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Hon H M Hamilt
9 Waverley Str
EAST BRIGHTON

Jan 1st 1915
to end of February

Lieut F. H. Tubb
J. U. 7th Battalion
2nd Inf Brigade
1st A. I. C. F.

Written at Gallipoli peninsula
Copies from diary
May 2nd 1915

Jan 1 Have sent home account of doings to
31-12-14 Yesterday Sir Geo Reid inspected other
half of our division, The artillery & L. Horse
marched and looked well — We had
celebrations last night seeing the old
year out and new year in — It is almost
4 mos now since we started soldering
We have made much progress since the
19th August, when we went into Camp at
B. meadows. I sent a cable from the
Euroa & Lywood boys to the "Advertiser"
Euroa signing it with 27 names of us
from there. The Euroa boys received
a cable from their parents for Xmas day
We have experienced glorious weather
since coming to Egypt. No wonder
that this place is a world famed
summer resort. Last night a meeting
of Transport Officers and Quarters Masters
was held at the Senior Supply Officer's

(Major Young) There was a number of us present. On Monday next the Dwi Train will supply the horses and wagons and drivers for conveying supplies to our units under the guidance of J. Officers. The camp is now assuming a permanent appearance. Numerous wooden buildings have been erected for messes. From the pyramids the Camp presents a grand sight. There are nearly 8000 horses & to see them going to water is fine. Roads thro the camp (made by a road machine) are fast being completed. The desert sand makes road making easy. A track is laid out; horse stories put on, then watered, then the crushing engine crunches it level. It soon sets & a fine road is the result. This a great relief to leave the soft sand and

get on a decent road. (2) Friday
Jan 1 A glorious day - The Battalion marching out to work in the early morning are a sight to see - We are getting used to marching thro the desert sands - Lieut Tenlayson (Adjutant) was promoted to Capt today - Lt Davey and self had a splendid donkey ride around the pyramids in the moon light to night. It was the scene was (pyramids in full moonlight) was superb.
Saturday 2 Arose 5 am getting horses to water at 6 to enable them to move out with the Ba at 7.30 am - Went with Chaplain Miles & Lt Eller thro the excavations near Cheops - the drawings, tombs, Mastaba's, inclined planes skeletons, mummies etc. were very interesting. I procured a few curios which together with part of "Ender"

shell have sent home by registered post -
Received present - Kemp Chocolate from Aus
war contingent wishing us greetings -

Sunday - Went with S.S. Burrows snipe
shooting & had a first rate day. I had
hired draymen, ^{donkeys,} heaving ^{etc.} ~~trucks~~
Shot 2 snipe & several waterfowl. We
passed thro three native villages, their
customs, prehistoric irrigation machinery,
cultivated fields interested us vastly
Returned at 5 pm, Capt Hankin & Eller
came up to see me, ^{Capt.} Hankin our V.O.
on the "Hororata" arrived from Alexandria
with our convalescent horses (3) yesterday.

Monday - 4. The Bu left for "Attack
and Defence" at 12.15 am & 1 pm. Sent
out 8 load pack animals loaded for A
& B Coy with them. For first time reported
at H.Q. Div Train (at 2.42 pm.) for
purpose of escorting & taking charge

of wagons that convey stores and supplies
to the Bu. Went to dinner at 6th Bu. Major
Maggar, Major Clark. & Col Long were there also.

Tuesday The Bu went out again at 1 am
returning at 9 am. The pack horses
had a rough time. Went in charge of two
G.S. wagons to Kasr el Nil Barracks, loaded
with baggage for city picquet. in charge
of Capt Bourwick 6th Bu, brought back
mess tent for Officers 7th Bu reaching
camp at 9.15 pm. The horses worked
well & I had a good trip, had after-
noon tea with the Lancaster Fusilliers⁽²⁾
in their mess at the Barracks.

Wednesday, 6. The Bu moved to training
area at 8 am. 16 pack horses accompanied
them, Carlin forms & tables for mess tents from
Supply depot - Great excitement. A mail
arrived from Australia direct. Got
two letters, a long one from home

Dec 9. read the letters in bed
& Frank's also. very pleased. first
letter since Albany. Thursday 7 A
blowly cold & dusty day; the fine sand
finds its way into everything: The
desert is not pleasant when the wind
blows hard. Had our lines, harness,
horses & equipment inspected this
afternoon by Major Austin, D.A.D.O.S. (Ordnance
Officer,) Capt Gellebrand, had
everything up to the mark, well pleased?

Read the home letters again. Took
part in a turning out test between Brigade
Transports came 2nd time 11'25".

Friday Bde. T.O. this morning, very
cold and blowing. turned out at 5.30.

Carried on routine work during the day.

At 7.30 pm the "Alarm" was sounded
In very short time & almost perfect
silence out the whole of us turned

& marched out to Bde Alarm post. where we
formed up. The transport worked well,
we marched to Rockwall valley & came
back at 11 pm. Saturday A nice day,
no dust, the pack horses went with Bn at
usual time, Spent morning, dubbing
harness, Saw Caterer for our mess installed
at more reasonable figure - "Don't care
much about nigger catering"

Sunday Church parade & route
march. stopped in horse lines num-
bering space tags etc. Monday, Took

3 lumber wagons & mallee cart to
Govt carriage works Cairo, for
minor repairs and spares, Lt.

Bolton and Eller came also. We
had a grand time (after arranging duties)

Mr Singleton Mgr of works invited us
to his house where his wife & sister
entertained us royally. Procured a

force and arrival from Mr Singleton. re-
turned to camp at 10.45 pm after spending
a grand afternoon. Tuesday. Took G.S.
wagon (Corks) to Kasr el Nil barracks
bringing back Celsiguet's baggage
Another mail. very pleased to receive
the 4 letters from home Alexander +
Clifton Hill, heard rumours of Turkish
trouble and the probability of us shifting
to some place to be in readiness?

Wednesday Got permission from C.O. to
buy chains (to tie up horses) The horses
have eaten head ropes by the score
since we embarked at Melbourne. Capt
Whitfield tells us we may go somewhere
at end of week. Making arrangements
to get our wagons from Govt carriage
works immediately. Together with
Lt Johnson L.M.S. Pickett + a resident
of Cairo was initiated to M.M.A. We

had a grand night!! Thursday 14.
Eller, Bolton + self went in to carriage works
for wagons + spare parts, Mr Singleton +
family were most kind - After lunch
we all went to the bazaars, where
we saw superb + magnificent, dress
silver gold and inlaid work. The
things we saw + inspected were amazingly
beautiful and expensive - Purchased
a few small articles to send home
"I would like a £1000 to spend in
the bazaars" Had dinner with +
spent evening with the Singleton's +
friends - Had a supping time Friday 15
A big day - A route-march of 10 miles to
Talbia thence across thro village back to
camp. The transport went fully loaded
The six train wagons (4) carried our
baggage for first time, myself in charge
We went to corner El Talbia + Shara el Horan

Then returned by same road reaching
Camp at 1.15 pm. A cold blowy day,
With Eller & Bolton were interviewed in
the evening by the Bugadier. He told
us many curious things about Transport
"We did not like the interview?" Saturday
Made arrangements to buy forage & arrival
at Regt expense for 400 mules. The
forage is badly needed. Carried on
routine work. Am parading Officers
rooms (batman) for neglect of duty
& absence from stables tomorrow. Bde
T.O. to day. The horses are falling
away, climatic conditions & the feed is
the cause. Sunday Forage etc arrived to
day; a little beauty. Practised in loading
wagons and unloading wagons of 1st
& 2nd line Transport. Had a very
busy day. Attended orderlies room
not too satisfactory. Monday

Marked out with Transport fully loaded with
the Bn at 8.30 am. Inspected by Bde Major Cass
and returned to Camp at 10.30. Put in the
afternoon making chains, dubbing harness
and branding horses (with consecutive numbers
The horses look better, arranged for large
dum to steam & boil barley for them.
The fodder issued to us is Totten
(broken ^{barley} straw) barley, bran,
maize, pea beans, & lucern (green
clover). The barley is very dirty i.e.
there is a lot of dirt mixed up with
it. Tuesday Misty morning. Turned
out 5.40. L/Cpt Pinder took out S.A.A cart
with Bn at 7.45 for mustering.
Spent day branding horses hoofs &
nose tags. Went for practice under
Capt Whitfield (V.O. of the Brigade and acting
as Brigade Transport Officer) to receive
practice marching with Transport behind.

Infantry. Continually hearing rumours
of departure for fresh fields. Papers state
unlikelihood of Turks advancing on
Egypt. Wednesday Bde T.O. Carried on
routine work. Bn returns now at 4 pm
Weather fine. Getting hotter. Recd chg
from Regt funds for forage & fittings
(from Major M. Nicoll, Capt Hankin
came to supper. There were many guests
including Col. Long & Col Semmens
A boxing stadium is run by some
of the Officers of the 7th Bn. Great contests
take place there in front of big crowds
Lt Conder, Capt Hunter, & Lt Gutteridge
Lt Derpaven are enthusiasts Thursday 21
Sgt + Transport went out for musketry with the
Bn. Afternoon practised loading wagons
with baggage (a blanket and water proof sheet)
weights 7 lbs 330 filled G.S. wagon. Plenty
rumours afloat re our future doings

The invasion of Egypt by the Turks does
not augur well for the Turks, by all accounts.
Friday clothing much down. Same old thing
Getting hotter! Troops and horses are
working hard. The Officers grooms require
much looking after, to see they attend
stables & do their work - It is difficult
for batmans to attend to their Officers
and look after their horses? Saturday
Route march - Transport fully loaded
as far as equipment and loads issued
Made out another list of deficiencies
(about the 30th price, commencement)
and shortages of equipment. Looks
as though we'll be shorting shortly?
Sunday Church Parade. Loading
practices (cancelled before completion)
to get on with checking of clothing
and equipment. Monday Received
welcome letters from home dated

Kmas on a Boxing Day. Glad to hear
of needed rain at home. Charlie is evidently
coming out in the 2nd lot. We hear that
the second lot is now in Alexandria &
that they will be camped at Meadi.
Had a letter from Uncle C. also. Tuesday
Bn practised attack and defence
manoeuvres in the day time and at 7.40
pm moved out to Boojim rocks in a
night march returning at midnight.
The C.O. is in bed with influenza.
Made arrangements with native saddler
to make sample section bags for
carrying blankets at cost of 25/35 P.T.
Wednesday Spent day in cleaning
saddlery etc. The horses are on the
lines excepting C.O.'s & other officers
who have gone on a Staff ride.
Saddler brought out calico & canvas
bags. Showed some to C.O. and recd

mistake to order 70 at 35 P.T. each.
Numerous rumours going round that we
go somewhere soon. Thursday 28
Completion of muskets for all those
who have not qualified. Two lancers
went with the party at 7.15 am. I hear
that the N. Zealanders have had a
brush with the Turks - N. Zealanders
left for the canal yesterday. We
are wondering when our marching
orders will come. The authorities are
buying camels. I think that about a
1000 have been brought in for purchase
or hire. Went to dinner at A.S.C & had
a good time. Friday Rose early.
Pack horses and water cart & lances
accompanied the Bn at 9 am which is
going on a Bde Advance Guard to
return at midnight. With the I.M. took
out 9.5 wagon & lances loaded with

Dixies + evening meal for the troops
Brought transport back at 6.30 pm ex-
cepting tool packs + one timber. Very
pleased with the transport! Had 6 horses
in Cooks cart + 3 each in water carts
Troops arrived back in camp before mid-
night. Saturday Capt Blizard was
mess president at dinner last night
We had a jollification. There were 107
us including one visitor. Field firing
for unqualified men today (Table B)
They left camp at 7.30 am. The
remainder of Bn left to cover ground
worked last night at 9 am. A hot
dusty day. Sunday Massed church
parade. Then march past Lt Gen. Birdwood
in morning. Afternoon a holiday
A very hot day. Monday. Feb 1
C.O. Major + Adj't doing Staff ride
The Bn doing Coy training under

their C.O's weather very hot. Sent timber
out to Abbessia for baggage of our guards
on duty there. Drew some hand forged
axes this morning; they are queer
looking things! Have requisitioned
for needed saddlery to replace stuff
that has become unserviceable.
About 200 men were sent home to
day 6 from our Bn, (workless,
undesirables + venereals) Tuesday
The men to go to Fustriah by Ryarra
yesterday have been held up owing to
canal not being clear. B.O. this
morning states that in future parade
will be of 3 hours duration + 8 hours
a week. A whole holiday a week
and Sunday a rest day (barring church
parade) Sgt took water cart for hours
of Staff ride - 1 1/2 miles south of small
pyramid. At least that was what the

order read, in reality they were miles from there. Roused out of bed at 11 pm and told to report at Brigade H. Qs at once. The C.O. Major, Adjutant & 2 M. got similar orders. We hurried to Head Qs & received orders to shift for Ismailia at 10.30 am tomorrow. 'Hurrah!' Great excitement, mess & informed Sgt & men. Capt King ^{and} ^{two men} went with Capt Whitfield to A.S.C. Lines to see about getting three horses to bring us up to strength. Packed up my baggage & retired to bed at 4 o'clock. Wednesday Packed up and shifted bag and baggage by 10.30 reached Madbouli Elu Cairo at 3 pm entrained (two trains) and reached Ismailia at midnight. Detaining went splendidly. The Sgt went with first half of Bn in

first train taking half the transport with him. On detaining I found him and his men hard at it carting stuff from the Pt to the Camp. We worked till nearly daylight, through soft yielding sand. ^{With} relays of horses we carted everything. Heard stirring tales of the enemy - from the troops already here. They had captured 300 prisoners. A shell fell half a mile from our camp Thursday 4. Rose at 6.30. Half frozen and wet but worked all day fixing up hose lines. Saw 2 aeroplanes flying over on our way to water. The flying sheds are near the water troughs - there are 30000 troops here. The N. Zedlanders & Indian troops close to us. A Camel Corp also & the enemy a few miles away.

Lucker is short to day: We have orders to be ready to shift to the trenches in an hours notice. Tuesday A train load of enemy came in to the station (Close by) this morning many of them dead, and wounded. Had a good look at them they were mostly in a pitiable state, we hear the enemy is retreating they got fits at the hands of our forces on the canal, besides getting it hot from warships. ^{Some} ~~many~~ of the Turkish shells were dummies (filled with wooden bullets & useless powder) Their shells failed to reach the pretty town of Ismailia many dropped into Lake Timsah. Getting settled in our new surroundings the Hartfordshire Yeomanry came in last night from Abbassia. Have recd orders to alter the composition of the horses for vehicles we are using

three in the limbers. Thereby having to leave Cookes, load carts & 1 S.A.A. Orders are - to be in constant readiness for anywhere. Saw four flying machines over us today. Reported that the Turks have been driven back 10 miles. The sand here is much finer than at Mena. very hard pulling for horses. Very busy altering harness to suit the new arrangements. Saturday Evidences of engagement with the Turks are many wounded and prisoners are coming in every day. We are ready for the trenches. Carted 382 boxes of Amm from the Fly Sta. Supplied limbers for a funeral. (Kong Meng is charge) Had a busy day. Rumours of our going into action soon. Sunday Went to Camp Station fully equipped entrained then immediately detrained

Things went pretty well. The C.O. poured a lot. Carried away a sign post alongside the platform causing consternation & amusement. Returned to camp 1.15' took horse to water & had lunch 2.30. We now form part of the Canal Defense Force under Major General Wallace C.B. 11th Division Indian Army. Monday rose early, Sgt conveyed baggage of two platoons of A Coy to boat on Canal whence they go to relieve the N. Zealanders in the trenches. Reports are coming in of large bodies of Turks advancing on Kantara. We could hear the artillery going last night between 8 and 10 pm. in direction of Kantara. Later reports state that the Turks have retired. There is something not under stood about their movements. Went to Jamaila carpenter re mending chocks for wagon wheels when on ply trucks

Tuesday Cold: Recd from Major M. Nicols 100 piastres from Reg funds to buy 90 chocks and nails. Reports state that the Turks have retired a long way back so the prospect of an early engagement is doubtful. No afternoon parade today 6 to 8 pm parade instead recd orders to pack loading camels (24) with baggage amm & patients as they will be used for desert marching. The nights are very cold. Wednesday raining slightly - very cold. Recd word at breakfast that we are going back to Mena on Friday. The Turks have cleared so we are needed here no longer? We are very disappointed at having to go back to our old camp. Our two platoons came from the trenches at 8 pm with many tales of ^{the} wounded and dead Turks

They saw dead being buried a great
they brought back trophies (clips bullets
gear etc. Thursday 11. It is said that
many of the Egyptian & others working on
the pty here have fled and we are
returning to Mena because being harder
to supply than Indian troops which
will remain. A report is current that the
Turks are advancing again. They retired
40 miles back to a depot where they
have reformed etc. At the Custom house
ferry are ^{the} Turkish boats which they
brought for crossing the canal, captured
by our forces. Some have many bullet
holes in them. Have just taken 4
vehicles to the Station ready for
entraining first thing tomorrow
Friday rose at 4 am and got first train
with left half Bn 30 horses & baggage
half the transport est in charge
away in good time. The right half

with personnel Bde H Des went in
second train at 7.30 am the loading
& entraining was done excellently the
Bugader & C.O. were pleased. 9 am
En route for Cairo. The country which
we are passing through is mostly
desert interspersed with villages
and many green places. We passed
through Tel el Kebir (of history) and
reached Zagazig (a large place)
country magnificent flourishing
crops of beans, bereem etc etc
arrived Cairo 12.15 pm. Marched out
to Mena reached there 4.30 pm
tired and hungry. Refreshed by
receiving home letters. ^{Saturday} Franks & I got
a lot of letters last night & this morning
the news was surprising. Charlie's
letter especially so. It is a nice day
today & we have a holiday. Half of

of the transport we granted leave. It is quite natural to be here again. We did not expect to come back though when we left for Ismailia. It is grand to take off our clothes & bath + get into fresh & clean ones? Sunday 14

Attended meeting at Bde HQ. Afternoon - Lt Swift and self went to Helopolis where the second force are camped had a good look around. Went back to Cairo had tea, went to Kureal & supped at Saulló. Then home to Camp at 11 pm Had a grand day?

Monday Routine work again. Erected new horse lines in place of the old ones which the A.M.C & others walked off with when we went away. Am putting down 3 breast lines (space is limited) rumours are rife re our future doings. I think tho. that we will be here for some

time yet. Our reinforcements (which arrived for us at Ismailia) are under going special instruction to bring them up to standard. Lt-Phike is O.C in charge. Weather is keeping pleasant with cold nights. Tuesday Completed horse lines this morning. Had difficulty in procuring suitable timber for ^{the} posts, Borrowed coal from the 6th Bn to carry on shoeing etc Those who had failed in musketry are attached to the reinforcements. Bn went out for a night march at 6.30 pm about 3 miles into the desert. The C.O. having previously inspected the route in daylight. Wednesday 17 Holiday. The question of leave for transport drivers is difficult! Have arranged for half of them to go the other half on Sunday. The Officers batmen (grooms) who

have horses to see to are a constant source of annoyance. They are not to be depended on? The Officers horses are the worst looking I have & show the need of more attention & less work. ^{nd.} Infantry Officers are very severe on their mounts? Am arranging to procure better Bu farriers for the shoeing. Thursday 18 Blowy & dusty Routine work in progress. Made cow sack nose bags. The fodder issue is not sufficient (We were more liberally treated at Ismailia the Indian Army issue is larger than ours) We get only 120 lbs bran + 150 lb maize with the tiber. We get a bundle or a bundle and a half of bereem besides. (We have 63 horses) The service nose bag is not large enough for feeding tiber. The horses are looking pretty well, but not so good as before we went to Ismailia

Shoeing today. (Christfield as farrier) with Capt McCabe went to pasture show to night - the show was not much. Friday The Bu is remaining in Camp this morning for further vaccination. Small pox is reported in the vicinity. Papers state that Germany intends to take so neutral vessels. Germany will prove America for an enemy if she doesn't mind. Bu went out for night operation + bivouac Left at 3.30 pm returned 10.30 Packer accompanied by no vehicles Had a quiet day & turned in early. Saturday Reported that the undershirts shot an Henry sent back are to Garrison. A Army Corp scheme is being carried out today. Sent in a report recommending that three horses be cast as unsound + unfit for service. These horses are those forced on us just prior to

leaving for Somalia. Sunday Put in
a great afternoon with Capt Hankin & Lt Ellis
We went to the Zoo. Grotto, native quarters
then to the Jny Club for dinner Had
a splendid time arriving home 11.15 pm
Monday Cold and foggy morning but
warm later. Major Malson, Lt Smith
inspected the horses recommended
for casting. A chestnut horse was
discarded only. Their views on horses
are beyond comment. To night at dinner
the Major announced our departure for
France ^{for} about the 9th March. Hurros!
We all are pleased It is stated that
the 9th & 11th Bns leave for Turkey
next Saturday. Tuesday Very hot. Bn
going to bivouac postponed from 3 to 4 pm
^{taking} All transport. All sorts of rumours are afloat
re our destination when we shift. It may
be Jerusalem, Jaffa, Smyrna Assyria

Turkey, France England etc. Latest is that
we move next week. Got quite a bundle of
letters from home & friends. very pleased
Only 4 of us to dinner to night the rest
are bivouac^{ing} ^{Wednesday} Troop arrived
back at 8 am wed & hungry. A fine lot
of letters again this morning. Good news
from home makes one happy? The
Troop are incensed at reports pub-
lished in Australian papers by the
Press Correspondent. It is most unfair
to the large majority whom we all
know behave excellently? Thursday
Rec^d instructions to carry half Bn baggage
to bivouac on first line transport. Utilized
lumber & packs from for same. 9 am. just
rec^d orders to report to Major Marsh (Dwi Train)
for purpose of attending a 3 day track with
the Dwi Train the four of our Bde. T. Officers
attended & we marched to the other side

of Meadi (about 16 miles) had a late lunch
& returned to Camp at Meadi for the night
Friday
The A.S.C. 3rd Bde L. Horse made us welcome
to their mess, had tea & breakfast with them. We
left Meadi & went toward Helwan. Meadi
is a picturesque place, passed through very
narrow streets, trekked about 8 miles, lunched
& returned to Meadi where we bivouacked
& were again made welcome by the A.S.C. then
burned in early, feeling ill. Saturday
Rose at 6.30 feeling slightly better. Went to
breakfast with the A.S.C. Officer (Capt Thomas St.
Smith, Thomas, Price & others. Left Meadi at
9.15, reached Cairo Abbas II Bridge at 10
Stopped at Giza for a spell & reached Mona
11.15. Feel ill, think it ptomaine poisoning
Had too many tinned cherries yesterday. Sunday
The 3rd Bde left & are leaving to day, destination
unknown. My sea is all we know. A dusky
vile day. Feel ill. Took castor oil & opium pills
having a rest to day & feel in need of it?

J

May

9

8/2/15

Wai