



No 327

Summer 9 McPherson
McG Section
32nd Battalion
8th Brigade
A.I.F.

Thursday Nov. 18th 1915.

Arose 3:30pm - Landed in stores - were paid up to 17th - entrained from Cheltenham at 7am. A crowd of the men the worse for the night before out - However only 5 deserters.

Left the wharf at 11am. Kath, May, Edna, Averily down to see us off - Jim also down amongst the big crowd. The boat was a picture with all colored streamers from the boat to the wharf. Anchored out at the Anchorage until 3:30pm. Kath & May came out in one of the boats brought cigarettes & chocolates. Saw Pat Rayboth well. Had our blankets and hammocks issued - Pat & I got a port hole and had a good sleep.

Friday Nov. 19th

As soon as I got out of my hammock I went to the pack - managed to get up on deck and was followed by Bas - We both stayed there for the rest of the day - taking it in turns of rusing the mail - Managed

to look Gal & Ray up late in the afternoon - they had both been in the same boat - more especially Gal -

Slung my hammock early and went to bed.

Saturday Nov. 20th

Weather still overcast feel good deal better today although couldn't have any breakfast. Gal

Dougal Ray & self huddled up on deck. Sighted

Neongottia - Wrote home

on the chance of it pecking up our mail but this gone a different course. We aren't calling in at the West. Am feeling a good deal better but don't care about going down below much - anyhow am on the road to recovery.

Sunday Nov. 21

Slept out on deck again last night. Guess I'm not going down below again if I can help it.

Had Church Parade between ~~Gal~~ boat decks.

After dinner tied up on deck Gal, Dougal, Bas, Ray & a crowd of others - exchanged looks at photos of the "girls we had left behind." Saw the first flying fish.

Monday, Nov 22

Dougal & I slept on deck together last night. As

Monday continued
nurses were awakened at
4 am by the sweepers, but
it was just in time to
see Breakness Island Light
House. Saw the
Western coast almost
all day - could see
the breakers on the cliffs
through the glasses.
Have been continuing my
home letter as it was
rumoured we were going
to drop a couple of
V patients at the West,
however our cake looks
cooked now - we got too
far out. Rounded
Cape Levin late this
afternoon - We are
travelling N.W. now.
Started work today - Got
our guns on board
and cleaned them. Also
had a parade in life
belts and were shown
what to do in case
of fire - Hope we

don't have to jump yet
as the water is jolly
cold !!

Tuesday 23rd to Saturday 27th

Have not had anything
very exciting since Monday.
There's very much of a sameness
about these days. Had
a concert on Tuesday night
on the promenade deck.
Dougal & I still sleeping
on deck. Orders came out
preventing same but application
with an excuse did the trick.
Have gradually been getting into
warmer weather - and consequently
we dress accordingly. Have
seen crowds of flying fish
they seem to be getting thicker as
we go along. Canteen getting
very low. Tab, Ray, Bao, Dougal
& self bought up a case of
preserves - Opened our first that
En gave us - Starting on it
tomorrow. Have learned the
More side ^{rephrased} during the week

Sunday 28th Nov 1915.

Had Church parade as usual.
Managed to get a good yarn
so stretched myself out on deck.
Bass' birthday - our only regret
we couldn't celebrate it as we
should have liked. Came out
in my silk shirt & white pants.
Issue of beer was not accepted
of on account of the charge &
conditions under which it had to
be drunk. Added to my
home letter also wrote one
to Lil. Getting jolly hot.

Monday. 29th Nov/15

Have missed Colombo worst
luck. Expect Cape Gardiner
will be the first land we will
sight. Had a bit of
practice in getting our MGuns
to our allotted positions in
case of attack by submarine
In on starboard side. Have
a good commanding position.
The two rear guns had a
bit of practice from the stern

Johnson broke his check lever.
Pat was also in the infantry
that was picked to aid McKinnon
with rifle fire

Tuesday.

Again erected our gun on
f'castle and built up sandbag
emplacement for protection. I was
afraid if we did smash a
periscope the sub. would only
come up & have revenge.
Got our first hay on board
1/2 day - sold of favour for
the "brokes". Got 13/-
Started training with the boxing
gloves. don't make a bad fist
for amateur

Wednesday Dec 1st 1915

Talk about sweltering tropics
& I'll know what you mean.
Am just dripping with perspiration
Boat deck condemned for drill
9 or 10. Doing a triple
signalling. Emptied out
case of fruit - We were
fortunate in having it. Ray
got cold - ~~the~~

Thursday Dec 2nd 1915.

Bugle call at 7 o'clock for
No PARADE - wasn't sorry
Heat was too great. Early
late parades not approved
by Capt Bidwell. Boat
loomed in sight. Millstone
carrying 8th Field Artillery
with Col. Grimwade in charge.
We read the signals (morse)
at night learnt they were
bound for the Mediterranean
& our boat told them we
were bound for Suez. Rather
pleased that we I was able
to read the Morse - my first

Friday Dec 3. 1915

Had to place our guns
out on poop deck &
wait for the "Alarm"
sound - it came at
about 4 p.m. - our
target was the horizon &
range 1000 yds hence
we could observe our
fire - Had some good

shooting - Wasted 500 rounds
into flying fish - Had to
substitute matches for a lost
chank handle fixing screw.
Good breeze blowing N.E. - cool.
Passed Hospital ship at about
7 o'clock.

Saturday Dec 4th

bleared our gun - was
lucky enough to break
my cleaning rod. Was
complimented by our O.B.
for the previous days firing.
Was in the middle of a
letter in the afternoon when
the fire alarm went. We
got to our places in record
time with our life belts on.

Nearly had an accident the
night before. Ch. Engineer just
found it in time.

Sunday Dec 5th

Went to Holy Communion in
the Saloon at 7 o'clock & wrote
letters - read for the rest of
the day. Got wet up
on deck last night.

Monday Dec 6th 1915

Had a day off today ^(Rain)
so put in a bit of time
letter writing. Saw a big
fight tonight between Dixon
of the 12th to 9th Light Horse and
Bridges of '6' Coy 32nd Batt.
It was a jolly good fight but
Dixon knocked his opponent
out in the 6th Round. The
ring was very hot. All
the officers down to see it.
Bridges has not come round
yet. Seems pretty crook.

Tuesday Dec 7th 1915

Our first news of today was
very sad. Bridges died
this morning at 5 o'clock.
He sustained a broken blood
vessel on the brain or
something. ~~The~~ The whole
crowd were non-plused
this morning - Bridges
was a married man with
one child, from the West.
His body was committed

to the deep at 10 o'clock this
morning - a sad ceremony.
The first burial at sea I've
witnessed. We are all
allotting a days pay to the
widow. Dixon is very
much worried. The inquest
was held today - Bridges
was ill beforehand. Dixon
will be tried when we get ashore.

Wednesday Dec 8th 1915

Sighted Cape Guardafui & Somaliland
wish I had my camera - the
sun shining on the cliffs made
a fine effect. Had to
mount our 16 Guns - are into
the danger zone. Our gunners
are sleeping with our gun
at night and we have to
guard it by day - not much
danger of an attack.

Thursday Dec 9th 1915

Sighted the heads of Aden
about dinner time - also
the coast of Arabia. Passed

Thursday 9th Continued

Aden this afternoon - Had to pack our valise bag in the event of our getting orders to disembark - still don't know where we are bound for, but presume Suez, thence Cairo. Seeing more boats now that we are in the trade route. The vaccination on board gave the chaps some bonza arms.

Friday 10/12/15.

Had a kit inspection - I was minus my entrenching tool but found it later. Sighted 12 apostles. Monny & I tied up on the deck and had a long chat.

Saturday 11/12/15

Repacked my kit bags ready for disembarking - wish I had brought my goggles. Did a little washing - didn't have much as I wore only my blue dungarees all the week. Had another fire alarm this afternoon.

Sunday 12/12/15

Had our last church parade on this trip. Took a photo of the S.P.S.C. boys on board - 15 of them. Went up to 2nd Stewards Cabin and had a good feed. Monny slept up on deck with me.

Monday 13/12/15

2nd last preparations to disembark. We have had a dickens of a job getting things together. Packed the guns in the limbers down in the hold - slept in my clothes last night. Had been going very slowly. So as to get into Suez early Tuesday morn.

Saw the most glorious sunset of my life - indescribable, & saw the reason of this being called the Red Sea. The coast line through the Red Sea is nothing but cliffs.

Tuesday 14/12/15

Reveille at 5 am. - Awoke to see Port Carg - Good deal of excitement. Anchored at 9:45 am & almost immediately were enveloped in a dense fog. Made all arrangements for disembarkation. Natives came out in their boats with fruit. The fellows gave them a pretty rough time. Turned out a glorious day & fog soon cleared so we got up with the glasses to observe everything worth observation. Doctor came aboard and then some English officers made their appearance and advised us of the fact that we would be going further up the Canal to guard against an expected attack. Tab will be going on to Cairo.

Wednesday 15/12/15 There are boats all round us and what aren't warboats & cruisers are laden with troops - there's a bit of curiosity as to what in store for us

Handed in our cables - Sent ours deferred at 1/9 word - most of them were week end cables at 10. Our first mail 8000 letters left for Australia by the Kyber.

Thursday 16/12/15.

Another day of hanging around. Wrote a few letters - Some of the A.M.C. fellows managed to get ashore.

Friday 17/12/15.

All ready to disembark but only Tab & his crowd were ordered off. We saw them entrain for Cairo - was sorry to leave them. Managed to get off & stretch our legs by disguising ourselves - ~~—~~ - Risky but got back alright.

Saturday 18/12/15

Disembarked and entrained to the Ismailia Camp one mile from the Town - We had our guns with us and travelled in a special

Trucks - (We all had trucks
no carriages) Expected
here might be something
on the way which would
necessitate their use. The
journey about 40 miles -
very interesting journey, but
pretty rough. Were met
by Officers of 30th Batt &
told we had to detrain -
not even the Colonel knew
where we were bound unto
then. Wonderful organization
Everything ready for us and
in an hour or so we
had our tents erected and
everything in order. This is
a tremendous camp with
all the nationalities in the
world almost. Have got
Indians of all sorts (Gurkhas,
Lancers etc etc) Gominies &
Egyptians besides ourselves.
Lancers have been here 15 months.
A large Flying Corps just behind
us. Every morning they go
up reconnoitering. A most
interesting camp. Were in-

formed would only be here
until Tuesday. Saw Ismailia
filthy in parts & very nice
in other parts - all nationalities
not many English inhabitants.

Saturday 8/12/15
Had a good sleep last night
but a very heavy dew.
15 in a tent so slept outside.
Egyptians building a railway
line. The mob are just
opposite & make enough
noise over their work to
deafen one. No parade
watched. The Indians drilling
and had a good look
round. The rest of the
Brigade are in action. Heard
several shots up the Canal.
Things are brewing. Just
hear. Kitchen is in charge
of us out here. Ray
brought up cable from
home. Got mine reset
morn.

Sunday 19/1/15

Went up to Ismaria & several of us took a carriage to see the sights. That town is fearfully dirty - beyond conception. The European quarters are very nice - saw some long French girls. Had dinner up there - some on them went on to Port Said. An hour's half journey from here.

Monday 20/1/15

Painted our guns. Saw the flyers go out on their observation work over the Canal. The Germans & Austrians are coming down in large numbers. Got ready for the trenches. May leave tomorrow, so will get our baptism shortly.

Tuesday 21/1/15

Had to wait for our rifles etc. Sent our kit bags on per donkey transport to Infidam. Got to bed very late.

Wednesday 22/1/15

Had our tent down & packed by 6:30 am. Marched down to Ismaria wharf and embarked up the Canal in a stopper. Things were a bit mixed. Only 3 guns arrived - our waggons with our sea kits and accessories have not come on from Suez yet. Our transports went to Cairo in mistake but turned up last night. Saw 30th Batt so we came up the Canal. Stationed a couple of miles from us towards Suez. Arrived at Elferdane where we relieved the Punjab troops. This is a fearfully sandy hole, but are right on the banks of the Canal. So can wash the sand off occasionally. Fresh water can

only be had for drinking purposes
So don't know how we are going
to wash our clothes.

Nos 1 & 2 Guns had guard first
night. ~~was a lot of~~ Our

engineer was fired on a couple
of miles out today. Haven't
seen a paper for a fortnight.

Our troops are digging in and
making decent trenches - Easy
digging but the sand almost
blinds one - Can't keep anything
free from it. Have got down

to dog biscuits & bully beef. Expect
that will be our Xmas dinner.

The warboats are continually practicing
with their guns getting ranges etc.
Have got crowds of natives on
building light lines and roads.

Thursday 23/12/15.

Wrote a couple of letters had
a swim - Mounted guard
at 4 PM for wharves - Expect
to have some practice in getting
ranges with the guns tomorrow.
Saw the Warilda go down bound

for Adelaide - Crowds of boats
are continually passing - a
great many troops go through
bound for Persian Gulf - Guess
there will be something doing
directly. Have an Indian

Camel Corps stationed here.
Indian Lancers also go out
from here on outpost duty
longing to have a chip in.

Had a terribly windy night
last night - was sand from
my feet to breakfast time.

Friday 24/12/15

On Guard till 4 PM. I
wrote a couple of letters
home in the evening.
Got my first mail, one
from J. & the other from
M. J. Both written before
we left - Was rather
disappointed at not getting
any from home.

Saturday 25/12/15 Xmas Day

Had a good sleep after
a swim in the Canal

Sat. Christmas Day

Was awakened in a hurry at the news of a tribe of Arabs attacking our outposts. However it wasn't anything to warrant the excitement.

Sunday 26/12/15

On Guard all day had to work at an emplacement. Am feeling pretty tired up all night.

Had a bit of Plum Pudding - just enough to make one hungry. Had my first mail gone from home.

Monday 27/12/15

Had a morning of Gun drill and mounted Guard in the afternoon. Mr Tiplin

Sgt. Beophill returned from Fmailia - up there on business.

Getting very cold here at night.

Got my home mail - 9 letters

Tuesday 28/12/15

On Guard all day. Spend my spare time in ~~reading~~ reading my mail - It was just

great to get the mail, but

neither Ray nor I got

our Chronicles or Beavers. Had an Xmas parcel from Boss and also a long letter. Mace included a photo of the Molly.

Wednesday 29/12/15

Had a big disappointment. Our cut section lost the toes and Nos. 1 & 2 went out on outpost. It's sticking in my "gizzard" pretty hard, but our luck will come later.

The others moved off early and we had to pack the camels.

Made one get down and when I got on, made him get up, but one of the crowd

frustrated him and in his hurry to rise threw me clean over his head.

It's been the joke of the day. However got on again just for spite. Will be on

guard every night now for a while - guess it will be pretty tiring.

Thursday 30/12/15

Went on guard, had cold night

Friday 3/1/16

Did a bit of beltfilling
and had a swim. Had
the Zonophone in the
day out and played the
old year out New Year
in by using ~~clawing~~
needles (piled down)

~~Friday~~ ~~3/1/16~~
Tappy came in from out
back & gave us the news.
Had a look at the prisoners
we took - a few Strals. Got
our second mail 6 letters.
The papers have ^{come} to light yet.

Saturday ~~3/1/16~~ 4/1/16

Had a swim in the morn
and took the new Section
for M.Gun work.

Sunday 2/1/16

Was on guard till 6 am.
Saw Ray in the morn - cleaned
the Maxim and saw a
camel fight. Very
windy - any amount of
sand about.

Monday 3/1/16

Went out with the Reserve
Section shooting - a fearful
day - guns would hardly
shoot at all - as soon as
we opened the cover the sand
would flock it up. On
guard all night - very cold.

Tuesday 4/1/16

Nothing doing - wrote a letter
home - can't give any where-
abouts - they ought to conclude
from my vague letters.

Wednesday 5/1/16

One of our lads shot through
the knee last night, by
accident. Canteen closed
is being taken over by
English employees. Had
a ride on Tappy's horse.

Thursday 6/1/16

Terrible dust or at least
sandstorm - worst up to
date. Heard news of Geelong
and Persia. Geelong laden
with curses - hence Jinks.

Friday 7/1/16

for one of my screwdrivers: Coy pale
Fancy finding the above
will leave it here for devilment.
cleaned out McGuns - a fair
brawl of a day - answered
Dob's letter. On guard all
night - bitterly cold

Saturday 8/1/16

Pappy came in from
Kedab Abu Aruk - we
were on filling belts

Sunday 9/1/16

Warboat anchored up
the canal - acting as
artillery for us - on Guard
that night

Monday 10/1/16

Wake came back from
Cairo - several boats
laden with soldiers passed
through

Tuesday 11/1/16

Choat shot himself. 'C'
boy sent in an Arab spy
dog brought in

Wednesday 12/1/16

Out trench digging in the
morn. Mooltan passed
through. Developed some
of Bass's photos.

Thursday 13/1/16

Got a couple of Xmas
gifts. No bills - the
contents were packed up
by the Quartermaster Sgt.
Enemy getting closer - have
been warned to be vigilant
on outpost duty.

Major Hughes arrived

Friday 14/1/16

A pretty bitter day -
Colonel Adjutant went
to Cairo - several of
the Jupiter sailors rowed
up here. We received
our pay (£3.1.7) all pay
is in Egyptian money.
Our Infantry doing a deal
of hard training - we
had a game of Doctor
instead. No hard work in
the sand.

Saturday 15/1/16

15 Bags of mail were lighted being carried across the canal hence a good deal of excitement - Got 13 letters and 3 papers and just enjoyed the afternoon reading same - First word I've had from 'Zab' from Heliopolis. Got our pay of £3.1.7.

Sunday 16/1/16

Went for a swim and developed photos for Bas - Have sent several home to date - on guard Sunday night

Monday 17/1/16

A fearful day - the Jupiter took up her position after going on to Fort Said - wrote a couple of letters

Tuesday 18/1/16

Orders for removal from here - are going to be Brigaded in a few days

that looks as if we won't see anything here - don't know where the Brigade camp will be - The 16th Batt is relieving us here.

Wednesday 19/1/16

Had to start getting our guns and stuff together for removal. Went down before breakfast and 'cadsed' a bit of steak - enough for our tent - Squared the cook to let me fry it - so gave our chaps fried steaks to help the bacon down packed the waggons ready for moving off on Thursday. on guard all night.

Thursday 20/1/16

Reveille at 5 am - dismounted ~~at~~ guard at 6 am - embarked at 9.30 am from El Dewane to Ismailia - In camp here with the 4th Brigade met Lel May - these chaps all back from Gallipoli and are moving Friday

to Moaska. Bas stayed
behind with Limber Wagons
Will be coming on tomorrow.
Tommy's relieved us at Elzeydane
Friday 21/1/16

Had a spell - Bas & the
Section arrived from
Kedib Abou Brak - Another
mail arrived - very short
mail for me

Saturday 22/1/16
Had a bit of work with
the guns - the rest
of the Section was
resting after their march
Wrote a letter home to
Agnes - her Birthday

Sunday 23/1/16
Church Parade for the
Battalion - Had a
march past - Bas & I
went across to the Ismaria
Station & struck a pal of
Bas on the Hospital Train

Monday 24/1/16
Went out with the
Wagons and had to work
out a scheme of action.
It rained a good deal - was
hard work in the sand
Max went into Hospital.

Tuesday 25/1/16
Started the Reserve Section
on their work - Nois
& instructing - the rest of
the Section out with
Companies. Rained
all day.

Wednesday 26/1/15
More rain - Had the
Reserve men at Gun Drill
Stripped my gun and cleaned
it thoroughly - Rations
very poor - Buying most
of our own.

Thursday 27/1/15
Very wet - No parade
in the afternoon -
sat in my tent and
wrote letters

Friday 28/1/16.

Very cold out on early parade - Had a good run round and got a bit warm.

A mail in Fimaila hence a bit of anxiety. Reserve Section going well - 2 P.A. Chaps and 2 Scotch Collegs in my squad.

Saturday 29/1/16

A beautiful day - Mail arrived but only half sorted. Aeroplanes out all over the place - Looked as if the learners were having a go. Base out of hospital on furlough. Looking better. Pappy in bed all day with influ.

Sunday 30/1/16

Got a native to do a bit of washing - Had a bath (the first for a fortnight) Went for a bit of a ride on a camel. Kegan sentenced to 14 days for a paltry ap.

Monday 31/1/16

Had ~~be~~ Brigades nothing very exciting - were out with the Reserve Section.

Tuesday 1/2/16

Had the Brigades here - Col. Diney. He was pleased with our appearance and turn out. Were paid in the afternoon.

Wednesday 2/2/16

Reserve Section had the Elementary tests in M.G. work. Got an issue of Cigarettes and plum puddings.

Thursday 3/2/16

Went out on tactical schemes out in the desert. Somewhere had our dinner out there and got in about 4 pm. R.S.M. rumoured as under arrest - About time (he deserted).

Friday 4/2/16

Shooting with Reserve Section

Saturday 5/2/15

Shooting with Reserve Section - Had some Races on transport Horses in the dinner hour just in bed when orders came for us to carry our kit bags across to Station in the pouring rain, & had to pack for shifting camp next day.

Sunday 6/2/15

Reveille 3:30 am The Colonel came & called us breakfast at 4 am & left at 6 am. Marched to Moaskan about 1 1/2 miles & extrained from there to Tel El Kabie about 20 miles from Cairo. Arrived here about 11 am but couldn't pitch our tents until late in the afternoon. Jolly by Camp. Rest of the Brigade here - We & the 4 Brigade form 2nd Division.

Monday 7/2/15

Up at 6 am for physical exercises - Got things a

bit straight. It is just like a township here.

Tuesday 8/2/16

(Long moved from No 3 gun) No's were instructing their sections - Getting warm again. Went to the pictures Sunday Monday night - Splendid show run by French proprietors.

Wednesday 9/2/16

Had half a day off so went up to Y.M.C.A. wrote some letters. It poured all the afternoon. This is the wettest season ever known here.

Thursday 10/2/16

Have been trying to heat time down in O.C. ~~is~~ coming into action. O.C. gone to Cairo for 3 days.

Friday 11/2/16

Nothing very particular happened. We having good weather - Pull down our tents daily to let the sun in. Bas & I went to the pictures tonight.

Saturday 12/2/16

Trilled all day and wrote letters at night in the Y.M.C.A.

Had a mail

Sunday 13/7/16

Had a good wash - First decent bath for a while. Bas & I went up the line for a walk - weighed ourselves on Pooder scales up at the R.S.B. Camp. Went 175 lbs. Wrote letters at night.

Monday 14/7/16

Out with wagons all day Pictures at night

Tuesday 15/7/16

Usual drill during the day. A mail came in - only 2 for me - expect the others will turn up. 3rd Batt gave a tip top concert at night

Wednesday 16/7/16

Couldn't get our leave for Cairo - had a good days drill and went to the pictures at night.

Thursday 17/7/16

Went to Cairo - visited the Pyramids, Sphinx, Mosques etc etc. Cairo fearful & wonderful

arrived broke and jolly tired at two o'clock. I don't want to fill the diary so won't say anything further.

Friday 18/7/16

Tired but went out on tactical handling of the M.G.s Wrote letters re Cairo at night 4th Brigade arrived here.

Saturday 19/7/16

Nothing much doing beyond the same old drill.

Sunday 20/7/16

Went to Church parade and had to shift our tents in the afternoon.

Monday 21/7/16

Dull again - I'm afraid if a chap ever gets tight when he gets back he'll be doing some military movement or other

Tuesday 22/7/16

Went out on a march into the desert - Unearthed skulls

and skeletons of soldiers
who fell in the Battle of Tel-el-Kebir

Wednesday 23/7/16

Out on a tactical scheme
with the Battalion - dug
M.G. emplacements and got
my hands full of blisters.
Wrote letters at night.

Thursday 24/7/16

Drill as usual - nothing
very exciting

Friday 25/7/16

Went about 5 miles into
the desert on a scheme
and stayed out until Sat.
morning 1 am. Mail
waiting for us when we
got back

Saturday 26/7/16

Cleaned up the guns and
did very little work - too
hot - It gradually
getting warmer here.

Sunday 27/7/16

Handed in our rifles for
others - missed church and

got hauled over the mat
A rotten day - blew hurricanes

Monday 28/7/16

A big crowd of soldiers
have been coming in daily
Saw Lance Rhodes of the original
15th Wrote letters at
night. Inspection by Birdwood

Tuesday 29/7/16

Usual parades and
got our two guns (old ones)
ready to hand over.
They are forming us into a
M.G. Coy and we are to
lose 2nd ap worst luck.

Hann was shot accidentally ^{same day.}

Wednesday 1/3/16

A hot day - not much
work done - more men
arrived

Thursday 2/3/16

Half day off was principle
feature - very hot &
dusty. Sent home some
photos of B. Self.

Friday 3/3/16

Handed our guns over to 52nd

Battalion - Jolly glad to get rid of it.

Saturday 4/3/16

Max interviewed the Brigadier and received his commission.

^{not}
^{quoted} Wake ^{was} offered & accepted MGO of new Lewis Gun Section. Heard Pat had gone to Ismailia.

Sunday 5/3/16

Went to Church Parade in the snow & for a ride on the M.G. Horses in the afternoon. Johnie (H.S.) & I had a high tea cooked by ourselves.

Monday 6th 3/16

Rumour no mail for 6 or 8 weeks -

Tuesday 7/3/16

Cleaned up guns and had a bit of billfitting.

Wednesday 8/3/16

Nothing much doing -

Thursday 9/3/16

Half holiday - Transferred to M.G. Company

Friday 10/3/16

Got things a bit shif shape in our new quarters - half holiday. Mail came in.

Saturday 11/3/16

Range taking in morning & mechanism in the afternoon - We are starting all over again in M.G. work

Sunday 12/3/16

Church Parade - Had a good bath and wrote letters. Parcel of choc from M.

Monday 13/3/16

Hot day. - Out on Section Drill. Capt No. showing the crowd up

Tuesday 14/3/16

Hot day - flies getting a badly pest!

Wednesday 15/3/16

Innoculation again typhoid
- other previous innoc
found to be ineffective
concert in Y.M.C.A by
Countess DeLarison

Thursday 16/3/16

Pay day - cabled for
turner. Innoculation
stirring us up - I was
jolly crook last night.

Friday 17/3/16

Out on Gun Drill Signalling
Had a note from 'Dad' He's
gone into Hospital at Massin

Saturday 18/3/16

Nothing very particular beyond
the heat of flies - they are
getting the Gurls own pest.

Sunday 19/3/16

Went up to the photographed
to get my films - wrote
letters in the afternoon.

Monday 20/3/16

Started non commissioned officers
~~school~~ school - crowd in
for promotion.

Tuesday 21/3/16

Max's com. came out -
Has adopted an air of Lordship
already - Am afraid I'll
have a bit of trouble in "go"
remembering to call him Sir

Wednesday 22/3/16

Had a visit from the Prince
& Wales. I happened
to be on the gun at
Section Drill and consequently
had a good look at him
as he pulled up in front of
me to see us work. Had
a big body-guard. I got
several photos of him as he
was on his way back to
lunch.

Thursday 23/3/16

Had a bit of Squad drill
in the morn & washing
parade in the afternoon.
Ray moved off in the morn

Thursday 23/3/16

and at about 4 o'clock PM we got orders to be ready to move at 6 pm.

Boarded trucks at 4 pm. and were ordered to deham at Moaskan. Bivouaced there for the night and marched from there to Ferry Post in the morning - about 4 miles with full pack & blankets.

Friday 24/3/16

Looked Ray up & found he was out in the trenches on guard. His crowd here a tip top camp overlooking Jimrats Lake on the Canal. We are about 11 miles from him. Had a swim before tea, the first for a good while.

got over the Canal from Jimrats.

Saturday 25/3/16

Were on straightening things up a bit - digging latrines etc. Had a bronze swim.

Sunday 26/3/16.

Church parade in the morning. Inoculation in the afternoon but wrote my letters before I felt the effect.

Monday 27/3/16

Didn't have much sleep last night & am still feeling pretty cross. Went up to Ray but he was out in the Bastions.

Tuesday 28/3/16

Went into Jimrats on duty on a bike - about 4 or 5 miles. The roads are beautiful in this country. Had a swim this afternoon and pulled our tents down ready for the desert stakes tomorrow.

Ferry Post Wednesday 29/3/16

Reveille at 4 am Breakfast at 5 am. Moved off 5 am. Had a pley ROT march. Left the crowd at the Rail Heads &

Wednesday ^{Continued}
(Soraico)
Came on here (haven't named
the place as yet) arrived here
9.30 am and ruffed up
shade with blankets etc,
Bonga cool towards evening

Thursday 30/3/16
Anxiously waited all day
for water & could only get
a dixie full each when the
32nd Batt arrived tonight.
They had a rotten march
& more than half dropped
out on the way. They
had had no water except
what was given to them
in their water bottles when they
left. A few camels with
fantasas came with them but
hardly enough for each man to
have a drink when they arrived.
I went back to meet Ray &
Cyrl James. They went to
the pack & I found them
about 2 miles behind the
rest of the crowd, straggling
along. I carried their packs
in and managed to get a

bit of water for them. The
water problem was getting serious.
We heard of the terrible march
of the 14th Batt from Tel. El. K.
9 men died on the way &
one shot himself. This crowd
would have all been lost
in the desert had it not
been for the N.Z. Mounted
Rifles - They helped them
& gave the worst what little
water they could spare. An
aeroplane also noticed they
were going off the track and
directed them. If we
had not caught a train when
we did from Tel. El. K. we
would have been in the same
boat.

Friday 31/3/16
Our section under Max Liller
Cropp (Sergeant) were ordered
to take up our posts in the
first line of trenches. We
marched out with a pannikin
of water each on the chance
of getting more from those
that we relieved & were lucky
enough to get it. We are

Friday, 30/3/16

getting water daily per camels.

Wat put in charge of my gun team at an observation post here at Gundagai. A big top position. We draw our Rations from Capt Fisher of the 31st. This is about ten miles from Ferry Post. The engineers have put up some fine trenches here. Am occupying a bonza little dug out with two bunks in it. The nearest I've had to a bed since I left. Had a visit from Col Toll (31st QB) & was given orders.

Saturday 1/4/16

Masc came across today & brought some letters for us. Capt. Marston also turned up and paid us & gave Masc instructions for us to move over to Bas's position. The other two guns are coming here. We will be ~~right~~ on the extreme left flank of the 8th Brig which is holding 8 miles of front. Bas has got another stripe now.

Sunday 2/4/16

We are doing all our own cooking. The N.Z. crowd left us a larder & we are doing just class - I have got a little kitchen underground. Which we have improved on a lot. The fellows have also made bunks for themselves in the trench. Got advice of my money from the Anglo-Egyptian Bank - dated 23/3/16. Moved over here to 31A - relieved by Masc party. There are 17 of us over on this post with Sgt B. in charge.

Monday 3/4/16

I put up a bunk in Bas's dug-out - a cozy little spot too - have been hanging photos on the wall.

Tuesday 4/4/16

Masc came over to see us. The other fellows are busy putting up dug outs for themselves in the trenches. Jolly hot flies enough to send a chap babbling wrote a few letters.

Wednesday 5/4/16

Capt Marsden over to see us
wrote a couple of notes

Thursday 6/4/16

Received an alarm that two tanks
close handy - stood to arms
but nothing doing.

Friday 7/4/16

Part of 31st just below got orders
to pack up - tubes relieved
heat day. Sgt McKie gave us
a larder. Got parcel from home
& one from Mary Chap.

Saturday 8/4/16

Put the drivers through qualification
shooting. Have got 2000 rounds
to fire away.
Doctor of 31st came out - entertained
us for $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour & left some
cigs for the fellows.
One of our chaps killed two
adders close to our digouts.
Most of the men suffering
with diarrhoea.

Sunday 9/4/16

Did a little firing & finished
drivers.

Mail arrived hence everybody
busy - None from M.

Monday 10/4/16

Did some application practice
Capt. Marsden Bridford out
to inspect

Tuesday 11/4/16

Firing with stoppage in the
morning & firing up overhead
cover in the emplacement
in afternoon.

Billy cans came to light
one amongst 3 of us and
a bit of stuff extra - It
was a treat absolutely.
Diarrhoea still rife.

Wednesday 12/4/16

Inspection by General McKay
& heads - did a little firing.
Jolly hot day.

Thursday 13th ¹⁹¹⁶ 1916

Had examination by ^{8th} Bridgford
fearful sirocco blowing. Gradually
got worse - It was indescribable
Our trenches were filled right up
& dugouts were almost filled with
sand. Kept on all day &
we were unable to leave our shelters
Some 9th Lt. patrols got lost - one
of the fellows happened to be
Mitchell (a pal of Bass) We
put them right. Am hoping
it doesn't last or thing will
be serious.

Friday 14/4/16

Moved in to rail head - I
stayed back to hand over
to new party - Ingun
Self struck a camel & made
use of it to carry our
kits in. (Found the crowd tight)

Saturday 15/4/16

Marched in to Ferry Post - the
8th Brigade assembled here. Soon
got across to the water

Sunday 16/4/16

Church parade & a good swim
in the afternoon

Monday 17/4/16

Went out for a bit of Squad
drill - Parade hours
are from 6am till 11am & 3.30pm to 5.30pm
Have been having some great
feeds here - The A.I.F. stores
are just opposite.

Tuesday 18/4/16

Results of exam came out - if
they can be called "results"
However am not going to worry. I
was under the impression M
was true-blue.

Wednesday 19/4/16

Had a bit of gun drill again
We being fully equipped so
it looks as if we are
not staying here very long.
Used our mess tub.

Thursday 20/4/16

Pay day & a good swimming
parade. Arch Newmann came
across (9th Lt.) to see me. Very
hot.

Friday 21/4/16 Good Friday

Church parade at 6.45am
G.O.C. visiting the camp.

Camp to Seary Port

Saturday 27/4/16
Sunday 28
Monday 29
Tuesday 30
Wednesday 1/5/16
Thursday 2/5/16
Friday 3/5/16
Saturday 4/5/16
Sunday 5/5/16

Have been doing a good deal of training & hoping every day that we will shortly be hearing we will have to embark, but it still keeps us waiting.

Its very hot & trying - am sick up to the neck of flies & heat. Got word of my cash having been paid over to Pay Master.

Saturday 6/5/16

Had big Divisional Scheme - Army branch of the 5th Div. took part & is now reported as fit for action.

Sunday May 7/16
Major Charles (M.C. export) inspected our Coy & expressed

himself as satisfied

Monday 8th May/16

Had a little tactical handling in the morning & off in the afternoon. Was up on the mat, as tent commander for the tent not being 'tidy' but was only reprimanded.

Tuesday May 9th/16
on guard over aircraft guns while the rest of the crowd went on a route march.

Wednesday 10th to Saturday 14th/5/16

Brigade Divisional work - including marches & tactical schemes. Had it extremely hot - up to 128° in the shade. Have been expecting to get away from here (Seary Port) for weeks & orders have now come out for moving tomorrow. Had a kit inspection yesterday. Had to get rid of a good deal of my stuff. No cameras to be taken.

~~Sunday 27/5/16~~

overseas - Nevertheless
mine is going. During
the heat have been doing
our parades very early &
have been off during the
heat - Have also been
having four meals - 4:30 am
10 am - 4 pm + 6:30 pm.

Sunday May 28/16.

Breakfast 4 am - The
Division relieved at Berry
Post by 53rd Eng. Division
Marched through Ismarlia
Green coming on trees again
very pretty. Arrived
Moaskan about 4:30 am

Monday 29/5/16

Route march in the morning
Packing generally rest of day

Tuesday 30/5/16

Route march again this
morning - went into
Ismarlia in afternoon &
had a good feed.

Wednesday 31/5/16
Jolly ill all night &
was carried off to
Field Hospital in the morning.
Doubt of Tomain Poisoning

Thursday 1st June/16
In Hospital - feeling much
better but pretty weak
Am drinking on diluted
Condensed milk

Friday 2nd June 16
Managed to be let out
today to pack my
Kit - Have had
to discard every mortal
thing with the exception
of our F.S. uniform
Hundreds of pairs of socks
& socks-like on the
heap - Even to Sheep
Skin waist coat.

Saturday 3rd June/16
Am still feeling weak
however am exempt
from duty, so that
am alright. Got 2 more guns.

Sunday 4th June/16
No church for me - was
feeling crook & lied about
in the tent all day -
Regularly every afternoon we
get the wind a treat.

Monday 5th June/16
Expecting to get away tomorrow
night - No work doing.

Tuesday 6th June/16
Something upset the leaving
business - Now looks
as if we'll have another
fortnight of it - Don't know
what it is but presume
we are being kept back
on account of the Naval
fight. Great deal of disappoint-
ment amongst chaps.

Wednesday 7th June/16
Had better news of the
Naval engagement - but
would like to have seen
them smash the German
Navy altogether.
The crowd raided 5 Gyps

Canteens tonight returned as the
devil generally.
Had news of Kitchener and
his Staff going down - No
details but hope it will
be contradicted tomorrow.

Thursday 8th June/16
News of Kitchener confirmed -
He seems to be gone for
good - A terrible loss here
to be.

Friday 9th June/16
Battalion Sports - preparing
for Divisional Sports Tuesday.

Saturday 10th June/16
Was orderly corporal today - Johnson
in Hospital.

Sunday 11th June/16
Church parade - Possibly
our last before embarkation.

~~Monday~~ Monday 12th June/16
Have been having a very
easy time here & was
supposed to be a rest before
we leave. Marched out to

Monday 12th June/16

The pine plantation & bed about in the shade. The food has been rotten. This due to the cooks.

My appointment came out orders as Corporal & John got his 2nd stripe whilst Bas has had his star since Sunday.

Tuesday 13th June off all day

Wednesday 14th June/16 Wed

Was Corporal of the Guard over our timbers & belonging at the Station (Moussan) there a bad game. Had visit rounds at 10 pm.

Thursday 15th June/16 Thursday 5th June/16

came off Guard at 6.30 am relieved by No 1 Section. We duty the rest of the day. We packed everything and move out of our tents at 3 pm. In again at 9.15 pm & made down to the train but didn't entrain until 11.30 pm. No a bit of a sleep but the trucks were jolly rough.

Friday 16th June 16

Arrived at Alexandria at 4.30 A.M. — Good long trip & fell as hungry as a hunter, so we got into our taversacks. Came aboard at about 10 am. The Tunisian & she doesn't seem a bad boat. About 11,000 tons. There are just 2000 troops on board so there's not overmuch room. The officers quarters are fair beauts. Just the same as when she was a passenger boat. Bas will have the time of his life. Our crowd are aft on A deck. No as bad as those down further.

Saturday 17th June/16 Saturday

Made ourselves acquainted with the boat yesterday & didn't move until 6 o'clock last night. Then only going out about a mile. Had a good sleep up on deck last night. It was fearfully hot down here. Anchor was lifted at 6.30 am & off we moved. We were right up close to the

Pennsylvania & as far
 as I could gather the 32nd
 were on board — If that was
 correct Ray ought to have a good
 trip. There are the 29th Batt
 5th Div. Cavalry, Head Quarters, 13th Batt.,
 Hospital, & all other details of the
 8th Bde on board with cos. 2000 Troops.
 Ran up against Murray Ekins
 pm Elders — He's ^{on board} the
 H. 5th Div. Had a good
 breakfast this morning — Have
 seen butter again — It's a bit
 salt but is good, ^{to see sample} again
 were ordered to continually wear
 life belts during the day & to use
 them as pillows at night — that
 is a bit of a nuisance but
 essential. Were allotted our
 positions in the event of alarm

5 Wife. L. H. James
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 FATHER. Mrs. J. S. Davie
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 4th Lt.
 Egypt

PRO0503
 Australian
 War Memorial

