



DIARIES OF MELVIN
JAMES SAWTELL
HARRIGAN

The Lighthorseman

ABSTRACT

Within lies a transcript of Mel's diaries spanning the early portion of the Great War, detailing his time in the Light Horse. Transcribed and noted by Jenny McPherson, Regimental entries and editing by James McQualter

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1915

Friday 1 January 1915

Dreadful heavy rain this morning. Diddled about the town for a time, then McQuiggin and I went out to Carrolls Creek and had a very late dinner. Had music at night.

Saturday 2 January 1915

A very nice day. We all went to the Falls today for a picnic, they were very fine and afterwards called on Hurtz to see if he would look after my place for a time but not so far come to terms.

Sunday 3 January 1915

Mac went to town today and I return to my own place to do some more work for a few days.

Monday 4 January 1915

I took a ride round most of paddocks. Cattle look well. Afterwards go back to Carrolls Creek for a horse to draw some posts for yards.

Tuesday 5 January 1915

England and Mace were branding in the yards today. I was busy patching them up. I have a couple hundred to brand next week. I drew in some posts. The formidable was ruined this week near England.

Wednesday 6 January 1915

Took horse home and returned and did a bit to the yards. Also then pulling in some new slip rails for entry into mustering paddock. More rain today.

Thursday 7 January 1915

Working along the boundary between OCP and Bookie paddock. Finished pulling in new slip rail to get to yards (station) and put up a bit of calf proof fence for weaning paddock.

Friday 8 January 1915

Patching up the old fences around Bookookookara yards. A very cold S W wind blew all day.

Saturday 9 January 1915

Not too well today. Cold. Cut a few berries. Patch up some more fences along most of north boundary and western. Raining again tonight.

Sunday 10 January 1915

Cold east wind today. Went to Carrolls Creek for drive then into town. Went to Methodist Church tonight with Col Kellett. Rev E E Hynes preached patriotic sermon.

Monday 11 January 1915

Got my legal business finished today with Mr Thomas, gratis. He will keep my papers etc, T D Coy scrip, will and other papers for me. Mr Hindmarsh has kindly consented to look after my financial affairs for me. The police took my measurements today. Went out to Carrolls Creek at night.

Tuesday 12 January 1915

Meet family relatives coming in as I went out last night. Amber and Lima were at home. I stayed with them. Also met Kellett, he nearly broke his neck off his bike.

Wednesday 13 January 1915

Went out to Bookie. Run several barbed wires round the fences of the station paddock so as to make a weaning paddock of it. Light rain fell most of day. P Hurtz came early. We mustered the

back country and one front paddock and brand everything in Bookookoorara yards. Hurtz stayed with me at night.

Thursday 14 January 1915

We mustered One Mile paddocks today and branded in two days over 100 cows and between 90 and 100 calves. Saved 3 bulls, finished at 4 o'clock. Hurtz went home.

Friday 15 January 1915

I ran 6 cows down to back country, fixed up others, saw to 14 old cows on station paddock, cleaned up everything, took a hide of a lumpy, paddocked all stock and left for Tenterfield, got in at 9 o'clock.

Saturday 16 January 1915

Chilly today. I got all my stuff fixed up today, all legal papers and agreement with Mr Thomas and Mr Hindmarsh and financial affairs. Everybody is shaking hands with me and wishing me luck, Bankers, squatters, cockies, businessmen, turns out all.

Sunday 17 January 1915

Nice day. Spent an hour with Martyns. Got some news books and papers and afterwards nearly broke the hearts of the mater and girls by leaving for Sydney.

Monday 18 January 1915

Had a rotten trip down, 16 in compartment, missed my train at Singleton while talking to Mrs Firth of Nimbin. Boarded 2 other trains to get to Sydney, stay at Hotel Sydney. Had a good night sleep. Bought some stuff at Murdoch's. Went to look for Leadley's place but could not find them.

Enlisted

Tuesday 19 January 1915

Went out to Paddington Barracks and enlisted. Went back to Hotel Sydney for dinner then left again for the barracks. Fell into line at 2.30. Marched with 130 recruits to the Central Station and trained it out to Liverpool. Camped there for the night.

Wednesday 20 January 1915

Sworn in today. Had a very light day. Physical exercises. Cup of coffee for 6am then 2 hours physical drill. Boiled chops and dry bread, no tea, Irish stew for dinner. Bread and jam for tea.

Thursday 21 January 1915

Knock off every afternoon at 4. Our attestation papers were lost so we were sworn in again today, three times for me. Done some good handwork at physical drill.

Friday 22 January 1915

Spent a lazy day doing a bit of drill. Filled up pay payment papers, arranged that my pay is to be paid into NQ Bank, Tenterfield.

Saturday 23 January 1915

Lined up this morning and drafted out of the training squadron into No 2 Company of A Squadron. Did rifle exercises, and field evolutions, wheeling etc advancing and retiring.

Sunday 24 January 1915

Went to church parade today and heard a good sermon. Hot days.

Monday 25 January 1915

Very hot today, put in the morning at physical drill, then afterwards 3 or 4 hundred men including myself were inoculated for Typhoid and introduced myself to Lieutenant McQuiggin.

Tuesday 26 January 1915

Put in a very heavy morning drilling at rifle exercises under S SM Walker and Sergeant Murphy. We have a holiday this afternoon. I wrote a letter home.

Wednesday 27 January 1915

Did physical exercises. I am tent orderly for the day and clean up all the stinks about the place. Get the tucker for the tent and clean the dixies etc.

Thursday 28 January 1915

Physical exercises before breakfast. Join the guard of the day. I am appointed waiting guard and have a sweet time. I do duty for 2 hours at main gate from 6 to 8 in the afternoon and 2 more hours 2 till 4 in the morning with fixed bayonet.

Friday 29 January 1915

We continue till 9 o'clock this morning when we were relieved by the new guard. We have a shower bath and a sleep till dinner time then we do a bit of marching by sections, troops and squadrons. Got first letter from Mother.

Saturday 30 January 1915

Cool today. Do the same work as yesterday. Was inoculated today for pneumonia. Made me sit up.

Sunday 31 January 1915

Went to church. The Rev Prescott preached.

Monday 1 February 1915

Am not well today. Am off my tucker but try to do my work.

Tuesday 2 February 1915

The same as yesterday. This is a dreadful existence for a sick man.

Wednesday 3 February 1915

One is too weak to march so far to see the doctor. Consequently I did not go today, he fill one up with black draft.

Thursday 4 February 1915

Very hot day, tomorrow was worse. I tried to do some work but was too weak.

Friday 5 February 1915

Done nothing today being excused from duty. Have not eaten anything for a week. I buy a pot of milk for 3 pence to drink.

Saturday 6 February 1915

Pretty ill today. This afternoon interview the doctor who recommended a week's leave of absence. So I got my pass and will leave tomorrow.

Sunday 7 February 1915

Left Liverpool this morning. Went out to Woollahra and there met McEwan. Had dinner with him and then went over to Vaucluse.

Monday 8 February 1915

Left Mr McEwan's after lunch and went to the Hotel Sydney. Will stay there for a day or two. Rev J W Leadley called on me.

Tuesday 9 February 1915

Took a walk round gardens, inspected old Government House. Saw the art gallery, returned to Hotel Sydney. Harold Leadley called.

Wednesday 10 February 1915

Wrote a letter to Mother and C Parker. Had lunch here and afterwards went out to Forest Lodge to Mr Leadley's place. Family are all well.

Thursday 11 February 1915

Spent the day, a cold miserable dusty, doing some washing in the afternoon. I took a walk over to Glebe.

Friday 12 February 1915

Very nice day. I left early and took train over to Drummoyne and spent the day with old Mr and Mrs Barrell of Arnoldene. I met Ethel and also Mrs Charly, her cousin. Returned to Mr Leadley's place at night. I am much better today.

Saturday 13 February 1915

Spent a pleasant time with Leadley's and after dinner went to the railway station and took train for Liverpool. Returned to the camps and more work.

Sunday 14 February 1915

Went on church parade today.

Monday 15 February 1915

Went out to do more work but I was too weak to do much but I stuck to it.

Tuesday 16 February 1915

Open order work from 4 paces between men to 20 between sections, attacking and retreating.

Wednesday 17 February 1915

Route march took place today out towards Holsworthy. Kicked up a lot of dust and quaffed lemonade.

Thursday 18 February 1915

I have got the dates mixed a bit. We went to Long (?) for rifle shooting on the 24 of this month and we will shift the route marches back 2 days.

Friday 19 February 1915

Sections left and right for a time and I was inoculated again for more fever today and went on temporary quarter guard.

Saturday 20 February 1915

We our No 2 Troop is on main guard again today and all night and have a sweet time.

Sunday 21 February 1915

We are dismissed at 9 but do not go on church parade. Eat with Alex Smith.

Monday 22 February 1915

Sections left and right all day, column marching, which is neat with a big volley of men.

Tuesday 23 February 1915

The Parramatta Lancer band went away today. We had a route march to Liverpool and beyond. Was addressed by Lieutenant Higginson on Cossack outposts and distance guessing.

Wednesday 24 February 1915

Went for some skirmishing work up the Georges River at the ford. Killed 500 imaginary Germans. A big mob had a swim. Knocked two rowing boats about and raided an orchard.

Thursday 25 February 1915

Went for a route march out in a southerly direction and was taught Cossack. Out post duty, 4 men on a post. Returned for dinner and had some stiff sections left and right. Support men were being picked for a regiment.

Friday 26 February 1915

Put on to pioneer fatigue work. Cleaned up bathrooms and from canteen to NCO's mess then went to YMCA to clean it. Played quoits till dinner when we were marched off and I was allotted to the new Light Horse Regiment in the afternoon. We were served with boots and blankets and afterwards went on to main guard. Done 6 hours on and the balance off.

Saturday 27 February 1915 (Melvin's 32nd birthday)

There was big row over a woman and some fellows got hurt. One man got his discharge. We were relieved by the new guard and march off and dismissed till 2 o'clock. The reinforcements are busy supplied with uniforms today, Alex Smiths' lot.

Sunday 28 February 1915

Went to church MSA tent. Rev Prescott preached. Big crowd of people here today.

Formation of 12th Light Horse Regiment

Monday 1 March 1915

Got a letter from Mother last Friday and also one from baby Dell. We had rifle exercises all day under Sergeant Sandal.

12th Light Horse Regiment – LIVERPOOL, NSW, AUSTRALIA

On the 1st March 1915 authority was received to form the 12th Australian Light Horse Regiment for Active Service Abroad.

The material available was approximately 1000 prospective Light Horse Men in the Light Horse Training Depot at LIVERPOOL. These men in all stages of elementary Training, hailed for the most part from the back Stations and runs of New South Wales, good shots and good horsemen, they were the very material required for the nucleus of a mounted Regiment.

Tuesday 2 March 1915

More physical exercises and the rifle or musketry exercises under Sergeants Sandal and knock kneed Eager.

Wednesday 3 March 1915

We, No 1, were told off early to load kits and after this we loafed about for a time. Had dinner then we formed sections and were paraded out and marched through an arch of men along the road and then we went to Holsworthy, the head quarters of the 12th Regiment.

12th Light Horse Regiment – HOLDSWORTHY, NSW, AUSTRALIA

On the 3rd March, 48 hours after the authority for formation, the 12th Light Horse Regiment complete in personnel, under the temporary command of Major A.B. BAKER D.S.O. marched out of LIVERPOOL Camp to HOLDSWORTHY, a camping area adjacent to the German prisoner of War, Concentration Camp.

Thursday 4 March 1915

Had a good sleep last night. We have a nice clean camp and the air is pure, a paradise to Liverpool. On fatigue work all day, digging trench round hospital and other duties.

Friday 5 March 1915

Troop and Squadron drill all day. It is very interesting to spectators. Very hot.

Saturday 6 March 1915

Very hard days work at sections left and right. Knocked off at 12 and had a storm in the afternoon.

Sunday 7 March 1915

Went to church today and afternoon had a sleep.

Monday 8 March 1915

Fatigue work today. Very hot and trying. We took the enemy's position and in the afternoon the whole regiment set to and beat out fires.

Tuesday 9 March 1915

Route march to Campbelltown in the hot sun and through burnt out country. Sections right and left in the afternoon. Had a swim afternoon.

Wednesday 10 March 1915

Went for a big route march today down the Georges River. We had a big swim in salt water, A and B Squadrons, after dinner when we returned we had troop drill.

Thursday 11 March 1915

I got my photos on Monday last except 3 postcards. Fatigue work today, mucking about at all sorts of things.

Friday 12 March 1915

Done a big day on a route march. Went down the Georges River towards Como. The same route we done the other day. In the afternoon, we done a swimming parade.

Saturday 13 March 1915

Done another heavy half day. A bit of quarrel today among the troop and Sergeant Eager, Colonel Wallace addressed the regiment in the afternoon and a cheque of £450 was presented for 3 travelling kitchens.

Sunday 14 March 1915

Hot day, done fatigue till 11. After dinner, wrote to Mother and listened to regimental banter.

Monday 15 March 1915

We are at the same old thing, sections right and left.

Tuesday 16 March 1915

Sergeant Sandal of First Troop was presented with spurs and whip and left to join his regiment in England today. Skirmishing. Captain Chambers took over A Squadron.

Wednesday 17 March 1915

Skirmishing and attended order. Another battalion of reinforcements went away today including Lieutenant W McQuiggin and Alex Smith ex 'Shropshire'.

Thursday 18 March 1915

We were on fatigue work today. (A Squadron). I cleaned up (with others) the cook's shop, carried the piano over to Church of England tent.

Friday 19 March 1915

More open order work. In the afternoon Colonel Abbott reviewed the Troops and addressed. We then had a swimming parade. Went to Liverpool last night

Saturday 20 March 1915

Had rifle and bayonet work till dinner. Had a little in the afternoon, then clean up for main guard. I go on at 6pm and come off 6pm tomorrow. Put in a day of a time in the cold.

Sunday 21 March 1915

On duty all day on number 2 post.

Monday 22 March 1915

Had a poor night sleep, bad cold, also a touch of muscular rheumatism. First mob of horses came in today for B Squadron.

Tuesday 23 March 1915

Fatigue parties start to put down the horse lines for A Squadron. All the saddles have arrived and most of kits.

Wednesday 24 March 1915

More illustrations on the way of putting saddlery together. Troop and section work from dinner till 3. Lecture by Lieutenant Roby 3 to 4. Swimming parade.

Thursday 25 March 1915

Wrote home to Amber and Hilda today. I was issued with a great coat last night. A mob of the garrison artillery of 12 batteries came in last night for their Easter encampment. Squadron and troop drill.

Friday 26 March 1915

Squadron drill and open and extended order in the afternoon. Some of the officers were put through their facings with the men and the A Squadron were issued with their saddles. B Squadron were mounted for the first time today and got the devil bucked out of them.

Saturday 27 March 1915

We done half a days drive. I then went before the O.C. Abbott and got my final leave and left for Sydney. Stayed at Hotel Sydney. Went to Criterion Theatre at night.

Sunday 28 March 1915

Today I went out to Leadley's and spent the day. At night left for home and country.

Monday 29 March 1915

Arrived in Tenterfield 10.30. Mother was at home and seemed very pleased to see me. Boss came in afterwards with Hilda. He sent a truck of bullocks to Sydney tonight. I went to School of Arts at night.

Tuesday 30 March 1915

Went and saw Mr Hindmarsh and gave him the Minister of Lands letter re payments on OP and CL. Done other business and went to Boonoo with Mr Martin. My people went ahead.

Wednesday 31 March 1915

Spent the day loafing about and smoking and resting and sleeping etc. Boss and I looked for 2 bulls but only got one.

Thursday 1 April 1915

Hurtz came along and we took a bull down to my place. Had a look round. Cattle look well but the place is dry. We killed a fat cow afterwards.

Friday 2 April 1915 (Good Friday)

I sold my pony to mother for £14. Poked about the place all day. Playing the phonograph listening to the Goblin Man etc.

Saturday 3 April 1915

Jack McQuiggin came out last night. The Boss, he and I ran in a mob of cows and calves, took the cows to Boundary Swamp. We branded 50 calves afterwards and put them away.

Sunday 4 April 1915 (Easter Day)

Heavy rain at Boonoo. Had Easter Sunday at home. Mother, Amber and I went to town and church at night.

Monday 5 April 1915

Strolled about the town and School of Arts and saw various fellows. I met Brush, he is leaving with Wildish tonight to join the army. Spent the evening with Rev Hynes, he is a very nice fellow.

Tuesday 6 April 1915

Got my tooth fixed today with Petterick and done some business. Said goodbye to everybody and left at night for Sydney. Pater, Amber, Hilda and Dell saw me off.

Wednesday 7 April 1915

Got to Sydney at 11. I got another ticket at Strathfield and poked about the city. Went out to Liverpool by the 3'clock train. Very wet in the city today. Got out to Liverpool in the mud and met (Alex?) Smith. Went out to Holsworthy and work.

Thursday 8 April 1915

Got out in the mud. All the fellows are well and seemed pleased to meet me. I had an easy job walking horses round feeding, grooming. Put up a bit of horse fence and poked about in general. Wrote home tonight to mother.

Friday 9 April 1915

Miniature shooting. I put up only 9 off the right shoulder at 400, it was the first time I fired off the right. I put in the afternoon at fatigue work and was acting Corporal of the horse picket at night.

Saturday 10 April 1915

Today under Colonel Abbott, part of A squadron in conjunction with the artillery, done a half days work manoeuvring in the south scrubs and returned at 3. I attended military sports in the afternoon. A big row today over the cold food for the returned squadron.

Sunday 11 April 1915

Went to Church of England today and heard Colonel Rose preach a splendid sermon on the duty of a soldier in war.

Monday 12 April 1915

Had a big mounted day. Skirmishing in the bush under Colonel Abbott with the artillery. Lieutenant Roley's party was captured.

Tuesday 13 April 1915

Had troop drill this morning. Mounted under Lieutenant Higginson. In the afternoon we disinfected all horse rugs.

Wednesday 14 April 1915

Disinfected all our saddlery today. Watered and fed horses and led horses out towards Georges River for exercise.

Thursday 15 April 1915

Fatigue work all day. I had the most stinking day I ever had amongst scent bottles and sawing butcher blocks with Lucas and a bad row.

Friday 16 April 1915

Went on a mounted route march to Georges River. Afternoon we had a trot round the OC. I was put into an awkward spread for not riding right. It was a bit of a jerk.

Saturday 17 April 1915

Grazing horses and stables till dinner. Disinfecting horses in afternoon. Acting Corporal of horse picket at night with 3 men. Issued with uniform this afternoon.

Sunday 18 April 1915

Issued with web leggings and spurs. Smearred more horses this morning. I stood guard during the afternoon over the quarantine mob.

Monday 19 April 1915

Had a pleasant day as Corporal of the main horse lines with 3 men. Went off at 6pm.

Tuesday 20 April 1915

Acting Corporal this morning on the sick horse lines. Inspection of kits this morning. Afternoon cleaned up the lines. Our rifles were issued today. **Rifle number 16547.**

Wednesday 21 April 1915

Disinfected 16 more horses yesterday and generally messed about with horses feed and grooming.

Thursday 22 April 1915

We were on main guard all day. There was an alarm call today when all the troops marched or rushed out to the mock attack.

Friday 23 April 1915

We were up at the four am, away at 7 o'clock. The regiment was in great buckle. Had lunch at Bankstown. When we were reformed, blacks first, then brown, then chestnuts then bays. Went via railway station out to showground and camped in the dog pavilion.

Saturday 24 April 1915

Cold and cloudy. We were very busy cleaning up our gear till lunch time and got ready and left and got to the railway station at 3. The march started through 250,000 people. It was a great sight but rain came on and spoiled it a bit. Got back at dark.

12th Light Horse Regiment – SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA

On the 24th April the Regiment horsed and equipped on a war footing trekked to SYDNEY and the following day formed part of a Procession of Over-seas Troops which paraded through the principle Streets of SYDNEY.

Sunday 25 April 1915

Colonel Abbott was kind today. He gave us general leave so went out to Barrell's at Drummoyne and Leadley's at Forest Lodge and left for camp at 11.30.

Monday 26 April 1915

Busy this morning getting ready to return to camp. We left camp at 9 o'clock and rode out past railway station. Had a great reception at Enfield by the local ladies. Had lunch at Bankstown and got back to Holsworthy at 4.30. Went on to horse picket same night.

12th Light Horse Regiment – HOLDSWORTHY, NSW, AUSTRALIA

On returning to HOLDSWORTHY a few days later, advanced training continued apace until the 9th of June, when Embarkation Orders were received.

Tuesday 27 April 1915

Had a very easy day grazing horses and cleaning up stables, inspecting sore backed horses etc. Wrote a letter home at night.

Wednesday 28 April 1915

More horse grazing and inspection for sore backs and a mounted drill in the afternoon.

Thursday 29 April 1915

General parade today in full uniform and leathers. Regimental parade over near the German camp manoeuvres.

Friday 30 April 1915

Squad drill today. Mounted and skirmishing. Got a letter from E Barrell.

Saturday 1 May 1915

Horse picket all day, two shifts, 147 horses on the lines. I had my horse allotted today **No A12.006**

Sunday 2 May 1915

Went to church this morning. Wrote a letter to Mother. Rev Wady preached.

Monday 3 May 1915

Was money guard all last night and today in the orderly room. Had a very easy day.

Tuesday 4 May 1915

Had a cow of a day. Was tent orderly and had the life worked out of me and got fined 2/6 for going on to parade for being unshaved. It was the Brigadier's inspection. Inspection of horses in the afternoon.

Wednesday 5 May 1915

Musketry exercises till dinner time under S SM Apps, how to fire and control fire. In the afternoon rain come on and we had no drill. No duty tonight.

Thursday 6 May 1915 (King's Accession, 1910)

Got up early and A Squadron went over to Liverpool Butts and done a days shooting. In the proof shooting I got 20. 200 yards 18 points and 500 yards 19 points. We returned via Liverpool and fed the horses. I am off duty for tonight. Raining.

Friday 7 May 1915

Rains pretty hard all day. A Squadron went over to the Butts again for shooting but it was too wet. I put up 20 group, 14 (200) 14 (200 moving target) 6 at 500. Very bad.

Saturday 8 May 1915

Nice day today. I am on latrine picket, a soft job. Wash some clothes and clean harness. Ethel Barrell came out to see me.

Sunday 9 May 1915

Went to church today. Watered and fed horses etc. Wrote a letter to Hilda, also to Edina.

Monday 10 May 1915

Had an easy day. Cleaned up the stables and harness. After dinner I went to Sydney and out to Drummoyn to see Mother, she is to go into the Lister Hospital for an operation. Gall stones. I

returned at midnight. I met two of Charlie Barrell's daughters. Nice girls. They gave me a scarf. Uncle Barrell is ill too.

Tuesday 11 May 1915

General press parade today, the Colonel inspects us.

Wednesday 12 May 1915

Mounted drive all the morning, I rode Hynes' horse. In the afternoon I went on main guard for a time.

Thursday 13 May 1915

Had a hard morning in mounted squadron drill, I rode the Lieutenant's horse. In the afternoon all the horses were allotted. I gave mine to Nancarrow and will try to get the one I rode this morning.

Friday 14 May 1915

Fatigue day today. In the afternoon I went to Sydney and spent the afternoon at Leadleys also went out to see Mother at the Lister Hospital at Darlinghurst. Came back by the last train and had to walk home in the rain and mud. 5 miles.

Saturday 15 May 1915

Had an easy day, had Squadron drill in the morning and in the afternoon horses were allotted. I passed mine over.

Sunday 16 May 1915

Had my photo taken again on Lieutenant Featherstonhaugh's horse dismounted.

Monday 17 May 1915

We went on a route march this morning along the Bulli road. In the afternoon it was a Colonel's parade and regimental manoeuvres. I had a bitch of a time on a bad horse.

Tuesday 18 May 1915

Cleaned harness today etc. Fatigue day today. I was acting Corporal and built a new latrine for the main guard. At night I was Corporal for the night horse picket.

Wednesday 19 May 1915

Fatigue day again today for the who of A Squadron but we done little or nothing. I was tired after last night. Messed about with the horses. Tried to get away to Sydney but could not. We built the latrine today not yesterday.

Thursday 20 May 1915

Was paraded to Captain McKell and got leave for the day. I went to town and saw Mother who was progressing as well as could be expected. I also went out to Drummoyne to see Barrells. The old gentleman is getting along nicely too. Returned by 11.30 train and motorbus.

Friday 21 May 1915

Unexpectedly marched with another mob to Liverpool and trained to Sydney and went to a theatre party at the Royal, "The Man who was left at Home". A lot of men got drunk. The whole thing was a disgrace. A lot of men were to be crimed over it. Got back at 7pm.

Saturday 22 May 1915

Tent orderly today. A lot of fellows were up this morning and got fined. I was up in mistake. Some fellow used my name. Smart of him. Our Squadron S Major got drunk and things were slack today. I wrote to sisters at home and Miss Woodward of Tenterfield.

Sunday 23 May 1915

Went to church parade. Rev Wady preached. Went on main guard tonight.

Monday 24 May 1915

Italy declared war on Austria. On main guard all day till 5.30, I was on the officer's lines, very cold. SSM Dobson was reduced to ranks.

Tuesday 25 May 1915

Mounted squadron drill till dinner time under Major Chambers and Captain McKell. In the afternoon we cleaned up our harness and did stables.

Wednesday 26 May 1915**(Queen Mary born 1867, Ember Day)**

Special mounted parade this morning. We were photographed by all the newspapers in NSW. Horse grazing in the afternoon.

Thursday 27 May 1915

I got leave today from 9 till midnight. Went down to Sydney. I saw Mother who is doing well also Amber. I went over to Drummoyne, I returned by the 11.30 train.

Friday 28 May 1915

We had a day at fatigue work. General messing about.

Saturday 29 May 1915

We were drilling today. The Colonel was very busy with us and kept us at it till late.

Sunday 30 May 1915

No church for me today. I was busy all day cleaning up the lines and harness.

Monday 31 May 1915

Brigadier Spencer Brown inspected us today in full marching orders. We looked well.

Tuesday 1 June 1915

Troop drill and general clean up. Afternoon we were grazing horses. Went on main guard at night.

Wednesday 2 June 1915

On main guard all day. I put in a heavy day as guard orderly. A good lot of fellows were with me.

Thursday 3 June 1915**(King George V born 1865)**

A very nice day. The Regiment took all their horses over to Clear Hills for grazing. In the afternoon we had a little troop drill.

Friday 4 June 1915

In the morning we were grazing horses. I got off about 12 and cleared out to Sydney by the 11.30 train, saw Mother and Barrells and returned at night.

Saturday 5 June 1915

Had a bit of troop drill this morning under Lieutenant Brown. In the afternoon, went exercising horses.

Sunday 6 June 1915

Had an easy day cleaning harness and generally nothing.

Monday 7 June 1915

Did a bit of troop drill this morning under Lieutenant Brown. Afternoon went grazing horses. Went on guard today.

Tuesday 8 June 1915

On guard all day. I was on No 4 post guarding first 2 prisoners, Lewis and Maloney the cook and afterwards the camp is preparing to move.

Wednesday 9 June 1915

The whole regiment with the exception of 24 men told off for special duties under Major Chambers and Sgt Murphy, including myself, marched off to Sydney to join the service. Was a cold damp morning.

12th Light Horse Regiment

The Regiment magnificently equipped, well horsed, highly disciplined and thoroughly Trained, and efficient fighting Unit, moved by road to SYDNEY, there to remain two days awaiting embarkation.

Thursday 10 June 1915

My elevation to a Corporal was annulled in orders this morning. Very wet day and cold. I worked round cleaning up, took the horses for a stroll in the afternoon. 32 head.

Friday 11 June 1915

Fine today. I took horses out for grazing. In the afternoon Carter took them. I stayed and cleaned up lines.

12th Light Horse Regiment

The Regiment (less portion of "A" Squadron and the Transport Section) embarked on S.S. Suevic, troopship No "A" 29 on the 11th. Having completed the work of loading the horses, the Transport moved out into the stream eventually sailing on the 13th.

Saturday 12 June 1915

I went with the horses over grazing to the old ruins. Sergeant Murphy went away to town and left me in sole charge. I signed passes to the men and paraded 4 men for being late on parade.

Sunday 13 June 1915

Had a good days grazing over at the old ruins. The horses had good feeding.

Monday 14 June 1915

Up at 6. We take down our tents and clean up and pack the lorries and the gallant 24 rode away from camp for the depot. Got in at dark, our tents were already erected also horse lines. A bad tent site.

Tuesday 15 June 1915

Reveille goes here at 6.30, one hour later than Holsworthy. We got away to Clear Hills for grazing. Been a nice day. Sergeant Murphy was in charge. Got back at 4. Went to pictures at night.

Wednesday 16 June 1915

We went down Georges River today. Had a bad day, trouble with horses, poor grass. Lost and found some of them.

Thursday 17 June 1915

I got leave from 12 today and went down to Drummoyne, saw Mother. Amber and Ethel went with me to the Criterion at night "Under Cover". I returned by 11.30 train.

Friday 18 June 1915

Went out grazing up the Georges River. The boys played banker all day. I had a sleep and the horses had a good time.

Saturday 19 June 1915

Went out grazing again today on the Georges River. Night time went to Her Majesty's Theatre with R. Eweing, 'HMAS Pinafore'.

Sunday 20 June 1915

Horses were returned to the remount depot today and I went to Sydney and Drummoyne.

Monday 21 June 1915

Left with baggage guard of 4 men with lorry for Sydney, put all the kits in the customs shed and cleared out for Drummoyne. Said final goodbye to Mum and returned at night to Grand Central Hotel.

Deployment

Tuesday 22 June 1915 (Coronation King George V, 1911)

Got out of bed early and went down to boat. The stuff was loaded by 10. The rest of the boys came down and we left by 12 o'clock for Melbourne. Mater and Ethel were there to see me off.

12th Light Horse Regiment (A Sqdn Detachment) – S.S. VESTALIA, SYDNEY, NSW, AUSTRALIA

The Detachment from "A" Squadron and the Transport Section together with Transport vehicles, under the command of Major P.A. CHAMBERS, embarked on S.S. Vestalia sailing on the 22nd of June.

Wednesday 23 June 1915 (Prince of Wales born 1894)

Had fair going all through the night and at daylight was off Gabo Island. Was sick tonight.

Thursday 24 June 1915

Passed Wilsons Promontory early and by 8 o'clock at night had signalled the pilot who took us into Hobsons Bay where we anchored about 10.

Friday 25 June 1915

Got an early start on and a tug pulled us right up to Port Melbourne. Was put on Corporal of the picket to keep the men on but they all cleared out and there will be a row. We put a lot of produce on today. Wrote to Mother and Ethel tonight.

Saturday 26 June 1915

Had a night out last night. Went up town to Tivoli, got back midnight, very cold here. Did not have another chance to get away. Sent 3 wires to NSW and left for Adelaide at 2pm.

Sunday 27 June 1915

Had a rough time going into the Bight. Nearly spewed my head off.

Monday 28 June 1915

Same old thing, spew, spew, spew. Heavy rain but everybody is good to me. I have some good mates.

Tuesday 29 June 1915

Got into Adelaide docks pretty early this morning. In the afternoon went up to the city to see things, a very nice place. Went to theatre.

Wednesday 30 June 1915

Left Adelaide this afternoon for the west. Spent the forenoon as armed city picket. Had a good time around town. Sent telegram home.

Thursday 1 July 1915

Very busy all day being sick. Feeding sharks etc in Australian Bight.

Friday 2 July 1915

Down to it all day which was very rough in the Bight.

Saturday 3 July 1915

Poked about a bit today. Did not spew today, fed well.

Sunday 4 July 1915

Had a spew this morning only. A poor day.

Monday 5 July 1915

Fairly heavy swell all day. I took some Worcestershire sauce to cure sea sickness and nearly sent me mad sick. Saw last of Australia today.

Tuesday 6 July 1915

Calmer today, final wireless messages were sent out today to Perth. I had a better day. Major took an interest in me.

Wednesday 7 July 1915

Doctor gave me some medicine which set me right for a time, but only for a day. My stomach is very weak and won't hold food.

Thursday 8 July 1915

Seas are getting calmer but I don't get any better. The doctor and Major take an interest in me.

Friday 9 July 1915

Same old thing, sea sick, wind, rain, sky and water.

Saturday 10 July 1915

Not well again today, sick as usual. In calmer waters.

Sunday 11 July 1915

I started to make a mend today. Calm sea. We saw 4 whales today, quite close to the ship.

Monday 12 July 1915

South of Ceylon today. The stench of the troop deck made me spew this morning. Done physical exercises and musketry also had 5 shots at a target with rifle.

Tuesday 13 July 1915

Orderly Corporal today. Very heavy rain till dinner, after that nice and fine with a fair sea. Paraded 4 sick men, drew the rations etc. Engines broke down today for a little while.

Wednesday 14 July 1915

Semaphore and rifle drill also physical exercises. Programme of sports this afternoon.

Thursday 15 July 1915

Gradually getting stronger. I drink an enormous amount of sarsaparilla. Physical exercises and rifle drill in afternoon.

Friday 16 July 1915

Physical exercises before breakfast. Am getting on much better now. Did rifle exercises. Had a go at the drilling of men myself. Getting very hot.

Saturday 17 July 1915

Was busy today putting up the awnings on the f'castle. During the afternoon pillow fights were arranged on the greasy pole. Big row today among niggers.

Sunday 18 July 1915

Wash down decks. Major Chambers conducted divine service on the centre hatch.

Monday 19 July 1915

Not far from African Coast. Saw albatross yesterday, first we have seen for nearly a fortnight, an indication of land. Saw a big ship on Sunday. Was vaccinated this afternoon. Major Chambers lectures on trench work.

Tuesday 20 July 1915

I had my first bayonet drill today also musketry exercises. In the afternoon we crossed the line and I had the pleasure of meeting Father Neptune and his pirates. We had a rousing time, the time of my life.

Wednesday 21 July 1915

I am orderly Corporal today. I paraded 7 men to doctor. There is a bad epidemic of measles on board. Run into very rough water this afternoon and spewed my head off.

Thursday 22 July 1915

The doctor and Captain Wilkinson are very good to me. We are now in the North West Indian Ocean and we are passing the tail end of a monsoon. The sea is very rough and I am sick. Had a good spew early this morning, too sick to go on parade.

Friday 23 July 1915

Very heavy seas this morning. We sighted Cape Guardafui about 11 and got up to it about 2. We scouted the African coast till dark. The water was very calm off the Cape and full of jelly fish, like a mill pond. We saw several native habitations in Somali land, poor looking places. The whole place was rough, barren limestone looking place without a tree. We signalled a ship last night from Java and saw 2 more.

Saturday 24 July 1915

I am a bit seedy with vaccination. Very hot. Terrible heavy wind all last night and today. A steamer was in sight this morning. We saw a couple more this afternoon. Got a little calmer towards night. We are still in the Gulf of Aden.

Sunday 25 July 1915

Had a cool night. We passed the town of Aden before daylight and passed through the Strait of Bab el Mandeb about 11am. Saw the Island of Perim and signal station, then into the Red Sea, a lot of shipping about. Arabia is to the east and Africa is seen on the west.

Monday 26 July 1915

Measles are prevalent on board. The Major got them today. Went on guard tonight as Corporal. I was too sick last time. On duty all day, pretty hot. The Red Sea here is as calm as a mill pond and like burnished brass. It should be called the green sea. We are in the widest part today, 150 miles on either side, passed 2 big liners today and 2 light houses last night. I went off guard at 6pm. Got our first news of the war on Sunday from Perim by wireless.

Tuesday 27 July 1915

I am not well today through vaccination. This is the 9th day, still in the Red Sea. No land in sight. Cleaned our harness etc. Had a bad day.

Wednesday 28 July 1915

Better this morning but had a bad night. Passed a big ship in the night, we signalled her. Kit inspection this morning. Wrote a letter to Mother yesterday and today. Was not well this afternoon. Wrote Ethel Barrell this evening.

Thursday 29 July 1915

Went to the hospital this morning with measles. Had a warm morning. Got into Port Suez about 10 o'clock at night. We anchored for the night. 101.6 degrees tonight.

Friday 30 July 1915

Still at anchor in the harbour, plenty of niggers about. They besieged our boat with fruit and cigarettes. A lot of shipping about. 99.4 degrees today my temperature. A terrible place to look at. I am to go to a hospital for a few days.

Saturday 31 July 1915

We disembarked at 8. I got my discharge from the hospital and went with the boys. I was nearly sent to hospital. Left Suez by train for Cairo. Got into town at sundown and marched out to camp, 3 miles and got a great reception by the boys.

Sunday 1 August 1915

Went to Church C E and took Holy Communion. Wrote to Mother. Went down to Heliopolis with O H Brown and had a look round, quaffed beer all day. Bought some antiques to send home, tablecloths etc, centrepieces. Returned at night. A very fine town. A big row at night among boozers.

Monday 2 August 1915

On fatigue work most of day. We parade early here. Route marches till 9am and rest all day till 5 when we have more. The camp is healthy, but dry and dusty. Sent a cable home from Heliopolis.

Tuesday 3 August 1915

Was on main guard all day and last night, on No 5 post under Sergeant Westforth of B Squadron. I posted a parcel home yesterday.

Wednesday 4 August 1915

Went for route march this morning but first go about 3 miles to some old ruins and an enormous great well. We returned for breakfast and rested till 5.30 then we went out for bayonet drill.

Thursday 5 August 1915

We made a sham concentrated squadron attack on a Kopje this morning. It was a bit mixed. Afternoon bayonet drill. Wrote some letters home.

Friday 6 August 1915

Done some range finding, judging distances etc. Rest during the day and lectures in afternoon.

Saturday 7 August 1915

Got up early and went away some miles to the south in the desert on a skirmishing expedition, return at 9. Done nothing this afternoon. Went to Cairo at night.

Sunday 8 August 1915

A party of us went to the Pyramids today in the train through Cairo, a great sight. At night we had a good time in town. Got lost.

Monday 9 August 1915

Orderly Corporal today for A Squadron. Drew dry rations etc. Paraded the sick twice a day. Never went on parade.

Tuesday 10 August 1915

Orderly Corporal today. In the afternoon I went on parade till 5.30. Done bayonet drill then went on as Corporal of the Brigade train at head quarters. 3 men, Brown, Crawford and DeBraun, took a despatch to Major Baker.

Wednesday 11 August 1915

Came off duty at 5.30, dismissed the men and was ordered to join a party of 60 men, 5 NCO's and 2 officers to go and guard the great wireless station at Abber Zabba, 50 miles from Cairo. We were inspected after breakfast by Major Baker then went by train to Cairo Railway Station, then took train to a village near the station and march over the hot sands 2 miles. Very hot. I was very tired.

Thursday 12 August 1915

Had a fine nights sleep in the open. The great wireless was working hard at times. Done 1 hours rifle and bayonet drill. Had breakfast and had a fine swim in the canal with Cable and Bunyan, dinner, then another swim. Got to go on patrol duty tonight with 3 men on No 1 post. One man had nerves and fired at a dog.

Friday 13 August 1915

This is a terrible outlandish place, a great canal, a great unfinished wireless station, a few military tents and a residence and desert everywhere. A small oasis to the south, a 2 foot 6 railway passing through.

Saturday 14 August 1915

We went on a route march today away to a plantation in the east. Spelled all day. At night went on No 2 Cossack post with 3 men across the canal. McColl, Gleeson, Green. Wrote to Ethel Barrell.

Sunday 15 August 1915

Came off at daylight, had a swim and wrote to Mother. Slept all the afternoon, had another swim.

Monday 16 August 1915

Went for a route march under Lieutenant Brown to the plantation in the east. Came back, had breakfast and prepared for main guard under Sergeant Mulford. Went on as Corporal of the guard tonight.

Tuesday 17 August 1915

I slept till one this morning, go on with the reliefs after that and all day. There was a row at night through 4 men, Chilcott, Bone, McColl and J Beazley refusing to fall out for the change guard. I was ordered to arrest them. They were kept at the guard tent by the new guard.

Wednesday 18 August 1915

I had a good nights sleep but the rheumatism is worrying me a good deal this last week. I am Orderly Corporal today. In the morning I done bayonet drill and in the afternoon I went on out post again. The mounting of the guard has been altered to 4 o'clock.

Thursday 19 August 1915

Got back from out post No 1. I talked till midnight with the men. It is good business camping under the skies or stars and in the sand. The stars seem very loose in the sky here. I saw so many tumbling. Troopers Williams, Commins and Thornton were with me. Done nothing today.

Friday 20 August 1915

Orderly Corporal today. Done rifle and bayonet drill in morning. Rested all day. In the afternoon had a swim in the canal then went on No 2 Cossack post with 3 men, Bone, Fielding, Penson.

Saturday 21 August 1915

Got back to camp at reveille, had a swim, then breakfast. We formed up at midday and marched to station. The 13th Regiment relieved us. Got back early.

Sunday 22 August 1915

Went on as orderly Corporal again today.

Monday 23 August 1915

Bought a camera. Orderly Corporal today. Went on to early morning parade. Did duty all day.

Tuesday 24 August 1915

Last day as orderly Corporal. We were issued with our new webb equipment today. It is a dog. I was transferred to Second Troop today. Went to Heliopolis as full Corporal tonight. When I came home from town this night, Tuesday, was put in baggage guard till relieved at midnight by Corporal Munro.

Wednesday 25 August 1915

Up at 4.30, had breakfast, put on our packs and marched out 3 miles to railway past Luna Park, Zeitoun, took train, 2 Regiments 11th and 12th for Alexandria. I was put on as guard with 3 men over prisoners. Got on board ship about 4, prisoners discharged. Went on at sundown. Ship sailed 8pm 'B13'.

Thursday 26 August 1915

Had good sail. The 'B13' is a very dirty ship. We have about 1,200 men on board. I wrote a letter home today and will post it at Lemnos. We are being fed very well on board. Had a pair of binoculars issued me today. My promotion was in orders today. It is a beautiful run through the Levant.

Friday 27 August 1915

We sighted various islands belonging to the Greeks. I took a snap of the Troop ship today, also a couple at Alexandria. We sleep and eat most of our time. Very windy today and especially cold at night.

Saturday 28 August 1915

We arrived in the port of Lemnos early this morning and transhipped into another troopship the 'Prince Abbas' and left for Gallipoli. I never saw such a lot of shipping in my life as at Lemnos which is a fine harbour.

Gallipoli

Sunday 29 August 1915

We landed at 4 in the morning. A few stray shots were banging around but none were hurt. We bivouacked at night or morning amidst the roar of artillery and machine guns. We camped on the old battlefield of Anzac, a terrible place.

1st Light Horse Regiment – POPE'S RESERVE, ANZAC

"A" Sqdn of the 12th A.L.H. 167 all ranks and M.G. Section of the same Regt 27 all ranks have been attached to the Regt and are being called "B" Sqdn 1st A.L.H. The addition to the Regt brought the strength up to 416 all ranks.

Monday 30 August 1915

Yesterday we watched an artillery duel and rested during the day. Colonel Abbott said goodbye, as our regiment was broke up. **A Squadron going as reinforcements to Colonel Meredith, 1st Australian Light Horse on Pope's Hill** near where Major Moffatt Reid was killed 3 weeks ago. We camped in Shrapnel Gully right behind the main lines. I went to church service at night but could not

hear much because of the rattle of rifles. Had a good sleep. This morning Monday we rested most of the day. Firing started again at night.

Tuesday 31 August 1915

Had a good night sleep. We live well on boiled bully beef and biscuits with onions boiled together. Belfield, Bone, Lanfier and Thornton comprise my section. Hyndus machine gun got into action today belonging to the 12th. I heard that Major McIntosh and Captain D'Arcy of B Squadron were wounded last night. Tremendous battle raged on the left all this evening.

Wednesday 1 September 1915

Guns are still going strong. An aeroplane comes along every morning. 2 chaps were killed on Quinn's Post yesterday afternoon. That was a big fight last night. We did little today. I was busy handing out stuff to our troop soldiers. Not too well this afternoon. Colic etc, Influenza.

Thursday 2 September 1915

Another one of our boys was hit today, Gleeson. I went to doctor this morning. Was not too well. He gave me about 7 tabloids to swallow. Our Squadron shifted today to Happy Valley to make way for the 17th Inf. We went back by way of Rest Gully where our boys first landed, away towards the left flank. There was heavy cannonading at night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

POPE'S HILL and RESERVE relieved by the 17th Battalion Australian Infantry.
The Regiment moved at 12:00 to No.1 OUTPOST.

Casualties: 1 wounded

Friday 3 September 1915

I went as Corporal in charge of 8 men to Allah Gully under Pope's Post to bring over the rest of our stuff. I saw Roper of the 17th Battalion also Brush. I went up to Haiton's Lookout and saw the rotting bodies of some of our brave boys killed 3 weeks ago, amongst them Captain Fred White, returned, had a swim and fixed up dugout. Saw the Turks fire 5 shots at aeroplane. Never hit it. We were out all night sapping right under the Turkish lines east of Walkers Post, got back before daylight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Supplied working parties:-
40 men at 1030 to carry barbed wire & sand bag and to cut timber
20 men at 1400 to make entanglements
200 men at 1900 to dig trench between CAMEL HUMP and DESTROYER HILL
1 officer and 20 men to man trench at HAPPY VALLEY

Saturday 4 September 1915

We rested all day. Poked about and at night we went out sapping again till moonrise then we retired very tired.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Supplied working party of 130 men to dig trench between No.1 OUTPOST and CAMEL HUMP.
Working hours 1930 to 0100.

Sunday 5 September 1915

Got up late. Poked about and rested. At night I was on the extreme right of an armed covering party for sappers. We had one man shot, wounded, Hubbard.

Monday 6 September 1915

Shifted this morning to head quarters. It is a rotten camp. I got into a shrapnel dugout. At night I went as Corporal of outpost on number one post.

Tuesday 7 September 1915

I had my first shot of the campaign at a sniper at 400 yards, had a lot of shooting today. At night we will go sapping again.

Wednesday 8 September 1915

I had an easy day collecting wood and cooking food. We were building wire entanglements between number one post and Camel Hump. There are a few dead Turks about.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Continued defensive works between No.1 POST and CAMEL HUMP with the same strength of working party.

Thursday 9 September 1915

Another one of our chaps was shot last night (Borchistle) in the head, wounded. I was on out post last night holding trenches on the right of number one post. Came off at daylight. Had a sleep today and gather wood. Went out onto the left tonight as covering party. Was out till daylight.

Friday 10 September 1915

I slept most of day and prepared meals at night. I was on out post duty with 3 men on right.

Saturday 11 September 1915

Got back this morning Saturday at daylight. A little rain fell today. Was on out post duty on left tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

25 men of the 1st/10th London Regiment attached to Regiment for instruction in trench warfare.

Defensive works continued.

Sunday 12 September 1915

Had a rest today. Went sapping tonight.

Monday 13 September 1915

Was not well today. Came off duty from the trenches on the right, a 12 hour job. Had a sleep in the afternoon. At night on duty again.

Tuesday 14 September 1915

I sent a card home today. Was busy putting up wire entanglements on the left of number one post, worked till 3 in morning. On duty again tonight.

Wednesday 15 September 1915

I went on to number one post but got sick during the night with dysentery and was put off duty. I had a bad day.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

The 25 men of 1st/10th London Regiment returned to their unit.
Capt. Smith D.W.A. and 25 men detailed for 2 weeks as GHQ Guard at IMBROS
25 men of the 2nd Light Horse attached to take their place.
Defensive works continued with 50 day party and 50 night party

Thursday 16 September 1915

Had a bad night. Am very weak. The doctor orders me cold boiled rice and cold tea and gives me castor oil and numerous tabloids and chlordane.

Friday 17 September 1915

Was much better today. So was put on light duties but have to eat the same diet and work on it. Little rain today. Corporal Chapman was sent back last night with a strained heart. This makes me senior Corporal.

Saturday 18 September 1915

Was on sapping again last night. This is called light duties for sick men. Had a surf today and washed clothes etc. Night was Corporal of the right night watch till midnight. We issued food, rounds extra stuff and bombs. We anticipate a Turkish advance.

Sunday 19 September 1915

Came back to camp at daylight. Things were quiet all night. The Turks made a great daylight demonstration yesterday afternoon but nothing else. Rest today.

Monday 20 September 1915

Big fight on our left yesterday, prisoners taken. Went sapping again last night on the left of number one post. We are now cutting a sap to carry the wounded from the fire trench to hospital next Camel Hump. Rest today.

Tuesday 21 September 1915

Was on business last night on right as Corporal. My shift was from 10.30 to 12.30 midnight. The Turks sank a timber barge yesterday here. Had a rest today. Went for a walk round to Anzac at night as I was allowed a night off.

Wednesday 22 September 1915

Today a German plane dropped 4 bombs but done no damage. 4 chaps were killed and 8 wounded on the beach yesterday. Sapping tonight till 12.

Thursday 23 September 1915

Biggs shot Turkish sniper today. Went on to No 2 outpost this afternoon, easy day, kept on 24 hour shift. 1st outpost has been changed to No 2.

Friday 24 September 1915

Was on No 1 post all day till 5, then had tea and went on to extreme left on new fire sap as Corporal. Coz, Bailey and myself were Corporals. Shift 10 to 12.15.

Saturday 25 September 1915

Came off at 6 this morning, bought a cheese for 6 shillings. I wrote to sister Amber today. Rested all day and stayed in at night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Night working party discontinued with exception of 10 men. All work sufficiently advanced to be continued in daylight. Communication is now established from

- 1) HAPPY VALLEY to CAMEL HUMP via No.1 POST
- 2) No1.POST to 1st LH Field Ambulance via GULLY
- 3) No1.POST to 1st LH Field Ambulance via RIDGE to NW of POST

Casualties: 1 wounded, Hospital 3

1 N.C.O. & 4 men from G.G.3 sent to Aust Aircraft Section

Sunday 26 September 1915

Went sapping this afternoon. The Turks put shrapnel into us but done no damage. Some of it hit the hospital.

Monday 27 September 1915

A big naval bombardment has been going on for a week at Achi Baba. Was sapping this morning on hospital sap from 1st Light Horse camp to hospital till noon. Was under fire most of time. Rested during afternoon and night.

Tuesday 28 September 1915

Went sapping this morning on hospital lines from number 3 fire sap till dinner time. Rest during afternoon. At night go as Corporal with 15 men on to No 1 post right wing.

Wednesday 29 September 1915

Yesterday a Turkish aeroplane put a machine gun on to some of our fellows at an elevation of about 5000 feet. I don't know of any harm. Naval guns put some high explosive shells onto Walkers Ridge this afternoon. They had a terrible effect, never saw the like.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Defensive works continued.

45 reinforcements arrived and were posted 27 to "A" Squadron, 18 to "C" Squadron. This brought the strength of the Regiment up to 15 officers 336 other ranks

Casualties: Nil, Hospital 3

Thursday 30 September 1915

Sapping last night till 11 out in front of No 2 post. I was inoculated on Tuesday for Cholera. I had to go with 11 men of second Troop over to number 3 post.

Friday 1 October 1915

Came in this morning at 6 o'clock. Rested all day. Night went with 11 men and 2 sergeants to number 3 post.

Saturday 2 October 1915

Came back this morning early. Usual thing today, search for wood and draw water. At night I am on the No 3 post again. I was hunted out of the water today by shrapnel.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Capt. White re-joined from hospital. Capt. Stuckey & Lieut. M (reinforcements reported for duty.)

Sunday 3 October 1915

Off this morning at 6, have breakfast, then a sleep till dinner. Steak for dinner today. Had this Sunday night off.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Sap to 1st L H Field Ambulance was completed.

1 to hospital, Casualties: 1 (self-inflicted)

Monday 4 October 1915

70 Turks were seen moving our way last night. A big artillery duel this morning all along the line at 8.30 am. We stood to arms and entered the trenches of No 3 sub section but nothing was done. We filed out later. Got letters today, my first from Mother, Dell, Amber, Hilda, Aunty, Ethel Barrell.

Tuesday 5 October 1915

Was on duty on No 3 section again last night as NCO. Was inoculated again today for cholera, it hurt a bit. I sent a card home today also wrote to Hilda. Good news from France.

Wednesday 6 October 1915

Received another letter from mother today dated Aug 11. I wrote some letters today. I went out to No 3 sub section to report to Corporal Bailey about a patrol from the 20th Battalion going out. Was on number 3 sub section at night.

Thursday 7 October 1915

A Turkish SM surrendered to the 3rd Light Horse yesterday. I was not well today. I have a touch of influenza. It knocked me out last night climbing up and down those saps. I rested today. There was very heavy rifle fire and artillery round on the right tonight.

Friday 8 October 1915

I stayed in tonight. Everything is very quiet today. We are having fresh beef and bread issued this last day or two, some cabbage and leeks today. I went on to No 3 sub section again tonight. A heavy storm came up and very dark. The Turks gave us a big demonstration.

Saturday 9 October 1915

I went off at 6 this morning. Two sailing smark were knocked to pieces last night by the wind and a lot of wood was on the shore. There was great sport getting it with Turks sniping at us. I posted letter home today. Reported tonight that Turks had used gas on a brigade of Indians on the left. We were hauled out in the middle of the night to see that our respirators were right. I had a night in.

Sunday 10 October 1915

2 men shot in the camp yesterday. Went to church this afternoon, but was under fire the whole time.

Monday 11 October 1915

Was on duty again on the No 3 sub section as NCO also Sergeant Kerr, Corp Chateau and Sgt Vernon. Came off at six. After breakfast, Dwyer, J Cameron and myself went round to Holly's Hill and Chatham Post to the 6th and 7th Light Horse. I saw Captain Bruxner and Lieutenant Hewitson and others. Took 3 photographs, one of Lieutenant H Robson. It was a most interesting trip. Got back 3.30. No duty tonight.

Tuesday 12 October 1915

Went on duty 7 o'clock this morning with 6 men to man number 3 sub section. Came off 6 at night. Took a photo of Brown, Hunter and Scholes in the sap. Scholes shot a goat today at 450 yards.

Wednesday 13 October 1915

I was in last night. Not well today. Got a touch of influenza with a very bad head. In all day today. Went on at night.

Thursday 14 October 1915

Sergeant Brewster and Corp Newholland of machine gun were out with us. Came off this morning. Sergeant Godfrey is in the hospital and Murphy and myself have been left to carry on. Wrote to Amber and Elsie and Jack Irish today. Went to Doctor tonight for influenza.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Re-vetting & improving fire steps in trenches, shelters for supports being built.
Carpenters have obtained complete mastery over Turkish snipers in front of our portion.
2 men detached to Ordinance

Friday 15 October 1915

I am off duty today yet I have to keep going. Sergeant Godfrey is in hospital and Sergeant Murphy is away sapping all day. I have to look after the troops.

Saturday 16 October 1915

Still off duty. I got one or two things from Lemnos today. Posted several letters today. Big demonstration yesterday morning quarter to 4.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Improving fire trench across DERE in MALONES GULLY. Work on shelters continued.
Demonstration to draw Turkish fire began at 0400. Very little reply from Turks. A few shots & two bombs thrown out of SNIPERS NEST.

Sunday 17 October 1915

Go on duty this morning. Received a balaclava cap from Elsie Irish today also a letter from Amber in answer to one of mine.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Patrols report enemy's machine gun firing from scrub in front of enemy trenches. Fascines being made & niches cut & tins put in fire trench to hold ammunition.
Work continued on sap between 1st LH PA sap & SAXTE BEIT DERE.

Monday 18 October 1915

I was on duty last night again. I was not too well. Rain fell throughout the night, a clear day today. Heard last night that Rumania had attacked Serbia. Had a night in tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Doubled sentries & supports at night owing to Turkish festival Beiram beginning. Cut niches for ammunition in fire trenches.
Started to build Squadron kitchens

Tuesday 19 October 1915

Went out in to the saps today from 7 this morning till 6 in the evening as Corporal in charge of party. Very cold day. We had a quiet day. Did a bit of shooting. Parcel arrived tonight from Eileen Krahe of Tenterfield.

Wednesday 20 October 1915

Was in camp last night. I wrote to Auntie Barrell today, also Eileen Krahe of Tenterfield, also to Mother. I am getting good again and eating better. New blankets were issued yesterday. I am on the reserves tonight with Corporal Newholland, Davis and 20 men. We slept in reserve trenches.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Discovered enemy outpost of 4 men at head of MALONES GULLY. HAPPY VALLEY trench deepened. Finished sap from SAXLI BEIT DERE to LH Field Ambulance sap.

Thursday 21 October 1915

Came in early. Our machine gun got onto a mob of Turks sapping last night and cut them up and Sergeant Brewster with 3 of my men went to Neutral Hill and started to dig a new place for snipers. This is an advance of 200 yards. Williamson was there the night before.

Friday 22 October 1915

Big demonstration on the right this morning. I was on No 3 sub section last night from 11 to 1 and 5 to 7. Some very heavy high explosive shells were put into Walker's yesterday and send rubbish 100 feet into the air. Went into supports last night with 15 men. Rained all night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Very wet night in the trenches

Saturday 23 October 1915

Came in at 7 in the morning. Sergeant Godfrey is getting around again. I posted letters to Mother, Aunt Barrell and Eileen Krahe about present. Heard today that Italy has declared war on Bulgaria. Had a night in tonight.

Sunday 24 October 1915

On duty in the saps all day on No 3 sub section with 6 men. I went on at seven and came off at 6.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Improving fire trenches & terraces
3 officers, Lt. Weir & Harris re-joined
2nd Lt. Snodgrass (reinforcement left)
8 men rejoined & 82 reinforcements arrived at 2015. Total 3 off & 90 men.

Monday 25 October 1915

I am pretty crook with indigestion but am keeping away from the doctor. He ruined my insides. A big mob of reinforcements came last night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Lt. Weir given command of B Squadron, A Squadron of 12th L.H. attached to be known as D Squadron.
Weather rather mild.

Tuesday 26 October 1915

I was on supports last night. Did nothing today. I shifted my dugout to make room for the new men.

Wednesday 27 October 1915

I was on supports again last night. I took a walk to Anzac today to YMCA to see if I could get anything but had no luck. I am off colour.

Thursday 28 October 1915

Was on supports last night. Got back to camp early. Very weak and tired. Issued the water supply this afternoon. Very rough weather on the coast again. Number 3 sub section again tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Enemy very active digging at head of MALONE GULLY during night.

Friday 29 October 1915

Pretty tired today, was on from 12 till 7 this morning and had no sleep owing to fleas and lice. Rested all day and will be in tonight. More artillery fire this afternoon.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Work as usual. Cruiser GRAFTON shelled enemy trenches at head of MALONE GULLY registering 3 direct hits. Enemy much more active during night. Lt. Campbell "C" Sqdn accompanied patrol in MALONE GULLY & reports seeing enemy changing sentries at their outpost.

Saturday 30 October 1915

I wrote home to Mother today. Was in tonight, but I would just as soon be in the saps. The whole business is very quiet.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Work as usual Terracing for bivouacs & shelters being constructed in hillside. Weather very pleasant.

Sunday 31 October 1915

Was in the saps last night and in charge of a fatigue party today.

Monday 1 November 1915

Had a night off last night, the fleas are something damnable, also flies and lice. Tucker is getting very poor. Owing to rough weather, it cannot be landed.

Tuesday 2 November 1915

Had a night in the trenches last night. First shift till 11 as orderly NCO. Rested all day today.

Wednesday 3 November 1915

Had a night off last night. A very nice day today. Lieutenant Robey went away today, Lieutenant Brown is sick, so is Rolston. I received 7 letters today from Australia. 2 from Mother, 1 from Hilda, 1 from Lima, 2 from cousin Ethel and 1 from Aunt Barrell. The latest from Mother dated Sept 20.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Lt. General Birdwood visited the trenches of No.1 OUTPOST. Remarked our trenches very clean. 4 Sqdn leaders & adjutants attended Regt Duties School.

Lt. Robey (12th LH) & 2 others to hospital.

3 rejoined

Thursday 4 November 1915

Was in the saps last night. First shift on number 3 sub section. The Turks kicked up hell but did no damage.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Rained for about an hour making ground very sticky.

Friday 5 November 1915

On duty again last night. There was a big fight on Chatham Post on the right with the 5th Light Horse. Ours boys occupied a Turkish trench. It was a big noise. The rockets were great.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Canteen stores arrived from Imbros & were distributed.

Saturday 6 November 1915

A very nice day. I came off duty at 3. I was on from 12 to 3 in number 3 sub section. Very tired today, had to issue troop rations. Sent a letter to mother today. Got a night in tonight. The fight the night before last lasted ½ hour. Wrote Ethel yesterday.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Lt. Col. J.B. Meredith takes over command of 1st L.H. Bdge.

Vice General Chauvel who takes over command of 1st Aust Div. Major C.H. Granville takes over command of 1st LH Regiment. Lt. Heyman takes command of Anti Aircraft gun & section on TABLETOP. Capt. A.A.White to be Adjutant 12/10/15. Vice Captain JR Broadvent Invalided 12/10/15

Sunday 7 November 1915

Stayed in last night, had a good sleep. I wanted it badly. Did troop work today, went out on patrol.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Lt. Harris takes command of "C" Sqdn Vice Major C.H. Granville.

All quiet.

Monday 8 November 1915

We returned to our lines at 4.30 this morning. We were pretty close to the Turks, could hear them talking. I was Corporal with 3 men, Colless, Cameron and Keogh and my first trip out. Fleas were bad. Spent a quiet day. Lanfier went to hospital today with jaundice.

Tuesday 9 November 1915

Stayed in last night. Today I posted a letter to Mrs Pinkstone of Tenterfield and Miss Freeman of 95 Pitt Street Sydney. I got tobacco from her. Was busy with Troop work. Went to first shift on number 3 sub section at night.

Wednesday 10 November 1915

Was dead beat, I have not been well for some time, jaundice has got me. We the 2nd Troop shifted out to the supports relieving the 3rd Troop for a week.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Major Smith, Lt. FCW Wright & Lt. DG Campbell & 95 others embarked at 2130 for MADROS for one month rest.

Major Chambers evacuated sick

Thursday 11 November 1915

The Turks very heavily shelled our head quarters yesterday afternoon. The noise was terrific. They killed a few. I was very seedy last night. Today I was in the trenches all day. At night I went to the doctor, he put me off duty. I returned to the supports for the night.

Friday 12 November 1915

Came in again this morning to doctor. He gave me some tabloids yesterday and salts this morning and put me on soft food. I shifted some stuff in and will remain here for a day or two. The soft food is good for my stomach, indigestion and jaundice is my trouble.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Winter clothing issued (160 Lanis trousers Imperial Infantry pattern) cardigan vest & underpants for each man

Saturday 13 November 1915

42 reinforcements blew in yesterday, the 5 of the 12. Colless and Dwyer came in today with the same as I have. We all doss together. I got 4 letters today from home.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

6 men rejoined Regt – Lt. Brough & 49 men arrived reinforcements for 12th LH.

Sunday 14 November 1915

I got a letter from sister Lilac today. Am a bit better today though not good enough to write. Spent a crook night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Very Windy & cold. All quiet.

Monday 15 November 1915

Was better a bit this morning and I went out to join the troop as supports. I done nothing all day only rested, I wanted it bad. Wrote a letter to sister Amber.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Escort for GHQ. Lt. Mack & 16 others detailed. Sea too rough to permit them to embark.

Tuesday 16 November 1915

This morning I went on duty as Corporal of party in saps of number 3. I wrote to Ethel Barrell during the day and posted both letters. I was relieved again at 5. Had a bad night, indigestion is cruel.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Escort again delayed owing to rough weather.

Wednesday 17 November 1915

Went on again at 7.30 this morning in saps until 12 when first Troop came out and relieved us. A damnably windy day. Our troop returned to the main camp and we get things fixed up. 11 new reinforcements have been added to us of the 3 of 12th. I am in tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Heavy rain fell between 2000 & 2100.

Thursday 18 November 1915

A very windy day. All the shipping has cleared out. Am a lot better today though very weak. Rest most of day. At night I take out the patrol at 6.30, 4 men and myself. I was very cold and the fleas were damnably. We approached Snipers Nest closer than is usually done.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Enemy aeroplane dropped two (2) bombs in MEREDITH CREEK, one just behind bivouac one in front of trench. Neither did any harm.

Friday 19 November 1915

A nice fine calm day. Corporal Carberry was shot through the groin early this morning while cooking his breakfast. He nearly bled to death. He was a good fellow, he was sent straight away. My patrol came in at 4.30 this morning 2 Bones, Francis, Innes. Sent in report to Captain McKell at 6.30.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

69th Battery shelled SNIPERS NEST from 2200 to 2230. Apparently little damage done. 1 wounded. Sgt CW Harris, Cpl M E Wright & LCpl R A Macdonald promoted 2nd Lieutenants. Dated 14/11/15

Saturday 20 November 1915

Had a night in last night. Our guns have been towelling the Turks up again. Busy with troop work. I went down the beach and got a cabbage at night. I wrote the sisters today. Our last mail was torpedoed. Am in again tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

All quiet. Working parties as usual. Weather very cold.

Sunday 21 November 1915

Got 2 pair of mittens, 2 pair sox, envelopes from home yesterday. Went on duty tonight in trenches.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

All quiet still very cold.

Monday 22 November 1915

Had a busy day. It was very cold too and raw. Got in early and had breakfast. Draw water etc provisions for troops. Had dinner and then web equipment for the 11 reinforcements also 900 rounds of ammunition. Wrote a letter home to Mother. Had a night in tonight. Damnably cold.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

“D” Battery 69th again shelled SNIPERS NEST bursting their shells in NEST with effect.

Tuesday 23 November 1915

I was told last night that I was to be transferred 1st Troop again but I saw Lieutenant Brown and altered arrangements. Drew troop water etc. Was in number 3 again tonight.

Wednesday 24 November 1915

Did troop stuff today. Went to Little Anzac tonight with Colless. We got some firewood.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

At 1900 all firing ceased with the intention of deceiving the enemy that we were evacuating the Peninsula & drawing him on to attack.

Thursday 25 November 1915

Had night in last night. Went on fatigue work this morning with 5 men to cut sticks but was recalled. Afterwards I went to the ammunition park for 4 dozen torches under Captain Perry Oakden at big Anzac. Shrapnel was flying about. I saw 3 dead men and 1 woman. Am on duty tonight in No 3.

Friday 26 November 1915

Got back to camp this morning at daylight. I was on first shift last night 5.30 to 20 to 11. Very cold. Drew rations for the troop, had bread and cheese supper. Wrote a letter to Mother today, had a night in.

Saturday 27 November 1915

Very cold day with every indication of snow. Everything is very quiet all the along the line except on left which is a bit jumpy.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Period of silence maintained. Snow started falling at 2300 & continued all day on 28/11/15

Sunday 28 November 1915

Was on patrol last night with 6 men, when a blizzard struck us and oh the wind, rain and snow. We were relieved at midnight. Went on a fatigue to Anzac today.

Monday 29 November 1915

Was in last night. Terrible cold windy day, all the ground is covered in snow and frozen. A bleak wind from the north blows. Issued trousers today. On duty number 3 tonight.

Tuesday 30 November 1915

Sunny day but very cold. Sergeant Godfrey went to hospital last night. I had a cold night last night but not as bad as the night on patrol. Put troop through rifle inspection today and issued clothing. On duty again tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Lt. Col. JB Meredith again took command of this Regiment on (Temp) Col C.F. Cox CB taking over temporary command of 1LH Bde

Wednesday 1 December 1915 (Queen Alexandra born, 1844)

A very nice day. Sergeant Godfrey will be out of hospital tomorrow. I done troop work etc and at night I had 20 men given me to dig a sap as a water course to take the water away from main sap.

Thursday 2 December 1915

We got orders to move out to the supports at midday, we had to be out at 3. Colless with 4 men went in and relieved the post on number 8. We got most of our stuff out. Sergeant Godfrey and I shall occupy the same dug out. I went on patrol tonight from 12 midnight to morning.

Friday 3 December 1915

I went into the trenches today as sniper with 4 men. Colless drew the water and tucker. Sergeant Godfrey did troop work. It was a little wet this morning. I came off patrol at 6am.

Saturday 4 December 1915

We got to work today, men cleaning up etc, fixing up dugouts. Colless was in the saps and I was on the troop work. Sergeant Godfrey was away for a while. Sergeant Murphy is SQM. Had a busy day. Posted a letter to Mother.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Our guns shell SNIPERS NEST & communication trench at 1530 & did excellent shooting

Sunday 5 December 1915

Warm and cloudy. Colless was on sniping today with 4 men. I was busy about the camp. I am dossing in the sergeant's dugout with Sergeant Godfrey.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Lt. Mack & 17 men returned from guard duty at GHQ IMBROS. Escort of 1 NCO GI Day sent to IMBROS for a prisoner of this unit.

Canteen stores arrived from IMBROS.

Monday 6 December 1915

Bone, Campbell, Bull and Wilson was on the trenches with me today. I wrote a letter to Mother. I received 5 letters from home and a lot of papers etc. Sergeant Godfrey was away today.

Tuesday 7 December 1915

The Turks shelled our big hospital here and killed 14 men in bed. I was busy with the boys clearing up a big mess all around our new quarters in Chambers Gully. We have a nice place now. Tomorrow should make it look good.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

All quiet. Working parties as usual. Our snipers killed a Turk.

Wednesday 8 December 1915

Bunyan, Cameron, Francis and Coles on sniping. I was in the trenches today and witnessed some good shooting towards 971 Hill on Sari Bair. Came off at 5 afternoon. I did some good sniping.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Our batteries again shelled SNIPERS NEST doing much damage

Thursday 9 December 1915

1st Troop shifted out to new position today. Colless took the trenches today. I took the party for water, cleaned saps etc in the afternoon. I superintended the erection of a bush screen around the Orah House. Had nip of rum tonight, Sergeant Murphy treated us, he is now QMS.

Friday 10 December 1915

Went into the trenches this morning at 7.30 with 4 men, Bone, Edwards, McGrath, Maleslin. Today was one of the heaviest naval actions I have ever seen. It was great. We manned the trenches last night at 11.30, we got out quick, it was a surprise alarm.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Enemy active on our front on SNIPERS RIDGE building & improving works. NEST again shelled.

Saturday 11 December 1915

I wrote to Mother today. We have a very nice place here now. Our dugout is clean and well fitted up for the winter. At night I go on to 3 sub section again with only 4 men on No 2 post. The section has been cut down to 4 posts for the winter.

Sunday 12 December 1915

Today I am on trenches again. 3rd troop goes on tomorrow and we go out of supports.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

D Battery 69th Bgde registered on MALONES GULLY, The NEK & Machine Gun position on BABY 700 getting 3 direct hits on latter. Enemy put five large bombs into bivouac without causing any casualties which must have come a distance of 700 or 800 yards.

Monday 13 December 1915

There was a very heavy bombardment in the south yesterday morning and our troop forced a new landing in the north on Saturday night on our left or north and cut the Turkish lines and advanced 2½ miles. I witnessed the heaviest artillery fire today I have even seen, all on Walkers Ridge. 3rd Light Horse Regiment went away tonight. We manned their trenches. I was on midnight patrol with 4 men out toward the Turkish lines on the north side of Camel Hump. Got back at six.

Tuesday 14 December 1915

Tuesday, had breakfast then the order came that all men stand by for the day. We wonder what next. We hear we are to evacuate the peninsular just here but where to go, goodness knows. I was on Cossack Post tonight in front 3rd Light Horse lines.

Wednesday 15 December 1915

We came in early this morning at 7 o'clock. It was a good post, was busy cleaning up. Preparation to leaving any moment. I was in tonight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Everything quiet. We completed our wire entanglements in MALONE GULLY.

Thursday 16 December 1915

Had a good day and a good night. I was out at 6 in the morning in anticipation of an attack, but it never came off. So this evening, I went on to number 2 sub for a quiet evening. It was a lovely moon light night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Received information that A & NZ Army Corps had been ordered to re-embark & proceed to MUDROS.

The embarkation to be completed in two (2) nights to be called 1st & 2nd Nights.

Friday 17 December 1915

Busy today. Don't expect to go tonight. I went on duty tonight on patrol with 4 men Bunyan, McGee, Ross and Taylor. Went out from Cossack Post at midnight. We relieved Sergeant Bailey. Done no good.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Proceeded in the preparations for embarkation.

Saturday 18 December 1915

Cloudy and warm. Came off duty 7 o'clock, had a good night. A lot of stores were burnt last night, thousands of pounds worth. Poked about camp on various duties. At night I went on duty at Camel Hump with Sergeant Kerr and Corporal Maleslin.

1st Light Horse Regiment – No 1 OUTPOST, ANZAC

Preparation completed.

Enemy very quiet.

Received orders saying night 19/20 was 1st night of withdrawl.

Operation Order No.1 by Lt. Col. JB Meredith was issued.

Sunday 19 December 1915 (Evacuation)

Went off duty 7 o'clock, had a good night. I went on to same post tonight with Sergeant Godfrey, Corporal Harrison. We filed out at 9 o'clock and boarded the ship at midnight.

1st Light Horse Regiment – EVACUATION

Enemy fired H.E. shells into bivouac during day which demonstrated that they were moving the position of their guns.

First party left Bivouac for embarkation at 2145. Enemy in our front very quiet during the night. This Regiment took over the line CAMELS HUMP to DESTROYER HILL inclusive.

Holding the whole line from HAPPY VALLEY to DESTROYER HILL inclusive formerly held by 1st & 2nd Regiments.

Monday 20 December 1915

Morning broke in Lemnos Harbour, me asleep on the hatch of the Charron. Very cold. Had a bit of cheese and biscuit. We disembarked on the Australian pier. Messed about and then marched 1½ miles to camp at back of West Mudros. Terribly windy at night. We had a poor day and never had our tents pitched till late.

1st Light Horse Regiment – EVACUATION

"A" Party 3 off 130 others left Bivouac for embarkation at 7:30 pm

"B" Party 3 officers 103 others moved out from trenches MEREDITH CREEK to DESTROYER HILL at 2145. This line was then held by Capt. AA White 10 men & two signallers, one signaller at

CAMELS HUMP & one at DESTROYER HILL. Enemy reported working on defence works on SNIPERS NEST & RIDGE.

At 2:35am "C" Party were called in & left Bivouac at 0305 under C.O. to embark

The Rear Party under Major Granville consisting of 7 officers 67 others & 2 Machine Guns held line HAPPY VALLEY to No.1 POST inclusive. At 0309 Major Granville received the order to withdraw which was carried out without further interference by the enemy. Communications were kept up by telephone to the last minute of withdrawal in the Regiment & with Divisional HdQrs

Tuesday 21 December 1915

Out of bed early, had a poor breakfast. Pulled down tents, heavy rain fell. Place was in a terrible mess, re-erected them in the mud and slept in the mud all night. One of the most unpleasant days of the campaign. No tucker.

1st Light Horse Regiment – MUDROS

Disembarked at MUDROS

Wednesday 22 December 1915

Early morning parade, rain has cleared away. We prepared to clear camp and got away at 11.30. I took 2 snaps of the boys resting near Mudros, also 4 nurses. Had lunch near pier. Embarked on launch and then got on to the 'Waterwitch' then went down the harbour and got onto the 'Honorata', a fine boat. 400 New Zealanders were on board. We stand by all night. A big mob of men.

Thursday 23 December 1915

Had a good night. 12pm still in harbour. Bleak this morning. Muster parade and rifle inspection. Had a good breakfast. We stayed in port all day, huddled together like lice. It was a bleak cold day. I got a snap of the hospital ship 'Acquitania', 4 funnels.

1st Light Horse Regiment – MUDROS

Embarked on HMTS Horarata 4 Officers & 297 other ranks

On HMTS Ionion 15 Officers & 50 others.

Friday 24 December 1915

Had a good night sleep. We are terribly cramped and every man has to sleep with a lifesaver round his neck. We got away early this morning for Alexandria accompanied by the 'Ionian' and escorts.

Saturday 25 December 1915 (Christmas Day)

We had a quiet Xmas crossing the old Mediterranean, port wine and claret was issued to us and plum pudding. We saw no submarines and the boys spent money playing crown and anchor.

Sinai Peninsula, Egypt

Sunday 26 December 1915

We ran into Alexandria during the afternoon. Took some snaps. Had a burial during the day. A lot of the boys went on to Cairo at night. I with others, stayed behind. I broke leave and went into the city at night with Hollingsworth.

1st Light Horse Regiment – ALEXANDRIA

Arrived ALEXANDRIA & Disembarked

Monday 27 December 1915

Up before daylight, had breakfast and got on the train. Some dog pinched my gun. We had a pleasant trip across the delta, passed a big Tommy camp half way to Cairo 54th division. I took a few snaps. Got to Zeitoun at sundown. Marched out to camp. Had tea and went back to Heliopolis for the evening. I took some films to a photographer.

1st Light Horse Regiment – HELIOPOLIS

Arrived Aerodrome Camp HELIOPOLIS

Tuesday 28 December 1915

Very cool morning, have wash and a shave. Nothing doing before dinner. We are busy resting and do very little but growl. Went to Heliopolis at night.

1st Light Horse Regiment – HELIOPOLIS

Ordered to report for immediate service

Wednesday 29 December 1915

Done nothing today. A party of us went to Cairo tonight and had a good time. Colless, Hollingsworth and others including Abbott.

Thursday 30 December 1915

We do little or nothing today. Only get mails fixed up and do a little fatigue. I wrote home. There is talk of the 12th Brigade being reformed.

1st Australian Light Horse Brigade - HELIOPOLIS

3rd. A.L.H. Regiment with detail of Train and Ambulance marched out for WADI NATRUM by route march. Marching out state attached.

Orders for this move issued direct to 3rd.L.H. from CAIRO District Headquarters.

Copy attached (Appendix VI)

Daily Reports from 3rd. A.L.H. attached (Appendix VII)

Friday 31 December 1915

Went to town last night. A fine day and we done foot squadron drill. Colonel Meredith was busy with us. We made a gallant charge at a heap of mush and won a bloodless victory.

Saturday 1 January 1916

Went to Heliopolis last night with Sergeant Godfrey. We did some shopping and had our photo taken.

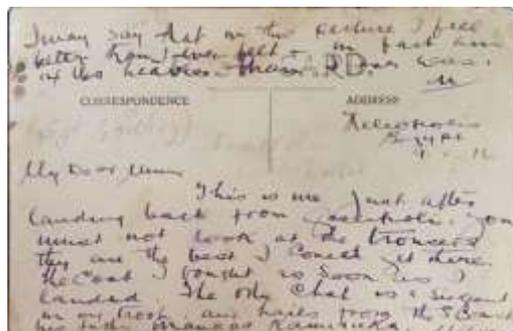
Correspondence



Written on the back of this postcard photo taken 1 Jan 1916,

I may say that in this picture I feel better than I ever felt, in fact am 14 lbs heavier than I ever was. M.

Heliopolis, Egypt 9.1.16



My dear Mum,

This is me just after landing back from Gallipoli, you must not look at the trousers. They are the best I could get there. The coat I bought as soon as I landed. The other chap is a Sergeant (Godfrey) in my troop and hails from the S coast. His father manages Kameruka. Melvin.

1916

Noted first page of 1916 diary

In the event of me getting knocked at this game, I would feel pleased if it be possible for a dead man to be pleased if the OC of my Squadron or Regiment would send this diary to Mr C H Harrigan, Tenterfield, NSW, Australia.

Saturday 1 January 1916

Went to Heliopolis last night and done some shopping. We also had one photo taken together today. We had our leather ware issued to us and we do a bit of squadron and skirmishing. We were filed down tonight to RQM and served out with bludgeons and are to be inlying picket till 6 tomorrow night.

Sunday 2 January 1916

We do nothing all day only wait in camp. We slept in our boots and clothes waiting to be called out and to mount horses if our services were required but nothing happened. We expect trouble in Egypt any time.

Monday 3 January 1916

We had a round till dinner time with rifles and bandoleers on. We were glad to get the Light Horse equipment on again. Range finding etc. Colonel Meredith had a lot to say about things that we knew a good about already and corrected Captain McKell on certain points. I have a spruce up in the afternoon and went on brigade guard with 6 men at the aerodrome. Took over 6 prisoners. We had only two posts. Percy Higgins, my cousin, visited me after looking all over Heliopolis in search of me. He is a corporal and been through the NCO school.

Tuesday 4 January 1916

Had a mess up last night at the turn out of the guard. 2 of the boys were too tight to get out of bed and had to be roomed up. Campbell and Francis. It rained a good deal through the day. During the day various prisoners were run in. 2 were taken away and 2 more were sentenced to aberseer. Altogether we had 9 men in the jug. We were relieved at 5 by a Corporal and 6 men from the 2nd Light Horse. We then marched off to Brigade and were dismissed by Captain Higginson, the camp commandant from the old joint from Holsworthy. Went down to Heliopolis at night with Percy Higgins and put in a good night. Returned at 10 o'clock. Higgins camped at the overseas base Gezira.

Wednesday 5 January 1916

Very cold this morning after doing a good trot across the desert. We breakfasted then went on with troop drill with rifles. I had a go at the business of drilling them also Corporal Harrison and Sergeant Godfrey. We returned for dinner and in afternoon we worked on new issue of saddles. I went to Cairo at 4 and met Corporal Higgins at 5.30. We went with Dowling and Brown to the Petrograd for tea. 12 piastres with wine, then to the Kersaal vaudeville then again to the Parisiana for another wine then home.

Thursday 6 January 1916

Damnably cold tonight. Up at daylight, then go for a trot over to the railway sheds two miles away, then back at 7.30 for breakfast afterwards. We went into C Squadron lines and levelled down the

floor of the stables then dinner. Afterwards we have rifle inspection and examination of bayonets, then more fatigues. At night we had a good time in Heliopolis. Godfrey and I went out to Abbassia in a gharri, the pole broke and we had a row with some chaps. I thought fight would have happened but no. We then went to the No 2 Auxiliary Hospital to see Carberry.

Friday 7 January 1916

Same old thing early morning trot, back to breakfast then had range finding etc also bayonet drill. Having to go on canteen guard at night. I had no afternoon drill. We mounted guard. Me in charge at 3.45. Corporal Harrison relieved me at 7 o'clock and then I went to bed.

Saturday 8 January 1916

Up early this morning. She was pretty cold. We went for a gallop across the desert on foot to the train sheds. Back for breakfast then we had squadron drill till dinner time in the afternoon. We poked about the camp and polished leatherware. At night we were paraded as inlying picket and slept with arms on. We had a concert at night in the tent and I tried to sing a song.

Sunday 9 January 1916

A beautiful day, fine and sunny. We had a big church parade with the 2 regiments, 1st and 2nd regiments, the 3rd having gone away the other day. We continue to be lying in picket and go off at 6 at night. Afterwards, Harrison and I went down to Heliopolis for the evening. Drank wine at the Heliopolis Hotel, watched the pictures and returned late. I wrote and addressed postcards to home.

Monday 10 January 1916

A beautiful day warmer than usual. We went onto parade in full dress and done a bit of squadron drill, then troop drill then mounting for the benefit of the new corporal including myself. Then we had dinner, then rifle inspection. Afterwards, there was an inspection of saddlery. It was a very easy day and on the warm side.

Tuesday 11 January 1916

The Regiments first and second got itself dressed and marched out to go away. Everything was out, machine gun transport and everything and we had to clean their lines up while they were away. It was a very dirty job and A Squadron generally does all the shitty work for Meredith. A Squadron were to remain here after the regiment has gone.

Wednesday 12 January 1916

Had another gallop across the desert and squadron drill during the day. I was on camp guard with 9 men all night from last night and today. Had an uneventful day.

Thursday 13 January 1916

We had a busy day. We went out on a gallop across the plain on foot, then Sergeant Godfrey being away and Sergeant Murphy acting S SM, I had to take the troop and do a bit as troop leader in squadron drill. I did fairly well. Lieutenant Brough was the officer in charge. During the afternoon nothing was done. We had gun inspection then stood by for nothing. Some of the heads must have been tight.

Friday 14 January 1916

Up at 5 o'clock this morning and had all the sore heads out and away and the tents all pulled down in no time and stuff shifted at 6.15. I went on a baggage guard to load and look after the stuff of 1st Light Horse regiment. Two regiments rode out at 9 o'clock and look very well. I witnessed it from the top of the aerodrome. Poor Sergeant Murphy got thrown from his horse and hurt and consequently will stay with us for a time till he gets right. We spent the afternoon shifting our kits to

the stables of the old 3rd Light Horse Regiment and Brown and Lieutenant Fetherstonhaugh went today with the 1st Regiment.

Saturday 15 January 1916

We were on fatigues all day pulling down tents and shifting stuff from one mess to another. It was a heavy day. At night I went with Joe Cameron into Heliopolis and had a wine then went to the Kersaal then returned early. Early this morning we were all mucked up together, odds and ends from the first, 12th, 2nd and 11th 3rd etc and drafted into 3 squadrons and formed into a composite regiment under Major Vernon.

Sunday 16 January 1916

Very cold day. All morning we went on to early morning fatigues on the old brigade QMS carrying stores etc. During church parade I wrote out a role of the troop for Lieutenant Hyman. At night I went on canteen guard with 6 machine gun men. Came off at 11. Had a hair cut and a bucksheish tea. We have 59 in our B or 2nd Troop of A Squadron of 1st Reserve Regiment.

Monday 17 January 1916

We continued with our fatigue today, cleaning up etc and in the afternoon messed about marking guns etc. I am very busy these days with little help. Cameron and I went to the Kersaal in Heliopolis at night.

Tuesday 18 January 1916

Captain Stuckie took us for a gallop aboard then we returned for breakfast. We were busy all day on troop drill etc, fatigues etc and at night Cameron and I went to Heliopolis and watched the pictures at the Heliopolis Hotel and sipped port wine also Hollingworth and Lanfier.

Wednesday 19 January 1916

Normal early morning trot. Lieutenant Plunket once our S SM took 3 troops out today and gave us a bit of squadron drill and a smoke then marched us back. In the afternoon, we had troop drill and had to put the troop through its facings. At night Corporal Dwyer and Cameron and I went to the race course camp to see Jurd and Symons of Tenterfield but they had not returned. So we went up town. Sergeant Godfrey went away today to take up his command in the 24th Brigade at Tel el Kebir.

Thursday 20 January 1916

A cold morning. We had a big muster parade where men were drafted into different units. My troop now amounts to 74 and by what I can hear Captain McKell will have a squadron of 500 men when the rest of the composite regiment comes back from the Tripolitan border. It was commanded by Captain Pridean Brune. After dinner today I took the troop out and cut it in two and gave Corporal Lloyd one to drill and work the other myself. Sergeant Murphy is with us no longer so I have the troop to myself, with two machine gun NCO's. Sergeant Dixon and Corporal Lloyd and Lance Corporal Colless and Conway.

Friday 21 January 1916

A very nice day, had charge of a very big troop, fresh men are being drafted into the ranks every day and our troop now is 70 men. I cut it up when we got out a bit on the desert and Dixon took one lot and I the other and done a bit of troop drill.

Saturday 22 January 1916

Another busy day. I believe Sergeant Murphy may remain with us yet. We had troop drill in the morning. In the afternoon Sergeant Murphy and Moorehead of the machine gun and I went to town – Cairo. We walked to the train then went to Cairo. I sent a parcel home to Tenterfield of war specimens. We had a good night and took a car home, had a good time.

Sunday 23 January 1916

We all went to church in the morning and in the afternoon I went with Colless and Hollingworth to see the zoo at Gezira. It was worth going to see but most of the animals come from the Sudan. We returned to Cairo, had tea at the Parisiana. Went to the Esbekill Gardens, heard the band and returned home.

Monday 24 January 1916

We had a big muster parade today when Colonel Charlie Cox inspected us, then General Birdwood came along and gave us the good news that our 12th Regiment was to be reformed. We have had a terrible lot of bad luck, but the future may make good for us. I did not go on to parade in the afternoon having to go on guard with 6 men at the aerodrome jug at 4 o'clock. Took over 4 prisoners and had some more afterwards. This aerodrome building was built by the Belgians for a sports arena but was not finished when war broke out.

Tuesday 25 January 1916

Had a good nights rest, I let the number one sentry dig the reliefs up and I took a good rest. I have had more than a fair share of work lately. Very cold all day with rain and sleet from the north west. We went off in the afternoon at 4 o'clock. Was relieved by the Queenslanders, a terrible rag time mob. We had a fellow in the jug suffering from pox, the first case I ever saw and it was a very disgusting affair. He was in for being drunk and had been neglected. I went to Heliopolis at night and met Rex Chatto who is going back to Australia. He is in No 2 Auxiliary Hospital.

Wednesday 26 January 1916

Terribly cold this morning. Sergeant Murphy took us out this morning and stuck a bit of physical drill into us. I was pleased to see Murphy out and about and he trimmed some of the lads up nicely. After breakfast we went for a big route march about 2,000 of us out to second oasis then down the street through Heliopolis, back to camp. After dinner we had a parade and was dismissed for the day, it being a holiday. A lot of the boys went to Zetoun for some military sports.

Thursday 27 January 1916

Had a route march down past Luna Park, out towards Cairo. We returned for dinner. I was pretty tired. Squadron drill in the afternoon.

Friday 28 January 1916

The same old things, physical exercise before breakfast, afterwards we endured squadron drill, troop drill in the afternoon.

Saturday 29 January 1916

We had squadron drill stuck into us this morning by Lieutenant Hyman, he has a splendid command. After lunch I went to Maadi to see Captain Bruxner but he was in town. I saw Blumenthal of the machine gun section also SM Fletcher and others. Most of the fellows were away. I returned to Cairo by 6 o'clock.

Sunday 30 January 1916

Had a dance across the desert before breakfast then we attended church parade, the Rev Rentone preached. In the afternoon Cameron and Hayes and I went down Heliopolis and were sent back by pickets. All the infantry were sent back and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th training battalions were equipped with ball ammunition and marched out to Abbassia, but returned. So Cameron, Hayes and I afterwards got in a gharri and tried to get over to Mary's Well and the obelisk but were stopped by pickets. We got on the train at Helmieh and went to Cairo and had a good time.

Monday 31 January 1916

We had a trip across the desert and physical exercise, then a bit of troop drill after breakfast. Then we were marched in a picket. I got £3/1/6. In the afternoon we had some squadron drill and I prepared some requisition notes. Night I went to Heliopolis.

Tuesday 1 February 1916

Had some troop drill this morning. In the afternoon 700 men were put through a short arm parade and only 2 were sent to hospital. This was followed by more troop drill. I went down to Heliopolis at night with Frame of the ambulance. Had a couple of wines and looked at the pictures.

Wednesday 2 February 1916

Had a bit of squadron drill today, this morning under Lieutenant Hyman. After dinner I went out to Maadi to the 6th and 7th camp. I had a yarn to Captain Bruxner about things also saw Kniepp and Himmett of Tenterfield there and SM Fletcher of Stanthorpe. Returned by 6 o'clock train. Had tea at Esbekill Gardens Cairo and returned to Heliopolis pretty early.

Thursday 3 February 1916

Getting warmer of a morning. The squadron marched off down as far as old Heliopolis on a route march. We had a look at the Camel Corps there. Returned for dinner. After dinner, we had squadron drill under Captain McKell then troop drill under Sergeant Dixon. I took serafile. At night I stayed in camp. Hayes went to pox hospital this morning. Green was tried this morning and let off, because being absent from parade.

Friday 4 February 1916

Had another route march today around the town and squadron drill in the afternoon.

Saturday 5 February 1916

Had some squadron drill this morning. After dinner Moorhead of Armidale and I went to Cairo to post parcels home. He left his in a train. I sent mine. We met Harrison and had a drink at the St James. Afterwards met Hollingworth and had tea at YMCA. Wet tonight, got home early.

Sunday 6 February 1916

Went to church led by Rev Rentone at the orderly room. Afterwards got a pass and Frame and I visited old Cairo, 5 Mosques, Hassan Blue, Sheik and Moses Mosques also the Citadel and Mohammed Ali and another old mosque, very interesting, also the Mocatton Hills, the dead city and tombs of Mamehikis. Went to Presbyterian Church at night in Cairo.

Monday 7 February 1916

Another route march this morning round town led by the pork butcher, Lieu Beck and I damned near had a row with him. During afternoon had squadron drill under Lieu Ralston. He swore like mad at us.

Tuesday 8 February 1916

Had two route marches today. One in the morning round oasis camp led by the pork butcher Lieu Beck and in the afternoon led by Captain McKell round the town. We knocked off early.

Wednesday 9 February 1916

Physical exercises. After breakfast we went for a route march to old Heliopolis at the Camel Corps where we saw a lot of bones that was dug up out of a cemetery belonging to the ancients. Our fellows were looking for antiques. In the afternoon we had troop drill. Night went to Heliopolis.

Thursday 10 February 1916

Physical exercise before breakfast, afterwards Captain McKell took us A Squadron and A Squadron Queenslanders for a route march away past the aerial corps at Aliersier and home where we saw

two planes rise. Marvellous. After dinner we had squadron drill. At night I went to Heliopolis and got my watch. It cost 15 disasters. Got 7 letters from home today.

Friday 11 February 1916

One letter yesterday was in reply to the cable I sent when I lopped back from the peninsular. We downed tents yesterday. Had a bit of squadron drill in the morning and light troop drill in the afternoon.

Saturday 12 February 1916

Route march this morning, away round oasis and Heliopolis, football match in afternoon. I went to town and posted letters home and to Ethel.

Sunday 13 February 1916

Physical as usual then I attended divine service near orderly room. Rentone preached. Spelled all rest of day. At night Frame and I went to Cairo, we went to Methodist Church and had dog of a job to get home again. We took an Abbassia train.

Monday 14 February 1916

Physical exercises today before breakfast, afterwards I done a bit of squadron drill and in the afternoon we had a bit of troop drill, range finding, smoking etc. At night I wrote sister Hilda and Mother.

Tuesday 15 February 1916

Rained today. I reported to orderly room at Reveille as Regimental orderly Corporal. I had a very easy day. Was on for 24 hours and will be off at Reveille in the morning. Frame of the ambulance, the chap I went to the Citadel with, went away to Ruscor today.

Wednesday 16 February 1916

Got a lot of papers today. Physical exercises before breakfast, afterward we went through squadron drill with 4 troops, the whole of them twice as big as they ought to be. It was the same in the afternoon running the legs off ourselves. Captain Hudson was in command. We were paid this afternoon, £2/10 I received. I received 2 letters today, Hilda and Lilac.

Thursday 17 February 1916

We did a bit of squadron drill under Lieu Brown. After dinner I went to Cairo to Australian Base to see about my money. I discovered that they had never been notified about my corporal ship in fact the orders went down with the old transport B13 on her return trip to Alexandria. It was lucky I went to see about it because I may never have got paid. I will see Captain McKell about issuing fresh orders from that time. Then went to Esbekill Gardens, heard a big noise in connection with an Egyptian marriage. Went to Kersaal at night to a revue. I met Percy Higgins there.

Friday 18 February 1916

Squadron drill this morning under Hyman and Brown. Afternoon, elementary rifle instruction etc and range finding under Sgt Murphy. Night I wrote some letters home to sister Lilac.

Saturday 19 February 1916

Did a bit physical exercises before breakfast. Afterwards we done squadron drill under Lieutenant S Hyman and Beck. Worked over as far as railway sheds then worked back. We had the afternoon off so I went into town. Spent the evening out at Bulac Engine sheds with my cousin Higgins. Had tea with him then we went to a concert at the railway institute. Spend a most enjoyable time.

Sunday 20 February 1916

Church parade by a new padre. After dinner Sgt Murphy and I went into the pyramids to have look round. We spent an enjoyable day. Saw the Pyramids, Sphinx and the temple of the Sphinx. A wonderful old place and carved my initials on a tombstone near by in the modern cemetery. We had tea at the Petrograd and got home at 9.

Monday 21 February 1916

We had physical jerks before breakfast and afterwards we went for a route march to old Heliopolis and back under Hyman and Beck. In the afternoon we done a little drill. At night I went to Kersaal at Heliopolis with Colin Wells.

Tuesday 22 February 1916

We were busy this morning getting ready to go over to oasis where the 11th and 12th Regiments are to be camped. We marched out round Heliopolis with our band playing at 10.30 and got into camp before dinner. B and C Squadrons came along later. We spent the afternoon putting our tents up and squaring the camp up. Generally I did not go out night I was tired.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

The 12th Light Horse Regiment was officially reformed today, at 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS. Units marched into Camp as follows: B & C Squadrons from MAADI and A Squadron and Details from AERODROME CAMP, HELIOPOLIS. All members of the Regiment who were at Gallipoli were at once absorbed and then sufficient Details were absorbed to complete establishment.

Wednesday 23 February 1916

Reveille sounded ½ hour earlier this morning. 1st and 2nd Troops went for a trot and along the road had a smoke and returned to camp. Had breakfast and cleaned up the lines. Colonel Royston of South Africa is to be our OC, he had all the NCO's up and gave us a lecture and stuck a bit of bullshit into us and said he was very honoured to be our OC. Our old regimental is to be our adjutant. (Cross) Fletcher of C Squadron is regimental, Atkinson A Squadron SSM, Karnaghan A Squadron QMS, more to follow.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

The re-formation of the Regiment is progressing satisfactorily. Colonel J.R. Royston C.M.G. D.S.O. assumes command of the Regiment.

Lieutenant E.H. Cross is appointed Adjutant.

Thursday 24 February 1916

We done some squadron drill for while then it separated into troop drill in the afternoon. We went for a route march to the new aerodrome. I went on regimental orderly corporal as soon as I returned.

Friday 25 February 1916

Regimental orderly corporal today. I had a busy day parading sick etc and doing orderly room work. Had a busy day. Williamson was sergeant and Lieu Brown orderly officer. He is to be captain in B Squadron. It was a 24 hours job and I was relieved at 4.30 in the afternoon.

Saturday 26 February 1916

We messed about in a desultory sort of day. No drill in particular. I got a midnight pass and went to Cairo, had a shave at Continental, tea at the Petrograd, then went out to Bulac Railway Institution to

a dance. I saw Percy Higgins. We knocked around for a while. Went all over the place. Returned to camp at midnight.

Sunday 27 February 1916 (Melvin's 33rd birthday)

Church parade early in morning then I cleared to Cairo with some of the boys. I went out to the sporting club at Gezira then had a couple of drinks at St James Café then got sick of Cairo and returned to camp. Went to bed early.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

The following temporary appointments are made.

A Sqdn: O.C. Capt. A.W.D. Stuart Moray, 2nd O.C. Capt. H.K. McKell, Lt.s Tourle, Ralston, Plunkett

B Sqdn: O.C. Capt A.E. D'Arcy, Lieuts Hampton JW, Hayden GB, Abbott A and Luidemen I.

C Sqdn: O.C. Major D. Cameron, Lieuts M.A. Brown, B. Lowing, and G.M. Brown.

Monday 28 February 1916

Sgt Murphy is regimental orderly sergeant today, so I have the troop wholly to myself. We went for a troop march and then the Colonel got an idea of a march past. I had charge of 2nd Troop and gave the salute and done a bit of squadron drill under Moray, then we had troop drill and in the afternoon we had a route march under Plunkett as far as aerodrome. Stay in camp at night and nearly got tight in the sergeant's mess. Wilson came home later as drunk as a lord roaring mad.

Tuesday 29 February 1916

I am afraid I am getting mumps. Went on to early morning parade and also 9 o'clock we had a regimental parade. 2nd Troop returned to lines as duty troop by mistake and done nothing all day. I loafed about all day. Do not feel well at night. Went to bed early. I sent a couple of photographs home today of myself, Jerry Digby and Bull.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Major H. McIntosh will temporarily perform the duties of 2nd in Command.

S.S.M. Fletcher H.B. will temporarily carry out the duties of R.S.M.

A further Board of Enquiry into shortages was appointed today consisting of Major J.H. Bisdee V.C. (chair) Lt.s A Dobson & G.M Brown.

Wednesday 1 March 1916

I have developed mumps proper this morning. Went to doctor at 7am and have to leave for hospital at tea. Went down in Red Cross car to the 4 Aux Abbassia old artillery barracks, stripped off all clothing for fumigation. Was given pyjamas, 3 other fellows went with me, also 2 NZ fellows with measles. Went to No 6 ward (Perth) Sister Simpson is in charge, a very nice woman. Colless, Dodd, Gleeson and Stafford are here with mumps. They came to see me. Temperature 99 odd points, had lunch before I went to bed.

Thursday 2 March 1916

My jaws are very sore today. Moorhead came round to see me. He has the mumps in No 3 ward. Chicken and custard diet.

Friday 3 March 1916

Chicken and custard for dinner, chicken broth and porridge for breakfast, 98 degrees this morning. Colless and Gleeson out of hospital today.

Saturday 4 March 1916

Much better today, swelling is going down on both sides, more especially the left. I managed to eat an orange, I had a couple yesterday and they cut the mouth out of me. Stafford went out today.

Sunday 5 March 1916

Had great sleep last night but chilly this morning. Sister Simpson had today off and another took her place. Latcham happened along tonight with a very big jaw. He is not much class.

Monday 6 March 1916

A snifter sister was in the ward yesterday but Sister Simpson returned today. The other is very fair and nice. Chicken and custard for dinner. This is a lazy life here. A great many more fellows were cleared out today.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

The following order re: organization is issued from Headquarters, Somalia.

Memo No 22 dated 4/3/16 "The 4th 11th & 12th Regiments (less attached Squadrons) will be attached as additional Regiments to L.H. Bdes, 4th Reg to 1st L.H. Bde, 11th Reg to 3rd L.H. Bde and 12th L.H. Reg to 2nd Bde.

Tuesday 7 March 1916

Weather is getting warmer. Eason of 4th Troop came in yesterday with mumps, glands in my throat swollen today. My right side is better. Wrote to Mother.

Wednesday 8 March 1916

I felt much better today so I was sent down to annex camp to finish time. We should do 21 days but it has been cut down to 9, so as to clear the camps out. It was very interesting watching the Gypos drill, their officers knock them out shocking, even to kicking them.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

The following order appeared today "Extract from G.O. 1/3/16 List No 33"

Colonel J.R. Royston C.M.G – D.S.O to command 12th L.H. Regiment. Dated 22/2/16

The following Officers are placed on the Supernumerary list under the provisions of Para 3A of rules governing the promotion of Officers. Dated 1/3/16. Major P.A. Chambers and Lieut E.A. Ralston.

Thursday 9 March 1916

Crawled back to my old bunch last night. They are going to change it into a fever ward. Got up early and reported back to annex camp for roll call. The doctor passed me for discharge tomorrow. I was paid 10/- also today. Picket officer shot a chap dead in camp yesterday.

Friday 10 March 1916

Slept at annex last night, had a very lazy morning. Went to Gypo barracks at 2.45, fell in and got on clothes. Moorhead and I cleared out without our escort. We had dinner in Heliopolis then returned to camp. I reported at regimental orderly room. The boys all welcomed me back. Latcham also got out today.

Saturday 11 March 1916

Pretty cold last night. The parades have been changed since I went away. No early morning physical jerks now, but clean up lines, have breakfast and go on parade at 8. Come in at ten, dinner then go out again at 3 till five o'clock. We aired our blankets and took down tents. 2 o'clock we have an adjustment parade. I went to Cairo and got some photos then returned to camp for tea.

Sunday 12 March 1916

Had church parade this morning. I then cleared off to Cairo, had tea at the Petrograd and went to the Kersaal, met Higgins and we poked about town till 10 o'clock. Made arrangements for Wednesday.

Monday 13 March 1916

Had a regimental parade today. These fellows of mine do good work. Murphy takes troop leader and I go right serafile and Chunder Loo takes left serafile. Stay in camp at night.

Tuesday 14 March 1916

Had a warm day of it. The OC had us riding round the desert in regimental drill. Had a smoke then some more then drill, then some more, then smoko then some more, then discharge then tea then I went to Heliopolis with Joe Cameron.

Wednesday 15 March 1916

Had a bit of regimental drill today. Put in a pass for the afternoon. Wilson, Hollingworth and I went to Bulac, met Higgins there, had a time of it at the Club. Had dinner at the Petrograd then went down to the Muski, then round to the National and spent the evening there. Afterwards had supper at the Belgian Café and returned home. We had a snifter time. I drank wine all the time.

Thursday 16 March 1916

Had a march past today, the boys march very well, then we went for a big route march right round Heliopolis with band playing, also signallers and all the details. Very sore footed when we returned. Went on parade again at 3.30. Had a rifle instruction under Chunder Loo. Remained in camp tonight. 10 more men were put in the troop today.

Friday 17 March 1916 (St Patrick Day)

No shamrock today. We had a regimental march past and a big of messing about and a route march. I came out in orders as a full corporal of 2nd troop today. Chunder Loo (Harrison) beat me for the lance sergeant's job. In the afternoon we had a mess around, everybody seems to be tired of Egypt, officers and all.

Saturday 18 March 1916

Had a bit of squadron drill this morning then done nothing else all day. Heliopolis was put out of bounds till 4 o'clock so I stayed in camp. Sent a letter to Mother.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Musketry Exercises were commenced today.

Sunday 19 March 1916

Went on church parade, Rev Finigan preached. Sgt Murphy and I went out to the Barage in the afternoon and had a good time. Abbott was with us. We afterwards met Sergeants Kerr and Williamson and had a good time. Had tea at the Petrograd and kicked up a noise and went home.

Monday 20 March 1916

Lieu Brennan of 6th LH reported here for duty this morning. He is a big fellow and was a corporal in that regiment, he gets our troop. Lieu Brown went to C Squadron. Went shooting today and I got 80 out of a possible 90. Stayed in camp at night.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Lieut. W. Brennan reported for duty from the 6th L.H. Details, today.

Musketry Exercises continued today.

Tuesday 21 March 1916

Went out shooting again this morning at 200 and 300 yards range. Did bad work this morning. 40 points all told and 80 yesterday out of 90, 120 points altogether. Came in and done a bit of troop drill under Lieu Brennan, stayed in camp at night.

Wednesday 22 March 1916

Getting very hot. Lieutenant Brennan took us out into the desert and Sergeant Harrison gave us distance judging. Had a smoke and came back. Afternoon got paid £3 and went to Cairo. Had a night out with Rowbottom and Brown and Wilson. Got back to camp 9pm.

Thursday 23 March 1916

Had a pleasant morning on range finding under Harrison and Lieu Plunkett. We were at the same game in the afternoon. This is a terrible lazy monotonous life one will be fit for nothing when the war is over.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Extract from A.I.F. Appointments list 40:- No453 S.S.M. Fletcher to be R.S.M. W.O. class 1 dated 22/2/16

A Board was appointed today to again investigate shortages, comprising Major Bisdee J.H. V.C. (Chairman), Lieut G.M. Brown and an officer from Details.

Colonel J.R. Royston CMG DSO, Lieut E Hyman and Lieut E.H. Cross proceeded to SERAPEUM today on Regimental business.

Friday 24 March 1916

Regimental drill, the old colonel shines on such occasions as these, galloping madly about yelling to the boys to keep their heads up. Weather is getting very hot. Wasted more time in the afternoon.

Saturday 25 March 1916

Had a lazy morning. We pulled down tents for an airing afterwards. Went to Cairo with Digby, had dinner at the Petrograd then went out to Citadel then to Moskey district among the Arabs then Cape Francaise then to National Hotel then to Gezira, then home. Had a good day.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Major D. Cameron returned from Hospital today

Colonel J.R. Royston, Lieut Hyman and Lt. Cross returned from SERAPEUM today.

Sunday 26 March 1916

Went to church in the mess room in the morning, the Rev Finnigan officiated then went to town with Dad Murphy. Had dinner at the Urquel, visited the Moskey district. Met a native captain who went with us. Afterwards dined at the Petrograd. Went home early.

Monday 27 March 1916

Went out to the butts again today and finished firing my grand total amounted 165 out of some 200. Crack shot. We got back at dinner, did a lazy parade in the afternoon.

Tuesday 28 March 1916

Had a parade in the morning, done a few wheels and messed around. Had another parade in the afternoon and again killed time. Went down to Luna Park hospital at night with Bull, Abbott and Rowbottom.

Wednesday 29 March 1916

Had a morning parade and a bit of squadron drill. I got a pass from 10 and went to the base pay office but had no luck. Very hot day. I wrote 3 letters home from the Esbekill Gardens. Went to the Cosinograph at night and returned home 9.30.

Thursday 30 March 1916

Regimental march past and route march to Heliopolis. The people came out to see these marches. Our fellows march very well. Afternoon march on to parade ground then watch the boys ride our new mules. 70 head came yesterday. Stay in camp at night.

Friday 31 March 1916

General parade and march past then we had a regimental route march through Heliopolis. After lunch we done nothing. Marched on to parade ground and watched men ride mules which was very amusing. At night we had a pretty good concert in the mess shed.

Saturday 1 April 1916

Two of our details went away today to join the artillery at Tel el Kebir. We are cut out of details now. So if no more come, it seems that we will be short if we get into action. We downed tents today, adjutant's parade in the afternoon. Done nothing more. Stayed in camp at night.

Sunday 2 April 1916

Had a church parade at ten o'clock. I went to town in the afternoon and had tea at the Petrograd, then went to the Empire Cinema then went home and heard A Squadron was under marching orders for picket duty at Kase el Nil barracks.

Monday 3 April 1916

Up early and packed up our kits and got on the train at 7 o'clock and left for Kase el Nil barracks. We are to do picket work for some time, only A Squadron went with a few B Squadron. March out from the train terminus, got out early then our pickets were told off. I was given 11 men for the Continental and Shepherds Hotel pickets to kept common soldiers away from the headquarters. Don't do anything more.

Tuesday 4 April 1916

Took my picket away at 9.15, 11 men. Posted 7 at Continental and took 4 to Shepherds Hotel. We were relieved at 2pm. Went home then spent the evening around the barracks.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

The 12th L.H. Reinforcements entrained at HELWIAH SIDING today for TEL-EL KEBIR. They moved in their entirety, taking all Tents, Camp equipment, Kit etc.

Wednesday 5 April 1916

Up at 6.30, away at 9.15 with 11 men. Dropped 7 men at Continental and took 4 to Shepherds. Had nothing to eat till 4, had a lot of trouble to get it. New arrangements have been made at 5. We went to soldiers home. I got paid 250 piastres when we got there, then marched home. Went out

at night, had tea at Anzac Hostel. Had a shave etc. Went to Empire Cinema. Met Percy Higgins today.

Thursday 6 April 1916

Up at 7 this morning, had breakfast at 8. Marched on at 9.15 with 11 men for duty. Put Conway and 6 men on the Continental Hotel, then went on to Shepheards with the other 4, Bone, Carberry, Fleet, McColl. This is the third day with the same men. We had dinner today Major Moray arranged for it. We were relieved at 5pm and went round to the Anzac Hostel and had tea then went back to barracks.

Friday 7 April 1916

Still at Shepheards. We found out that the officer's tariff is 10/- per day. By gosh a lot of Tommies hang round here. Lieu Menzes of Glen Innes was at the hotel today. This is a really fine place, second only to the Savoy, now used as a military base.

Note. Although they could attend the racetrack at Gezira, the men in the ranks were banned from the tennis courts and wicker chairs on the lawns of the smarter clubs around the main clubhouse or the Turf Club. Many Australians thought they had the right to drink or eat in the same venues as officers. However, military administrators stopped all lower ranks entering them and the Long Bar at Shepheard's Hotel, along with the dining room and the Hotel Continental. Shepheard's was the giddy centre of social life. Most other hotels were rented out as army office headquarters. However, some of the men who had been banned from the smart venues earlier could now enter, as they had risen in rank. The high death and casualty rate at Gallipoli had caused an acute shortage of officers, so troopers and lance corporals were among the new promotions.

Saturday 8 April 1916

The Germans are still hammering at Ferdan. One of our chaps heard from his brother today in France with the 2nd Division is camped 11 miles outside Paris. Had a busy day at Shepheards. Knocked about town with Abbott and Bull.

Sunday 9 April 1916

Had a change of picket today with me. Hillary, Brown, Lambert and Quintan were with me. Had an excellent day. Were relieved at 5. The Duke of Westminster called today. General Spence's wife and daughter are still here at Shepheards.

Monday 10 April 1916

Bone, McColl and Fleet were with me again today on Shepheards. This is a very tired job. Stayed in camp tonight. Friday and I went to Gezira tonight and had the adventure. Not tomorrow night.

Tuesday 11 April 1916

Had a quiet day at Shepheards. Had a good dinner there. Bone, McColl, Carberry and Fleet were with me. Fred Day and I went Gezira. Had an adventure with 2 Italians and a couple of Jewess's. Nosed round town. Went to bed early.

Wednesday 12 April 1916

Lost my old picket today, they were sent back to camp at Heliopolis and I was given 20 men on the Clot Bey job. Went out with Lieu Ralston at 45 past one. A bitch of a job, relieved at 7. We were patrolling the waste area all the time. I will try and swap tomorrow this picket, is all 11th men.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Colonel J.R. Royston CMG DSO took over command today of the Troops remaining in the Camps at present under the Commandant "Combined Training & General Base Depot", HELIOPOLIS

Thursday 13 April 1916

I took over the Shepherds and Continental picket again today. The one I was on yesterday was no good to me among the stinks and Wasser areas. I have a new lot of men belonging to the 11th Regiment. With Lieu Hoffman 12th. I went on to the Continental. Got off at 5. Knocked round town at night, had tea at the Anzac Hostel.

Friday 14 April 1916

Continental picket. Went out with 12 men, relieved at 5. Night, Nosworth and Hoffman and I took a run up the Nile in a gharri to a native village.

Saturday 15 April 1916

The same thing. Got a lot of letters and papers from home today. Still on Continental. Night poke round and do nothing. This is a very lazy life.

Sunday 16 April 1916

Very busy day at Hotel. Officers were busy running in and out all day. Flash prostitutes flittered around like sunbeams. Karnaghan, Rowbottom and I went round town, had a good tea at Saults.

Monday 17 April 1916

From 8 to 10 funerals pass by the Continental every day, native funerals. I heard small pox has broken out there. The big Verdun fight still goes on in France. Heard today that 900 Australians were killed in France. Relieved 5pm. Nosworth and Hoffman and I rode donkeys over to Gezira and round to barracks again via Abhas 2 bridge.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

2nd Lieut R. Plunkett to be Lieutenant as from 1/4/16

Tuesday 18 April 1916

The usual thing on Continental. Saw a Holy man's funeral today, no lid on coffin because he was supposed to kick it off when he was buried. Night take a walk round the news shops for military books.

Wednesday 19 April 1916

The usual thing, mounted guard 10 o'clock on Continental Hotel. Lieu Fetherstonhaugh happened along also Lieu Brennan. Relieved 5pm. Went out to Heliopolis at night. Got a special pass from Major Wesforth. Went out to the camp, saw several of the chaps, returned to Cairo. Met Coz and his brother. Went to Kersaal then to Anzac Hostel for tea. Went to bed 12.15.

Thursday 20 April 1916

Saw a native police funeral yesterday. Word came through that Trebezond had fallen yesterday in Asia Minor. We had a peaceful day at the Continental. At night I buzzed round town. Had a stroll round town for a little way over at Gezira etc.

Friday 21 April 1916 (Good Friday)

We returned to Heliopolis today. I arranged my old pickets and sent them away. We got away at midday for camp. I did nothing for the rest of the day. Got several letters from home. I sent a cable home saying I was well and our whereabouts. We had mounted drill in the afternoon.

Saturday 22 April 1916

I had a very nice day on mounted drill. I had the troop to myself. The 4th Troop was added then Sgt Williamson took it. We had a pleasant day at the horse drill. At night I stayed in camp.

Sunday 23 April 1916

Easter Sunday in the desert, so we formed a service with the 11th in church parade. I lazed down in camp all day till night. When Bull and Digby and I went to the Empire Club and wrote letters and listened to a cracked gramophone. Had a couple of beers.

Monday 24 April 1916

I done a bit of mounted drill till dinner time then I was packed off to the number 3 Aux Hospital to picket it with 6 men. 10 men were sent down later on and we took over from the 4th Light Horse Regiment. We relieved them at 2 o'clock. The 4th L H Victorians leave for Tel el Kebir tomorrow and we should follow next day. A very hot day, this is a snifter job.

12th Light Horse Regiment – 2nd OASIS CAMP, HELIOPOLIS

Marching out Orders were received today, to leave Camp on the morning of the 26th and entrain for TEL-EL KEBIR.

Tuesday 25 April 1916

The 11th L H went to Tel el Kebir today. I had a snifter sleep in a snifter bed, mattress and etc on a cane bed. Up at 5, and fixed all the sentries. Had breakfast, this No 3 Auxiliary Hospital is a fine place. Roasting hot today. I got a temporary stopping in my front teeth by S SM McGrath a dentist who knew Donoghue of Tenterfield. We were relieved by the Remount Depot fellows at 2 o'clock and marched back to camp. Got there at 3, dismissed, had a bath. Night went to Heliopolis with B Bone. Had bulldog haircut and a shave and a beer or two and returned to camp.

Wednesday 26 April 1916

Terrible hot day. Out of bed early and got away with the mounted party for Helmieh, put our horses and kit on the train and A Squadron machine gun and transport went by our train, B and C went by a later train. We got to Tel el Kebir at one, untrucked and saddled up and rode out to camp. Wasted a lot of time, then we put down the horse lines. Got our horses watered, fed and tethered. Had biscuits and bully beef for tea then sat down in the dirt for the night after a row over the guard and pickets.

12th Light Horse Regiment

Today all moved out from No 2 OASIS CAMP, in parties, and entrained at HELWIAH for TEL-EL KEBIR.

No 1 Party comprised Lieut Lowing and 30 other Ranks and this party moved ahead as an advance party.

No 2 Party consisted of 10 Officers, 200 O/Ranks and 120 Animals. This party marched out of Camp at 0730. Major Stuart Moray was in charge.

No 3 Party consisted of 10 Officers, 235 O/Ranks and 169 Animals. This party marched out of Camp at 1000. Colonel J.R. Royston CMG DSO was in charge.

Total number that marched out of 2nd OASIS CAMP was: 21 Officers, 465 O/Ranks and 289 Animals.

At about 2000 All had arrived at the allotted Camp TEL-EL KEBIR.

Thursday 27 April 1916

Got up out of bed before reveille, secured 6 men and went on guard on the water supply. Also to watch the kits that were plunked down too far away from where the camp is to be. We had a lazy day while the rest of the boys rigged up the tents. Went off at 5 o'clock. We have a good camp, much like the site we occupied at Lemnos, just near the old battlefield of Tel el Kebir. The old gun emplacements are still here and plenty of old cartridges about. My horse was badly kicked today. 17 men were buried today of the infantry, ptomaine poisoning. A lot of rumours are afloat today about the Turks on the canal, a lot of our fellows were captured also New Zealanders. A little cemetery is near the line where men killed 30 years ago were buried.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

The day was fully occupied in arranging and erecting New Camp.

Friday 28 April 1916

Sgt Murphy screwed his knee again the other day and is rendered hors de combat. Poor old chap I think he will be spoilt for mounted work. He will go to hospital I think. We had fatigues most of day, watering horses and fixing up camps.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

Sergt Murray W.J. was promoted Squadron Sergt Major vice S.S.M. Fletcher H.B. promoted.

Saturday 29 April 1916

Nothing doing today a bit of parade in the morning, watering and feeding horses. Afternoon the men of the 12th played our officers at cricket and walloped them. Tibby Cotter got over his century. George Francis machine gunner bowled the officers all out. Major Moray was funny. They shouted us beer all round at night.

Sunday 30 April 1916

We had a big brigade parade today and General Murray the GOC inspected us. They are hard cases these heads, fat podgy ugly little men, put one in mind of a beer cask. There was a whole swarm of satellites who looked at us like owls. Campbell and I went down to the village at night.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

The General Officer commanding 2nd Anzac Mounted Division, inspected all Australian and New Zealand Troops today.

Monday 1 May 1916

Dismounted parade, I had my horse coupled up and therefore have to go on foot drill. Have a lazy time, play cards at night.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

All permission to visit Native Villages around TEL-EL KEBIR is cancelled

Tuesday 2 May 1916

Hot and windy. I was on dismounted parade, done a bit of troop drill and rifle exercises. Afternoon took dismounted men into the desert and smoked the time away. Billy Brown and I went to the village. Sgt Murphy went to hospital today in camp.

Wednesday 3 May 1916

Windy and dusty. I took the mornings dismounted parade as we were duty squadron. We fixed up all fatigues. In the afternoon we had regimental drill, mounted and dismounted attack and retreat. I rode Major Moray's horse. This is a snifter place for army manoeuvres. 20 went from A Squadron, bought on camp patrol. We were paid tonight 150 pil.

Thursday 4 May 1916

4 of us quaffed 9 bottles of beer last night. No wind today, much hotter. Done nothing this morning, fixed up morning parade. Watered horses and dampened down the lines. Had a bath in a canvas bucket. Word came through about Townsend's surrender. Sgt Murphy left Tel el Kebir today for Heliopolis to under go an operation. We are making up a subscription for him. I gave 10/-.

Friday 5 May 1916

Had a bit of a parade this morning. During the afternoon we were inoculated for typhoid, a double dose, it gave me slops. I mounted main guard as sergeant of guard at 5 with a corporal and 18 men. The first time I have acted sergeant of main camp guard. Took the shifts till midnight. Hoffman done the other. The fix bayonets in the afternoon was rotten.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

Lieutenant Toomey proceeded to CAIRO today on duty. Lieutenant Ralston is acting Quartermaster.

Saturday 6 May 1916

Up at reveille and called out the guard then posted the 7 o'clock relief. Had a hot day, was not very well today owing to the typhoid inoculation that was pumped into me. The colonel visited us at 11am. We were relieved at 5pm by B Squadron.

Sunday 7 May 1916

Had a pleasant morning sitting in the dirt, sweating and listening to Padre Finnigan preaching on moral and physical strength. In the afternoon I was vaccinated again for the second time, small pox has broken out in camp. Got a glass put in my watch tonight.

Monday 8 May 1916

Up very early and reported at orderly room at reveille. I had an easy cool day while the boys were busy perspiring over the desert. I went off at ten at night. I heard today that Sgt Murphy is to be sent back to Australia.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

Colonel Royston today lined all Ranks up and thanked them for the loyalty and support given him in carrying out the work of the Regiment. Colonel Royston further stated that the Regiment had been complimented on the manner in which the duty – “as Cairo Town Piquet” had been carried out.

Tuesday 9 May 1916

Up before reveille and reported to orderly room and handed orders over to relieving corporal. Done nothing more till 9 o'clock, had charge of 2 troops on foot. Acted as main body advancing with a great mounted screen around us. The colonel was funny. Afternoon had some men and advanced on a position with a screen of light horse mounted. A Squadron mounted patrol at Tel el Kebir tonight for 24 hours.

Wednesday 10 May 1916

Orders were read this morning that A and B Squadrons were to hold themselves in readiness to proceed to the canal zone for action. We done a little field work. The patrol returned at 6 o'clock from Tel et Kebir. Digby, Bull and I went down to Tel et Kebir at night.

Thursday 11 May 1916

Orders done, little or nothing today. Had a bit of a parade, had a kit inspection. After dinner had tea at canteen with Bull. The Colonel made a great speech to us this morning. We were in mass formation.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

CAIRO and the Neighbourhood, also ALEXANDRIA, are placed out of Bounds from 7 am on the 14th May to Midday on the 21st May, with the object of assisting the police to unearth deserters.

Friday 12 May 1916

A sergeant's job. Posted today as Sergeant to 2nd Troop in orders. Went out with dismounted parade under Lieu Lowing. Marched over to Arabic Pasha's redoubt. Very hot, some big gun head came along and inspected our horses today. Done nothing more today. Word came along that we were to be on the train at 1 o'clock on Sunday.

Saturday 13 May 1916

Cleaned up the lines. Went to sergeant's mess for first time this morning. No parades today only watering horses and getting ready for the road. Rolls etc are fixed up, sections of men etc. Went to bed early. Got my kit bag pack for the new trip.

Sunday 14 May 1916

Had a church parade. Up at 4, downed tents and put them on the transports by 8. These were put on the train. We marched out of camp at midday, 2 Squadrons A and B. It was a terrible hot day. We got to Kantara by dark. We chucked all the stuff off and I was left to guard it with 2 corporals and 18 men. The rest of the men crossed the canal after dark. Kantara is a very big base and the

canal is a very fine work. Several big boats passed during the night. We camped right on the platform. I got to sleep at midnight. After a long hot day, the canal is well fortified.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

A and B Squadrons, the Machine Gun Section and portion of the Transport marched out to KANTARA today. Col. J.R. Royston in charge.

The balance of the Regiment remained in Camp at TEL-EL KEBIR, Major D Cameron remaining in charge.

All Horses, with the exception of 13 were left at TEL EL KEBIR, The Transport took their mules to KANTARA.

Major McIntosh remained at TEL-EL KEBIR, on account of a Court Martial base, at which he was Chairman.

12th Light Horse Regiment – KANTARA

A rough Camp was pitched at Swing Bridge, KANTARA. All hands appreciated a swim in the Suez Canal.

Monday 15 May 1916

Heard big guns booming in the distance today, another very hot day. I was up early and chewed a biscuit and had a drop of tea. A fatigue party came along and shifted all the stuff. We crossed the canal on a punt and marched out and got on a train with the rest of the boys. We left for the east. Went as far as Hill 70 where a great block house and entanglements are erected. It was our advance a week or two ago. The Germans got cut up last week. It is a terrible wilderness. We erected our tents. A water pipe runs right out here from el Kantara, 7 miles. We go on to the new post in a day or two.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

Today the Regiment moved from KANTARA to DUEIDAR, taking 11 horses. The Transport remained behind at KANTARA.

On arriving at DUEIDAR, the Regiment relieved the Royal Scots Fusiliers. DUEIDAR CAMP was found to be a good Camp, situated about 3 miles from GILBAN SIDING. The Camp was well hidden from view, and many Date Palm Trees afforded good shades. The 5th Light Horse Regiment occupied portion of the Camp, and they were utilised as scouts and Patrols, whilst the 12th L.H. Reg. manned the Redoubts.

Duties at DUEIDAR principally comprised manning Redoubts and general guard work.

Tuesday 16 May 1916

A terrible hot day. We done nothing today only lay with our mouths open waiting for further orders, but none came. At night Abbott and I bought a bucket of beer at 5 pence per pint and had a good drink. Had a second night at Hill 70, a very strong position.

Wednesday 17 May 1916

Orders came last night to move 7 miles further out to an oasis called Dewbah. Where the Warwicks got cut up on Good Friday. The 5th LH are now there having gone to the others help but failed to catch the Turks who were on galloping camels. They attacked at 4 in the morning and kept on till

2pm, then cleared out. We cleared our camp and got everything packed on to a huge mob of camels by midnight. We slept a bit longer and cleared out on our desert march at 3 am in the morning. Got boxed on the route and lost time. Got into camp by 8 o'clock at night. I went on patrol on number 3 outpost with Brown and Cornerford.

Thursday 18 May 1916

Up at 3.35am and returned to camp for breakfast. Rested all day till 2pm then went to work on the number 3 redoubt. At night we went into reserve on number one redoubt where the main attack took place on Good Friday. We heard tonight that there maybe an attack at any minute. We got 2 machine guns on the go and every man got into the redoubts as reserves. Water and provisions was brought in before midnight. So I went to sleep waiting for what may happen.

Friday 19 May 1916

Up out of very sandy bed at 3.35, all is quiet. Most of us remained and worked and strengthened our number one redoubt till 8, then returned to camp and had breakfast. Sgt Harrison and I took a walk over the field of attack by the Turks on Good Friday when the Tommies lost 20 men and killed 70 Turks and 2 German officers. They advanced with ½ chain of wire entanglements in fact some got right there. They shot 70 odd of our camels of the Indian Corps. I got some relics of the fight. We anticipate another attack any day. We have here the 5th LH and 2 squadrons of our own 12th while the 1st did some New Zealanders over 8 miles away at the railhead and there is plenty men at Hill 70. 8 or 9 thousand Turks were sighted yesterday, about 40 miles east of here. We may have a go at any minute. I went onto duty at 6.30 for 24 hours on number one redoubt.

Saturday 20 May 1916

Up at 3.30, very sleepy. We expected an attack last night. I was orderly sergeant from 11.30 to 1.30 in the morning. It was a beautiful moonlight night. We had plenty of men and ammunition and 2 machine guns on number 1 redoubt. I remained on duty all day with 7 men and also Lieu Lindeman of B Squadron. We were relieved at 7 o'clock for the night party. I remained in camp for the night. We have had a lot of trouble to get good water and food and the stench about at times is most unpleasant from dead camels.

Sunday 21 May 1916

Had a night in camp last night. Up at 3.30 this morning for stand to arms but no Turks came up. Had cup of early tea then some breakfast then had a look round to south of oasis. I saw the dead camels the Turks shot for us between 70 and 80. Saw the graves of a lot of Turks. I wrote 2 letters, one to Mother and one to Ethel B. At night, I went on duty with Sergeant Mulford on number one redoubt and was told off for outpost duty on the west of number one redoubt with 3 men Wilson, Williams and Gleeson.

Monday 22 May 1916

I got out at 2am and went on a shift. The field officers visited me at 2.30, a captain of the 5th LH. I challenged him, returned to number 1 redoubt at daylight and done a bit of work. At 7.30 went to camp for breakfast. A canteen was opened today for the use of our 2 squadrons, out of regimental finds. Sgt Harrison and I then went to number 1 redoubt for 24 hours. I took the balance of our troop to number 2 as reserves. We put our rifles to the loop holes ready for business and slept near by.

Tuesday 23 May 1916

Up at 3.30 for stand to arms and got to our allotted places. Suspects were reported during the night near the wire entanglements but nothing happened. Sgt Williamson sent out a patrol of 6 to

reconnoitre. We waited till daylight then went to work on the new redoubt north of number 3 and put in good work. Returned at 8 for breakfast then fixed up the duty roster for the day. I have to go to number 1 redoubt tonight with 2 corporals and 8 men. Sergeant Harrison has been in the number one redoubt for 24 hours. Comes off at 7 with 8 men. I got 6 letters from home today.

Wednesday 24 May 1916 (Empire Day)

Harrison was away to Tel el Kebir today and Mr Brennan went to hospital with his eyes. Hollingworth done the day duty in the redoubt and I looked after the troop and went on to duty at night on number 2 redoubt.

Thursday 25 May 1916

Harrison was on number 1 redoubt all day. I came off after 'all clear' came through. Fixed up the roster etc, issued tucker. At four in afternoon took a big party over to number 6 redoubt and done 2 hours work on it under Lieu Hampton, then returned for tea and went on duty on number 1 redoubt. This redoubt is now run exclusively by 2nd Troop.

Friday 26 May 1916

Took my first lessons on machine gun today with Lloyd. Stood to arms quarter to 4, roused all the men. When clear signal came, Sgt Harrison took all the men, save 7 and myself away to camp. I remained all day as observers. Some of the heads visited the camp today. A wireless plant was put up today over number 1 redoubt. Lieu Brennan and Captain Fetherstonhaugh were the officers on duty on our post tonight. I was relieved at 6.30. Went home for tea then returned to my post. Remained on duty till quarter to 11 at night then returned. Hollingworth took second shift, Harrison third.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

The following promotions appeared in Divisional orders today.

No 53. To be Lieutenants.

2nd Lieut Brown M.A. dated 29.8.15

2nd Lieut Brennan W.K. dated 22.2.16

2nd Lieut Brown G.M. dated 22.2.16

2nd Lieut Cross E.H. dated 22.2.16

2nd Lieut Linderman R.W. dated 22.2.16

Saturday 27 May 1916

Stood to arms quarter to four. Waited till the all clear signal came through from Hill 383 then left the redoubt for the camp. Sgt Harrison and 7 men remained all day for observers. Tobacco issue today, I took 20 men up to number 5 redoubt and put up barbed wire entanglements at night. I went as second sergeant in charge of number 1 redoubt. Captain McKell was in charge. Lieu Hyman was machine gun officer.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

Hon Lieut Toomey R.F. to be Hon Capt and Q.M.

Sunday 28 May 1916

I wrote 3 letters home today, one to Mother, Lima and Hilda. I done last shift this morning. I was up at 1.30am relieving Cpl Sweeny. We stood to arms at ¼ to 4, I raised the lads, all clear came through late. Sweeny and 7 men remained as observers. I had charge of a working party of 30 men rebuilding the front parapet of number 1 redoubt. This was in the afternoon. At night Captain

McKell had charge of redoubt. Lieu Hyman had charge of machine guns 2. I was the only sergeant present.

Monday 29 May 1916

Drew a plan of Number 1 redoubt today. Up at 25 minutes to 2, done my shift and hoisted the men to arms at 3.35. Went off to camp at stand clear, left 8 men behind with Sweeny to work till 8 putting in a machine gun emplacement. Captain McKell was my officer for the night. I was the only sergeant and had 7 corporals loaf about all day. Coy and I had a rough up in the camp at 6.30. I took over the duties of reg orderly sergeant from Sergeant Harrison. Put lights out at 8. I have the night in camp. Some officers belonging to the 154 Highland Light Infantry from Scotland are here. They will relieve us this week. We return to Hill 70.

Tuesday 30 May 1916

Up at 3am and roused the sleeping camp, dug the colonel up last of all. Had fun getting the cooks out, they were going to give their blankets in as they considered they had no use for them. Had breakfast at 8, I went back to bed again after stand clear at 4.30 this morning. I had the lines cleaned up at night. Went on to duty again on number one redoubt, first shift. Sweeny forgot to wake up. The 5th L H Regiment went away tonight to form up with 1st L H Brigade to have a go at some Turks.

Wednesday 31 May 1916

Up at 3.30 at stand to arms. I kept 7 men behind for day duty and remained with them. Johnny Kneipp of Tenterfield came up to the trenches to see me also I met Captain Ferguson of the 6th. They returned to Hill 70 at night. When the 5th L H returned at night, they ran into the wireless plant and knocked it down. They never met any Turks but the New Zealanders who worked in company with the 1st LH brigade got on to some and killed 15 and took some prisoners and machine guns. I went off duty at 10 after posting 2 shifts.

Thursday 1 June 1916

Up at 3.30 and stand camp to arms. Set a working party to work. Sgt Day came over from number 2 with some men. A mob of Highland Light Infantry arrived this morning. We may go out any minute. In the afternoon the 2nd Squadron worked hard on number 7 redoubt. At night we went on duty on number 1 redoubt. I took the midnight shift. A Turk aeroplane attacked the 3rd LH at Romani this morning at 6.30 and dropped bombs from a great height, killing 8 men 2 officers and wounding 20. The horses stampeded in all directions, some of them even came here 7 miles away. One had a bullet wound in the rump. We heard the explosion.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

Major H. McIntosh evacuated to Hospital today.

Friday 2 June 1916

151 Highland Light Infantry, 52 Brigade relieved us. Sgt Harrison roused us to arms, but we could not get away for some time owing to the density of a fog around. This was just the same sort of morning that the Turks attacked last time. We got away after a time, rolled our blankets and put them on camels and got them away at 10am. The Scottish H L Infantry guard went over from our guard on the camp. We may leave this very pretty camp tonight. Bir el Dueidar is the best camp we ever had. We cleaned up and gave over to the Scottish at 2 then marched out and across the desert to Gilbane and got on the military train from Romani where the 3rd was knocked about to Kantara. Got in sundown, marched across the canal and about 2 miles south and camped. Very tired we were. Sgt Harrison boiled some tea. To bed at 9.30.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

The Regiment today handed over to the 6th Highland Light Infantry, and after marching to GILBAN SIDING entrained for KANTARA. They left the train at KANTARA EAST and marched to KANTARA WEST, where they rested for the night.

Saturday 3 June 1916

Up at 3 this morning, rolled up our blankets and marched back to Kantara. Got on a train very early and went to Tel el Kebir. Very tired when we got there. I noticed there was very few troops left here and I hope we are not very long here. We left Sgt Harrison and some men at Kantara to erect our new camp. I now have charge of the troop till we get back to Kantara, it is a very thankless game but never mind I can do it.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

This morning, after an apparently unnecessary march, the Regiment entrained for TEL-EL KEBIR.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR

The Regiment arrived at TEL-EL KEBIR at 1100 and marched straight to the Old Camping Ground, where the balance of the Regiment (C. Squadron) were. The Regiment was together again and complete, with the exception of the Transport (which remained at KANTARA).

The State marching in to TEL-EL KEBIR showed 16 Officers 314 O/Ranks.

Sunday 4 June 1916

A terrible day. We rested most of day but have to put up our tents in a gale of wind. Mine blew down on me. Got 2 letters from home. I drew 19 saddles for 19 men to go for horses at Belbas. Little could be done today, it was such a terrible day.

Monday 5 June 1916

A very hot day. We wasted the morning issuing saddlery then did not get it done. The colonel made another speech to NCO's about the gravity of their duties. At 3.15 we marched to railway station about 80 men from A and B Squadrons to go for horses, so away the steamer to Belbas via Zagazig. When we got there we discovered that we could not get them on account of shingles having broken out so we camped down where we could near a place around the railway station. It was very funny to see so many men in best of spirits, camping everywhere in the dirt.

Tuesday 6 June 1916

Got up from our tired bed after sunrise, it was funny to see so many men lazing about asleep in every corner and position. Officers also. We made tea. Hollingworth and I went for a walk down the village. I bought a bit of mungaree and cucumbers. A Squadron of the 12th and one squadron of the 11th caught a train at 9.15. We were shunted on to another train at Zagazig, waited here 2 hours and got to Tel el Kebir at 12.30. Marched back to camp, had dinner. The colonel made a speech. This same afternoon we got back to our horses and the other 2 squadrons also returned.

Wednesday 7 June 1916

Up early and called the roll at 6.30. I cleared off to town by the 7.15 train and done some business. Reniff, Elliss and Colonel Wells were with me. Had a good day. Was very busy, bought a pen, L & C's pipe and other things. Had dinner and tea at the Petrograd. I went out to Gezira for Plunkett's saddle. We took the 6.15 train home and had a rattling trip down to Tel el Kebir. Reniff had some

Dewar's so we were in good humour. Got in at 9 o'clock and was paid £4. Heard today that Kitchener had been lost in the North Sea.

Thursday 8 June 1916

Awakened at 2.30 this morning by Fitzpatrick who had drunk too much whiskey. He was roaring like mad at his tent. The adjutant came round and stuck him in the guard's tent. I got to sleep again, up at reveille and went for a morning gallop across the plains. It was a kind of drill of a sort. During the day we watered up and fed horses. My horse is right again. I made up some shortages for my troop. It is sadly all too true about Kitchener being lost in the North Sea. The Hampshire going to Russia was torpedoed or mined.

Friday 9 June 1916

I had a disgusting day, fixing up shortages for the troop and bagging saddles and kits for the troop. We are to go to Kantara tomorrow. We had a muster parade in the afternoon and 3rd Troop was commended as first for equipment, 2nd as second, 1st came third and 4th came fourth. My troop had a corporal minus his bayonet belt pouches. Judge and Casey and Williams were cut out today for details. Bull, Francis and Thompson were sent to other troops. Casey, Bull and Francis got drunk and missed parade and I had to run them up before the beak, they were remanded.

Saturday 10 June 1916

Reveille at 3 o'clock this morning, we had all the tents down at daylight and on the transports. We marched out a little later and down to the railway. We got on an open train of trucks and steamed off down to Kantara via Ismailia. Got there at 9, then we marched off out to camp, 2 miles south along the canal. Harrison had our camp ready and after a lot of messing about we got fixed up for the day. In the afternoon at 4 o'clock we had a swimming parade in the Suez Canal. It was delightful. Harrison had spent one whole week here preparing this camp, had horse lines and all put up. Harrison is known as Chunder Loo.

12th Light Horse Regiment – TEL-EL KEBIR / KANTARA

15 Officers and 338 Other Ranks marched out of TEL-EL KEBIR today. Arrived at KANTARA at 1400 and after disembarking from Train, all marched to SWING BRIDGE CAMP.

The balance of the Regiment (One Troop from each Squadron) remained with the horses at TEL-EL KEBIR CAMP.

The Regiment at KANTARA greatly appreciated the Canal and all hands could be seen enjoying a good salt water swim.

Sunday 11 June 1916

Taube killed 4 mules, 4 horses and wounded 3 ASC fellows today. The Taube was very high. We had a late reveille then an early swimming parade in the canal under Plunkett and Brennan. It was one of the finest times of my life and such fun we had swimming in the great canal. I intended to swim across but had not enough wind, returned home for breakfast. We are camped only ¼ of a mile from the canal, 2 miles south from Kantara. During the morning word came we had to root up camp and shift out to Bir el Dueidar at once. The place we occupied before. So at 2 o'clock we shifted camp and moved out. I had charge of a party to load A Squadron stuff. We crossed the canal by pontoon and camped with the shift at night. A Taube dropped some bombs on Kantara, we saw the whole affair today.

12th Light Horse Regiment – KANTARA

The Regiment marched from SWING BRIDGE CAMP to eastern side of Suez Canal this afternoon, and bivouacked Rail Terminus on Eastern Side of Canal.

KANTARA was bombed by a Taube plane today. In all about 10 bombs were dropped, about the vicinity of the KANTARA (WEST) RAILWAY STATION. Very little damage was done.

Monday 12 June 1916

Major Bruxner passed us yesterday as we were marching out to the desert railway. Out of bed at 2 o'clock this morning. I got my men to work and loaded all the A Squadron stuff on to 2 trucks. The regiment boarded the train shortly after and we steamed out to Gilbana at 3 o'clock just before daylight. My party unloaded our stuff there and put it on camels then followed the main body out to Bir el Dueidar and relieved the HLI, the fellows who relieved us some time ago. They were an easy lot of beggars. We took over the camp at 4 in the afternoon and 2nd Troop A Squadron, my troop took over No 1 redoubt again, though we nearly had No 7, the posts were slightly altered. McKell and Hyman of the gun section had a big row tonight.

12th Light Horse Regiment – KANTARA / DUEIDAR

The Regiment entrained at 0230 this morning for DUEIDAR.

Arrived at GILBAN SIDING at 0330. Camel Transport was waiting at GILBAN SIDING and after loading same, all marched to DUEIDAR and arrived at DUEIDAR CAMP at 0700. The marching in state showed 15 Officers, 356 Other Ranks.

Colonel J.R. Royston assumed command of DUEIDAR POST. The 5th Light Horse Regiment being centred at DUEIDAR CAMP also. The 12th Reg. relieved the Royal Scotch Fusiliers.

The duties allotted to the 12th Regiment were manning Redoubts etc. etc.

Tuesday 13 June 1916

Warm today. We stood to arms at 3.30, then took 14 men over to No 7 redoubt and done a bit of sand bagging. We discovered the HLI had done very little towards finishing the job on No 7. Come home at 7.30. Harrison was on duty at No 1 all day. Word came in today that enemy aircraft was travelling west, so we kept our eyes open. Word was posted today that over 20 German ships were lost in the fight off Jutland also that 12 men had been saved with a WO off the Hampshire when Kitchener went down. I had to appear again today over Francis and Bull, they were let off with a caution.

Wednesday 14 June 1916

Face of Baghdad. That Taube that flew over Kantara dropped bombs on Hill 70 and killed 4 men and 10 horses. Great news from Russia about a great Austrian depot and the face of Baghdad. Up at 3.30 to stand to arms. I do a 24 hour guard today on No 1. Lieu Plunkett visited us. We cleaned up the redoubt, the MGS rigged up our aerial gun for Taubes. Plunkett took our photos and the regimental was lined up for General Chauvel to inspect it. He made a speech of no importance. Happily I was off it. I am on duty again tonight.

Thursday 15 June 1916

Up at stand to arms at 3.30, general muster parade this afternoon. The OC Ryston gave us an address. He spoke about Hilliary (the man to be court martialled for being asleep on his post) and also rise 8 NCO's to officers. Over 100 men put in for jobs out of the 12th Regiment for the camel

corps. Today I put in for a lieutenant but don't expect any luck. There were 10 vacancies for commissions and several for NCO's.

Friday 16 June 1916

Heavy fog this morning. Mr Brennan was the officer on duty on number 1 redoubt. I stood the men to arms at 3.30. Started a digging party on a new telephone dug out. Had a good rest today. Wrote to Mother today. I have not been well since my return here. The doctor gave me some opium yesterday for belly ache. On duty again tonight. 3 niggers were run in today.

Saturday 17 June 1916

Up at 3.30 at stand to arms. I had a night in reserve last night, terribly foggy this morning so much so that we could not bring in our out posts. I afterwards got to work with a few men on the new telephone dug out, worked till 7.30 then had breakfast. Sgt Harrison was on 24 hours duty. Wrote to cousin Ethel this afternoon. The niggers started to build a railway from Gilbane to this spot today, a light line section to Hill 70. Reported out break of cholera today. Hillary is up again this afternoon for a third time. On duty again tonight, will be on for 24 hours.

Sunday 18 June 1916

Up at 3.30, on duty today in number 1 redoubt. 12 of our planes passed here this morning, travelling east. It was a great sight. They were away 2¼ hours then returned, passing by towards Kantara. We heard this afternoon that they destroyed 3 Taubes and the aerodrome belonging to the Turks up the coast a bit. Very hot today. There was a general parade in the camp. Colonel Ryrie addressed the 5th and 12th LH. He leaves for England. Col Royston our chap takes his place as brigadier. I am on duty again tonight. I took first shift between outposts 8 till 10. Sgt Coy relieved me.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

Brigadier General Ryrie visited DUEIDAR CAMP today. A General Parade of the 5th and 12th Light Horse Regiments took place.

General Ryrie made a lengthy speech and intimated his intention of going to England on a six weeks business trip and that Colonel Royston would assume command of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade in his absence.

Monday 19 June 1916

Up at 3.30 stood to arms till 4.30 then went down to camp. Had breakfast and a sleep, then the two regiments formed up in Hollow Square under Colonel Wilson of the 5th and Col Royston addressed us and said good bye. He goes to Hill 70 to take over the 2nd brigade while Ryrie is in England. Wrote to sister Amber and cousin Ethel today.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

Colonel J.R. Royston CMG DSO assumed Temporary Command of the 2nd Light Horse Brigade today, and moved to HILL 70.

Major H. McIntosh assumed temporary Command of the 12th Light Horse Regiment during the absence of Colonel Royston.

Tuesday 20 June 1916

Cpl Sweeny was on the job on No 1 today. A most unpleasant day. I got 2 lots of papers from home today. Went up to the redoubt at 6.30. I posted the outposts and then went in for the night.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

The 2nd L.H. Brigade moved from HILL 70 to EL-MALER today, the 5th and 12th Regiments remaining at DUEIDAR.

Wednesday 21 June 1916

Had a night in the reserves last night. Up at 3.30 and worked after all clear till 5, then marched down to camp. Sgt Harrison is on 24 hours today on No 1 redoubt. Had a fresh water bath today in a bucket as did Sgt Doner under a date palm. We then had a whiskey and a bottle of stout. I also had a fine nip of lime juice.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

A Taube Aeroplane hovered over Camp today, longer than usual, so all hands opened fire on same with Rifles & Machine Guns. The Taube eventually disappeared.

Thursday 22 June 1916

Up at 1.30 this morning and shifted a few sentries awaked the redoubt at 3.30. Had a tolerably lazy day. Went on to No 1 again at night. It is simply delightful sleeping in these sandy deserts at night, every night beautiful, save when a certain wind blows across from the dead camels.

Friday 23 June 1916

Up at 1.30 this morning, posted several sentries and at 3.30 stood the redoubt to arms and roared a few up for being undressed. Went down at stand clear to camp, had an easy day. Kept a few beers down. Slept during the afternoon. I am to go on as orderly regiment sergeant at 6.30 tonight. I reported to the field officer of the day, Captain Plant of the 5th LH. He shouted me a couple of beers. Made arrangement with the sentries to wake me at midnight. Word came through tonight that the Turks were evacuating our front at El a Ris, their great stronghold a few miles from here. That the Arabs north of us were in open revolt against Turkey, that the Austrians were asking for an armistice, that another great fight happened in the North Sea where by Britain lost 14 ships and the Germans 49 or 29.

Saturday 24 June 1916

The Australia is reported missing in the North Sea. The sentry woke me at quarter to 12 last night, so I went round to the 5th LH and woke Captain Plant. We got our horses and started on our grand rounds of the redoubts. He being field officer for the day and I reg orderly sgt. We visited first No 1 redoubt and its 3 listening posts, then 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th 6th and 7th. It took us till 2 to get home. I then went to bed and was awakened again at 3.30 to stand the camp to arms. The orderly troopers helped me at 4.30. We stood off. Reported that the Austrians lost 150,000 in their last fight with Russia. Went round the camp with Lieu Plunkett. Stopped some 2 up school. One fellow has made £50. Moore relieved me at 6.30.

Sunday 25 June 1916

Went into the trenches at night and done a bit of a shift on the early part of the night. Harrison done the 24 hour party and I carried on the camp, worried the men for night duty and took them up to the redoubt. Have the dog watch shift, 1.30 to stand to 3.30.

Monday 26 June 1916

Up at 3.30, had the last shift. No working party this morning. I go on with the 24 hours party in the trenches. Saw a big camel train today returning from Romani after taking the stuff belonging to the 6th and 7th LH out there. I saw the 6th and 7th regiments go out this morning to Romani. Our old

Colonel Royston took them out as Brigadier. We were relieved at 6.30. Dwyer and Baker of the machine gun sang corny songs during the afternoon in the redoubt. We also had races with crickets.

Tuesday 27 June 1916

Heavy dew this morning in fact it is always the same now. Our blankets are quite wet every morning. Up at 3.30, had a poor nights rest. Had a night in last night, first for 6 nights. Very hot today. We built a few loop holes for any emergency fire. Sent a card to Ethel. Had 3 whiskeys. Plunket's canteen was opened yesterday at prices 100% piled above the 5th prices. Had a night in tonight in reserves.

Wednesday 28 June 1916

Done the dog watch this morning, up again at 3.30. A heavy scotch mist lasted till very late. Had breakfast about 9.30. A Taube passed over in the direction of Hill 70, machine gun No 3 redoubt opened fire. She returned later and the greatest joke in my life happened, we expected to get a bomb from her but she never laid one. Hundreds of men scattered in all directions, 5 machine guns open fire on her at 6,000 feet and every soldier grabbed a horse and bolted into the desert and dismounted, took pot shots at her. It was just like a Gallipoli demonstration. Anyway he got away towards Romani, followed by our battle plane. We heard they had a fight and ours did not get the best of it. I also saw some bomb instruction today with the 5th. Night on duty again.

Thursday 29 June 1916

Up at 3.30 to stand to arms. Put up a few snipers holes on the parapet. Harrison is on 24 hour duty. Today I fix up the duties. We have great feeding this weather, bread and marmalade every meal. Saw a big bultine pass over today. Harrison orderly sgt tonight. Not on duty, Captain McKell was officer on redoubt. I was NCO in charge. Very heavy fog this morning.

Friday 30 June 1916

Had the dog watch this morning, midnight till 2. Up again 3.30 very foggy. Harrison is orderly sgt and Mr Brennan is orderly officer but came off duty at 6.30 this afternoon. I was in good order this afternoon, had 2 whiskeys. Night in tonight.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

With the exception of an odd visit from Taube planes there is no excitement in Camp whatever.

Saturday 1 July 1916

Had a night in last night. Up at 3.30, done nothing all day practically. Night went on to No one redoubt, took last shift. Lieu Brennan told us a lot of latrine yarns about our future. Anyway we expect to go away any day.

Sunday 2 July 1916

Had last shift this morning, up at 1.30 and sat by and shifted sentries till 3.30, then stood to arms. 4.30 we stood down and all hands cleaned up the redoubt. Sweeny is on duty for the day and we took an inventory of all ammunition in the redoubt and water and food. Had breakfast then played 500 all day with Williamson and Jones. Williamson jabbed me on the mouth and I had to go to the medical sgt for some iodine to put on it.

Monday 3 July 1916

Harrison is in the trenches today, the 5th LH returned today having captured 109 camels from the Turks and 5 Bedouins. An aeroplane helped them capture it. I photographed the camels for Harrison. On duty again tonight. I interviewed Colonel Wilson of the 5th for Captain McKell.

Tuesday 4 July 1916

Up at 3.30, I had a day in the trenches today. Nothing doing this life gets very stale. I am busy reading the "Deemster".

Wednesday 5 July 1916

Had a quiet day, had last shift this morning and long sought for mail came this afternoon. I got 4 letters from home and a paper dated 16 May.

Thursday 6 July 1916

Took last shift this morning. Stood camp to arms at 3.30. Another fog. Had a good bath and washed clothes. Went to 5th canteen and had a beer. Met Cpl Ken Kirkland, have not seen him for years. He told me of H Seabrook of Tenterfield last of 5th now of Cairo Base. Wrote to sister Amber and Major Bruxner at 6 LHR Camp Romani.

Friday 7 July 1916

Big mob of horses went down to Romani last night. I had second shift last night, up to 12 o'clock, afterwards was up at 3.30. Harrison is on six hours duty today. I wrote to Major Bruxner of Romani, also to Mother and Amber and Ethel. Had them censored and posted. Had second shift tonight.

Saturday 8 July 1916

Had a night in last night. Stood to arms at 3.30. I done a 24 hour job. Cpl Ken Kirkland came along with an officer of the 5th and measured all the redoubts. Lieu Brown M.A. was on anti aircraft duty.

Sunday 9 July 1916

Had dog watch this morning from 12 till 2. Stood arms at 3.30. Two of our officers went with a Squadron B of the 5th for a stunt out to Guatia in conjunction with the 6th and 7th regiments. We slept all day. Had peaches for tea and stew. Lindeman and Brennan went with the 5th. Duty at night.

Monday 10 July 1916

I had last shift this morning, up at 2am, changed sentries. At 3.30 stood the redoubt to arms, at 4.30 stood off. Returned to camp. Had a bit of a sleep but Williamson worried me most of the day and would not sleep himself. We had some margarine and rice and haricot beans for dinner. McColl was told for bomb instruction this afternoon. We live pretty well now, porridge, boiled pork and cold meat for breakfast with tea; dinner, tea with bread and jam and preserved fruit at our own expense or anything else; tea, stew and tea and extras.

Tuesday 11 July 1916

Done last watch this morning and stood camp to arms at 3.30. Harrison is in the trenches. I had a fizzle up with some of the sergeants today. In the afternoon I had to take the troop out for rifle exercises. The men were very wild but I got through. Sgt Coy and Mr Brennan helped me.

Wednesday 12 July 1916

Done first shift last night. Up at 3.30, I had the 24 hours party in the trenches today with 5 men also 4 machine gunners, Nurson, Baker, Hope, McKenzie. Captain Tromeé was arrested today for playing up in the 5th canteen. Harrison had the parade today. Sgt Day of 3rd Troop got wild and wanted to throw in his stripes.

Thursday 13 July 1916

I done the dog watch this morning, up again at 3.30. Had troop parade this afternoon on account of the terrible heat. I had a beer and two lime juices today. Captain Tromeé was up again this afternoon and remanded to Romani to go before Colonel Royston. On duty again tonight. The officers are mostly tight again tonight. Hollingworth in trenches today.

Friday 14 July 1916

Went on duty at 12.30 this morning, remained on the whole time till stand to arms. Mr Brennan should have relieved me at 2 but I let him sleep on. He was a bit tanked last night, so was Captain McKell. The horses of the 5th Number one mounted patrol got away from their post last night and galloped home and caused some commotion. The moon set at 3.15 this morning after a glorious night. Harrison is on 24 hours today. I took the troop to the redoubt tonight, had a night in supports. I played Rickety Kate all day with Williamson, Coy, Power and Day.

Saturday 15 July 1916

Stood to arms at 3.30. I done 24 hours duty with 6 men, Coly (orderly), Brown, Conway, Beasley, Filmer and Frater, also 4 machine gunners, Tonizer, Nivison, McKenzie, Baker and Hope. Warned for duty as advanced guard at 9 in the morning had a night in supports in trenches, so had a rest for duty tomorrow.

Sunday 16 July 1916

Had a night in last night. Got all my stuff ready and put on camels. I represented A Squadron and also 9 men. Sgt Wightman and 9 men from B and cpl and 9 men from C. We marched over to Gilbane and got on a narrow gauge train and went on to Kantara, marched out to Draw Bridge camp. Had dinner, fixed things ready for work tomorrow. Marked out camp and put up a few tents, had a swim in canal.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR

Today orders were received instructing the Regiment to move to KANTARA to draw a further supply of horses.

Lieut Plunkett and thirty other ranks moved out to KANTARA today.

Monday 17 July 1916

Up early and got to work with my fatigue party erecting tents etc. After getting a lot up we had to pull them down and re-erect in a different place. Very tired at night. Had a good swim in the canal.

12th Light Horse Regiment – DUEIDAR / KANTARA

The Regiment was relieved by the Scottish Horse today and then marched to Gilban Siding, where they entrained for KANTARA.

The marching out state was 14 Officers and 304 Other Ranks.

Tuesday 18 July 1916

Was busy today getting shortages fixed up. Harrison has not yet returned. Had trouble today getting water to drink. Busy sorting A Squadron stuff today, bully beef etc to eat. The balance of the mob arrived from Dueidar this morning. The brought the horses along with them from the railway.

12th Light Horse Regiment – KANTARA

Marched into SWING BRIDGE CAMP KANTARA at 0400 today. 338 horses from BILBEIS Remount Depot also arrived at KANTARA today & after being unloaded were lead to the Camp at Swing Bridge.

The Mounted Detachment which had been left at TEL EL KEBIR and then moved to MOASCAT; arrived at SWING BRIDGE CAMP today also. The complete Regiment was together once again.

Wednesday 19 July 1916

Had a swim this morning. Sgt Harrison returned from railhead at Serapeum. He has to report there any day. All the horses were taken away for a walk and rested at the oaks, 2 miles up. I remained in camp till dinner then went out to the mob with Sweeny and rode back. I took half the mob and watered up. The horses were allotted to troops this afternoon.

Thursday 20 July 1916

Up at 4.30 with a sore head. Went out with the troop mounted to try the new horses. Kept in camp afternoon, making up brands etc. Made a list of 33 out for Mr Brennan and one for S SM. Very hot. Had a ride on several horses this morning. Watered up at the oaks. Horses are to be branded today. Wrote to Mother and Ethel.

Friday 21 July 1916

Up at 4.30, report this morning that Turks were advancing on Romani, had also dug in at Oghratina. 2,000 of their troops were hurried out across the canal from Ismailia. Artillery and Infantry went out, so we should hear of business any day. We may get orders any day. Meanwhile we are getting our horses fit. Had a swim tonight.

Saturday 22 July 1916

A Taube came here this morning. Up at 4.30, rode out with the troop as serafile on long morning exercises. Had breakfast and then went up to the Oak Grove with the horses, returned for dinner. Went out again at 2. At four we saddled up and done a bit of mounted drill, it was the fun of my life to see the mix up of men and horses. Had a swim tonight in Suez Canal. Beer arrived tonight. The camp is drunk.

Sunday 23 July 1916

Had a swim. Had another horse allotted yesterday, he is a beauty. A big mad eyed horse Mr Brennan used to ride. Done a morning parade then we took horses away to the Oaks for a days camp from hot sun. I mounted my horse bare back with only a halter. He bolted and gave me a lovely 5 minutes.

Monday 24 July 1916

Holliday was buried yesterday, broke his back, up at 4.30, tea and morning parade. Afternoon we done troop work, water up etc. Day we take horses for a stroll down to fresh water canal. I hear we are to move any day for Cows Canal.

Tuesday 25 July 1916

Up at 4.30, had a drink of tea, very sore and dopey after the inoculation also a very sore goat after my ride the other day. Went out for a morning jaunt. I went as troop leader. Have a very bad cold also ill affects from a dose of inoculation yesterday. Put in duty under the oaks with horses. Afterwards watered up and done a bit of drill. Orders came through that we were to leave tomorrow at 2 o'clock for Serapeum.

12th Light Horse Regiment – KANTARA

Today word was received advising that our Machine Gun Section was to be Brigaded and consequently would be leaving the Regiment.

Word was also received today advising that the Regiment would move tomorrow.

Wednesday 26 July 1916

A Scoles got thrown today and badly hurt. Had a bad night last night. Have a touch of Nile fever, done little troop and squadron drill about 10. Amidst terrific heat we downed tents and got them loaded and saddled our horses by one. Then rode out to Kantara and put our horses on the train and railed for Serapeum. Got there at dark and unloaded our horses and kit. The camels then were loaded and after a feed for the horses and drink, we rode off in the night. Crossed the canal on a rickety old pontoon, one chap got thrown off, some missed the track but we all got out to camp by one o'clock in the morning. Pickets were arranged for the horses. So we turned in having rode 10 miles from the train. C Squadron is following on, also part of B. The rest goes to another post.

12th Light Horse Regiment – KANTARA / SERAPEUM

The Regiment entrained today for SERAPEUM. They moved off in three Drafts. The last train arriving at SERAPEUM at 0300.

The marching in state to SERAPEUM was 19 Officers 496 Other Ranks, 468 Horses and 60 mules.

Thursday 27 July 1916

Have a very heavy cold, slept by our horses last night with a sweaty saddle blanket as a blanket. I was up at 4, had a drink of tea and roused the fellows, 10 who had to go to Hill 450 or No 2 outpost to relieve the 9th patrol. Had breakfast and set off with Mr Brennan and a 9th officer as guide past the out barricades one mile out manned by Tommies and struck off across country. Got there at 8.30. The 9th LH chaps then saddled up and set off for Ferrys Post, 20 miles north across the desert. We took over the post, Colless and Northmore, linked up on the left with the Tommy patrol. Mr Brennan and a section went forward to capture some camels 3 miles east but found them to be Indian patrols out of bounds. They returned safely. We fixed up night duties only had a broken faced watch of mine for the job with no glass. Colless, Bunyan, Fleet, Northmore, Milton, Wilson, Digby, Bone, McColl and Francis were the men who went with us on my first trip to Hill 450 observation post. It was a good camp. Camels brought us water by day. Good camp for horses and men but a pitiless dog of a place as far as a man could see, billions and billions of sand hills. 8 miles east at the waddy is the next water hole.

12th Light Horse Regiment – SERAPEUM / GEBEL HEBITA

From SERAPEUM the Regiment moved to GEBEL HEBITA, where they relieved the 9th Light Horse Regiment.

The 9th L.H. Regiment moved out and the 12th occupied the Camp.

Lt Hampton & Lieut Lindeman with 62 Other Ranks marched out to LANDS END & occupied that Post.

Friday 28 July 1916

I have a very bad cold, only had a sweated saddle cloth for a blanket last night. Up early and fed and watered horses, boiled tea and had breakfast and put McColl on the top of the lookout. Brought the out post in then waited for our relief. We saw them during the morning about ½ miles north off their track and 4 miles from our camp, they got to us about 8.30 after giving our orders. We re saddled and went back to the main camp at Gebel Hebeita over 5 miles off. Fed and watered and had breakfast and rested during the afternoon. At night the wet canteen was opened and most of the fellows got tight. Some of them were boozing up to 2.30. Next morning, a B Squadron horse broke his leg and 2 drunks went to orderly room as a result.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Captain H.R. McKell was seconded to the 1st Double Dismounted Squadron today, and received temporary promotion to the rank of Major.

Saturday 29 July 1916

A lot of sore heads today. Up at 4.30. We run a bugle in this camp, had a drink of tea, fell in, watered, groomed and fed horses, had breakfast, told off a few fatigues. S SM and Sgt Harrison run 2 men up. This morning I was witness on both cases, Griffiths the batman and F Williams of the troop. Very hot weather. We arranged a mess today for A Squadron sergeants. We chuck in each 20 piastres to buy provisions. S SM Atkinson is President, Sgt Coy secretary and we have a very fine camp here. Water laid on in pipes also we have water for horses and mules, sheds for horses etc and mess rooms, all erected by the 9th LH who occupied this spot immediately on being re equipped after the evacuation of Gallipoli. Bull Antin had a fight here not long ago. We are 7 miles from the canal east. Sgt Malcolm and 3 troopers were put in guard tent today for being drunk.

Sunday 30 July 1916

Up at 3 o'clock to get a patrol away. I wrote to Hilda today. Harrison is reg orderly sergeant. I have charge of troop, busy watering, feeding etc. Sgt Malcolm was put in guard tent today owing to liquor. In fact nearly every body is to have a night in tonight.

Monday 31 July 1916

Got 4 letters today. Up at 4.30, work the horses, feed and water at intervals through the day. At night Harrison goes with a big patrol to 580 under Lieu Plunket also Williamson. I went out to Gazelle Heights to have a look at a new post taken over this. Major McIntosh, Major Cameron and Captain Fetherstonhaugh was in the party. We formed it and left a C Squadron patrol there. We return to camp but nearly got lost in fact we did get sleeved. Got back 10am.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Today 26 Remounts marched into Camp from Remount Depot BILBEIS.

Tuesday 1 August 1916

Got a lot of papers today. I had charge of the troop for watering working and feeding horses. Up at 4.30. The kit bags arrived last night, a welcome visit. Very hot today. I am pretty crook in the head, get with cold. At 5 in afternoon, I take charge of a mounted patrol of 5 men and go out to Gazelle Heights 6 miles north on a listening post. We kept the horses saddled all night. We fed them at 8 o'clock and had a snack ourselves at intervals through the night. I changed the sentry, the sentry having to hold 6 horses and keep watch for tanks. I heard today that they caught a patrol of the 5th LH at Dueidar and killed a Major and 4 men yesterday 20 miles from here.

Wednesday 2 August 1916

I was up every hour and 20 minutes through the night and finally all were up at 3.30 at stand to arms. I took a ride round the Heights to see that all was clear. Being satisfied I returned to the boys. We all mounted at 5 and rode off home to camp getting on in time for breakfast. Sgt Malcolm was finally tried and let off by Major Moray this morning for being drunk the other day. I was a witness on the case. Do trooping till dinner. In the afternoon am (?). I have a night in tonight.

Thursday 3 August 1916

Was recommended for a commission in the 5th Infantry Brigade today. I do not know how far it will go. Attended to stables today, had a hard day owing to shortage of men. Two Taube German planes flew over here today and bombed Ismailia, killing some men. Number 2 patrol returned tonight.

Friday 4 August 1916

Two years ago today I think I was in Lismore buying up stock. Up at 4.30 this morning, attended to stables, warned the duties for the day. 5 men to go to Gazelle Heights with me and 6 to Hill 580. Harrison returned.... with Major Moray after surveying the wadi 20 miles out. 68 men went to Ferry Post.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Five Officers, 159 Other Ranks & 170 Horses marched out to FERRY'S POST today. Major Don Cameron was in charge.

Fighting in the ROMANI and Qualia area commenced today.

Saturday 5 August 1916

Heard today that two patrols belonging to Westminster Dragoons on the left of my post at Gazelle Heights were nipped by the Turks last night. I went to Gazelle Heights tonight with 5 men. We kept a very keen look out through the night, heard a bit of shooting on the left also saw a blue flare sent up. 68 of our regiment went to Ferrys Post yesterday afternoon including 8 dead heads of our troop and Mr Brennan. We returned for breakfast. Very few men about. I am acting squadron orderly sgt and orderly Corp and canteen sergeant. Harrison went to Hill 580 for 3 days. I had a hard days work. Just heard that our L H fellows captured 2,000 Turks at Oghratina yesterday and 800 Turkish cavalry are apposing Lieu Hampton's post this afternoon.

Sunday 6 August 1916

Corp Mason took over Sqms. I am still orderly sergeant. Pretty hot day. Arranged the patrols for tonight, look after horses etc, sent patrols to Hill 120 and intermediate. More news of the big fight at Katia and Romani. New Zealanders and 5th LH got cut up most. 500 lost altogether.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Fighting from ROMANI to BIR EL ALD ceased today. Owing to being so far away from the scene of the fighting, the 12th Light Horse Regiment took no direct active part in the fight. Colonel J.R. Royston, Lt Brown & the Regiment's M.G.S. took part in same.

Monday 7 August 1916

25 reinforcements arrived today. I heard that Colonel Royston had been wounded and Colonel Meredith's horse had been shot at Katia. Royston knocked up 10 horses before he was wounded. Sent out Sgt Williamson with 5 men to Gazelle Heights. Fixed up camp guards and alarm guard. Orderly Sgt today, also acting S SM, Atkinson acting R SM bide Fletcher.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

23 Reinforcements marched into Camp Today from D Squadron 2nd L.H. Training Regiment, and were allotted to the 3 Squadrons.

Tuesday 8 August 1916

Hot today. Squadron orderly sergeant today. Fix up patrol for Hill 580. 25 men, 2 sgts, 1 S SM, 2 officers, 2 engineers, 7 of my troop go out. Sgt Bailey and Malcolm NCO's. Mess about with stables. More news of Katia fight today. Heard today that Curran DCM of Tenterfield was killed at Ismailia by a bomb from a Taube this week.

Wednesday 9 August 1916

Acting S SM today. Sgt Williamson R O sgt, Sgt Harrison returned last night from a 3 days stint at 580. Heard today that 11th LH had 30 casualties north of Ferry Post. It came pretty close to us but never reached us, the patrol on my left joining with me at Gazelle Heights being captured. Turks were around but I did not see any. S SM Atkinson returned tonight. I had carried on S SM during his absence. Very busy today and tired at night.

Thursday 10 August 1916

Squadron orderly sergeant again, cleaning manure out of stables all day with 15 men. Pretty hot. Gillbert, Colonel Royston's batman was here today with some big tales. Lieu Brown is mentioned on despatches. Another 600 Turks were captured, poor and ragged. Smith of our machine gun was killed. 9 officers were killed, 30 wounded, 90 are killed, 300 wounded and missing. Not bad work. Smith would have got the DCM had he lived, He was shot through the testicles while manning a Lewis gun by himself. I am regimental orderly sgt tonight.

Friday 11 August 1915

Regimental orderly sergeant today. Had a good heavy day of it, poking round with orderly officer and OC. I was up at 4am. Went off at 6pm, was relieved by Sgt Coleman, had a long yarn to R SM Fletcher.

Saturday 12 August 1916

Up early this morning, busy all day, at night I go out to Gazelle Heights on patrol with troopers B Bone, D Brown, Ryan, Fleet and McColl. I thoroughly scan all that country and report all clear. We tethered our horses to filled sandbags at night.

Sunday 13 August 1916

Busy today lumping shit out of the stables, old stuff the 9th LH left here. I got back for breakfast from Gazelle Heights patrol, worked horses and attended them. Harrison went out to Hill 400 with 10 men this afternoon. Extra ammunition was issued tonight at midnight. Turks are not far away.

Monday 14 August 1916

Had a buck jumping exhibition this morning, picking 3 horses from 3 squadrons for the vet officer. They were funny. One laid down, one went side ways. The other would stand on its hind legs and the man slide off over his tail. Iron rations issued today. The Turks are threatening our front now. 2,000 are reported in front. We will have some go as well as Romani. I am to take charge of Number 3 patrol redoubt on Hill 400. Frank Power and Karnaghan came back from Ferry Post today. I got 5 letters from home today. Went out to Hill 400 with 10 men including Tex Steep as signaller but out 2 posts. I reported Turkish signallers due east at 10 at night.

Tuesday 15 August 1916

Only one post on today. Mount Bold to the north signalled us say Heliopolis in reference to a patrol in front at 10 in the morning. At 3.30 Hill 580 signalled us also in reference to a patrol in front of them. This must have been Turkish patrol. Have a quiet day. There is no doubt the Turks are moving south. We were relieved at 6pm by Sgt Norgard of 13th Squadron and 10 men. We got into camp at 7.30. The men with me were Roy and Ralph Ridley, Thompson, Wilkinson, Burrows, Grant, Geale, Gilkes, Warn and Steep signaller. Had a good feed of fish at camp from Bitter Lakes.

Wednesday 16 August 1916

Williamson was crook last night. I wrote to Mother and cousin Ethel before breakfast this morning. Williamson goes to Hill 400 tonight. I am busy all day with horses etc and am warned at evening stables to relieve Johnny Walker as R O S to go on at 6pm. I had a lot of papers arrive today.

Thursday 17 August 1916

Had a busy morning as regimental orderly sergeant. Lieu Webb was orderly officer. I dug Lieu Tourle up at 4.15. He went to Ismailia to wire home about his place which was sold. I had 4 CB men to see to who were a darn nuisance. I sent home a lot of photos about the fight at Dueidar. I am warned to go fishing tomorrow.

Friday 18 August 1916

Arrived at Fayed, up at 4.30, got our horses ready and left for the Bitter Lakes for some fishing. The men were from 3 squadrons, Lieu Plunkett, myself, Stanford, Warn, Dawson, Mancaster, Webster, Goodwin, Johnson, Duff, Seemark, Burgess. We rode down to the lake and then when the fish boat came in we rowed over to Fayed 8 miles. There we met Mr Ralston in pyjamas up to his eyes in stinky dead fish and niggers. We are to live in a stranded houseboat. At night 6 men went out in charge of niggers. I remained in camp and read papers as did Stanford, Plunkett, Ralston and Hillary. Had some good bathing.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

13 Troopers marched into Camp Today from ROMANI and were posted to the Squadrons.

Saturday 19 August 1916

Up at daylight to see about getting fish ready for the camp. Mancaster came in at 12 midnight, his niggers broke their nets. Webster came in at daylight. The last man came in at 8 o'clock. It was only a fair catch, cleaned them and bagged them up and C Stanford left for Deversoir for boat with them. Lieu Ralston and Hillary went with them. They are returning to camp. Stanford returned to the houseboat at 1 o'clock with tucker. The beach here in the morning is like a native market, plenty of good looking young bints happen along with eggs, onions, melons, milk etc and barter it for fish. We knock good sport out of them. I remain in camp tonight. Had several good swims.

Sunday 20 August 1916

Had a very good catch today, sent 4½ bags to Deversoir. Played 500 all day. We have about 3 good swims per day. I went out with 2 boats tonight. I got a bit groggy owing to rough sea but the niggers got a very good catch. All nets were in by daylight.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Lieutenant G.M. Brown marched into Camp Today from the 2nd L.H. Brigade, where he had been orderly officer to the Brigadier.

Trooper D.F.P. Roth received advice of his promotion to Commissioned Rank in the 3rd L.H. Brigade Today, and marched out to that Brigade.

Monday 21 August 1916

Got home this morning after sunrise. We had a very big catch, sent 5 bags to Deversoir but the limber could not take them all, so sent ½ bag back which was wasted. The niggers went maggotty about it. Webster went to Ismailia today. Had a quiet day. I had a good sleep. Jolp the Corporal is not well today owing to his operation for appendicitis. Only 4 men went out tonight, Seamark, Goodwin, Warn and Stanford.

Tuesday 22 August 1916

Very poor catch this morning only sent 2 bags to Deversoir. Mancaster took them over. George the Greek was maggotty today because we gave him no fish and threatened to turn us out of our houseboat. If he can do that he is a better man than the rest of his breed. He has a pale amnesia friend with him, a queen I think. Johnson went to Ismailia today.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Some excitement was caused last night on account of a Camp alarm at 2210. All hands had turned out within 20 minutes of the alarm. The mounted men were inspected by General Ward and congratulated on the quick turn out. The alarm was given by Headquarters, with the object of ascertaining if the Regiment was on the alert.

The Mounted Detachment from Ferry's Post marched into Camp Today, their marching in state showed 5 officers, 151 other ranks, 162 horses and 9 mules.

Wednesday 23 August 1916

Big catch today. Mancaster took the load to Deversoir. Stanford and I set off for Ismailia, we got to the fresh water canal after a hard run of ¾ mile to beat the train but could not get over. Had a war with a nigger and returned. Got permission from Mr Plunkett to stay away till night. So went back and caught the 11.20 train. Got into Ismailia in good time, dined at the hotel Des Boqueurs, bought a brownie camera at Stonds for £2. Took a few photos. Stanford got a tooth out at a Greek dentist. Had tea, looked round the town, caught the 9.30 train back. Got to Fayed at 11 and joined the punt over the fresh water canal missing, had to walk about ½ mile to cross a pontoon. Got to bed at 11.30. Very tired.

Thursday 24 August 1916

Greeks and Bulgars are fighting at once. Up early, had a very poor catch of fish, only sent 1½ bags of fish to camp. Stanford went over with them. Mr Plunkett and I went over to the Bedouin village after breakfast and took a few snaps. I tried my new camera. I got an old bint with a load on her head, a Bedouin tent with old cripples, an Arab chief and 2 Sicilian children, 2 snaps of a nigger ploughing. This was very funny. The nigger watched when he saw the camera and so did the old

cows with the plough. Returned and had a swim. These Bedouins are really a very fine race, very aristocratic faces.

Friday 25 August 1916

Up early, only a bag and half of fish for the camp today, had a big row with the niggers over it. Duff went to Ismailia. I sent 2 baskets of fish to the Hyderabad Lancers. Had a good sleep today, only 4 men out tonight.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Several appointments and promotions appeared in orders Today.

Viz Colonel Royston J.R. C.M.G. D.S.O. is appointed temporarily to command 3rd L.H. Brigade 11/8/16

Major H. McIntosh to be temporary Lieut Colonel 22-7-16.

No 453 R.S.M. Fletcher H.B. to be 2nd Lieutenant dated 25/7/16.

No 659 Sergeant Dixon R.B. to be 2nd Lieutenant dated 28/7/16.

No 673 Trooper Nivison F.W. to be 2nd Lieutenant dated 29/7/16.

2nd Lieutenant Bell L.C. to be Lieutenant dated 29/7/16.

No 52 S.S.M. Atkinson E.H. to be acting R.S.M.

Lieutenant A.C.L. Abbott, proceeded to England Today per H.S. Lelitia on six weeks leave.

Saturday 26 August 1916

Niggers had a big fight today. Up early, 2 boats got good catches. Lieu Plunkett and Mancaster went to Ismailia today. Lieu Lowing and a mob of fresh fellows came down to relieve us. The coast guard also brought a fresh mob of niggers from Ismailia. I took some snaps of bare bummed chaps on the springboard. Played cards till well into the night. I hear a lot of changes have taken place in the regiment.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Lieutenant Haydon (in charge) together with Lieutenant Fletcher and 63 Other Ranks marched out at 1530 Today – destination El Ferdan.

Sunday 27 August 1916

I took some snaps of the fishing mob yesterday morning. Up early today, cleaned fish and got away by the second boat for Deversoir. Had a long trip over. Got our horses there and rode over to camp. Cholera has broken out. The Ferry Post party has returned and a lot of changes have taken place in the regiment. Sweeny is a sergeant now.

Monday 28 August 1916

Up early and went on to parade, took horses out at 8.30. Went on the job of Reg O Sgt, Bullshit is now R SM as Fletcher has got his star and gone away with B Squadron to a place north. Have a busy day. Judge Brown is orderly officer and Monte Brown took over from him at 6 at night. I went to bed at 10.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Today being the Anniversary of the Regiment landing on Gallipoli, a little latitude was given to all hands, and an enjoyable evening was spent at the men's canteen.

Tuesday 29 August 1916

Up early and got my horse saddled. Went up to orderly room, reported to Mr Monte Brown, then went round the camp and sent in my report. I was relieved at 8.30 by Sgt McLachlan who took over from me. I went round to C Squadron at 9 for orderly room. The 2 birds I crimed yesterday were tried by Captain Hyman and each bought 4 days CB. Very hot today. I wrote to sisters, Kellett and McQuiggin and cousin Ethel. I got a letter from Jack McQuiggin today. Big mail of papers tonight. Italy has declared war on Germany.

Wednesday 30 August 1916

A report today saying we are to loose our horses and be mounted on camels very soon. Consequently Lieu Brennan took a photo of the troop mounted, but I was not in it as I was squadron orderly sergeant. Went on to relieve Malcolm who is Regiment orderly Sgt. I am canteen sergeant tonight. Went on early morning parade. Relieved Harrison tonight on No 3 patrol, he goes fishing. I got some good photos where am in sole charge myself.

Thursday 31 August 1916

Ryan and B Bone went on left patrol at 4.30 and Coly and Gleeson went on the right towards 580. Had a quiet day. Sgt Sweeny relieved me at night watch. First lot of chaps we got back to camp in good time.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

The Machine Gun Section which had been attached to the 2nd Light Horse Brigade, marched into Camp at 0400 Today. The marching in state showed 27 other ranks, 32 horses and 3 limbers. Sergeant L. Lloyd was in charge.

Friday 1 September 1916

4.30 reveille. Got a letter from Ethel today. The war is going good, now that Rumania has come in. Worked hard removing muck from stables today. The machine gun section returned from Romani today.

Saturday 2 September 1916

Up at 4.30, attended to early morning stables, had 14 men onto stable cleaning. 9th LH muck finished at 5. In the afternoon still Squadron Orderly Sgt. Frank Power goes to Cairo tomorrow. I had my hand lanced today. Have an abscess forming on that cut I got while fishing.

Sunday 3 September 1916

Reveille blew at 5 this morning for which we ere all very pleased. I am S O Sgt yet got stables fixed up. Had a bit of a row with Silver Brim (Tourle) over stables. Warner for orderly room tomorrow, only a watering parade this afternoon. Had 3 fomentations daily put on my hand. Church was held tonight in the mess shed. I had a lot of trouble with my hand tonight.

Monday 4 September 1916

Atkinson was round at 5 rousing up C Squadron. They counted him out and called him a bastard. Our regiment is coming to a nice pass now. My case was squashed. Parade sick at 6, at 9.30 left for hospital at railhead. The doctor had 2 tries to get at my hand to lance it, very painful, fell sick at

night with pain. The doctor was very kind so were all the staff who were all Tommies as all our fellows have gone to France.

Tuesday 5 September 1916

Very painful today. Had 3 hot fomentations a day put on and it was surprising the filth that came out of it. Had porridge for breakfast and cocoa bread and milk and boiled rabbit for lunch and sago and boiled fish for tea. Do not sleep well at night. There are all Tommy patients here from the front line trenches also some artillery fellows.

Wednesday 6 September 1916

A sleepness night, more hot fomentations and more filth squeezed out of my hand. My first finger was nearly lost and the second dangerously close, the pain is passing from my arm today and I feel much better. Struth my old right hand is in a very bad state. A chap out of the Norfolk regiment shaved me today.

Thursday 7 September 1916

Much better today though hand is very stiff and sore. I am sent down to Serapeum hospital on the canal to get right. At ten o'clock I get a snap of the Tommies and myself. Charlie Seamark came in with fever, so we got on the 11 o'clock train for Serapeum. This is a bigger hospital which is also run by Tommies. I met Sgt Purdie here of C Squadron. I had my hand dressed and had a look round.

Friday 8 September 1916

It is very amusing to see the niggers working the pontoon here across the canal. They sing the whole time they are pulling on the chain. Young Jack Simpson of B Squadron came in today. Coly and White were also here and had a swim and left.

Saturday 9 September 1916

'City of Exeter' passed today. My hand is not too good. The 'Yarra' also passed. I took a photograph of her, also one of the pontoon. This is not so good a hospital as others I have been in. Bread, bacon, tea, porridge for breakfast, bread, jam and stewed prunes for dinner, and stew bread and rice for supper, no tea.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

A British Aeroplane descended Today near Hill 580. The G.O.C. of the Sub Section instructed the 12th LH Reg to place a Guard over same. A special Guard was placed in charge of the disabled plane, but this did not prevent many securing Good Photos of the uncommon sight. Eventually the plane was dismantled & conveyed to Serapeum.

Sunday 10 September 1916

Had a swim today in the canal. Some big ships went past, the 'MM Magillan' and the Dutchman Jakarta also others. My hand had the bandages taken off today. It is very sore and the muscles of the first finger are not too good. Some big ships passed tonight. '(?) Moonlight'. Seamark and Simpson left for hospital ship for Ismailia yesterday. I got a photo.

Monday 11 September 1916

Pretty good today, Captain Hepburn the medical officer told me I can go out tomorrow. I visited the dentist but he advised me to wait till I could get back to civilization to have it done. I had a good swim in the canal. Colonel Cahill the CO visited today the hospital. Had a yarn to some of our transport fellows this afternoon, near the pontoon, Cameron and others. 40 more horses have joined the regiment. Lieu Plunkett captured one of our planes in the desert. At night listen to some Welsh men sing lovely. 7 big ships pass up tonight going north, all had search lights.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

The Fishing Parties to Fayed were becoming very popular and proved a great asset in regard to the Food Supply in the various Camps of the "A" Subsection. Daily a supply of Fish arrived in Camp & were much appreciated. Among the Fishing Party which proceeded to Fayed Today were our Adjutant (Lt E.H. Cross) and our RSM (E.H. Atkinson).

Tuesday 12 September 1916

Up early and had a swim in the canal then breakfast. Witty came in today for teeth trouble. I got 2 photos of the pontoon, one of myself in hospital pyjamas. Got my clothes at nine, watched shipping till 10, missed the last train so waited till 12. Went out to railhead with Sgt Morris AMC. He went home mounted. I walked out to camp from railhead. Got there in time to be put in orders, 4.30. Received letters from home also papers.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Captain Hyman and a party of 32 other ranks proceeded Today to Sidi Bishr Rest Camp, Alexandria. This Party to remain at Sidi Bishr for one week & arrangements are being made to allow a similar number to proceed to the Rest Camp weekly.

Lieut Bartlett and a party brought 46 Remounts to Camp Today from Ismalia. This number brought the Regiment's establishment of horses up to nearly full strength.

Wednesday 13 September 1916

Cleaned up stables and generally poked around. Wrote to Ethel and Mother. In the afternoon I went out to 580 on patrol with Lieu Brennan, Sgt Harrison and 21 other ranks took over from C Squadron and Captain Fetherstonhaugh.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Lt. Bartlett and his party returned to Ismalia Today.

Thursday 14 September 1916

Up at 3.30 and stood camp to arms. Lieu Brennan and myself and 7 men went out in a south easterly direction some considerable distance, got back 10.30, usual duties at night and day.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Six Other Ranks marched into Camp Today from the detachment at Romani.

Friday 15 September 1916

C Squadron went away to another camp today. We were up at 3.30. Lieu Brennan and Harrison went with 7 men to the Wadi for a trip. I looked after the camp and kept things going.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Instructions were received Today to the effect that one Squadron had to move out to El Ferdan Tomorrow.

Saturday 16 September 1916

Up at 3.30. Sgt Harrison took the patrols out and got hung up with the fog. All the rest of the camp mounted and stood to arms till 8.30. The all clear came through at that time. Quiet the rest of day. A Taube was reported to have fallen outside our lines today.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

C. Squadron moved out for Mageibra, via El Ferdan, Today at 0600. Major D. Cameron was in charge of the marching out Party. The marching out state showed Officers 3, Other Ranks 114 Horses 124 and Mules 2.

The balance of the Regiment were instructed to hold themselves in readiness to move off, immediately they are relieved by the City of London Yeomanry.

Sunday 17 September 1916

Up at 3.30. I took the main patrol out this morning myself to Et Tassi. Foggy. We had to wait some time before we could signal back. Returned at 9.40. Mr Brennan went back to camp tonight and Mr Tourle came out in his place.

Monday 18 September 1916

Up at 4 o'clock, Mr Tourle and I took the patrol out to the clay pans. Got back at 10.30, having done 20 miles. Rested all the day. Some fish was sent back tonight from main camp also the rest of my things including haversack etc. Wrote to Ethel and Hilda.

Tuesday 19 September 1916

Up at 4 o'clock, left and right patrol went out as usual and Sgt Harrison took the main patrol out to Et Tassi. The rest of the mob cleaned up stables. We dug up and levelled down the camp stables. Have a row with a trooper (Beazley) and had a fight. Mr Tourle issued beer today to the rest.

Wednesday 20 September 1916

Up at 4am. I took the main patrol out 8 miles south east by east. Heliographer all clear at 7, then returned in open formation as ground scouts with nearly 2 miles of a frontage thus clearing up a lot of country. We saw new camel tracks belonging to Bedouin agents of ours, returned at 10am. Fed up and watered. Heard today that the 2nd Brigade LH had another slap, 3 killed 17 wounded and took 17 Turk prisoners. The 2nd LH also had an officer shot. Heard also that the 11th LH were likely to relieve us tomorrow. Got a parcel from cousin Ethel tonight, sox, etc, sweets. Windy and sandy today.

Thursday 21 September 1916

Up at 4am, pretty chilly this morning. Harrison took the main patrol out 6 or 7 miles. Reported clear by heliograph, returned 8.30, a shocking day. Khamseen blowing all day with showers of sand making everything unbearable. We clear up everything ready to be relieved this afternoon. Lieu Plunkett and a mixed mob came along and relieved us with Sgt Mulford. We got back to camp late, we watered up and I then had tea and retired for the night. Got 7 letters from home.

Friday 22 September 1916

Up at 4.30, I had a shave and went on reg orderly sgt from 8.30. Had a busy day. The 11th LH reg squadron came in during the afternoon. One of them went into C Squadron lines, the others stand by till we go out on Sunday. I watered about a thousand horses this afternoon. I met a lot of the chaps I saw when at Kasi El Nil. We bought the new lads a supper of beer. The camp is drunk as lords.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Portion of the 11th Regiment marched into Camp Today and it was only then known to the 12th Reg that they were to be relieved by the 11th Regiment.

Saturday 23 September 1916

I went off Regiment Orderly Sergeant at 8.30. We were busy today getting things ready to march out of camp early tomorrow. Horses were feed well and exercised. Hollingworth and Fleet went to hospital. We packed our kits and sent them by 9 in transport round by rail to Romani. The camp was tight again tonight.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA

Another portion of the 11th Regiment marched into Camp Today, making 2 Squadrons, and these relieved the 12th Regiment at the various Posts.

Arrangements were then made for the 12th Regiment to move out at 0800 Tomorrow.

Sunday 24 September 1916

At 8.30, we drew out of camp and watered then steered north east. Got to Ferry Post railhead for lunch. I got a supper of stuff from the canteen. At 2.30 we mounted and left north again. This is a big depot for supplying the posts north of Hill 580. Had an uneventful trip and reached El Ferdan railhead late. Watered and camped for the night. This is another depot for supplying the outposts. A big camp. Have a nip tonight, it done me good. Failed to get supplies. The YMCA was holding church service nearby.

12th Light Horse Regiment –GEBEL HEBITA / FERDAN RAILHEAD

The 12th Regiment moved out from Gebel Hebeita Camp at 0800 Today.

The mounted men under Colonel McIntosh trekked to Ferdan Railhead. The marching out state showed 16 Officers, 33 Other Ranks, 356 horses and 58 mules.

On arriving at Ferdan Railhead a Camp was made for the night and the Transport Section moved into Ferdan.

The dismounted portion of the Regiment under Capt Toomey were conveyed per Motor Lorries to Serapeum where a barge was waiting to convey them and the Regimental Stores to Ferdan. The marching out state showed 1 Officer and 48 Other Ranks.

Monday 25 September 1916

This Jaffa is the place where the 5th LH captured 100 odd camels when we were at Dueidar. We left El Ferdan at 8. Passed the barbed wire entanglements shortly after watering and steered north east at dinner time. We struck a well called Jaffa where Sgt Harrison dropped out a thorough broken down man. We left him behind and took his horse along with us. I took a photograph of the wells and horses. I expected Harrison to go sooner than he did. Poor fellow, nerves got him. At 2.30 we went on and camped at our new supply base called Barda where Lieu Hydon has been for some time sinking wells with a troop of 10. Lovely dates here. We put down temporary lines and slept the sleep of the just. 6 men picketed our horses.

12th Light Horse Regiment – FERDAN RAILHEAD

The Regiment moved out from Ferdan Railhead this morning and trekked to Mageibra. The dismounted Party arrived at Ferdan Today per Barge and camped on Southern Bank of Canal. The Camp was named Westbank. The Transpot Section also camped at this Camp.

Tuesday 26 September 1916

Brackish water now, left old Hill 383 on our left today. Left this camp called Barda at 8. My troop was the screen this morning and travelled ahead of the main column. We had a rough trip over the sand dunes. I had charge of the left screen. My horse fell arse overhead with me down a great sand hill with me. At 11 o'clock we drew into some new wells called Jaffa manned by a mob of B Squadron under Lieu Fletcher, the late R SM. At 1.30 Plunkett's mob went ahead as screen, we led the column and got to Maghara at 5. The place the 11th LH cleaned up last month. Some good wells here. They killed a lot of Turks here as it was a Turkish camp, the place stinks. We fixed up temporary lines for the night and put lights out at 8.

Wednesday 27 September 1916

Up at 4, put equipment on and stood off at 5am, fed up early. Then rode out back and scattered to dodge planes. Watered at 8, then filed back and fed up, had breakfast on bread and jam. During the morning the Tommy Yeomanry went away and we took over and arranged our lines on their ground. During afternoon we carried our surplus gear over, then watered horses again at 4 and then put them on to new lines. Capt Carberry and 6 men of my troop went 3 miles ahead. Tonight for patrol 24 hours. Lieu Brennan is orderly officer.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

The Regiment arrived at Mageibra Today, C Squadron being then at Bayud.

Thursday 28 September 1916

Up at 4, saddled horses, stood to arms till 5, then fed horses then camped till 6.30 then led out and scattered so as to dodge Taubes. At 8 o'clock we worked in for water, horses drink well now, filed back to lines and groomed and had breakfast at 9. Fed horses at 10am, cooked fresh meat and bacon for breakfast. I don't think the tucker supply is going to be kept up to us. We are pretty busy one way and another. There is a lot of Turkish redoubts about here.

Friday 29 September 1916

Wrote short letters to Amber and Ethel today. Carberry returned from outpost last night with his men. I managed the water parades today for the troop. The boss was orderly officer. I went to No 3 post protecting the wells tonight with 8 men. The stink is pretty bad. Tucker is not too good. The Bedouins are a bit troublesome on our right cutting telephone wires etc.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

S.S.M. Atkinson and 5 Other Ranks arrived at Ferdan Today. They brought horses in with the object of taking more men out to Mageibra.

Saturday 30 September 1916

Stood my men to arms and send 6 forward to reconnoitre ahead of the wells. Had a cold night. As soon as it was light enough, we returned to camp. The stench of dead camels was stifling. Mr Brennan did not show up today so I had the troop to myself and Corp Carberry. I made myself a little kit bag out of a Turkish sandbag. A plane besieged us today but luckily it was one of our own. Tucker is very crook. Fellows are breaking their teeth whole sale.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

Nothing unusual to report. Regiment still finding Patrols and fatigues.

Sunday 1 October 1916

1st and 2nd Troops are to go to Begud on Wednesday morning to relieve C Squadron. 3rd and 4th will come out afterwards. We anticipate taking part in this stand on El Arish. Busy today with different troop affairs. Mr Brennan heard from Harrison.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

Regiment at Mageibra finding Patrols etc. Nothing important to report.

Monday 2 October 1916

Regiment orderly Sgt today. Dig Mr Tourle out and stand camp to arms. Have an easy day at night. Past Cossack posts and visit posts during the night. Carberry takes the troop on. I have the watering parades to look to. Biscuits and stew today also a mouldy tobacco issue. I took a snap of the chaps round the big dixie today. Machine gunners went to Begud.

Tuesday 3 October. 1916

Up at 20 to 4am, dug up Mr Tourle and rode out to outposts. Meantime the camp stood to arms, fed up at 5, at 6.30 Mr Brennan took the squadron out for water and exercise. Saw smoke in the east. A report came through this morning that we are to evacuate for some others and go back to canal again. I am tired of this dirt and of it be time, I will get out of the regiment. Breakfast at 9, had bread today. It transpires we are to get camels after all and screen the general advance supposed to be in order for Xmas (?).

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

R.S.M. Atkinson, who was despatched to Ferdan on business, returned to the Regiment Today, bringing with him 22 Other Ranks, 17 horses, 6 Mules, stores, Kitchen Gear etc etc.

Wednesday 4 October 1916

Up at 4 to stand to arms at 5, we feed up. At 7.15, we are on the parade ground 1st and 2nd Troops with Lieu Tourle and Brennan. We water at 8 then march out to beyond 10 miles. Last 5 reinforce C Squadron under Major Cameron, a camel corps there having gone on a 30 mile reconnaissance. 2nd Troop formed the screen and some of the lads got mixed up, the right flank especially. We got into camp about 2 and found C Squadron comfortable. We watered then put down new lines and turned in for the night under the stars. A good bit of fighting took place about here. Bir el Abd is 9 miles to north east and the old 2nd Brigade camp is north of us. Good water, a few palms here, also a wireless station. We rough heavy country, dry and merciless.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

Among a number of important appointments and Promotions appearing in Divisional Orders Today, were the following.

“Hon” Major J.H. Bisdee V.C. to be Major Vice Major A.E. D’Arcy, invalided to Australia;
Lieut J.R.C. Davies to be Captain Vice Captain H.K. McKell (seconded);
Lieut W. Beck to be Captain Vice Capt J.R.C. Davies (seconded);

Lieut M.A. Brown to be Captain Vice Captain W. Beck (seconded).
Sergeant M Westgarth to be 2nd Lieutenant to complete establishment.

2 Officers and 66 O/Ranks and 72 horses from A. Squadron marched out from Mageibra Today to Bayoud.

Authority was received Today for 12th Light Horse Regiment to be mounted on camels and to be designated as "2nd Australian Camel Regiment."

Thursday 5 October 1916

Up at 4, stand to arms at 5 and 2 troops ride out to rear of camp for reconnaissance for one hour then return and feed up and have breakfast, then we water up. The horses do not drink too well. Put Lanfear under open arrest during the day for breaking camp. There is a poverty stricken oasis here near the wells and we are camped on the ridge the camel corps and 11 held from 4,000 Turks last month. The Turks held the reposit ridge to the east and lost a lot. We put two machine guns on the right flank and cut them up. It was an unexpected meeting. Took some photos of beyond camp.

Friday 6 October 1916

First Troop went out to an outstation today 6 miles. The camel boys captured some Bedouins and 50 head cow camels and young. They reported Turkish outposts in front 18 miles in a strong position, so I daresay we will have a bit of scrapping. We go back to Maghara tomorrow. C Squadron will remain here a day or two longer.

Saturday 7 October 1916

Up at 4am, went round to outpost with my troop, returned at 6, had breakfast. At seven the party watered and cleaned up at 8. We marched out of camp, 1st Troop took the screen, we got back to Maghara for dinner, passed a big camel regiment going out.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA

The 2 Officers and 66 Other Ranks belonging to A. Squadron, who moved out to Bayoud on 4/10/16, marched back to Mageibra Camp Today.

Sunday 8 October 1916

Stood to arms 4am. Wrote to Mother today. Orders came through today that we are not to go to the canal, get till the 12th and on Tuesday next we are to go out and attack Turkish outposts. I took a party of 7 men out to the palm grove called Had abu Hazzaz. Warner for R O S tomorrow. Issued field dressing today. Got my hair clipped.

Monday 9 October 1916

Stood to arms 4am, report to Mr Tourle who is orderly sergeant today. I am regiment orderly sergeant today but am busy also fitting the troop ready for our trek. We are only taking 29 other ranks and one officer in my troop. We will leave 5 men here at Maghara.

Tuesday 10 October 1916

Up at 4, stood to arms, saddled horses, got ready and left for Begud after 8 o'clock. Got out at 2 and took up a different position to the one we formerly had near the wells this time. Big changes have taken place in this camp since we were here. Men are working night and day filling fantasies for our trip to Magara. We have to fill 5200 in 3 nights. Beautiful moonlight nights. Our horses look well and we are travelling light. I believe Major Chambers is to return for the business in command of A Squadron.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA / BAYOUND

Lt Colonel McIntosh proceeded to Anzac Mounted Division Headquarters Today on duty.

The Regiment moved out from Mageibra Today and camped at Bayoud north of Wells. The 11th Light Horse Regiment and a Regiment of City of London Yeomanry were also on this march.

We found 2 dismounted Posts Tonight.

Wednesday 11 October 1916

Up at 3, stand to arms 4.15, saddled up. Gleeson's section went out to our furthest outpost called (*blank*) 6½ miles from here. Bir el Begud Zagadan the first Turkish outpost is SE from here 13½ miles. The 11th LH came in today also 2 Tommy machine gun sections with 8 guns, then some Indian Batteries and Yeomanry came in also some forage trains and 2 more troops of B Squadron. Very busy getting things ready.

Thursday 12 October 1916

Had a busy day. Some more Tommy machine guns came in today. We watered at 8 and again between 4 and 5.30 after a lot of trouble. Busy getting things ready. We leave here tomorrow for Zagadan.

12th Light Horse Regiment – BAYOUND

The Regiment camped at Bayoud all day. Lt Colonel H McIntosh marched into Camp Today from Negiliale.

Friday 13 October 1916

Up at 4.15, fed and had breakfast. A Squadron went out to Had el Saida to water up as congestion was too great here. We got back early, had dinner, extra ammunition was issued to men, tucker etc. General Royston our old OC was here today, the boys gave him a great reception. We marched out in great style, one whole brigade, 30 machine guns and Indian batteries. Had a long dreary march and got to Zagadan at midnight.

12th Light Horse Regiment – BAYOUND

A Column was formed Today, approximate strength of which was 800 Australian Light Horse, 400 City of London Yeomanry, 600 Mounted Camelry and 4500 Transport Camels, also 200 Camels for A.M.C. work.

The Column moved off Today at 1700 in 2 Echelons, the Yeomanry leading then 11th Light Horse & the 12th L.H. Regiment in the rear.

Saturday 14 October 1916

Had great trouble feeding and watering horses as all the water had to be taken on camel from Begud. Rested in afternoon. A plane dropped two messages for us. I hear the camel corps attacked this morning. We go out at 7 tonight. It was a great sight as all the troops watered and filed out to the sand hills to the east. When darkness came on we went forward into the night after a long dreary journey. We arrived at Zagadan at 2 in the morning.

12th Light Horse Regiment – ZAGADAN

Column arrived at 0100 and fed horses and placed Posts. Column left Zagadan at 1930 for Maghara. Bright Moonlight Night. Camel Company leading followed by 11th Light

Horse Regiment, then 1st City of London Yeomanry and 12th Light Horse Regiment in rear with the Regiments Machine Gun Section and Hongkong and Singapore Mounted Battery. Heavy mist came over at 2300, which retarded the progress of the column considerably.

Sunday 15 October 1916

Water was carried per camel convey also rations, hundreds of them. We tethered our horses near, fed up as soon as we got in. Nobody hardly spoke during the night and only one or two lit a cigarette. We were up at 5am. Watered and fed and had a very hard days work. When night came on the whole column came on again. The 11th LH, 12th Yeomanry, Indian Battery and Camel Corps, not a word was spoken. At last morning drew on us and we were on the last of the sand hills facing the cold Bir el Magdhaba Mountains but a heavy fog shut them out. We waited till it cleared, then advanced. The 11th was the first to get fired on. They reconnoitred to the Turkish wells, took a patrol prisoner and returned to us at 7am. We all went forward and galloped under fire into position. It was a great sight. Major Moray commanded our squadron who attacked a little to the left. The Yeomanry and C Squadron was also on our left also B Squadron. The 11th and Camel Corps was on our right. We dismounted, scrambled over a bullet swept area in which I nearly stopped one in the foot. My eyes were filled with dirt and took up our position and began shooting at the Turkish redoubt on a hill 800 yards in our front. After an hours shooting, the 11th machine gunners got to work on the right and exploded them. We withdrew at midday, taking prisoner 20 Turks and killing several and wounding others. The Camel Corps lost 15, the 11th 5. We lost none. We returned 4 miles to the west and camped for the night where the convoy was. 2nd Troop was on outpost for the night. The Turks fired on our rear guard camped at Rawka.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAKWA

The Column halted and fed horses on slopes of Rakwa at 0100, and moved on again at 0230. The Column halted again on West side of Sand Hills, ½ mile from the slopes of Maghara Hills at 0730, waiting for the fog, which was still very heavy to lift. Could hear our own Planes, but could not see them. The screw had by now become close to the enemy and stray shots could be heard.

At about 0800 an attack on the Hills was made. A & C Squadrons of the 12th L.H. Reg occupied the centre, the 11th Light Horse Regiment were on the Right Flank and the Yeomanry were on the left Flank. All troops dismounted when they reached the foot of the Hills and handed over lead horses, for which there was excellent cover. The dismounted men then scaled the heights and in isolated cases got into action. The 11th Light Horse Regiment captured 7 Turkish Prisoners and 3 Bedouins.

At 1400 the 11th and 12th Regiments withdrew to Rakwa.

The whole column eventually camped at Rakwa for the night.

The 12th Light Horse found all outposts & Guards for the safety of the Camp.

Monday 16 October 1916

We fed our horses at daylight and boiled the pints then went back to the camp. Gave the horses water brought from Begud. At 9.30, the army marched out, A Squadron taking the rear guard. Major Chambers joined us last night. I believe he is going to C Squadron after a long tiring trek shielding the camels the whole way. We got to Zagadan at 4.30. A plane came across and reported all clear behind. Very cold tonight. Water and fed again with Begud water.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAKWA / ZAGADAN

The Column moved out from Rakwa at 0730 and arrived at Zagadan at 1600. The 11th Light Horse Regiment supplied all outposts and Camp Guards. Major Cambers reported to the Regiment Today for duty.

Tuesday 17 October 1916

Up at 5.30, water, fed up and had breakfast. B Squadron led the way followed by A. The 11th took rear guard. We made good pace and got to Begud at 2 o'clock, the prisoners later and wounded and convoy afterwards. Had bread issued. The horses stood the trip pretty well, but we were all pretty tired.

12th Light Horse Regiment – ZAGADAN / BAYOUD

The Column marched out from Zagadan at 0800, arrived at Bayud Wells at 1300. The column bivouacked for the night at Bayoud.

Wednesday 18 October 1916

Heard wild rumours about El Arish being taken on Sunday. Our attack on Bir el Magdhaba was only a tactical move. We rested at Begud today the horses were very tired. A Squadron went over to a palm grove to the north to water our horses. It was simply impossible to do it at Begud with so many horses and camels. Some of my boys got some dates. We fed our horses up well tonight and got all our bags filled ready for the continued march home tomorrow.

12th Light Horse Regiment – BAYOUD

The Column remained at Bayoud all day to rest men & horses.

Thursday 19 October 1916

Watered early and started off, proceeded by the Yeomanry and 11th LH. We were followed by a Taube but it never dropped any eggs on us. It was heavily shelled by the aircraft guns from Romani, over 30 shells of shrapnel being put into it after it opened fire with its machine gun on a camel corps of ours to rear but don't know with what result. We got to Maghara fairly early. A little rain fell today, the first since March last. I got a good lot of photographs along the route.

12th Light Horse Regiment – BAYOUD / MAGEIBRA

The Column moved out from Bayoud at 0730 for Mageibra. Enemy Aircraft were busy Today, but effected very little damage.

Friday 20 October 1916

Cleaned up the lines here, watered and fed and had a good night sleep. The convoy went first, then out went the 11th, passed Jaffa early without incident and got to Barda after one of the most trying days on the whole job. The horses were very tired. Slept with our horses all tethered together. I slept on the horse feed to stop fellows pinching it. This Barda is a very pretty little oasis.

12th Light Horse Regiment – MAGEIBRA / BADA

The Column moved out from Mageibra for Bada at 0730.

Passing through Jeffier the column arrived at Bada at 1500 and bivouacked for the night.

Saturday 21 October 1916

Left Bada this morning. Up at 4 this morning. One man of each section watered up and had an early breakfast. A Squadron was the first to leave off followed by B and C then the 11th LH then Yeomanry and Indian Batteries. We had dinner at the place where we dropped Sgt Harrison some time ago and got into El Ferdan later in the afternoon. Watered and fed up and am glad to have the job over. Got a lot of letters from home.

12th Light Horse Regiment – BADA / FERDAN RAILHEAD

The column moved out from Bada for El Ferdan Railhead at 0730. Had breakfast at Mahadat and fed and watered horses. Left Mahadat at 1100 and arrived at Railhead, Ferdan at 1400, where Captains Toomey, Beck and detachment (which was left at Gebel Hebeita) joined up.

The Column then disbanded. The duties allotted to each Regiment were carried out in a most satisfactory manner and the objective of the stunt in making a reconnaissance to the Maghara Hills, was also satisfactorily carried out.

Major General Dallas C.B., C.M.G. was in charge of the operations throughout and stated that he was very pleased with the discipline and general behaviour of the Light Horse Regiments.

Sunday 22 October 1916

Some of our mail got burnt while we were away. Up at daylight and attended to horses. We slept at our saddles at the rear of our horses in the stables. Very tired, I had a headache from eating too much, sweets etc. B and C Squadron went away to Ferry Post today leaving us here for a week for a rest. Rather a sarcastic idea for the army. We may have to do a bit of silly patrol after the horses have rested. I tucked in get with Billy Brown, Hollingworth and F Williams. in and by shift. Got to work writing letters to Ethel, Miss Ballard, Mother, Amber and others. Under canvas tonight. The Yeomanry are here somewhere. The 11th LH went to Serapeum.

12th Light Horse Regiment – FERDAN RAILHEAD / RAILHEAD FERRY POST

B & C Squadrons and Machine Gun Section of the 12th Light Horse Regiment marched out from Railhead Ferdan and arrived at Railhead Ferry Post at 1300.

A Squadron remained at Railhead Ferdan to do duty from that post.

Immediately B & C Squadrons arrived at Railhead, Ferry Post, detachments were sent out to Duntroon & Hagley Park Posts.

Monday 23 October 1916

Orderly corporal dug us all out at 5.30. A heavy fog was prevailing just like the one last Sunday when we attacked the Turks. Went down to stables and groomed up and watered and fed. I washed some clothes and posted letters home. Went up to Tommy canteen and had a couple of whiskeys. We started a sergeant's mess today with Karnaghan as president and Morris and Buyer and Sweeny as care taker. Slept under canvas last night, first time for a long time. Took more men on strength. Some Mysore Lancers are here with us.

Tuesday 24 October 1916

Williamson had a 3 round bout today with a Tommy sergeant called Powell and Tommy Coles of 4th Troop had a go at another fellow. Had practically nothing to do today. Got some more letters from home today.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

The C.O. received a letter from General Dallas C.B. G.M.C. Today, complementing the Regiment on the spirit displayed throughout the Maghara stunt.

Wednesday 25 October 1916

A party of our fellows went over to the Donhu squadron today to shoot and got beaten by 3 points. They mostly came home drunk. Malcolm has been very tight since our return from Maghara. Water and feed horses, have a good spell.

Thursday 26 October 1916

Some papers arrived today from home. Orderly Sgt today. Took the horses out for a run and watered and fed. Spent the evening at the YMCA playing dominoes with Frank Power. I beat him 3 games out of 5. Old Rickety Kate was evacuated today.

Friday 27 October 1916

Captain Toombie came round and inspected blankets for a re allotment. We had a big argument today in the mess between the Victorian members and NSW over the relative affairs of both states. Fed and watered, had a lazy day. A big heap of comforts was distributed to our boys today. Chaps from the Victorian Racing Club played dominoes at night.

Saturday 28 October 1916

Same old thing, up in reasonable time, fed and groomed, had breakfast then watered. Feed 5 times a days and 3 meals for ourselves, very good ones at that. At night we all went over to YMCA and heard a snifter concert given by the RAMC. It was as good as I have heard in the army. The Welsh can sing no doubt.

Sunday 29 October 1916

I posted 3 letters today, Stevenson, Ethel, Lima. Up early, fed horses, had breakfast at 8.30. Lieu Brennan and myself with 22 other ranks went out to Mahadit Wells where we dropped Chunder one time for a 48 hour patrol duty. It took us 1½ hours to go 6 miles. We then took over from the Yeomanry. The boss went out east to look for an observation post and when he returned we went round and fixed up some night posts, 4 all told. I went on to Number 2 with 5 men.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Major P.A. Chambers, Lieutenants Tourle and Hampton proceeded to Cairo Today to attend officers School of Instruction, Zeitoun.

Monday 30 October 1916

Up at 4, sent out patrol. When it returned we all went back to camp, fed up, had breakfast then watered. Told the day party off at 1pm. Corp Carberry took a patrol out 5 miles east. At night, I went on to Number 2 post with 5 men. We had an easy day. Fixed up the day post. Lieu Brennan took Wilson and Nuson out to look for a Bedouin well, they failed to find it.

Tuesday 31 October 1916

Some coon put the watch on last night to shorten his shift, consequently when I was called at 4am, it really was earlier and I wondered if daylight would ever come. Went home at daylight after sending

a patrol out, fed up, had breakfast and water. At 10.30 Lieu Plunkett came out with a patrol from 4th Troop and we went back to El Ferdan. I had to immediately parade Coles for masquerading as a sergeant. He was put under open arrest by the S SM. Bob Mason has reported back from hospital. Coles did not appear before the Major.

Wednesday 1 November 1916

Usual old thing. I got a nice letter and parcel from home, coconut and sugar also some woollen clothing. Fed and water in the afternoon. Went up to Welsh camp where a boxing bout was on but missed our wack of it owing to watering horses. Mulford got best, Williams and Coles beat Welsh men. There was a bit of a concert at night in the YMCA.

Thursday 2 November 1916

Usual routine. 2nd Troop got walloped by the S SM for getting beers without his orders. He chipped me and then made a speech on the parade ground. The Tommy band played near here this afternoon and night. I had a game of bridge at night, when a row started by some of the gentlemen chipping me as I would not drink with them. We were paid today I got 250 piastres.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Lieut Colonel McIntosh, Major Cameron & Capt Single proceeded Today to Cairo on 3 days leave.

Friday 3 November 1916

Up as usual, fed up. Wilton, Northmore and Griffiths went away on leave this morning to Cairo, the first to get leave for a very long time. 2nd Troop had a kit inspection this morning. Sgt Bailey made a speech in the mess this morning about being insulted in the mess last night. I told the beauties they were all too drunk to know what was said, took up my hat and walked out under protest. I was disgusted with the whole lot. Too much drinking is going on here. Went over to YMCA at night and had a yarn to the boys and listened for the music.

Saturday 4 November 1916

A few drops of rain today. Beautiful weather. I had charge of the horse exercises this morning. We watered and fed. I wrote to Mother and Hilda today and sent them some photos I took at Magdhaba. C Dwyer was here today from Ferry Post. 3rd Troop returned from patrol today. 2nd Troop goes out on Monday. 1st Troop went today. Another argument today in the mess between Williamson and Morris.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Lt Colonel McIntosh, Major Cameron & Capt Single returned from leave Today.

Lieutenant Bull and a staff of 4 other ranks, belonging to the Dental Corps, arrived in Camp Today to do Dental work in the Regiment.

Sunday 5 November 1916

Same old thing, watering, feeding etc. Sgt Harrison returned from Moascar. Details today and reformed the squadron. I wrote to Mother, Hilda and Lima. 3 chaps on leave returned tonight from Cairo, Wilton, Northmore and Griffiths. I went to YMCA church tonight with Power.

Monday 6 November 1916

Harrison took over today. I put in the parade state etc. I fixed up some photos today and sent home to Amber, Hilda and Mother. More rumours are on the go, El Arish this time in a few days. A big move of troops is going on.

Tuesday 7 November 1916

There is talk of our boys laying fodder depots out along the intermediary route to Maghaba. So I see us going on another stunt very soon. I have a quiet day nothing doing.

Wednesday 8 November 1916

Up early and fed horses. At 8.30 our troop went out to Mahardit for 48 hours patrol. We relieved 3rd Troop there, had a good time there. Harrison took the afternoon patrol out. In the morning that is tomorrow. Was very foggy and our Cossack posts were put out.

Thursday 9 November 1916 (King Edward VII, born 1841)

Very foggy this morning. Bill is very quiet this time. He keeps very quiet. In the afternoon I took a patrol out 3 miles east. Gleeson, Dwyer, W Brown and signaller Mitchell was with me. I had a good sleep at night.

Friday 10 November 1916

Had a run out 3 miles north with 6 men. This morning we went out before daylight then turned east for a mile for so, then returned to camp at 6am. Sgt Williamson came out with his troop this morning to relieve us. Bill remained behind and Harrison and I went in. Got in for dinner.

Saturday 11 November 1916

I wrote and posted several letters home to Mother, Amber and Ethel. I get a new parcel from Ethel and Amber. Had a quiet day today. Went over to YMCA at night.

Sunday 12 November 1916

Up at 6, fed up and breakfast and clear out to Ismailia for the day. Went in with Brown, he took my horse home. Bone brothers went to Cairo today. I met Webster in town. I afterwards went out to Moascar camp and met Major Bruxner also Corp Elliot Rex McNeil, McManus and others. The 13th and the 12th lobbed in today for duty. Had a pleasant day and drove about during the day in a gharri. Returned by 9.15 train, got off at El Ferdan, crossed the canal in a captured Turkish pontoon and then sorry to say I had to walk out 4½ miles to camp. Wilkinson and Gorgery was with me. Got to camp at 5 to 12.

Monday 13 November 1916

Up usual time. Had a rough up with Mulford before I had my boots on. Harrison is orderly sergeant today. Muck out and feed up etc. Chilly this morning. Little to do today. Went over to YMCA at night. Had a game of dominoes.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Captain Fetherstonhaugh evacuated to Hospital Today.

Tuesday 14 November 1916

Had a quiet day, put 8 men on duty. Harrison is still orderly sgt. I got my pass tonight to go on leave. By gosh I can do with a bit of leave.

Wednesday 15 November 1916

Up at 6, fed up and then had breakfast and Boyle, Digby and I cleared out to Ferdan on the canal on leave for 3 days. Got the 9.30 train and went into Cairo. Williamson and Thomas met us there 2pm and we went to the Parisiana for dinner. We had a good night out and spent a jolly afternoon. We retired fairly early, sleeping at night at Anzac Hostel. I can see the places where the Taube dropped the bombs, a lot of windows were broken and a lot of blood about. Old Bill Beck made a name for himself there picking up the bits.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

B Squadron proceeded to Duntroon and Hagley Park Today to relieve C Squadron, who after being relieved marched into Railhead Camp.

Thursday 16 November 1916

I bought an omega watch 140 piastres today in a shop near Steins in Kamel Sharia. Up at 7.30, had bath. We all took a gharri and went down the Sharia Kamel and had several whiskeys and milk then had hearty breakfast. Thomas and I went out to Gezira Gardens and poked about generally. After dinner we had all our meals at the Parisiana Café. We went out to Heliopolis to Luna Park but it was closed to men till night so we went back again. We met the other fellows. Got a car at night and went back to Luna Park Hospital and had the time of our life on the scenic railway chute and many other things. We returned by car late at night. Too tired to go to the opera so we had supper and went to the Anzac Hostel to sleep. Ada Reeve is at the opera tonight.

Friday 17 November 1916

Up at 8 o'clock, had a bath and we all went down to Parisiana for breakfast. Williamson reported back to the camp this morning. He went up to Kas El Nil barracks and got Quinlivne out and took him home with him by the 6.30 train. Thomas went with him, one day on leave. I got a gold ring this morning for 200 piastres then went out to Heliopolis to see the Flying Corps, Australian Branch, but they have shifted to Kantara so I went back to town and had dinner then bought a camera for Harrison and an identification disc for myself made out of a French penny. Had a wine or two with Trenty. Got a money belt then pissed off home by the 6.15 train for home leaving Digby and Boyle behind. Corp Elliott of Moascar came down with me. Had to walk back to camp 4 miles. Got home 10 to 12 midnight. Saw Fleet and Mason at Moascar.

Saturday 18 November 1916

Very tired this morning up at 6, feed up etc. My troop is away on patrol. They will be in today from Mahadit. Have an easy day. Troop came home at midday. Harry Boyle got back from Cairo today. Sgt Williamson went over to Ferry Post today to report as transport sergeant under Captain Toombie. I heard also that Atkinson had his commission. Sgt Lloyd was here today, he is also getting his stay in the machine gun section.

Sunday 19 November 1916

Had a great night sleep, up at 6 in the morning, feed up. 2nd Troop boys go on leave again today. Carberry and McColl are going also Karnaghan. I got a lovely Xmas card this morning from the Mater and Pater. Harrison goes on orderly sergeant again today. Digby got back from town last night. Wrote to Mother and Ethel today.

Monday 20 November 1916

1st Troop went to Mahadit this morning. We had the usual game feed and grooming and other duties. The Welsh have left here and have been succeeded by the Essex who look like a mob of London roughs.

Tuesday 21 November 1916

Usual old thing, issued some more stuff to chaps, feeding etc. Play cards at night. Orders came out this afternoon that A Squadron is to go over the canal to have a sham fight with the Welsh Fusiliers, 5,000 of them against about 80 of us.

Wednesday 22 November 1916

Up at 2 this morning, the squadron fed up and had breakfast and then saddled and left at 3.30 for the Welsh camp on the other side of the canal. Crossed the pontoon at daylight, skirted the camp and took up a position to meet the Welsh Infantry 3 miles west. Had a great time. 6 of my troop came down in a heap through Harrison falling. Malcolm's mob also had trouble. Crossed the pontoon again after getting shot several times. Lunch on the other side. At home 4pm.

Thursday 23 November 1916

Dog tired this morning, groom up and feed up, detail duties for the day. As usual 2nd Troop initiates a new patrol to start from this afternoon for Mount Bold. Cpl Hollingworth takes charge with McColl and E Northmore at 4.30pm. They go out again tomorrow. Harrison had Bunyan up today for abuse, got remanded.

Friday 24 November 1916

Bunyan is to go to details. Same old things, getting shortages, feeding horses etc. I got a nice letter and parcel from home.

Saturday 25 November 1916

Up early and feed and have breakfast. I get away to Mahadit at 8am. 26 all ranks took over from 3rd Troop. I have the troop to myself, Chunder is acting QM.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Captain Fetherstonhaugh returned from Hospital Today.

Sunday 26 November 1916

Had a quiet day, up at 15 to 5, took my patrol out some distance from number 2 post, returned at 6, fed and watered. I went on Number 2 post again tonight. Hollingworth is sick. Fred Coy went to school today.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Major D. Cameron, Capt Fetherstonhaugh and S.Q.M.S. Coy marched out to Imperial (Cavalry) School of Instruction Today.

Monday 27 November 1916

Up at 15 to 5, mounted my patrol and rode out 2 or 3 miles east and returned at 6am and reported all clear. Fed and watered. 4th Troop relieved us today at 10am. We went home. I took the troop home to camp, all sorts of yarns are flying about.

Tuesday 28 November 1916

2nd Troop started clipping this afternoon. A big row is in the air. Sergeants are being changed about. Most of us are putting in for details, Mulford, Bailey and myself.

Wednesday 29 November 1916

Usual things occur. We are clipping horses all day. Geo Wilson runs the clippers and done 8 horses for the day. McColl's mare played up a good bit. I issued some trousers to the troop. The S SM made some explanation to me in reference to the squadron changes. We had a great joke in the mess tonight with Chunder and Power.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Lieut Colonel McIntosh marched out to Imperial (Cavalry) School of Instruction Today. Major P.A. Chambers temporarily commands.

Thursday 30 November 1916

Moray had NCO's all up this afternoon to explain the changes. Up at 6, fed up etc. I got a pass and went up to Kantara to the Flying Corps. I failed to see Lieu Mills of the corps but got all information about it. I expect I shall get in this joint, returned by the 1 o'clock train, crossed the canal. Got roused up because of failing to salute an officer of tramways. Went out on this tram, done not all the afternoon.

Friday 1 December 1916

Up at 6. The NCO's should have changed today but owing to a day manoeuvring with General Watt's infantry and an Australian Donkey Squadron, I had sole charge of 2nd Troop. I had a great days sport being issued with blank cartridge. The Tommies whole attack broke down. It was my last day with 2nd Troop.

Saturday 2 December 1916

I went into 4th Troop this morning. Malcolm is troop sergeant, me second, A Watt and Day the corporals. Busy today fixing up rolls with Frank Power who swapped troops with me. Wrote a letter tonight in answer to Mary Bruce who sent me a card. Morris, Power, Daddo and myself make up limericks about each other till midnight. Got my horse clipped this afternoon.

Sunday 3 December 1916

Exercise horses, feed up etc. Some of the chaps went over to Ferry Post today to play football with headquarters. They got rats knocked out of them. I had a quiet day. Went to church at night at YMCA, it was very dry so I went outside and poured sand down Colin Bull's head and neck for sport, then the head serang hopped out and on to us. Power and I had a good time.

Monday 4 December 1916

Orderly sgt today. Sweeny will carry on tomorrow while I am away. Karnaghan went away today to see about his commission in the camel corps. We had a quiet day exercising horses etc.

Tuesday 5 December 1916

Up and got Major Moray to sign my papers, he gave me a snifter recommendation so I got leave and cleared off to Ferdan, took Thomas with me to get the horse home. Caught 10 to 11 train, went to Kantara. Had a lot of trouble over tickets. I saw Mr Mills at the Flying Corps, got a lot of information then returned by the 1pm train, also came out on a train to camp. Got my application papers fixed up at once.

Ferdan
5/12/16

Serg. Harrigan has been in this Squadron since March 1915. He has proved himself a good soldier both in camp & action. He wishes to join the Royal Flying Corps, and in my opinion would be a very suitable man at that work.

Stuart Moray
Major
OC 'A' Squadron
12th L.H.

Document 1: Ferdan 5/12/16 Serg Harrigan has been in this Squadron since March 1915. He has proved himself a good soldier both in camp and action. He wishes to join the Royal Flying Corps and in my opinion would be a very suitable man at that work.

Stuart Moray, Major, OC, 'A' Squadron 12th L H.

Wednesday 6 December 1916

Orderly Sgt. Sweeny relieved me while I pissed off to the Rymid to get my papers fixed up. The Adjutant took them to Major Chambers who duly signed them. Chunder went over with me. We had a good dinner at the sergeant's mess, everybody wanted to shout but we got away sober and got back to our camp 8 miles at 5.30. Had tea. Grekis went to Kantara to see about the corps.

Thursday 7 December 1916

Karnaghan came home yesterday, he is getting a Commission in Camel Corps. Orderly sgt today. The squadron went for a bit of physical this morning up along the road. Got up ¼ of an hour earlier. When we returned we fed up, had breakfast, exercised horses, etc. Frank Power got his papers fixed up for the Flying Corps, signed by Major Moray, then he pissed off over to Ferry Post to get Major Chamber's signature. We are both trying for the Corps. I hope we have luck. A Squadron plays a scratch match today among themselves at football.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

A Court Martial was held at the Orderly Room of the 12th Light Horse Regiment Today. The Court comprised – President – Major Moray and a Captain & Lieutenant from other Units. Farrier Sergt Bell was one of the accused before the Court, but he was acquitted.

Friday 8 December 1916

Power went up to Kantara today with his papers and mine. He saw the OC Captain Oswald Watt who promised to put them through Divisional Head Quarters for us. Same old stagnation here. 1st Troop went on patrol. I am still orderly sgt.

Saturday 9 December 1916

Orderly sgt, I am. It is not a bad game. We are starting a bit of physical work now of a morning to keep things going.

Sunday 10 December 1916

Still orderly sgt. 2nd Troop played the rest of the squadron today and walloped them at football. Foley got his knee hurt and went to hospital. Grooming and feeding. At night went to YMCA and heard the tail end of a service. Had buns and cocoa with Corporal Mason and Hoffy.

Monday 11 December 1916

H Cooper reported to 67 Squadron Flying Corps today. Atkinson R SM is here today from Ferry Post. I wrote to sister Amber today. We the sergeants had a booze up tonight, the wildest time I ever spent in my life, because we were leaving for the AFC. Morris, Daddo, Chunder and Karnaghan, Sweeny was all in it.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Lieutenant Dobson reported to the Regiment Today from the Anzac Provost Corps, for duty and is added to the strength of the Regiment.

Tuesday 12 December 1916

Had a sore head this morning. Power and I went over to the regiment for our papers today. I return in time for tea. Word came along that we were to report at the AFC tomorrow.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

A second General Field Court Martial was held at the orderly Room of the Regiment Today. The Court consisted of President:- Major Alexander 1/6 Essex, Captain MA Brown and a Lieutenant from the 1st Royal Bucks Hussars.

Trooper Shaw of the 12th Light Horse was one of the accused before the Court. He received a sentence of 90 days F.P. No 2.

Wednesday 13 December 1916

We left early this morning everybody sent us away with a cheer. I was sorry to leave the boys but better days in store. We boarded the old train at El Ferdan. Got off at Kantara, put our kits in the store house and reported out to the corps. I went over to the station in a tender and got our bags. Do nothing today, more bung in for tea anywhere.

12th Light Horse Regiment – RAILHEAD FERRY POST

Major General Hare made an inspection of Railhead Ferry Post Camp Today. The 12th Light Horse paraded on the Southern side of the Camp. Detachments from Ferdan, Duntroon &

Hagley Park came over for the Parade. Major Chambers was in charge of the Regiment. After a formal inspection by the General and the Customary march past, Mounted Drill and a sham attack on a supposed enemy was carried out – for the benefit of the General.

Transfer to the Australian Flying Corps