

May 10<sup>th</sup>  
To May 31<sup>st</sup>

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May 10th

Fine and clear. Heard that China and Japan are contemplating war? Firing quiet nearly all night. Our position here <sup>Sari Baik</sup> ~~Gaba Tepe~~ seems to be pretty strong now. I hope that at Cape Helles things are as good? No news yet re the movements of our transport sections. 3.30 Firing is going on intermingled with big guns. Some of the ships that took wounded to Alexandria have returned bringing more troops etc. 7.5 pm Shrapnell burst right over the top of our H Qs on the beach. Firing is fitful. 9 pm The war ships have their search lights directed on the land. The Morse lamps are twinkling all over the place.

Tuesday 11th June. When waking the sentries at 3 am I could hear the rifles cracking. 9.30 am Four big shells fell out amongst our ships but luckily missed us, as usual. 10 am A captured mark full of men is coming in on our destroyers as escort. 3.15. The enemy are shelling the beach furiously all over our H Qs. The Devanka & Minapoli came in tonight at 7 pm. Firing was fairly constant all day. The weather is cold and raining. Wednesday 12th. Cloudy and damp. Firing still on. 9 am The Devanka is discharging her troops (& 3rd Regt of Light Horse) for shore. Shrapnell is again falling all over our H Qs. Our guns are firing it but the enemy shrapnell still comes. 11.45 Received orders that we



are to move straight to Alexandria  
back it! So it's up with the anchor  
& wire off. I wonder what next?  
5.15 We are full steam ahead. The  
Lizzie is firing her big guns. 7.10  
Passing Lemnos Light House. We  
are apparently midway between it  
and the setting sun. Thursday 13  
9 am Steaming along gaily in the  
teeth of a southerly wind. We are high  
out of the water - ship very lightly loaded  
now. We have left the battle fields  
behind us. I wonder how many  
of our Brigade will find a Alexandria?  
7.20 Passing Madonna island left  
house on Port side. There are apparently  
barren islands on the starboard side.  
We don't like the idea of leaving  
the Dardanelles some how; but  
as our horses are of no use whatever

there at the present juncture. It  
is best to get them back to land  
and fit again. Friday 14th  
Sea smooth. The boat quivers some.  
We are grateful for the pleasant  
weather. We will be glad to  
get the horses on land soon  
horses cooked up for 6 weeks  
(or ~~for~~ Monday) with no exercise  
so hard on them. We have lost  
but three so consider that we have  
done excellently with them. Looking  
forward to getting news at Alexandria  
Saturday 15. Arrived Alexandria  
just out from wharf at daylight.  
8.30 anchored. Got some papers  
Gobark punk. Sir Ian Hamilton's  
cable to Paris + situation in  
Europe. The battle 2<sup>nd</sup> time at Ypres  
was a bonza. "Is a big scrap this?"



Ships are numerous. all around loading, unloading, going out, coming in, waiting to load & unload etc. We are getting news now alright. Capt Robin & Lt Eller went ashore after lunch. (I am orderly Officer to day & can't go) They returned at 6 pm. bringing lots of news & some letters. Frank got 2 from home dated April 7th. speaking about the mill etc. Evidently the mill met with another hurricane?! They visited the Base Office the details are too numerous to write of. Our Brigade has had terrible losses. The list of casualties is very large. Our C.O. Col Elliott is at Cairo getting better from his wound. Major Jackson & several of our wounded 7th News whom Robin & Eller saw

asked for me stating that I am the only Officer of the 7th who was not wounded. The list they brought back shows that Capt & Lt Henderson, Lt Davies, Lt Birk, Capt Hunter, Capt McHenry, Lt Chapman, killed, All the others wounded including the <sup>our</sup> two reinforcement Officers, Capt Ross & Lt Liddelow, though the list did not show. Lt Cuttridge, Lt Grills, Capt McCrae. They did not know how many of our Battalion were killed, The 6th Bn Officers suffered heavily also such a lot of them, including, Major Wells, Major Hamilton, Lt, Strachan, Lane, Cox and 429 men killed. Our Bde which comprises the 5th 6th 7th & 8th Battalions Infantry expects to muster about one Batt. Our losses are heavy?



Lt Connolly told Lt Eller that a  
muster of our Boes which took place  
just before they were shepherded down  
to Cape Helles totalled about 300. We  
know that at Cape Helles, our Boes  
got it terribly hot then also. Our  
H. Qs Staff including the Brigadier  
McKay, the Brigade Major Cass, Lt  
Hastie, Capt Posingham & Capt  
Wallace were wounded there. It  
will take some time to reorganise our  
Brigade now. It is war alright!  
Am pleased that the King & Anthonie  
speak so well of our men. There is no  
doubt that the Australians deserve it  
thoroughly. We hear to day  
that Hilid Baka has been taken  
& Pehi Babi, but that 100,000  
more men are needed to make our  
positions taken by us secure.

The "Queen Elizabeth" brought down  
an enemy's aeroplane the day we  
left the peninsula. I hope its the  
taube that tried to sink us. Crumbs!  
we've hardly got over the fight she  
beggar gave us?. Very sorry to hear  
that no pain has fallen at home  
tho I heard to day that good pain  
fell in Victoria after the letter was  
written that we got from home to day  
Sunday anchored alongside the wharf  
all day no ramp was available  
for taking off the horses. Expect to  
take them off first thing tomorrow  
& pm went over to the "Guldford  
Castle" hospital ship that has come  
in a while ago. saw the Brigadier  
McKay & had a talk with him.  
He is immensely proud of the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Brigade the work & bravery of them



has brought forth the highest praise  
from all. Gen Hamilton expressed his  
highest approval etc. The Brigadier  
told me I could go to the firing line  
on asking him, he said he did not  
think he could spare Frank (The Sgt,  
as well. Told me to report to Major  
Le Maistre, (who is in charge of our  
ship) that his desire was that I  
should go - I expect to take some  
of my men with me. Have yet to find  
out the particulars. The Brigadier  
is going to a hospital here & will  
arrange matters. I saw <sup>Red</sup> Major  
Cass. He was very jolly, though he  
was badly wounded one bullet  
through a lung & another bullet  
skirted his body. I saw Capt Hogan  
he too was jolly & Lt Meir a NZ  
Officer. Poor Bertie Brown (Lt) he was

shot through an eye losing it. He  
was taken off to hospital so was Capt  
Inabayon he was badly wounded  
like our Cob McNeill. & many many  
others. The wounded were putting  
smiling faces toward all. It makes  
one proud to belong to such Australians.  
The fights they have taken part in  
to were stupendous, & terrific. I  
heard that a Battalion of Dominion didn't  
do too good (from away) & that the  
French troops in some cases did not  
come up to the grand Australian standard.  
I wish I had more time to write & that  
I could collect my thoughts to take  
down the stories & experiences I  
have heard to day. Anyway a  
thing that stands out is that  
Australians <sup>people</sup> have made a name  
for themselves that will never fade!



Some of our Officers state that they were disappointed in the Navy they said that they did not get the support they thought that they would <sup>get</sup> from them. Some say the war boats guns expended a lot of shells for nothing. Others say that the Navy did magnificent work in the other places. Monday 17th 9 am Getting off baggage ready for disembarking the horses 2 pm Had horses off harnessed & en route for Mex Camp. Arrived Mex Camp at 6:30. It <sup>is</sup> a long way, about 9 miles from Alexandria, Very tired! Working to tie our horses to. No ropes or lines. Made the best use of materials at hand, stones etc. We had a trying night horses getting loose everywhere,

Fed up!!! Tuesday 18. Put in a rotten night. Two horses missing to make matters worse. <sup>Some?</sup> The A.S.C men attached to me are not soldiers? Have had them up before the Major many times. Have a very bad cold Cough all night. Busy erecting horse lines. Completed them & was told we had to shift our camp further down!!! Wednesday 19th. With Frank walked across the salt lake that is close to us on the east side. This salt & soda deposit is one of the 7 wonders of the world. It is remarkable. Had a fair night rest interrupted by fits of coughing. Thus are in billions Our part of the Camp. (The Transport Section (1st - 2nd line) of the 2nd Brigade all from off the Novian are together. The other ships loads

Calvin recovered the missing horses



horses & their personnel etc are camped  
according to ships. eg. Mashobra  
Galepa, Lutgow, Novrain etc etc.  
The Suffolk (ship) <sup>part of</sup> 3rd Bde  
came in last night. Have heard  
that I will not be allowed to  
go to the peninsula, am doubtful  
if the Sgt will go either. An Army  
Corp order just out prevents. I sent  
in a list of 10 of my men last night  
who volunteered to go into the front  
line Coy Nixon in charge. I do  
not like sending them now, as  
especially as they won't let Frank  
or me go with them. Had a  
long talk with the Sgt last night re  
the matter. The Sgt is going into  
tomorrow to Alexandria for the  
purpose of looking up our Ben  
Officers re the matter. Major

Le Maître intends seeing the  
Burgess also in the matter. Perhaps  
Frank or I will go yet? This is  
going to be a long war & there  
will be plenty of time for us to  
get into the real thing with the  
fighting line instead of being in  
the rear & being shelled without a  
chance of retaliation. Well! Well!  
They all tell me I'm a fool to want to  
go. Every one of our Officers &  
men who have returned wounded  
say that they never want to see  
the Ardanelles again? We  
hear reports constantly of the  
behaviour of the troops that have  
fought and are fighting on the  
Gallipoli. The 14th Bn does not  
as yet seem to have gained approval.  
The French troops report say 'Go into



action gallantly & rapidly has  
unfortunately they come back  
as quick as they go. The Bulund  
Tomms in some cases have  
done badly. Saw a much! one crowd  
is reported as doing well! perhaps  
any troops would do the same thing  
at times. Thank God our Australians  
have a glorious name already.

It was "Come on Chaps" & don't  
they go. Our Brigadier McKeay  
walking through our trenches at  
one particular time carrying a  
walking stick said to his men  
"Do you think you if I can get to  
those enemy trenches in front with  
my stick" You can get there with  
your rifles" My — o ash.  
Choused the men & they did  
Our Bde (The 2<sup>nd</sup>) which was sent

from Gaba Tepe to Cape Helles  
were sent down because they were  
good men. Our men which had  
borne the brunt of a terrific fighting  
for days were relieved & taken  
down to Cape Helles. There they again  
did marvellous work, & again got  
terribly cut up. Poor fellows! Gallant  
lads! Our Brigadier is wounded  
now in hospital. Our General Bridges  
died of wounds & was buried yesterday  
in Alexandria. Our Army Corp C. O. Gen  
Bridwood is wounded there only one  
Officer in our Bn (The 7<sup>th</sup>) Mr Grillo  
standing at the front now. & only one  
Officer of the 6<sup>th</sup> so report states  
Our C. O. is getting better & going back  
There seems to be no doubt that  
St. Davy was killed he was a  
fine fellow & a friend of mine



Poor Charlie I will miss him a lot.  
Capt Inlayson, & Major Blyard I hope  
are recovering. I have been wondering  
what Italy is going to do? If she  
hops in with us it should help a lot?  
Friday Aduly Office to day  
nothing doing. Had a neighbouring  
T. Officer (Lt Mc Lellan 3<sup>rd</sup> Bde) to lunch  
with us. His & dust are pestering us?  
Heard that the 3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>reg</sup> Light Horse who  
disembarked off the "Eleonora" at  
the peninsula the day we left there  
have already sustained many casualties.  
The day after they landed 600 of them  
were put on board wounded so it  
must be pretty hot there still. What  
we want is reinforcements and  
more reinforcements. It will take  
some time before our Bde is  
brought up to its original strength.

Perhaps will be here a long time  
yet? "Her's hope" one never  
knows what the day will bring forth?  
I have been told that many of  
my Euroa boys have been  
wounded & killed. Good old Euroa  
they made a name for it, that will  
last. I only wish I had been with them.  
Saturday. Frank & Mr Eller went in  
to Alexandria yesterday and saw  
the Brigadier & Col Mc Nicoll and  
other of our Officers that are in the  
German hospital. The Brigadier  
says that he will take us to Gallipoli  
as soon as he can. He is very very  
proud of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade. Col Mc  
Nicoll has done well. He said  
that he will receive a D.S.O for his  
splendid work. Col Mc Nicoll  
Col of the 6<sup>th</sup> Bde had received orders



When on the summit near Gaba Tepe  
to go up ahead in conjunction with the  
Naval Brigade who were entrenched ahead  
in front. Col McNeill went up to confer with  
the Colonel of the Naval Bde, & make an  
reconnaissance preparatory to attack.  
When the two Colonels walked along  
through the Naval Bde trenches. talking  
& making cheery remarks to the men when  
suddenly a Naval Bde man was killed  
but they went into fixed positions blank  
of them. The other soldier (5 or 6) in the  
trench however, thinking they were  
attacked fired a volley at the visitors  
their Colonel fell dead & a Sgt. Major  
& two privates. Col McNeill was pushed  
& with bayonets, he pushed aside one  
but was scratched with others. The  
British soldiers were rough & ready  
methods bound & blindfolded him

and took him to the rear - When  
they found out their awful mistake!!  
After a days rest Col McNeill went  
back to the firing line doing splendid  
work. When the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade went  
to Cape Helles some time afterwards  
Col McNeill was there personally  
wounded in a charge at the  
same time as the Brigadier and  
staff were wounded. —  
Lt Johnson died of wounds &  
was buried yesterday. Good old  
Jim. another of the finest  
fellows gone. It is sad to think  
of it. Jimmy was a grand soldier  
and man! A cable from Gen  
Hamilton was received at the Base  
Office today stating that General  
Bulfinch's death was avenged. In the  
loss of 500 they had accounted for 5000.



1:30 pm Orders have arrived for  
Major Le Maistre Capt Chasser & 20 of the  
5th details to embark immediately  
for the Peninsula. Our cooks, pioneers  
ordnance room Sgt are amongst them. We  
will have many duties to perform from  
our transport sections, <sup>now</sup> to keep our  
Korria Camp up to date. Sunday.

I am Captain of the day for the Camp. The  
performance of my duties was a novel experience  
Inspecting the Guards & Cantiniers etc. etc. Capt  
Chasser and most of the men returned once  
again. Major Le Maistre and two men  
went on the "Derflinger" Capt Chasser  
& the others have orders to report to a  
camp at Mustapha which place is  
for those who embark first for the  
peninsula from the various camps here.  
Lt. Bolton who went in on leave  
to Alexandria last week has not

yet returned though his time was  
up on Friday evening last. Monday<sup>24</sup>  
Went in charge of the 7th & 8th horses  
to the sea this morning for a swim  
It is glorious in the sea and  
the whole of us thoroughly enjoy  
it. Made up acquittance rolls for  
our men last night. The men  
signed the rolls as having received  
payment and Mr Bain took the  
roll in to Alexandria to day to  
draw the money which he had  
previously arranged for. The  
Otago mounted rifles, <sup>horses & horse holders</sup> most of  
which went to the front as  
Infantry; similar to our Light  
Horse Regt left for Mustapha  
yesterday that is their horses (800)  
& men in charge did the reason  
they have left our camp is that



the supply of water here is inadequate. This departure makes the watering of our horses more satisfactory. Lt Eller is taking out the 5th & 6th horses this afternoon for a punni. I am carrying on as orderly officer for him during his absence. Tuesday, 25th May. Mr Eller went in to Alexandria to cash pay cheque. Paid the men this evening. Every one was plucky, so the money was most acceptable. Attended lecture at the Camp Commandant's (Major Holdsworth) tonight on the proposed reorganization of the 1st line transport. It is proposed that the 4 lumber wagons, & Cooks & mallee cart be handed over with the horses and drivers to the div train & replaced by 22 Army

transport vehicles, to be drawn by mules, & worked by Indian drivers. To night at dinner we had a newly appointed subaltern Mr H. Bolton & a Lt Hardy who have just returned from the peninsula. There is a likelihood of our Bde coming back to regroup and reorganize. Heard that Capt Weddel is in command of the 4th Bn. Major Bennett in command of the 6th Bn. Col Bolton is acting as Brigadier. Heard also that Col Elliot & Lt Conder are being invalided home to Australia. Every account of the Australians at the peninsula specially mention the splendid bravery of the 2nd Brigade. The French & British troops by all accounts



are inferior to our men? Wednesday  
May 26<sup>th</sup> Frank & I having leave  
visited Alexandria went to the Metropole  
Hotel which is being used as Australian  
Base Office. saw orderly room Sgt  
Dickenson who gave us much in-  
formation. He showed us a wire from  
Col Elliott from Meliana stating that he  
was coming by train & asking Dickenson  
to meet the Timber Quay at 2 pm.  
Frank & I had lunch at the Windsor  
Hotel where we met Lt Heron. Heron was  
jolly and looking well despite his wounds  
& the loss of his right eye. After lunch  
we went to the Quay and found  
Col Elliott on board of the Australian  
having just arrived with a large number  
of 4<sup>th</sup> reinforcements and convalescents  
from Cairo which he was taking  
to the peninsula. Col Elliott looked

pretty well despite his wound & having  
just recovered from a severe attack of  
bronchitis. He was pleased to see  
us & we went into his cabin & had a  
long talk. Dickenson turned up with  
the rolls. The Colonel received much  
information re the Bn & Brigade. The  
C.O. said that he would be glad to  
take Frank & me at once with him  
He asked about the horses etc. resulting  
in him saying that if I could get per-  
mission from the Camp Commandant he  
would be glad of me. & that Frank would  
get my job Lt Burrows came in. (promoted  
some little while ago to English Commission)  
now Adjutant at Zeitoun. He all de-  
plored the loss of our brother Nye's men  
Lt Stewart our Sig Officer came along  
later He is getting better despite his  
three wounds in the legs. Had <sup>operation</sup> tea



wish Stewart at Groppi's. I visited  
the Novian to see the Captain but he  
was on shore and I did not see him  
I was sorry because I wanted to get  
my diaries from him to send home.  
We had a good dinner at the Windsor  
Hotel. Before dinner we went shopping  
while we were up top in Mayers we  
had a grand view of a procession of  
Italians who have been mobilized &  
are leaving for Italy tomorrow. School  
& military bands playing. All the Allied  
flags carried together in front followed  
by a big cheering crowd. The sight  
was unique and interesting. Most of  
the main streets still had the decorations  
up that were displayed for the Sultan's  
visit of a day or two ago. Thursday 27th  
Very hot day. Have a chafed heel  
very sore. Had a glorious swim

in the sea this afternoon with  
Capt Robin & Lt Eller the horses & men  
Capt Chasser has at last gone.  
With 10 men he left for Mustapha  
at 2 pm. I saw Lt Bollois yesterday  
he stated he was returning today  
but has not done so he has been  
absent without leave since Friday  
last. We here, now only Lt Bain  
Eller Capt Robin V.O. & myself have  
a lot to do. The Camp duties are many  
& the horses need the best of attention?

Friday May 28. Egyptian Gazette  
reports that the "Triumph" was submerged  
Good old Triumph she did great work along  
side us at Gabu Tepe. A bit cooler today  
changed off the sea last night. Latest  
reports from the peninsula state that  
our forces are doing well. Gen Birdwood  
states that Official Communiqués



reports that during the suspension of fighting in order that the Turks might bury their dead, much larger losses than the three thousand already reported came to light. Two areas in front of our positions where heavy punishment to the enemy has not previously been reported were covered with dead. Four hundred corpses were counted in an area 80x100 yards. Over 1200 Turkish rifles were picked up on our side of the dividing line during the suspension of hostilities. We have now resumed the offensive & the fighting is becoming more violent again. I have heard some of our wounded officers say that had we been more ready to take prisoners we would have had much less stubborn resistance but, as they also say

"When we saw instances & evidences of our men foully butchered & maltreated & mutilated by the enemy how ~~so~~ and the white flag used as a <sup>means</sup> screen to trap our men how could we accept their surrenders? This Camp is very dusty, fine dust flows about in clouds. The place is dirty & rather insanitary. It is hot and we are getting fed up with it. Today we sent in to Alexandria a Corp & 5 men to hunt up four of the 5th 6th & 8th men that have cleared out. report states that some of them got on a boat bound for the peninsula. The routine work is not liked by the men, in a who are compelled to stay in a camp when their mates are in the firing line. Our job is here and our duty is to do



it to the best of our abilities uncom-  
plainingly.

Plenty of dust that is dust, plenty of  
heat, innumerable flies, not too much  
work and not too much beer. The only  
saving grace is that we can have a swim  
near by, but that's worth a lot.

Alan H. Robin

28/5/15.

Plenty of work that is work, Have  
just attended a meeting of the  
Regimental Institute Committee. The  
Contract made between the  
Contractor & the Camp Commandant  
is viz: - The Contractor is to pay  
the Committee  $2/3$  per head per month  
for all troops in camp. & to allow  
a rebate of  $4\frac{1}{2}\%$  on all goods  
sold in dry canteen. Who would  
not be an Army Contractor?

J.H. Miller  
28/5/15

Our ration here is as per following.

1 lb bread 1 lb meat 4 oz jam 2 oz  
butter 4 oz bacon, 3 oz cheese 8 oz  
vegetables 4 oz potatoes, tea, sugar pepper  
salt & mustard. We get in lieu of  
bacon an issue of 5 eggs a man  
twice a week. Our fodder issue  
is, For Tubbs 6 lbs dress 10 lbs  
grain (barley & maize) 8 lbs bran  
3 lbs. We draw firewood at rate  
of 3 lbs per man for cooking purposes  
In addition to the rations we believe  
that we are entitled to draw  $8\frac{1}{2}^0$  per  
man per day (Cyprian's allowance)  
but that question (which is now under  
discussion) is yet to be decided.  
Saturday May 29. <sup>10 am</sup> Have just written out  
application through Lt Bain to the Camp  
Commandant (Major Holdsworth) to join  
my Bn at Gallipoli. Frank is being



strongly recommended for my job. If I get away it clears the way for promotion for him & for L/Cpl Hong Meng, who I will have made Sgt in Frank's place. Lt. Hershby sent me a note, I rang him up as John Ross's asking him to come out. One of my horses (Roan) broke Riley this morning. Capt Robin destroyed him Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>. Capt Chas went off on a mou yesterday this time to board a boat I believe. Hot today Lt Bolton returned <sup>to us</sup> yesterday, A bit of a stir this morning An order came stating Lt Bolton to catch a boat at 2 pm for the peninsula. Later - A false alarm - It was his brother that was recalled not him, so he has again returned here. Today we play a cricket match against the Mashobra crowd. Sent in the Sgt for ours + the 6<sup>th</sup> wagons (34) yesterday afternoon. Got them here alright, what was left of & in them. The Cooks cart is badly smashed & most of the other vehicles need repairing. The contents are mixed up all ways as usual? We beat the Mashobra

at Orkney after a good go by 23 runs I umpired. Have heard that the Implacable has been torpedoed also. Crumbs! That's 3 of our fine warships that were alongside us at Gallipoli. Monday 31.5.10  
Last day of May. Very hot. Busy overhauling the wagons equipment and contents. Loading vehicles on ships & unloading them is bad for vehicles. The contents are highly highly & dirty being mangled over and searched by indigenous tomnies & other soldiers looking for grub & clothing, or anything of value. It is not conducive to efficiency, to send wagons and stores on boats that the owners do not travel on. We had the horses & harness on the Kovian our wagons, equipment etc went on the Galeka. It takes much time to straighten out the tangle that invariably occurs when units are separated on different ships! moving

Paper should have been of better quality as remnants are 6000 to date



