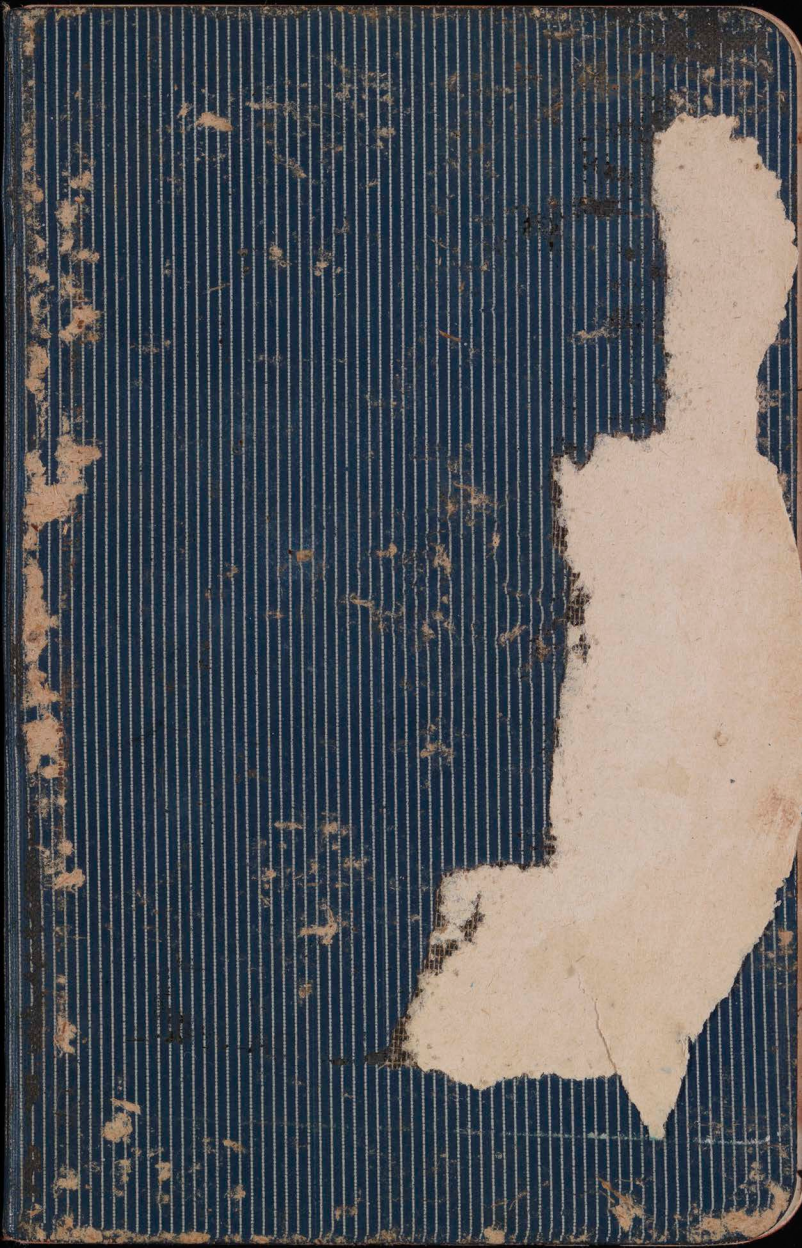




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Diary

April 1915

Sunday 11th

The harbour is again becoming full of transports there being at the present time some 25 transport ships inside, besides outside & in another harbour. Had an easy day as B. G. Cpl attending sick & parade & also distribution of meals.

During the afternoon we had a perfect view of a sea-plane which was hovering over the harbour for some time. When it passed some hundreds of feet directly over us. It is wonderful the perfection they have reached, its equilibrium was perfect not the slightest wobbling or swaying noticeable. It reminded one of a huge wasp, what with the buzzing of its engine & its long narrow build. I suppose we will soon be quite used to the sight of them, but of course the first time causes great interest. We also saw it a light & skim along the surface of the harbour. There is also a small dirigible about one of the ships here.

Great amusement was caused today when one of the boats came back from the shore with some of our men aboard among whom were two who had got hold of some Koniak & got rather drunk.

While coming alongside one of them
first threw his hat overboard & then
picked up his rifle & before anyone could
stop him threw it after the hat, of
course it was lost. Of course they could
not come up the rope ladders, so when
the Colonel heard about it he ordered
them to be securely bound & hauled up
by the winch as horses were being loaded
at the time a horse sling was made up
of. The first man the worst of the
two, was swung up into the air where he
looked quite happy & caused a lot of amuse-
ment among the onlookers, then was lowered
onto the deck & taken charge of to await
his trial.

The boat seems very crowded
now with all the extra troops & their
equipment aboard. It also means that
the decks can't be kept nearly so clean
as before.

Monday 12th. The Commanding Officers
of all Battalions went aboard the
Queen Elizabeth this morning & were
taken away to the vicinity of the
Dardanelles. I conclude for the purpose
of selecting or having pointed out to them
the spot where we are to land & of course
to have an inspection of the country in
that vicinity & to discuss movements.
So it looks as if we are nearly at the end
of our long wait.

We went ashore this morning
& went through the usual advance & attack.
We were the first ashore & while awaiting
the arrival of the rest of the boys, bore
hasten our own platoon, who had been
ashore a week or so ago on one of those

shy guards from descriptions of a wanted spy thought he recognised the description in a well dressed man accompanied by two others & an old Greek priest, who walked along our lines & then went down to the beach & had a good look around. Larter reported his surmises to Major Roberts who at once signalled to the Malda (flagship of Brigade) & found description tallied & was ordered to arrest same. In the meantime the group of men had left the beach & gone inland among the crops towards a small village. Lieut Walker, bpt Larter & six men were sent off to arrest them. They found them in a drinking house where they also went in & had a drink. After some time one of them went over to a private house but soon returned. They were then arrested & were taken to the Naval Quarters at Mudros where they were handcuffed over & searched. Nothing being found of an incriminating nature on them they were released but are being placed under close surveillance.

Last night it was discovered that Morse signals were being sent from one of the villages but by the time an inspection party arrived there everything was quiet.

Forgot to mention that I received pair of gloves & tobacco also a letter from Mother & one from Miss Smithwick.

Tuesday 13th. Nothing of interest happened today, some of the reinforcements went ashore but owing to the rain had to come back again. We now have our new Platoon officer, Lieut Fosterlow, very

ordinary looking man but I think he will be quite capable of looking after us.

Wednesday 14th. The Colonel again was away all day returning at sundown when they were all aboard the Queen Elizabeth near the Dardanelles on Monday they had several shots fired at them but they all fell short.

Thousands of troops went ashore during the day more to practice landing than anything else. They were towed ashore by pinnaces, each pinnace taking from 6 to 12 boats full of men. It is a decidedly quicker method than rowing.

We were issued with our Battalion colours this afternoon, brown & blue, which we wear on either shoulder brown upwards. I believe before going into the field we take off our numerals & badges & are just recognised by our colours. After lunch all black kit bags were taken off & staided. They are all going to be shipped back to Alexandria where they will be stored. This means that now we will only have the clothes we stand up in & what we can carry in our packs to last us until God know when.

Peter Snodgrass is just the same as ever, if there ever was an untidy man Peter is he. I have never seen him look really smart in civilian clothes & he is just the same in uniform & clothes as if a razor was only known to him about once a week.

Thursday 15. We have just received the

sad news of the death of one of our Platoon, The Guinness, a fine big fellow about 6 ft 2 inches & proportionately built, he was one of our scouts under Buckle. He contracted pneumonia some time ago taking him ashore on a cold windy day to the Hospital nearly finished thing. He could not sleep for night after night. Well about 5 days ago he was on the mend when I believe he was taken aboard the Hospital ship to be taken back to Alexandria. Most likely the trip from shore to ship had fatal effects, anyhow he is gone & we have lost one of our very best men. A man seems to have a very poor chance unless he can get into a permanent hospital from the jump. There always seems to be too much shifting about to do good.

Friday 16th. This evening "A & B" boys were taking aboard the H.M.S. London. They were practicing disembarkation from our ship onto the London & were taken in tow by one of the latter's pinnaces. While on board they heard that 20,000 Turks had suffered heavy defeat on Gallipoli. The idea is that we go to the Gallipoli Peninsula in ships of war & from them disembark.

Saturday 17th. A few days ago I got another of my rotten colds & since then my voice has become very husky not being able to drill my section. If it does not come back before we finally land it will be a case of my handing section over to somebody with a voice.

Had good swim on side of boat this afternoon, but it was rather on the cold side to stay in too long.

The Ionian at last left our side this afternoon. It was about time as between the two ships a great deal of rubbish & filth had collected & the odours that sometimes arose from there were not too pleasant.

The harbour is now very full & we hear there are any amount of others outside. It is also said that we are going to be here a week or so yet. One has to develop a great deal of patience these days on account of our long waits. Some of the fellows wonder why we don't rush right into things. They don't seem to realise that we have been waiting for a concentration of very large forces here & that the heads have to await favourable times to begin operations. If we only knew some of the inner workings of this vast army, so handicapped by being on the sea, they would not groan but would be quite content to wait quietly for the time of disembarkation. Once they are into it I reckon there will be a very large percentage who would rather be back on board ship again.

Sunday 18th. Quiet day for us. In the afternoon A & C boys went ashore practising disembarkation & taking up a position & from there they boarded the N.M.S. London. The idea is now that 2 boys from each Battalion of 3rd Bde will form the landing party for the

Aust & N. J. Army corps followed by
the rest. A & C boys have been
picked from our Bath, so our D boy
will miss much of place in being
first ashore, any how we will be 2nd
& will have representatives in first
lot in several scouts Puckett being
one.

I am afraid it is going to
be a very hard job. Most likely
they will get badly knocked about.

It is said that all along our
prospective landing place it is one
mass of barbed wire entanglements
& ten to one mines. So one can
realize how the first to land will
most likely suffer.

Monday 19th. On prisoners' guard today.
Every thing is excitement now & every
one seems eager to get to work. They
are all very confident & I think it
will be a bad time for those who
get in our way. We have waited
8 months for this & now it is nearly
at hand at last.

We have several blue
jackets aboard from Lord Nelson.
I saw Elizabeth & others who are
going to help at unloading looking
after life boats etc.

Old G & H boys, 12th Bath,
(Tasmania) these boys being D.A., came
aboard here today to camp. They were
in full marching order & very heavily
loaded up. A & C boys are away again
tonight practicing disembarkation
& advance.

Tuesday 20th. Went ashore today & took

part in a rather severe but short route march over the hills down onto the beach on the other side where we had lunch.

Everywhere one can now notice the arrival of spring. One crop we passed over was simply beautiful, although only a foot high it was a beautiful shade of green & all through it bright red poppies thrust their heads above the carpet of green. It was a sight one more often sees in oil paintings than realistically. Other fields were masses of different coloured pea flowers, runners, Scotch thistles, etc.. And then we came across a regular Garden of Eden in shape of small orchard with high stone wall surrounding it. The trees were all so green & close together that they formed a complete & cool shade beneath.

When we arrived back at the beach the wind had come up very strong which prevented crews from bringing boats ashore. After 5 hours wait they arrived & to save time we were transhipped to a mine sweeper which had several shot holes through her; & from there taken aboard ship arriving at 9 pm.

Wednesday 21st. Raining day. Two companies in full marching order went aboard a torpedo boat destroyer to see what number of men could be got aboard.

Thursday 22nd. Went through same performance as yesterday, this time pulling

away from ship & after going short distance anchored & from there took to the boats. Eight months ago I never expected to be either on a mine sweeper or a J.B.D.

This afternoon were issued with 200 rounds ammunition & 3 days rations.

Friday 23rd The hundreds of final preparations previous to this big undertaking were entered into today. Men were constantly packing & unpacking their packs & stowing their rations away. It is an enormous load we have to carry but of course will throw our packs off as soon as we land.

Saturday 24th The first half of Brigade got away aboard barges about noon & the rest of us left Linnos aboard transports during afternoon.

Outside harbour was one mass of ships & in the distance could be seen line of battle ships steaming out & also flotilla of J.B.D's. We anchored at Embros Island & there transhipped onto J.B.D's about midnight.

Sunday 25th We got close to shore near daybreak & soon after heard guns open fire on first half of Brigade as they were landing, & then we heard our men cheering as they charged up hill & took a trench. We landed immediately after in left boats amid a perfect hail of lead, a great many of our men being hit in boats & on shore. As soon as we

got ashore we flung off our packs & lay down on the beach. There seemed to be a hopeless mixture of boys & Battalions boats from different ships landing at same place. Several boats landed further round to left upon which machine guns played cutting up the men dreadfully. In the meantime the $\frac{1}{2}$ Bde had driven the enemy immediately in front well back over the hills. & what hills! rising very steeply up from the shore to a height of some 300 feet. After lying under heavy fire on beach for a while we worked in dribs & drabs in any order round into shelter of one of hills. I thought it was time to move after a bullet landed just under my chin. Soon we began scaling the hills, dragging boxes of ammunition shovels etc. up. The crowd I found myself with a mixture of our Bde & 12th moved out to the left flank where we received rather a bad time. It is all very thick scrub country which enables a great deal of sniping on enemy's part. We took up a position but there seemed to be a dearth of officers & after holding it for some time someone gave order to retire. We retired short distance fixed bayonets & moved forward again. But enemy in meantime had advanced & again gave us a bad time. By this time enemy's sharpshooters began to burst & as we had no guns to answer them it is wonderful with what tenacity the men held on. Casualties were very heavy. All the time fresh troops were pouring ashore. Some New Zealanders came round our flank to reinforce about midday

could hardly drag one by after another after some heavy hill climbing & mad rushing about through the thick scrub so I fell out of line for a spell.

Then helped wounded men down to beach where small jetties had been erected by Engineers.

Beach was hopeless mass of wounded awaiting to go aboard Hospital Ships, fatigues unloading barges of water, food, cannon, munitions & thousand & one things necessary for such an undertaking. Mules for mountain batteries, a few of which had been got into action by Indians & also for carrying ammunition food water etc.

Then all spare men were detached for unloading ammunition off barge so I had to join in, one case of which afterwards helped to carry up to firing line, it was an awful job as I could hardly drag one by after the other.

The war ships put in excellent work in lending their support with their cannon.

During that morning a bullet rained off bolt of rifle sticking off couple of small splinters into face & went through neighbours hand.

Mon 26th & Tues 27th Back in firing line Monday morning & was generally on left centre & left flank firing very severe enemy shrapnel bursting every where especially on main route to beach, a check only where lot of damage was done. Left flank worst position of lot & as a permanent position had not been taken up in some

parts am afraid some of our own men were hit by our ships guns. Snipers of whom many are inside our lines hidden in bushes are doing a lot of damage.

Our own guns are now ashore & some of them got into position are paying Turks back in their own coin.

Wednesday 28th. Got word 3rd Bde reorganising on beach, boiled my first daisy of tea alongside a dead fellow this morning since Saturday night. Then went onto beach where I joined what were there of Bats.

May.

Sunday 2nd. Thurs & Friday camped on steep slopes running down to shore where every one had to burrow in to shelter from bursting shell. Men kept dribbling in by our casualties are very heavy for Bde. Heard on Friday there were 176 killed 900 odd wounded & 700 odd missing of whom many will yet turn up & remainder may be put down as dead or prisoners. Our boys have only two officers left Major Denton, Capt Goby, Lieut Walker & ~~Reed~~ wounded & Lieut Reed missing of Bats. Capt Annear & Barnes dead, & Lieut Cook dead. Sgts Allen & Thompson & ~~the~~ the Whittle all of Geraldton are dead & several others wounded. Had couple of days spell on beach & then came up thru into the firing line on right flank where there is practically

no fighting at all going on. A battery is said to be putting in good work. Can see effect of a lot of ships bombardment from here, wonderful gunnery. watched them put out of action Turkish Battery today. Lots of stray spent bullets, lot amongst us & here some of them doing damage. one lobbed foot from where I was sitting. Also an eight inch shell fell amongst us but only covered us with showers of earth. Pucke as a scout has been having some trying work with Mr Darnell. Everything is in good working order now, regular daily rations etc, & a strong line is held from right to left.

Friday 7th. Were relieved in trenches on 1st line right Tuesday morning camped on slopes above beach till Wednesday afternoon when we went into trenches about right centre. While coming along path up gully two of our men Barton & Foster were killed by shrapnel.

Elaborate trenches here & still being improved with communication trenches. There are a great many dead Turks a few yards out in front visible from trenches, air is simply putrid. Same here no fighting at all in fact it is the same & nearly all along the line last few days. Turks have ranged gully at back of trenches here & are giving it a bad time shrapnel getting 12 men yesterday

& about same number this morning
mostly from among 8th Battery.

One hundred men from 6th Coy &
some engineers went aboard torpedo
boat & tried to land at Lata Lefa
to blow up fort which is to our right
& has been silenced, but received
heavy resistance while landing, 3
dead & 18 wounded, Lieut Rockcliffe being
wounded, they had to retire back to
boats. Later in day, Tuesday, Turks
allowed a pinnace to take off wounded.

Capt Brennan, our doctor, is doing
wonderful work, if anyone deserves a
decoration it is he.

Sunday 9th Damed Turks are still onto
our gully at rear of line here where we
all have our dugouts. They generally
drop shrapnel into it first thing in
the morning & at sundown. Today first
at sundown their first shell got three
men all in one dugout all artillery.
Another shell burst on bank
of my neighbors dugout about 4 yards
from me, but all I got was shower
of earth. Went into trenches again
yesterday & came out 4 pm today, very
quiet while there. Had night
heard very heavy bombardment by
artillery & ships also heavy musketry
fire & down coast about 40 miles
while British & French troops have
established a footing & are making
slow progress. Went out in front
of trenches one day while some of our
men buried dead Turks, they were
not pleasant sights especially one
Australian who was wholly unrecog-

misable & was an awful sight. Puckler had previously taken a piece of poetry from this pocket written most likely by his sweetheart but as his identity disk had been removed he could not be recognized.

The stench was awful the sooner they are all buried the better for all our healths.

Water is also a source of trouble to us there are numerous springs in gullies but not enough for supply & it is generally very muddy, almost certain amount is brought ashore from ships. Of course we keep going all right but a wash is a rare luxury about once in 3 days & then only about a pint of water, of course if we ever get the chance to get down to beach we try to get a swim.

So few blankets are unknown & as for undressing well that is a sheer impossibility.

Thursday 13th. Things are still going on as quietly as ever except for the artilling duels which are more than pleasant. We have here 8th Battery (D.A.) & an Indian Mountain Battery & everywhere they fire they are answered by Guck's shrapnel which seem to be in a position that can't be correctly located or are behind some hills that our guns cannot get at. anyhow they generally manage to get some one or other about here. Tuesday morning Big Black, of G. A. was a really fine chap, was boiling tea

for trench when a shrapnel burst, a pellet of which went through his brain from which he soon died. the same shell also hit Greenwood passing through thigh & elbow through foot, all three of "D" Coy & former of our Platoon & my section. Later in day we of G'd Co his friends held his burial service which was read by Louch. Again on Thursday evening Parker Moyens of "D" Coy was hit by shrapnel. Heard former died soon after. It seems cruel to be hit like this behind the lines while not fighting. There seem to be so few casualties from firing line. Reasonably is that guns cannot get good position unless they come right up behind firing line instead of being a good distance away behind, our dug outs are all round & of course the fellows are walking about a good bit.

Very heavy bombardment can be heard nearly every night down south, & some of our own men being down there with Gommies, it is said they are making good progress, of course here we are only playing waiting game.

It is wonderful what scant news we get there, we know practically nothing of what is going on down south or even on our flanks there. The outside world knows much more than we do. Of course rumours float about one of which is:- that French after landing on Asiatic side, after

capturing 200 lbs of Kum Kale
mint baked & successfully
landed on Gallipoli.

also hear that a lot of our
light horse have landed here
& are acting as Infantry as
their particular line is
useless here.

2nd Bath on our left we hear have
only 6 officers left out of 30 odd.
We are badly off but not so hard
hit as that. Three promotions
to commissions in Bath Sgts
Perry & Dunning & Pte Smith.

Packard & I have been made full
corporals besides couple of others.
Louch made Sgt & acting I hear
in machine in our Coy. This means
10/- instead of 6/- for them what
hunts most is reinforcement Sgts
& corporals coming in & preventing our own
men from getting a rise. These
men have not had nearly as much
training as we have & it is causing
a lot of complaint.

Now that our Coy has 50 rein-
forcements we have made up 4
platoons instead of 3 which means
that we are hard worked, spending
24 hours in firing line, 24 trench
digging, & 24 in supports; now we
have same but an extra 24 hrs shift,
only going into firing line every 4th day.

Food is much better, we get tea
sugar, tin do, potatoes, onions, bacon
chisel, jam & biscuits & occasionally a
small lot of meat. Of course
we all do our own cooking, fire wood
is the difficult question, scrub

there is all green sometimes able to steal
bit of ration case. It is taking
one back to the primitives living in dug-
outs (ranous + dug) always sleeping
fully clothed when not on duty even to boots
& when in firing line or supports with
equipment or ~~ammo~~, I have not had
my boots off for over a week. One
often wishes for a good bath, good
food, good bed & about 48 hours sleep,
not to speak of clean clothes & whiskey
& soda & somebody to provide the clean
meat etc. Until one comes on active
service one can never realize what the
soldier has to go through in the field.
One has to put in a good word for
the officers who have been used to
living well & who now live exactly same
as we with same food, except that
now & then they get some fresh meat.

Tuesday 18th

During last few days we
have lost some officers without whom
we will find it hard to get along.

General Birdwood, slight wound in
head, General Bridges bullet through
groin, I believe serious; Colonel of
Engineers broken arm (shrapnel) & a
Major of Engineers killed.

General Walker, B. Genl General of 2nd Bde
is now in command of division.

Another of our boys killed (Dill)
killed while cooking tea. Hubert
I were cooking breakfast on Saturday
shrapnel burst just in front of us,
2 slugs passing through his quaticat
which he was wearing. He jumped in
air & I dropped in I dugout, each
thought other was hit but luckily

both escaped. One gets tired of
enumerating one's narrow escapes, we
all have them nearly every day.
couple of small attacks on left flank
last night in which hand grenades
were used, easily repulsed & not much
damage done. Right flank quite
except for sharpshoot which simply
runs on this position of ours here.

Germans & Turks down south are
said to have gained considerably ground
Town of Gallipoli is said to be
in ruins from warship fire & Turks
are said to be in bad way through
want of food.

Germans came along that 2 German officers
& 3 Turks jumped down into one of
our sapping trenches, of which there
are several to form a new firing
line & surrendered.

Puckler has joined both this hands
& poisoning has set in. He is in a
bad way & is absolutely helpless.
Had to swab his face etc. for him.
He went to Field Hospital yesterday.

Major Denton who somehow managed
to sit upon one of his own men's
bayonets during first few days, causing
slight wound & his prosthetic arrived
back here yesterday. He says both boys
will most likely lose his arm.

Saturday 22nd. On Thursday evening
enemy's guns began a heavy bombardment
of our lines, commencing about an hour
before sundown & lasting until dark.
Their main objective was our position
here & 1st Brigade on our left.

There were 12 guns in one position which fired simultaneously all shells landing round our trenches & behind our lines. One may rest assured there were not many heads showing. The din & roar of bursting shells was beyond description. We were in firing line at times some of us being on observation in saps which ran out from line. Many shells lobbed on and around saps. One shell burst on side of sap many small splinters hitting Hubbs & Simpson in face besides scorching them, a couple of others were there & were covered with stones & earth. Beyond being slightly shaken no one was beyond carrying out his duties.

About midnight after moon had gone down Turks, who had been reinforced by about 2 Divisions, attacked all along the line coming on in massed formation. Mainly on centre left but not so much on right. They were very plucky getting right up to trenches in several places, a few even got into trenches on left & also 2nd Bata where they killed two of our men & 1 officer before they got their quarters.

They were mown down in hundreds especially in front of 2nd Bata where they are piled on top of each other. At time I was on duty out at head of sap some 60 yards from firing line. It was not too pleasant there having enemy fire from front & ours from rear whistling all round us. Anyhow we stuck to our position as none of enemy troubled us.

Enemy returned & made another big attack at dawn being again repulsed. This time for over 2 hours I was able to lead a helping hand firing some

150 rounds. To right of sap there is a duck gully & good view of approach to our trenches. Many Turks who had approached lines there were sitting singly & in groups. At ranges from 300 & 500 yards they were easy targets & were sniped at from every direction. It seemed cruel knocking them over when they were not offering resistance but it had to be done.

During day we discovered some Turks in dugout & trench about 20 yards in front of sap. We threw some Thamel grenades among them doing some damage. Then after lot of shouting, intermissions, throwing notes & collection of our Bata officers, 6 of them came in & surrendered, some of them being wounded.

Enemy's casualties reckoned at 2000 killed & 5000 wounded. Our casualties were light, about 600 of which about 300 were able to return to firing line after having wounds dressed.

2nd Bata lost 12 ^{men} ~~officers~~ killed & 2 officers. we lost a ~~captain~~ ^{captain}. Following night was quiet. Thursday again steady bombardment & small attack. Their shells landing all along line here killing 2 of our boys in trench & wounding Sgt Ross & also couple of others.

Enemy's aeroplane flew over our position during Friday & dropped bomb into sea. Our planes & gun boats doing good work.

We are again heavily worked being in trenches nearly every night & day & getting snatches of sleep when

possible. Also living in commun-
ication trenches in small dugouts in
walls. Very little room for traffic
& cooking meals etc. A lot of white
flags on enemy's part lately.

Some men came in from Gaba Fife
yesterday along beach under one &
about & about a boy came in from
same place later on.

Gen Ian Hamilton is said to arrive
here today. It is rumored
that we get a spell shortly.

Monday 24th. Today at 10 am. We were
relieved by the 6th Light Horse for a
couple of days. It was a great relief
to get out of trenches. My platoon had
been $2\frac{1}{2}$ out of last 3 days in trenches
& other $\frac{1}{2}$ day in support so one may
imagine what we went through lately.
It meant getting a snatch of sleep for
an hour or two whenever possible &
in any position. Well here we are
outside again till Tuesday.

150 of our men made sortie out
of 2 of our saps Saturday night. Machine
gun & very heavy rifle fire opened on them
which immediately brought them tumbling
over one another into the sap again.
Anyhow it gave fair idea of machine
guns, which have been worrying us lately.
But at same time it seemed a mad idea
sending them out. Lost one man.

We have several Japanese mortars
in lines which are doing excellent
work. Two of them were used in Russo
Japanese War. These are the only ones of
their kind in the world & were sent by
Japan to us. Bylandina shell about

9 inches by 6 inches containing some yellow
explosive which is a Jap secret.
When first fired can be shell
go away up into air & then down down
into Turkish position. Extreme
range about 450 yards. Fine explosion
or percussion.

Came an airplane over us yester-
day, fired at by ships; dropped bomb
which exploded some 200 yards from
here killing one man. Made extraordinary
dropping from enormous height.

Two of our bombers came in very close
to Suba Ghe point & simply raked the
Ghor Ghor a low ridge some 2 miles
long for couple of hours. It was one
continual explosion & ridge was mass
of smoke & dust. Only living thing I
saw there was man galloping right
into shelled area.

Today there was an armistice & being
dead which I must say were rather
penetrating the air. Red cross & Red
Crescent flags could be seen all along
the line & hundreds of our men & Turks
were out at the job. Most of Turks
wearing bandage over nostrils & relieving
them of stench. Turks buying those
closest to their line & we the same.

I believe there were very few of our own
men found round this right flank.

One of our chaps had been mutilated,
being wounded in both knees which
were bandaged he had been unable
to get back to lines, was overtaken &
big cross ripped in stomach & neck
& another ~~at~~ with mutilation performed.
No wonder our sometimes hears our men
curse & how they would never take a prisoner

Our men & Turks were mixing together & talking where possible exchanging cigarettes etc. Some said that now their dead were buried Allah would allow them to go to victory. In places bodies were piled one on top of another especially in some old trenches & in concealed places scums were found that were not known of before. It is said that our estimation of their dead 2000, was very much under number, Turks admitting at least 3000. The armistice lasted from 8 a.m. till 4.20 p.m. & is now over. Rifle fire on small scale has recommenced.

General Bridges died on Hospital ship & was buried at Alexandria. We all mourn this loss of such a fine soldier. General Bridgwood is about again.

Wednesday 26th. It transpires that small attack on Thursday night was carried out under German methods & ~~under command of Gen Lee von Sandt~~. During afternoon Turkish officer was seen approaching our lines under flag of truce. One of our Generals (I believe) went to meet him. Officer asked for armistice to bury dead. But owing to time of day & request not coming from right quarter & several other suspicious signs, the request was not granted. Soon after dark long lines of Turks with hands up were seen approaching, but behind them were seen many more fully armed. What could our men do but open fire which sent them better shatter back to their lines.

After ammunitions our guns & Jap mortars
shelled enemy. Mortars worked
late into night doing lot of damage.
Turks must have thought we were
going to attack & suddenly opened up
withering fire to which our men
hardly answered a shot. At in
rear on shell thought that something
was toward & put on our equipment
in readiness. I don't think we sus-
tained any casualties.

Yesterday our boy went back into
line. From there we have view
of Gabu Tze, the coast to south, &
large rock anse of sea. We witnessed
about 2 miles away, just off Gabu Tze
one of the saddest sights one could all.

It appears that some enemy
submarines had escaped from
I believe the Adriatic & a couple
had been noticed in this vic-
inity a few days ago with the
result that the scouts of
transports anchored off here
had left & taken cover at
Imbros & Lemnos Is. Yesterday
it is said that Ouzanne was
harassed by a submarine. She
gave signal to the Triumph
sister ship to Swift Sure & the
two of 17 engagements which was
lying off Gabu Tze preparatory
to some of her bombardments
to move. Apparently Triumph
did not take heed for she was
torpedoed; signals were sent out
& J.B.D. called from all directions.
She at once began to list to
starboard, but a J.B.D. was soon
at hand to aid in rescue &

search for submarine. Scores of
pinnares & trawlers flocked out
to her to lend a helping hand.

First I.B.D. & other boats were soon
packed with sailors. Dots of submarine
periscope could be seen even from three
200 yards from Triumph; several shots
fired without effect, it then disappeared.

Triumph waited more & more & suddenly
with very little warning she rolled
right over a few hours after being hit.

She had still many men on her, whom
I believe about 50 were killed by explosion
or drowned. She remained stuck
upward for another 20 minutes

finally settled down just leaving a
patch of oil to denote where she was
lying.

Scores of life boats, pinnares,
trawlers & I.B.D.s stood by picking
up those in water & afterwards waiting for
any bodies that might come to surface.
One of the cruellest sights was to see
enemy's sheepskin bursting over them
during rescue operations.

In meantime I.B.D.s had sped out
in all directions scouring the waters for
miles round in search of submarine.

About an hour later in practically
same spot where Triumph foundered
we could see wake of submarine.

One I.B.D. now handily raced full speed
at her, turned in her own length
trying to ram it & then fired shot
into water not 20 yards off.

She then stopped dead & we con-
cluded she had got it. I.B.D. came
racing back from all directions
hooved round for a while & then
again scattered. We later

heard that U.S.B. did not get submarine.
Last night was extremely quiet in
trenches. There was one sad occur-
ance. Lieut Smith newly promoted
from machine gun section was shot
in head through roof hole & killed.
He had done wonderful work with
M. Gun for which he received
promotion; it seems very sad after
getting on so well.

Gen Birdwood is having few days
spell & is being relieved by General
Borathus of S. African fame.

We have received the good news
that Italy has declared war, that
Bulgaria & Roumania are not far
off it & best of all that Russians
have landed 2 days march from
Constantinople; how much truth
there is in it all time will tell.

This afternoon French aeroplane
at height of some 5000 feet flew
over us & while we watched her we
saw her drop a bomb, watching its
flight until it dropped with awful
explosion into Turkish lines $\frac{1}{4}$ mile
from them.

Seven of our boys arrived back
this evening from Egypt, all
suffered slight wounds during
first few days.

Monday 31st. Very little has happened
last few days except that we don't
seem to get too much rest owing to
shortage of men.

at last after digging out 2 saps
out some 90 yards we have formed
our new firing line & have connected

up with 2nd Batn on left & 6 Coy on right. At present there is very little room in it as as yet it has not been improved. Just having observation posts made. There are 10 posts along our boy line, each with 6 men, 2 observing at time. This means 60 men on duty every night. Dorking, 2 hrs observing, 2 hrs standing by, & 2 hrs sleeping through 24 hrs. Then when they are relieved one platoon goes working party & one into support.

Men are complaining of overwork & began kicking up row. Anyhow things are being altered for better today.

Major Denton has got squadron of Light Horse to help.

We are beginning to play ruses on enemy to make them waste ammunition. Sometimes at night our men place baynets above parapet so that moon shining on them are visible from front & begin yelling out. Turks thinking we are going to charge invariably open up with their fire to which we don't respond.

Yesterday Turks blew up one of our saps & killing & wounding 7 of 2.2 dms & 16 of 1st Batt. They then used part of trench temporarily occupying it. 2.2 dms reformed & charged driving Turks back of 2 lines of their trenches ~~occupying~~ killing about 400.

Also on our right some of 9th Batt charged a trench bayneting 6 & taking 1 prisoner. JBD helped with gun fire.

We have no business here at all now all having gone elsewhere, only about $\frac{1}{2}$ doz JBDs to protect any shipping.

Even all cargo boats & transports
have left their shelter
from submarines.

Only one or two being there at times
when absolutely necessary & then
closely protected by J.B.D.

Two of our submarines have
been doing marvellous work in
Bosporus & Sea of Marmora sinking
several several transports etc.

Just heard that that hostile
submarine was captured at Lemnos
being run into Torpedo nets protecting
harbour.

Two of our first wounded arrived
back today, among them being women
from Galathea. They were at Malta
when they had a good time, inhabitants
went to see them arrive thinking they
were going to see black fellows & of
course were greatly disappointed.

One of my section gets a reinforcement
was going on sentry at mouth of Suf last
night when shot bullet hit him in
back, running along shoulder blade about
four inches but just beneath skin.
Had bullet extracted & is back with us
having few days rest.

— June 1915. —

Thursday 3rd. Talking to young Gathus
of Galathea, brother to one in our boy
who is in 16th Bat. 16th Bat. I
was at Linn's Post a rather hot corner
he said out of original Bat. & 4 reinf-
orcement in all about 1400 there were only
about 180 left. God knows how many
were killed. In one place Jinks trench

was only 6 feet from them others 6 yds
Most of casualties caused through
hand grenades. Other day when
Turks exploded their sap they occupied
sap & hole caused by explosion but
were soon driven out then mass of
Turks charged but were demolished by
our gun with fire. They also fired on
some of their own men in dark mist-
aking them for our chaps. They left
behind them between 150-200 casualties.
Yesterday couple of our own shells
hit embankment of our boy trenches
one exploding no damage done. Put
down to faulty manufacture. I took
news to Bata & Hd Qrs which was finally
handed on to Bgde Hd Qrs.

Major Denton received D.S.C. for services
rendered during first five days. Telephoning
positions of enemy guns etc. gained through
help & good work of Capt. Elliott & Lt. Selby &
to break enabling ships guns to shell
these positions. I should have liked to
have seen these two officers recognised
in some way for great work done by them.
Also Sgt. Ogling received D.C.M.

Saturday 5th. Thursday afternoon
was sent in charge of party to Army
Corps Hd Qrs for water as our own
gully is just about dry & water question
on this right flank is causing lot
of trouble. After leaving our quarters
here one goes along a broad winding
stony track down the course of the
gully until one arrives at the beach.
This track is of our own make being
bulldozed & made wide enough for
the passing along of field guns.

On way down one passes two dressing stations, comfortably incased in bomb proof dugouts. On arrival at foot of gully, there is an encampment of Red Cross people on slope of steep hill all well dug in. They seem to be having more of a pleasing camp than being on active service. Many of the men are dressed only in a pair of knickers, their backs & legs being extremely sunburnt a state in which I envy them; they seem to run down & indulge in a swim whenever they like, whereas we poor fellows don't know what it is like to wash ~~one's~~ faces for a week at a time sometimes & in some cases our boots don't leave our feet for speaking for myself, 9 days at a stretch. One then winds his way along the beach towards No 2's. The first comes to a pontoon jitty alongside which is a barge, on the beach is a pile of cases of tinned foods etc., also a stack of bales of fodder.

From here the beach begins to show life & business. A little further on comes across rows of carts, guns, carriages, stacks of timber & bunnells for pontoon jitty building; carpenters making burrows, blacksmiths sharpening tools, gangs making roadway up slope of cliff, crowds of other fatigues, Red Cross men flying their trade to the Blazing Station, which is composed of several large excavations in face of cliff bomb proof & well fitted out, slightly right opposite large pontoon jitty. Then come piles & piles of cases of food

using some 20 feet into the air, also
food, ammunition & all the material
necessary for the upkeep of a large
army.

Hundreds are in
swimming or washing clothes after long
confinement in trenches. And don't
they work in it! in one place they
have made a spring board on the
end of a barge which has been made
useless by enemy shrapnel & there
some show their skill at diving.

Looking up the steep hill which
rises from the beach to several hun-
dred feet one perceives the whole face
is honeycombed with dugouts of all
shapes & sizes & all more or less shrap-
nel proof. Many have quite elaborate
little homes made with boxes with
proof sheets, blankets or sackings & any little
knick knack procurable from beach.

beachhead telephone & telegraph wires
run in all directions from the L's.

Looking out & on one perceives several
cargo boats with barges towed by
tinnies flying between them & shore.

In the offing can be seen a cruiser
near Gulf of Suez, shepherded by
4 doz Y.B.D. firing broadside after
broadside into some enemy position.

The report of her discharge takes 20 secs
to reach here, she is some 7000 yards
distant.

Occasionally an enemy
shrapnel bursts from the beach
or well out over the water, but the men
seem to have grown callous to it all &
take no notice unless extremely close
when they may take cover until quitters
begin again.

Having filled our water cans we

hudge back a mile round the beach
have a rest & take the opportunity of
having a swim. We find the
water rather sharp after last
few cold nights & our shoes
acquaintance with it for over a week.
Then we begin our long weary trudge
back up the long slope to that little
bit of land that belongs to us (a boy
or what is left of it)

That night we played one of our ruses
by firing 10 rounds rapid. But I am
afraid Turks are taking a tumble to our
ways. Except round left where
there was quite lively exchange of shots
for a time

Yesterday down South in vicinity
of 6. Hells some 10 miles from there
a furious bombardment by
Germans. J.B.D. & allies land guns
raged from early morn until late
at night, the sound reaching us in
one continual roar. Many of the
shots we could see some of the ships
land on nearer slopes, denoted by
huge columns of dust & smoke. A hot
over the whole vicinity was a canopy
of dust. I believe the enemy casualties
were enormous.

Last night another heavy fusillade
all round line with cooperation of our
18 pounders & mortars. On left
things were rather warm. 7 Id's
captured 2 trenches but evacuated
them this morning as they were of
no use taken with our own lines.

Friday 11th. From Saturday 4 pm till
yesterday 4 pm our boys have been

spelled by Light Horse (6) It is the
longest spell we have had so far
& I must say was greatly appreciated
by all. We had several bathing
parties & each time brought back
drinking water. One day I was chosen
by Major Denton to represent our boy in
a bantam which was going to be started
on one of the boats. Being late in reporting
at 3rd Bide & 2 Lites I hurried down to
beach & was just in time to jump aboard
primarily & go out to one of the mine
distrofers. On arrival found they
had just got the loadings of two ship
cannons which they wanted to equally
divide among Batts of Division 1.

I was only one from our Batt. so could
only take a certain amount of stuff,
anything to £2-5/-, milk jam, cordials
sands, bottled meats, tooth brushes,
kate, etc.. On arrival back
at beach found there was no one to
meet me as arranged, so after strug-
gling with my load some distance I
left half of it with some stranger in the
dugout, trusting to his honesty & took
rest on coming back for remainder
later on. What little I had the men
rushed could have made enormous profit
if I had wanted to. They were awfully
disappointed when I told them it was
just a sack of some spare stock.

While on spell we had a couple of
night spasms. First night upris-
citations from each boy under
different officers. Went out & were
supposed to attack certain trench
through some muddling at first we
did not get our right positions.

particulars with result that affair was absolute farce. Some of our boys followed Capt ~~R~~ in mistake owing to dark, who was supposed to act as covering part with his men. He took his men about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile more to right than was needed. After extending & being ordered to advance over rise & take up position, about $\frac{1}{2}$ doz Turks rifles opened on them just as they got over rise, they all bolted back leaving about 9 of us behind which we found out about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour later, after crawling all over the place trying to connect up with them. When we did get back we found all the others had been in some time except Capt R. whom we found wandering about without one of his men, & M. D came along with one man. Stopping in gully, I called to these 2 last to come in several times but got no answer except to hear bayonet bolt worked & then voice ordering me to "Hands up". I don't know whether the man thought I was a Turk talking in English or what, but I have never heard of such an absurd occurrence before especially as I was only just outside our own trench.

The second night was much better carried out, things were explained & pointed out to us better & we knew our objective. Owing to very scrubby nature of country good formation could not be kept. Anyhow we got up close to trenches, being fired upon several times but after a while we got order to retire quietly as some one had passed word that Turks

were massing on our flank. Personally I think somebody saw hallucinations anyhow it was another night wasted.

Last few days have been hot windy & extremely dusty days & the flies are awful, D.D. is not a patch on it. Enormous blow flies, green backs & common house fly are every where. First on putrid dung heaps then most probably in your truck in swamps, in your eyes, mouth, on ears, in fact everywhere where they ought not to be. Then one can eat a meal in comfort, dust is everywhere, tea & jam get quite a scum on them, meat gets gritty. One can quite realise the probability of disease breaking out of course there is as much sanitation as possible as the life will permit.

Wednesday 16th. Things have been fairly quiet the last few days. We are all keenly waiting to hear what Greece is going to do after the elections, it is popularly thought that if Mr. Delagelos & his party are returned that war will be declared. Of course the Queen being German Emperor's sister may have a lot to do in the matter.

Sgt Major Mason & son of our boy who helped to form the 50th Bantam & Gen. San Hamilton have been away all this time only returning yesterday. Having been down to C. K. Wells & seen the operations there. They say casualties there are enormous the R. Army having about 18,000 alone.

There is a hill down there named Achhi Baba which they have been

trying to capture it is the key to the whole position down there, but it seems practically impossible to take it as it is honey combed with trenches & has $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide of barbed wire round it which makes it practically impregnable.

They were also over on Islands for some time & saw many Turkish prisoners.

Some more of our wounded returned this morning also Puckly who seems to have had bad time with his hands. He has been at Cairo all the time.

Best of all we have kept Williams back with us. He has been in charge of a basrah Military Prison all this time. We are all very glad to see him back.

Also 5th Reinforcement arrived this morning of which our boy got 35. This nearly brings our boy up to full number, of which only about 80 of old boy are left.

I am in my dugout outside lines at present. At times there is rather heavy artillery duel going on between our guns & enemy's.

One of our guns 50 yards away, fires right over my dugout & rather shakes me up. Of course shrapnel are bursting all round & I just heard one of ~~2nd~~ ^{2nd} ~~Batt~~ ^{Batt} fellows cry out having been hit.

Thursday 24th. We now spend 48 hrs in firing line same in support, & same outside working party.

God knows how long this will keep of, things are always being chopped & changed about & are never the same for a week at a time.

Spent Sun & Mon in supports had close shower from shell aimed at 8th Battery gun 20 yds behind shell struck parapet of support trench bursting & covering me in dugout in opposite wall with shower of earth. If it had missed parapet it would just about have done for me. Next shot got gun slightly injuring one man.

2nd Batⁿ had one of its shells on, while we were in supports ~~one~~ night, not having been warned we all jumped out of bunkers when devastating fire opened, but when we saw flames sent up we understood what it was.

Turks expended fair amount of ammunition in answering.

Two days in trenches uneventful. 6th reinforcements arrived, several men & one young subaltern. Lieut Franklin drafted to our Coy.

Make's one feel that if one had stayed behind a little longer one may have had the chance of a promotion. At same time I am glad to say that I was one of the first to volunteer & have seen service right from the jump of Austⁿ Active Service.

Received mail 22nd one letter & papers from home, 1 from Miss Smithwick & 1 from Ben Bryant.

Wednesday midday came outside & went working party. That night 36 of our platoon with 1 H. B. Co. officer went out at 9 pm & acted as covering party to party digging new trench from No 9. Sak. At that to crawl

working party. That night 36 of our platoon with 1 H. B. Co. officer went out at 9 pm & acted as covering party to party digging new trench from No 9. Sak. At that to crawl

our rise about 60 yards & take up ~~our~~
position commanding view of country in
front. I had charge of 12 men on left
flank. Party being split up into 3 groups
we had to lie there on our stomachs
until well after 3 am. (over 6 hours) & it
is to be hoped that I won't have another
such night for some time to come.
We had orders only to fire on large
parties or if attacked, but had to
have individual snipers alone.
Well there had been parties out two
previous nights & it is concluded
Gunks knew we were there. Anyhow
they began throwing hand grenades
at my party on left. First lobbed
amongst our feet bounced to rear &
did not explode. 2nd exploded 5 yards
to rear & exploded & 3rd landed along-
side head, one of my men, & exploded
knocking him unconscious by concussion
luckily hitting no others. Went back
& got stretcher bearers who removed
him & who were fired upon by one of
our sentry groups in post on left as
they did not answer when challenged.
Snipers came bang up against us
no 10 yards away being seen by several
of my men. There were 3 seen
of course there may have been more,
we could hear them whispering quite
plainly. Of course my party was too
small to try & take any active
action in capturing them & it would
have brought more Gunks down
upon us. So there we lay with
these men only a few yards in
front of us & on tenter hooks waiting

to see when next grenade would burst, not to mention the snipers shots zipping close over head & through the bushes. It was quite a relief when we got back. Slept till midday missing breakfast & had to the working flies. At 12 am. our men were called on fatigue work without having had breakfast or lunch much to everybody's disgust as we had been promised absolutely nothing to do until late in afternoon.

Trench doing good work down south capturing 2 lines of trenches after three attacks. Turks are said to have lost 11,000 dead 8,000 wounded & 20,000 sick since beginning of operations here.

— July. —

Friday 2nd. Have not written as noted last few days as mislaid note book. Last Sunday, I believe a hell of a bombardment by air down south some thousands reinforcements were landed & big movement was on. We could see bursting shells & clouds of dust raised by percussion shells from there.

Word came about midday (we found out later) to cause a demonstration here so as to prevent reinforcements from going south to Turks help.

Parts of our boys were ordered to hop over parapets & advance some distance out in front. Parts of most of our Brigade & 8th light

Horn also went out on extreme right & there took some trenches.

Turks massed to counter attack but were dispersed with help of our & torpedo boat guns. Our fellows had no need to hold trenches so later in day retired in good order back to their own trenches.

Of course enemy's gun & rifle fire was terrific, shell after shell bursting in front of our lads thus causing a perfect screen of dust & doing some damage. Our movement had desired effect in preventing reinforcements going south which were on point of moving. Our casualties were some 250 all told our Bata having 19 killed about 40 wounded & a few missing. "6" boy lost Capt La Haze, Lieut McDonald who only just arrived back, & many old school acquaintances of mine who was promoted after first few days here; also 2 officers wounded.

Two nights ago storm suddenly arose, night pitch dark, I believe Turks thought we would attack so opened up fire, no damage done. They got in before us in blowing up some tunnels in 2nd Bata lines. Ours were already to be blown up & were to be on Wednesday night but Turks blew up one of theirs & spoilt our two, burying a couple of poor fellows. Officers & 2 who went in to rescue them, were overcome with fumes (not serious).

Snipers have also been getting a few of our fellows lately. I

Our platoon have been kept on working party for some time now; last arrangement was knocked on head at its birth. So for water twice daily which takes some time owing to distance & scarcity of precious fluid, also rations to beach & Hd Qtrs, besides others on digging. Capt Brody & Sgt Mason (36th) have both been mentioned in dispatches.

Sunday 6th We came back into the firing line on 3rd July. Just before coming in Turks began dropping. I believe, 9 inch shells in vicinity of our gully. The first landing some 150 yards distant. 3rd shell hit a 2nd Bath dug out smashed 4 inch beam & broke in roof but luckily did not explode, immediately two men crawled from amidst wreckage absolutely unharmed. There was roars of laughter from onlookers most of whom had not taken won

I am afraid we are all more or less careless in that way & the wonder of it is that we don't lose more men than we do.

These shells can generally be seen coming, their approach is notified by a roar gaining in sound until the shell itself becomes visible something through the air most probably to drop only a few yards distant & more likely than not not to bang. Many of them are old fashioned lead coated shells & I believe

come across from Chanak on Asiatic side.

Things more or less quiet in lines there. There have been several artillerie duels between our guns a few yards off & enemy's on left. They sent the shells in some yesterday morning, but although they burst overhead & all round us I only heard two & slept through rest as I had just come off night shift. They have just been giving us a bit more.

Yesterday they got into one gun killing one & wounding three. Our men are doing good work down south gaining ground & repelling all attacks with severe loss to Turks.

Russian retreat looks alarming but for their well ordered method in hitting back hard at enemy when opportunity occurs.

We have lost both Capt Williams & Major Denton who have both gone away sick, so we are now in hands of two subalterns one 18 other 24 years old both reinforcements, also Lieut Gostulov who joined just previous to our landing both men are quite capable of looking after us.

Wednesday 14th. Luckily Mr Williams arrived back about the 9th but we have no idea how long Major Denton will be away. On 10th, 2nd Bath

blew up a tunnel but I don't think it did any extensive damage.

On 11th we were informed that it was a Turkish Holy Festival day & to look out for something happening. Right through the night our lines hit Turks. I know that we were well awake by sending in fusilades of anything up to 100 rounds rapid, which were well answered by enemy. Also there was a lively exchange of bombs & several of our guns sent many shells into Turkish lines. Also gas shells were fired which in places caused fires among the bushes.

Otherwise nothing of importance has occurred here lately. Spending any length of time in trenches becomes awfully monotonous, after 10 days just as we were becoming bored to death we were relieved by the 10th Bata. First time we have left those particular trenches for 10 weeks. This seems to be a jumble of tin howsoever we are now supposed to be having some 10 days spell situated in steep hill in old badly made dugouts & trenches some 200 yards behind firing line with several howitzers (Glasgow) guns 50 yards below us. It is no rest as we still have numerous fatigues & are not away from the sound of firing. Even last night at 11.30 pm they came & woke section commanders & woke men tell 'em that enemy were massing in front

& that they had to put on boots & equipment. They could not even let us have our first night as a proper rest. Still it is all in a soldier's day's work, so as they say, "Kup 'er ead up". It is said good news has been received from down South that we will hear it tomorrow.

Wednesday 21st So far no news of any importance has come through. We have any amount of work to do while there. Every 4th day we are duty boy what we have to send large batches of men down to the beach both day & night, as well as supply our own boys fatigues, generally to haul huge square iron tanks from the beach up some narrow twisting track up the very steep hill to a huge platform some 150 ft above sea level, where they are being placed in position for the purpose I believe of holding some six weeks reserve water supply. The other day I had 25 men down & as our party was too small to shift tanks on its own we joined in with 50 Maoris. They are a fine ruggedly stamp of men & wonderful workers. As I had a bona fide New Zealand shirt on that Campbell had given me I looked generally

clean for once & as I was helping
to subintend affairs, many
of Indians took me for a
"bloomin' officer"; of course
I did not enlighten them on
the subject.

It's a hard life here & I am
sure the majority of us feel
that we want a spell right
away from the place to recuperate.
We seem to be losing all strength
& energy what with the lack
of enough good nourishing food,
diaphore, stuffs, hell climbing,
varying hours of duty etc. although
last few days we have had slight
change of tucker for better, being
issued with more fresh meat, some
rice & flower which makes quite
an appreciable change from cont.
inert dog & biscuit.

If we did not see the hum^{orous}
side of some thing & be amused
by the unintentionable doings
& sayings of a couple of fellows
here, I really don't know how
we would drag through life.
Anyhow the boys have all
got life in them still & if
it came to a pinch would I am
sure put up as good a fight as on
the first day of landing.

Your commissions been granted in
Bath, Puckle, Proctor, Mettalf & Potter,
last named I do not know, Puckle
of course we are all extremely sorry to lose
him as of course he goes to another boy.
He was liked by everyone & I can safely

say as one will miss him more than I will. Anyhow Good luck to him & a brilliant future!

Proctor & I met at are both old school acquaintances of mine.

It has appeared in Gedus that 100,000 reinforcement Turks many of them I believe raw recruits from Adrianople are on their way down here.

Monday 26th Things have been just as quiet last few days & we have not had quite so much work to do. Also the Tucker seems to be on the improvement. And then if one gets hold of good energetic cooks they take an interest in trying to please the men. We had an issue of tin milk first time today 1 tin for 8 men.

We have been expecting a big attack lately from 100,000 reinforcement, especially on 21st & 22nd July which were beginning of Turkish Religious Festival days. Result is that since then we have stood to every night at moon set & again from 3 to 4 am.

Three of our platoon arrived back from Malta a couple of days ago, they were wounded the day we landed. They were all as right as rain for several weeks past but the doctors did not seem to want to turn them out & send them back. There seems a great laxity in this, by all accounts there are hundreds of men at Alexandria Cairo & Malta who are quite recovered from their wounds some put in the plaint that they don't feel fit to come

back just because they don't want to face the hardships & wish to stay there & have a good easy time. Others are given a cursory examination by doctors & are kept behind. I reckon the authorities ought to have a big clearing up of all Hospital centres, pack the men aboard ship & send them back here. It seems hard when one thinks there are so many others who have been here for three solid months & still have no prospect of a shell.

It made me feel quite envious when these three fellows told us of the good times they have been having at Malta, they were on the first ship load of Australians to arrive there. Both the English & Maltese inhabitants could not do enough for them: decorated them with flowers, held receptions, invited them to their homes times out of number & took them for motor drives, mixed bathing parties etc. They all seemed surprised that our fellows were not black & that they all spoke such excellent English. It still shows how little known Australia is to people in this part of the world.

We relieve the 12th Bde in their trenches tomorrow, it being a new position to us & in places only 30 yards from Jack's trenches. I believe we only go in for a fortnight or so.

— August. —

Tuesday 2nd. This is a very intricate piece of trench work having several firing lines some of them concealed also underground communication trenches. The actual firing line is a detached post about a 100 odd

yards out in front partly across a wheat field. Some 50 yards in front just on the brow of the hill is a Turkish trench practically all of which is invisible from here.

Well tunnels have been run out to nearly under the Turkish trench & on Saturday night at about 11 pm. there were blown up, the most heavily charged not going off as electric wire had ~~not~~ been broken.

Immediately after 50 men from each bay charged the trenches, a terrific fire was opened by Turks from their main firing line also many field guns opened on us. Our men seized the trench driving Turks out at point of bayonet. But they were infiltrated by machine guns & a small detached trench which was still held by Turks. Another party of about 30 men went out to drive Turks out of this ~~position~~. I believe only 4 of this party escaped unharmed.

All through the night men were busy reconstructing the trench by making suitable to face the Turks, making observation posts, filling bags for parapet & deepening trench & connecting tunnels with trench for communication.

By yesterday night it was made practically safe. Bombs were freely thrown at our men all through the night & early next morning field guns played on trench.

Our casualties were at the least 25 killed & 100 wounded. Poor old Puelah was killed leading his men just before leaping into the trench. It is awfully hard & one ~~somehow~~ cannot realize

as yet he is gone. He was loved by everyone & was a brave man & a gentleman. His career has been snuffed in the end. It seems the same with all our subalterns who have risen from the ranks. Lieut. Pany Smith & Puckale have been killed, Lieut. Potter wounded (~~last~~ night) & Lieut. Dunning gone away ill.

Barque was also killed & Dentyon wounded, all the old friends seem to be going. Capt. Leare was also wounded.

I was on duty in the firing line at the time so could not take part in attack.

The rest of "D" Coy relieved the position at midday, one saw some awful sights, after crawling through small gap connecting trench with tunnel the first sight that met our eyes was a dead Turk in a sitting position who had been buried by the fall of earth after explosion. Next were many of our dead outside the trench about a yard apart, then 2 more dead strung up to side of trench to keep trench clear. Then (this I did not notice until later) a body in bottom of trench covered with sand & everyone walking over it, feet of head & arms showing, then one of our men in sitting position with head blown off by shell, he had just been going to fire, & last of all a Turk thrown up on parapet with big hole in head, he had odd worn out boots, strips of blanket for puttees, trousers were just held together by huge patches etc. The day was extremely hot & though so soon the air was becoming putrid. Nearly all our dead were brought in last night but there are many Turks to be buried yet. They must have lost at least 100 killed.

Monday 9th. Here I am aboard
the hospital ship "Sicilia"
in bed with a shrapnel pellet in thigh
& by the feel of it, it is mighty close
to the joint as it is absolutely
impossible for me to bend or move my
leg at all. It means of course X Rays
& ichloroform, but taking it all round
it is a very minor wound.
Well to go back to last Wednesday
the 6th & 7th Reinforcement arrived
& were drafted into Batⁿ bringing
it nearly up to strength again
(300 in all). One officer Lieut
Hall was drafted to our boy.

Early Friday morning Turks made
an attack on Lean's trench, the
aforementioned one captured from them
last week & gained a footing in part
of it. A bomb fight ensued & then
part of "D" boy 15 & 16 platoons
launched an attack from Sasmia
post & got very badly cut up.

Lean's post is open to fire from
over a mile of Turkish trenches in
some places 2 lines, & also field
guns, result was our chaps had
an exceedingly bad time. In the
end Turks were driven out. Word
then came that a party of Turks just
down the slope concealed were under-
mining the trench preparatory to
blowing it up. Thirty men from
13 platoon under Lieut Hall were
ordered to drive them out at point
of bayonet. This was at about 9 am.
Before starting we all knew that it was
practically hopeless job & that we would

be lucky if we got back alive. It was
between 8 & 9 am + a clear bright day
we had to charge from Laomania Post
over a wheat field for about 60 yards
& then down the thick brushy slopes to where
the Turks were working. As soon as
we made our appearance "Hell" was let
loose from Turkish trenches, machine guns
& hundreds of rifles played on us also
shrapnel. I don't know whether any
one ever came to grips with the Turks.
I know I did not. I got couple of yards
down the hill when I got a crack the
bomb bursting just in front of me, &
thought my ticket was up. I was not
wounded except for very small scratch, a
piece of casing of bomb had hit my
shoulder cutting to my tunic. The
fellows were lying everywhere trying to
take cover of which there was
absolutely none, all of them being hit
I received one from shrapnel in
thigh, was lying in brick ditch in ground
when Turks threw another bomb which
bopped alongside me, rolled out onto flat
ground just in time, it exploded immedi-
ately afterwards & would have been all
round up with me if I had lain still.
I was now in hopelessly exposed position
on edge of wheat field. Bullets pinged
all round knocking up sand everywhere,
got a crack in foot & thought my toes were
gone, but no they were still there. I did not
think I was hit badly, as a little later
seeing a couple of fellows making a dive
for Alan's trench 20 yards distant I
thought I would chance it too so I got
only to find my leg give under me &
down I went again. Look cover behind

a 6 inch mound of earth with my head
well down. I can tell you I did not
feel too happy lying there helpless with
the bullets splashing all round & with
plenty of time on my hands to do some
thinking & wondering how long it would
be before I was laid right out. Next
to me lay Keys, 7th Reinforcement & one
time of Koozrina, hit through head
& I believe dead; a little more to left
was Frank Rooker hit in back, to right
were several others some wounded & some
dead. down the hill were more in what
flight I know not. One fellow with finger
blown off crawled up & made dive for
lunch. He got there safely but attracted
all the fire again which had slightly
slackened off.

After lying for 2 hours imitating the
dead a stutcher braver who was at
end of trench got his prizes he & me
& induced me to have a try to get in.
Previously I had decided to lie there till
dark & then come in. Just as well I
did not as 10 to 1 I would have been knocked
out as there was to be a big attack that
night.

Edged my way on my
stomach a few inches at a time,
dragging my equipment after me, over
some poor dead fellows legs until
I got to rear of left end of trench where
two fellows with aid of shovel pulled
me over into the trench & safely.

I heard later that there were still
18 of 30 missing among them being got
back of Eldon & Clint Hall I God
knows whether they were all killed
or not. And of those who got in

nearly all were wounded.

Concerning my trip to the Hospital this I will give a brief summary.

From Lane's trench I was carried through tunnels & communicating trenches to the dressing station where my wound was dressed, I landed on stretcher & carried by 4 bearers to another station where I was handed over to 4 bearers who carried me down to clearing station on beach, where I only waited about an hour. Two barges were to take us out towed by a pinnace. As all stretcher accommodation was taken up I was propped up on some boxes & had rather an unpleasant trip out owing to barge bumping against pinnace whole time. Hauled up on deck on stretcher by winch & then carried below & placed in bunk & after a time had wound redressed. I envy some of the fellows who can get out & hop about on's back get very sore when it is the only position one can be in as my leg seems paralyzed at joint & prevents me getting any other position with comfort.

Sunday 16th That Friday night some operations commenced aided by new landing forces at Suvla Bay. No news is published here in Egypt but by what one can gather wonderful progress has been made of ~~course~~ course at cost of huge casualty list. Although we were the first boat to fill we were not the first at Alexandria. We left Amara on Saturday morning went to Embos, discharged most walking cases

onto large liner, went back to Anzac
on Sunday, took on more patients,
left for Limnos where more walking
patients disembarked & others came
aboard, & finally left for Alexandria
on Tuesday morning where we arrived
about Thursday midday. The ship
had about 600 patients aboard, 500
being in beds in wards, remainder on
deck. We could by no means complain
at our treatment.

~~Friday~~ Thursday afternoon more serious
cases were sent ashore. I may remark
there were 50 deaths on the trip across
rather a large percentage I should
say. Next morning Aust & H. Jones
were sent to Cairo by Hospital train.
British cases remaining at Alexandria.

Train was very comfortable & clean
each patient having a sheltered bed
to himself. Had light lunch aboard
roll & butter & egg, & arrived at Helio-
polis mid afternoon stopping just
opposite Heliospolis Palace Hospital, a
fine edifice I described some months
ago. Taken by motor ambulance to
front entrance deposited in hall, had
particulars taken, ticketed & carried
away to No 7 ward upstairs. Got a
bed alongside a window with fair
outlook, cool breeze in morning but rather
hot during afternoon. We are excellently
looked after here, plenty of doctors
nurses & orderlies, good & plenty of plain
nourishing food, clean comfortable beds
etc.. They say they are going to
put me under X. Rays to locate bullet.
Of course if it is bad position it will

have to come out. The wound itself is painless & getting on well & stiffness is gradually leading muscles & allowing movement of leg to slight extent. although at present cannot put an ounce of weight on it. Going to have a try to get round on crutch later on.

Night nurse of this ward remembers us when we lived at Fanning Bridge asked me if I was one of the Swimming Bandwells.

There is an old friend of Hugh Pickers in my room, went to school together for years. They were both in same boy in 5th Bath. His name is Borraman.

Friday 20 Have been able to get round on crutches last few days. But here I am again on my back for a few more days. On Wednesday I was put under X Rays & bullet was located near the bone some 6 inches lower down than point of entrance. Thursday morning went under chloroform. Had been warned that I would be rotten after it, would be allowed no water, food, etc. It took some time to send me off. I can remember Doctors talking saying the liquid evaporated too quickly & it might be necessary to keep mask over face throughout operation. I can remember thinking that I was not quite off yet but was determined to be. Still thinking or dreaming this I awoke to find myself back in my own bed. Fell sleep, suffocated, & leg was rather sore for an hour or so but after that resolutely picked up book & read & was so much better 2 hours later when lunch arrived that

I had some rice custard & later had enormous tea & then supper.

But had rather night, by was rather painful & could not get comfortable position, the night was also very close. Sat up in bed half the night but today feel first rate & if I go on at same rate it won't be long before I am out of Hospital.

Received visit from Archdeacon Bollet who had just arrived from D.C. He recognised a resemblance & found he was right in his surmise.

Had been in South Africa with Benie & again just lately in camp with him.

Monday 23rd.

I am going ahead first rate & am going to give the crutches another try this afternoon.

Have been fortunate in having some visitors. On Saturday Lieut. Gibbings of G'dton & another officer of 28th Bata visited me. They are at present garrisoned at the Citadel.

On Sunday, my birthday, I had a very pleasant surprise in a visit from Tiny Hoyt. Last time I heard from him he said he & Hocking were joining the Light Horse but they were unable to get in so they joined the 16th A.A. B.C. & are just present at the aerodrome Heliopolis. We spent the whole afternoon conjuring up old times & past experiences.

Also Frank Wright of G'dton who is in A.M.C. here comes in nearly every day, & also Sister Egers whom I met in D.C.

We have plenty of excellent food & are looked after splendidly by everybody.

One of the patients, Green of 11th Batn Reinforcement goes out from here this afternoon to another Hospital. He has a small splinter of bomb imbedded behind knee, rather dangerous operation so it is being left with the hope that his leg will straighten with exercise & that fragment will work out. Another fellow in this room, Sgt Banks of 13th Batn has bullet in forehead. It had passed through cranium in skull not damaging the bone. They are afraid to remove it & so most likely he will be sent home. He saw a very interesting X Ray photo of it.

I forgot to mention that Lieut Franklin who though only a boy promised to be such a fine officer was mortally wounded on Friday 6th & died aboard the Sicilia also Lieut Proctor who was just promoted was killed. He was an old school acquaintance.

Monday 30th. Am still here in No 7 ward enjoying the comfort & lazy life to the full. I am able once again to get about without crutches the wound having nearly healed being perfectly clean right through.

Have had several visitors lately A. J. Brown who was hit by bomb some time ago & who is at present at Helouan came up to be X Rayed as Dr at last really thought there must be something in his leg. It was found there was a spine of

bone imbedded in thigh bone & bone
is decaying. He told me Dr said it
would mean a trip to Aust & would
be at least 12 months before he would
be fit again. & then the silly young
ass is talking of rejoining this
Batt. **Incidentally** the courier from Edin.

King Hoys came in on Saturday
but it was to say goodbye as he was
off to Gallipoli with the 6th Bde
on Sunday. It was hard luck after
having just found each other & lose
sight of one another immediately
afterwards.

The 6th Bde left yesterday & the 7th
Bde leave about next Sunday.
My good luck go with them.
Five days ago Lieut Mitcalfe
of 11th Bn was admitted here
suffering from dysentery. I saw him
the next day. He gave me a piece of
news that nearly bowled me over being
so unexpected. It was to the effect
that I had been granted a commission
along with Sgt Major Mason, Sgt Touch &
Archibald (all D Coy) & several others.

I can't quite imagine yet that I
Barnard Barclay will be entitled
to wear a star & will be the recipient
of 2/- per diem. I am trying
to substantiate my claims for
medium Lieut Mitcalfe at Aust Inter-
mediate Base bars where it should
be gazetted sooner or later so that
I may take advantage of it while
occupating. I have both Capt
Corley & our lost friend Lieut
Franklin to thank for the change in

my future. I can't quite realise it yet & often think I will wake up & find it all a dream.

Gallipoli news is absolutely nil here all we know is that our centre & left flanks have advanced well in conjunction with landing at Anzali Bay. Let us hope the boys will continue the way they have been going & bring the campaign to a speedy end as a winter campaign there would be absolute hell.

That little change I was in, I got back one of whom was unwounded, just out of 30 killed. God! it's awful.

— September —

Wednesday 9th. Still here & will be really sorry to leave as it has been a real home during past weeks. My room mate Bill Banks left this morning & has gone to Helwan. He still carries bullet in forehead, doctors seemed afraid to operate. I should have been turned out long ago but they have kept me on while I have been waiting for some official notification of my commission from Cairo. Still got limp but he is getting stronger every day now there is only small scar to show old wound. Nurses are all very good & have looked after me excellently. Touch came over to see me about week ago & told him news of commission. He was at Allen Hospital. Poor fellow bullet severed nerve & he has lost use of arm. After he had gone Mrs Branch of Church came along inquiring for him. She wanted him to go out

& stay with her to convalesce. She generally has a few chaps out there. She asked me to call when I felt fit. Well a couple of days ago Mrs Summons who spends all her time over here among the patients doing excellent work, wife of Major Summons of Victoria who is Registrar here, brought an invitation to me from Mrs Branch to go & convalesce at her home, which is in the centre of the beautiful Ghazal Gardens. Of course I jumped at it, my doctor Capt Knight being agreeable, but when it was put before Col Mordley (C.O.) he just shook his head, anyhow I hope to be allowed to go in the end for a week or so.

Louise is already there.

Hospital trains arrive here every few days bringing their loads of sick & wounded to be distributed amongst the Hospitals. They are a great many dysentery & enteric cases coming across now.

Have heard no news at all from Front lately. But there is a rumour floating round that transport carrying 21st Batⁿ (Tie) was torpedoed but it is not official & there are no particulars to hand.

Wednesday 16th. My happy stay at Helipolis came to an end on Tuesday morning when I was transferred to Al Hayat convalescent Hospital Telouan. Got word my commⁿ was gazetted last Saturday was allowed to take advantage of it Monday when I got permission to

go into Cairo & draw some of the
kindful & get some appropriate clothing
& by jove it does run away with the
money.

I have to thank Sisters Jackson, Martyn
Siott Smith & Tyus for the kind
treatment I received while at Helio. I
arrived out here, Helwan, Tuesday morning
& am now incarcerated in the officers quarters.
Al Hayat Hotel is a winter pleasure
resort a beautiful high position on
edge of desert about 20 miles from Cairo.
The Nile with its fertile flats is visible
from here, with the Pyramids of
Sakhara in the distance.

There are about 30 officers & some hundred
men recuperating here. Some of them
are being sent to England or Australia on
furlough. I reckon in some cases men
have imaginary complaints & get this
furlough & then so few are discharged
fit for active service too many for
light duties in Egypt.

I have heard rumours of our
Division being hauled out of the line.
For a spell & to reorganise, but hope it
is true.

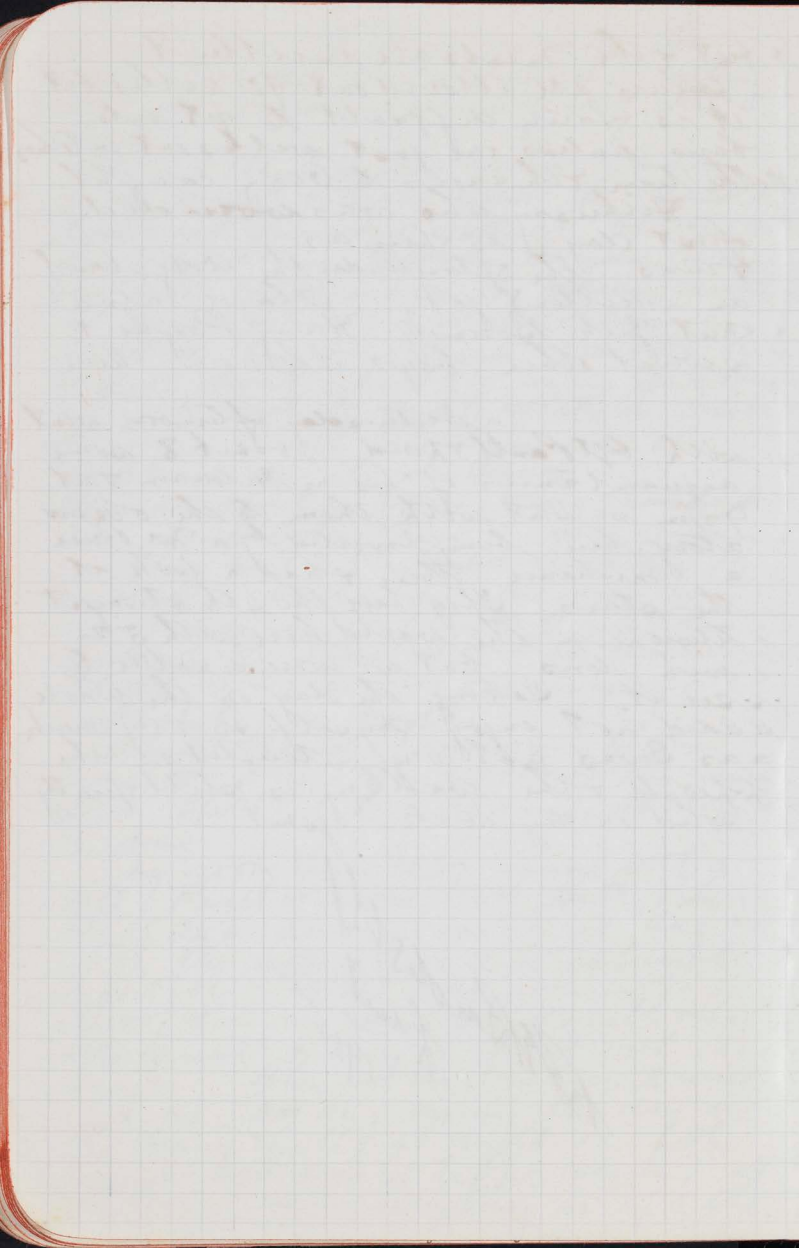
My room here No 67 shared with a
Capt Paul of Moora, 16th Bn, only a
boy of 24 summers promoted at 'Anzac',
is on the upper floor & is extremely
comfortable. Fine beds, wardrobe,
chest of drawers, wash stand & table & chairs
with small balcony in front with cane
lounges. Then we have natives to wait
upon us. We dine during the day in
the dining hall & at night on the
piazza at small tables seating at
the most four, everything is of the

best of the meats are excellent &
officers are allowed out for walks but
it is fairly difficult to get into
Sario unless one just walks out catches
the train & chances to being caught.

Hithersay who was wounded
first day is here as
runs the place under the Adjutant
an excellent job. I have also
met Jack Bonney, Harry Payne &
several other boys I know & here

Wednesday afternoon went
with Capt Paul & Aid visit to some
acquaintances of his in Helouan & at
9 pm we went with them to the observ-
atory here being invited by a Mr Price
a mechanic. They & had a look at
the stars. They have the 4th strongest
telescope in the world here with 32
inch lens but we were unable to
see it. Taking the day on the whole
I did not enjoy myself so very much
as I was not very interested in the
people & the walking is still pretty
solid on my weak joint

W. B. Randsell
Lieut
1915





$$3:8 = 2:12$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 21 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 21 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 21 \\ 21 \end{array} = 12$$

$$2.5:30 = 10:12$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \times 30 \\ 36 \end{array}$$

$$10:12 = 21:25$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 12 \\ 25 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 21 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 21 \end{array}$$