

**AWM38**  
**Official History,**  
**1914-18 War: Records of C E W Bean,**  
**Official Historian.**

Diaries and Notebooks

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**Title:** Diary, January - February 1916  
Includes references to the formation of new divisions in Egypt, and to Gallipoli.



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DIARIES AND NOTES OF C. E. W. BEAN  
CONCERNING THE WAR OF 1914 - 1918

THE use of these diaries and notes is subject to conditions laid down in the terms of gift to the Australian War Memorial. But, apart from those terms, I wish the following circumstances and considerations to be brought to the notice of every reader and writer who may use them.

These writings represent only what at the moment of making them I believed to be true. The diaries were jotted down almost daily with the object of recording what was then in the writer's mind. Often he wrote them when very tired and half asleep; also, not infrequently, what he believed to be true was not so — but it does not follow that he always discovered this, or remembered to correct the mistakes when discovered. Indeed, he could not always remember that he had written them.

These records should, therefore, be used with great caution, as relating only what their author, at the time of writing, believed. Further, he cannot, of course, vouch for the accuracy of statements made to him by others and here recorded. But he did try to ensure such accuracy by consulting, as far as possible, those who had seen or otherwise taken part in the events. The constant falsity of second-hand evidence (on which a large proportion of war stories are founded) was impressed upon him by the second or third day of the Gallipoli campaign, notwithstanding that those who passed on such stories usually themselves believed them to be true. All second-hand evidence herein should be read with this in mind.

16 Sept., 1946.

ACCESS STATUS

C. E. W. BEAN.

OPEN

Diary Second Series  
Jan 31 1916 - Feb 19 1916  
B 1  
19 visit to  
In England



Circular 9 5 0



6<sup>15</sup> Sept. 1915

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Diary Second Series  
Jan 31 1916 - Feb 19 1916 B 1

Jan 31. 1916.

~~My visit to~~ In England everything seemed much more normal than in France so far as the people's amusements went. There was a sort of hectic liveliness about the theatre posters where in France there seemed to have fallen on / country a steadfast quiet earnestness. This may be very shallow impressions but they have been my impressions. In England except for the darkened streets of London - as for Brentwood it is an inky blackness after sundown - the shaded lights in / train, / necessity for concealing all naked lights by drawing blinds & painting / upper half of motor car lamps so th they cannot guide Zeppelins along / main roads - you woudnt know / country w<sup>o</sup> at war. Of course / French habit of going int deep mourning for any sort of relation who dies increases / soberness of France.

A glimpse of one solitary redoubt in / corner of a field as our train sped towards London - a redoubt



quite empty, but made on model  
lines — was the only sign of fortification  
as I saw. At night you wd notice beams  
of 1 huge double searchlights always  
alight & sweeping 1 sky. I suppose  
they are 1 best precaution — but  
th in spite of fact th they direct  
aircraft towards London they  
1 balance <sup>of advantage</sup> is on their side.

The Australian is having the  
time of his life in London — & the  
better class of men are getting  
well appreciated there. They are  
always openhanded — the real  
Australians, & the poorer classes  
especially love them. Some scallywags  
are continually bringing the country  
name into peril, <sup>eg.</sup> by taking taxis  
& jumping out without paying  
the driver — a very mean dodge  
for the driver has to pay his  
owners. But you find mean  
rounds everywhere, even in the  
best society.

The girls are simply throwing  
themselves about men's heads



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+ There have been a lot of marriages. Some men have taken their discharge in England & a large number - I have heard it put as high as 800 - are missing. The military control is a bit slack - Buckley who is supposed to be head of the organisation is hopelessly weak. He waited so long before giving answers - "The War office won't approve!" "We'd better wait & see!" "I don't think they'd like it." "We'll leave things to develop a little" - that the control in England has really now shifted into the hands of Sir Newton Moore who has been made a Brigadier Genl. But Moore is a politician, and the art of politicians is to please, & tho' he's a strong man for a politician I doubt if he could do the unpopular things which military leaders of any worth in the world always have to do.



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Besides, the Agents General have so long had to make things pleasant & smooth for Australian visitors that they get to look on this as the end of all successful organisation.

The Base in England was gradually getting into a hopeless tangle when Sir Jerry Reid handed it over to H.C. Smart, his ablest civil clerk, then head of the Publicity Dept, to unravel. And Smart has really done wonders. He starts with the records, which were headless & tail-less. He has now a card system, with a card for every soldier who becomes a casualty. Every single movement of every casualty is (if Egypt does its job) recorded on each man's card. As soon as he comes to England & is sent off from his ship to any hospital the hospital informs Smart's office in London - & every



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move which the man then makes  
is reported to Smart - until he leaves  
England.

On this card ~~index~~ record of casualties  
the whole office system is built up;

The information branch answers  
every question about casualties

- ~~ca~~ 200,000 have been answered  
up to present, i.e. abt 2 for every  
man in 1 force; Smart also sends  
reports of all movements of men  
to Red X series, in Australia  
so that they may answer similar  
inquiries there.

The Post Office sends on 1  
mail received in Cairo to 1  
men at 1 addresses on 1 cards.  
10,000 letters per wk are dealt w  
at this p.o.

The organisation for providing  
soldiers in hospital w various  
necessities from 1 Red X is carried  
on thro 1 1 same card record.

Every hospital where there are  
many Australians has an n.c.o.



in charge to tell 1 man what they  
can get & find out what they  
want. ~~Hospitals~~ <sup>6</sup> Men going to  
hospitals where there is no Australian  
M.C.O are written to.

& so on. It is an admirable  
organisation. The only fault  
perhaps is if it is too ~~kind~~  
~~transport~~ expensive thro' being too  
kind. Men seem to be fitted out  
"better than new" by the ordnance  
dept - certainly they look very  
smart in London streets in  
their brand new clothes, belts  
hats boots badges putties - but  
I doubt if a very careful economy  
is practised here, as it ought to be.  
However the absence of muddling  
probably saves far more money  
than the ordnance loses. And I  
doubt if men are cleared out of  
England fast enough by these soft hearted  
medical boards. Smart has  
nothing to do with that. Certainly



many of men are really ill - broken in nerve. But those cases ought to be sent back to Australia. Men are apt to put off their boards from wk to wk by writing (without a doctors certificate - sometimes with it) to say they are unfit to come. The returns from hospitals are very bad & incomplete inaccurate. On the strength of one such return, the Commonwealth procured a great convalescent home of I think 800 beds in St Peter St., (to wh Jack has been attached) & so far only 80 men have been found to put in it.

There ought not to be 10,000 Australians in England - Many of them have been given commissions in the Imperial army - largely thro' the instrumentality of an officious committee of the Royal Colonial Institute. I met that little man Coleman P. Hyman,



who used to exist in Sydney, the other day - & he has got himself made secretary of this Ctee. "We have got" I have been very busy since I was broke out," he sd, "getting commissions for colonials - oh, very busy. We have got a great number." "I think they've been giving some from Egypt of late," I sd. "Oh no - not at all," he interjected - "we got them here - members of them - that is what I have been doing." Coleman P. Hyman has always pushed himself into office jobs in connection with Imperial organisation & he has been always one of those men whom I believe to be the Imperialist of the most obnoxious class - the man who professes to speak for Australia (wh certainly doesn't own him) from standpoint of inferior state taking any crumb of



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condescension wh is flung at her  
by / authorities o / mother country  
as a gift from / gods. I suppose  
I dislike / man so intensely  
because one can always see  
best those weaknesses wh are ones own.

The Australian soldiers in /  
Streets seldom salute an officer  
unless they know & like him.  
The police under Capt. Brown have,  
I believe, been given instructions now  
to arrest & punish any man who  
doesn't salute. Its a very foolish  
order & I hope they dont try to  
enforce it - but I think Brown is  
rather an injudicious sort of chap.  
However, its a difficult job. We have  
70 or 80 police at Horseferry Rd  
who are really a branch o / London  
military police - or of the  
metropolitan Police, at present.  
They can arrest any soldier,  
but if they get an Englishman  
they generally hand him over to  
the British police - & / British



police hand our men over to us. Whenever an Australian gets into trouble the Australian police are now sent up there to take charge of him & he is, if possible, dealt with by Australian authorities. The British authorities have been very wise in this. The chief offence by a very long way is leave-breaking; & the most serious the alteration of pay books, or forging of leave certificates. The alteration of pay books has become rather too common & some cases have been handed over to civil authorities to deal with.

There is generally a girl yarning to a sentry in front of Commonwealth military Office in Homeferry Rd. The office is a training college for Wesleyans - a rather handsome college building of two quadrangles



in wh are 1 offices of 1 base, (pay  
dept, records, Commonwealth Bank,  
Post Office, etc) the cubicles of 1  
police, & some for medical cases  
(which used to be under Jack.) The  
guard room is an old lecture  
room. There is an inquiry office  
full of maps, plans, guide books  
for telling men & officers where  
to stay (at Xmas time there was  
hospitality for very many more  
men than offered). And off 1  
back quad through a passage  
leads to the Anzac Buffet of  
3 rooms - a restaurant for  
Australian soldiers where <sup>light</sup> meals  
tea & so forth are provided free of  
all charge to Australasian  
soldiers. Australasian ladies  
do all 1 serving all day long  
every day for no nothing except patriotism  
& Australasian singers & pianists  
constantly are at 1 piano in 1  
reading room. The Australian  
War Contingents Ctee in London  
provides funds; also 1 Colonial  
Office working as an Australasian



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Ctee has provided a Boarding  
House for our men, Teel House,  
near by where a bed & breakfast  
costs 2/- My cousin, Reimer  
Maxwell, is in charge of it.  
The Argac Buffet, which was only  
one I saw, was in style,  
quite up to the standard of a  
first class tea room - no  
Pearce & Plenty or Lockhart  
Cocoa Rooms about it but  
such a tea room as the upper  
classes wd use in England,  
with a comfortable sitting room  
besides.

Jack tells me that quite a  
few of our men have been marrying  
English girls. These marriages  
are rather lightly undertaken in  
some cases, I fancy. One of J's  
men in the 3rd Bn - ~~Smith~~,  
a most stolid dry old bone of a  
chap rather like the depressing  
Peter Dooey in the Arcadians -  
came back to the office 10th



day - & after much scratching o his head he blurted out that he, too, had been married in the interval.

"Quite a nice girl, too," he said half to himself, reflectively fingering the back of his head.

The next week he turned up on sick parade which was being conducted at one o' two Australian hospitals in the country (Abbeywood, I think, not Harefield where Birdwood's little daughter of 20 is the idol o' men) - and was seen by Serjt Wolseley, Jack's little right hand man.

~~He~~ He confessed in a same dry style that he was suffering from a dose of gonorrhoea.

"Why, who gave it to you, a —?" asked little Wolseley. "Not your wife surely?"

"Well - No - as a matter of fact it was the chief bridesmaid," said the bashful



A — mournfully.

These Australians!

Now for the Arrage Book.

I had corrected the M.S.S. on the voyage home. As soon as we arrived in England — on the morning after my arrival, as a matter of fact — I went to the High Commissioner's office to find if they had done anything about it. I thought that after White's letter they wd at least have made some inquiries as to names of publishers.

But George Reid had done nothing. ~~As a matter of fact I searched~~ I was disappointed as I thought it although we had not written him further particulars as we wd we shd he wd at least have taken some sort of action to help us. White is a pretty distinguished Australian & one did expect to something wd be done on receipt of a letter from him under such conditions.



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But you can only trust George Reid to help you if he knows that you can help him. I have known George Reid a long time, & I would say that I am, he knows that I understand him & he understands me & there is no real cordiality between us. Indeed it is a curious thing that the many of his subordinates have a great respect for Reid's capacity - Smart & Collins, for example & are very loyal to "the old man"; yet I do not know of any real friend that Reid has or ever had. There may be some - I have never heard of one. Heney, Editor of the "Herald", warned me many years ago about Reid when he left me as the I.M. His correspondent in London. "You will find George



Reid useful to you," he said,  
"as long as you can be useful  
to him." and that is true.  
The moment you cant be useful  
Reid's interest in you goes out  
as completely as the flame of  
a candle.

Well - Reid was giving  
up the High Commissionership  
within a month or so after getting  
White's letter - & when Reid  
gave up the High Commissionership  
all Australians ceased to be of  
any use to him - unless  
possibly it may have been  
some who could help him in  
standing for the British Parliament  
- which he was doing forthwith.  
Consequently when I rang Reid  
up about asking the King if he  
wd give us a foreword for the Anzac  
book (which the King wouldn't do in  
the event, because he didn't want



to break a precedent in case he  
was bombarded with requests  
for similar prefaces) - George Reid  
got quite testy over the phone -  
at least there was a distinct  
testiness in his voice "You know  
the King can't do these things - He'd  
be asked by everybody who had  
a publication - It's quite a  
necessary rule - Besides, you  
know, I'm not High Commissioner  
now -" which is all true. But  
George Reid might have said it  
in a different way, considering  
what the book was - rather a  
sacred one to any genuine Australian  
which Reid isn't; & moreover  
altho' he wasn't High Commr  
George Reid still have  
helped us - as he very well  
knew.

Two days later G. Reid was  
elected a member of British  
Parliament. It is pathetic to  
hear how British people  
speak of him as "the represen-



-tative of Australia. I hope  
 Australia will appreciate /  
 compliment wh we paid her in  
 giving Reid this seat," Stelle  
 Maitland sd to me. "You know  
 its always looked on as the  
~~the~~ best seat / Conservative  
 party has - a perfectly safe  
 seat & conveniently close to  
 the House."

I knew th / people of  
 Australia wd not ~~at all~~ appreciate  
 Sir George Reid having stood for /  
 Conservative party; & wd not  
 appreciate his standing at all  
 as "the representative of Australia."  
 There wd be a feeling ~~that~~  
 amongst many th they were  
 not sorry / old man had won this  
 seat & his £400 a year after / rather  
 shabby way / Comm<sup>te</sup>. Govt  
 had treated him. He was known  
 to have saved very little money &  
 altho' he wasn't a man of any conviction  
 or to whose character or unselfishness  
 anyone looked up - still, such as he  
 was, he had served Australia very



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well. He was a brilliant speaker,  
& he must have made <sup>as High Command at least</sup> 1000  
speeches - a few serious, mostly  
buffoonery, but nearly all worth  
listening ~~to~~ to. And yet I  
cannot remember his having  
made a single unwise statement.  
As long as he was responsible to  
Australia - it is to say, as long  
as Australia had him under  
whip, & could have turned him  
out instantly if he misrepresented  
her - so long he represented her  
most faithfully. He had a genius  
for knowing exactly what Aus-  
-tralian's would think on any point  
& he reflected their opinions like  
a mirror.

Now that he cannot be  
turned out of office <sup>not</sup> by all  
Australians ~~the~~ exist - he  
is beginning to talk sheer heresy;  
that we must remould our  
policy & cannot any longer, after this  
war, treat our fellow subjects as  
if they were aliens - by which he



means that we must open <sup>20</sup> / doors  
to / population of India.

Why? Australia has done  
every ounce that she could in this  
war, — has taken it more  
seriously than Britain — why  
should her position be altered one  
fraction because Indians too have  
chosen to fight. Do Britain or  
India owe us less after this  
war than before it?

But it is not really / point.  
The point is that / moment George  
Reid cuts himself free from /  
Australian people, which still  
claiming to represent us (& of course  
/ British people thinks that he  
does) he talks this stuff which he  
knows (& none better) will be disowned  
by every Australian worthy the  
name. We do honour / Indians  
after this war — none more than I do.  
But our country is our country,  
we intend it to be / white country, /  
& it is / virtues of Indians that  
make them dangerous to us &  
not their vices. And so is /



Japanese.

Now Andrew Fisher, who arrived a few days ~~for~~ ago as High Commr, has none of Reid's ability as a speaker. He is rather a dull, tedious speaker, w a monotonous Scotch accent. ~~But~~ He is ~~not~~ hasty tempered, & his success has made him rather overweening & unable to endure opposition. He will possibly be unnecessarily rude to those he doesn't understand - & there are very many whom he does not understand because altho' he has a certain Scottish acuteness his understanding is not very deep; indeed he is often inexpressibly stupid at grasping another man's argument - I know because I have heard him engaged in such arguments. But he is a man of conviction, a man of clean clear purpose, an



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Australian to the last & pretty fearless - as politicians go - in forcing those behind him to face the what he believes to be the fact. When that wobbler, Deakin, who had twenty times the brains & ability of Fisher, established an Australian Navy & refused to urge 1 Australian people to pay for it - indeed actually passed an Act for 1 payment of annually recurring defence expenditure out of loan money - Andrew Fisher, the labour man, sd th Australia shd pay for her ship bldg out of her annual taxation or he wd go down - & he wd have, too. If he cd not have induced 1 people of Australia to repeal Deakin's Act & put their hands in their pockets for 1 money wh he thought ws necessary I believe Andrew Fisher would



have gone out. He wd have  
 risen all stronger later on,  
 I have no doubt. And so wd  
 Drakin if he had taken the  
 same course & be ready to  
 fall w his opinions on this  
 or some twenty other questions.  
 But Alfred Drakin cd never  
 face a fall - he must always  
 get round a difficulty, never  
through it, because th wd  
 put him temporarily out of  
 power. He wd never ask 1  
 people to do anything it  
 didnt want to do - He  
 always had to be on 1 winning  
 side w 1 result th he betrayed  
 all his friends, one after another,  
 1 moment they looked like  
 being. Charming man tho' he  
 ws personally, too charming to be  
 quite sincere, he could not face  
 a fall - w 1 result that he



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fell - crashed more utterly  
than any statesman of my time  
in Australia.

Of course Cook was a  
man who set his sails, too, to  
steer w/ wind to blow. But  
then nobody ever ~~was~~ expected  
anything else of Cook - He was a  
skilled politician & scarcely  
professed to be more &  
he was a far stronger man  
than Deakin. It is true that he  
and Millen made a party question  
out of this war & tried to win  
a general election by turning  
I war into a party cry - but  
then no one expected much else of  
Joe Cook & Millen. They were  
party men pure & simple &  
they edn't help thinking more  
of their own portfolios than anything  
else when I was broke out. That  
is to say they reconciled their



Conscience very easily to  
 idea that they & they alone were  
 the party fit to conduct Australia  
 in war time. No one expected  
 much else of either. They ~~elects~~  
 might have known that to have an  
 elector at all during war time  
 wd disgust Australians - but  
 1 Liberal politician in Australia  
 has a very mean conception  
 of his electors. The people  
 turned them down & threw  
 them out - Sir George Reid has  
 been draping Anzac into his  
 election speeches in England  
 for wh we all owe him.  
 Something of a grudge - But his  
 again was a case it didnt affect  
 us very much because it was  
 a private elect in England.  
 But Drake, the Australian,  
 the founder of A.N.A., ought to  
 have known better; & when he  
 turned Australia's feelings as to



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Imperial Navy, in 1909 into  
a party cry because he saw  
a chance (with Joe Cook it  
came more natural) to get  
into power with it — he  
committed what, to some of us,  
was an unforgivable sin.

However — this is all  
a propos of George Reid's ~~report~~  
~~to~~ neglect to father the Angas  
Book as we expected him  
to. Well, I fact that his name  
is not in (preface of it (tho'  
it ~~is~~ is in 1 text) is his loss &  
not ours.

Collins, Reid's official secretary  
had news been told by R. of the  
Angas Book. Douglas Reid had,  
& had mentioned it to old  
Kneebone of the Publicity Dept.  
I went & saw Kneebone, &  
after him to see H.C. Smart  
who had been made Controller of  
Australian Military Office.



Smart, who has a great deal <sup>27</sup>  
more to do than most, at once  
rang up two or three publishers  
of those whom he sd were  
suitable; gave me a room  
in his office; interviewed  
the publishers representatives  
w me next morning. By  
midday our minds were  
pretty well made up <sup>as to which publisher was best.</sup> By  
one o'clock we had particulars  
prepared of the no. of coloured blocks,  
no. of photos & process blocks,  
no. of line blocks, no. of pages  
etc. <sup>sent</sup> out to the publishers;  
by next day we had their  
price & had fixed up with  
Cassells — who, I have no  
doubt at all, were much  
best qualified. Smart showed  
me how to make up a book or  
magazine on single sheets, illustrated  
as far as possible on 1 right



hand pages; making up 1 full page paper first & fitting in 1 other articles, pictures, head & tail pieces afterwards. It took me 1 whole of one night & as I started unexpectedly early for France, 1 whole of the second night after that, to get the thing into order - working till 8.30 am. & just catching the 8.50 am. train at Charing X.

In all of this the officers in the Press section of the War Office were exceedingly kind.

Both in getting me leave to go to France & in getting me leave to publish my photos in the Book (the War office has closed down entirely on unofficial photos unless you like to flout them wh. anyone is perfectly free to do) as being an Official Army Corps publication

94, 24

I was in Paris 27 & 28



They arranged my visit to  
 France at very short notice -  
 gave me letters to the Folkestone  
 Embarkation officer & others -  
 so th it went off without a  
 slightest hitch & without my  
 paying a penny of my fare  
 altho' I had no passport  
 as I ought to have had.

for Red X funds. The men  
 I particularly came into  
 contact with were Capt. Kenny  
 (a chap of very keen understanding  
 very broad views in war &  
 politics & untiring in his  
 help; I several times heard  
 him try to get thro' an item  
 of press news wh he considered  
 desirable on broad grounds  
 when (others objected to it  
 on narrow ones) & Capt.  
 Trail D.S.O., ~~a~~ exceedingly  
 kind to me, helpful in  
 every way, & most untiring.  
 They took me down to see the  
 head of dept. Brig. Gen.  
 Cockerill - whose views on  
 censorship exactly agree  
 w my own. "We have to  
 thank you fellows at the  
 Dardanelles, "head," for



("Old" as a term of affection -  
he is only abt 10 yrs older than I am)

C.W.S.

14.5.25

picking on the human  
interest in the campaign, rather  
than confining yourselves to the  
main plans, & numbers and  
that sort of thing."

I couldn't have got the  
Anzac Book thro' without  
coming home - & I couldn't  
have done it without Smart's  
generous & abundant help.  
The first night I sat up the  
old chap came down stairs  
twice in his dressing gown  
to give me hints to be had  
thought of. Bazley was  
a great help, too - nothing too  
much to ask of the youngsters  
in the way of typing & developing  
of photos.

Some other most interesting men  
whom I got to know during this  
trip were the other war  
correspondents in France. Harry S.



Gallett, the Australian Correspondent  
 (who sometimes goes there & who  
 made a reputation for himself  
 by going out over our wire  
 & spending 1 night between 1  
 trenches in a crater w a  
 sniper) I knew of old. I was  
 his rival in London when he  
 was correspondent of "Daily  
 Telegraph" & I of the  
 "Sydney Morning Herald"  
 - for three years; & as I  
 have often said, I could not  
 wish any man better luck  
 than to have so loyal a  
 rival. He knows Australia  
 as only a youngster can know  
 it who was brought up on a  
 Victorian farm; who made his  
 pennies & shillings in his  
 youngest days by pulling 1  
 hairs out of 1 tails of the



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farm horses until they scarcely complied w<sup>th</sup> demands of decency. The only danger was w<sup>th</sup> the horses of their uncles when they stalled them during their rare visits - if an uncle noticed I thinness the result was a soul-satisfying hiding. Another method of money making was killing sparrows for w<sup>ch</sup> I state paid so much per head: it came more near to breeding sparrows if only I got had known - you never dreamed of destroying a nest of eggs - you nursed & watched them carefully till they were hatched - . . . So on. Gullett can tell you all and keep you in fits for an evening. He



has been mixed in Australian politics to the extent to which most young Australian Pressmen of any brains have been involved in them. Of course he is a labourite, more or less; & he is a sort of maverick in one is always expecting big things. He is a bright vivid writer even amidst English journalists. I've often urged him to write a book about Australia which only he or Dorothea Mackellar (or perhaps Bert Toy) that I know of could write. But for some reason he hasn't done so.

He ought to come out at the head of a political party - I should never be surprised to find him Prime Minister of



Australia - it wd be a <sup>34</sup>  
 good day for Australia;  
 but I think he's too independent  
 - too damned rebellious -  
 to submit to dictation of any  
 party organisation. Like most  
 honest politicians, he wd  
 feel it necessary to be  
 free to obey his conscience  
 & be independent.

Gullett wd be in England  
 - just starting for a lecture tour  
 in Australia, when I was there.

Phillip Gibbs wd be  
 man who made most  
 impression on me. "Isn't  
 he a dear fellow?" sd  
 Gullett when I mentioned  
 him - & that he just is.  
 A sweet tempered, sweet natured,  
 earnest capable man; he has  
 been at that work since the  
 beginning of the war & it,



must be soul cramping to  
 a degree to be kept at it  
 under those conditions. But  
 his patent sincerity keeps him  
 at work. He knows more  
 of the real history of the battle  
 of Loos - a pitiable true history  
 of it - than ~~most~~ anyone  
 I met; but of course neither  
 he nor others were allowed to  
 tell it. Most men wd be  
 rather crabbed w. this; but  
 Gibbs sd to me: "Well - I don't  
 know if it wd have done  
 any good to ~~it~~ ~~and~~ ~~have~~  
~~caused~~ I have had party  
 fighting party over it - a lot  
 of division & strife & internal  
 discussion at home - I don't  
 think any good end might  
 have been served, do you?"

The truth, of course, was



that the 1st & 4th Corps  
went ahead very much faster  
than the staff had expected.  
The attack began at 6.30.  
By 7 they had 1 German  
front line; by 8 they had  
gone, I believe, nearly 5  
miles & were some of them  
practically through 1 last  
German defence — at  
Cite Ste Auguste. They had  
Hill 70 & were even past  
it. The German staffs were  
hurriedly gathering their papers  
— the German batteries were  
preparing to withdraw.  
The Staff had definitely  
promised the 1st & 4th Corps  
to they need not worry about  
consolidating — they need not  
think of trenches they passed  
over — ~~the~~ it was in their



written orders that they were  
to go as far as they could -  
the ground behind them would  
be made good by their  
supports.

Accordingly they left  
their <sup>German</sup> prisoners behind them  
under small guards & went  
on - splendidly - successfully  
beyond hopes. The Germans  
have not many lives &  
they were in this part  
practically through them - &  
there was 1 line for 1 support.

And where were 1  
supports? The supports consisted  
of the 21 & 24 Divs - new  
troops of K's army - w/ 1  
guards Divn behind them.  
It had been a question whether  
they shd or shd not be ready  
behind 1 line 1 night before  
1 attack. I forget whether it



38  
 was Haig or who it was that  
 thought they ought to be  
 there. I believe French was  
 definite that they should not.  
 The decision was that they  
 were not to be there till  
 next morning - I think  
 at 9.30, but I'm not sure.  
 In any case it would have  
 been late. As a matter of  
 fact they did not start on  
 to the battlefield till 4.30 in  
 the afternoon (I think these  
 were the times told me). Then  
 they were not told that they  
 were going into a full dress  
 attack - they were told they  
 were to support (a very bad  
 term which leads to serious  
 misunderstanding as in the  
 case of the Portsmouth marines  
 at Arras - it is far better to  
 tell troops that they may have  
 to buck into it - they will nerve



themselves up to it. It is  
 unfair, or at any rate unwise,  
 to ask them to go in without  
~~preparing their wills~~ giving them  
 (warning wh enables them to  
 make up their minds to  
 face all chances). #

The result was that when  
 they came under a awful  
 hail of artillery wh pours  
 down between the trenches in  
 these engagements on the western  
 front, they simply broke &  
 came back in pieces.  
 Julliett & others who saw  
 them afterwards, who told me  
 they never saw anything so depressing  
 - column after column coming  
 past dejected, hang dog, dispirited  
 - they knew it - almost ready  
 to weep on mention of disaster  
 - a beaten ashamed army. And  
 poor chaps, it wasn't their



37  
40  
fault. "Nobody blames them now," I heard a general say in France. It never got into papers - but there was a real row about it. And it has been definitely stated by an officer high on staff that this was the reason why French was recalled.

Phillips is an American or a Canadian of a great deal of experience in war. He is a big, hearty, keen chap - who can say keen quick things but without the finesse of Gibbs; an awfully kindly frank colleague; he represents the "Daily Express" & the "Morning Post" - an extraordinary assortment for a war office will only allow a limited number of men. The arrangement is that each paper can send its man for 2 months.



"old" again a term of  
affection - for himself etc.

G. E. S. B.  
14.5.25

41  
so they often alternate  
with another pressman  
(Sgt. Prevost Batterby alternates  
I think w Phillips). Gibbs  
has been here all the time as the  
"Telegraph" doesn't want  
to send a man in place of  
him. But the most  
extraordinary assortment  
is the "Daily News" & "The  
Times" represented by  
Tomlinson.

Tomlinson (Daily News)  
is a rather cynical ~~old~~  
clever shaven quizzical countenanced old  
radical who takes the  
Trade Union view & writes  
admirable war articles -  
something of a Nevinson type  
except to his deafness  
always puts him a little  
outside every circle though  
everyone likes him. The  
article in the Times on the Loos



42

battle was I suppose by him; & if anyone reading between the lines it gave some idea of the truth.

Beach Thomas, Daily Mail, is a tall fellow with a long drooping moustache, ~~more~~ rather more obviously keen for news, I think, than any of the others except Russell, who was out for a few weeks for Reuters at the Dardanelles till he was invalided. He is son of Clark Russell & has been on the Daily Express & later on the Western Morning News - a Plymouth paper closely interested in Naval affairs - and ~~was~~ (as I think I said when describing the Dardanelles Correspondents) with a pathetic belief in the Navy. He & I had quite a wordy duel the night before I left because I told him that I thought the Navy were behind the Army in staff training - because they have no



staff college.

"I'm sorry to hear you say so," sd Gibbs feelingly. "we have been comforting ourselves w/ 1 idea ~~that~~ ~~by~~ ~~do~~ ~~these~~ whatever may be 1 matter w/ 1 army, they do these things alright in 1 Navy."

[They talk about G.H.Q. in France much as we did about G.H.Q. in Gallipoli - it is not very comforting; & they tell me that the French have no opinion at all of 1 British staff -]

well, I must bring these notes to an end - but I wanted to get them down while they were fresh in my mind.

I left London on Saturday Jan 29. Old Tock wanted to come back w me but there's great work for him to do in



doing what he can to <sup>44</sup>  
protect Australia & our  
future people agst a danger  
wh. at least may be very  
serious - & 10th boy is  
just 1 sort to go & devote his  
life to it - a more unselfish  
~~practical~~ devoted  
public spirited single minded  
gentleman than old John  
doesn't walk.

~~At~~ I went by the P & B  
express - a day late (or  
two <sup>for</sup> "I fancy it starts on  
Thurs. in war time). At  
Folkestone we heard the  
boat wdn't start ~~the~~ morning  
- probably not the day. It  
didn't - so we had to stay ~~at~~  
at the Pavilion Hotel & stick  
pretty close to it in case  
boat started at short notice.

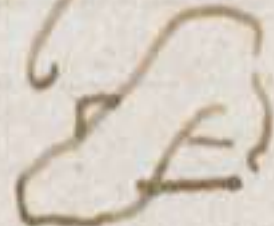


My cabin mate was there  
 for 1 last boat & went out  
 for a two hours walk -  
 When he came back they told him  
 1 boat had gone (w some of  
 his registered baggage - wh he  
 has not since seen).

Folkestone was simply  
 crammed w troops - It  
 had previously be a big  
 Canadian camp - abt 50,000  
 I believe camped near it.  
 One curious feature of this  
 war is 1 way in wh  
 sections of England or France  
 suddenly become Scottish or  
 Canadian for months -  
 Just as Egypt has become  
 Australian for over a year  
 now - In France it was quite  
 remarkable to run into



a long wedge shaped district  
 part. 20 miles long peopled  
 with Canadians, patrols  
 w/ straight brimmed hats on /  
 roads - (the Canadians salute  
 pretty consistently now, one  
 remarked. They are keen-eyed  
~~brighter~~ as Australians, not  
 so tall, brighter coloured,  
 very quick & independent.)

In another wedge, all is  
 Scottish caps - sort of  
 Tam o' Shanter   
 mostly.

I believe some Destroyer  
 was sd to have been mined  
 in / Channel just before  
 we started. Every now &  
 then a nest of mines appears  
 there & they know to a



47

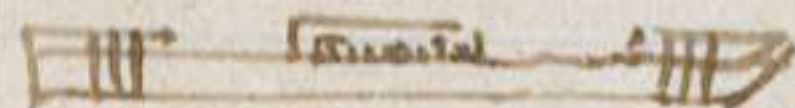
Zeppelin or a submarine  
has been there & released  
them.

On Sunday Jan 30. when  
we started at 11 am,  
we were escorted by a  
racing destroyer to the  
Danish coast. About  
a mile out we passed  
neutral & British shipping  
traffic being passed  
down a narrow cleared  
lane like traffic down  
a London street. They  
anchor for a night &  
I believe lie up for all  
rough days. Here they were,  
over 20 of them, ~~ships~~ mostly  
neutrals w flags of all  
sorts painted on their sides



48  
as an advertisement to

Submarines



& their names

in large letters on their sides.

Feb. 2. Wed. Malta - after a quick passage of 18 km. I'm sure I don't know what the course was.

As I have just been listening to some of passengers singing - last night one of songs was a song ~~very~~ of a popular ~~sort~~ <sup>sort</sup> written since I was "Knitting". The lady who is "I" in it has been "So very busy knitting - knitting socks for soldiers thin & fat" that she doesn't notice amongst other things that she has run off to a Brighton Hotel with a man who is not her husband! Roars of laughter expected at this, I suppose.



Good God - how do I English  
 expect to win a war if they  
 conduct it in this sort of spirit.  
 It's enough to make you weep.  
 Luckily it's only a section, I suppose,  
 that really takes it that way.  
 In this free country they've as  
 much right to their frivolity  
 as anyone has to any other  
 cherished right.

~~How~~ We are moving out  
 - very fast. I don't know  
 what the course is again,  
 but I shd say it's not  
 an ordinary one. The weather  
 is rough wh should be difficult  
 for submarines.





Cloudy  
shrouded

Vol II  
SK. No 209

Lone Pine as I saw it  
(First stage)

burst  
Hoisting part  
in front ground  
after shell had burst.

Man scrambling up  
either from underground  
forward firing line or  
from fall

Cooler  
2 or 3 men  
skulking behind it  
or killed or w.  
don't say which

First line bunching  
or looking for places  
to push in. I  
don't see what  
crowd was busy  
with.

Man taking  
quiet shot  
up shot

end of bayonets  
men lying  
down with  
rifles in  
hands  
They were killed  
I don't know if they were  
dead yet or not.



Our wire  
with jam tins etc in it.

The picture should be much wider than  
this. Otherwise it's right.

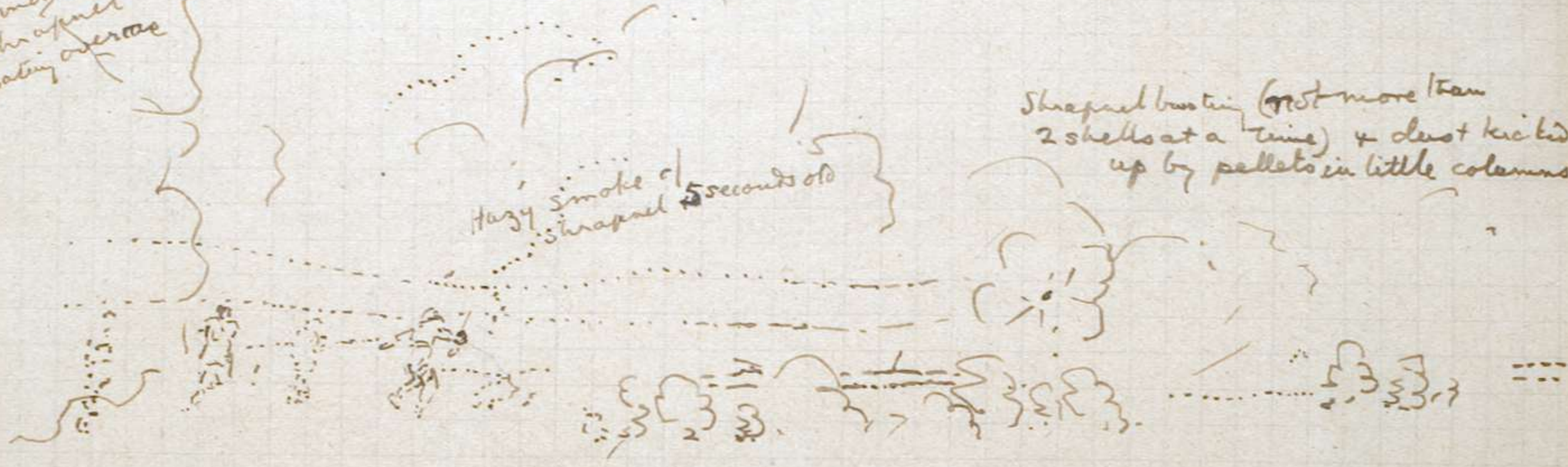


Either the signalling shown on lower page or a coincidence called down 3 or 4 shrap. bursts on the particular point - wh quite shut out / trench from us. Elsewhere you could barely see hazy forms moving thro' the dust & soft curly smoke drift - yellow in evening light - Sun behind us.

Smoke of old shrapnel floating over

Shrapnel bursting (not more than 2 shells at a time) & dust kicked up by pellets in little columns.

Hazy smoke of shrapnel 5 seconds old



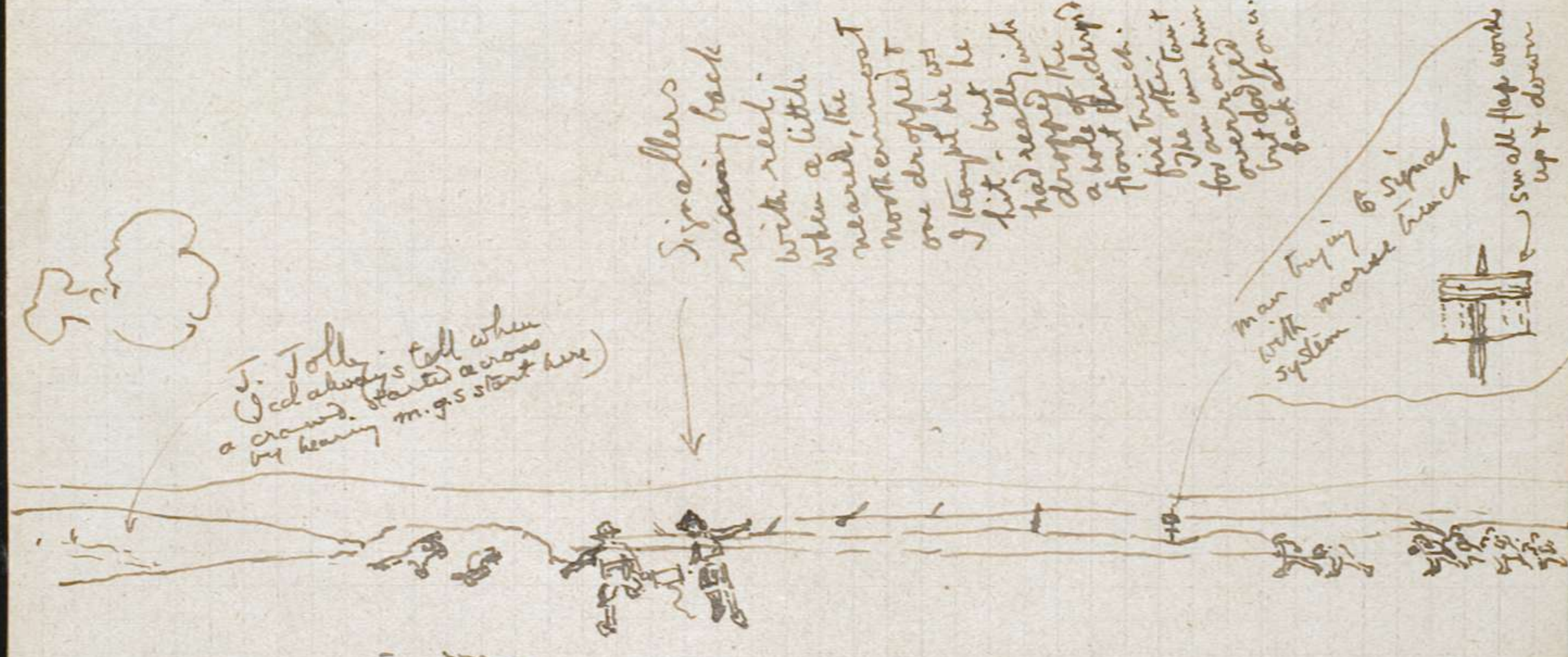
This was constantly happening.

Signaller  
receiving back  
with reel -  
when a little  
nearer, the  
northwest  
one dropped  
I thought he  
hit - but  
had really  
dropped the  
a hole of  
front trench.  
fire after  
the was  
for our  
over  
but  
back

man trying to signal  
with Morse  
system

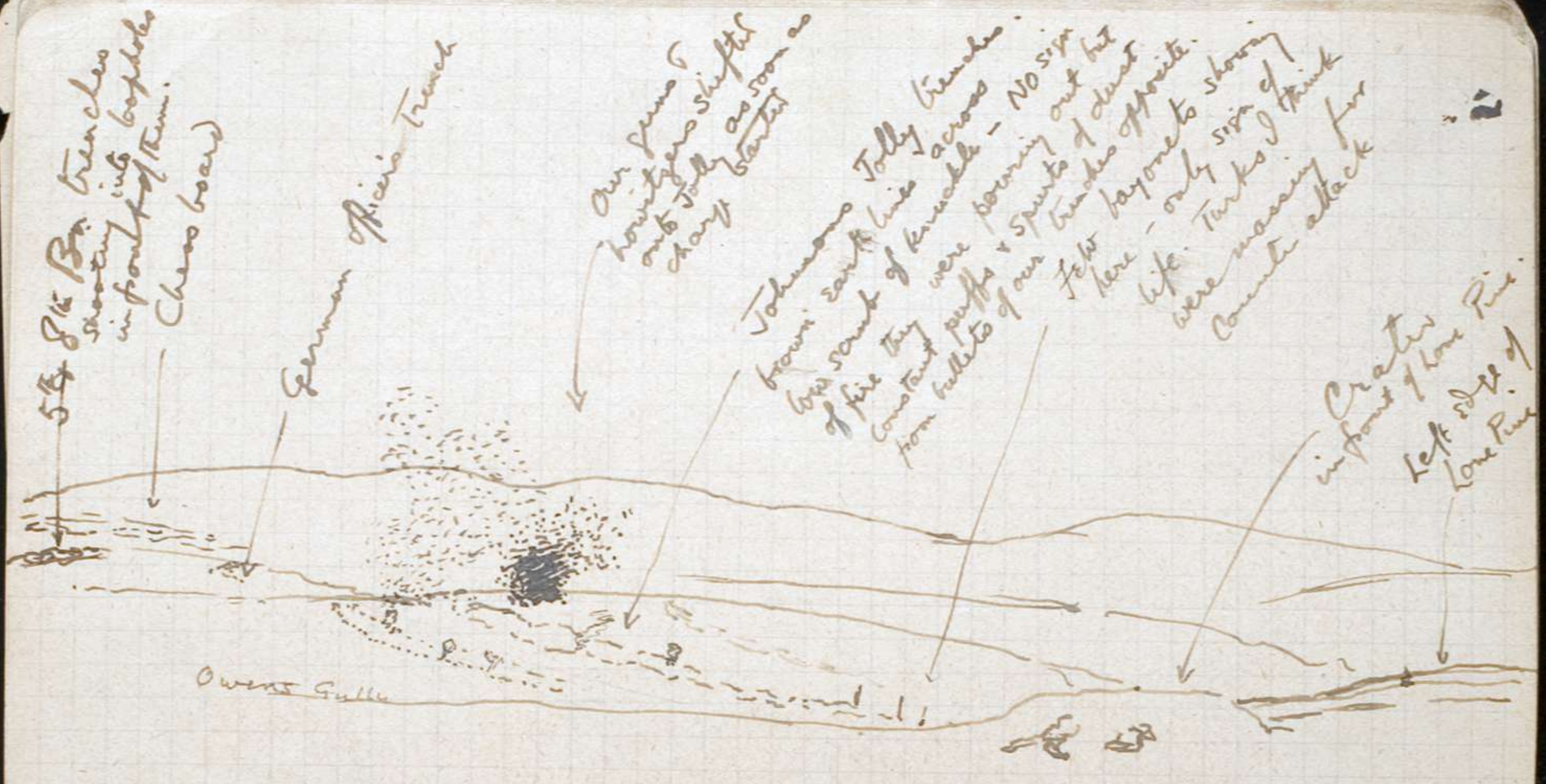


J. Tolly tall when  
Wed always tall when  
a crowd started across  
by hearing m.g.s start here

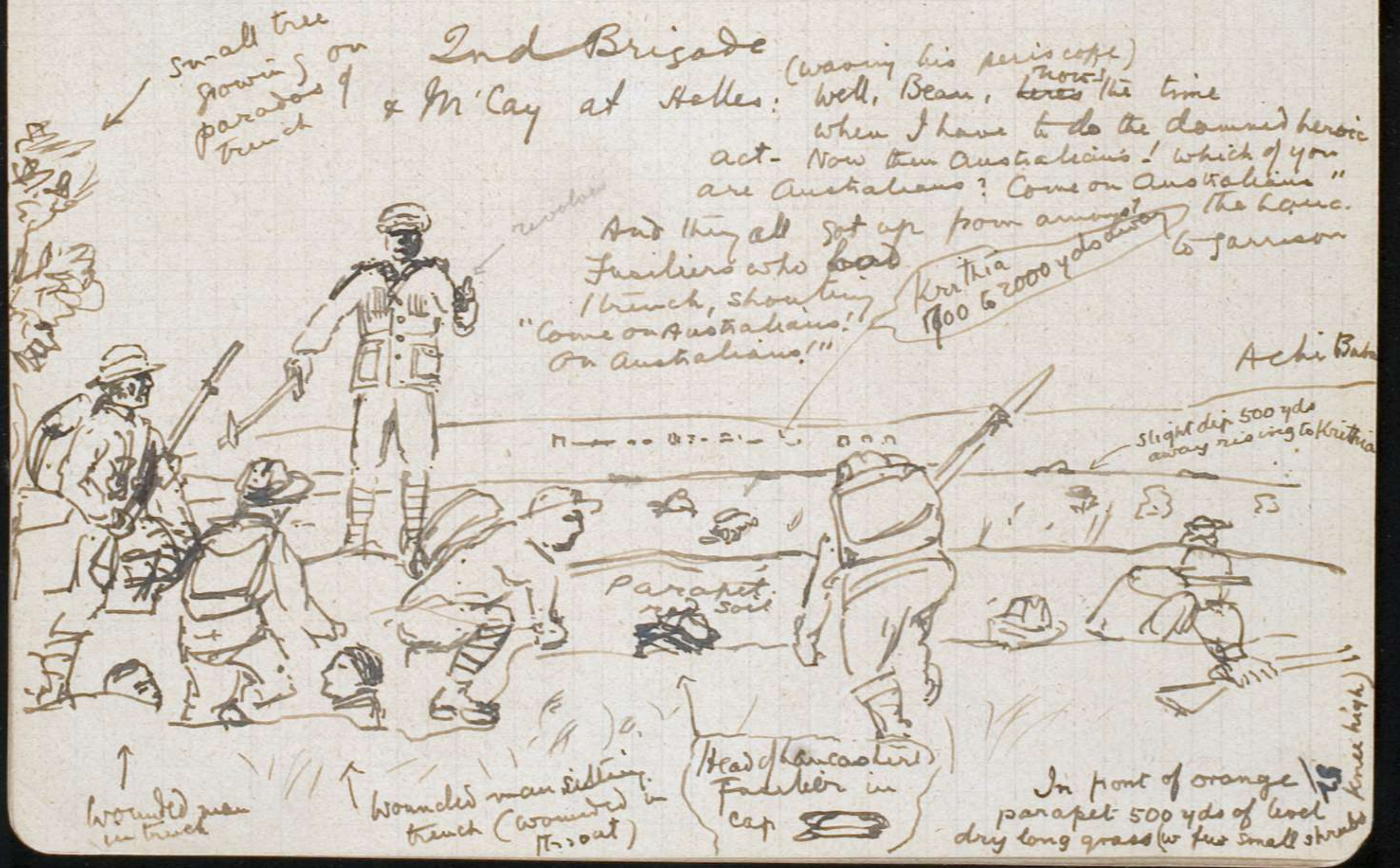


(20 minutes later than  
1st sketch)





Johnson's Tolly during Lone Pine attack =





Some skinned tree (Rosewood or Thorn or something)

Col. M. Nichol

He at once jumped up on parapet of trench



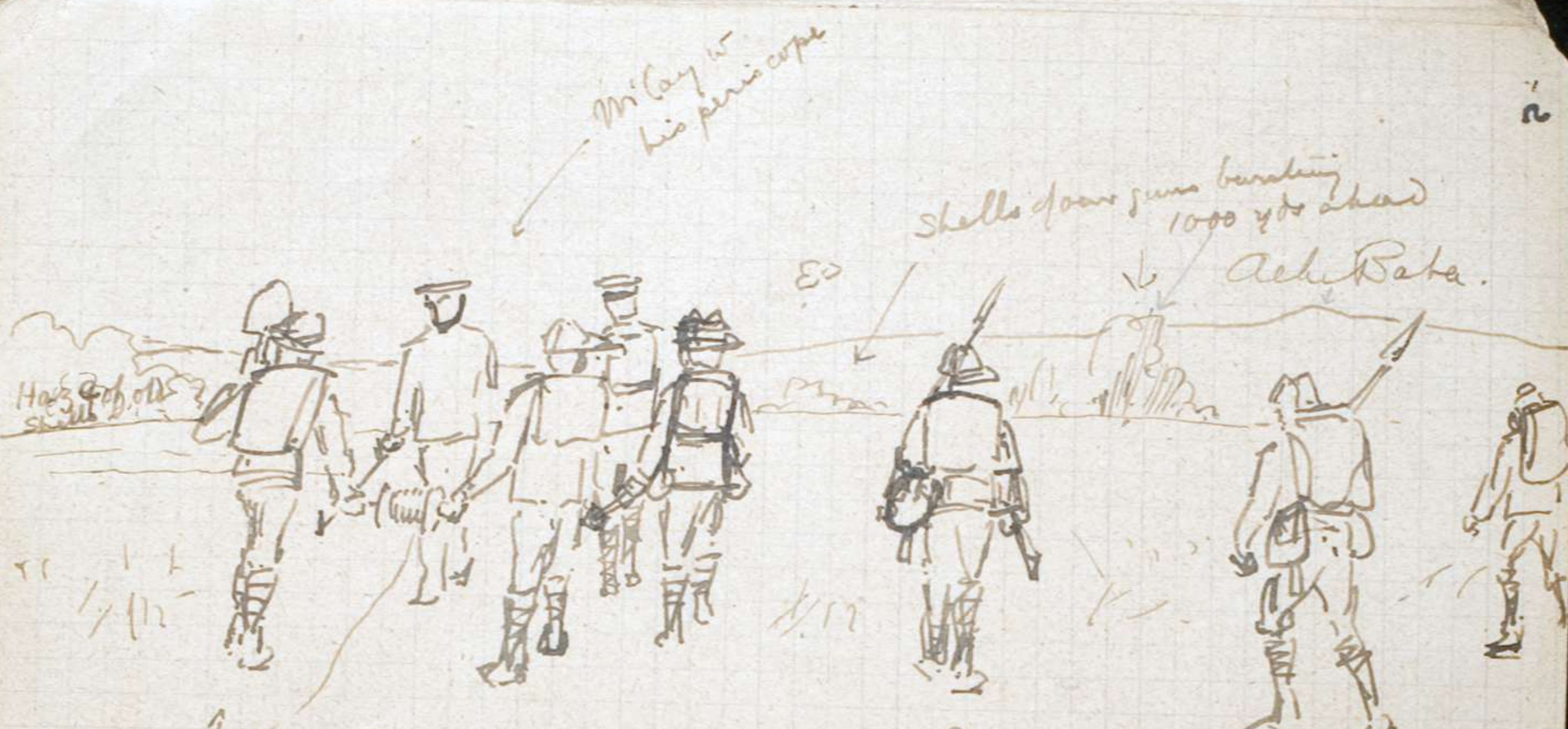
Trench should be more crowded - Brigade H.Q. were all in 1 trench beside 1 wounded signaller

May 8th.

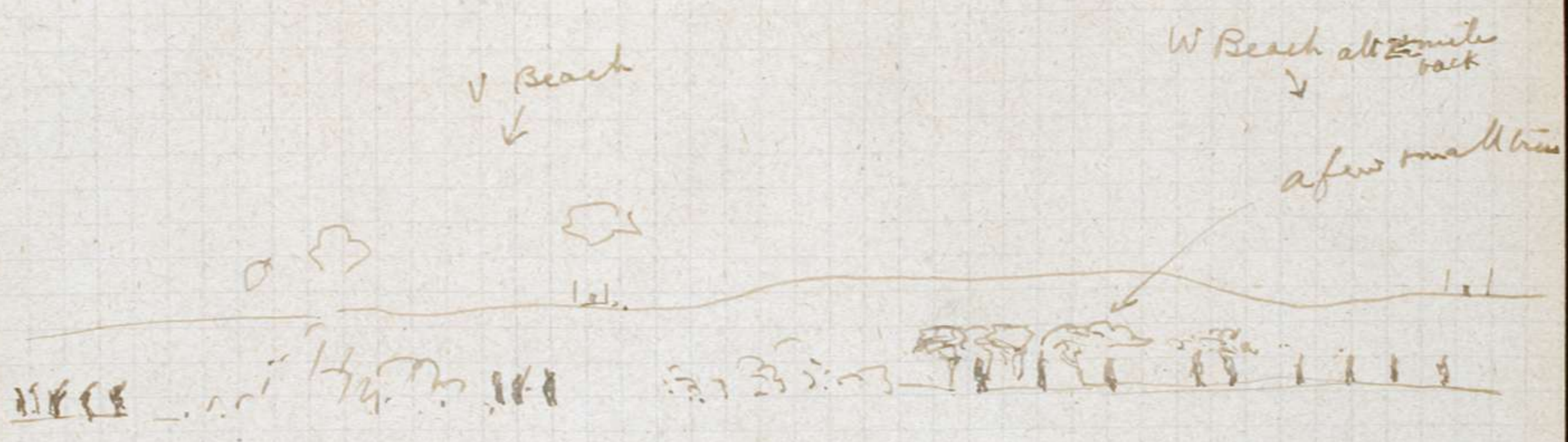
In the charge of the 2nd Bde at Helles - In the "Tommy's" trench - a red earth trench with parapet of red earth (no sand bags & parapets of some red earth behind which many men rested instead of getting into trench as most did. When they got up for 1 charge 1 man seemed to stand just for one fraction of a moment, half crouching & glaring into the enemy's fire, which was very heavy, before they started. There should be more of them, but it looked very like this picture all the same. ~~Before~~ Each line we held abt 3 minutes in 1 trench, which was half way to where we reached (& has since been called the "Australian Trench") & then it got up like this & went on. When ~~the 1st~~ 2nd line was due to leave Col. M. Nichol asked Col. M. Cay who was in 1 trench. Well, do you want us to go on. M. Cay said yes.

So M. N. jumped up on parapet of trench free & unimpeded & fell upon enemy & sank down. M.C. sd. One young fellow 700 men were leaning at M.C.'s collar. "Only slightly 31 rank" he sd - with 1/2 crew. M.C. was in trench & was in 1 man on his right hand.





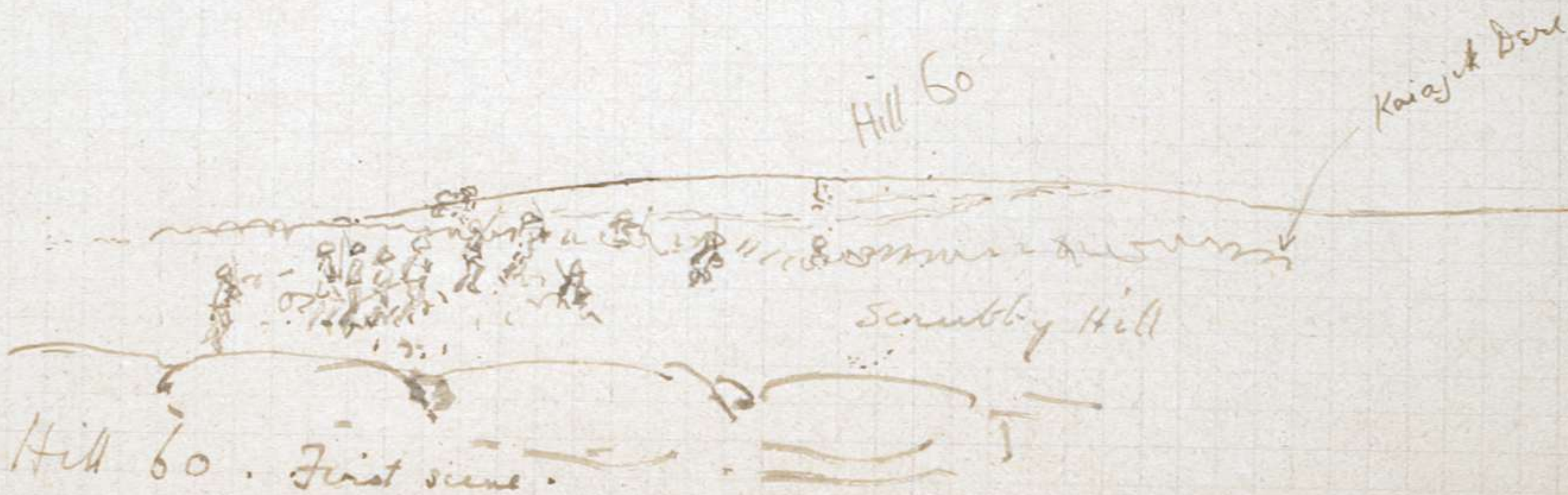
H.Q. of Mr. Coy's Brigade in Kithia Chergo.  
 one youngster (I forget if he was one of signaller's) carrying a reel was holding up a spade to protect his head.  
 (Dry grass w occasional bullet spits)  
 Pace - a very fast walk.  
 Tommie's trench was some way ahead.



Some of lines behind us advancing tho' shrapnel as we looked back at them from position in above picture.



Hill 60. Aug. 21.



Men swarming up scrubby Hill on my side of Kaiajik Valley, disappearing down into 1 valley. (I was in trenches of 131-132)



Hill 60

(Our m.g.s from Monash's trenches were sprinkling ground over here on unseen side of hill.)

Shells began to burst in these trenches

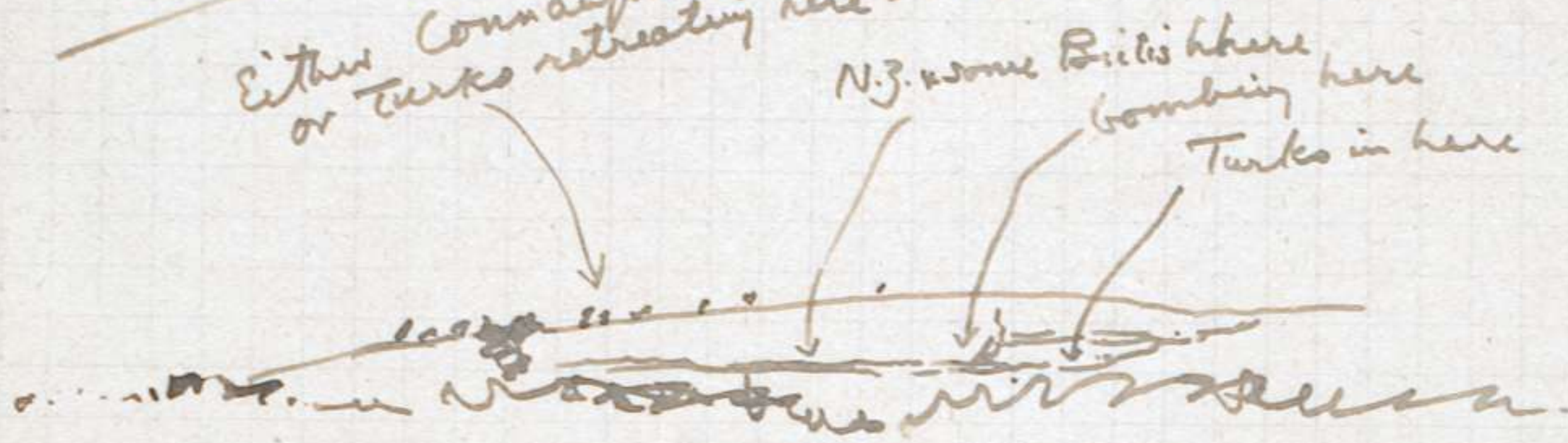
I have exaggerated the size of Hill 60 in this in order to give room.

Turks often afterwards infiltrated all these trenches from the East. w/ shrapnel & were banging at Monash's trenches too.

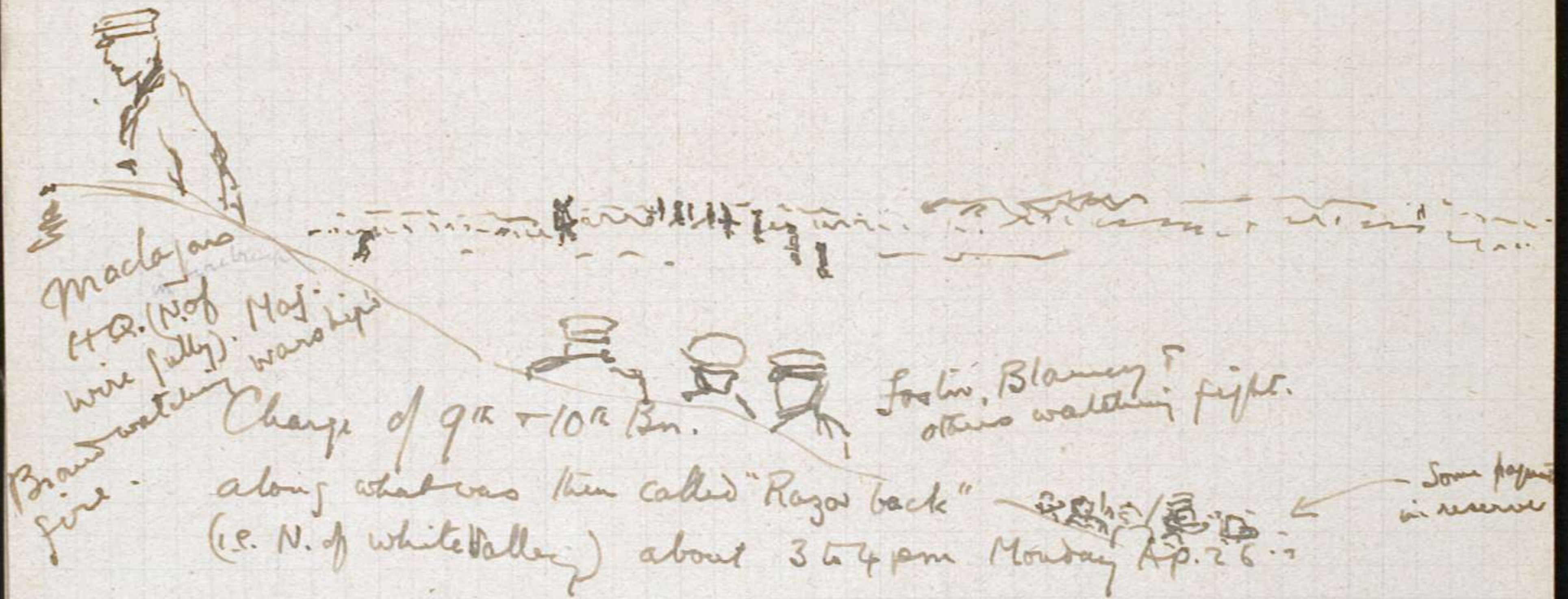


Hill 60 abt 401c. Aug 21.

Either Connaughts charging or Turks retreating here - I think both; front figure probably a Turk.



Apr. 26 12



This was just abt time when order to "cease fire" came along line.



Lone Pine: On Aug. 8. Young Ross' gun when the 7th Battery was shelling the rear slopes of Lone Pine had 600 shells fired at it (in the morning?) The tanks knew this battery was shelling their concentration - as soon as bayonets appeared on the rear slopes No 4 gun would get onto them. This was the reason why they got onto his gun (No 4) when they could see. Now after row of sandbags was knocked down from the emplacement but was always built up. Fortunately scrubby knoll could not get at them over the top of the Pine. The men always built 1 sandbag up again - Ross's observer was killed beside him but 1 gun's crew stuck to it & fought 1 gun right thro'!

from the 6th gun  
in front of the  
5th

This fine gun. A prisoner gave away 1 position of an observation station of the olive grove guns - in a tree behind the grove. If you shell the tree, he sd. 1 gun will stop. The next time 1 gun fired they shelled 1 bush - & the gun did stop, alone.

May 8  
Col. M. Nichol  
wounded  
1st time  
2nd time  
100 yd



"I don't think it's anything!"  
Jumped up  
abandoned  
trench









there too. But the Army H.Q. is not in active existence as there doesn't now exist an army. However, Birdwood has today arrived at Ismailia & I believe a scheme is on foot to organise the Australasians into an Army & give him command of it. I met Hobbs & his staff in the train. They had been out for 3 or 4 days in the desert looking for artillery positions behind the <sup>1st</sup> line. There is a long ridge wh gives excellent concealment but a difficulty <sup>with the overhead concealment</sup> of H.Q.

The Bde & Div H.Q.s here, therefore, will be much farther from the front than at Amzac - much more as in France; & the line will be held much more as in France. Also the three divisions of the Corps are arranged as in France - two



in the firing line 2nd 1st.

& one in reserve N 2 & A

(the N 3 & A, which is behind Smailia).

I don't know where the 29th Indian Bde is.

The line I am told consists of posts not a continuous line of trenches. The men of the 2nd &

British Divs have been making it now for a fortnight. Some 30,000 Turks are supposed to be concentrated over opp. us but we see nothing of them exc. an occasional patrol.

The 4th L.H. is 1st Div. L.H. but the 2nd L.H. Bde is sd to be working w its horses as cavalry on the right flank of 1st Div.

I don't know where the rest of L.H. are, but I believe the 13th Regt is with 2nd Div. The 1st 2nd & 3rd Bdes wd make a cavalry Div. and with 3 more Divs from Australia (one consisting of



4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Bdes, & some other  
infantry, ~~we should need~~ & one  
a complete N.Z. Divn, we  
shd make an army of two  
Corps and one cavalry Divn,  
with artillery for three Divns  
(that of Aust. Divns being a little  
more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  strength, & that  
of N.Z. rather less.) Altogether  
the 6 Divns & one cavalry Divn  
wd have the arty of abt  $\frac{1}{2}$  Divn.  
This wd have to be made up  
(& probly wd be) from outside.

Leave has been given (into  
Cairo) first to 3% officers & 2%  
men (or vice versa); there was  
some rowdiness in train &  
so it was cut down to 1%  
men; it has just been raised  
again to 3%. I see men  
(possibly a picket or possibly  
on leave) in train w red &  
white brassards & a number  
stamped on each 520, 521 etc.



Towel  
Slippers.

62  
I have heard as yet no news of the Mersa Matruh expedition. Some people think (as I have been inclined to think) that this threat on the Canal is just a bluff put up by both sides; by the Turks to hold us here; & by us to get training out of our men (the Godes have some a team for training - field work of the old style - splendid for them) & incidentally to get the Canal defences made. We are pushing out wires & pipe lines into the desert; but at present the water has to be taken out on camels. The water for the horses is being taken under the Canal in a 6 in pipe line. This has got  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in the 1st area at present.

Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. Came to Ismailia where Lowry and 1st Aust. Stationary Hospital - the nicest lot of Hospital chaps I know - put me up. They again are in the thick of it - in a house at 1 hour.



ANZAC has the hospitals last years quarters so they are  
in a amount. 9th Oct 1918. I hear that

Sunday Jan 6<sup>th</sup>. I hear that

the scheme for 1 formation of an  
army has been put before 1 war  
Office exactly on 1 line & we  
thinking of yest.

Of course one knew (as did everyone  
else) that 1 Australian's & New Zealanders'  
return to Egypt wd mean a certain  
amount of goodness - & this has been  
the case, especially with the newer  
troops; the reinforcements now coming  
here go much more wild than the old  
soldiers who have had experience in  
Gallipoli wh taught them that this show is  
not a picnic. At least that is  
what I'm told. The ~~most serious~~ most serious  
incident happened at Tel-el-Kebir.  
A few men - real bad ones of  
whom some must always be in  
every unit, but with us they have the  
recklessness to <sup>let</sup> carry their badness  
carry them wherever it can - dressed  
up as policemen; & with altered  
badges & faked brassards & so on,  
rode over to a village on the edge of  
desert. The idea was to get women, &



am told; they also got whisky & burnt <sup>but</sup>  
the village or part of it down, & got  
away. It is said they would certainly  
have been shot if caught. Gen. Chauvel  
was very much broken up about it.  
I believe they belonged to the First Australian  
Division. It is said that these acts  
may make the Imperial Authorities  
hesitate whether they can send the  
Australian Corps to France. ~~The New Zealanders~~  
~~have not been doing too~~ one hears of  
N. Zealand rowdiness also - in the  
Somalia Club (which we have all  
been made invited honorary members)  
Some N.Z. officers turned the bar upside  
down the other day, cowed the barman  
& took charge of the bar themselves.  
There were some young English Officers with  
them - new army men - who were  
playing a good second fiddle, I believe.  
There is a good deal of military crime  
in England & the British ~~in~~ precautions  
against drunkenness were necessitated  
by drunkenness amongst soldiers  
- but the our Australians are better  
men, I believe, man for man their  
off-parade discipline is a special trouble.  
They have to have special measures to



65  
keep them in order - two Australian  
policemen stand all day long on the  
steps of the two big hotels in Cairo;  
There are special Australian & N.Z.  
pickets on the trains. Maj. Williams of  
the 2nd Aust. Divn has been brought in  
to Somalia to act on the G.H.Q. staff  
as special A.P.M. for the Australasian  
troops. He is trying to get Australian  
police put on to deal with them. I  
didn't think that drunkenness was a  
special vice of the Australian - but  
it is certainly drunkenness which causes  
most of the Australasian crime here,  
& one cannot shut his eyes to the  
fact that this is at present a special  
problem for the authorities to deal with.

The "Army" scheme has been  
very cleverly worked out as follows.  
~~It~~ It has been practically arranged  
that Australia shall not raise the new  
divisions in Australia. The 50,000  
troops represented 3 divisions; but Aust.  
has been cabled to raise one Divn  
~~for~~ - which ought to be ready at a  
very early date; the other 2 Divns



will be at once raised here <sup>out of</sup> <sup>provisional</sup> reinforcements (there are now 8 <sup>Brns</sup> of them; in one case 3250 strong) of which there are 30,000 already here; + from the 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Aust. Bdes. The N.Z. and A. Divn will become the N.Z. Divn by sending more N.Z. troops; & the Light Horse (except divisional <sup>L-H</sup> <sup>4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup></sup> <sup>4 one N.Z.</sup>) will be a cavalry Divn under Gen. Chauvel. Walker will come back to 1st Aust. Div. & White, I hope, Griffiths will go to Army H.Q.

The only difficulty at present seems to be that N.Z. Govt has wired to Footley: "Do not commit us to anything ~~without~~ or something to that effect. The organization would be

1st Corps	{	1st Aust.	}	Australasian Army.
		N.Z.		
2nd Corps	{	3, 4, 5 Aust.	}	Australasian Army.
A-N.Z. Cavalry Divn.				

The artillery for 1 new units will be raised in Australia, up to our



Divisional standard (wh is still a <sup>67</sup> little below British.) But guns will come from England.

Sodley as Army Corps Commandr is at present head of A. I. F. He has a penchant for appointing English officers of title to his staff & the A.N.G.A.C. staff is at present almost unrecognisable. Fortunately Birdwood will soon get back the control (he arranges matters direct with Ck Gort.) And he has a leaning towards Australians.

Monday Jan 7<sup>th</sup>. Went to Serapeum ~~with~~ with Du Boise of the Red Cross. He was taking down <sup>cases</sup> ~~boxes~~ of Red Cross goods in the Red X launch (Australian). They have a staff of 10 administering the Red X (of Australia) now. The £750,000 raised on Australia Day all went to the Red X, which is I believe a great mistake. It shd have gone mostly to the widows &



18  
Orphans etc. The Red X is almost  
embarrassed with funds. The  
"Gifts" fund is rather poorly off  
& it wd do a lot for the men.

We found the old landmarks  
of the Suez Canal battle quite easy  
to pick out - the cross over the  
German officers grave - even the  
graves of some buried Turks.  
They told us at the First class  
Cleaning Hospital that some of our  
men have been digging up (buried)  
Turks in order to go thro' their  
bodies for Souvenirs (the hospital  
is next to where the Southernmost  
Turks were buried). This is a bit  
scandalous if they want the Ts.  
to respect our graveyards in  
Gallipoli. Dined last night  
with Piffiths & Butler & Leslie  
& Woods. Woods told me ~~that~~  
of three very interesting  
messages received from the  
Turks at Anzac which he



interpreted. One was at the time (September) when the Germans were being beaten back at Loos, & by the French S. of Tahure.

"Congratulate you on having killed 20,000 Boches" it said.

Another was thrown over after the penknife had been thrown <sup>by our men</sup> over as a souvenir at Quenins during the Bairam festival.

"Dear Australians,

The penknife which you threw over has fallen behind our parapets. Will you let me get out of the trench at this time tomorrow & fetch it?"

A third was:

"Dear Australians,

Do you know how far it is to Constantinople? We hope to see you there one of these days" — or something ambiguous to that effect. Altogether there is no doubt our men liked the



Turks & 1 Turks liked us. 78

The relation between 1 two was  
not only not bad but good.

Jan 8<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.

Du Boise told me yesty th he  
was very anxious abt some news he had  
heard. He had a brother who was  
coming home to join a cyclist corps.  
He was sailing in the Clan MacTavish.  
~~Today~~ yesty came a wireless message  
th 1 Clan MacTavish had been sunk  
by a German raiding cruiser after a  
fight. It was sd th 5 were saved &  
15 killed. The news is very vague.

Today he ~~told~~ showed me  
a newspaper. It said th at the  
officers of another British steamer  
said th 1 Clan MacTavish's officers  
had, they feared, been shot by 1  
German because they had fired  
on them & killed some (& I suppose  
were claimed to be non-combatants).  
If th is so, it calls for the most  
stingent reprisals on our part.



But what reprisals can we take upon 1 Germans. They have us out & beaten at that game - we can't attempt to rival them in brutality. Any our puny efforts in that direction wd immediately be outmatched by processes into wh we simply could not follow them. I don't believe in <sup>raising</sup> the atrocity cry. But when 1 Germans raise it, & shoot our people in cold blood upon 1 score of it - its' worse than human nature can stand.

~~We were~~ Du Boire' lent me his launch to go to Serapeum again w a party from 1 Hospital - their fine little scotch padre; a Morley, & Sutherland (who were not on 1 Canal last year). We were back later than we had promised - after 5; & I believe after 5 the sentries can shoot at any ~~boat~~ boat on 1 canal on sight.











cd be ready. Everything points<sup>74</sup>,  
in my mind, to their forming  
the 2 Corps; & possibly the army  
later, if time - Birdwood goes  
back to Corps commander. Godley  
I suppose will command the other  
corps. N.3. will form a single division.

It's a pity - but if they want  
us soon I suppose its wise; the  
only thing is that if we are to be an  
army eventually it wd be better  
to get staff into being now rather  
than at last moment.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Corps has been disbanded;  
9<sup>th</sup> at <sup>Port Said</sup> ~~Ismaelia~~ (15<sup>th</sup> Divn has  
just joined it in place of 13<sup>th</sup> wh  
has sailed for Persian Gulf.) 15<sup>th</sup> Corps  
at ~~Anez~~ - (10<sup>th</sup> Indian Divn. 29<sup>th</sup> Divn)  
Our Indian bde has partly sailed for Gulf.  
We may go to Salonica as there are  
sd to be indications of a German  
attack thro Rumania & Sweden  
joining in on N flank.



A well informed rumour, which I cannot  
hardly believe, says that ~~they will~~

Saw Arthur Maxwell in  
Cairo. One 1st L.H. Bde is at  
Wadi Natrun - patrolling; I don't  
know where 2nd or 3rd L.H. Bdes  
are. 4th L.H. Regt. at Maadi.

Feb. 16th. Lots of fellows  
ask me where they're going - as  
if I knew. I think the probability  
is Salonica. Birdwood ~~has~~  
is supposed to have said France  
2 days ago, & I know  
Buckley sd France, so perh.  
They have been bringing political  
pressure to bear; a pity if  
they have. I know there was  
some correspondence abt it.  
But I believe the people of  
Australia want to leave the  
War Office quite unfettered to  
use these troops wherever it



76  
thinks they are most useful -  
- Howse thinks Salonica & I  
do too, in spite of Birdwood  
having told Godley who told  
somebody who told my  
friend in the 4<sup>th</sup> Light Horse.  
I have come up to Cairo  
again - then Alex - then  
Cairo, to get my Egyptian  
& Ender-Sydney records  
as I ought to get to work  
on that volume of the history  
having 5 weeks or so, I suppose,  
to spare.

This hotel living is a  
heavy expense but I don't  
suppose it really consumes  
more than my field allowance  
- 10/- a day - I expect I really  
am a saver on the balance, though  
not by much. Ross of N.3.  
gets £2.10 a day expenses in







Thurs. Feb. 17. Got my records from  
Wanted at the Australian H.Q.  
- it is Australian Imp. Force H.Q.  
now, not Intermediate Base, &  
by an order of January the  
A.I.F. resumes control over it. B. Gen  
Irving, whom I met in ~~Paris~~  
Alex yesly & who is sent over  
from Australia to take charge  
& supersede Sellheim, is a  
strong chap; & at Alex he managed  
to withdraw the Australian affairs  
from the 3rd Echelon of the M. E. F.  
there which was always a  
most confounded nuisance.  
Irving carries a letter from the  
Australian Prime Minister in  
his pocket backing him up in  
anything he may find it necessary  
to do. He hasn't had to produce it  
yet. He has just been given  
the 15<sup>th</sup> Bde. The 3rd Divn. is  
being formed in Australia No 1



its A.M.C. units are to be 79  
formed here; & the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
Divs will be formed here.

Came down in train w  
House who is now <sup>Surgeon</sup> Major General  
(Brig. Gen. only for one day, I believe)  
& has the only command common  
to both army corps of our force,  
& the post of D.M.S., of the A.I.F.  
(If he went back to Australia tomorrow  
he wd revert to the rank of Capt.  
& Temp. Major A.M.C. - the  
most remarkable advancement  
in our forces). He's a remarkable  
chap. ~~He~~ I hear in the ambulances  
of the results of his work - surgeons,  
physicians, organisers shifted  
about in a general post &  
finding their proper places;  
they say that for the first time  
at the date of the evacuation  
our hospitals (both in Egypt &  
on the Peninsula) were ready for



a really heavy influx of wounded.  
 No <sup>Aust.</sup> 1 General Hosp. at Cairo for  
 example (Helopolis Palace Hotel)  
 expanded to 5000 beds from about  
 3500 — Overstaffed hospitals  
 are having their staffs reduced;  
 men are being found on units in  
 Cairo enormously in excess of  
 their requirements & are being  
 begged bribed urged pushed  
 (anything but "ordered", Howse  
 says — you mustn't order an  
 Australian; you may point out  
 to him that he gets promotion by  
 going & loses it if he stays but  
 he won't stand an order — which  
 isn't true but I know what he  
 means) back from these snug  
 backwaters into field units.  
 Finances are being considered —  
 E.g. two ladies — the wife of a  
 British General in Cairo & one other —



18  
are being driven every day <sup>at</sup>  
to & from their Red Cross work  
at Helipolis Hospital in  
a motor ambulance costing  
Howse says, £3 a day not counting  
wages. The work could be  
done by one sister living at  
the hospital. The <sup>ladies</sup> ~~general~~  
could go to & from their work  
for 4d. a day in a tram  
- practically from door to door.  
But the general says: "If his  
wife who is giving up her whole  
time & sacrificing all her  
comfort & home life to this  
Red X work cannot have  
this little bit of consideration  
shown her, she is not to do  
the work at all." As Howse  
says - that is much the best  
solution.

The question of these ladies in



Egypt is a rather thorny one. I must say to me it seems very much better to keep them right away from war - They are a distraction which does not go well with war service. The Australian & N.Z. nurses are competent sisters chosen for the work & they wear a rather stiff grey & red uniform. The Canadian nurses are largely young girls who were not nurses before the war & who wear a ~~very~~ picturesque light blue dress with a very handsome dark blue & red overcoat ornamented with an officer's gold stars. There is no question which is the most attractive to the officers - naval & military officers swarmed round the Canadian hospitals. Also it seems to me there is no question which is best for war - the Australian foot is right & the Canadian foot wrong.

The General's wife presents



83  
another problem. The wife of  
a surgeon Genl. - for example. If  
she is in Egypt <sup>with her husband</sup> & applies to a  
young R.A.M.C. officer for a <sup>particular</sup> room  
for her Red X work, ~~but~~ for some  
other privilege which she ought  
really not to have - how can he  
refuse her? ~~It~~ It is not right  
to have these women here. An  
order has been issued  
forbidding British French or  
Italian women from landing in  
Egypt & the order is being strictly  
enforced - one of our chaplains  
could not get <sup>leave for</sup> his wife to come  
altho' it was only by a  
mistake <sup>of the Pay Dept.</sup> that she had not come  
previously.

I saw Col. Lee of the 9th  
Battn. in Cairo yesterday. Now  
Lee is one of the men who  
ought not to be allowed to



84  
continue in the forces; there's  
no mistake about that -  
The A.N.Z. A.C. staff ordered him  
to be boarded & sent home - &  
he was boarded in Malta & sent  
to England (as no other boats  
were available). In England he  
was, I believe, boarded as fit  
for duty & was allowed to  
remain for 5 months; & it  
was a surprise to me to see  
him in Cairo yesty.

Now the question abt him is  
this. Medically he is fit for duty.  
A medical board has quite rightly  
said so; if it had boarded him as  
unfit he might have got a  
pension, & it is utterly wrong th  
Australia shd have to pay pensions  
to such men. The staff - that is  
Birdwood - ought to send him  
back as a plain statement th  
he is unfit to be given a



command in our army  
~~as shown~~ by his action on &  
 after the day of the landing. But  
 Birdwood for some reason - or  
 White, or whoever is responsible -  
 doesn't like taking this responsibility.  
 Birdwood is unsure of what the  
 Australian Govt might think - I  
 suppose. It was the same with  
 Gen. Hughes (whom he himself  
 told me he didn't want back)  
 & ~~so~~ Howse says, with Courtney  
 who <sup>they say</sup> did not visit his own  
 trenches but got a C.B., -  
 (I'm not so sure if the statement  
 about Courtney isn't exaggerated -  
 anyway abt Hughes & Lee it's  
 not).

The result is Lee will  
 probably go back to Australia  
 & get a command - possibly  
 a high command there. Howse



86  
says there's a possibility  
of Bolton coming back with  
a brigade! of McBea  
coming back in a good command.  
Good God! One man like that  
can half annihilate a brigade  
in its first action  
to say nothing of spoiling it in  
its training.

Howse is given to  
exaggeration & I hope he  
was pulling my leg. If  
any of those officers do get  
a high command - or any  
fighting command - through  
the Australian Govt not  
having been told I talk about  
them, then Birdwood or the  
staff are guilty of ~~every~~ <sup>a moral</sup>  
cowardice which will have  
very serious results.



87  
Frid Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Stayed night at 1<sup>st</sup>  
Aust. Stationary Hosp. in their  
Convent at Ismailia. Howse  
was also their guest. His  
cynicism is very clever & he's a  
brilliantly good head in many ways; but  
~~it~~ it doesn't show up well  
beside the human gentleness of  
a man like Col. Powell, our host,  
who sat between us at mess.

Howse says all his regimental  
medical officers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Divn were  
splendid men w two exceptions -  
two who cracked up at once. The  
others were "almost perfect," he sd.  
Certainly my old brother Tock did  
splendid honest work for them.

I came down by De Boise's  
launch to Serapeum. Poor  
chap - he hasn't even yet  
heard news of his brother. "I  
have had a week of hell" he  
told me, " & you can imagine  
what it must have been for the  
poor old mater."

At Serapeum I took the



Field

The 4<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Corps of Enys (wh were originally formed in Egypt for the 2nd Divn. ~~will be ready~~ wh afterwards received its companies (5, 6, & 7) from Australia) will be available for 1 new Divn. - The 3 Corps of ~~each~~ 1st Divn will prob. form another, & those of 2nd Divn another - wh leaves 5 to come  
Inf: 3rd Bde will form

49, 50, 51, 52

from 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> & the men

transferred will wear their old colours with a ring. "I hope so"

sd an officer of 9<sup>th</sup> to me - "I shouldn't like to be <sup>called</sup> a Super-Dinkum".

The men call the 2nd Divn the Dinkums bec. they are sd to aver th they were 1 Real Australian; The 8<sup>th</sup> Bde are the Super Dinkums; & the lot now arriving are the War Babies!

Angac Book proofs round to 3 regiments 12, 7, 8  
2 field ambulances (2 & 1) & 2nd Bde H.O.

I find th besides my bed & pack disappearing from my luggage en route from Medros

Jacks sleeping bag has been ripped open & one whole side of it <sup>by wallaby</sup> skins & all, cut right away with a knife - what

a set of thieves we have with us. [Later experience suggests that these might have been Arabs. 2/4/19]

The ~~1st~~ organisation is going ahead on the principle th each of our old divisions sends part of its personnel to the units of 1 new

division; eg. 7<sup>th</sup> Bn seems to be

forming the 53<sup>rd</sup>. They are sending 1/2 the men

Irving has 15<sup>th</sup> Bde; Glasgow <sup>away</sup> ~~alone~~

the 12<sup>th</sup> (I believe) and Col. Elliott another, & Glasgow another.

1st	2nd	3rd		1st.
12 34	5 6 7 8	9 10 11 12		
5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>		
17 18 19 20	21 22 23 24	25 26 27 28		2nd

N. 3. Divn. \_\_\_\_\_ N.Z.

9 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	
23, 34, 35, 36	37 38 39 40	41, 42, 43 44.			3 <sup>rd</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>			
13-24-15-16.	29-30-31-32.	45-46-47-48.			4 <sup>th</sup>
13 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>			
49 50 51 52	53 54 55 56	57 58 59 60			5 <sup>th</sup>

This page is wrong - 4th Divn contains 4, 12 & 13 Bde & 5 Divn 8, 14 & 15



This night a spy was found crossing  
the Canal - (see beginning of next diary)

Aeroplane coming down  
to abt 100 feet <sup>dropped a note</sup> warned them  
th there were 300 Turks not  
far away.

They have seen 1 tracks of  
a man up to 1 infantry lines,  
but nothing else.

There are traces of last years  
Turkish attack all along the long  
valley leading S.E from Tussum - Serapeum.  
~~They~~ <sup>Turks</sup> died miles back from Canal - either  
stragglers or wounded.

26/1/19. I went out to the  
out line 8 miles in 1 desert  
day - a little line of  
ricket posts & strong points  
very well laid out; with  
a company camped at each  
one; each post covering 1 one  
either side of it & the strong  
point covering it - exceedingly  
well concealed from in front.

There was no water there for  
my horse - so finely are things  
set. The staff visiting the front have  
to water their horses before leaving the  
Canal & they get no water again  
till they arrive back at night - & 1  
Mounted Rifles patrols also.

Our patrols go out 8 or 12 miles  
40 miles each day from start to finish.  
Yesterday they saw two Turks & chased them  
the day before they saw 40 or 50 & an



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<sup>Turks</sup> ~~then~~ died miles back from Canal - in  
stragglers or wounded.

Sat. Feb 19. I went out to the  
front line 8 miles in desert  
today - a little line of  
picket posts & strong points  
- very well laid out; with  
a company camped at each  
one; each post covering 1 one  
on either side of it & the strong  
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~~Anglo-Egyptian Bk.~~  
~~Rossie money~~  
~~Ferguson~~  
~~Egyptian Mail refu. etc.~~  
~~Sundays Egyptian Times~~  
~~De Boise~~

~~Cable to Smart~~ 2/1/4  
2/1/4

~~Cooks. Table etc.~~

~~Fergusons.~~

~~Bryants (Ridg. Trowers.  
Shoes~~

~~Eg. Army Stores (Bed. 115.  
Mosq. netting.~~

~~4-7-4. Cooks - luggage.~~

~~Suggest to Butler (1) Anzac Memorial  
(2) Guarding in Port of the  
publishing facts.~~

~~Soap  
Kew.~~

£4.10<sup>s</sup>4<sup>d</sup>. Ross. + 12 P.T.  
~~7/1. Carriage.~~ for carriage  
to Citadel  
Tel. 2414.  
3454.

Lawrence. pd.

Rossie pd

5 1/2 canisters

20 - cart for luggage

Quittance Roll - 151 Anzac Book

Man - e 7 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

Rolls - 10 - 1 Col Farr.

Col. Farr (e) L

Col. Farr. w. ctes e  
4 copies.

amb is entered in mans cash  
pay book at the time.