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Wed 21/4
To ~~Sat 9/4~~
memoire

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on ED MLC
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March 1st to
Sunday April 25th 1915

1915

MAR - APRIL

Lewis F H Dobb
T.O. 7th Bn
2nd Inf Bde
1st AIF

Monday

March 1 Feel better Lt Gutteridge freed me up last night Captains Blyard & Jackson were promoted to Majors on Saturday. Sgt took in 9 swagons to Cairo for alterations & strengthening. Various rumours are rife re our destination. The bombardment of the Dardanelles indicates the likelihood of our going to Turkey? Tuesday 2 Had an

easy morning. At 3pm the Bn went on route march & bivouacs towards Shara el Harau. After evening meal transport returned to camp. The Bn made a night attack on the camp reaching there about midnight. Orders state that the Bn is to hold itself ready to embark at short notice, so we take it will be off soon, but where to - time will show. Spent new nose bags (good ones) and 4 paddles to day. The paddles are for the four Coy Commanders who under the system are now mounted?

Wednesday^{3/3} Holiday! Most of the Officers & men are on leave. Plenty rumours about when

and where we are going. Exchanged
two draught horses for two riding horses
thru Capt Whitfield. Driver Barber is trans-
ferring to the A.S.C. Driver Hampton A.S.C.
exchanging with him. Nothing doing
will be glad to get away? Thursday it routine
work. Bayonet fighting morning. Rec'd
instructions re a Divisional Scheme which
takes place tomorrow. Am hampered in
shoeing horses thro being unable to
draw nails from Ordnance. 11 pm Rec'd
orders (Bde) that Sgt is to go to Govt works
for the wagons tomorrow. Friday 5. Rose
early and got baggage packed on three
train wagons (Corp Rong Meng came on 1st
line transport) Marched with baggage with
Train to parking ground. (opposite Zoo)
had lunch there and afternoon tea with
the Train Officers in the Zoo gardens. Left
for bivouac at 5.45 pm. Had the mis-

fortune to lose my watch when moving off!!
We reached end of Infantry road towards the
bivouac at 9.15 pm. Could see no traces of
bivouac nor find anyone who knew where
we were the Bn was. Was told to find them
"It is your job" said Major Tedder. After
a long hunt I found the 7th Bn about 2
miles away. Then went back for to bring the
baggage to them. The loads were very heavy
& the desert sand made it impossible
for the teams to pull them. After strenuous
work by horses & men we got the last
load to the bivouac at 12.45. We had
as many as 16 horses in a wagon, so that
The General (Bridges) expressed his satisfaction of the working of
will give ^{the transport} some idea of the ^{adverse circumstances} to work & load? ^{6/3}
Saturday Up at 4.30 packed wagons by 5.20
Bn stood to arms & were in action by dawn
The A.S.C. horses & men arrived at 7 am, worked
in 6 horses a wagon & got back to Camp
at 8 am tired but happy. Had a rest for

remainder of day. Gave a further order for 70 canvas bags. Kerang man is bad. Think poisoned by eating ^{large} quantities of flouring berseem. Have altered my allotment (~~decreased it.~~) from April 1. Attended at H. Qrs with all officers for lecture by the Brigadier. ^{8/3} Monday Mare improving. The Bn went on route march returned 3.30pm A dirty hot day! No transport went out so the horses had a needed spell. Got the new pechou bags, fastened with cord this time, it being better than straps. Cost 2350 piastres. Went to an interesting lecture on Jerusalem given by an American in the Y.M.C.A. Tuesday No news of our shipwreck yet! We hope it won't be long before we go? The island of Lemnos is spoken of as our destination. Part of the Div L. Horse is moving today. Have heard that a new lot of L. Horse from Australia

have arrived in Alexandria. Am wondering if Charlie is with them? The Bn has gone out for 8 hours trench digging, taking the loot transport. Expect an Aust mail tonight Wednesday ^{10/3} Very hot! Bn went out at 7.30am transport (loot) accompanying. The 10th L. Horse have arrived they are camped where the 3rd Bde were. Could not find Charlie there this morning. A mail is in. Three letters from home telling me of Charlie's farewell + departure. Am surprised at Father letting Cannon? Have heard that Charlie is at Alexandria with a pack horse! Thursday Wrote to Charlie. The Bn has gone to the Zoo on a route march. It is a beastly day, hot with a ^{pana} dust storm prevailing. Will be glad to get out of here! There's nothing to write about. Spent most of day reading Aust letters & papers. The hot weather is conducive to their consumption?

Friday 12 Charlie turned up last night. Saw
Ami this morning had a great yarn. We
read the home letters. Glad to hear parcels
sent reached home safely. Ben went out for
the morning. A night attack 8 to 11 for tonight
150^{2nd} reinforcements came in this afternoon
40 for our Ben. We are now 10% over strength
and ready to move. Saturday Had the
bad luck to lose a fine draught horse last
night. by its breaking a leg. Holiday
to day for 25%. A nice pleasant day.
Had early lunch slept most of the afternoon
& wrote home. Sunday Grand morning.
Charlie Franks & I got the afternoon off
& we climbed to the top of old Cheops.
We put in a grand time together. dined
at Mena Cafe & returned in the evening.
Monday 13. More letters arrived. Ben went
out at 4 pm to take up defensive position.
It actually rained & put off starting

an hour. Reached the trenches S.W. pyramids
at 5.20. Brought the horses back to Camp for
the night leaving the vehicles in rear of the
position. Had to double back the water carts
the last half mile the pulling was very heavy.
Tuesday Franks birthday! Turned out at
4.30 am to send horses back for transport
which arrived at 7 am. The Ben came home at
4.30 am. At 5.30 it rained heavily. It is
thundering to day & raining at times. It is
strange to see rain here, so seldom does it
fall. Papers state that War Minister of
Turkey was murdered. Greece does not
seem anxious to declare war. Wednesday
An inter Ade scheme. Our Ade is fighting a
delaying action. Went out at 7.15 am
returned at 3.30 pm. C.O. says our Ben did
well & rec'd praise from the General. The
transport worked splendidly. The horses
are a.1. workers considering the feed they get?

Charlie came round in the evening we spent part of time with Lt. Eller Thursday 18
Paid native contractor 2400 piastres for the 70 bags
Bn has gone out to fill in trenches dug by us during training the work carts & packs accompanied. We borrowed the 5th Bn shovels to facilitate the work. There is nothing fresh in our departure. Something has evidently prevented us from going immediately. Went to variety entertainment in the camp, in the evening. Friday 19 Bn left at 8.30 to complete trench filling. Have heard that the 3rd Bde, who ostensibly left for Jutland some time ago are still on board ship
19 of us officers went to see cross variety show in Cinema opposite our lines, in the evening. Saturday Holiday. Have complied with order to hand in swords. We are to be fitted out with web equipment & revolver only, "Egyptian Mail" reports

the sinking of the "Bouvet" "Inimitable" & "Ocean" in the Dardanelles. — I wonder if we will go to the Dardanelles? Sunday
Went with Capt Sergeant and Lt. Whitlaw to Abbassia. Sgt & driver Wignell rode out: Picked out a draught mare which they took back. Had lunch (Whitlaw & I) with Mr & Mrs Hartnell at Abbassia. Our host & hostess were kindness itself & we enjoyed ourselves immensely. We went to Helopolis & Citadel after Monday 22 Yesterday had a great time the Citadel, Armoury, & Hartnell's were splendid. Bn has gone to erect wire entanglements. The 5th borrowed our tools for entrenching? There's nothing doing! Need orders to report to O.C. 3rd A.S.C. tomorrow. Tuesday Reported to Major Tedder O.C. 3rd A.S.C. at 7.30 am. Taking batman & valise. The 15th Bde T.O. were present as well as our Bde

Two Corps of A.S.C. with us in attendance tracked to a spot past Meadi. The scheme embraced an attack on the convoy & burning baggage to bivouacs. The 6th A.S.C. at Meadi camp invited us to dinner at 8 pm where we dined famously. Had a saddle and bundle stolen off the lines last night. Have good idea who stole it. Wednesday Camped near the horses last night. up at 6.15. Stables occupied to 7.30. Breakfast with 6th A.S.C. then attended lecture by ^{Col.} Major Manks (C.O. Train) in mess hut. Tracked for Mena at 10 am reaching there 3 pm. The trip was interesting & instructive. Had a real good time of it together with the T. Officers of the 1st & 2nd Bdes & the 6th A.S.C. at Meadi who treated us splendidly. Got a big budget of letters on arrival back.

Thursday 25 Charhi came round last night. On my recommendation he is applying

for a transfer to the 3rd A.S.C. Put in most of day reading & replying to letters. The 3rd Bde L. Horse have all arrived now. Have heard that another batch of men are being sent home. The wastage in the Division so far from all causes is considerable since we came to Egypt. This place is not too healthy for soldiers? Friday 26 Orders to hand in Sam Browne belt & sash. Have applied for clips to clip horses. Have been issued with our Colours viz Chocolate & red. The colours are sewn on the sleeves of jackets just below shoulder straps. Red is the British colour, chocolate our Bde colour. Bde goes out to night at 6 pm. A big scheme; no blankets. Have heard that big bodies of British & French troops are concentrating at Alexandria. Bde arrived back in camp at 7 am Saturday. Saturday Had an easy

Day after last night's work. The Russians seem to be doing well taking Pyrenae. etc. I wonder if Italy will join us? Read to day "black book" on German atrocities in Belgium. Ted's one of my drivers (Macdonald) in Mens house hospital. He has passed the crisis (pneumonia) & is doing well. A vile karnseem blew all day, sand covered everything. The morning was at relief when it got cool. Monday Early a.m. Gen Sir Ian Hamilton reviewed our Division. We were formed in mass, inspected & marched past saluting base. Our Bn looked a.s. The General asked me how the horses were. I answered "top top" etc. We finished up at 11 am. The Brigadier expressed approval. The V.O. acting as a Transport Officer made himself officious & afterwards obnoxious. Tuesday 30 Bn practice of Guard & Sentries in the morning.

Attended Lecture at H Qrs Brigade Lectures on "Notes from the Front" & told us that we would be going shortly. "As I know" he said "I cannot tell you when or where" I feel pretty sure that the Dardanelles are our destination & that will be off within 10 days? Wednesday another month gone. Plenty rumours about our destination etc. Note: Soldiering seems to be a hot bed for imagination? Bn practice Guard & Sentries. Capt Mason has gone to Abbassia to train reinforcements. Other officers of the Bde have gone also. Tramped driver Evans to St. Whistlaw's machine gun section at St. Whistlaw's request. April 1. A big day. Divisional scheme of disembarkation taking the green cultivation NE of camp as the sea. Bn left at 6:15 am and arrived back in dribs and drabs at about 8:30 with 80 stragglers. The men had a strenuous time

Made arrangements with natives to clip the horses at prices of 7 piastres all over and 5 piastres ^{Good} trace high. Friday 2. Church parade morning the rest of day for next a holiday. Major M^cNeill our second in Command has been promoted to C.O. of the 6th Bn ^{see} Col Semmens who has been granted 6 mos leave of absence Capt Mason is promoted to Major Lt Layh to Capt. We are likely to leave soon. Six of our Spts have been granted commissions in the English Army. Saturday supposed to be a holiday. We are very busy in the hampost sent to Cairo for our Cooke wagon & malleo's cart (wre being cut & wagon repaired) Hurrah! We are off tomorrow. Hard at it preparing. Sunday 4. Left Mensa at 5 pm with the baggage wagons for Madbouly Fly Sta. Lt Bain ^{5th Bn} Senior T.O as Bde Transport Officer. The Bn is following at 7.30 We are entraining

for Alessandria. Rode round to see Charlie ^{say. Good bye} while waiting for the other Battalion to come along with their wagons. Found him in a hospital tent, down with influenza C. reckoned he'd be out, and alright the next day. The A.S.C horses and drivers (not being as well trained as our 1st line transport) were some time before they were working smoothly. Consequently delaying our march in. We reached the entraining pla in time & soon had the horses & wagons about that were to go in the first train. My baggage wagons which were for the "Clan M^cGelivany" & "Galeka" were left behind for a later train. We travelled all night & reached Alessandria & the wharf at 6.15 am ^{very tired}. The Novian was berthed close to the platform. The soon had our horses out & fed (16 A.S.C horses

The 1st line Transport, ^{horses} which were coming along with the Bn under the Sgt. joined us before midday, having left the vehicles alongside the Galeka & taken load to "Clan Mc Gillivray". The 5th, 6th & 7th Bns horses (319 all told) were embarked on the steamer I had 80 horses & 54 men with me. We had a strenuous time loading the horses the ramp to the ship was steep & awkward? The place is full of transports! Our Bn with the 6th is on the Galeka. A Coy of ours is on the Clan Mc Gillivray. Tired out!!
Tuesday 6. Had a good sleep (on deck) last night, by gone I needed it? Anchored out from wharf all night surrounded by ships. The horses are all below deck not too good. The drawing of feed needs better attention? Capt Robin O. O. is with us. My horses are stalled in different parts of the ship which makes things a

bit awkward? The 5th Bn horses are all in together in one hold? Hells! we're off 3 pm steaming ahead for where? The lack of iron rations aboard had delayed our departure. The ship rocks and rolls some! Feel a bit queer. Our course is almost due south. Off to bed 4 pm. Feel better lying down somehow.
Wednesday Blew all night. Slept soundly on bridge deck (on leeward side of bridge) It is like a book story. Roaring wind, tossing ship, rough sea etc. It is a glorious fresh morning. We are going to Lemnos island expecting to reach there Friday morning. This boat is different to the "Hororata" the Officers have no cabins, most of the troops (The 5th Bn & details are aboard. 1400) & Officers are down with sea sickness. Have recovered from temporary effects

myself. The *Novia* is a Liverpool boat
Leyland Line, Capt. McCormick Thursday 8
Sea much calmer. Morning fresh and
invigorating. Passing Archipelago at 7am
& many small & apparently barren islands
A few from Capt Chesser 2. M. 5th Bn 150
round of ammo for my 46 transport men
& non-palio for my 55 men. Preparing
for landing. The non-palio canteen
consists of 6 handfuls of small hard
biscuits, small tin bully beef, small tin
containing soup tablets chocolate sugar etc.
The whole is put in a small canvas
bag & carried by each soldier as a
reserve ration. Studied the disembarkation
orders A few 100 pound of ammo for the
8 A.S.C drivers: C.O's & Adjutants horses
are to land first, then machine gun
horses. S.A.A water carts & balance of
riding horses

Friday 9. Spent a good night. Up before
reveille. The scene was grand & most
interesting. Lemnos island is picturesque
& green. Ships of all kinds in the vicinity
A French torpedo boat passed close to us
We raised a cheer. 7. am We are in
Port Mudros. puts me in mind of Albany.
Inside the big horse shoe are all
sorts of craft. tents & villages are dotted
on the green slopes of the island. Many
windmills (like you see in old pictures)
can be seen. The "Queen Elizabeth Agamemnon",
"Implacable" "Minerva", "Ashold"
(a Russian ship) Cornwallis are amongst
the ships. Salvidas Anchored just in
Port Mudros. Other ships are coming in
5 torpedo boats were sighted at 7.10 am.
There are submarines here also. The Port
is nearly full of ships. Rained heavily
during the evening washing us of the decks

Had to sleep in the saloon. Sunday 11
A glorious morning. The rain freshened
up the green slopes. Very pretty. Galeka
came in at 7.15 am. & came right along
side us by 9 am. Had a joyful re-
union & breakfast on board her. Got
some letters also. I drew pay for self &
men. Monday Anchored still. The
Norian & Galeka together. Lt. Denehey
has been appointed Pde Transport Officer
It is glorious weather. The Brigadier
& C.O.'s have gone to attend a Conference
& to reconnoitre landing places. We
are going to attack and land on the
Gallopoli peninsula. (Turkey) The
account of the drought at St Helena
is unsatisfactory. This Port presents
a stirring & striking spectacle at
present: Gen. Birdwood & Bridges paid
us a visit at 2.45 pm thereby causing

a mild sensation. More ships arriving.
Tuesday Rained last night. One of my draught
horses died this morning (impaction) Went
to report loss aboard Galeka, which pulled
out with me. Got back alright thanks to
a crowd of Lt. in a launch. A party of our men
lowered the dead horse ashore & buried him
The windmills on land are used for
grinding corn? Wednesday Grand
morning. 8.30 The troops are practising
disembarkation in boats lowered by
launches. It is not an easy thing to
descend a rope ladder with full
equipment on? There are supposed to
be 36 villages on the island & on enquiry
there are 200 inhabitants (mostly Greeks)
in each. Green crops, peas, beans, corn
is flourishing and many pretty
field flowers Thursday There are 63
war ships between us and the Dardanelles

A Bde disembarking scheme to day. A rumour states that we won't attempt landing for a few days yet. We fully expect to get a warm reception by all accounts. Col Warlow (C.O. 5th Bn) told us at a meeting of Officers that it would be "very interesting". He could not tell us more as his lips were sealed. Friday 16 Sea like glass. More ships arriving. Recd a paper from Gen Redwood re the situation appealing or exhorting us re preservation of water food etc. (very good) Checked rifles & amm of my 55 men. Paid a visit to Galika on board there they seemed very subdued. Had interesting events related me on board? Saturday Sea like glass. Another disembarking plant is on to day. Took in fodder from a supply boat this morning. Holed the horse deck out. It needed it?

The Brigadier & Staff came aboard. No news of our date of departure. Rumoured that a transport or torpedo boat has been beached at Gulf of Smyrna. Sunday. Adull day. Sea calm. Chaplain Dexter preached at Church parade. A hydroplane flew over us to day. 60 more troops have come aboard as beach party got Bn reinforcements. We are about 50 miles from the Dardanelles. Monday, Furnished returns field dressings ~~and~~ iron rations and life belts. Expect to leave soon. An 8th Bn horse died of pneumonia this morning. 200 more men and several officers came to swell our numbers aboard. Accommodation is very limited for all of us. The Captain of the ship has kindly given permission to us five Officers of the Veterinary Staff to sleep on the bridge. Tuesday 20 Had a jolly evening last night as the

Saloon. A cold blowy day. rough sea. The storm is viewed with disfavor as it means delay. Got some letters from the Galeka yesterday for my men. Army Corp signaller & A.M.C personnel have swelled our numbers. Wednesday Blew a gale all night. Fell the cold very much ^{sleeping} on the bridge raining & blowing still. A miserable day. Lt Lind met with a serious accident this falling down the hold (aft) He sustained injury to his head. He was treated by a Major Medico of the first Clearing hospital (who is with us) Lt Lind has been sent ashore for further treatment. The Brigadier and staff came aboard and are staying with us. Something doing? Thursday still cold but fine. Our C.O. came aboard this morning (for a conference only) Have heard of a Transport (troop) being ^{with} friends at the

torpedoes scaring the Lommies about as much. The Torpedo missed them, luckily. The weather is moderating - Expect to go soon now. Takes a long time to get meals here. The saloon is small and there are such a lot of us (3 relays) Got some letters from home dated March 11. Friday Wrote home. Held inspection of nose bags & horse rugs. It is difficult to prevent losses, especially when 4 different units are aboard the same ship. Some of the warships and transports moved out in direction of Peninsula this afternoon. The 3rd Bde amongst them - We expect to leave tomorrow. Saturday Fine day. Smooth sea. Ships leaving Huron! We are on the move got under weigh at 11.15 am Galeka left at 10.30 Excitement is in the air! Attended "Officers" by Col Warlick and received

instructions re landing for 5am tomorrow
We now form part of the Mediterranean
Expeditionary Forces under Gen Sir Hamilton
The following is the gist of our instructions
At 5am tomorrow 4 transports of which we are
one will take up our line parallel to the
beach. Each transport has covering ship
ours the 'Prince of Wales' Anchor four rags
Lugs will come alongside at 5am to
load the troops in boats to land. All
the men before starting to receive a
hot meal, & carry full water bottles
& three days ration water proof sheet
but no blankets. At Port side by one of
the first tugs Bde H Qrs & machine gun
& 180 men of A Coy with a number of
pikes & pikes hand axes & bill hooks
1st tug party to breakfast at 2am.
A message received to day from the
King read - "The King wishes you

and your army every success you are
always in his thoughts and prayers"
Gen Hamilton to "Soldiers of France
and of the King" "Before us lies an
adventure unprecedented in modern
war" "Together with our comrades
of the Fleet we are about to force a
landing upon an open beach in
face of positions" which have been
vaunted by our enemies as im-
penetrable." - The landing will be
made good, by the help of God and the
Navy; the positions will be stormed
and the War brought one step nearer
to a glorious close." Remember said
Lord Kitchener when bidding adieu
to your commander. "Remember once
you set foot upon the Gallipoli Peninsula
you must fight the thing through
to a finish" "The whole world

"will be watching our progress" "Let us prove ourselves worthy of the great feat of arms entrusted to us." Ian Hamilton's General. We are dropped anchor at 5 pm today about 30 miles from our landing place (well out of sight) At 11 pm we moved off Breakfast was ready at 2 am and all preparations made for our "adventure" Sunday April 20 I will never forget to day. It I was acting Officer of the guard from 12 to 4. The crept along silently with darkened ship. Crept into the darkness crept quietly into our position opposite the landing place on the Peninsula. It was awe inspiring the feeling was a bit tense but everyone was joyful at the thought of things ahead. The splendid battle ships including "Queen Elizabeth" "Duke of Devonshire", "Princess of Wales", "Majestic", "Implacable", "Triumph"

"Surfshire", "Bacchantine" etc. Torpedo boats, Sea planes, balloon ship, submarines, mine sweepers. etc. Transports etc etc. Just before dawn 4.40 I heard the firing getting louder and louder. The 3rd Brigade had commenced landing at 2 am, but we could not hear the firing then as ^{we were not} ~~we got~~ in close enough then. At 4.40 am in the grey dawn we could hear them firing hot and strong. Heavy rifle fire. Big guns booming etc. The 7th Bn + others started disembarking. The enemy's guns blazed away at our landing parties Shrapnell etc fell all over the area. Then our warships opened out on the enemy pouring shells into them etc. It was grand, + beyond description. Our guns silenced most of the enemy in an hour. but one enemy gun was concealed cleverly on a point on the right

still kept playing havoc with our fellows
Back come the cows for more troops A cow that
came to our boat for the 5th Bn had 8 men
2 dead 4 hopelessly wounded & 2 slightly wounded
A 12th Bn ^{3rd Bde} man had his chute damaged A bullet
went thro his rifle driving it into his face -
We have the rifle on board. I stood on the
bridge ^{4th Bde} watching the battle 6.A.M. They told us
that our boys as soon as they got ashore "Let
out an awful roar and went right through
the enemy" Our troops hunted them out of the trenches
(near the beach) where they were ~~was~~ ready &
waiting for them. Our men captured a fine 14
pounder plained the bluffs which are rugged
rough & scrubby. & took more trenches etc.
8:50 am A big burst of machine guns, rifle
fire, is going like fury all the time. I hope
our men can stick to it? Reinforcements
are still pouring in. The sea is calm
the weather beautiful. We are excited

9:5 am Our battle ships are banging away
at the hidden guns shells are falling thickly
everywhere. Shapnell landed close to us
The men are sent below. 5 of our 7th Bn men
are lying dead in a boat that has come for
more of the 5th Bn. It was sad to see the
brave wounded who were smiling in spite
of their wounds. The sea planes are reconnoitering
the balloon is up watching for targets for
the warships etc. At 9 the Hassan commenced
unloading an Indian mountain battery
mules & guns. 9:15 am. They are hard at it on
the hill. Firing is very fierce. The hill is
covered with low scrub. Our men are on the
hill I hope they are holding their own?
We have lowered our horse pontoons 9:20
Troops are still being taken to land as
quickly as possible. We are anchored about
a mile from the shore. The big guns ^{have} ceased
firing I hope they have silenced all the enemy.

9:25 A big gun boomed from the land the shell landed near the "Prince of Wales" 9:30 machine guns are going like fury. Our troops are along the hill crest. Big bodies of ours are on the beach reinforcing them. A boat load of ammo has passed us for our troops. Away on our right South are a lot of ships (ours) A whopping shell fell almost on top of one of our torpedo boats followed by two more barely missing "Prince of Wales" Time 9:36 am. Cunts: I'm too excited to write they are too close to be pleasant. about 300 yds from us. Another big one, but he too missed the line the "Cardigan Hero" The machine guns are at it full belt. More big shells. they ~~must~~ appear to be coming from a long way inland probably from the sand dunes. 9:40 still they come. Two whoppers just whizzed us by! one just clears the "Masthead" Gee whizz! Still they come. The battle is terrific. 9:55 We are clearing further out I think we are winning? By your wire lucky?

A tale of a hat Meena Camp Egypt
During training at Meena an order was published stating that helmets could be worn by troops if applied for by them on payment. Our C.O who was much adverse to helmets being worn by our Bn harangued them to the effect that they must wear hats. If you haven't a hat he said, you must get one. Where you get it I don't care but you must get it. Next morning the Colonel's hat was missing. The Coy Commander & other officers consequently were a subdued expression for the C.O expressed ~~characteristically~~ expressed his displeasure. The Bn was formed up & a strict search was made through the men & tents for the missing hat. Needless to say it was not found. But there were many in the Bn who expressed ^(amongst) to themselves their belief in its whereabouts. Some O.C.'s were proffered old hats as the missing one, but men of their commands. Ultimately the C.O bought a new hat. Many wagers were made as to the time the C.O would keep it? It was not safe to mention "hat" in the C.O's presence for a fortnight.

