

**ST37575 – Diary, Alan Horner, Egypt, Gallipoli and England, WWI,  
11 September 1914 – 01 October 1915.**

Transcription of Diary, written in pencil by Alan Horner.

[Fly leaf paper with decorative diamond pattern, black and white. Advertisement with British Coat of Arms logo.]

THE COMMERCIAL NOTEBOOK.

The paper for these books is specially made with a good hard writing surface, and is equally suitable for writing upon either with pencil or Ink.

DISCOUNT TABLE.

[Table beneath with list of pence, shillings and pounds and sums of 2½% - 12½% discounts.]

No.6.A

CHARTERHOUSE SERIES. MADE IN ENGLAND.

[end page 1]

[Simple sketch of landscape outline in purple pencil]

[Handwritten in pencil]

November 17<sup>th</sup> left Columbo [sic, Colombo] at ½ past 9 PM. did not sight boats until up next morning  
18<sup>th</sup> braclaw [sp?] in at 6 PM. I juce [sp?] is given [sp?]

[several loose shorthand symbols.] [All of this section crossed out, from November 17<sup>th</sup>.]

[Handwritten in purple pencil]

30 Nov

① Shadwan to ② Jūbal ③ Ashran ④ Shabali

[in pencil]

Chalouf Jerapewn [sp?]

[simple sketch of coastline in purple pencil.] [several words crossed out, illegible.]

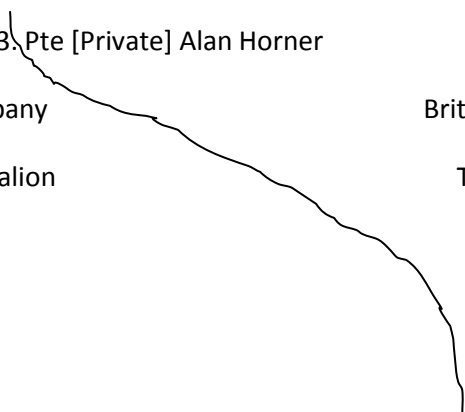
No 2033. Pte [Private] Alan Horner

H Company

Britton St

6<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Tenfoot Hill



2<sup>nd</sup> Inf [Infantry] Brigade Castlemaine

10<sup>th</sup> Division Victoria

A.E.I.F. [sic] Australia

September 1914. On ~~Friday~~ Sept 11<sup>th</sup>, I volunteered for and was passed into the 2<sup>nd</sup> A.I.E.F. and on Saturday left the the [sic] firm of E L [sp?] Williams and Son, Merchants Castlemaine, and after saying [sic] goodbye to my friends May Wilson, and her Mother on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September I left to go to Broadmeadows on the Monday morning, & from the train I could see sings [sp?] friends waving.

[end page 2]

[in purple pencil] you may be sure I waved back.

September [grey lead pencil] 1914,

14<sup>th</sup>. I got to Melbourne at ½ past 10 A.M. and went to the Victoria Barracks, St Kilda Road Melbourne, and as my papers had not ar-rived [sic] I went out to my people at "Loloma" [sic] Belmont Avenue East Malvern and then after saying au-revoir [sic] I proceeded to the Victoria Barracks at 9 PM on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. I had dinner there (using a lead pencil for a fork) and with about 250 others proceeded to Broadmeadows, about 11 miles out of Melbourne. We arrived there about

½ past 4. P.M. and then mar-ched [sic] about 2 miles to our Camp. Then we were placed in our companies, and two other Castlemaine boys; Joe hunter & Bill Murphy whom I enlisted with, were with myself placed in F Company 2<sup>nd</sup> AIEForce. [sic, Australian Imperial Expeditionary Force?]

Sept 16<sup>th</sup> I was acting Color [sic] Sergeant for F Company, & after drilling all day, it was a pretty hot one at that, I was full up of it, so when they asked for 30 men for the 10<sup>th</sup> force, I put in and was transferred into H Company 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion 10<sup>th</sup> AIF [Australian Imperial Force], and was placed in No 3 Section. No 6 tent.

[end page 3]

17<sup>th</sup> September 1914 Broadmeadows [17<sup>th</sup> and Broadmeadows in purple pencil]

Sept 17<sup>th</sup>. My tentmates were Cpl [Corporal] Jackson. (Jim) 23 years [written above] Arthur Brand (Immigrant, about 22 years) Ted Hockey

" " 21 " ) Alan Egan.

" " 23 " ) Ted Rabey.

Melbourne " 27 " ) D Dibley

Sydney " 26 " ) Varcoe.

" " 28 " ). All these chaps are real sports and as I was only 18 years old I was called the Baby of No 6 tent. We used to go for route marches nearly every morning and in the afternoon we would have a washing parade. There was nothing startling until the Friday when we went

to Melbourne for a march: the date I think was Sept 25<sup>th</sup> [in purple] We went in by 10 trains, marched [sic] round the principal streets, were reviewed at Government House by Sir Arthur Stanley & by the Gov General, [Governor General] Sir Munro – Ferguson, [sic] and then marched to Royal Park, where we had dinner, About 2 o'clock we set out for Broad-meadows, (11 miles out) and arrived there at ½ past 5. We had one rest near Coburg and 2<sup>nd</sup> [sp?] Company were on Picquet [sic, in purple] duty and we had ½ hour to wash & turn out for it, after having just

[end page 4]

October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1914 Broadmeadows [Broadmeadows in purple]

finished a march of 11 miles. Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. We expect-ed [sic] to leave today, but in-stead [sic] of going, we had a parade to see how long it would take us to get away from Camp. We struck tents, rolled them up within 3 minutes and within ½ hour we could have been ready to leave Broadmeadows. Striking tents looks well. Oct 5<sup>th</sup> about 5 o'clock P.M. it became known that a man in the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion had been given the spread eagle and as a protest, the men

of the 5<sup>th</sup> together with some of the 6.7.8<sup>th</sup> Battalions all moved towards the Guard tent, but it happened that the Officers had got to hear beforehand & had called out the Imperial Re-serves. The men started to give them a pretty bad time so the Officers sent for the Brigadier (McCay) and he stood on a box & address-ed [sic] the men, and said "that he would hold an inquiry about the matter and that he would ask the men that trusted him to go away quietly." All the men walk-ed away after giving 3 cheers for the Brigadier.

[end page 5]

October 1914 – 5<sup>th</sup> [5<sup>th</sup> in purple]

The result was that the man, spreadeagled [Field Punishment Number 1 with arms extended?] was released within ½ an hour and I believe that the Officer responsible had a good bit of advice from Brigadier McCay, as he has treated the men much bet-ter [sic] since.

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> The 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Batts, left Camp at 2 o'clock P.M. & marched out towards Thomastown, about 8 miles from Broadmeadows, and bi-vouaced [sic, bivouacked] for the night. About 1.A.M. of the 10<sup>th</sup> the 5<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> left Camp to defend a position about 5 miles

from Camp. At 6 o'clock, the sham fight started with the result that we the 6<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> drove the 5 & 8 Batts [Battalions] out of their position. Then we all formed up and marched back, arriving in Camp wet through as it had been raining all night. I had already been in the 6<sup>th</sup> Batt Band for a week, and played at Church Service on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> Oct for the first time. 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. There was a great fight between the 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> and the 7 & 8<sup>th</sup> Batts today. The 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> were on the defence and we gave the others a bad time. Watched them

[end page 6]

October 1914 – 12<sup>th</sup> [12<sup>th</sup> in purple]

Under a very heavy fire when they were at 800yds [yards] and our left flank had worked almost behind them before opening fire. The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> had already drawn up the supports and now we had

them knocked to pieces. The cease fire signal sounded and the 5 & 6<sup>th</sup> had won the day. We arrived back at 5 P.M. and looked like a lot of niggers, [sic] as the soil had been of a very black nature & being a hot day, we had perspire-ed [sic] a lot, with the result

that the soil got all over us.

Oct 13<sup>th</sup> Today being a holiday we held some Military Sports at Camp. A lot of visitors were out there and the Sports were real good. The 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion won the march-ing with C Coy [Company] Batt Second. (H Coy 6<sup>th</sup> couldn't get a team ready in time) Oct 14<sup>th</sup> We had a short route march before dinner and after about 3 o'clock we went down for a bath parade, the creek is about ½ miles [sic] away. Oct 15<sup>th</sup> The 5<sup>th</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> went for an 8 mile route march and as we came back to Camp we filled up any holes we had

[end page 7]

October 15<sup>th</sup> 1914

made during our recent manouvers, [sic, manoeuvres] also building up store walls that we had also destroyed. The country about there is very rocky and ir-regular [sic] but the soil is rich and black.

Oct 16<sup>th</sup>. The 58<sup>th</sup> went to-wards [sic] Thomastown & bivouaced. [sic, bivouacked] We the 6 & 7 moved out early on Sat morning (17<sup>th</sup>) at 1.AM. and took up a position. We were attacked & beaten & were back at Camp at 8 A.M had breakfast and then packed up, & burnt

all rubbish. [rubbish in purple] We had roll-calls about every hour.

Sunday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>. [underlined in purple]

We were up at ½ past 4 and after every one was accounted for. we had breakfast and amid the cheering from the 8 & 5<sup>th</sup> Batts, the 6 & 7<sup>th</sup> Batts. marched off to the sta-tion. [sic] Each man carried his rifle & bayonet and a sea kit bag. We left Broadmeadows Station at ½ past 8 A.M. and were down at Port Melbourne at ½ past 9 [underlined in purple] ready to go aboard the Troopship A.20. The following are the names & numbers of the Ships & escort [end page 8]

October 18<sup>th</sup> 1914 [underlined in purple]

|      | <u>Troopships</u> | Call     |
|------|-------------------|----------|
| A.1. | Hymethes [sp?]    | A. V. H. |
| 2.   | Geelong           | A.W. J.  |
| 3.   | Cuieto            | A.W. B.  |
| 4.   | Pera              | A.V. D.  |
| 5.   | Omrah             | A. X. S. |
| 6.   | Clan McCorquodale | A. W. J. |
| 7.   | Medic             | A. W. G. |

- |     |                             |          |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 8.  | Argyleshire                 | A. X. C. |
| 9.  | Shropshire                  | A X D    |
| 10. | Raroo                       | A W H.   |
| 11. | Ascanicus → Bumped [purple] | A W D.   |
| 12. | Soldanha                    | A V Y.   |
| 13. | Ratuna                      | A W G.   |
| 14. | Euripides                   | A X B    |
| 15. | Star of England             | A W E.   |
| 16. | “ “ Actoria                 | A X H    |
| 17. | Port Lincoln                | A W G    |
| 18. | Wiltshire                   | A W B    |
| 19. | Afric                       | A X C.   |
| 20. | Hororata                    | A X I    |
| 21. | Marcoe                      | A W I    |
| 22. | Rangatira                   | A X G    |
| 23. | Suffolk                     | A V I    |
| 24. | Benalla                     | A X F.   |
| 25. | Anglo Egyptian              | A V J.   |
| 26. | Armidale                    | A V. E.  |
| 27. | Southern                    | A V. G.  |
| 28. | Miltiade                    | A X R.   |

New Zealanders [all in purple]

- |     |               |
|-----|---------------|
| 29. | Mongonul      |
| 30. | Oratic        |
| 31. | Star of India |
| 32. | Tahiti        |
| 33. | Limerick      |

- 34. Araura
- 35. Hawkes Bay
- 36. Athenic
- 37. Papati
- 38. Waiwari

[end page 9]

October 18<sup>th</sup> 1914

Escorts [all in purple]

HMAS. Sydney

Melbourne

Pioneer

HMS. Minotaur (flagship of British China squadron)

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

We left Port Melbourne about 2 AM and anchored in the bay. I was mess or-derley [sic] for the day but it interferred [sic, interfered] with being able to play in the band so I gave it up. On the 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. we weighed anchor and passed through the heads of Port Phillip bay [sic]

at 11.45 o'clock ~~in the afternoon~~ A.M. [purple pencil] There are 118 horses and about 2100 Military men on board this ship, (A.20. Hororata, about 12000 tons). & there is not too much room for us. We have 20 men at each mess table, and the food we get is not very good; [; in purple] sometimes we get a meal which we enjoy, but other times we cannot eat the meat, and the bread is so sour that it is thrown out through the porthole. Every day we have an issue of bread. butter. jam. Golden Syrup. pickles. meat. potatoes. and sometimes we get green peas & cheese. [end page 10]

October 1914            Albany

25<sup>th</sup>

Today, Sunday, we arrived in the harbour at Albany, there were 10 other troopships there. Oct 26<sup>th</sup> We are still in the harbour and the Orveito [sic] the flagship of the Troopships arrived here about 10.A.M. Oct 27<sup>th</sup> The Omrah [sic] (A.5) with the Queenslanders on board have been to the pier for water and are now back in the bay. their position be-ing [sic] opposite us. Oct 28<sup>th</sup> About 5 P.M. we moved to the pier for provisions and water. the Troopship Star of England came into the pier, and also took on water, we both stayed there for the night.

Oct 29<sup>th</sup>. Early this morning our provisions were carried aboard, it being mostly apples. One of our men hap-pened [sic] to drop a case, which broke and the apples went on the deck. The men stand-ing round soon made short work of the apples. We left the Albany pier at 9 A.M. and moved back to

our position Color Sergeant Omara was lost overboard during the night of the 28<sup>th</sup> and nothing more was seen of him.

Oct 29<sup>th</sup> at 4 P.M. A Coy [Company] 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion were transferred to the Omrah. [end page 11]

#### October 1914 & November 1914

30<sup>th</sup>

There are now 28 Troopships in the bay and 10 " [Troopships] of New Zealand are expected Tonight. Oct 31<sup>st</sup> During the night the New Zealanders arrived with their escort.

Sunday Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. About 10 A.M. we moved out of the bay at Albany, the Orveito leading. We are in 4 [crossed out, in ink on top] 3 divisions, The Hororata [sic] being the 6<sup>th</sup> boat in No 4 [crossed out, in ink on top] 3 division, and we are on the right of the fleet. From our position we have a fine view of the whole fleet, the New Zealanders

are formed up in rear of us and it is a great sight for anyone to see. The sea has been very calm throughout the trip and there has not been much doing on board The general routine being to get up a 6.A.M. breakfast, 7.A.M. then either play in the band, which I always do, or do an hours drill from 9.30 AM. At 11 O'clock is a beer parade (I have not tasted this shift at all) then fall in for dinner at 12, play in the band from 2.30 to 4 P.M. (sometimes we have a fire alarm parade instead and then all the men fall in at their messes, put on a lifebelt, close the portholes and then have to be silent. [end page 12]

4 + 5 November 1914

#### Gen Routine

At 5 PM, we fall in for tea generally it is bread & butter & jam, or else biscuits with butter & cheese, with a cup of tea. After tea the band plays on the top deck from 7 [?] until 8.30 PM. At 8.30 is the sweepers parade, the men sweep the decks, and then to finish up the day the bugle sounds lights out at 9 PM. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov the HMS Minotaur, flagship of British China squad-ron, [sic] inspected the lines. At 6 PM today the "Oaterley" [sp?] on its way to England passed us. It was good to see the ladies, as we had only seen

3 at Albany, and there were a good number on the Osterley which took up a position in the front of the fleet until the 9<sup>th</sup> Nov, when the H M A S Sydney (one of our escorts) sighted the German Cruiser "Emden" [sic] going at full steam. Within 20 minutes, the Sydney had the range, and blew off 3 funnels and a mast of the Emden, who made for Coco's Island, and the Sydney forced her to beach herself, otherwise it would have sunk. The Sydney then went after an armed coll-ier [sic, Collier ship], took the crew off, then sunk her and returned to the Emden and took the Germans as prisoners. The [The in purple] Sydney [end page 13]

9<sup>th</sup> November 1914

then steamed to Columbo [sic, Colombo]. The Emden had destroyed a wireless station, also had cut a cable at Cocos Island, but the operators there had dismantled one set off wireless apparatus, & had buried it, and it is now [up arrow] in working order. There were 3 cables at the Island 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.

Our steering gear got out of order & we were out to the right & in rear of the fleet (our ship A.20. has two 4.7 Guns on board.) On the 12<sup>th</sup> Nov the New Zealand trans-port went ahead of us and then we were in rear again

About 11.A.M. Father Nep-tune came aboard and started his work. Christening with grease and tar, treacle and kerosene, with which he covered you, and then he would throw you into a large bath, This was kept up all day and finished up on the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, when we passed the Equator at 9.A.M. I wrote home to Mum & Dad at "Loloma" Belmont Avenue Nth East Malvern. Victoria. Aus. & wished them A Merry Xmas.

#### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.

We sighted land at 4 A.M. and about 6 AM. we passed a number of cattarmer-ans [sic, catamarans, in purple] manned by the natives of [end page 14]

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 1914

#### Columbo [sic, Colombo]

Ceylon, these cattarmaran's [sic, in purple] are very much like the models Lillie brought home from Fiji. At 2 O'clock we were anchored just outside the breakwater at Columbo [sic] (it is a great piece of work) and from here we had a good view of the buildings. which are large and look very neat. The HMAS. Sydney ['ney' in purple] was lying just inside the breakwater. 16<sup>th</sup> Nov. We are still in the same position, but a pilot has just come aboard (it is just 7 P.M.) and now we are getting ready to go inside.

At 9 PM. we anchored inside the breakwater, and early on the 17<sup>th</sup> Nov, we were closer to the shore. It was a great sight. I don't think you could possibly see a better one. There were 38 troopships, a large sailing vessel and the harbour was a mass of motorboats, and native canoes, moving all round the troopships, and for a back ground there was the shore covered with fine build-ings [sic] and cocoanut trees. In the afternoon a number of natives came up with loads [loads in purple] of bananas (2/- for a bunch of about 100 on it) [2 shillings] poppie [sic] a fruit like a watermelon but the inside [end page 15]

#### 17<sup>th</sup> November 1914

is very soft and yellow this fruit is about the best I have tasted. We took on water during the day. the natives bringing it out to us in 4 barges, drawn by a steam launch, and the water was pumped aboard. We did not go in near enough to land, and have not touched land since the 18<sup>th</sup> October. We passed out of the breakwater here at 7 P.M. and going full steam we had got into our position [sic] at 2 A.M. on the 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. The New Zealanders have gone ahead. also No's 1 & 2 divisions of ships, and as the Hororata [sic] is in No 4., we are with the 3<sup>rd</sup> division. Today there was a meeting of men on board with the result that 2 were chosen to interview the Colonel, about our food, which since leaving Albany has been real crook. Evident-ly [sic] it had some effect as instead of getting crook stuff, we were given this morning 19<sup>th</sup> Nov, some chops and steak. (it is the best ~~breakfast~~ meat I have had since the day I left Castlemaine the 13<sup>th</sup> September. I had some lamb for dinner at mr. Smiths. Castlemaine ...[illegible] [end page 16]



Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 1914

After breakfast I played with the band from 9 to 11.P.M. then got ready for dinner & had beef (couldn't eat it) mutton and potatoes (both these were good.) Band played from 4 to 5 P.M. then for tea we had bread butter jam & cheese played again from 7 to 8.30.PM 20<sup>th</sup> Nov For breakfast we had curry. This afternoon there was an issue of Lime juice (pay for it I mean) we get a 1½ pint bottle be-tween [sic] 20 men every 2<sup>nd</sup> day We also get Oatmeal water every day at 2.30.P.M. I played in the band at 9 A.M. and 7 P.M.

21<sup>st</sup> Nov. I was up at 5 o'clock this morning. Our boat was ahead of the fleet, but we stopped for an hour. Evident-ly [sic] something has happened to one of the boats as one (The Ascanicus bumped into Shropshire [sic, added in black ink] of the escort went back to the rear. 8 AM. The fleet has now caught up to us and we are going ahead again. There is no band practice as our men offered to clean our instruments for a sound. They wouldn't start on it [added in black ink diagonally across sentence] At 7. P.M. The first concert run by the "Hororata Social Club [sic] was held, it was a real good concert consisting of Violin Solos, Duets, singing and recitations. [purple pencil from 7.P.M.]

[end page 17]

[In purple pencil]

22<sup>nd</sup> November 1914.

Sunday, Church Service was held at 8.30, by Chaplain Miles. His sermon was on the Strength of Man, and their duty towards any woman. (Today is very hot).

[Grey-lead pencil]

23<sup>rd</sup> Novem. At 6.A.M. we were passing Sokotra Island, it is in the Arabian Sea, and about 180 miles N.E. of the coast of Africa, and is about 600 miles from Aden.

[purple pencil]

24<sup>th</sup> Nov. We are now in the Gulf of Aden, the sea is very calm. We could see the coast of Arabia all day & on 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, about 5.A.M. we sighted a lighthouse. At

6 o'clock were within ¼ mile of a huge cliff, on which there is a wireless station. We anchored here about 7 o'clock. On our left (west) are some Islands which look like as if they are all rock, these are about 400 feet high. The pilot came aboard at 8 o'clock, he was brought out in a small boat by 4 Arabs, who dress better than the natives at Columbo. [sic, Colombo] As we sailed up the harbour we could see on our right, the Military barracks & forts & then close to the shore, a lot of green shrubs, (these are the only ones that you can see) a large white square tomb, with a [end page 18]

Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1914. Aden

dome on it, is situated in the centre of these shrubs, & it looks a very pretty sight. Just above it on a cliff is a clock built on a tower, which comes to a point. We passed this clock at ¼ past 9, and then came to a township. First came the camel mar-kets, [sic] then a number of other buildings, all are

paint-ed [sic] white, and the roofs are flat. From the ships we could see the names of the 2 hotels. one called "Grand Hotel Royal & the other "Hotel de Europe" both are fine

buildings. We anchored opposite this lot of build-ings, [sic] and could see numbers of camels drawing water-carts, (one old Arab said that there has been no rain here for over 30 years, by the bar-renness [sic, bareness] of the place, you would almost believe this yarn) these carts are filled with water which is pumped from the sea, to a huge condensing station, sit-uated [sic] about ¼ mile in-land, where it is condensed and then is fit to drink. I also saw some bullocks drawing these watercarts & donkeys harnessed to different kinds of vehicles [end page 19]

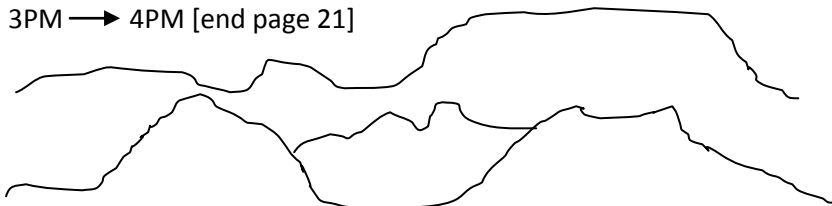
Nov -Aden]-ember 25 – 1914 [sic, November 25, 1914, in Aden]

also several motor-cars & bicycles, but could not see a horse at all. As soon as we anchored the Arabs were all around the boat with their goods to sell to. us. [sic] you could, by bargaining with them, almost get the goods for ½ the price which at first they asked for. them. [sic] We could get water--melons at 6' [shillings] each, tins of pine—apple 6 & 1/- [6 shillings 1 pound](Dates about 1 lb for 3') [1 pound (weight) for 3 shillings] fish 4 doz [sic] for 1/-, Oysters 1/ doz-en, fans, feathers, belts, curios, postcards of Aden (I sent May Wil-son some also a girdle of small shells to her sister Nellie, I hope they get these safely. Also sent some cards home, & to Ilma (sp?) & Spencer. We took on coal during the day, and up to 10 o'clock at night. The Arabs were hanging round all day & would not leave at dark so a shot was fired (a blank) and this soon frightened them away. About 1 30 AM on Nov 26<sup>th</sup> I suddenly woke up, there was a great noise going on. A barge loaded with stores & watermelons had come alongside us and was being unloaded The Arabs were all talking at once, and with sirens in their launches blowing [end page 20]

Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 1914 Aden

it was enough to wake anyone. I watched them until the unloading was over, and happened to get a piece of watermelon (which was great) and then I went back to bed, to again be awakened [sp?] about ¼ to 5, by the siren blowing on No 28 (Miltiades) which was just leaving port. We left at 6 o'clock, & after passing through the heads, we have been within sight of the coast of Arabia. You can only see rock & sand, and you soon get tired of looking at it. At 3 o'clock we entered the Straits of Bab-El-Manded, [sic] about 4 o'clock we passed Perim [sp?] Island. also Sheikha Saye " [sic, Island] latter was taken from the Turks on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There are not many houses on Perim Isd., [sic, Island] and all are painted white. The islands seem to be nothing but rock and sand. Saw coast of Abyssinia. [sic, Abyssinia]

27 Nov. at 1 AM we passed Hamish Islands. ~~There are 12, and they are called the 12 Apostles.~~ We also passed 2 Indian troopships on their way back from England 26<sup>th</sup> Nov. What I saw of the coast of Abyssinia was something like this → [sketch of coastline, jagged crops of rock] at 2 o'clock → 3PM → 4PM [end page 21]



Nov 26<sup>th</sup> 1914

Red Sea

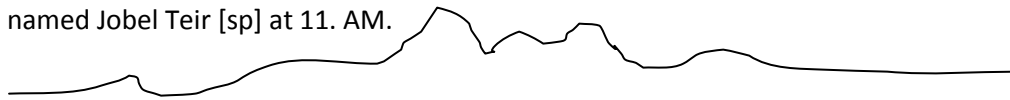
We first saw the coast of Abyssinia at 2 PM & lost sight of it at about 5 o'clock.

Nov 27 What I could see of the Zebarjir [sic, Zebair] islands, or the 12 Apostles.

[sketch in purple pencil of 12 rock shapes in the sea]

← we are going Nth West ←

Nov 27 after passing the above a small vessel "Tremaine" passed about 100yds from us. It was going Sth East. We are going North West. Some time after the Tremaine had gone we saw another lighthouse on an Island off the Arabia coast. (We passed [???) it is a volcanic Island 800 ft high named Jobel Teir [sp] at 11. AM.

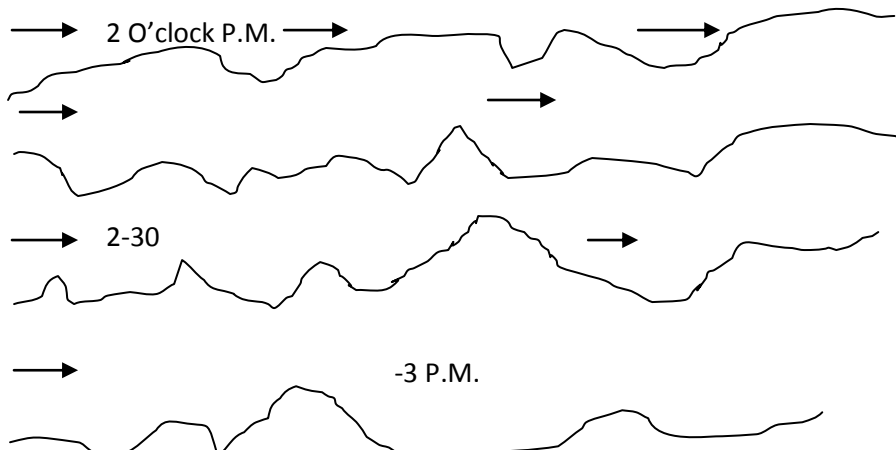


[sketch of rocky volcanic island]

The "Yarmouth" chased a vessel on our right, went right round it, and then took up her position again, the other vessel went past us, going South East. We passed the Hamish I T [sp?] a-bout 1. A.M. A vessel going the same way as us went by about 6. P.M. also one going in the opposite direction A lecture illustrated by lantern slides on the South African War was given by Colonel Elliott. [Grey lead pencil] Nov 28 [8 in purple] We passed another vessel about 6.P.M. Our drum-major lost his staff. He was giving an exhibition with it [purple] and he lost it over the side of ship [end page 22]

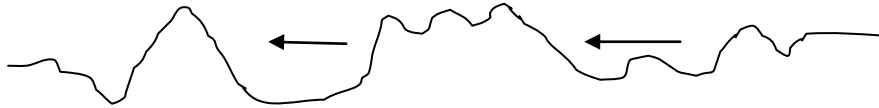
Red Sea

Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Orders were read out to us that we were to proceed to Cairo finish our training and then go on to the front. Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1914. At 8 o'clock this morning, H Coy [Company] 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion were vaccinated. We also were innoculated [sic] against Typhoid, on our left arm on the 13<sup>th</sup> Nov, & on our right arm on 20 Nov, against Cholera. My arms were rather sore for two days after each innoculation [sic]. Nov 30<sup>th</sup> About 2 o'clock PM we entered the Strait of Jubal at about 1 A.M. we passed the Daedidus [sp?] reef on which is a powerful lighthouse it could be seen on our left. We were passing between the Coast of Egypt (it was a long way off but the skyline something after this style [4 ½ lines of simple sketch of rocky landscape]



→ → (I have been standing on the  
 Forcestle [sp?] deck for an hour

getting this bit so I'll just look over to our right for a view of Shaduan Island. All I can see of it is about 11 peaks. [sketch of peaks, outline in purple, filled in greylead]

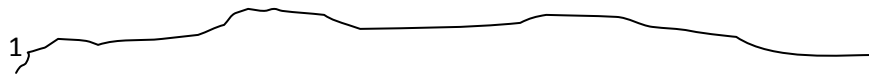


[Grey lead] We are now ~~app~~ nearing [purple] the Gulf of Suez. This little



↗ bit is like part of Arabia. which comes out to meet [end page 23]

the coast of Egypt. We are not near enough to



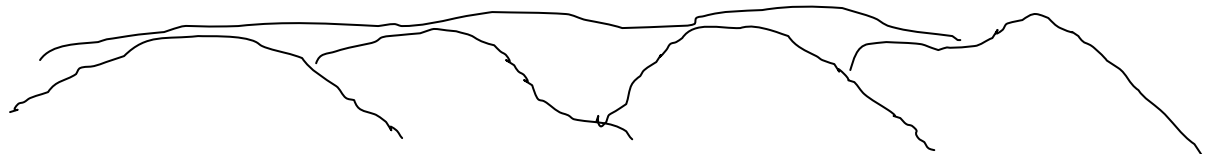
Aslirafi Island, to draw the formation close to the sea but



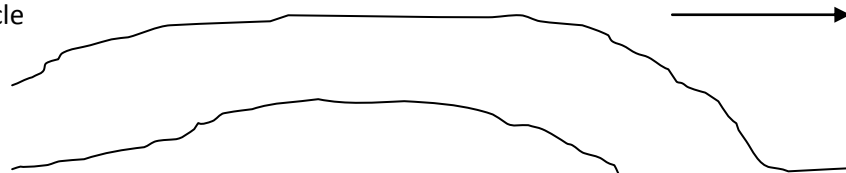
the 1<sup>st</sup> is a view from the ship when going North, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is another side of the Aslirafia to which we could see, when the ship was going North West. About 8 PM. we entered the Gulf of Suez.

[page orientation switches to landscape, purple pencil]

December 1<sup>st</sup> 1914 We are very close to land this morning, we can see it on both



our east (left) → we first passed the coast of Egypt, which ran parallel with us then it seemed to form almost a half circle



which ended in a very large cliff. Our position

would be about this place. . In front of us, we can see this huge cliff. With a pair of

glasses you can see it very plainly, and it seems to be all rock & no doubt it is as strong as it looks. 1

On our right is the coast of Arabia, but we cannot see it so plain, as on the other side.

[end page 24]

[Landscape orientation of page, grey lead pencil with large purple pencil sketch]

Dec 1st 1914 The New Zealand troopships have started and already there are 5 passing up the Canal. We expect to leave here at 4 o'clock. Most of the troopships have now arrived. Yesterday the line in which we are left the rest of the fleet behind. and we then went ahead, and so arrived in the Gulf of the Suez hours before the rest of the Troopships. The sketch below will give you an idea of how the Suez Canal is situated. 5 pages further over you will see the piece which joins on to the left of this. [spacious sketch of Suez Gulf and coast, with 'oil tanks' 'DESERT' 'GULF OF SUEZ' 'WIRELESS' 'EGYPT' 'SUEZ CANAL' 'ARABIA' marked, and small buildings, factories, light beacons and 4 ships drawn in simple outline.] [end page 25]

[Grey lead]

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf of Suez

[North-orientated compass and semi-circle diagram with 'Gulf' 'Egypt' 'Town' 'Suez' 'Arabia' marked, with 'Gulf of Suez' and ship 'A.20' in the middle.] This will give you an idea of the bay and they [sic] course we took. About 2 o'clock we took a searchlight on board. also the men who brought it. these men are allowed to sell goods to us, & stay on board until we reach Port Said.

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> We entered the Canal at 7.30 AM. and as it is not very wide (you can speak to the people on the sides) I had a good view of the Suez. which on our left is very well. We first passed a fine hotel, which is built on a corner of a triangular piece [sic] a road comes from the other side of this building & con-tinues along the side of the Canal. This road is not very wide, and it is kept very clean by the men who sweep it. I saw them at work using a large broom similar American one but much larger. There is an avenue of trees along the whole length, and with the houses on the side it makes a pretty scene. Num-bers of Bhite [sic] people & child-ren were on the banks wav-ing to us. Opposite this scene but on the Arabian side, is nothing else but sand. You could see a few huts & outside these were a [end page 26]

ADEN. "The Rocks" This is the first view I had of Arabia.

November

25<sup>th</sup> 1914

[Landscape sketch of hilly terrain with small square buildings, in purple pencil and grey lead]

[end page 27]


SUEZ GULF.

December 1<sup>st</sup> 1914

→ 1

This is a continuation of the half circular piece 6 pages back.

[landscape sketch of hilly peninsula in grey lead]

————→ About here we anchor-ed [sic] at 4 o'clock. →  [position of ship marked with rectangle]

[end page 28]

(9 pages back) ~~from~~ this end joins the piece near Gil-tanba

[landscape sketch of hilly terrain in grey lead] [end page 29]

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914 Suez Canal

few camel, having a rest. As we went along, we came to what looked like barracks. There were 4 fine buildings, but outside were a number of tents for the Hindoos [sic, Hindus] who are stationed there. On this side there is no vegetation at all, and as far as you can see it is all sand. In places the men are building up the banks & making the Canal wider. There are forts all along this side (Arabian). The town of Suez seems to be divided into 2 separate parts, the first part is close to the Canal. then there is a [sic] about a mile of counter covered with palms and grasses. You can then see the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the town is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of mile from the bank and there are more buildings than in the other. These places are 2 and 3 stories high and are close together. After leaving this you can see a great number of palms, & it looks very pretty. These palms grow about 20 to 30 feet high, and for about a stretch of 10 miles along the Canal. We passed a number of past Lancashire soldiers who were on guard at the cable station on the Arabia side. On the Egyptian side were the Manchester soldiers. A little further [end page 30]

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914 Suez Canal

on we passed a number of barges, on which were about 300 Egyptian Pil-grims [sic]. You could see some cooking, rolling dough. On the opposite side to these were a number of Gurkhas. We passed the French signal station, it is built right down to the waters edge; there were 3 houses which looked very neat, they are about the size of any ordinary [sic] houses in Castlemaine. We passed into the Little Bitter lake about 11 A.M. Just before reaching here we saw a number of cows. also some camel. At the entrance there is another signal station. (on the Egypt-ian [sic] side.) From this lake we pass into a larger one called "Great Bitter", before we pass into it we swing round to the left & then pass another signal station (3<sup>rd</sup>.) Ghebrewet Peak. 600 feet high, this is the name of a peak inland from the Great Bitter Lake. There is nothing except sand on the Arabian (right) side of the Canal, but on the Egyptian side (left) where the land has been irrigated, there are some very pretty spots. There is a railroad from [end page 31]

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914    Suez Canal

Suez to port Said, which at times we can see. About 10 o'clock this morn-ing we saw a train go-ing South. We left the Great Bitter Lake about 1-30 P.M., passing another Signal Station (I think it is the prettiest of all, so far) then we came to a part of the Canal where on one side (Egyptian) there is a line of trees that look something like pines, on the other side of the trees there is a fresh water canal which helps to keep the trees alive. ~~Lula Jinaly Balle Ishmaili~~ There are a num-ber [sic] of military camps. situated at intervals all along the banks. We are now about 30 miles from the town of Suez.

(going about 5 miles an hour) On the Ara-bian [sic] side it is still great stretches of sand. 2.30.P.M For the last ¼ of an hour we have been passing through a deep cutting. we saw a num-ber [sic] of men with camel taking the sand away from off the bank, which is built of quartz. On the top of a hill we could see a mosque it was square & had a dome rising form the centre [end page 32]

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> Suez Canal

We are now in the Lake of Timsah which spreads out both on the Arabian & Egyptian side. In front of us is the town of Ismaili, which is the junction of the railroad. One line goes west. Cairo, one North to Port Said, & the other goes South to Suez. The buildings here a [sic] very neat looking some are very large. As the ships turn more to the right, ~~you see~~ we have on our left, a good view of the place. The buildings gradually become smaller until we see a number of huts along the edge of the lake then come the trees alongside the canal. We anchored there at ½ past 3, and at 4 o'clock we took on another pilot & then we left

[detailed sketch in grey lead of coast of Ismaili, from middle of Lake Timsah, route marked with arrows and triangles for buoys. Orientation arrow facing West. Ismaili coast sketch includes small detailed buildings and houses, palms, radio tower, and the following marked: ]

SAND SAND SAND ISMAILI EGYPT SAND TREES LAKE TIMSAH ARABIA SUEZ CANAL 80 yards

Anchored about here

There are 2 rows of buoys all through the canal

THE ROUTE WE TOOK THROUGH THE LAKE TO ENTRANCE

2 boats cannot pass in some places, so one has to wait in a lock until the other passes

[end page 33]

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 1914 Suez Canal

After we took on the new pilot we got under way, passed into the Canal again and have passed 2 more Signal Stations, there seem to be [arrow up] more natives in this part and are not so far apart as in the other part of the canal south of Lake Timsah. About 7 o'clock we passed a camp of Indian Soldiers. This camp is pitched on our right (Arabian) and there is one Brigade (about 5000 men) under canvas. As it was fairly dark we did not have much of view [sic] of them. We gave them 3 cheers, & they returned it, also saying "Advance Australia." After passing this camp 2 liners going south went by, you could see a number of white ladies, and after being used to seeing the native women for so long it was nice to see the white lad-ies so close. I think the Australians have much to be thankful for, especially the ladies, and I wouldn't like to see my friends dressed like you see the women here. We took on a huge search-light at Suez. About 7 P.M. it was turned on, and it showed up the both sides of the Canal very plainly We anchored about 30 yds [yards] form shore at Port Said at 11. P.M. [end page 34]

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> 1914 Port Said

During the night we took on coal; the natives making even more noise than those at Aden. I got up just before 6, and saw that we were anchored opposite the Savoy Hotel. The street runs along the side of the Quay, at the North end you could see a statue of Ferdinand De Lesseps. (who, I believe, started the Suez Canal. [sic] at the South end was a fine big building belong-ing [sic] to the Suez Canal Company. We started again at 1 o'clock, passing the Statue of D Lesseps on the way. We had a good view of the North West part of Port Said, and I think I would sooner live in Castlemaine, as by the looks of most of the people, one can picture what life here would be at this place. We anchored outside the harbour at 2 o'clock started for Alexandria [sic, Alexandria] at 6 o'clock.

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> We arrived at Alexandria [sic] about 7 o'clock this morning. We are to dis-embark [sic] here, and have had 24 hours rations issued to us. We are to go ashore in full march-ing [sic] order. This means that we carry about 50 lbs [pounds], also rifle & bayonet and our [end page 35]

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 14 Alexandria [sic]

Band instrument. At present we are a good way from shore. This morning we had our bayonets given out. Since coming on board we have had them sharp-ened[sic]. The natives here are at the side of the ship selling oranges 6 ' doz [6 shillings per dozen] and dates; you get your hat filled for 3 '[3 shillings]. These dates are about 2 inches long & ¼ inch thick and taste much nicer than the ones we get in C'maine [Castlemaine]. The New Zealand trans-ports are at the pier and at ½ past 10, the "Star of England" went in. It is winter here and yet during the day it feels as hot as it would be in Australia, during the first of summer. I re-ceived [sic] 4 letters from home & one from May yesterday These are the first I have had since leaving Albany. (all were dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1914) There are a great number of German ships in the har-bour[sic], these were captur-ed [sic] by the British. From what I see of Alexandria [sic] it seems as if one end very old, whilst the other looks as if it is going ahead. We [end page 36]

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> 1914                      Alexandia [sic]

could see electric trams passing along the streets.

Coinage.

| Egyptian. |               | English                                |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| Copper    | ¼ Millienis - | ⅓6 of 1' [shilling]                    |
| "         | ½ "           | ⅓8 " "                                 |
| Nickel    | 1 "           | ¼'                                     |
| "         | 2 "           | ½                                      |
| "         | 5 "           | 1¼'                                    |
| "         | 1 Piastre     | 2½                                     |
| Silver    | 2 "           | 5'                                     |
|           | 5 "           | 1/0'/4 [1 pound, 0 shillings, 4 pence] |



|                   |       |       |                               |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------------|
|                   | 10 "  |       | 2/0'2                         |
|                   | 20 "  |       | 4/1'4                         |
| Gold              | 50 "  | ½ £E  | 10/3 [10 pounds, 3 shillings] |
| "                 | 100 " | 1 " " | 20/6                          |
| 1 Sovereign worth |       |       | 97½ <u>piastre</u>            |

December 5<sup>th</sup> 1914

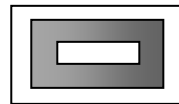
During the morning we moved into the pier, a gangway was put down and the horses taken off. We had dinner on board then at 2 o'clock, the follow-ing [sic] companies, B.C.D. (6<sup>th</sup> Batt) [6<sup>th</sup> Battalion] and the band were taken ashore, the E.F.G & H companies of the 6<sup>th</sup> and all 7<sup>th</sup> Batt were left on board the ship. We marched about 100 yards then took a train for Cairo, arriving at 6 o'clock. Here each man was given a cup of cocoa, some cheese and bread, I think every one of us enjoyed it. [end page 37]


Dec 5<sup>th</sup> Mena Camp. Pyramids Egypt

B Coy [B Company] of the 6<sup>th</sup> Batt were sent away first and had the luck to go to the Pyra-mids [sic] on trams. The rest of us had to march out. As it was dark you could not see much except that we were marching along a good road. This road runs al-most [sic] straight for 8 miles and as trees grow on each side and meet overhead it was like walking through a long avenue. We reached our camp about 10 o'clock. having marched from Cairo in about 3 hours. Here we were issued with blankets but as there were no tents, we had to sleep on the sand. When I woke in the morning, the blanket was wet with dew, & almost white Dec 6<sup>th</sup> We are camped about a mile beyond the Pyramids after breakfast 4 of us went up to see them, we each paid 1/- [1 pound] or 5 piastres for a guide and he took us round. First we went to the Sphinx passing one of the Pyramids on our way we then came back through a native place. which was built of mud, these mud houses are very close together. and I saw donkeys and camels round the doors. [end page 38]

December 6<sup>th</sup> Mena Camp Pyramids Egypt

The guide told us that this part belongs to the very poor people. The whole of it look like a rubbish tip. We were then shown some ~~caves~~ tombs, one of these was very large with one large tomb in centre and with smaller ones all round it. It is cut out of solid rock and about 30 feet deep. We could see one of the coffins from which a mummy had been taken.



Next we came to a large cave, all round the sides are carved  figures about 2 ft 6 inch high. there must have been about 80 or so of these small figures.

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>. We went for a route march round the Sphinx and Pyramids. the Major, Sgt Major and Drum " & the 6<sup>th</sup> band had their photos taken in front of Sphinx. Each afternoon we go for a march on the same track. Dec 12<sup>th</sup> This morning we took our dinner (3 biscuits each and 1 lb [pound] tin fish between 3) with us. We left camp at 8 o'clock marched out about 1½ miles, were drilled for a while, then had to [end page 39]

December 12<sup>th</sup>

Mena Camp

dig trenches, after this we had to fix bayonets and charge them. Run-ning [sic] over the sand is rather heavy work, af-ter [sic] being used to the hard ground a [sic, at] Broad-meadows. We got back to camp at 3.30 A.M.

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Dec.

Church Service was at ½ past 8, and after it we went for a march round the Pyramids it took us 2 ¼ hours, get-ting [sic] back to camp at 1 o'clock. I have been into Cairo 5 times (twice with leave and 3 times with French leave

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> The 6<sup>th</sup> Band stayed in camp. Did .F. All.

Dec 15<sup>th</sup>. We were in camp again, and so 5 of us went to see the Pyramids and climbed the ~~Schops~~ Cheops when we reached the top we each paid ½ piaster for a cup of coffee. (the cup holds about 2 spoonfuls). Looking east you look down on the Sphinx and an old cemetery. The land further on is very flat and as it [sic, is] on the side of the Nile, it is beginning to look green with grass and crops, and looks very nice [end page 40]

Mena Camp

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> Looking north you see an Arab village which is rather dirty look-ing [sic]; further on is the Nile running E & West, and as far as you can see is the main road into Cairo, it is like one long straight avenue and the tram runs along the side of it. Turning west you look [arrow up] down on the Camp which is a great sight to see. looking past but further to the north West is a great clump of palms On the north side of camp you can see where the Nile has over flowed, and left pools of water all over the place, in several places, it is beginning to look green and the Egyptian at the top of the Pyramid told us that it will all be green with crop very soon

On the south it is quite different, nothing else but sand. close to the Pyramid on this side is a number of men employed in exca-vating [sic]; to look down on it, one would think he was looking down on the top of a city. ~~After~~ We stayed at the top for some time and had a good look round. We then came [end page 41]

Dec 15<sup>th</sup>

Mena Camp

down and went inside. We had to take our boots off before we could go in. The entrance is about 40 feet from the bottom and is about 4ft 6ins [4 foot 6 inches] high and 4 feet wide. Outside this doorway, the stone slopes down towards it at about angle of 30 de-grees. [sic] The guide takes the lead, lights a candle and we follow. It would be impossible to go inside with your boots on as it slopes down and underneath your feet is marble. this is much worn and as you cannot stand up, the easiest way to follow the guide is to sit down and slide. The passage way is only wide enough for 2 men to pass. The sides are of marble & granite and as it is so dark you can-not see the top of this passage, which is over 50 feet high. We went down about 80 feet, then stopped in front of us was a sort of barrier, beyond this is a well, and to the left of it is the passage (about 4 feet high) leading to the Queens chamber. We went through [end page 42]

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1914. Mena Camp

this passage which is about 80 feet along, then came to the Queens Chamber. This place is made of gran-ite [sic] and is about 40x20x30 feet high. at one end is a large hole, from where the Queen's coffin has been taken We came back through the passage, turned to our left climbed round a narrow ledge and came to another passage it goes upwards about 200 feet, and there are foot holds all the way. then we came to the King's Chamber this one is exactly in the centre of the Pyramid. and you can hardly be-lieve [sic] how large some of the blocks of granite are. I would not care to stay inside too long as it is very close. My 4 mates rode by to camp on donkeys and as there were only 4 of these I came back on a camel, & when it started to run I wished I was on the ground, as it felt a bit like the old "Hororata" in a big swell.

16<sup>th</sup> Dec.

All bandsmen had to carry a rifle and go out with there [sic] companies [end page 43]

Dec 17 & 18<sup>th</sup> 1914      Mena Camp

I went out with H Coy, we start out at ¼ to 8, march out about 3 miles into the desert , (I am getting quite used to marching over the sand) there we have Battalion & rifle drill bayonet charges, trench digging; charging over 200 yards of sand is rather heavy work. We are kept going until ½ past 12, then have ½ hour spell about 1 o'clock we form up and on the way back to camp, we get battalion drill, arriving there about 2 o'clock. We then get a hot dinner (stew). The stew here has cabbage potatoes, turnip & tomatoes in it, and tastes better than what we had a Broadmeadows We are allowed 1 lb of bread, 2 ozs [ounces] butter and 3 tablespoons of jam (it tastes a bit like treacle) besides stew once a day ) [sic] for a days rations. It is a good sight to see the rise here. Sometimes it looks as if the Pyramids are on fire.

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> Church parade at 9, then we went for a march round the pyramids round the sphinx turned to

---

19<sup>th</sup> Dec Received a letter from Aunt Nell at Worcester England [end page 44]

Dec 20<sup>th</sup> to left (north) passed through the native village, it is very dirty and smell is very bad, then across the main road and back through the north end of the camp. We were out on the 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> in the desert do-ing [sic] the usual 6 hours a day.

[purple pencil]

Dec 23 We left at 9AM, marched about 3 miles out & took up a position. We did outpost duty during the day and through the night, and at 6 o'clock AM Dec 24 marched back to camp had dinner & were free all day. Dec 25. We had Church Service at 9 o'clock, and for dinner had stew & rice with raisins The 5<sup>th</sup> Batt [Battalion] had Turkey peas potatoes, plum pud-ding [sic] & soft drinks, so I had my dinner with them. Dec 26<sup>th</sup> We were out for 6 hours today Dec 27 After Church Service we went for a 5 mile march over the sand (It was jolly hard on us.) Dec 29<sup>th</sup> We went out at 8 o'clock and got back next morning at 10 o'clock. (Dec 30<sup>th</sup>) In the afternoon the 1 & 2 Brigades were re-viewed by Sir George Reid. Dec 31<sup>st</sup> All the band had leave so I went into Cairo & sent a present home to May [Mabel] [end page 45]

January 1915      Mena Camp

1<sup>st</sup>

Egypt

The other Aust Brigades were reviewed today and we had another holi-day [sic]. We played for Officers [sic] Mess, also played a programme in the evening. and were well treated. by the officers. 2<sup>nd</sup> At 8 o'clock we left camp, the Battalion was divided into 2 and car-ried on against each other The Battalion is now in 4 companies, each one divided into 4 platoons each platoon into 4 sec-tions. I am now in D Coy. [company] No 15 Platoon. 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan This morning I was made a stretcher bearer, so will not have to carry arms. This morning (Jan 4<sup>th</sup>) we left camp at 3.AM attacked the ½ Battalion about 4 miles out. [Grey lead pencil] It was rather cold lying on the sand. Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. We practised em-barkation [sic] today, but went for a 10 mile march. 18. I went into Giza to a Christian Church. it was the annual feast of something. first we had service in Arabic then a feast, & brought away a Holy cake. this is round & has 13 crosses on the top. It tastes like bread [end page 46]

January 1915

19<sup>th</sup> . I was in Cairo on leave 20<sup>th</sup> Went out to rifle range at 7 o'clock. had field firing and musketry course. passed in both. 21<sup>st</sup> Parade from 8 to 12 Bath " from 2 to 3 at Mena House 22<sup>nd</sup> Left camp at 7 o'clock had lunch & tea in the de-sert [sic], & got back to camp at 11-30 PM. 23<sup>rd</sup> Skirmishing & bayonet fighting & firing exercises. 24<sup>th</sup> Church Parade at 9 AM leave from 10 AM to 11 P.M. 25<sup>th</sup> Had 2 hours band practice also played at Officers Mess @6 P.M 26 Out with Batt with band. 27<sup>th</sup> Took out our stretchers for the day under the Medical Sergeant. I had a very easy time doing only 2 hours drill. ~~28<sup>th</sup> Church parade at 8-30.~~ 29 I had leave and went out to Luna Park (only open on a Sunday) at Heliopolis. Came back to Cairo about 7 o'clock and in a Cafè [sic] I met Jim Bird. 28<sup>th</sup> Went out with Battalion, who marched out about 4 miles. 30 Had a 10 mile route march first went along main road to Gehezih [sic] about 4 miles, then turned to our left and came back through several villages 29<sup>th</sup> I had leave and went out to Luna Park and had a very good time. [end page 47]

February 1915 Mena Camp Egypt.

1<sup>st</sup> The Battalion went on a route march; the S Bearers [Stretcher Bearers] had drill in Camp. 2<sup>nd</sup> Stayed in all day and had Band practice. 3<sup>rd</sup> The 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Battalions left here for Ismaili [sic] at 11 AM. we (the 6<sup>th</sup> band) played them into the Cairo railway station arriving there at ¼ to 3. We had lunch in Cairo; played a few tunes while waiting for our tram, and got back to camp at 6 o'clock. 4<sup>th</sup> As one of our transport lads named McKay died (the 1<sup>st</sup> death [arrow up] in the 6<sup>th</sup> since leaving Aus-tralia [sic] we had to march into the Cemetary [sic] at Old Cairo (7 miles) we had the afternoon & evening in Cairo. 5<sup>th</sup> The band had leave to stay in camp all day, and next day 6<sup>th</sup>, we were allowed leave to go out of camp from 10 AM to 11 PM 7<sup>th</sup> Church Service at 8.30 AM. in the afternoon I went into Cairo visited the Rasr-el-Nil barrack and saw the Turkish prisoners. On 8<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> the band stayed in camp and practised 11<sup>th</sup>. Both bands 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> went to Cairo to meet the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Batt-alions, who have returned from the Canal. The 5<sup>th</sup> band met the 8<sup>th</sup> and the [end page 48]

February 1915 [underlined with flourish]

Feb 11<sup>th</sup>

6th band had to meet the 7<sup>th</sup> who were coming 2 hours later. However, the [sic, they] did not arrive. so we came back on trams and when 1 mile from the Pyramids, we meet the others, so we marched

into Camp with them. Next day the 12<sup>th</sup> we went in again and brought out the 7<sup>th</sup> Battalion 13<sup>th</sup> We were allowed to stay in but the Battalion goes out every day.

14<sup>th</sup> February 1915. Church Service at 9. After dinner I visited the Rasr El-Nil barracks and was in time to see the Turkish prisoners (about 300) being given the usual daily exercise of one hour. I took some snap shots of them. They are very poorly dressed, just in ordinary clothes and most wear a shoe like the Chinese. Their clothes are mostly patched up. They are a miserable looking lot. 16<sup>th</sup> [in ink] General leave for the 6<sup>th</sup> Batt. [in pencil] so I went into the city and spent most of the time in the streets of Cairo. 17 Batt was out from 8 to 12 and went for a route march from 6.30 to 11.30 PM. 18<sup>th</sup> I did not go out today as something has made me feel rather sick. [end page 49]

19<sup>th</sup> February 1914.

Stayed in camp again today

20<sup>th</sup> The Batt [Battalion] went out at 8 AM returning at 12 o'clock. About 6 PM they again went out and returned at 11 o'clock. We played at the Picture thea-tre [sic] from 6 to 10.

21<sup>st</sup> Church Service at 9 A.M. as we are to play at the Pictures each evening, I did not go into Cairo. Sunday in camp is very quite [sic, quiet] except for some bands playing, there are 13 Yesterday we were vaccinated again, as it appears that small pox has broken out. There are about 50 natives working for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade and it was a sight to see them being done also (22<sup>nd</sup> Went in the 3 pyramids) 23<sup>rd</sup> I visited the Citadel & saw Mosque named Moh Ali Alabaster – 100 years old 150 feet long dome 220 feet high spire 320 A Well 300 feet deep. Clock given by King of France. You first go in a court-yard & in the centre is a fountain in the form of a dome about 30 feet high. Close to the bottom are about 16 round (15 inches across) marble pillars which stand 1 foot high. This is where the feet are washed before enter ing [sic] the Mosque [end page 50]

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. In the Mosque is the tomb of Mahomed Ali Alabaster. You can see it through the screens and it is decorated magnificiently [sic]. On the floor of the Mosque is red carpets over an inch thick: Suspended from the dome are chains 200 feet long. these hold up the lights (electric) of which there are 2000. Directly under the main dome is a chandelier about 10 feet across and it looks lovely. It [arrow up] also was given by the same King of France. At the far end on the right is a pulpit about 30 feet high; on the side of it is represented a rising sun. On the opposite side of this pulpit is the reading desk and in between the two but about 20 feet in front is a recess in the wall. A guide told us that it is built in the wall so that if any blind per-son [sic] wants to pray, he feels his way round until he comes to this recess. he then knows that he has his face towards Mecca There is much alabaster used in this mosque and if you hold a match near it or on the other side you can see it glow like amber I next looked up at the domes there is a large one in the centre and smaller ones around it [end page 51]

Mena Camp    Egypt

February 234<sup>th</sup> 1915.

The work and carving on them is beautiful. The dome in Public Library at Melbourne is larger, but for artistic work this one in Cairo cannot be beaten. While inside you have to wear a large pair of slippers over your boots.

I next went up on the top of the Citadel barracks and had a splendid view of the city Cairo, and with glasses could see our camp at Mena Pyra-mids [sic]. In the city you see columns rising from the Mosques [sic] (there are 500) and it is a very pretty sight indeed. 24<sup>th</sup> Battalion left at 3 PM for a bivouac all night. I and 2 other bandsmen, Wally Blummer & Bill Harris went & wrote letters in Sydney YMCA then went & had tea in village (one built lately between camp & pyramids) after this came back to our lines & went up to the 7<sup>th</sup> Batt stadium and helped the 8<sup>th</sup> Batt play during the fights. 25<sup>th</sup> The Batt came in at 7.30 A.M. and we had the day off 26<sup>th</sup> Battalion went out a-gain at 2.30 PM. I stayed in without leave & spent the day round about the pyramids. [end page 52]

#### The Pyramids Egypt

27<sup>th</sup> February.

The Battalions came in at 7 AM. & went out again for bayonet fighting at 10 o'clock The band stayed in for practice 27<sup>th</sup> Bivouaced for the night and came back at 8.30. next morn-ing [sic]. and stayed in the rest of the day. 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade went away. I had a day out at Heliopolis and saw them go to the station. On the way home to the Pyramids I saw the remainder or [sic, of?] the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade going away

#### March 1915

We have Divisional drill each day. 12<sup>th</sup> Marched into the Zoological Gardens, went inside & stay-ed [sic] 2 hours, then marched back to camp. A lovely duststorm [sic] was blowing all the time 13<sup>th</sup> I went out to Matarich and saw the Holy Trce [sic, Terrace] and the Well, also an ancient temple. There is a large ostrich farm near this part. 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday. After Church we had to go into Cairo with the Funeral of a 6<sup>th</sup> Battery lad. 15<sup>th</sup> Went for an 8 mile march up the Pyramids road, then to the left and back over the sand. Went out at 4.30 PM and got back after night attacks at 4.40 AM [end page 53]

#### The Pyramids

#### March 1915

16 Went round the same way as on Monday. 17 Went out at 7 o'clock AM. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade attacked the 1<sup>st</sup> got back at 3.30. Met Hari Gock-ing & we went to the Red Cross cinema & variety show & had a very enjoyable evening 29<sup>th</sup>. Reviewed by Sir Jan Hamilton at 10.30 AM. Went in to Cairo in the afternoon. 30<sup>th</sup> Band practice all day 31<sup>st</sup> Went out for Divisional work at 5.30 and marched about 8 miles into the desert. It was a very hot day. We arrived back in camp at 4.30.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> April 1915

We had the same work as the day before. 2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday. Divisional leave, so I went into Cairo and write [sic] letters. About 4 o'clock a riot started in one of the streets. 3<sup>rd</sup> Stayed in camp and very little to do. 4<sup>th</sup> Got orders to pack up and at 7 P.M. left Mena camp marched to Cairo central station ar-riving [sic] there at 11 PM. Had to stay here un-til [sic] 2.30 AM Next morning when we en- [end page 54]

Lemos Island Turkey

April 5<sup>th</sup> 1915.

trained for Alexandria arriving there at 7.30.

From the train we went aboard the Galeka (Union Castle line) and stayed alongside the wharf until 8<sup>th</sup> Thursday afternoon when at 5 o'clock we left 11<sup>th</sup> We have arrived near Lemnos Island. there are about 25 battle ships Etc here. I have gone into Hospital.

12 Mail has just been given out.

13 There are about 80 troop-ships here

15 Came out of hospital

17<sup>th</sup> For not being on parade, I got defaulter's drill till end of the voyage [purple pencil] (first offence)

22<sup>nd</sup> Today at 10-15 AM. we left the Island of Lemono, [sic] & after 3 hours we anchored on the other side of it. At 11 PM. we moved again.

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> Up at 3.A.M. – had a hot breakfast, and could just see the Galipoli [sic] Peninsular, ['e' corrected from 'i', and 'r' added at end in purple pencil] and could hear rifle shots. We have been issued with 2 days iron rations. At 5 AM the bombardment started. [purple pencil] and the 7<sup>th</sup>, then the 6<sup>th</sup> Batt [grey lead pencil, dividing line drawn]

Shells came through rigging [end page 55]

[purple pencil]

25/4/15 Gallipoli Peninsular

landed in open boats under heavy fire. At 5-45 AM. 3 wounded got back. 6 o'clock 8 more came. 6.30. 6 more arrived. 4 S Bearers [Stretcher Bearers] Bill Grimes, Jim Prendergast, Jack Uncle & myself had to stay on board. About 8 o'clock we transferred them to the Hospital ship. At 1 o'clock we buried 2 of them, Pte [Private] O'Leary of the 7<sup>th</sup> & Pte Logan of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions. At 3 PM we were told that our lads had captured 3 guns & were doing well. [grey lead pencil] Later by wireless we heard that 6 mile of trenches had also been captured & several more guns. 6. P.M. Bombardment still going strong & has sounded like thunder all day. While the lads were landing, it was a great sigh to see the Turk's shrapnel shells burst-ing [sic] near the boats. Great columns of water were thrown into the air but it looked better to see our warships shells [arrow up] from 15" guns bursting right in the Turkish forts.

26<sup>th</sup> We are anchored near Imbros Isd [sic, Island] about 12miles away

27<sup>th</sup> Still in the same place.

28<sup>th</sup> Moved back to where we landed on the 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> & took on wounded.

29 Took on more & left for Alex [-] andria. (460 wounded in all)

30 The sea is very calm & the wounded are very quiet. [end page 56]

Gallipoli Peninsular. 1915

May 21<sup>st</sup> At 7.P.M. Went into firing line very quiet. Came out at 5 AM on the

22<sup>nd</sup> Went down to the beach for wash & round.

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday . Had Church Service. Saw a German Aero flying over. At 6 P.M. went up to the firing line. Received parcel of socks & scarves also letter April 13<sup>th</sup> from home

24<sup>th</sup> Empire day Armastice [sic, Armistice] for 9 hours & saw some awful sights. Got letter (14/4/15 from May

25<sup>th</sup> Saw Triumph go under

26<sup>th</sup> Few shells burst near our dugouts but did no damage. Majestic went

[in ink] 27.Went to trenches for the night. Under fire coming back at 6 A.M. next morning.

28<sup>th</sup> Wrote home. [in grey lead pencil]mostly artillery firing

29<sup>th</sup> Received letter 20/4/15. Shells landed amongst us. 2 killed 6 wounded.

30<sup>th</sup> Church Service at 10. Received watch. [written above] Great Artillery fire

31<sup>st</sup> Rifle fire heavy last night. Very quite [sic, quiet] today. Went into support trenches for night

June 1<sup>st</sup> Shells flying round. Had a swim

2<sup>nd</sup> Dodging shrapnel. 1 man killed

3<sup>rd</sup> (King's Birthday) Had an afternoon at beach

4<sup>th</sup> B Coy [Company] gone to Brown's Hill for 3 days

5<sup>th</sup> 2 men injured by shrap. [sic, shrapnel]

6<sup>th</sup> Today very quiet. Had Church at 10 A.M

7 Firing heavy last night. B Coy just back.

8 Met Harry Sumpton. Great Artillery fire

9 Quiet till 4 P.M. " " " For an hour by us

10 & 11 Up at the Firing line

12 Very heavy firing all day.

13 Church at 10. 14<sup>th</sup> " "



15. Very quiet. Concert at night.

23<sup>rd</sup> Received scarf from May. Letter from Aunt Nell

August 4<sup>th</sup> Went to Steele's Post. /

5<sup>th</sup> Shelled by Turk's [sic] all day. 6<sup>th</sup> Attacked German Officers and snipers trench but lost them again

6<sup>th</sup> Great bombardment by warboats etc start-ed at 3 AM. Troops landed at Salt Lake 1<sup>st</sup> Bdge [sic, Brigade] attacked & held Lonesome Pine [end page 57]

August 7<sup>th</sup> Hill (Baby 700 taken)

Warboats still bombarding. Hill 917 taken, lost. Steele's heavily shelled by Turks.

8<sup>th</sup> 917 again taken. Trenches at Steele's blown in. Had to use blankets to get wounded etc out. [purple pencil] Blown sky high today.

[purple pencil over grey lead] 9<sup>th</sup> at 4 AM was buried was sent hospital for rest

10<sup>th</sup> Went aboard the Glacton [sic], to Imbros Isd [sic, Island]

11<sup>th</sup> Transferred to Andania & went to Lemnos.

13<sup>th</sup> " on to Aquitania at 7.P.M.

15<sup>th</sup> Left for Naples at 7AM. arrived on

17<sup>th</sup> at 8 o'clock AM. Saw Mt [sic, Mount] Vesuvius smoking

18<sup>th</sup> Left at 11 o'clock and at 11.30 on the

20<sup>th</sup> passed the Rock of Gibraltar [sic, Gibraltar]

21<sup>st</sup> Several vessels seen today.

22<sup>nd</sup> Escort arrived about noon.

23<sup>rd</sup> At 6 AM could see Isle of Wight on our right then came into South Hampton & at 11 took train arriving Clapham about 2 got out & motored to the 3<sup>rd</sup> London General Hospital at Wandsworth S.W. there saw Bert McMahan of C'maine [sic, Castlemaine] got put in No 10 Ward. Wrote to Worcester.

24<sup>th</sup> In bed all day

25<sup>th</sup>. Letter from Worcester.

[purple pencil] 31 Left Wandsworth, went to Victor ia [sic, Victoria] Street & drew my pay then went to Worcester. Aunt Nell (in chair) Uncle Tom [arrow up] Miss Powell Bertha & little Dorothy met me at the station. Went to Cornmarket [sic] and met Laurie Scott & Mary and Bob.

Sept 2<sup>nd</sup> Went up the river Severn in a launch [?].

3<sup>rd</sup> Visited the Cathedral.

4<sup>th</sup> Went over Porcelain Works [end page 58]

### Sept

5<sup>th</sup> Chummed up with a lad in Fijian Contingent. Met a Worster lad I knew in Egypt, also another Australian & New Zealander from the hospital.

6<sup>th</sup> Met a Canadian.

7 " " Belguim. [sic, Belgium]

8<sup>th</sup> We have been parading up and down the street together

9<sup>th</sup> Went for a drive to Nitrie, [sic] had dinner at some Manor house. Brought back apples

10<sup>th</sup> Went out to see the Hope pickers at work.

11<sup>th</sup> Went to Periwood [sic] for nuts

15<sup>th</sup> Left for London.

16<sup>th</sup> Went to the base at Weymouth

17<sup>th</sup> Classed as Temporar-ily [sic] unfit

18 Nothing to do, so went into Weymouth.

19<sup>th</sup> My left arm has gone dead again and seems powerless

20 It is still bad

21 Have started in Medical Office as typist.

21 [sic] Left arm getting better

22 Have met some old 6<sup>th</sup> lads

23 Could not use arm today so went for a stroll round Chickerell [sic] village

24 Went into Wegmonts [sp?]

25 Visited Portland.

[end page 59]

### 1915

#### October

Went to Gillingham (Dorset) & saw cousin Daisy (Uncle Wills daughter)

[markings of sap and leaf juice from 4 pressed leaves, now gone] [end page 60]

[one blank page, one torn in half] [end page 61]

[one blank page]

Vesevius [sic]

[list of words in local language and English meaning]

Rue – quick                      yallah- go way

Imsha - " " F. O.                Misquays – no good

Sellar – stick                      Saida – good day

Tiala – heina    come here.

Cut teura – Ruterror – Thankyou

Buckshiess - money

[line of symbols in black ink, Egyptian letters?]

[in pencil]

Veseuvious [end page 62]

[2 blank pages] [end page 63]

[upside down, list of monies lent and borrowed, mostly scribbled out, in pencil]

[illegible]                ~~£ 2 3 5~~

[illegible]                ~~£ 4~~

~~Kitty [sp?]~~                ~~£ 2~~

~~Herbert [sp?]~~                ~~£ 10/-~~                      ~~£ 8 18~~

~~B-Core~~                      ~~£ 12/-~~

[illegible]                ~~-16-~~

[illegible]                £ 5 - -

[illegible]                10/-

~~B-Core~~                      12/-

-18- [list of numbers, vertically, in smaller writing]

|             |      |    |    |    |
|-------------|------|----|----|----|
| Owing to me |      | 1  | 9  | 3  |
|             |      | 8  | 11 | 10 |
| [illegible] | £5   | 15 | 18 | 17 |
| [illegible] | 10/- | 22 | 26 | 24 |
| B-Core      | 12/- | 29 |    | 31 |
|             |      |    |    | 7  |
|             |      |    |    | 14 |
|             |      |    |    | 21 |
|             |      |    |    | 28 |
|             |      |    |    | 4  |
|             |      |    |    | 11 |
|             |      |    |    | 18 |
|             |      |    |    | 25 |

[2 words, one of four characters and one of five, Egyptian letters?]

[normal page orientation]

9233 LcpI [Lieutenant Corporal?] S James

C Company

6<sup>th</sup> Battalion

Lancashire Fusiliers

Citadel

Cairo

[in purple pencil]

Victoria Browne

~~Maison~~ Laffrani

Sahel boulac 14

Building Jaffrani

Cairo

Zaky Abdulla

4<sup>th</sup> Year

Om. Ablas School

Cairo.

Egypt. [end page 64]

[fly paper covered with diamond pattern, black and white]

[in purple pencil, top left hand corner]

jerusalem

[purple pencil, top centre of next page]

jerusalem

[end page 65]

[end of diary]

[Transcribed by Nina Buchan, February – October 2012.]