

DIARY OF PTE P.G. GRAHAM - No.327 C Company 8th Battalion

Born 10.2.1897

Killed 8.5.1915

Percy George Graham
Connewarre East
via Geelong
Victoria

Enlisted Aug 24/14
Trained for Broadmeadows
August 26/14

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| Aug 25th | Drove to Geelong. Saw fire in D. Walkers shop.
Went to English Courtiers. Stay at Preston Hotel. |
| Aug 26 | Left Geelong at 8 a.m. Got to B.M. half past 12.
Got examined & passed. Done no drill & not sorry.
Have to start tomorrow suppose. |
| Aug 27 | Got up at 6.30 a.m. Wash & got a mug of coffee & a
hard biscuit. Physical drill till 7.45; breakfast.
Squad drill & served out with rifles & bayonet.
Saw a load of uniforms come; the first I think.
Out learning the first of drill now. Such as "attention"
"Stand at ease" "Stand Easy". Having a spell now.
Called up in the afternoon & served out with belt,
pouches, water-bottle & food bag. Went to Y.M.C.A. &
Salvation A. but didn't stay long. Going to bed now. |
| Aug 28 | Drill all day. Allotted to No.2 C.Company. Walked to
Y.M.C.A. at night. Had a good time in tent at night.
Murphy singing. |
| Aug 29 | Raining when woke up. Fired up at half past 9 oclock.
No drill at that time. Some of us have to shift to
different tents today. (Half past 9) Been on Ration
duty all day. Carting uniforms, meat, (& straw for
bedding). |

Aug 30th Sunday today. Went to church parade. All the batallions there; it looked great. Two chaps got pulled up for smoking on parade. Cautioned because first offence. About 20,000 people visited the camp today. The mates friends brought hampers & we had a good tea. Lined up for uniforms but I was too late. Only got great coats. Bob got his uniform. Saw Harry Green & Mis Mackerel.

Monday Aug 31st Had a day drilling & skirmishing; it is pretty solid work.

Tuesday Sept 1st Drilling & skirmishing again. Got a touch of influenza; feel pretty crook.

Wednesay 2nd Feel a bit better today. Skirmishing again today. Ballarat lads went home today. Talk of Geelong going tomorrow. Some of lads came in boozed last night & night before. They were good fun.

Thursday Sept 3 Drilling all morning. Geelong crowd got leave. Left Broadmeadows half past one; got to Geelong 5.10. Jim drove us home; got home about 8 oclock.

Friday Sept 4th John Cameron came over to say good-bye. Went to Heads & said goodbye to them all. Jim drove us to station. A big crowd there. Got to camp at half past nine.

Saturday Sept 5 A lot of the men voted. We were drilling & skirmishing all day.

Sunday 6th Went to church parade. Crowd started to come at 1/2 past eleven. Stayed in tent all day. Went on guard at 6 oclock for 24 hours.

Monday On guard all night in stretches of 2 hrs on guard & 4 hrs spell. Was guarding the hospital tent. A chap in it with D.T.s. It took 12 men to arrest him. Brought him over to the guard tent this morning. Finished guard at 6 oclock & turned into bed after writing some letters.

Tuesday 8th	Marched out of camp about 2 miles & were out all day. Had to take our feed with us. Were skirmishing all morning & had a good time in the afternoon. We have to turn out at half-past nine tonight for about an hour & have to be up at 5 in the morning.
Wednesday 9th	Went for a 9 mile march in morning & got back to camp for dinner. Skirmishing all afternoon. It rained a little in the morning.
Thursday 10th	Out marching all morning along the roads. Went about 10 miles. Had dinner on the roadside. Skirmished some of the way home & then marched the last 3 miles.
Friday	Got up early & were issued with dinner. Had to go to Williamstown for shooting. At Williamstown now. A wonderful range. There are ten targets for each letter of the alphabet & mounds of 100 yards long. Shot fairly well. Some did really good shooting. One chap couldn't hit target at all. Got home about (continued on following leaf)
Saturday 12th	Went out about 4 miles & had an easy day, got back at about 4.30. Turned in early. Norman McDonald was looking for us but didn't see him.
Sunday 13th	They let us have a while longer in bed. Pulled all tents down after breakfast. Then went to church parade. Stayed in tent until 4.30 & then got pulled out for picket duty. Stayed on until 6.30 & no one came to relieve so cleared out. No-one said anything.

Monday 14th	Started out marching at about 9 oclock & kept going until 12. Out about 10 miles now & have to go back. Some of us will be pretty tired. Skirmished most of way back. Got home very tired. Glad to go to bed.
Tuesday 15th	Went out about 2 miles. Had squad drill all morning. Practiced range-finding & passing commands after dinner. Had an easy time. Bob got name taken & is waiting to see result at office now.

Friday 11th Continued. 3 o'clock; had nothing to do after that. Only marched out on to the grass & laid down until 4 o'clock; then went in to tea.

Forgot to mention that we had kit bags issued. Two shirts 2 pair under-pants guernsey 2 brushes shaving brush tooth brush 2 singlets knife fork & spoon in them.

Wednesday 16 Went to Williamstown for shooting. Poor old Bob discharged being too young. C. Company over strength.

Thursday 17th Had washing parade in the morning. All lined up & had to wash dirty clothes. Didn't take long - Just lay about all morning. Had to take tents down & air all kit before breakfast. After dinner had kit inspection to see what each man had. Two aeroplanes soared over the camp & landed in the Artillery reserve. Didn't get over to see them. A big crowd of volunteers came into camp for second expedition.

Friday 18th Went out about 2 miles & had an easy day & got home early. Had our photo's taken each company at a time. Saw the last of Bob. He got paid & went home.

Saturday 19th Got paid last night £3.15/-. Raining during the night. Got issued with a razor; also house wife cholera belt socks comb & two or three other things. Rained all morning. Went out in the rain marching till dinner-time. Had nothing to do all afternoon.

Sunday 20th Cleaned up lines scraped all mud up. No church parade. Dad & Jim came down in afternoon left about 3.30. Wrote some letters in Y.M.C.A. at night.

Monday 21st Done some skirmishing in the morning; came back to camp for dinner. Saw a train load of artillery guns go away. Went out marching all afternoon; got home at about 5.45 & had to go on guard at 6 o'clock. Got tea all right but feel a bit tired.

Tuesday 22nd Got a fairly easy time today. Collected a lot of passes at the gate. Some dummy ones. 8th Battallion gone out for a long day's skirmishing. Finished guard at 6 oclock. Saw Maurice Ahearn.

Wednesday 23rd Went out 4 miles & back before dinner. Had skirmishing & a lecture on entraining & rules on board boat after dinner.

Thursday 24th Issuing kit & getting us ready for march through Melbourne; everybody excited about the march through city.

Friday 25th Got to train at about 9.30. Trained to Melbourne & marched through streets & then out to Royal Park. Had dinner there & saw Ella & Nell & Bob Barnett. Marched out to camp & C. Company were in-lying picket.

Saturday 26 Inspection of kits in the morning. Got orders at 11.30 to be ready for embarking at 2 oclock: got ready & only went on parade ground for 2 hours & back to lines. Bell, Ella Nell & Bob came out.

Sunday 27 Went to church parade. Ella came out again. Saw Vivie Green.

Monday 28th Went out 2 miles & all dug trenches; 2 ft long 2 ft wide & 3 ft deep for each man. Went to C. of E. tents & played draughts & read in the evening.

Tuesday 29th Marched out 3 miles in morning: got back for dinner. Were out until half past ten at night on out-post duty.

Wednesday 30th Had an easy morning. Got up at 6.45. Just sat about all morning. Packed kits & struck camp & got ready for embarkation (practice) in the afternoon.

Thursday Oct 1st Were out skirmishing; had blank cartridges issued but I didn't use any; a lot of the other Companies did.

Friday 2nd Went out 4 miles & C company were the enemy but we didn't have to do any work.

Saturday 3rd March 2 miles to creek & had a swim & washed our dirty clothes in the morning. Went out in the paddock & practised range-finding.

Sunday 4th Had church parade in morning. Just stayed about camp with Bill Fuller all afternoon.

Monday 5th Had a long day. Went out early & the 7th & 8th Battallions attacked the 5th & 6th. It was very hot & we had a hard time. Had a swim as we came home.

Tuesday 6th Sports today. Entered for 100 yds but got run out. Some good races in the morning among the 8th battallion. Had a good afternoon watching races - 2nd force got off & Bill Les & Jock came up.

Wednesday 7th Went out marching the 5th & 6th attacked 7th & 8th & the 7th & 8th won easily. A very hot day. Had a swim coming back.

Thursday 8th Went 2 miles to creek for swim & to wash clothes. Got home at 12.30 & went out skirmishing at 2 p.m.; a hot day again.

Friday 9th No early morning parade. All battallion went out together. Measles in C company this morning. Skirmishing all morning. Two battallions went out 6 miles & camped out all night.

Saturday 10th Got up at 2.45 & breakfast at 3.30. On the march at 4 oclock & started skirmishing at 6 oclock: two battallions attacked the other two & kept at it until 10 oclock; got home at 11.30 for dinner. Nothing to do for the afternoon. Had to have a roll call every hour in evening.

Sunday 11th No church parade in the morning. Nothing doing all afternoon. In-lieing picket at night.

Monday 12th Went out 4 miles & skirmishing all morning. Got home early.

- Tuesday 13th Went out & filled in trenches which had been dug & went for a route march.
- Wednesday 14th All 4 battallions went skirmishing again: We had an easy day. Got to camp at 3.30. Go on guard at 6 oclock.
- Thursday 15th On guard all night & day. Rained a good deal during the night. Jack Mc went home on sick leave.
- Friday 16th Got up at 1 a.m. & marched 6 miles in dark. Other battallions had sham fight: 8th were lucky & were not in it. Got to camp at 12.30. Had an easy afternoon & got paid £5.10.0s.
- Saturday 17th Been crook all day with piles. Did not go marching in morning. Kit bags packed & taken on board boat. To embark Monday morning. None of 8th battln. to leave lines this afternoon without special permission.
- Sunday 18th Bad all day with piles: had a bad time. Only a few visitors out: none allowed in camp.
- Monday 19th Up early & got to train at 9 oclock. On board ship at 11.30: had a good trip up the bay. Still bad with piles.
- Tuesday 20th Well out in ocean when woke up. Slept in hammocks: everybody: They are very comfortable. Bad again; saw the doctor & he ordered me to hospital. In now: hope soon out. Sisters & chaps in hospital very nice.
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- Wednesday 21st Still in hospital, feeling a little better. Doctors made another examination & are to operate this evening.
- Thursday 22nd Operated on at 5.30 yesterday evening. Felt very sore for a while bit it soon got so I didn't notice it much. Doctor dressed wound at 12.30. Hurt something awful. To be here a fortnight or three weeks.
- Friday 23rd Sea a bit rougher today; been lovely so far: 3 big albatross following; come quite close to the boat at times. Had nothing to eat since Tuesday dinner time. Doctor just fixed me up; didn't hurt quite so much; bad

enough though. Seven in hospital now. Captain Trickey one of them. Passed one of the troop-ships this morning.

- Saturday 24th Still fine weather. Had a good night's sleep & am feeling hungry. Had nothing since Tuesday. Just going through Heads at Albany at 9 o'clock. A lovely sight to see the cliffs. Can't see very much through being in hospital. Just through port-hole.
- Sunday 25th Another lovely day. Still in port. Feeling about the same. Haven't had anything to eat yet; could eat almost anything. Saw a paper yesterday, something now to see one. Had a little soup for dinner. Saw some wild flowers that had been brought from the shore. They are lovely. Had a little bread & milk for tea.
- Monday 26th A bit rougher this morning. Raining a good deal. Still in hospital. Two different nurses on today. Eight in hospital now. Captain Trickey went out today. Can see four other troop-ships through hospital door as boat swings round. One gun-boat in port with us now.
- Tuesday 27th Still in port; & weather fairly rough. Allowed a good break-fast this morning, & am feeling grand. Got a letter from Nell. No talk of leaving port yet.
- Wednesday 28th Still in hospital & feeling well. Seven more ships came in this morning. Some troop-ships & some gun-boats. A chap fell down stairs today & broke a finger & sprained his ankle. He also spilt the breakfast for his table. A chap off one of the other boats was found drowned on the shore today. No-one knows what happened so far.
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- Thursday 29th Still in hospital & feeling well. Another fine day & nothing doing.
- Friday 30th Shifted in to the pier this morning. All the lads greatly excited. One half of battalion to go on a route march this morning & the other half in the afternoon. Another lovely day; still doing well. Four more

patients in hospital today, but some have gone out so evens things up a bit. Measles on board & the isolation hospital nearly full; don't know how many beds there.

Saturday 31st Still in port & weather still fine. Moved away from wharf this morning. Some say we are to start tomorrow morning. Fifteen in hospital now. Got a letter from home.

November

Sunday 1st Left Albany about 8 oclock this morning. They say it is a grand sight to see all the ships. It is still lovely weather. A couple of the ships nearly collided about eleven oclock but managed to get clear. Still in hospital & doing well. Five new patients today & three went out.

Monday 2nd Weather a bit rough this morning & boat rolling a good lot. Hospital full now. A chap came in with head cut. A sky light fell on him.

Tuesday 3rd Still in hospital but allowed to sit up. Sea a bit rougher.

Wednesday 4th Sea very rough last night. Some things in dispensary broken & things were sliding all over the floor. It was uncomfortable in bed; had to hang on some times & so didn't get much sleep.

Thursday 5th Sea a bit calmer this morning. Doctors lanced McHal's leg last night & it shook him up a lot. I have got the measles & have to go to the isolation today. Down in isolation now; in a small cabin with another chap.

Friday 6th Feeling very seedy today. Measles coming out pretty thick. A big mail boat passed last night.

Saturday 7th Feeling a lot better & measles going away. A fire alarm sounded at 8 p.m. & all lights went out & everybody had to take their places in the dark.

Sunday 8th	Still in hospital & feeling well. A chap died on one of the ships & some of them on this ship saw him buried. They had him wrapped up & weighted & a Union Jack round him & just threw him off the bridge.
Monday 9th	Another man died today on the same boat as yesterday. One of our escort, the Sydney, disabled a German armed merchant-man & the last we heard by wireless was that he was chasing a collier that was supplying the merchant-man with coal. Every-body on board are highly delighted with the news.
Tuesday 10th	Measles are all gone off me now but am still in the isolation. Got out on deck for the first time but didn't stay out long. It is getting very hot now; we are getting near the line I think. We hear today that the Sydney sunk the Emden? in 20 minutes.
Wednesday 11th	Out on deck again today. A grand sight to see all the vessels.
Thursday 12th	Out on deck again & could walk a little. Crossed the line & all chaps had great fun; threw water over each other & ended up in every-body being ducked; even some of the officers.
Friday 13th	A down pour of rain when we woke up. Rained all day so we didn't get out on deck.
Saturday 14th	Another fine day. On deck again & shifted to another hospital. Four fresh cases of measles today.

Sunday 15th	Troops called at 4.30 to see Sydney go past. At daylight Ceylon could be seen; a very hilly country. Got to Columbo about 12 oclock. Some lovely buildings but we are anchored out & can't get a good view of them.
Monday 16th	Still anchored out but some of the other boats have gone to the wharf.
Tuesday 17th	Most of the boats have left but the Benalla & a few others & four of the gun-boats are left. A storm

seems to be working up. Some natives were out & were diving for any money that was thrown over-board to them; they are marvellous divers.

- Wednesday 18th Left Colombo at 7.45 last night & are travelling at about 13 knots in company with nine or ten other boats & three cruisers. Still fine weather & still in hospital.
- Thursday 19th Still fine weather & not in sight of other boats yet. Had a fire alarm at 4.30. Soon be out of hospital now.
- Friday 20th Were in sight of rest of boats in the morning & got an order to go at full speed at 4 p.m. & soon left "Afric" behind. Caught up to others at dark & went straight past them.
- Saturday 21st Two boats collided at 4 a.m. this morning & we lost 2 hours. No-one was hurt & not much damage done to the boats. Saw boxing for first time this afternoon & some of it was very good.
- Sunday 22nd Still fine weather. Were told we could write whatever we liked in our letters & every-body is busy writing.
- Monday 23 Caught up to 4 New Zealand troop ships & sighted land at 5.30.
- Tuesday 24 Went through "Hells Gates" & are in the Red Sea now, its as calm as a lake.
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- Wednesday 25th Reached Aden this morning at 8 a.m. The hills are high & very rugged & look grand. One cruiser left about 10 oclock, at 3.30 the rest of the boats (20) came in sight. The Orveta? came in about two hours behind us. All other boats anchored at 5 oclock.
- Thursday 26th Left Aden at 6.30 a.m.; every boat - caught up to about 16 troop ships carrying Indian troops. Passed one little town & are in sight of land all day. A lot of boats went past the opposite way to us.

Friday 27th Passed more land today. Two chaps got two years for refusing to be inoculated. Have to sleep with life-belts handy now.

Saturday 28th Still fine weather. Got news we were going to land at Cairo to do duty in Egypt. No sports this afternoon.

Sunday 29th Nothing fresh today. Sea a little bit rougher.

Monday 30th Our line of boats went on at full speed today. We are facing the trade winds now. Sea is fairly rough but doesn't affect us as we are facing it. In sight of land again this evening & passed two light-houses.

Tuesday December 1st
Got to Port Suez today & anchored until 9 p.m. Left then & entered Suez Canal at 9.30 p.m. Some fine buildings on edge of Canal.

Wednesday 2nd Well along Suez this morning. Troops stationed at intervals. A few residences at places. All sandy desert but some plantations in places. Railway line runs along within a chain of Canal. Dredges all along & they are armed with maxim & two inch guns. Got to Port Said at 3 oclock. Heard that Ghurkas had a smack at Arabs; they were cut up & Ghurkas only lost 2 officers & 20 men.

Thursday 3 Left Port Said at 8 oclock this morning. Passed several battle-ships & torpedo destroyers. Anchored about a mile from town in open sea & five other boats with us.

Friday 4th Got first mail since we left Albany. 7 letters. Left for Alexandria at 5.30 p.m. in a fairly rough sea.

Saturday 5th Got to Alexandria at 7 a.m. Raining & blowing. Anchored outside break-water until 11 a.m. Went into port then but not to wharf.

Sunday 6th Still anchored at 3.30. A lot of native boats trying to sell fruit etc, but we are not allowed to buy.

Monday 7th	Pulled into wharf at 4.30 p.m. & rumours of going off at 8 p.m. but do not know for sure.
Tuesday 8th	Slept on board last night, & left boat at 8 a.m. today. Boarded train & left for Cairo at 10 a.m. & got there at 5 p.m. Level irrigated country all the way. Got the run of English club for the night. Our Company alone as we are left on guard at station; others gone on to camp.
Wednesday 9th	Only a few on guard; others got leave & went up town. A dirty place but some good things on sale especially jewellery.
Thursday 10th	Went up town last night & got lost. Got a carriage & had to drive over three miles. Cost six piastre (1/3) for four of us. I am on guard today so can't go up town.
Friday 11th <i>December,</i>	Left Cairo for camp yesterday at 4 p.m. by train. Got to camp at 6.30 p.m. & had tea in dark. Slept in the open; a very heavy dew falls every night. Passed the pyramids quite close; some of the chaps went over them but I didn't go.
Saturday 12th	Went on guard at 10 a.m. Heard of one chap being killed on the pyramid. Fell 360 feet.
Sunday 13th	Came off guard at 10 a.m. Went over & under one pyramid in afternoon & it was well worth seeing.
Monday 14th	Out from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on squad drill on the sand. Very hard work on the sand. No drill after 2 p.m.

Tuesday 15th	Out drilling again. Hard work on sand.
Wednesday 16th	Drilling until 2 p.m. Got paid 1. No.2 section got leave & I went to Cairo & had a good time, got to camp at 10 p.m. Came out in a taxi.
Thursday 17th	Had easy day; struck tents in morning & went for swim in afternoon; in-lying picket at night.
Friday 18th	Out skirmishing all day.

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Saturday 19th	Out skirmishing all day. We get rations at rate of 6d a day extra now & it is very good.
Sunday 20th	Some of our Company on guard & the rest on fatigue; carting wood & rations for the battallion.
Monday 21st	Out skirmishing all day & digging trenches. We are getting used to the sand now & doesn't tire us so much.
Tuesday 22nd	Out marching & skirmishing. Our turn for leave tonight.
Wednesday 23rd	Out skirmishing & drilling again. Went down to 5th & saw George & Charlie Vagg.
Thursday 24th	Colonel read out a Christmas greeting from Mayor of Ballarat. Put in company work.
Friday 25th	Had church parade in morning & holiday for the rest of the day.
Saturday 26th	Out on a long march & practicing out-post duty.
Sunday 27th	Got caught for being in bed after roll call. Got to carry enough stones to do two lines in front of our tents; 14 of us got caught. Went to church parade & for a long march, about 6 miles in the sand.
Monday 28th	Out about 7 miles & had a practice outpose duty. Had to dig trenches & were shown our duties on out-post.
Tuesday 29th	A bit crook today so didn't go out. The rest out for the day & night too. One cook went out with them to cook evening meal.
Wednesday 30th	Sir G. Reid out to camp today & half force marched past. He made a bit of a speech.
Thursday 31st	Out for four hours. The company re-formed. Two company's in one now.
Friday 1st JAN	Out for 4 hours in morning. Had a good dinner & got 5 cigarettes & box of chocolate, & had a good tea. Ham

pickles soft drinks - a cigar after.

Saturday 2nd	Out all day on batt. drill.
Sunday 3rd	Had a holiday today & got a chance to write a few letters.
Monday 4th	Went out at 12.30 last night & were out until 9 a.m. & had a company inspection in afternoon.
Tuesday 5th	Out again at 11 oclock a.m. & back at 11 a.m.
Wednesday 6th	Out about 2 mile on skirmishing. Got back at 2.30 & went on leave, went into Cairo & out in motor & had a good look around: saw some funny sights got some good silks.
Thursday 7th	Had a holiday today. Just shifted our tents a few yards. Some of us are getting lousy.
Friday 8th	Put on van-guard work all day: got back at 3 p.m. An alarm given at 8 oclock at night & all had to turn out in dark & march two miles & back. Were out about two hours.
Saturday 9th	Out on platoon drill. Rained about 20 points last night. Colonel Field gave the niggers a race & some of the chaps were wrestling with them.
Sunday 10th	Church parade & small march. A body of about fifty Egyptian scouts came out & stopped for the day at our camp.

Monday 11th	Had an easy day just doing platoon drill.
Tuesday 12th	Went out about 4 miles & had some shooting. 20 rounds & then platoon drill. Got to camp at 6.30 & had to go on guard at 7.30 p.m. & felt pretty tired.
Wednesday 13th	On guard all day. Six of the guard took some prisoners into Cairo gaol.
Thursday 14th	Out on platoon practice all day & had a fairly easy day.

Friday 15th	Went for a ten mile march along the Cairo road & back through the rice fields. Passed a native village.
Saturday 16th	Had a skirmish under the Brigadier & the Colonel was very pleased.
Sunday 17th	Didn't go to church parade & we practiced loading our blankets on transports.
Monday 18th	Brigadier gave us a lecture on fire control & the proper way to skirmish in the morning & the rest went for a march in the afternoon; my boots were being repaired so stayed home.
Tuesday 19th	Had an easy day skirmishing, some of batt. were away shooting.
Wednesday 20th	Went out about three miles until eleven o'clock & then had to go another three miles & do shooting; got home fairly late.
Thursday 21st	Did a bit of skirmishing near the camp in the morning & had the afternoon off.
Friday 22nd	Went out to rifle range; left at 7 a.m. & didn't get back until 6.30 p. did some good shooting.
Saturday 23rd	Had a ten mile march & we all did it easily.
Sunday 24th	Had church parade & after that we had an easy day.
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Monday 25th to Thursday 28th	Still on same work all the time & it gets monotonous.
Friday 29th	On fatigue today; all the rest out at 9 a.m. & are out until 12 midnight.
Saturday 30th	Battalion came in last night at 10.30 p.m. On guard at Mena house today & had a very easy time. There are a lot of nurses there now & also doctors & orderlies.
Sunday 31st	Came off guard at 10.30 a.m. & were off all afternoon & had a good look round the camp.

Monday 1st FEB Still on skirmishing but they are making it a bit easier now.

Tuesday 2nd Came back early today & were to go out at 6.30 p.m. for a night bivouac but a heavy sand storm came on & we didn't go out.

Wednesday 3rd Got word at 12.30 last night that there was fighting at Ishmalia & were to be ready to leave 9 a.m. today. Left at 10 a.m. & marched to Cairo, got there at 2.30 p.m. & the left half batt. had to wait until 6 oclock before we left; the right half went at 3 oclock.

Thursday 4th Had a long journey in train last night; didn't get to Ishmalia until 1 a.m. & were very tired; met a train with Turkish prisoners on board & also Gurkhas on board for guards. Slept out in the open but we had all our blankets so were warm enough. We have just got word at 2.30 pm. to be ready to move off with three rations at an hours notice.

Friday 5th Had rifle exercise in the morning & in the afternoon we went for a route march through Ismailia. A very pretty place with very nice gardens, most of the people have left & a lot of the places are turned into hospitals.

Saturday 6th We all packed up in the morning & rolled one blanket in one water-proof & we were marched to the station with it all on our backs & got in the trucks but had to come back again. Another route march in the afternoon.

Sunday 7th Went to church parade in morning & had leave until 5 oclock in afternoon & went to the Gurka camp but they were all out. Saw a big grave which is dug in cemetery about 100 ft long & 6 ft wide.

Monday 8th Left for Canal this morning & got there at 12 noon; camped right on edge of Canal; only one platoon here but three other platoons further up the Canal.

Tuesday 9th Down at edge of Canal all day & a lot of boats went through & some of them threw over a lot of cigarettes & tobacco & there was some great swimming to get them.

Wednesday 10th My birthday today. On guard last night. Only one hour each to do; heard some firing during night but found later they were firing at dogs. Left for camp at 12 o'clock & got there at 4 o'clock. Reinforcements arrived.

Thursday 11th Left by train for Cairo at 7.30 a.m. Got to Cairo at 12 noon & out to camp at 4.30 p.m. & had to put up tents. Saw Jack McDonald in the evening.

Friday 12th Our holiday today & nearly all the battns went to town. I went & saw the zoo & it is very good especially the giraffes & foxes. Got back to camp at 11 p.m.

Saturday 13th - Saturday 20th On skirmishing work & two bivouacs during week. Got vaccinated & inoculated during week & got out of one bivouac. Had some bayonet fighting as well. Been with Bill Fuller every night & had some good fun.

Sunday 21st All the Company went up to pyramids after church parade & had our photos taken & each platoon as well.

Monday 22nd - Sunday 28th On skirmishing work some days & had three night marches & bivouacs. One night we were on guard while the battn. we asleep & we had to fall in with them in the morning but we didn't see them go & had to come back by ourselves. The 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, left at different times during the week & we haven't heard where they went.

March

Monday 1st - Sunday 7th Had a big attack during the week; two brigades were out & we stayed out from two p.m. one day until 7.30 a.m. the next day; didn't get to bed until 2 a.m. the rest of the week we were on shooting & skirmishes. Had our holiday on Saturday.

Monday 8th - Sunday 14th Had the hardest week we ever had. Trench digging in the heat & a march to the zoo & back; 12 miles on the hard road & were very tired. Occupied the trenches Friday morning & had to go out & attack them at night. Had a hard night Friday & a route march Saturday.

Monday 15th - Sunday 21st Sick all week. The others on the same work.

Monday 22nd - Sunday 1st Still at the same work attacking & trench digging at night. Got bad Friday & went into hospital that night.

April

April 1st - 5th In hospital all the time. Heard rumours that we were going away.

Sunday 4th Got discharged from hospital this morning & when I got down to the lines every-body was getting ready to leave. Half of the eighth left at 3.30 p.m. but I was on guard over some rations & didn't leave until 6 p.m. & then went in the train. Got to Cairo at 8 p.m. & loaded all the kit bags etc. on the train & the half battalion got in at 8.30 p.m. Had cocoa & sandwich & got on train but didn't leave for Alexandria until exactly midnight.

Monday 5th Travelled all night & only got about two hours sleep. Got to Alexandria at 5 a.m. & got off the train & were on the boat at 7.30. A poor boat compared with the Benalla; not much room. At about 6 p.m. we moved off from the wharf but anchored out about half a mile; still inside the breakwater.

Tuesday 6th Still anchored & it is a windy day. Got our blankets & hammocks about 8 p.m. last night & everybody was glad to have a good sleep. I am mess orderlie & have to get all the meals & clean up the table & share of the mess room. The others don't do any drill yet but if they do I get out of it.

Wednesday 7th Still at anchor; no drill at all & everybody just sleeps on deck all day.

- Thursday 8th Two or three boats left early in the afternoon. One big steamer coming in ran into a little rowing boat with four in it, three of them were picked up and the other went under. We left at 6 p.m. & got out into the sea & it was fairly rough & a lot were sick straight away; I felt a bit crook myself but didn't get bad.
- Friday 9th Still a bit rough & a few sick. I was grabbed for guard this morning; on from 8 a.m. til midday & 8 p.m. to midnight.
- Saturday 10th Came off guard at midnight & was finished. Got issued with our iron rations & 200 rounds of ammunition.
- Sunday 11th Got into port yesterday. In a nice little harbour & about a dozen warships here. Saw a water plane go up. Got paid £1.
- Monday 12th Parade twice a day now in full marching order.
- Tuesday 13th Rained heavy last night & a lot who sleep on deck got wet. No parade today.
- Wednesday 14th Everybody was on parade at 8 a.m. to go ashore; but we didn't get after all, just lay about on deck all day.
- Thursday 15th Went ashore today, left at 11.30 a.m. & got to shore three quarters of an hour later. A steam launch & one big life-boat was running. Went right past the Queen Elizabeth & we had a good view of the 15m guns they are 75ft long. We had a march on shore & went through a village & they are very much like the Egyptian villages only much cleaner. We also had a look at a grain mill. It has big sails like a windmill only much bigger & made of canvas so they can be rolled up or let out. Plenty of Greeks about selling figs, chocolate etc. We didn't leave shore until 5.45 & came back to ship at a great pace. There are two hospital ships in now & 10 or 12 war ships & I should reckon about 40 troop ships.
- Friday 16th Some of the chaps went ashore today but I didn't go. We had an easy day no parade at all.

- Saturday 17th Went ashore in the rowing boats today. Had a good lay down as soon as we landed & some had a swim. After dinner we had a big skirmish with the full pack up & by jove it was heavy. Got back to ship at 3.30 p.m. Heard that a torpedo boat had attempted to torpedo a troop ship but failed; a panic on board & the davits of one boat broke & about 60 got drowned. Warships ran the torpedo aground.
- Sunday 18th The water ship along side this morning pumping water on board. Loaded a lot of rifle & 18 gun ammunition this last two days. Heard a rumour that the German fleet had come out & 6 German & 3 British ships were sunk.
- Monday 19th Still at anchor & doing nothing; no parade all day.
- Tuesday 20th Had a short parade today; had to get in full marching order & go over the side & down a ladder into the life-boats; fairly rough & the boat nearly capsized.
- Wednesday 21st Rained heavy last night & on guard today; got a place out in the rain but don't have to go on at night. Fined up a bit in the evening.
- Thursday 22nd Still in port; a hospital ship & several transports came in today.
- Friday 23rd Had a parade & had to go over the side into the boats again. Talks of moving tomorrow.
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- Saturday 24th Moving when we wake up; had left at 4.30 a.m. Followed the coast of the island of Lemnos & at 11 a.m. anchored close to shore & are to move again early tomorrow morning; breakfast to be at 4 a.m. Three other boats with us but don't know who is on them.
- Sunday 25th Were moving when we woke at 3 a.m., had breakfast at 4 a.m. & were anchored at 6 a.m. Could hear the guns & rifles then. About eleven boats & 6 war ships altogether. Started to land at 8.30 a.m. Came off on destroyers & were fired on by Turks, one chap injured on board; left destroyers & got on to launches & got

within a chain of the shore & then had to jump out & wade ashore. As soon as we were all ashore & started over the hills & were very soon underfire & were under it all day; makes a fellow pretty scared to start. Fighting all day but I couldn't get a sight of Turks. Six of our officers killed & 7 wounded & a fair few men. Had to leave our packs & so have to sleep without over-coat or water proof.

Monday 26th Had no sleep last night firing all night & had to entrench; got lost from own company & was with A Coy all day in trenches; a stiff engagement on our left but nothing for us to do. Artillery landed & were soon posting the Turks batteries & trenches & the war boats are doing the same; joined my own company at dusk; only one officer of our Coy left the others killed or wounded.

Tuesday 27th No sleep again last night & feeling very tired; still fighting but back behind the firing line today. Digging trenches all day for the supports.

Wednesday 28th On guard last night & got about 2 1/2 hours sleep. Were afraid that enemy would break through our lines & everybody was on the watch all night. They did charge our trenches along from me a bit but were driven back. It is a big battle & firing is going on all the time. Enemy are using nearly all explosive bullets. Heard that a submarine had sunk a Turk warship. Seven warships still standing by & helping us. Got an overcoat last night but it is still very cold at night. ~~Men are used to firing now & are lying in trenches~~ reading & playing cards & sleeping.

Thursday 29th Still fighting. C.Coy acting as supports. Have to go out of the support trenches each night & be about 10 yds behind the firing line & bullets come pretty close at times. Warships still with us & bombard the forts on the other side of peninsular & put shrapnel on to the Turks in the trenches.

Friday 30th A quiet night & awful cold; got my pack & everything in it; a bullet right through it & spoilt the waterproof sheet. Got relieved from the trenches today & went down to beach & dug ourselves in for a spell.

May 1st Had a good sleep last night & lay about all day; counted over 200 shrapnel shells burst inside an hour but nearly all out to sea & didn't do any damage.

Sunday 2nd Back to trenches today left about 10 a.m.
