

1764 Pte John Kingsley Gammage 1 Bn (4th Reinforcements)
Baker, b. Cootamundra NSW enr. 27/1/15 aged 28.

PR 82/3

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April 10th 1915

Left Sydney. No one allowed on wharf, moved off quietly.

14th 15th 16th

very rough very nearly all hands sick. Shipping tons of water no one allowed on decks.

18th

Arrived at Freemantle at 9 a.m. Big crowds visit wharves, no leave given. Very big fire near wharf all night, over twenty men broke leave by sliding down ropes on to rowing boats.

19th

Loaded 350 horses⁺ at 4 p.m. 320 men. 6 p.m. very large crowd on wharves. 6.30 sailed 20 men missed the Boat. Sea very smooth.

29th

Arrived at Columbo at 9 p.m. at once started to load coal 6 a.m. hundreds of niggers swarming around the boat and doing some splendid diving for coins. Finished coaling 1 p.m. and sailed 4 p.m. on 30th.

May 3rd

passed Aden.

5th

passed Hells Gate.

13th

Arrived at Suez and took train to Zetoun camp.

14th

No parade so went to Cario and found out what very small knowledge of the world I had, was very interested in the natives and their dress and filth, the way they would lay down anywhere and sleep. The narrow streets were alive with niggers and donkeys and camels. All business seems to be done by hawking. Could not get an English feed so pugged into some Arabs Rubbish and was only sick for two days. After dinner visited The Wazza and I might say it is a bigger place than Coota. After touring around for a couple of hours became absolutely discusted with the whole female sex and particularly the military Authorities for allowing such a cosmopolitan mixture of girls such a free kick.

15th

Went to Heliopolis. The largest Hotel in the world is here. Also some of the most beautiful structures, the whole place is clean and well looked after. French, Belgium and ~~Americans~~ Armenians are the principal inhabitants.

16th

Address by the General.

17th

Went to dead city.

18th 19th 20th and 21st

Went to Cairo.

22nd

Left Zetoun 5½ hours in train to Alexandria. Embarked on to ^{Dertlinger} Desplenger (A captured German Vessel) 2000 aboard put on guard.

May

23rd

Sailed. Man over board but saved after being 22 minutes in water smart and plucky rescue. Life belt thrown right into his hands.

24th

On guard.

25th

Arrived at Lemnos at 5 p.m.

26th

Destroyers Harpie Savage Grampus and Raccoon drew up I embarked on to Savage tried to land on the peninsular at 4 p.m. destroyers can not come within one mile of land so we got orders to man the rowing boats. ^{the boats} on their way I am for No. 3 boat. A heavy fire started from right and left, one shot from each gun found the range still quite cool and in my boat with all my equipment undone shell continue orders from the bridge to draw out after 30 casualties 3 sailors included. drawing out upset the boat I was in. Two life belts thrown over at once and my mate and myself were hauled up. Landing under these conditions were impossible so 2 destroyers were sent to stand over the Turks guns. They would not fire now for fear of making their position known. At 4.45 we again went about making a landing from further out and succeeded owing to the small boats making such a small target. All hands landed we done a very foolish thing by falling in and standing on the beach waiting for orders under the two worst guns on the peninsular of course unknown to us. We arrived in the firing line at 6 p.m. and at 8 p.m. I was sapping 8.30 a very heavy rifle fire and bombs and rockets from 60 yards off. One of the best sights of my life was the way the sailors moved about on the destroyer I was on when men were falling all around our boat which had 500 aboard they were as cool as if we were being landed for a birthday party. Our men had a good name under fire and Jack Tar just showed us they could face death without flinching.

27th

At 3 a.m. Stood to for 2 hours. Guns open up bombs fly about Rockets and Flares flying, big attack expected. 12 p.m. Heavy Schrap - till 2 p.m. 3 p.m. till 5 p.m. Heavy Schrap.

28th

At 3 a.m. Stood to for 2 hours, heavy firing of schrap - all day. Alarm by us at 12.30 a.m.

29th

12.30 a.m. shouting and firing trying to draw them out. 3 a.m. stood to for 2 hours. Very heavy rally, one slug of schrapnell through my blanket but I was not lying down thank god, officers alarmed we stood to again from 5 till 9 a.m. with fixed bayonets. Very heavy Sch - all day. 10 p.m. Heavy rally by Turks.

30th

3 a.m. Stood to for 2 hours. Heavy Sch - all day. Turks try hard to bring two of our Air-planes down. 11.30 p.m. volunteered for a charge on trench. Known as German officers trench, am very fortunate I am in the 2nd fifty to charge, our first fifty are absolutely beaten only seven return, 43 casualties, my 50 are not allowed out on any account, men are worth their weight in gold at present.

31st

Stood to for two hours. Quiet all day, we move to behind the trenches 2 slugs of Sch very close one into my overcoat one between my legs. Turks after our Air-planes - over 60 shells after one.

1st June

Very heavy Sch - on camp all day all hands under cover in dugouts. Airoplane sights a submarine great commotion amongst our Vessels in harbor. 13 of our company Killed and wounded by one shell. While having some of that cursed present arms men will rebel if drill under fire continues.

2nd

Three of our platoon Killed by a dugout falling in. Had a very narrow escape on beach, I went swimming with two men who were both Killed, I got covered with blood. Very heavy Sch all the evening all in our dugouts only 4 casualties, 2 Killed.

3rd

Crusiers and destroyers bombarding. Turks make a terrific noise thought something doing. They bombard us all day. The Turks Artillery is much superior to ours.

4th

Very heavy Sch over our camp. Warship bombard Achi Baba for 8 and a half hours with 16 Vessels

5th

Stood to Attack expected Very Heavy rifle to Artillery firing 2.30 till 5 a.m. were rushed into firing line to Reinf - D. Compy. All day Turks bombard 4 p.m. went swimming and had exceptional close call no more swimming for me my luck is right in my mate had his stomach blown out with whole shell. Heavy firing and Rifle fire and a general fire works display the whole heavens lit up.

6th

Only our Artillery and Warships going 4 p.m. went to trenches 8 p.m. started sapping on a tunnel that goes 30 yds in front of our trenches, relieved and sent out in front of our trench through a hole at the end of tunnel I am one of 6 men altogether 2 of our men shot by our own blooming fools, our officers to blame, one of which should be shot for manslaughter he is not fit to be in charge of Cadets in Australia.

7th

Stood to. Very dangerous camp can be sniped from all directions. 2 men Killed and 2 wounded.

8th

Stood to 3 till 5 and from 7 to 10 a.m. Turks bombard all day they still have a big advantage of us with more men and artillery 2 men sniped while having tea. Price was one of them. Teasedale shot himself. 6 till 8 p.m. Heavy Schrap

9th

Stood to, this is a real posey of a place. Sch all the morning 2 p.m. our Warships and artillery gave Jacko a bombarding Turks reply a great Artillery battle and Jacko won. 5 p.m. 2 men sniped some as yesterday.

10th

Stood to 3 to 5 a.m. Heavy firing all day I made sure one of our air-planes was brought down Turks send over 50 shells after him 9 p.m. a Turkish prisoner used to try to draw them out they reply wanting to know when we will surrender also telling us if we dont they will drive us all in to the sea and take no prisoners thats nice to know. Our Artillery firing hard on left wing and Warships bombarding Achi Baba. got a piece of bread (first piece) if fever or some disease ^{dise} does not break out here it is a mirracle.

June

11th

Stood to 3 till 5 a.m. had a very close shave nearly smothered a shell knocked 5 yds of parapet and sand bags over me. 4 p.m. shifted to rear of the firing line 9 p.m. went to reinforce 2nd Batt - and got particularly heavy Schrap - on the road up no time to take cover. Arrived at 10 p.m. only 6 casualties. Very heavy Bombing and rifle fire and Rockets and flares from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m.

12th

Stood to 3 till 7 a.m. started back to camp and got very heavy Schrap - all the way. Turks can observe us all the way and opened up the Olive grove battery on us. 11 to 12 Schrap 4 to 7 p.m. Schrap - great firing after our Air-oplanes. 11 p.m. Very heavy firing and bombs.

13th

Our turn comes Artillery and Warships bombard Turks for 2½ hours 12 - .m. our Art - and Warships again 4 to 6 p.m. Turks have a turn also after our Airoplane 11 p.m. very heavy rally.

14th

Under cover all day. 8 p.m. went to Reinforce 2nd Batt. we get even worse time than on the 11th. Life not worth 2/- if we continue to use this track the Turks can wait on us, we walk 'right under their eyes and besides under the Olive grove battery. Quiet night.

15th

Stood to 3 till 7 a.m. returned under worse fire than we went, for the first my nerves are gone and felt as if each step is the last. only 6 casualties thank God. Our Warships Bombard and our Airoplanes drop bombs.

16th

6 to 10 a.m. Schrap. quiet day 5 till 8 p.m. Schrapnell. Our Monitors bombard all night. Very heavy firing 11 to 1 a.m.

17th

Turks give the beach an extra supply of Schrap - 12 till 8 p.m. We get the best bombarding since I arrived this place is not a bit like home.

18th

Fairly quiet all morning. Their Airoplane drops Bombs and steel darts. 7 p.m. went to reinforce 2nd Batt for some reason we have a quiet walk up there, was only there about 2 minutes when a Japanese bomb nearly smothered me with dirt, I am dead lucky.

19th

Monitors firing all day on Achi Baba and Left wing. One of our Airoplanes looped the loop over the Turks lines it is clever and plucky but very foolish. Steady Schr - all day over our camp 11 p.m. Very heavy rally.

20th

Stood to 3 to 5 a.m. 7 till 11 a.m. Schrap - 1 p.m. Airoplane drops bombs on our camp one man wounded. Went to church service owing to shell fire it was cut short. Our Artillery firing Hard all the evening.

21st

Very Heavy rally at 1 a.m. Turks will soon drop down to wasting rifle ammunition 8 till 11 a.m. Heavy Schrap. Our Artillery firing on Quinns post all day. 2 till 7 p.m. Very heavy Schrap - I am curled up like a snake under cover the sooner we get back to the firing line the better.

June

22nd

Quiet. Turks after our Airoplanes from 11 to 1 p.m. 4 to 6 p.m. still after our Airoplane the sky is a great sight 6 to 8 p.m. giving the firing line a liberal dose of Schrap.

23rd Steady Schrap - all day. Our Monitors firing steady. 8 p.m. go to Reinforce 2nd Batt. Japanese bombs land very close to where we are sleeping. Joined the Machine gun section 11 p.m. Very heavy rally.

24th

One slug of Schr landed in my dugout. Very close to my chest. One of our transport vessels hit on bows. 13 men hit in one shot. 5 killed. Had a row with S.M.

25th

6 till 7 Schrap - 3 till 5 Schrap - Our Battleship Lord Nelson Bombards with broad sides she sent up an observing balloon 6 till 8 p.m. Schrap over camp. Turks firing heavy after our Warships also after our Airoplanes which drops papers over Turks trenches accompanied by a few bombs. Very heavy rally at 10 p.m. Another row with S.M.

26th

3 till 5 a.m. Stood to. 7 to 9 a.m. Heavy Schrap - and at intervals all day. Turks after one of our guns. All landing very close they have the range to a nicety. Hang the guns they draw fire too close to my dugout. Battleship bombard all the evening until 9 p.m.

27th

Warships starts at 4 a.m. Turks reply Very Heavy Artillery fight for two hours once again Jacko wins Warships continued all day. Turks find range lovely for our camp the fire directed by a German Airoplane by a gun I only knew since morning 2 till 5 and 7 till 9 a.m. coming in very fast from 2 new guns very nasty feeling I must leave this dugout the new guns have it inflated Sims and his mate shot in the next dugout. [entirely]

28th

Stood to 3 till 5 a.m. 8 till 11 a.m. Destroyers firing hard 11 to 2 p.m. Turks new guns again good business we have Turks on the run very busy day one continued rifle rally and Ships firing and Turks Artillery falling like rain. cant get my tea too much Schrap - to more about 9 p.m. Heavy rifle rally and bombs and rockets.

29th

1 a.m. Very heavy rally by Jacko. our Monitors firing hard. Our Light horse lost heavilly they squibbed it in a charge but god knows the odds were against them 5 till 7 a.m. Schrap and at intervals all day Turks Airoplanes drops bombs. Schrap very heavy from 5 to 8 p.m. 8.30 p.m. left for Imbros left quietly when one mile out I saw a sight of my life Artillery Infantry Warships firing hard to cover a charge on the right, being a dark night it looked beautiful 12 p.m. landed Imbros.

30th

Quiet.

July

1st

Went to field Bakery and met several old friends.

2nd 3rd 4th 5th

Visited field Bakery and stayed all day.

6th

Started back to firing line.

7th

Arrived back and went to firing line better trenches than the last place and not quite so close to the Turks lines 100 yds apart. this is one of the Keys of the Peninsular so very heavy fighting is expected. The way we were shelled today is terrific. 5 to 8 p.m. shelled properly with high explosives.

8th

Stood to 3 till 6 a.m. We are shelled something terrible also Bombed.

9th

Stood to 3 till 5 shelling today is worse than ever I am quite satisfied this is our grave 9 p.m. Very Heavy rifle fire and hand grenades and the football which must be fired from a mortar. The football is a big shell which travels slowly but is a terribly deadly one. 11 p.m. another rally. S.M. again, I'll get him.

10th

Stood to 3 till 5 a.m. Very Heavy Rally Hand Grenades and Rifle fire Turks are afraid we are going to charge and keep up a continual Rifle fire. The whole blooming lot went mad a regular mix up of fire works. We tried every way to bring them out.

11th

Stood to 3 till 6. Very heavy rifle rally by Jacko. we give the appearance of being reinforced from 10 to 12 a.m. - between the Schrap and high explosives and French 75s and bombs it has been quite a lively day the game getting quite interesting 11 p.m. Very Heavy rally.

12th

1 a.m. Stood to till 5 a.m. Heavy rally Bombs in Galore I am shell proof but a bullet or bomb must find me soon. Rockefeller could stake his millions on no living object being able to live under this fire for any time. Turks after our Airoplane.

12th

Stood To 2 till 5 a.m. All day heavy shelling 6 to 8 a.m. they are tearing our trenches about 10 p.m. rifle rally and bombs and etc., 12 p.m. ditto.

13th

Stood to 3 till 5 a.m. rifle rally 6 till 9 a.m. Shelling like fun all day. Turks after one of our batteries of 3 guns they have the range cooks and pots and stews blown to the next world 10 p.m. Heavy rally. Bombs in Galore. 12 p.m. ditto.

14th

Stood to 3 till 5 a.m. Turks give us an extra dose of shells with some 11 inch from the ~~Goeben~~ on the Asia side of the narrows. This was a terrible day amongst the casualties Hinder got one I took his place on post. Very heavy firing all night of bombs and Etc.

15th

Stood to 1 till 5 a.m. Shelled all day and an extra dose during evening. Chennak guns and Goebens guns and Etc. all pegging in the football gets 5 men in one shot.

16th

Stood to 1 till 5 a.m. Our officers are expecting a big attack. Very Heavy shelling all day this is the daddy of all days they blow our trenches to blazes. I had narrow escape 3 slugs through my overcoat. My dugout blown in but lucky again I was on post. If I don't die of starvation and weakness and no sleep and overwork my luck will carry me through. our people must be afraid, we fire like fun all night.

17th

Same as yesterday but I was nearly smothered by falling earth, blown in by a 11 inch shell.

18th

Stood to all night. A little quieter during the day. Our Airoplanes drops bombs on Jackos trenches Turks fire 60 shell after him. Very heavy rally all night. Since coming to this position we are nearly all dead beat. 40 out of 48 hours we are digging or on post and that has to be done on very poor tucker consisting of biscuits it would take an axe to break a piece of bacon^{as far} as possible, 1 tin of marmalade between 8 men and one onion that is our rations. A good sleep would be a real luxury or a good drink.

19th

Stood to 3 a.m. till 6 a.m. the following day.

20th

ditto no sleep or water.

21st

Stood to 3 till 5 a.m. Dropped my bundle I don't care if I get one or not just as well die of bullets as starvation and thirst and want of sleep and 30 hours stretches of work (Pick and Shovel) but the poor officers are all right so it doesn't matter. Shelled to further orders.

22nd

Stood to 1 to 5 a.m. Shelled all day have done 30 hours straight off and am ordered to do 12 more hours at midnight I have to go out of the trenches and put up barb wire extanglements with 3 other men our trenches are 90 yds apart here, a darned nasty job but there is something about it I like. S.M. again.

23rd

Still on Duty Waiting Attack. Turks get 100,000 reinforcements. So we will have something to amuse ourselves on if they tackle us. Being shelled Very heavy. They have our range to a nicety our Artillery and Warships doing good work. Turks are throwing shell from the narrows and Asia. We are losing a terrible lot of men, also a good number from weakness we are getting in more overtime than ever. a great deal is quite unnessary. Lost my head with S.M.

Bombs ~~and~~ the football to further orders.

24th

Stood to 1 till 5 a.m. Shelled all day, at night bombs and Etc.

25th

Stood to 1 to 5. Still being shelled and starved and overworked. A bit sick and very weak. After doing 24 hours duty was allowed off for 4 hours rest and then put on digging for 6 hours, then was taken off that and given a post for 24 hours I would like to do another 24 hours digging graves for our lazy mean cowardly officers. I would not care a rap if 75 per cent of our officers had a wooden cross over his head, half of our duty men are taken up digging most secure dugouts for officers or washing shirts for them in half a bucket of water while other men are almost famished for a drink. By god if ever I am asked to dig a dugout for one or wash their shirts I will be shot at daybreak for refusing to obey an order on Active Service. There is one good point about them they can always be found - in their dugouts.

26th

Stood to 3 to 5 a.m. Shelled as usual I don't take the least bit of notice of them. Taub drops bombs on us if we don't soon get reinforcements there will be no one left. S.M. won't get hurt.

27th

Shelled and bombed

28th 29th 30th 31st

ditto

August 1st

Stood to Shelled and worked as usual talks of a charge being made.

2nd ditto 3rd ~~ditto~~ 4th ~~ditto~~

5th

~~ditto~~ too tired to write not too well yesterday. Shelling very severe all day and bombed all night Jacko keeps on getting our men but we must be knocking some of them.

6th

Feel well but cannot shake my little ~~neece~~ ^{nausea} from my mind we are preparing for an attack and if every man does his bit we will fix them up. Although our casualties must be very great our trenches are 100 yds apart here. I have no fear of getting knocked the boys are happy enough considering the test of human endurance they have gone through. but all hands are as fine and weak and sickly looking as they could be and still have strength to walk. God knows the last ounce has been taken out of us all. We got a reinforcement this morning who look well they were knocked back when they saw how few men were holding the place and how weak and worn looking we were. 4.45 p.m. One bombardment started with countless guns several that had never spoken before until today. Besides the Navy all concentrating fire onto 300 yds or so. Not even a louse could live under such fire this is by far the biggest bombardment ever known on the peninsular in fact the whole World for such a small space. But Jacko is not by any means beaten he replied with countless guns thousands of shells landing into about 200 square yds reminds one of war. We lose over two hundred men in the bombardment I only got one slight tap on the face which bleed freely and one on the knee. everyone under best possible cover awaiting the word to charge, the Bombardment goes on until 5.35 p.m. which is

undescribable 6 p.m. Charge. I am in the 2nd line of attack. Jacko expected a bigger Bombardment so had not his first line of trenches manned or his Artillery trained on us yet, our first line nearly in his trenches before he opened fire with rifle or Machine guns or Artillery but by heavens when he did it was from three lines besides the Artillery and inflating the strip. We had to cross with countless guns our men are falling fast but Jacko cannot hold his first line of trenches so showed very little man to man fighting. I fell over a lump of barb wire when half way across the Machine bullets were falling around me like rain but lucky again I up and over on reaching Jacko's first trench I jumped on to a wounded Turk. This trench was littered with dead and wounded mostly caused by Bombardment. The moans of our own poor fellows and also Turks as we tramped on their wounded body's was awful we rushed them out of their 2nd and third line of trenches in half an hour. The wounded bodys of both Turks and our own in The 2nd and 3rd line especially the third were piled up 3 and 4 deep. We at once set to try and secure ourselves against a counter attack which must come as the Turk is a real soldier our line and the Turks was any thing from 12 to 70 yards apart where we were 12 yds the bombs simply poured in but as fast as our men went down another would take his place besides our own wounded the Turks wounded lying in our trench were cut to pieces with their own bombs. We had no time to think of our wounded in the trenches or between them their pleads for mercy were not headed. Unfortunatley our A Medical Corps was very busy attending to thousands some poor fellows lay for 30 hrs waiting for help and many died still waiting when morning arrived we were simply blown off our parapets from behind. It looked almost impossible to hold the place, but we would have sooner died than retreat. Counter Attacks were made all night. At 3 a.m. I was with about 40 men who were sent over the parapets between our lines and the Turks and given instructions not to rush their trench but wait until day light. But when day light came we were like mice in a trap, not even able to rise our heads to fire, Jacko shot many of my mates and let Bombs after the rest of us. We were shouted out to from the rotten drunken officer who sent us out not on any account to try and fire but keep low in a small hollow until dark and then try and get back, needless to say he never came with us my mates were being knocked fast by Bombs when we all could see we had one chance only that was to rush our own trench not many returned but I was lucky and got only my eyes full of sand and my face cut with dirt from the exploding shells and Bombs. 11 a.m. a few of us got back. When we rose our heads the Turks peppered us properly from thirty yds off we all jumped into our own trench at the rate of a mile a minute. We heard that the drunken cad who sent many good men to their death was shot by our own men. I nearly had a foal when I heard it, a pity he never got one hours before. We at once pegged in to secure our line all day we were bombed and at night counter attacks caused very heavy casualties amongst our men. I got the S.M. the man who tried to make my life a misery he is a rotten cur. curled up in safety while his own comrades were dying in hundreds all around him, fighting to save his and a few more of his sorts, miserable cowardly carcass. I threatened to carve him up with my bayonet if he did not come out and do as other men were doing. I had just ten thousand very close shaves today. The officer who we all thought would squib it was the only one to be seen, most of them waited for a communication trench to be dug but we got on better without such curs.

8th

We were attacked during the morning and lost many men, during the evening we were well relieved for the first time since Friday evening. Just 50 hours solid fighting. S.M. would like an explanation to smooth me over. I am not having any he never gave me a hearing but presented me with a pick and shovel after doing duty for 30 hours. But its my turn now.

9th

3 a.m. (7 hours off) rushed back to firing line. Turks make a most vigorous attack. I got one most daring Turk from 12 yds off who was throwing bombs. We are the heaviest loser by far but what a target they gave us this morning, not one of them reached our trench alive. We felt like wild beasts but were calm and never fired reckless but deliberate, that brings their casualties up a lot I think equal to our own. Bombs all day our bomb throwers nearly all dead or wounded. Right through this battle our officers were most conspicuous. By their absence. The N.C.O.s carried on without them. 11 a.m. nearly blinded but men are scarce so I must not throw the towel in only scratches from gravel and dirt thrown up by bombs this was an awful place. 12 a.m. hit again and put out of action it is not sore but bled freely my rifle was blown to splinters. My mate and I were watching a portion of a trench that we held a part and Jacko held a part of on hearing the bomb fall and the fuse hissing we sprang into Jacko's portion of the trench and got it as our legs were in the air the smoke and dust prevented Jacko from seeing us we soon hopped back to our own side again and crawled along the trench and got assistance to the A.M.C. station then we were taken to the old trenches. Since Friday food was turned off all I had was taken from dead comrades haversacks but its all for a good cause. Jews and big Capitalists. I could see a few weeks holiday sticking out. didn't my comrades envy me being carried out with only a flesh wound. Today I left some of the best men ever god put breath in.

10th

probing for an Iron mine in my leg.

11th

On board the Osmania

12th

ditto

13th

Arrived at Lemnos and get very poor treatment have had no breakfast dinner or tea not even a drink of water.

14th

Saw the breakfast eaten by a lot of Tommys who should be in the firing line. My comrades were not up to the rules of this place dinner time I complain not for myself alone as I can hop but for two men who have hole bored through their stomach and have had no treatment, not even a drink and I dont know weather tea will kill them or not and there is only a heap of Tommy savages here who dont know either. At tea time a sight which I shall never forget was one of my comrades crawling on his hands and knees in fact draging his legs after him from the far end of the tent to the door where the mess dixies were put, for the first time it dawned on these objects that are the same shape as human beings that perhaps a doctor might save these poor fellows lives also that they

never played the man by wolfing all the breakfast and dinner themselves and not give a thought for their fellow man, so an attendant from another tent gave them something and promised they would see a real live doctor in the morning.

15th

New rules also an attendant for this tent. Had breakfast dry bread and bacon 1 slice but plenty of bread. 11 a.m. saw a doctor still looking for a piece of iron in my leg, this was great fun I don't think.

16th

Saw a doctor again. I understand now why the treatment was so bad the first day or two there was too many of our cowardly officers who were suffering from nervous break down and completely run down and other complaints I never knew a private to suffer from since I joined the army. but officers are different poor creatures, they never discovered they were a bit off until the most critical time ever witnessed on the peninsular arrived even my friend the S.M. discovered he was a bit off and I never bombarded him when I saw him trying to get away. not half. Very Stale here.

September 9th

Battalion came to Lemnos for a rest I am still in Hospital. I went on to Acquatania Sept 24th Join my company again, plenty of drill and night parades.

25th

Went onto the Savage Harpie Rattle-snake Terrible Olympic and other ships.

26th

Left for Peninsular

30th

Arrived.

31st

On duty lost only 3 men getting to the firing line Jacko has not forgotten how to send over the shells and bombs this place is not nearly so bad as lone pine.

Nov. 1st

Lost a few ~~more~~^{men} Airoplanes and battleships. Bombarded at 8 p.m. since we arrived back, rations are only half issue very hungry and thirsty.

2nd

Usual Airops and shelling 6 p.m. shelling fairly heavy at our parapet.

3rd

Heavy shelling all day Bombs at night. this position is no soft snap 4 hours on and 2 off lost a gunner.

4th

Very heavy shelling lost 2 gunners duced uncomfortable place Jacko attacks on right flank Bombs something lovely all night so as we cant go and help the right flank.

5th

Pretty active with bombs and artillery all day and at night Very heavy bombing attack expected. Tucker very scarce and very little water.

6th

Artillery pasting Jacko and at noon Jacko pastes us properly every day there are heavy Art duels since we came back our Art. is 3 times stronger than the Turks now some fair shooting after our Airoplanes 60 or 70 shells after them Very heavy bombing all night.

7th

Art. duels and bombs.

8th

Heavy calibre shells coming over from Asia. Very heavy bombing all night Turks try and keep us from opening up a new firing line we are losing a good many men.

9th

Turks quiet our battleships and Art. give Jacko a awful day of it. and he gives us bombs in return all night.

10th

Art and ships pretty active all day pretty close shave today with the nose of a shell.

11th

Our Art firing hard. Ships putting in broadsides a piece of shell ^{over a} ~~near~~ nearly in my dugout, bombs all night.

12th

Navy and Art very active. Turks tearing away our trenches with French 75s.

13th

In charge of a machine gun, about the same as yesterday.

14th

Turks Airoplane over again our guns after him Turks sneak up and throw bombs in our trench few casualties.

15th

After my gun with French 75s this is the worst class of gun they have. Bombs all night.

16th

Great Art.duel and Jacko wins. 75 again after our gun.

17th

Broadsides from Navy all day and Art very active. Jacko returns 75s all the evening and Bombs all night.

18th

One of our guns (Machine) knocked but only a graze, can be repaired still after my gun its a lovely sensation to be covered with dust from shell fire and not stop one. Bombs to further orders.

19th

Art and Navy and general mix up of big guns all going at once we get a win during day but Jacko wins with bombs at night.

21st

Our Art. firing pretty Heavy Turks attack on Quinns post but were driven back. They kept us where we were with bombs if Jacko attacks one end of the line he gives the appearance of attacking on the other end so as to stop us shifting men to reinforce.

22nd

Quiet day.

23rd

We give big Bombardment and get plenty back. Jacko knocks another one of our guns (18 pounder) and very nearly my machine gun. I got ordered to take it down for the time. We get orders for no guns or rifles to be fired where we are to make Turks think we have evacuated this part.

24th

Turks cant make us out but send shells over and sneak right up to see if we have left and then throw bombs we have a few casualties no shots returned.

25th

Light horse patrol captured or shot and our own shot. Turks very curious and shell and bomb our trenches and get quite game and expose themselves. We lost several men but still never fired.

26th

Shelled all day attacked at night we allowed them to get 5 yds off our trench and they sent a shower of bombs in but we sent a shower of bullets at the same time we lost a few but they lost a good many. The Light Horse machine guns went bung we were depending on them to protect our front. My gun is going very well but it covers Lone Pine $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile off machine gun fire is not much good at close range so all guns cover a front about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile away which makes a most effective cross fire. The horrors of war appealed to me properly now there are wounded men lying between trenches the weather is bitterly cold and nothing left for them but freeze to death if this is 19th century civilization God help the 20th century lot.

27th

Very cold our Art. going and a few for us in return Turks get big reinforcements attack expected 12 p.m. started to snow and kept up fairly heavy all night. ¹Tucker is very short and water we have had none for 6 days about $\frac{1}{3}$ of a pint of tea twice a day almost mad with thirst my gun mate killed. Bricky Davis.

28th

Turks pitching for machine guns with French 75s. The biggest Bombardment ever we got was today. 200 odd killed and wounded in the tunnells at Lone Pine. I am on the machine gun that covers the Pine. My crew all standing to arms ready to send some poor unfortunate Turks into the next world. Jacko never followed his bombardment up. Bombs get a few at night.

29th

Fairly quiet but for 75s after our gun dashed uncomfortable feeling I believe Jacko is trying to hurt us.

30th

Still no water thirst something terrible men are offering £1 for a water bottle full of water. Thank god our officers can have

plenty even to wash with. But all men are equal on a battlefield. I don't think. Great Art.duel got our range to a nicety for 2 of our machine guns several slugs come in our gun pit. Jacko should be more careful and not annoy us.

1st November [= December]

Art duels 75 getting a few of our men we have some of the best material the world can produce for an army, but very badly managed by incompetent officers our sentry shoots his own men, this sort of thing goes on very often through mis-management, our 2nd gunner out of action.

2nd. Big bombardment over our lines Turks Airoplanes quite game.

3rd

Art duels all day. Saw the S.M. he is quite nice to me if ever an opportunity presented itself to blackmail a man it is now I will keep him under my thumb for further use.

4th

French 75 sends slugs in my gunpit every shot. I made my crew take cover one fool standing to his post is quite enough when shells are about No. 2. gun hit blown to blazes no body hit 75 is playing over our sleeping quarters. We got ½ a pint of water extra. poor old Murphy Knocked out.

5th

Very Heavy bombs at stand to. one of our sneaking contemptable officers gets money from all hands promising to have some goods brought from Lemnos for us. Headquarters has allowed one man to go to Lemnos and buy for each Company the goods arrived and the officers seized them for themselves. This is a very manly way of getting a lend of £20 or £30 from the men I am quite surprised to see that they had that much brains but of course all their brain power is taken up thinking of their own greedy carcasses so that accounts for it. Heaviest Bombardment ever Achi Baba had.

6th

Shelling our quarters also gun positions. Bombs early in the morning Another Bombardment on Achi Baba.

~~7th~~

Bombs at stand to 75's and shelling all the morning Navy sending broadsides after Olive Grove guns Bombs at night.

~~8th~~

Fairly quiet a few shells after our guns bombs all this evening and night.

9th

Fairly quiet, few shells coming over Turks get a lot of our men lately through portholes Achi Baba getting pasted also Olive grove battery (Beachy Bill) one of our gunners knocked out. Bombs at night.

~~10th~~

The heaviest bombarding ever Jacko got on our direct from which is undescribable very good sniping from my gun. Japanese bombs at night.

~~11th~~

Fairly quiet morning, during evening 75s and bombs for us and bombs all night.

12~~th~~

We got bombarded heavily and lose a few. Lone Pine getting an awful bad time have not heard how many casualties yet. Jacko getting uncomfortably close to my gun.

13~~th~~

Fairly quiet 75 is getting very close nearly smothered with dirt all morning, dugout is a fine place to those off duty.

14~~th~~

Shell all the morning Shell from Asia all the evening. The sight of my gun knocked off close shave. What a grand place home is all letters and mail stopped. We get news of evacuating this position which will be an awful job this job might be worse than making a big charge as there will be only a skeleton line of men against the Turks full forces wounded will have to be left behind 75 playing very close all my crew in a good cover one fool is enough to be knocked at a time.

15~~th~~

Our Art all gone aboard Turks take advantage of it and give us more than a fair share Achi Baba gets a pasting daily from navy. Bombs at night.

16~~th~~

Plenty of shells. 75 playing in dead earnest after my gun. 1st shot nearly burys us 2nd gets our Paraphet and blowes the sand bags away. I sent my two mates to take cover close handy. 3~~rd~~ shot in tunnell of our pit 4th ditto 5th burys the gun and almost smothered me, it is time to pack up until the fun is all over standing to your post on a machine gun is a lovely game I can recommend it.

17~~th~~

destroying every thing so as Jacko will not have the use of them when we go, fierce shelling, bombs at night.

18th

Jacko take advantage of us having no Art. and blow us about. ~~We we~~ have bag covers for our bayonets and mufflers made of bag for our boots so as to sneak without being heard. It is a hopeless case for the rear guard if Jacko finds out we are going they are only a few left to cover the retreat and no place where a stand can be made.

19~~th~~

Very heavy bombardment by both sides (only our navy) 75s very severe 9.30 some of our crew start to embark final evacuation 1.30 monday morning.

20th

This concludes a real experience that money could not buy with an enemy that fought fairly and clean. // A few things I cannot fathom are why our transport ships used to come in under the cover of our hospital ships until Jacko sent warning he would have to fire on our red cross if it continued, and very rightly so, also why provisions and amunition were stored in very large quantities alongside of our field hospital, on one occasion Jacko blew our hospital tents into pieces as big as a pocket handkerchief, in my opinion he done quite right considering that he respected our red cross but could see our men packing shell and amunition and provisions taking advantage of his respect also why our people tried to make a landing of 2000 men right under the Turks guns during an armistice.

Leunos for a few days and ship for Alexandria. Christmas day on a dirty filthy ship. I might mention we had half rations of biscuits and bully today which made quite a merry Xmas.

27 ~~th~~

Start for Tel-El-Kebir a lovely place I would sooner the peninsular than here

drill to further orders.

January 28

Went to Cairo and marched to Abbassia to join Camel Corps

February 1st

First ride on Camel, got one fall.

February 26th

Started for the Libian desert.

It is impossible for any one to know what other Units are doing. They could be all dead and the men fifty yards off would know nothing about it so anything in this diary is only what is going on in my own Company in fact section of (when full strength) 16 men.

Browns dep
Chatham post
Leons Post
Casualty Corner
Schrapnell Gully
Vally of Despair
Vally of Death
Shell Green
Poppy Gully
Pine Ridge
Gun Ridge
Olive Grove

Apr 10th 1915

Left Sydney no one
allowed on wharf moved
off quietly.

14th 15th 16th very rough
very nearly all hands
sick. Shipping tons of
water no one allowed
on decks

18th Arrived at Fremantleth
at 9 A.M. Big crowds
visit wharves. no one
given. Very big fire
near wharf all night
over twenty men taken
down by sliding down