13 letters and one paper. Went to No. 2 Aust. Depot at night and inspected the working of the mules there. Returning home ll:30p.m.

**Monday June 14th 1915** Our friend started shelling us early. I was woke up by a shell bursting over my “dug out” & he continued to shell dropping about 12 in our gully. Two mules were killed. One shell went into the earth about two feetabove my “dug out” door but didn’t burst which I am glad to say.Wrote letter home in afternoon. Went along Walkers Road with mules at night to learn the duties whichhave to be performed by our men.Home 11:0p.m.

**Tuesday June 15th 1915**Very quiet this morning no shelling. Tea in bed.Had a look round mule lines.Breakfast. Indian doctor showed me round his sick lines and described wounds and sickness of mules to me. The Howitzer started shelling the enemy. It make the earth shake as if it was an earthquake.Rested during the afternoonCurried eggs for dinner. Went with mules to Mowash Gully (Popes Hill) which is about four miles.Had a narrow escape from Bullett whilst there. 2 mules killed, 3 wounded by shelling also one man wounded.

**Wednesday June 16th 1915**Tea in morning which is very acceptable. Turks shelled us all day. Must have got a new box. I inspected Kits of three troops today. Indians look well in their uniforms, all orders are given in English.We had two mules wounded today. Turks seem to make a speciallity of our gulleys. They have the advantage of knowing all the country we are in. I stayed on the beach in the evening and watched the convoy of storesthere. It turned in very cold at the beach.

**Thursday June 17th**This morning has been very quiet for shells. We found a place for water in our gully by a divining Rod. We started making mule lines further up the Gully to make the mules safer. Turks started to shell after dinner in another of our Mule gullys, so O.C. and myself went over ﬁnding one man hit in several places but otherwise safe. Went to No. 1 outpost with mules at night along beach. We are inview of Enemy all the time but was not ﬁred at. We cannot take mules through trench. Some of the spoils of war are still on beach.**Friday June 18th**Anniversary of Waterloo Day.Strange thing is War. Fighting against the country which was our friend then and ﬁghting with our then enemy. Today has been very quiet here. I thought that there may be something doing, but evidently they thought better of attacking us. Billy came to see me this afternoon. When to Cpt. Clewis depot tonight and saw a few friends, and stopped talking. Three big shells came over the beach, but landed in the sea, about 8 o’clock. Seven shells went over about 10:30.

**Saturday June 19th**Tea in bed. Cleaned, and dressing, went around the lines & then had breakfast. Not feeling too grand. Leut. Morley & Thompson 13 Battalion, came around to see me after lunch & I showed them over our lines. Theywere rather envious of our Indian Horses. Had Evening meal & went to beach. Stayed on beach all the evening returning home about 6:00AM

**Sunday June 20th**Tea in bed, after breakfast. I went with Capt. Alexander to organise the transport for the Aust. Division. We returned late for lunch. Met Frank Saunders on way back and after dinner we stayed and talked in my dug-out. We talked of South Australia old and new. I showed him our lines. After dinner Capt Alexander & I went to the beach and put into practice what we had arranged during the day and found it to work well.

**Monday June 21st 1915**Longest day.After breakfast I wrote a letter to Mother and rested the rest of the day. Have not felt too good today (joke). Man on stretcher wounded. Laying on his back saying Bill told me I would get hit in the bum and I have got hit there (joke) one which originated from Indian M. Btn. When shrapnel comes the Indian ducks for cover. The British gets into his dug out but the Australian stands up and says to it “you B--- B---”.

**Tuesday June 22nd 1915**I journeyed up our hill to the trenches which the 9th Light Horse occupy. Chatted to several officers I know. Had a look at the country occupied by us and enemy & took several photo’s. Spoke to Arthur Nield.Our position looks quite different from those trenches than from the trenches occupied by the 10th. Spoke to Col Miell and Adj. Had lunch and rested in the afternoon. Bathing is a blessing here but yet we bathe indanger of getting shot. “Not at Henley” now. Went on my usual work to the beach at night. .

**Wednesday June 23rd 1915**Still the Luxury of tea in bed. Dressed and had breakfast. Then started to read an old paper. Got disgusted with it. I got up and went to the Bath and there I found my mail. Several letters and papers to last me a month. I was no longer dispondant. Had a talk with my old boy officers & had a snack of dinner with D. Coyand went on my way back. Had my dinner & went through my mail. Saw a Turk who had givenhimself up today. He looked quite pleased and contented. We are experiencing some grand nights.

**Thursday June 24th**Usual morning toilet before breakfast. After breakfast I layed down and read till lunch time arrived.After which Capt Alexandria & myself went & saw where two of our men were buried. These Indians were killed with Shrapnel this morning. We are having some pretty warm weather now. We were nearly hit byshrapnel and snipers on our journey, one landed in the earth along side of me. We have some rather unpleasant high Explosives Shelling just a dinner time now & pieces ﬂy about, one landed just near us tonight.

**Friday June 25th 1915**Morning toilet as usual.Breakfast. After breakfast I met Capt. Alexandria on the beach & took to the trenches my regiment occupy. When I was on the beach I experienced a heavy shelling. Shells were dropping everywhere. Several stacks of food were blown up. I got. out of that alright. I introduced Capt.Alexandria to the Col. & he took him around the trenches. The Capt. stayed with him to dinner & I went to my old mess to dine. Whilst I was there the mail arrived so I got my mail before I returned home. Capt. Alexandra was muchly taken up with the Col. & also the trenches. We spent an enjoyable time there.

**Saturday June 26th 1915** 'There was supposed to have been a bombardment at 9:20 AM at the trenches in front of us, but it didn’t come off. I went up the hill to watch it, but was disappointed. I saw several I knew & returned in time forlunch. After lunch Capt. Alexandria & myself went & saw where our men were buried, who had been killed during the morning. We returned and after afternoon tea we went & bathed as usual the sea is only about 200ydsfrom wherever live. Art Napier called on me and we had a long chat. Hehas now been promoted to a Sergeant

.**Sunday June 27th 1915**At 9:0AM I reported myself to Col Leslie and got on punis which took me out to the trawler en route for Cape Hellies. We went out abreast of the Hospital Ship and took on board an English Colonel of R.A.M.C. He is inspecting the red cross work on all fronts. We had an interesting talk together. He assured me that we Australians would get a great reception in England when we get there. He gave me a lovely apple. The only fruit I have seen since I left Egypt.When we were leaving the Turks farewelled us by putting some shells around us. The nearest was about 50 yds off.It was glorious on a boat again. The breeze was delightful. I saw two nurses on the Hospital Ship. They were the only females I have seen for two months. The trip to the Cape was very enjoyable. I could watch the different engagements in progress all the way. We reached our destination and was taken off in a steam pinnis. I proceeded to ﬁnd the mule corps & eventually found them.I ﬁrst met Capt. Rennison. He is an awfully nice fellow. He went to no end of trouble for me. He got me some dinner which I enjoyed & after a short talk he took me to a dug out where I could read or sleep till afternoon tea. I took the advantage of reading some books I had not seen before. The native servant called. me for tea & I enjoyed some very nice Indian pastry. It was delicious. I had a look round after tea and watched an artillery duel from the hill top.I went over the old forts. My word they are smashed about & the township in ruins, also the town & forts on the Asiatic Side. The French soldiers are very dirty in themselves. There are large numbers of Frenchthere. The Lighthouse is smashed to nothing almost. I got some pieces of glass to say I was there. I returned in time for dinner. While we were having dinner a ﬂight of Eight Aeroplanes came over. They all were making for the direction of Chanac. I suppose their object was bomb dropping. It was a good sight.I went up on the hill with the Colonel, after dinner, but the ﬁghting had died off a lot so we did not see much. He showed me around his lines & I went in some of the mens dug outs which were very good indeed. We came back and had a long talk over different matters interest and thenretired to bed.

**Monday June 28th 1915**I was woken after a good nights rest by the orderly bringing in tea. After which I indulged in the luxury of a hot water bath which made me feel very refreshed. After breakfast I prepared to get away to my boat. Theybrought me a horse, so I had a good ride around. he was a beauty to. Ienjoyed the ride very much. I was delayed a good bit in getting my boat. I got on board about twelve & we were due to leave at 10 A.M. We got away at 2:00 P.M. The gun they call Aslatic Algy no sooner I got on my boat started. We have two 60 lbers just near the beach and she ﬁres across to try and silence these. She is a tremendous size gun. When she hits the earth it sends up a high cloud of dust and earth about 50 ft in the air. She ﬁred about 2 dozen shots whilst I was there. We at last left on our journey. A French destroyer nearly ran into us. Things were rather exciting for the time. We watched a big engagement ﬁom the boat. All one can see of abattle is simply a long irregular line of dust and smoke. What with a Cruiser, destroyers and all our artillery. I tell you they did plow things up.We had a pleasant trip up.When nearing our own land they were having a good go in. There 3rd Brigade advanced and took some trenches. The object being to keep the Turks employed and not let them go down to the other front. When we got ashore it was very hot, as soon as I got home I found the Turks has been throwing 8 inch shells about. We recovered two which did not burst, I can just lift one of them.I went to bed early.

**Tuesday June 29th 1915** .Was woken up early by shells dropping around. Usual toilet & then breakfast.I sat down & wrote home. I was disturbed by some more 8 inch shells dropping up on the hill. They make an awful dust & noise. One man was blown to atoms and took the pants off another. We don’t want any moreof them.After dinner I took some photos of the shells, and dug outs etc. I layed down & rested, but was too hot to sleep. The sea was good for bathing, Turks attack our front, about 9:30p.m. and were repulsed with heavy losses about 1500. They shelled us late at night but we replied & quieted them.

**Wednesday June 30th 1915**We were shelled very early this morning. After breakfast I read in my dugout. We got about one dozen Turkish prisoners & took them blind folded to headquarters. They looked pleased to be taken prisoners I suppose glad to get out of it.The Capt. went on board the Hospital Ship but has not been able to get back. Just heard that our men have done good work down South. They have advanced 1000 yds.Sea is very rough today. New Zeal. reinforcements landed tonight. We experienced a heavy thunderstorm tonight. It is the darkest night I have experienced since I have been here.

**Thursday July lst 1915**Got up and had breakfast. I was speaking to a man who had been to P.A.C. He knows Alf Carne & is going to ﬁnd him out for me. I went down to the beach. They are busy shifting the Aust Hospital to a safe place. Capt. Alexandria has not been able to return yet. I watched seven wounded Turks being fed by our A.M.C. After dinner another Turk was brought in. They brought their rations and dixies with them on thecharge. They thought they had come to stay. I had a visit from Art Napier. He is still the same. I went up to the 7th. Battalion in the evening & saw Mr Gring & Capt Permigel. We had a good long talk together.There is a Turkish officer reported to be in our lines.

**Friday July 2nd 1916**The weather is very pleasant, this morning. I intended visiting the trenches to see the damage done by our ﬁre to the Turks but owing to expecting some reinforcements to land for us I did not go. I went to the beach this morning but nothing has come yet. I waited about and returned to lunch. I rested ir1 the afternoon and after dinner I went down to the beach and saw the mail landed. Our reinforcements were sent back to the island so were not landed after all.

**Saturday July 3rd 1915**Grand morning.I spent the morning answering my back mail, which has grown very large. I was also visited by Art Napier he is well. I went over to the (reinforcements) regiments after lunch in the hopes of getting some mail,but it appears to have been English mail so I did not receive anything. I returned to the beach but mules were expected to land in the Evening.We came back and they were expected any time. We waited until l0:00a.m. & they did not come, so we went home leaving all instructions.

**Sunday July 4th 1915**Capt. Alexandria Went to Cape Hellies this morning so I was left in charge of the transports. I went around the lines on inspection. We were shelled this morning by 11-2 inch shells. The thickness being 2 in casings. Awful things to strike anything.B. Depot Aust. Sup. commenced again tonight. I made all necessary arrangements for the transport. Everything worked alright. During the day I continued with my letter writing. Had a visit from Billy.

**Monday July 5th**I had my cup of tea and got up. This morning was delightful but it gets very hot during the day.I went on my rounds, found everything correct. I came back and wrote more letters. After lunch I was visited by Lieut. Moseley 13 Battalion. We had a talk together and went down for a bathe. We returned forafternoon tea. Capt. Alexandria was to have returned but he did not come. I visited the 7th Battalion and saw Capt. Pemuszal (?spelling) and Lieut. Greig & returned home at 11:30pm. The 16th Battalion were shelled going off to the island for rest.

**Tuesday July 6th 1915 ' \_**I went on my usual morning rounds of inspection and found everything O.K. I returned and ﬁnished my correspondence (18 letters in all).Capt Alexander returned after lunch, so I reported all to him and he told me news. We had afternoon tea and then bathed.After dinner I went to the beach and supervised transport going out from Aust Dept. and returned l0:30p.m. The 10th are going to Imboss tomorrow.**Wednesday July 7th 1915**I received some mail this morning, but it is not a complete one. Only one from home. The day was very quiet. No shelling and only a few shots ﬁred along the front.

**Thursday July 8th**Another such a day as yesterday. I rested practically all the day and hadmy usual swim. I went to the beach in the evening.

**Friday July 9th 1915**Had surprise to ﬁnd when I got out of my dug-out that Cond-Brown had returned from Alexandria thus telling us what civilisation was like. He brought several things for me. So I feel as if I own the world.I went up to the 10th for my mail, but only got on letter, cable, & paper. I was surprised to receive an answer to my cable which was sent home about 2 weeks ago.I journeyed to the beach but everything was quiet.

**Saturday**Alter breakfast I answered some letters to be posted tomorrow. I had a look round the lines. The weather is very hot now, especially in the afternoon. Mr. Mosely came over this afternoon so we bathed together.Snipers were pretty busy on our bathing place making things uncomfortable.The Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton spent the night at Anzac. The evening turned out very nice.

**Sunday July 11th**I posted my letters and then went to the beach. Whilst I was there I met George Prince of Mitcham. He has been wounded. We got some heavy shelling whilst I was there, so I got off & away as soon as possible.I came back and spent a quiet afternoon. '

**Monday July 12th**I spent a quiet day but visited the Battalions in the evening. Got my mail and had a long talk to some of the men of my old platoon. There was some heavy ﬁreing going on.

**Tuesday July 13th 1915**Had some heavy shelling again today. I was in the thick of it, but did not get touched. We had a blockage on the beach on account of landing a 4 -7 gum (Naval)

**Wednesday July 14th**I went to the outpost with some mules, we have struck a good supply of water (lovely). I erected temporary watering places and then enjoyed a drink muchly.In the afternoon I held a Summary to a court martial on one of the Indians.The weather is very hot now.

**Thursday July 15th 1915**I journeyed to the outpost with more mules. I took 80 this time. I stripped off and rested in the afternoon. I met Mr Copley & Kelly this evening. They appear to be well. Another 4-7 gun was landed here tonight.

**Friday July 16th**I went to the outpost with more mules. We received instructions for the big show which is coming off shortly. I wrote some letters this afternoon. I went to the beach in the evening. A battery of 4 guns (5 inch H) was landed tonight.

**Saturday July 17th 1915**A journeyed to the outpost with a troop of mules, and arrived back late for lunch. Billy came round to see me. The weather has turned in hot. Its a blessing to be able to swim. Although we are in danger of being snipped. It is the one thing to keep us ﬁt.After dinner I ﬁnished my mail and went to bed. It needs very few clothes on at night to keep one warm.Two batteries of (5 in H) landed.**Sunday July 18th 1915 .**The weather is glorious out early, but it gets very hot as the day goes on. I went to the outpost. We introduced our new pump. I arrived back at thress. I had my swim at 5p.m. The water is delightful in the afternoons. After dinner we had an interesting view of a Sea & Land ﬁght between Cruiser and ﬁeld gun. Iwent to the beach. A delightful evening. We landed another 5 inch battery. Two destroyers are out here now putting in the shells to the Turks trenches at 10:30p.m.

**Monday July 19th 1915**Usual morning toilet.After breakfast I sat on a court martial. One of our Indians found stealing. Sentence 30 Lashes.I went to the outpost after lunch with Capt Alexander and enjoyed my swim after. I received some letters from home today but they were late letters. After dinner I went to the beach to fmd Capt. Williams (R.E.). After searching for two hours I found him to arrange for the carting of a tropping from onewall to the outpost.

**Tuesday July 20th 1915**Some heavy shelling took place this morning. Several Casualties. The weather is very hot.Joke about Soldiers & prisoners from trenches “Wife & family.” Quiet night.

**Wednesday July 21st**The day is very hot, very much activity on the front. Some days are exceptionally quiet & swimming can be taken in ease but others rotton.

**Thursday July 22nd 1915**Quiet day again, but a few shells come over to greet us. I was nearly shot by sniper while bathing (Joke: How I won the V.C.) Work is now beginning in earnest.

**Friday July 23rd**Turks “Constitutioned Say” we expected a bit of fun but did not come. We were specially guarded by the Navy tonight. We had orders to shift: 10,000,000 rounds of ammunition to one depot.

**Saturday July 24th 1916** ,I conducted a Helmet parade of all Indians under our charge to ﬁnd defects in Helmets. We are prepared for Gas. I supervised ammunition transport in afternoon. Lots of work on the beach at night time.

**Sunday July 25th 1915** \_I arranged about the water at outposts today. Spent rest of the day quietly. Tremendous amount of stores going out to depots preparing for new army.

**Monday July 26th** Journeyed to the outposts pump broke down while there. The Turks have worked a new gun in on us which has a very high velocity, and is on us before we know it has fired.

**Tuesday July 27th 1915**I watched the new gun bombarded our H Battery. The nearest shot went within 15 feet of the gun.We had 10 mules killed with shelling today.Beach is very busy at night.

**Wednesday July 28th**I went to Indian Post Office and signed all money orders sent by Indians who came with me.We were inspected by the Chief Veterinary officer this morning.I rested in the afternoon then had my bathe. While having our dinner we watched our Destroyer bombard a new gun position of Turks. Three officers hit today.I attended an impressive service held over General Birdwoods A.P.C.’s grave tonight. Still busy with stores.

**Thursday July 29th 1915**Rather free from shells to. Killed 1 officer and wounded another on the beach. The Capt. orderly was also wounded in the arm. “Sniper” Destroyers put the Search light on our Water Convoy going to our outposttonight serving right into Mr. Turk’s hands. One man killed. Luckily.

**Friday July 30th**Have been feeling off color so rested all day. Also inoculated against cholera. I am everything but bullet proof now. Plenty of work on beach at night.

**Saturday July 31st 1915 .**Water trouble is prevailing. Had to water mules from tanks supplied formen. Shortage of water very great. Went with convoy to outpost after dark. No trouble. In sight of turks all the way.

**Sunday August 1st 1915**Sat on court martial this morning offence. “Theft”. Sentence 30 lashes. Visit from Lieut Miells 9th L. Horse. We had a long chat together.Rested some of the afternoon. Capt. Alexander made me stay in tonight because I have been very seedy.

**Monday Aug 2nd 1915**Went to outpost. Watered mules all morning. Shelling pretty free. Urgent order for 28,000,000 rounds of ammunition to outpost. We had the mules on the job 15 minutes of receiving the wire. I supervised mules at night.

**Tuesday August 3rd**Work ammunition in cost. Watering mules at outpost all OK. Shelling a lot today. I went to outpost at night with ammunition. One mule wounded. Turks shelled main beach. We were sending troops.

**Wednesday August 4th 1915**Took 70 mules and carried ammunition to Bridges Road. We ﬁnished 4 trips without casualties 3 1/2 hours. Complimented by Captain Alexander.Rested in the afternoon. I did nothing at night. More troops landing.

**Thursday Aug 5th 1915**Big preparations for the ﬁght. I went to the outpost and prepared new mule lines. Talking all day over it. Received my order for the ﬁght.Went to bed early. More troops landed. .**Friday August 6th 1915**Went with Capt Alexander to see the new mule lines before breakfast. I prepared my ﬁeld kit during the morning. Operations are to start this afternoon. Our Navy are getting active. Our ﬁrst attack was successful. I was working mules to the outpost all-night. We bumped into a Brigade on route. All attacks on our left front have been successful with small losses. I helped to attend to a wounded soldier tonight on the road.**Saturday August 7th 1915**The morning revealed a sight of the new landing. 2 Divisions linked up with our left. The attack on Baby 700 was not a success, we lost heavily. On the left things went off well, getting about three miles inland. Ourattacks on the right were not so good. I have been out with one convoy to the outpost many of my mules went out to the different Brigades, a lot of wounded have been taken off. Its pleasing to see the Navy out again.

**Sunday August 8th 1915**No records**Twenty first birthdayMonday Aug 9th 1915**Wounded in battle on Lone PineSniped by SniperLieut. Hedley E. Cullen2nd in commandIndian Mule Cart CorpsLate 3rd Reinforcements10th BattalionA.I.F.

**Tuesday Aug 10th 1915**Died of wounds on Board ship Dongoliaburied by Chaplain ReesBetween Gallipoli and Alexandra--- Buried at Sea ---

The original Diary was donated to The Repatriation Hospital by Hedley's nephew Ron Cullen who is the son of Bernard Cullen Hedley's brother. The copy of Hedley's diary has been submitted by Ron's granddaughter Helen Duffield who is Hedley's Great great niece.